

# William Mills I (c1695–1755) of Goochland and Albemarle Counties, Virginia

Spouse:  
Mary [—?—]

## Research Notes

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

Born: c1695, Virginia<sup>2</sup>  
Married: c1720<sup>3</sup>  
Died: late 1755; Amherst Co., VA (will written 6 September 1755, “weak in body”)<sup>4</sup>  
Widow: **Mary [—?—]**,<sup>5</sup> d. shortly before July 1776, Amherst Co., VA<sup>6</sup>  
Occupation: Planter  
Residences: Goochland Co., VA (c1728–49), Albemarle Co., VA (c1745–61); Amherst Co. (cut from Albemarle, 1761—)

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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 William’s daughter Sarah Mills, wife of Thomas Watts. The compiler’s late husband and children also descend from a younger William Mills, born c1783–88, who married Drusilla Kemp on 24 August 1815 in Franklin Co. (an offshoot of Bedford Co., where William Mills I’s daughter Anne settled with her husband Lewis Witt). DNA-tested male-line descendants of this William of Franklin carry Witt Y-DNA. Their closest matches, at 1-step removed on a 111-marker test, are descendants of Lewis and Anne. Descendants of William of Franklin also share small autosomal segments with six children of William I: Ambrose Mills, Sarah (Mills) Watts, Ann (Mills) Witt, Elizabeth (Mills) Learwood Ripley, Millie (Mills) Lavender Walton, and Jesse Mills. In Franklin Co., the younger William Mills lived among and associated with offspring of several of the families discussed in this set of research notes, whose lands eventually fell into Franklin after a series of new county formations. Both documentary and atDNA evidence strongly suggest that his mother was Sarah Mills, daughter of William and Mary’s youngest son Jesse Mills by his wife Lucy Tilman.

William I, husband of Mary, should not be confused with William Mills, son of William Mills of Aberdeen, Scotland, who also settled Goochland by 1739 and appears regularly and prominently in the records of Cumberland Co. (cut from Goochland in 1749) and St. James Southam parish until his disappearance amid debts suits in 1765. See E. S. Mills, “William Mills (c1700–aft.1765) of Goochland & Cumberland Counties, Virginia: Research Notes,” a work-in-progress last updated 21 June 2018, archived at E. S. Mills, *Historic Pathways* (<https://www.historicpathways.com>) under the “Research” tab.

<sup>2</sup> See the proof discussion presented subsequently in this paper under “Family Origin: Analyzing the Evidence.”

<sup>3</sup> The c1720 date is based on the latest possible birth for his oldest son.

Some trees allege (without evidence) a marriage in Augusta County, VA. See, for example, “Kimberley Watts Family Tree,” *Ancestry* (<http://person.ancestry.com/tree/56168776/person/42360248160/facts> : accessed 16 June 2016). Individuals who assert this marriage data usually identify William as the son of Gilbert Mills who died in Augusta in 1757 naming a son William in his will. **Both assertions err.** (1) Augusta was not settled at the time of the c1720 marriage; (2) no links have been found between the Pedlar River Millses and the multiple Mills families in Augusta;\* (3) William Mills of Augusta settled Mills Mountain there, bought goods from neighboring estate sales, and served in the militia there at the same time that the William of this paper resided in Goochland and Albemarle; and (4) the William named in the Augusta will died in North Carolina c1763. See E. S. Mills, “Mills, Watts & Associates of Augusta County & the Virginia Frontier: Research Notes ...,” report to file, 28 November 2018; archived online at Mills, *Historic Pathways* (<https://www.historicpathways.com>) under the “Research” tab.

\*Re Millses of Augusta vs. Millses of Albemarle: Historians of Augusta argue that “all the earliest settlers west of the Blue Ridge came from Pennsylvania and moved up the Valley of the Shenandoah[;] it was several years before any settlers entered the valley from the East.” See Frederick B. Kegley, *Kegley’s Virginia Frontier: The Beginning of the Southwest; the Roanoke of Colonial Days, 1740–1783* (1938; reprinted Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2003), 36, citing “Charles E. Kemper—Early Westward Movement” and “Waddell—Annals of Augusta Co.”

<sup>4</sup> Amherst Co., VA, Will Book 1: 73–76 for will and executrix’s bond; William has been found alive in no record after the writing of his will.

<sup>5</sup> Mary is widely said to be a Walton. No known source provides documentation. Her daughter Mildred “Milly” did marry a Walton in late life. William and Mary allegedly had a granddaughter Mary Walton Mills, the daughter of their son William Jr.; if so, the Walton name is more likely from that child’s mother. Waltons were in Virginia from the 1600s; in Hanover contemporaneously with the Nicholas Mills family; and in Goochland with William and Mary Mills, the Tilmans, Learwoods, and Ripleys whose offspring married William and Mary’s children.

<sup>6</sup> Amherst Co., VA, Order Book 1773–82, for July 1776 term of court summoning Ambrose Mills, “heir at law,” to administer Mary’s estate.

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DNA: R-FTF381, a branch of R-M269. Dominant surname: Maybury, Mayberry, Mabry

Y-line descendants of William do not carry Y-DNA associated with any other tested Mills-surnamed family in the United States, Canada, or the British Isles. Two separate lines of descent from William have tested their Y:

- A descendant of William's son Ambrose has tested at the 111-marker level; his haplogroup is defined as R-M269.
- A descendant of William's son William Jr. has tested at both the 111-marker level (also haplogroup R-M269, with only one marker deviant from Ambrose's descendant who is his seventh cousin once-removed) and at the Y-700 level, where his haplogroup is refined to R-FTF3819.<sup>7</sup>

Closely clustered with these two descendants of William, at FamilyTreeDNA, is a Y-700 tester who is also R-FTF3819. However, this tester has not identified his Y-line ancestors.

### CHILDREN OF WILLIAM AND MARY:

1. **AMBROSE MILLS**, b. by 1721;<sup>8</sup> married, c1745, **Mourning Stone** (reputed daughter of Thomas Stone),<sup>9</sup> and c1764–65, **Ann Brown**.<sup>10</sup> He lived in Goochland Co., VA (1743–44);<sup>11</sup> Lunenburg and Albemarle Cos., VA (1745–53); Bedford Co., VA (1754–57), Anson Co., NC (late 1758); Craven Co., SC (c1759–68); Tryon Co. (now Polk), NC (c1770–79); and Rutherford Co., NC (1780); and was hung 14 October 1780, Bickerstaff's Farm, Rutherford Co., NC, as a Loyalist colonel.<sup>12</sup> He is the first child named in his father's will, to be residual heir of his father's widow.
2. **THOMAS MILLS**, b. c1723–24; married before 1752 (likely c1750); died before 6 September 1755, leaving children Ambrose and Elizabeth who are named as heirs in the will Thomas's father's wrote

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<sup>7</sup> For a more complete discussion of William Mills' Y-DNA, his identity, and the clues to his origin, see the peer-reviewed 2023 study by E. S. Mills, "William Mills (c1695–1755) of Goochland and Albemarle Counties, Virginia: Correcting His Identity and Identifying His Y-Signature," *Historic Pathways* (<https://www.historicpathways.com/download/williammillscorrectingidentityidentifyingy.pdf>).

<sup>8</sup> Age extrapolated from the fact that he was sued as an adult in November 1743 (i.e., born by November 1722) but, by common practice, the debt was likely at least a year past due—which means that he was likely born at least by November 1721. An alleged obituary for Ambrose's son William asserts that Ambrose was born and married in England. However, this account has serious problems to be discussed later in this paper. Those who cite this "obituary" do not identify the newspaper in which it supposedly appeared; and I have found no actual obituary for him. The so-called "obit" is a sketch of William's life written eleven years after his death by J. E. Edney, a **great-great-grandson of William and Mary**. Dated "October 30, 1845" and titled "Our Ancestors—Revolutionary Incidents, &c.," Edney's musings were published some time in 1846 in the Asheville, NC, *Highland Messenger*; for an image copy, see "Major William Mills (10 November 1746–1834 (LCD4-4NH)," *FamilySearch FamilyTree* (<https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/memories/LCD4-4NH>), "Memories" tab.

See also the discussion in "William Mills, Maj. (1746–1834); Spouse, Eleanor Morris: Research Notes," a work-in-progress last updated 28 August 2018, p. 39; archived at E. S. Mills, *Historic Pathways* (<https://www.historicpathways.com>) under the "Research" tab.

<sup>9</sup> Alexander Brown, "Historical and Genealogical Notes," *William & Mary College Quarterly* 8 (1900): 208–9, responding to a query from a subscriber with garbled information, a query published in that same issue at p. 208. Brown was in that era the unofficial but widely acknowledged historian of early Albemarle and its offshoots, Amherst and Nelson.

<sup>10</sup> Brown opined in *ibid.* that Ann was the daughter of "Col. Brown, of Chester, S.C." He did not offer evidence.

<sup>11</sup> Ann M. Blomquist, *Goochland County, Virginia, Court Order Book 5, 1741–1745* (Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 2007), 302, 357, 396, 428, 489, for Nowel Burton vs. Ambross Mills, Nov. 1743 through Nov. 1744 court sessions; citing Order Book 5: 314, 374, 415, 450, 517.

<sup>12</sup> All these residences and events (more than a hundred items) are detailed and documented in Elizabeth Shown Mills, "Ambrose Mills, Col. (c1721–1780): Spouses 1. Mourning Stone; 2. Ann Brown: Research Notes," a work-in-progress last updated 28 August 2018; archived at *Historic Pathways* under the "Research" tab. Alexander

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that day. Thomas's birth period is based on the fact that he was of legal age to acquire land from the province by 1744–45 and supported by the fact that, in November 1746, the county court paid him a wolf's head bounty in his own right rather than making the payment to his parent.<sup>13</sup> His land grant on Pedlar River, patented posthumously in 1756 after the required procedural delays, is mentioned in 1770 as adjacent to land being sold by his brother William Mills Jr.<sup>14</sup> Thomas's widow may be the otherwise unidentified **Eleonar Mills**, who in 1769 co-witnessed a Cabell deed with William Walton,<sup>15</sup> the future husband of Thomas's sister Milly. Thomas's son Ambrose has not been found as an adult. Thomas's daughter Elizabeth seems to be the Elizabeth Turner, wife of John Turner of Charleston, SC, who sold Thomas' land in 1777 without a deed of purchase on record.<sup>16</sup>

3. **SARAH "SALLY" MILLS**, b. c1726;<sup>17</sup> m. before 1749, **Thomas Watts**;<sup>18</sup> moved with him to Craven Co., SC (later Camden District and then Fairfield, Lancaster, and Kershaw Counties). Died in the Fairfield area after c1795.<sup>19</sup>
4. **WILLIAM "BILLY" MILLS JR.**, b. c1728. The recorded fact that he was called "Inglish Billy" in his North Carolina neighborhood suggests the possibility of an English birth.<sup>20</sup> However, that moniker could also stem from the fact that he was a vocal supporter of England during the war, considering that he was hung for that support. His father's 1755 will bequeathed him 330 acres of "unsettled land." He married **Rebecca [possibly Walton]**, according to undocumented online trees. Apparently, he left VA as a young man. He has not been found in the 1740s–60s in Albemarle, Lunenburg, or their offshoot counties or surrounding counties. His son **Jesse Mills** (b. by c1751) cited his birthplace in a Revolutionary War pension application as "Deep River, Chatham County," NC<sup>21</sup> (then Orange Co.).

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<sup>13</sup> Joanne Lovelace Nance, "Albemarle County, Virginia, Court Orders, ... [1744/5–March 1747/8]," *Magazine of Virginia Genealogy* 28 (November 1991): 314–19, specifically 317, citing p. v; imaged in "Virginia Genealogical Society Quarterly," database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 9 July 2018).

<sup>14</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>15</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; and 123, citing Amherst Deed Book C:118.

<sup>16</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807; and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 179; citing Amherst Deed Book E:91. (The relevant abstracts have been checked for accuracy against the original deeds.)

<sup>17</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>18</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. c1725; d. c1796–1800); Spouse Sarah Mills: Research Notes," a work-in-progress last updated 21 June 2016; archived at *Historic Pathways* under the "Research" tab.

<sup>19</sup> Sarah's granddaughter Catherine "Caty" (Watts) Hornsby (b. c1769) and her husband Moses Hornsby created affidavits in Covington Co., MS, in November 1821 saying that they had known Caty's Watts grandparents (plural) 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 vol. C: 31–38, for "Thomas Watts of S. Carolina," particularly p. 37. In 1795, the Hornsbys moved from Fairfield Co., SC, to 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 after their move. For all records gathered to date on this son of Sarah Mills (Caty's father), see E. S. Mills, "Rev. John Watts, Esq., (c1749–ca. 1822): Research Notes," report to file, 1 June 2016; archived at *Historic Pathways*.

<sup>20</sup> Affidavit of John Mills [son of Maj. William], 18 May 1833, in Jesse Mills Pension Application (Pvt., Miller's Regt., NC Line), W7448; imaged in "Revolutionary War Pensions," *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com/image/25852181> and 50 subsequent images: accessed 30 May 2018), particularly images 25852227 and 25852229, for "Inglish Billy."

<sup>21</sup> Jesse Mills Pension Application, image 25852219 for Jesse's statement of birthplace. Jesse stated that he did not know his age. Considering that his father, in 1769, gave him goods to set up housekeeping while Jesse simultaneously applied for public land, it is possible

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On 5 June 1770, as a resident of NC (county unstated), William sold the 330 acres he had inherited from his father.<sup>22</sup> Several months before his brother Ambrose settled in the part of Tryon County, NC, that became Rutherford Co., William Jr. executed a deed of gift there, giving to “my son Jesse” personal goods and animals of the sort that young men use to start a household.<sup>23</sup> Jesse’s first land grant was approved five months later: 150 acres on the South side of the North Fork of the Pacolet.<sup>24</sup> William Jr. appears to have left no other legal records in that region. Several days before the Battle of King’s Mountain, which is notably connected to Ambrose, William Jr. was one of several Loyalists captured in Rutherford Co. He was ordered hung by Lt. Jesse Walton,<sup>25</sup> whose brother Major William Walton would marry William Mills’ widowed sister Milly. The previously cited testimony of William “Billy” Mills’s great-nephew John Mills, in Jesse’s pension file, reports that Jesse’s mother (unnamed) lived with John’s parents (William and Eleanor Mills) during part of the Revolutionary War.

Despite the fact that William Jr.’s paternity of Jesse is attested by both William’s deed of gift and the affidavit of Jesse’s cousin John, online trees (when this research was launched) assert only one child for William Jr.: a daughter who is likely but unproved. “**Mary Walton**” Mills is said to have married **James Stepp**, by whom she bore a Polly Stepp, scalped by Indians in her childhood. James, but not Mary, appears in various public records of Rutherford and Buncombe that place him in the Mills neighborhood from 1778 through at least 1800. James, after obtaining several land grants of his own, petitioned in 1800 for a tract of 100 acres to be issued in the names of “Abraham, James, Robert, Esther and Mary Step”—presumably his and Mary’s children.<sup>26</sup> That grant was made 20 December 1803 on Mud Creek near Grasse Mountain, Buncombe County. John and William “Step,” who obtained adjacent lands in their own names in that decade, would seem to be older offspring of James; no other parental candidate is found there for them.<sup>27</sup> As for whether William Mills Jr. had other children: two children would make an unusually small family in that society, especially since his wife (explicitly said to be Jesse’s mother) lived for at least a decade after Jesse’s adulthood. However, no other Millises have been found in their neighborhood who might be their offspring.

5. **ELIZABETH MILLS**, b. c1735; m. (1) **Thomas Learwood**; (2) **John Ripley**. Her first marriage occurred, likely in Albemarle Co., VA, before her father’s September 1755 will which names her as “Elizabeth Learwood.” In 1756, Thomas Learwood and one James Wheeler were sued in adjacent Bedford Co.

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that he was about marry; if so, the marriage appears to have been short-lived, with no offspring. If Jesse were at least eighteen, his birth would have occurred by 1751.

<sup>22</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>23</sup> Brent Holcomb, *Deed Abstracts of Tryon, Lincoln & Rutherford Counties, North Carolina, 1769–1786; Tryon County Wills & Estates* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1977), 4; citing Tryon-Lincoln vol. 1: 45.

<sup>24</sup> David M. McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 10: 536; citing Tryon Co. File No. 209, NC microfilm reel S.108.160.5N, frame 608, State Archives.

<sup>25</sup> Affidavit of Applicant, William Walton (Private Capt. John Loving’s Co., Stevens’ Regt., VA), no. S17184 in “Revolutionary War Pensions,” *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com/image/20447289> and 33 subsequent numbers: accessed 30 May 2016), particularly 20447300, 20447303, 20447306, 20447308.

<sup>26</sup> For these records, see E. S. Mills, “Mills & Associates: Rutherford County, NC, Its Parent Counties (Anson, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, and Tryon) and Its Offshoots (Buncombe, Burke, Henderson, and Polk Counties): Survey of Published Resources,” report to file, 28 August 2018; archived at *Historic Pathways* under the “Research” tab.

<sup>27</sup> “North Carolina, Land Grant Files, 1693–1960,” database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 7 July 2018) > Buncombe > 906–1257 > images 1238–1242.

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by Archibald Buchanan and John Brown & Co.; judgment was rendered against them.<sup>28</sup> In 1757, Elizabeth and Thomas, as residents of *Prince Edward Co.*, sold his Bedford Co. grant at the headwaters of Reedy Creek.<sup>29</sup> In 1760, in his last known document, Thomas was granted another 230 acres in Bedford on west side of Elk Creek.<sup>30</sup> Apparently, they were then contemplating a move back to Bedford and likely chose land near kinfolk—a plan interrupted by Thomas's death.

In 1762, in *Prince Edward County*, Elizabeth bore a son<sup>31</sup> who fought in the Revolution under the name John Mills alias Ripley—the alias being a name he said he used in childhood because it was his stepfather's name. Before September 1767, Elizabeth married **John Ripley**<sup>32</sup> and moved to Old Ninety Six District, SC (modern Laurens) where her son "John Mills alias Ripley" enlisted at age fourteen in the Patriot forces.<sup>33</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>34</sup> In that latter month, Elizabeth's now-grown son

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<sup>28</sup> TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 87.

<sup>29</sup> Bedford Co. Deed Book 1: 139–41. Also 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 Elizabeth married "John Edmond" Learwood in 1745. Supposedly, they had four children—all born 1745–50, with Learwood dying in 1755 and Elizabeth dying in 1767 in VA. **Those details are demonstrably wrong.** For an example of these trees, see Ralph Tennant, "Christine Larwood Family Tree," Ancestry (<http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/21647526/person/1171920273> : accessed 6 June 2015); no evidence provided.

<sup>30</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>31</sup> Typically in this place and time, widows with young children to rear and no male relatives nearby to provide protection and support, would "move back home" to live with or near family. The fact that Elizabeth, as a widow with children and one whose late husband had just sold their only land in the county, chose to stay in Prince Edward suggests that she had yet-unknown kin living there.

<sup>32</sup> Amherst Co., Court Order Book, 2 June 1766–1769, p. 212; imaged, *Family Search* digital film 8151599 > image 121.

<sup>33</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 : accessed 1 June 2016). 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 in Ninety Six District 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."

Mills alias Ripley also cautioned the pension office that he should not be confused with his "cousin" named John Mills who had also served from SC. That John has not been fitted into the family. John's mother Elizabeth had no brothers who produced a son John, except for Ambrose whose son John was too young to serve. The possibility that the unidentified John could be a previously unknown son of William "Billy" Mills is discounted because Ambrose's John later created an affidavit for Billy's son Jesse to prove Jesse's service and loyalty; in doing so he spoke of Jesse's father and mother and their wartime events, but did not say that Jesse had a brother who served—a factor that would have added credibility to Jesse's claim. It seems more likely that the cousin John Mills referenced by John Ripley was a cousin to John Mills alias Ripley's mother Elizabeth, thereby pointing to the existence of otherwise unknown kin in the colony for her father William.

Bobby Gilmer Moss's *Roster of South Carolina Patriots in the American Revolution* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1985), 684, identifies four John Millses who served:

(1) John Mills alias Ripley, who enlisted in 1776 at age fourteen.

(2) John Mills who may have been from NC; he "enlisted in the Fifth Regiment on 11 March 1776" with no further data aside from the fact that he appears on "Lists of North Carolina and South Carolina Troops and Men of Continental Organizations Raised from more than one state, 1775–1783," a scantily identified source that the compiler attributes very broadly to "the National Archives."

(3) John Mills who enlisted during August 1776 in the Charleston Volunteer Militia under Capt. Charles Drayton; nothing more known. That location places him outside the geographic bounds of this Mills family.

(4) Capt. John Mills of Chester Dist., who commanded a force of SC rangers and is the subject of RW widow's pension application W9194. His birth family remains unproved.

<sup>34</sup> Sara M. Nash, *Abstracts of Early Records of Laurens County, South Carolina, 1785–1820* (Fountain Inn, SC: Privately printed, 1992), 6; citing Deed Book A: 208. Also, *South Carolina Department of Archives & History*, database (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov> : accessed 18 May 2016),

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*Edmond Learwood* obtained a patent to 600 on “*Beaver Dam* or Mill Creek,” adjacent to “*Mrs. Harvey*”<sup>35</sup> and, in January 1785, he sold 100 acres (location not stated) bounded by *James Ryan*.<sup>36</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 enslaved people.<sup>37</sup> The second adult male in the household likely was their son Ambrose Ripley who does not appear as a census head-of-household until 1800 but executed three documents there in November–December 1793: (a) he witnessed a deed for land on “*Beaverdam a branch of Turkey Creek* of Savannah River”;<sup>38</sup> (b) he sold an enslaved man named Cain for 50£ to *William Harden*<sup>39</sup>; and (c) eighteen days after the sale, he paid 60£ for 206 acres on *Cyder Creek (a branch of Turkey Creek)*.<sup>40</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 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” without a recorded explanation.<sup>41</sup> A plaintiff’s removal from the jurisdiction—or death—was a common cause for dismissal. 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>42</sup>
- Various Learwood compilations allege that

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“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>35</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: P.p., 1992), 385; citing Deed Book K: 206.

<sup>36</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>37</sup> 1790 U.S. census, Edgefield Dist., SC, p. 513, col. 1, line 8. Elizabeth’s nephew Charles Lavender is also in Edgefield; see 1790 census, p. 509.

<sup>38</sup> GeLee Corley Hendrix, *Edgefield County, South Carolina: Abstracts of Deed Books 1–12, 1786–1796* (Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1993), 128 (**Frederick Holmes Junr.**, son of John Holmes to Kevan Taylor & Murren, merchants; **Burgess White** was a fellow witness); 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>39</sup> GeLee Corley Hendrix, *Edgefield County, South Carolina: Abstracts of Deed Books 1–12, 1786–1796* (Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1993), 161 (**William Ducker** and **Nathan White**, witnesses); citing Deed Book 10: 347–48.

<sup>40</sup> GeLee Corley Hendrix, *Edgefield County, South Carolina: Abstracts of Deed Books 1–12, 1786–1796* (Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1993), 127 (**John Cogburn** and **Pressley Bland**, witnesses); citing Deed Book 9: 50–57.

<sup>41</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>42</sup> See Sherida K. Eddlemon, *Genealogical Abstracts from Tennessee Newspapers, 1791–1808* (Bowie, MD: Heritage Books: 1988), 41.

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- Elizabeth's offspring in Laurens District, SC, included not only the son Edmond but a grandson Edmond Franklin Learwood, born 1782 in Laurens, who named sons *Ambrose Ripley Learwood* and *Charles Lavender Learwood*.<sup>43</sup>
- Her *daughter Mary Learwood* married **Richard Tankersley Jr.** of Amherst;<sup>44</sup> several records abstracted in this set of research notes suggest this is viable.
- Her daughter *Anne Larwood* [sic] wed Charles Denny/Denney (b. 1760) in Albemarle.<sup>45</sup> My limited efforts to verify the Denny descent have not proved or disproved this claim.<sup>46</sup>
- Elizabeth's children by **Ripley** were<sup>47</sup> **John** (m. "Ambrose" Graden),<sup>48</sup> **Pleasant** (m. a Shadwick),<sup>49</sup> **Elizabeth** (m. John Murray), **Mildred** (m. "Equiviler" Yearns),<sup>50</sup> and another son who married a Dalsbarthe and/or Barrentine.<sup>51</sup>

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 children of the unidentified son:

- **Ambrose Ripley** born 1800–2 in Tennessee or North Carolina; married 1820 in *Madison County, AL*. He migrated to Titus Co., 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>52</sup>

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<sup>43</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> : accessed 23 May 2016), 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 assertions.

<sup>44</sup> James Larwood, "Morphology of Larwood Genealogy" (MS, n.p., 1933).

<sup>45</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 Benjamin Denney (b. c.1780 in VA; d. 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>46</sup> See E. S. Mills, "Mills: Southside Virginia: Initial Survey of Published Resources for Brunswick, Goochland, and Counties Cut from Them—Principally Albemarle, Amherst, Cumberland, Bedford, and Prince Edward," report to file, 28 May 2016 (updated 28 August 2018); archived at *Historic Pathways*.

<sup>47</sup> Most accounts that supply a source are taking their assertions from James Larwood, "Morphology of Larwood Genealogy."

<sup>48</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 : accessed 1 June 2016). 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>49</sup> In 1830, one **Pleasant Ripley** was in *Rhea Co., TN*. See 1830 U.S. Census, Rhea Co., TN, p. 355. He is likely the Pleasant Ripley who in 1830–31 owned land jointly with one **Thomas Ripley** in the adjacent county of McMinn. See subsequent discussion of Thomas C. Ripley on next page.

<sup>50</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."<sup>50</sup> 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>51</sup> Barrentines/Barrontines are found in Edgefield simultaneously with the Ripleys. No Dalsbarthes or similar spelling have been located yet.

<sup>52</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

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- **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 Co., TX, by 1860 also. The names of James C.'s other sons—Francis Marion and Newton—suggest roots in Revolutionary-era SC.<sup>53</sup>

The name **Thomas C. Ripley**, given by James to a son, is earlier found in two Tennessee locales:

- **1825–31 McMinn County:** On 23 September 1825 “Thos. C. Ripley” witnessed a certificate of entry for 160 acres, being the SE¼ of Section 11, Township 2, range 2 West, Hiwassee district, issued to Isaac McPherson; in November 1829 the land was reassigned to one Allen Butler.<sup>54</sup> In September 1830, Thomas C. Ripley “of Athens, McMinn Co.,” placed a newspaper advertisement offering \$100 reward for the apprehension of a Jesse Anderson, alias Peter J. Johnson, alias John P. Jones of Habersham Co., Georgia, who had stolen a slave from him.<sup>55</sup> In 1831, as “Thomas Ripley,” he and **Pleasant Ripley** jointly owned land in McMinn—160 acres identified as SE¼ of Section 19, Township 2, Range 2 West—which was sold at sheriff’s sale to satisfy a judgment in the case of Isaac Stover vs. William Misley [Mixler?], Thomas Ripley, and Pleasant Ripley.<sup>56</sup> This jointly owned tract lay about 5–6 miles southwest of the tract for which Thomas C. witnessed the land entry in 1825. The location of the jointly held land near the Rhea Co. border suggests that this Pleasant Ripley was the man enumerated in Rhea on the 1830 census. This Thomas’s slaveholding differentiates him from the Quaker-descended Thomas C. Ripley of Greene Co., TN, below.
- **1830 Greene County:** Thomas C. Ripley, 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 the James C., who named sons *Thomas C. and Ambrose*.<sup>57</sup>

These Greene Ripleys are a different family from that of the Thomas C. Ripley above. The head of this Greene cluster is one **Thomas Ripley** who first appears there on 2 October 1790 as bondman for the marriage of John Stanfield (whose family would be the Ripley’s next-door neighbors in 1830–40) and continues in Greene Co. records until the 1820s.<sup>58</sup> (Greene’s 1810 and 1820 censuses are destroyed.)

While various online trees assert, without documentation, that Thomas Ripley (1769–1824) and “Phoebe Stanfield” (1773–1844) had a son *Pleasant*, born 1793 in Greene Co., TN, who died “before

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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>53</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>54</sup> Transcript of entry and assignments provided by Worth S. Anderson, email of 20 Jan. 2018, citing Grant No. 1205, issued 2 Nov. 1829, as found in “McMinn County Land Entries,” transcribed, 3 vols., Tennessee State Library and Archives, Nashville.

<sup>55</sup> Transcript of notice provided by Worth S. Anderson, email of 30 Nov. 2017, citing *Cherokee Phoenix* (New Town, GA), 19 Nov. 1831, p. 4, col. 5.

<sup>56</sup> McMinn Co., Tenn., Deed Book C:273–74. Worth S. Anderson is thanked for this discovery also.

<sup>57</sup> 1830 U.S. Census, Greene Co., TN, p. 146. 1840 U.S. Census, Greene Co., TN, p. 224.

<sup>58</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), 55, 211, 213, 230. 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. Goldene Fillers Burgner, *North Carolina Land Grants Recorded in Greene County, Tennessee* (Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1981), 62, 64, 67, 83, 91.

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1880" in Knox Co., KY,<sup>59</sup> **no such son is named in the 1824 deed by which Phoebe and others heirs of Thomas partitioned his land.** Those heirs are identified there "Phebe Stanfield Widow and Relict, ... Lidia Ripley now Lidia Haworth, Samuel Ripley, Henry Ripley, William Ripley, Thomas Ripley ... and Jane Ann Ripley and Sarah Ripley by their guardian Samuel Stanfield."<sup>60</sup>

*There appears to be a gap in William Mills's children at this point, possibly signifying a new wife—or else Mary's reproductive pattern changed. While five children were born in the 1720–30 timeframe and their birth periods are reasonably well proved, the next fifteen years produced only three children of record. Illness or other frontier conditions could also have caused the deaths of children born in this period.*

6. **ANNE (AKA ANNA) MILLS**, b. c1738; was unmarried at time of father's 1755 will. She is frequently, but without supporting 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, Milly, and Elizabeth).<sup>61</sup> Lewis Witt was dead by 23 May 1774, when his estate was appraised.<sup>62</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—along with a deceased daughter "Betsy Calvert" who had left five children.<sup>63</sup> The recorded copy of the 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>64</sup> **No direct evidence has been found to identify Anne Mills as the widow Anne Witt, although significant indirect evidence supports it and no contradictory evidence has been found.**
7. **JESSE MILLS**, b. c1743, VA; heir to a "proportionable part" of his father's personal property, in addition to the parental plantation; married **Lucy Tilman**, about 6 August 1765 in Amherst.<sup>65</sup> In 1767, he and his brother-in-law William Walton (husband of Elizabeth Tilman) cosigned a performance bond for the new county sheriff,<sup>66</sup> suggesting that Jesse was at the time well regarded in Amherst society—or

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<sup>59</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 Ripley 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," database, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 28 May 2016). **At this point of research, it appears likely 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>60</sup> Greene Co., Tenn., Deed Book 13: 299–304, imaged as FHL microfilm 944,421. Again, the Stanfield family historian Worth S. Anderson is thanked for providing these deeds that clarify the family; Anderson to Elizabeth Shown Mills, emails, 22 and 25 March 2017.

<sup>61</sup> Bedford Co., VA, Will Book 4: 276–77, Will of Anne Witt.

<sup>62</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>63</sup> Bedford Co., VA, Will Book 4: 276–77. Milly Witt in 1789 was living with William Whitton when she was charged for bearing a child out of wedlock and he was charged "for keeping Milly Witt." Milly did not appear in court to answer the charges and was fined "acc[ordin]g to law." The charges against Whitton were dismissed. See Bedford Co., VA, Order Book No. 9, 1786–1790, p. 259; Bedford Co. Reel 41, Library of Virginia.

<sup>64</sup> Bedford Co., VA, Will Book 4:287.

<sup>65</sup> Amherst Co. Marriage Bonds and Consents, 1763–1783, chronological sequence; imaged on Amherst Co. microfilm 104, Library of Virginia, Richmond. A "circa" date is used here because there is no minister's return on record to state the date of the marriage. Lucy's parents gave permission for her to marry Jesse on 20 July; he posted bond and obtained a license on 6 August.

<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), 103; citing Amherst Deed Book B: 261–62.

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at least was socially ambitious. In 1768, he and Lucy sold their land on a branch of Tye River,<sup>67</sup> and in 1770 he sold (or more likely mortgaged) his remaining acreage alone.<sup>68</sup> In 1771 and 1772, he was again in debt, appears to have paid it off, but re-mortgaged his personal property in 1776.<sup>69</sup> In that same year, he signed a petition of religious dissenters from Albemarle, Amherst, and Buckingham (two signatures from Thomas Ballew (“Ballen”).<sup>70</sup> In October and December 1779, he signed (near Thomas Joplin of Amherst, in both cases) two other petitions from “freeholders and inhabitants of the counties of Amherst, Albemarle, and Buckingham” protesting taxation to pay the expenses of the war.<sup>71</sup> In 1784, in Amherst, he mortgaged a slave and livestock to his nephew-in-law Tilman Walton, with Tilman’s father William (future husband of Jesse’s sister Milly) as witness.<sup>72</sup> The fact that Jesse did not give the mortgage on land, the first choice of all creditors because enslaved people and stock might die while land remained, strongly suggests that Jesse no longer owned land.

Some researchers assert that Jesse later lived in Bedford County and/or died in Kentucky. None offer any documentary evidence or appear to have tried to reconstruct his life. (One often-linked Kentucky man of his name, with roots in Amherst and ties to Bedford Co. but with a young wife and a small child in the 1790s,<sup>73</sup> has proved to be his son. See below.) Jesse has not been found on the “1787 census of Virginia” that has been reconstructed from tax rolls.<sup>74</sup> Extensive research in the North Carolina and South Carolina counties where his brothers Ambrose and William resided has yielded no trace of Jesse there. *Nelson County, VA*, cut from Amherst in 1807, is a possibility for him that has not yet been searched. No military service has been found for him, nor have I found explanation of how he could have escaped providing some support for one side or the other during the Revolution. He lived at least until 29 July 1811, when he and Lucy were parties to the chancery case “Tilman’s heirs vs. Dawson,” filed in Augusta Co. by heirs of Lucy’s grandfather Daniel Hix, over a slave woman from the Hix-Tilman family who had been seized decades earlier by Jesse’s creditor.<sup>75</sup>

Jesse and Lucy were the parents of three proved children who are detailed below. Five other probable children have been identified—two daughters and three sons—with the possibility of another daughter remaining.<sup>76</sup> The proved children are

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<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), 110; citing Amherst Deed Book B: 264.

<sup>68</sup> *Ibid.*, 127; citing Amherst Deed Book C: 178.

<sup>69</sup> *Ibid.*, 134 (citing Deed Book C: 252), 134 (citing Deed Book C: 254), 137 (citing Deed Book C: 316), and 167 (citing Deed Book C: 397).

<sup>70</sup> “Virginia Legislative Papers: Petition of Dissenters of Albemarle, Amherst and Buckingham, Oct. 22d, 1776,” *Virginia Magazine of History & Biography* 18 (1910): 140–143, citing “originals in the Virginia State Archives.”

<sup>71</sup> Jean Pickett Hall, “Legislative Petitions from Virginia Counties with Significant Record Losses: 1. Buckingham County,” *Magazine of Virginia Genealogy* 28 (May 1990): 87–114, specifically 91, 93.

<sup>72</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807; and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 212; Deed E: 539.

<sup>73</sup> See E. S. Mills, “Jesse Mills Sr. (c1743–aft1810) of Albemarle & Amherst Counties, Virginia; Spouse Lucy Tilman: Research Notes,” a work-in-progress last updated 23 February 2022; archived at *Historic Pathways* under the “Research” tab.

<sup>74</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>75</sup> Augusta County, VA, Chancery Causes, 1817-084, Daniel Tilman [et al.] vs. Elizabeth Christian, widow, etc., for Complaint of Tilman’s Heirs, filed 29 July 1811; “Chancery Record Index [with images],” Library of Virginia, Virginia Memory ([https://www.lva.virginia.gov/chancery/case\\_detail.asp?CFN=015-1817-084](https://www.lva.virginia.gov/chancery/case_detail.asp?CFN=015-1817-084) : downloaded 16 May 2018), particularly images 1–5 of 29.

<sup>76</sup> For a reconstruction of Jesse’s family and an assembly of all evidence found for him, see the above-cited “Jesse Mills Sr. (c1743–aft1810) of Albemarle & Amherst Counties, Virginia; Spouse Lucy Tilman: Research Notes.”

## William Mills (c1695–1755) Spouse Mary [—?—]

- **Sarah “Sally” Mills**, born c1768, who married **Elijah Sartin/Sartain/Certain**, about 7 April 1791, in Montgomery Co., VA;<sup>77</sup> she apparently died between the 1840 and 1850 censuses, Gallia Co., OH. Prior to her marriage, between March 1790 and March 1791, Sarah bore a daughter **ELIZABETH “BETSY” MILLS** who married 26 March 1811, **Archibald Chapman**, before they left Virginia.<sup>78</sup> By Elijah, Sarah bore a daughter **LUCINDA “LUCY” TILMAN SARTAIN**, who married **John Williams**, 2 March 1818, in Gallia Co., OH.<sup>79</sup>

When Giles Co. was cut from Montgomery in 1806, Sarah and Elijah’s residence fell into Giles. In 1809 Elijah purchased, from other heirs of his father Joel Sartain Sr., the parental land on Stoney Creek of Giles. In 1814, “Elijah and Sally Sartain” sold that tract, which lay adjacent to his brother John Sartain, one “Roberts,” and Nathan Marr.<sup>80</sup> They appear to have spent the next three years in Kanawha County, VA (now West Virginia) with Elijah’s brother Joel Sartain, who moved on with them to Gallia.<sup>81</sup> The first appearance on record for both Sartain families in Gallia is the 1818 marriage of Sarah and Elijah’s daughter Lucinda. Elijah and Sarah bought no land in Gallia, although their sons-in-law did. Their household is enumerated in Guyan Township on the 1820,

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<sup>77</sup> “Virginia, Select Marriages, 1785–1840,” *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 2 January 2019); citing FHL film no. 32633 “p 37.”

No explanation has yet been found as to why Sarah left the parental home and migrated out to Montgomery Co. Two Mills females, both unmarried mothers, appeared in the same Montgomery Co. neighborhood c1788–91. One of those, **Frances “Frankey” Mills** was first named in a 1788 marriage bond taken out by John Abraham Glymph with Milliton Atkins as bondsman; that marriage did not occur and Frances in 1792 married a middle-aged widower, John White Sr. The second young mother was **Sarah Mills**, daughter of Jesse. For Sarah, Frances, and their offspring, see the following reports archived at *Historic Pathways* (<https://www.historicpathways.com>) under the “research tab.”

- “Mills & Associates, Giles County, Virginia: Principally Whites, with Selective Records for Byas, Brumfield, Chapman, Dingess, Napier, Sartain & Toney Families,” report to file, 8 February 2020 (updated 8 July 2020 and 10 January 2021).
- “Mills & Associates, Giles County, Virginia: Tax Roll Data, 1806–23 & (Partially) 1824–41; Including Selective Entries for Marcum, Preston & Toney,” report to file, 28 February 2020 (updated 10 January 2021).
- “Mills & Associates: Montgomery & Fincastle Counties, Virginia: Initial Survey,” report to file, 28 August 2018 (updated 10 September 2020).
- “Mills & Associates: Montgomery County, VA, Extended Research (Bias, Sartain, Toney, White, Whitt/Witt),” report to file, 20 September 2020.
- “Mills-White-Witt: Montgomery County, Virginia, Tax Roll Data 1782–1807,” report to file, 15 February 2020.
- “Mills & Associates, Montgomery County c1845–1870: Preliminary Survey of Resources for Bradberry (esp. George), Fleeman, Jarrett (esp. Allen), Lawrence (esp. John B.), and Nunley Nunnally (esp. Richard),” report to file, 1 September 2021.
- “Gallia County, OH: Preliminary Research on Elijah Sartain, Wife Sarah Mills, and Related Families from Montgomery and Giles Counties, VA—Particularly Brumfield, Chapman, Napier, and Williams,” report to file, 1 September 2021.
- “Samuel Mills (c1788–7 April 1859); Spouses: 1. Rachel Prince & 2. Nancy Rinehart: Research Notes,” a work in progress last updated 8 June 2020. Samuel is a proved premarital son of Frankey.
- “John White Sr. (c1740–1821); Spouses: 1. Unidentified & 2. Frances “Frankey” Mills: Research Notes,” a work in progress last updated 18 January 2021.

<sup>78</sup> Giles Co., VA, Marriage Book 1: 24. Elizabeth (Mills) and Archibald Chapman moved with her mother and stepfather to Gallia Co., OH.

<sup>79</sup> Marriage of “Lucinda Tilman Sartain” to John Williams, Gallia Co., OH, Marriage Book 1: 74. Also “Lucy T. Williams” obituary, *Gallipolis Bulletin* (Gallipolis, Ohio), 3 January 1877.

<sup>80</sup> Giles Co. Deed Book 1: 349, 1815. For Marr(s) as neighbor to Sartain/Certain land, see Deed Book 1: 331 (Sartain heirs of Joel, to Elijah Sartain, 1809), Deed Book 1: 181 (Joel Sartain [Jr.] and wife Avezilla to Nathan Marrs, 1810), and Deed Book 1: 206 (Isaac Chapman land on New River near Turkey Hollow, adjacent to Elijah Sartain and Nathan Mars,” 1814.)

One Nathan Marrs of Giles, like Susannah Mills and husband James Brown, moved to Crawford Co., IN, by 1830. Born 25 July 1790, he married Elizabeth Barbee 16 November 1815 in Shelby Co., KY. This seems to be a younger man than the Nathan Marrs who owned Giles land adjacent to the Sartains in Giles. For the younger Nathan, see Jeremy Bales, “Bales/Ringo Family Tree,” *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/48466792/person/400043485155/facts>). As sources for Nathan, Bales supplies an image of his 1847 tombstone said to be in Terre Haute, Vigo County, IN (appropriately aged); and *Ancestry’s* database of Kentucky marriages; he identifies this Nathan (without evidence) as the son of John Marrs of Louisa County and wife Agnes Steel.

<sup>81</sup> Affidavit of Joel Sartain (Pvt., VA, Revolutionary War) Rejected Pension Application No. R9207, 21 July 1836, Gallia Co., OH; imaged *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com/image/14421237> and subsequent images : accessed 22 February 2021).

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1830, 1840, and 1850 censuses. Through 1840, the household data included a woman of age to be Sarah; but in 1850 Elijah lived alone, adjacent to their daughter Lucinda and her husband John Williams.<sup>82</sup> Sarah left numerous offspring from the two daughters who married Chapman and Williams; one grandson George Chapman would become a Gallia Co. justice of the peace.

Gallia county records suggest Sarah and Elijah were also the parents of a son **JOHN SARTAIN**, b. 1790–1800, married **Ann Johnson**, 7 May 1823, Gallia Co.<sup>83</sup> In 1820, Elijah Sartain was enumerated adjacent to Ann’s likely father William Johnson. In 1830 John Sartain and wife were enumerated four houses from the John Williams who married Elijah and Sarah’s daughter Lucy Tilman Sartain. In 1831 John and Ann Sartain sold their Gallia Co. land<sup>84</sup> and dropped from the Gallia records that I have used to-date. He has not been found elsewhere in Ohio or states to the west on the 1840 or 1850 censuses. He appears to be the John Sartain, of compatible data, enumerated on the **Logan County, Virginia**, census of 1840<sup>85</sup>—a man who was not enumerated there in 1830 when John of Gallia was enumerated in Guyan Township of Gallia. (Logan, now in West Virginia, was created in 1823, partially from Giles and Kanawha Counties. In 1850 one **Ann Sartain**, aged 45, marital status not shown, was enumerated in the Logan County household of Isaac and Keziah Brewer, adjacent to a **William Sartain** family.<sup>86</sup>

- **Susannah Mills**, born c1777. On 30 May 1795, in Amherst, **James Brown**, posted a bond to marry Susannah. His surety, John Lancaster Sr., swore that she was the daughter of Jesse Mills but had lived in his household “for Some time” and he believed her to be of age.<sup>87</sup> Susannah and James are said to be the James Brown family on the 1820 census of Crawford County, Indiana, where that James married secondly, 19 November 1828, **Mason Dearing**. James supposedly died in Crawford County on 8 June 1853.<sup>88</sup> I have not yet pursued this couple.

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<sup>82</sup> 1830 U.S. census, Gallia Co., OH, p. 129 (penned), line 24 (Elijah Sartin, male 60–70, female 60–70), also line 4 (John Sartin, 20–30 with family) and line 10 (John Williams, male 40–50, female 20–30, and family). 1840 U.S. census, Gallia Co., OH, p. 153 (penned), line 6 (male 70–80, female 60–70 & others), also line 8 (Isaac Chapman) and line 9 (John Williams). 1850 U.S. census, Gallia Co., Guyan Township, p. 379 (stamped), dwelling/family 159, Elijah Sartin (living alone), age 84, farmer, b. VA. At dwell./fam. 156 is John Williams 54, with wife Lucinda and children 4–30, all born in OH.

<sup>83</sup> Gallia Co., OH, Marriage Book 1: 112; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 004016313 > image 72.

<sup>84</sup> Gallia Co., OH, Deed Book 12 (1832–35): 576 [sic]; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 008193271 > image 576 [sic].

<sup>85</sup> 1840 U.S. census, Logan County, VA, p. 82 verso, line 15, **John Sartin** (1 male 30–40, 1 female 30–40, 1 male 15–20, 1 female 10–15, 2 male 10–15, 1 female 5–10, 1 male 0–5).

<sup>86</sup> 1850 U.S. census, Logan County, VA, pop. sch., dist. 32, p. 151 (stamped), dwelling/family 450/450, Isaac Brewer 32, Keziah Brewer 30, Milton Brewer 8, Mitchell Brewer 4, John Brewer 1, **Ann Sartain 45**. All are said to be born in Virginia. Aside from W M (or Wm) Sartain who lived one household away (see above), no other Sartains (or variant spellings thereof) were enumerated in the county. No John or Ann Sartain of appropriate age have been found in any other state. Ann is living in the same district with **Robert Whitt** [Robert Jr., formerly of Montgomery Co., VA] and wife **Margaret “Peggy” Brumfield**, a Sartain in-law who married in Gallia County in 1822; see Gallia Co., OH, Marriage Book 1: 111; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 004016313 > image 67.

This William Sartain does not fit into the Elijah Sartain household, as enumerated in either 1810 or 1820. According to the 1850 census, he was born about 1807 and married Telitha [—?—] before 1830. The census five “children” in their household—James M. (21), Frances (18), Lewis V. (10), Andw. J. (9), Sarah 5—as well as one Rebecca Brewer, 36. Adjacent to William’s family is a young couple that may represent his married daughter: James Brown (22), **Lucinda** (21), and Evaline Brown (1). 1850 U.S. census, Logan County, VA, pop. sch., dist. 32, p. 151 (stamped), dwell./fam. 449/449 W M [or Wm] Sartain household.

<sup>87</sup> Amherst County Marriage Bonds & Consents, 1793–1796, James Brown–Susannah Mills, 30 May 1795; imaged Amherst Co., microfilm 108, Library of Virginia, Richmond. For a published abstract (not a transcript), see William Montgomery Sweeny, *Marriage Bonds and Other Marriage Records of Amherst County, Virginia, 1763–1800* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1980), 12.

<sup>88</sup> Children of this couple are said to be Zachariah Nicholas Brown (1800–1881), Malinda Emeline Brown (1802–1881), **Milley J. Brown** (1805–1881), Mary Ann Brown (1806–1875), James Mulkey Brown (1808–?) and Jonathan **Rice** Brown (1810–1868A). See Debra Daniels,

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- **Jesse Mills**, born c1771–72, who married (1) **Rachael Hudson**, c21 May 1793 in Amherst Co., VA, via a marriage bond that called him “bachelor.” No parental consent was given for him, implying that he was of age. The marriage was performed by the Anglican “Rev. Mr. Crawford,” with the consent of young Rachael’s father Joshua Hudson.<sup>89</sup> Rachael died before 5 January 1799 leaving a small daughter Rachel Hudson Mills.<sup>90</sup> Jesse married (2) Widow **Anne [Murray?] Phillips**, about 5 April 1799 in Louisa Co., VA.<sup>91</sup> By October 1802 they had settled in Green Co., KY, according to a suit launched against him by his first wife’s family in Amherst Co., as well as a second lawsuit that Jesse and Anne launched against what seems to be her first set of in-laws in Louisa Co.<sup>92</sup>

Jesse Jr.’s first known appearance in Green County is dated 26 March 1802, when he paid 300 pounds for 300 acres, in preparation for the family move.<sup>93</sup> He filed his mark-and-brand in Green in March 1803 (“an over bit off each Ear.”)<sup>94</sup> In July 1803 he was appointed a road overseer on the stretch from “Bowlins old field” past Robinson Creek and the stone quarry to the head of Buckhorn Creek, then down Pittman’s Creek to the starting point.<sup>95</sup> In 1805, he was appointed to lead a committee to establish a road from the Presbyterian Meeting house on Meadow Creek to “the road near Will. Phillips.”<sup>96</sup> (The latter was the name of one of his wife’s in-laws who he and Ann had sued back in Louisa County.) In May and October 1806, he and Anne divided into thirds a tract of 1000 acres that had been surveyed for one Julius Coleman but was not yet patented—land on Rough Creek, waters of Green River, in Ohio County, KY. The three parcels

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“Hodges Family Tree,” *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/81536608/person/280041586255/facts>). This tree offers, as evidence, the 1820 to 1850 federal censuses of Crawford County and a database entry for the 1828 Crawford Co. marriage record, but does not indicate how the compiler links the Indiana couple to the Amherst couple. The 1850 census enumerates James Brown as 81 and born in VA, living with Mason aged 68, next door to J. R. Brown, age 41, who is assigned a **NC birthplace; if accurate, his age and place suggests that his alleged mother Susannah did not die in VA as the trees assert**. See 1850 U.S. census, Crawford Co., IN, Liberty Township, p. 35 verso, dwelling/family nos. 423/423 and 424/424.

<sup>89</sup> Amherst Co. Marriage Bonds and Consents, 1793–1796, chronological sequence; imaged on Amherst Co. microfilm 108, Library of Virginia, Richmond. Many online trees erroneously identify this marriage to Rachael Hudson as a second marriage for Jesse Sr. That name’s-the-same assumption is disproved by Jesse’s identification in the bond as a “bachelor” and by the fact that Jesse Sr.’s wife Lucy was still alive and still his wife at the time they and her siblings launched the chancery suit in 1810.

<sup>90</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Wills of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1865* (1985; reprint, Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1998), 184; citing Book 4: 6 (will of Joshua Hudson, written 5 January 1799; proved 20 April 1801, Albemarle Co., naming “Rachel Hudson Mills” as his grandchild). In October 1802, “Jesse Mills, of Green County, Kentucky” was sued in Albemarle Co. by administrators of Joshua Hudson, with Anderson Moss as Jesse’s bondsman; see Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807; and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 389; citing Amherst Deed Book I: 497.

<sup>91</sup> “Virginia, Select Marriages, 1785–1791,” database, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com>) : accessed 1 March 2018), citing FHL microfilm 32190, [Register of Marriages, Louisa County, Virginia, 1766–1861], p. 99. The database gives an exact date, but does not indicate whether that was the date of the bond or the marriage return.

<sup>92</sup> Louisa County, VA, Chancery Causes, case 1804-017, Anne Mills and Jesse Mills vs. George Phillips &c., 1800–1804; imaged in “Chancery Record Index [with images],” Library of Virginia, *Virginia Memory* ([https://www.lva.virginia.gov/chancery/case\\_detail.asp?CFN=109-1804-017](https://www.lva.virginia.gov/chancery/case_detail.asp?CFN=109-1804-017)) : downloaded 16 May 2019), 53 images. Witnesses in this suit over a title to land, whose purchase Anne had negotiated as Widow Phillips, stated that (1) Anne and Jesse, shortly after their marriage, announced an intent to move to Green Co., KY; and (2) Jesse was a “difficult” and volatile man who threatened to kill one of the Phillips brothers if he set foot on the land. The pleadings also reference an unidentified suit pending in Hanover Co., which I have not yet sought.

<sup>93</sup> Green Co., KY, Deed Book 3: 96–98; also see Deed Book 5: 95–96.

<sup>94</sup> Green Co., KY., County Court Order Book 3: 108; Office of the County Clerk, Greensburg; *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS79-1S1Y-Y?i=149&cat=125489>), digital film no. 007856542, image 159.

<sup>95</sup> Green Co., KY., County Court Order Book 3: 120, 126; Office of the County Clerk, Greensburg; *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS79-1S1Y-Y?i=149&cat=125489>), digital film no. 007856542, image 165.

<sup>96</sup> Green Co., KY., County Court Order Book 4 (1804–1809): 35; Office of the County Clerk, Greensburg; *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS79-1S1Y-Y?i=149&cat=125489>), digital film no. 007856542, image 209.

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were sold by Jesse and Anne to two men from Amherst County, VA: Anderson Moss and Pulliam Sandridge.<sup>97</sup> In November 1809, as assignee of one Jesse Bridges, Jesse entered land on Stoner and Casey's Creek of Green County.<sup>98</sup> (Apparently, Jesse made a practice of buying land that had been surveyed and partially improved, but not yet patented.)

In June 1810, Jesse returned to Virginia temporarily, thereby causing his household to be missed on the 1810 census. Richard Murray of Green Co. appointed Jesse his attorney to settle for him his interest in the estate of his father Richard Murray Sr. in Fluvanna Co., VA. Fluvanna's deed books also include a power of attorney given to Jesse by Judith Murray, widow of Richard Sr. and other heirs "to sell the land whereon the widow Murray now lives for the best price he may think fit."<sup>99</sup> The trust placed in Jesse by multiple heirs suggests that his wife (the Widow Phillips) may have been one of the heirs.<sup>100</sup> (Fluvanna County also was the long-time home of Jesse's uncle Daniel Tilman, who instigated the suit of 1810 that included Jesse Sr. and wife Lucy Tilman.<sup>101</sup>) On 20 May 1811, Jesse and Anne were back in Green Co., where they confirmed the title to the land they had sold in 1806 to Pulliam Sandridge.<sup>102</sup> Jesse, his wife, and his offspring have not been tracked yet past this point.

8. **MILDRED "MILLY" MILLS**, b. c1745, VA; died 1822. Still single at the time of her father's 1755 will, Milly married twice in Amherst: (1) **William Lavender** before 1770;<sup>103</sup> and (2) **William Walton**,

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<sup>97</sup> Green Co., Deed Book 5: 92–96. Moss had also served as John's bondsman in the 1802 suit filed against Jesse by his Hudson in-laws. Sandridge was a co-executor of the Joshua Hudson estate; see Amherst Co., Deed Book I: 407.

<sup>98</sup> Green Co., Land Entries Book 1780–1833, p. 350; imaged at *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS56-D376-Z?i=166&cat=133784>) from microfilm 1877097.

<sup>99</sup> Green Co., Deed Book 6: 65–66. Also Fluvanna Co., VA, Deed Book 5: 430.

<sup>100</sup> Also see, under the discussion of Jesse's brother William, the erroneous belief that their cousin Tilmon Walton married Judith Murray Jr.

<sup>101</sup> Fluvanna is now being investigated as the possible "bridge" for Jesse Jr.'s sister Sarah in her journey as a single woman from Amherst out to Montgomery. Among the Tilman associates in Fluvanna were the **Napiers**, from whom the brothers Patrick Jr. and Thomas Hughes Napier moved out to Montgomery Co. in the 1780s. There, they settled in the same neighborhood where Sarah first appeared in 1791. The two Napier brothers married Fanny and Mary Brumfield, whose brother Humphrey Brumfield married Sally Sartain, an older sister of Sarah Mills's husband Elijah Sartain. The Napier and Brumfield clan would also migrate to Gallia Co., OH, with Elijah and Sarah.

<sup>102</sup> Green Co., Deed Book 6: 176.

<sup>103</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, "KayMarieRettaYabarra," 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 forename attributed to her husband, "William Charles," is not supported by any record he created in his lifetime and is highly unlikely. Giving children double forenames was *not* a common practice in the English colonies prior to the Revolution. When it is found, the situation typically involves Anglican elites or Germans. Other trees echo some of the same facts and generally provide a correct list of children but sometimes with significantly wrong dates. See, for example, Michael Spillars, "Spillars Family Tree," *Ancestry* ([person.ancestry.com/tree/54902/person/6049440132/facts](http://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](http://person.ancestry.com/tree/27253432/person/26082618067/facts) : accessed 12 May 2016).

Mildred's marriage year is approximated from the fact that her son William Lavender attested on 17 May 1830 that he was 70 years of age—i.e., born c1760. The pension applications of Millie's sons William and Charles Lavender offer abundant pointers to kin and other places of residence. For these, 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 images : accessed 17 May 2016); for his age see image 25255780. Married January 1794, Sarah Stratton.
- 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). Married 1785, Lucy Ballew.

## William Mills (c1695–1755) Spouse Mary [—?—]

16 April 1792.<sup>104</sup> In 1770, Lavender purchased land on Tye River adjacent to land Milly's brother Jesse had bought from the same seller three years earlier.<sup>105</sup> William and Milly sold this land shortly before Christmas 1773.<sup>106</sup> In March 1776, William Lavender's estate was appraised by Wm. Pollard, Lucas Powell, and Richard Tankersly.<sup>107</sup> After Milly's 1792 marriage to the Patriot Maj. **William Walton**, they joined her son William Lavender and that son's wife Sarah in selling land her first husband had inherited from his father Charles Lavender Sr.<sup>108</sup> Milly and Walton moved to Burke Co., NC, where he died 29 January 1806.<sup>109</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>110</sup> a situation that suggests Milly was close family. In 1810, her son George Lavender of Nelson County, VA, petitioned the legislature for permission to bring back into Virginia a slave from his father's estate held by his mother "in Tennessee."<sup>111</sup> Milly has not been found on the 1820 census, but a probate was opened for her in Maury County, TN, in 1822.<sup>112</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.

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### Map 1

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<sup>104</sup> "Virginia, Select Marriages, 1785–1791," database, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 1 March 2018), citing FHL microfilm 30273 and [Amherst Co. Marriage Book \_\_], "p 73." The database gives an exact date, but does not indicate whether that was the date of the bond or the marriage return.

<sup>105</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>106</sup> *Ibid.*, 153; citing Amherst Deed Book D: 119.

<sup>107</sup> *Ibid.*, 210, citing Book 1: 432 with notation "see Page 509 for 1793, for more data."

<sup>108</sup> *Ibid.*, 278; citing Amherst Deed Book G: 254.

<sup>109</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>110</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>111</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.

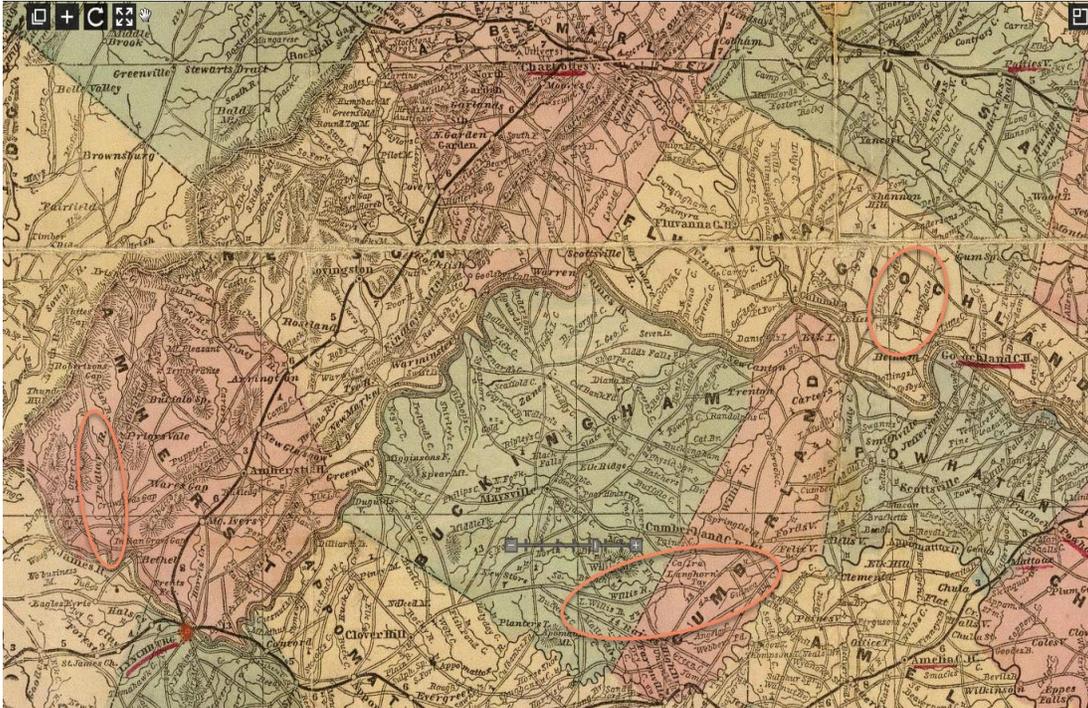
<sup>112</sup> Byron and Barbara Sistler, *Index to Tennessee Wills & Administrations, 1779–1861* (Nashville: Byron Sistler & Associates, 1990), 377.

**William Mills (c1695–1755)  
Spouse Mary [—?—]**

**Old Goochland & Offshoot Counties<sup>113</sup>**

Albemarle (1744) Which Split into Amherst, Buckingham & Nelson

Cumberland (1749): Which Split into Powhatan



**DISAMBIGUATION**

**William Mills & Wife Mary of Goochland, Albemarle & Amherst**

vs.

**William Mills of Aberdeen, Scotland (no known wife) of Goochland and Cumberland**

Between 1730 and 1765 several dozen records were created in Goochland (and its offshoots Albemarle and Cumberland) by or about “William Mills.” Several deeds and patents between 1732 and 1744 document tracts, including two grants pending when Goochland split. (See Maps 1 and 2; also subsequent document abstracts under the date cited below for each event):

- **Tracts 1 and 2**, held 1732–44 on Lickinghole Creek and its Wild Boar branch near Treasurer’s Run.<sup>114</sup> When sold, the grantor William, in each case, sold the parcel with the participation of a wife named

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<sup>113</sup> Snipped from *Lloyd’s Official Map of the State of Virginia* (New York: J. T. Lloyd, 1862); imaged at David Rumsey Map Collection (<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~3695~350006:Lloyd-s-official-map-of-the-State-o/> : 15 November 2019).

## William Mills (c1695–1755) Spouse Mary [—?—]

Mary. Neighbors and associates of this William and Mary included John Payne, a large-scale landowner who in 1750 and 1751 employed Ambrose Mills as his overseer in Lunenburg County.

- **Tract 3**, on the ridge between Willis River and Guinea Creek of the Appomattox (along the western half of the Willis), was held from September 1736 to November 1743. When sold, wife Mary participated. Their witnesses included the same men who associates of William and Mary of Lickinghole.
- **Tract 4**, on Willis River’s branch Pidy Rock (see Map 2), was patented in August 1746 but settlement and improvements likely began several years earlier, as the Pidy Rock William was charged with road duty in that district in 1739. The Pidy Rock patent identifies the grantee as “William Mills, son of William Mills of Aberdeen.” This William sold parts of this land in the 1750s, without the participation of a wife. Land records for an adjacent neighbor placed that neighbor “at the heads of Pidy Rock and Bear Creek” (near the eastern end of the Willis). Land processioning records of St. James Southam (Cumberland Co.) place William and his land very close to the church which was then on Tar Wallet (aka Tear Wallet) Creek. See Map 2 for the church’s exact location.
- **Tract 5**, on Pedlar River of Albemarle, was granted in 1749, indisputably to the William Mills of this paper. The patent stated that the land lay in Goochland, although the Pedlar had been cut away into Albemarle County five years earlier. By inference, William petitioned for the grant when it and he were part of Goochland. The presence of William and Mary of the Pedlar in Goochland, prior to Albemarle, is also suggested by the 1743–44 appearance of their son Ambrose in Goochland court records, where he was sued by the prominent Goochland planter Nowel Burton of Little Byrd Creek (near Tracts 1 and 2 above) and Willis River.<sup>115</sup>

### Land locations in Goochland

It is tempting to link the two Willis River acquisitions of 1736 and 1746, simply because they are associated with the same waterway. However, the Willis meanders for some sixty miles. Originally, it lay entirely in Goochland, but

- The eastern portion now lies in Cumberland County—where William Mills of Pidy Rock Run lived 1746–65.
- The western portion was cut away into Albemarle in 1744 and now lies in Buckingham.
- The ridge between Willis River and Great Guinea Creek, where William and Mary of Lickinghole had supplemental acreage between 1736 and 1744, lay some miles to the west of the heads of Pidy Rock, Bear Creek, and Tar Wallet region where William of Aberdeen settled by 1739. (See Map 2.)

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<sup>114</sup> Several Lickinghole Creeks existed in Virginia at this time, including one in the region that became Albemarle. The possibility that this Lickinghole Creek of 1732–44 Goochland might have been the one in Albemarle is eliminated by the fact that William’s land lay on both Lickinghole Creek and adjacent Wild Boar of Treasurer’s Run. The Lickinghole of Albemarle did not have a Wild Boar or a Treasurer’s Run.

<sup>115</sup> Burton’s first land in Goochland was patented 27 September 1729, for 400 acres on **Little Byrd**; see “Index of Pool,” *Direct Line Software* ([www.directlinesoftware.com/Pool/goochlan.txt](http://www.directlinesoftware.com/Pool/goochlan.txt) : downloaded 7 June 2018), Goochland lands, “item” 211, 400a Beech Creek, a branch of **Little Byrd Creek**, 27 Sep 1729; citing Virginia Patent Book 13:407. Goochland court records from c1728 present Nowel Burton as a frequent juror and regular litigant in court (usually being sued). In 1735, he paid the bastardy charges for an Elizabeth Cragg whose son George Cragg was bound to him in 1736. By March 1738/9 he owned land on Willis River; by February 1739/40 he had married a wife Judith, and in April 1740 he petitioned successfully to have a road cleared from Willis River “to Buckingame, crossing the head of Randolphs Creek into Glovers road near to **Hatchers Creek Mountain**.” For the latter event, see Ann K. Blomquist, *Goochland County, Virginia, Court Order Book 4, 1735–1741* (Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 2010), 483.

# William Mills (c1695–1755) Spouse Mary [—?—]

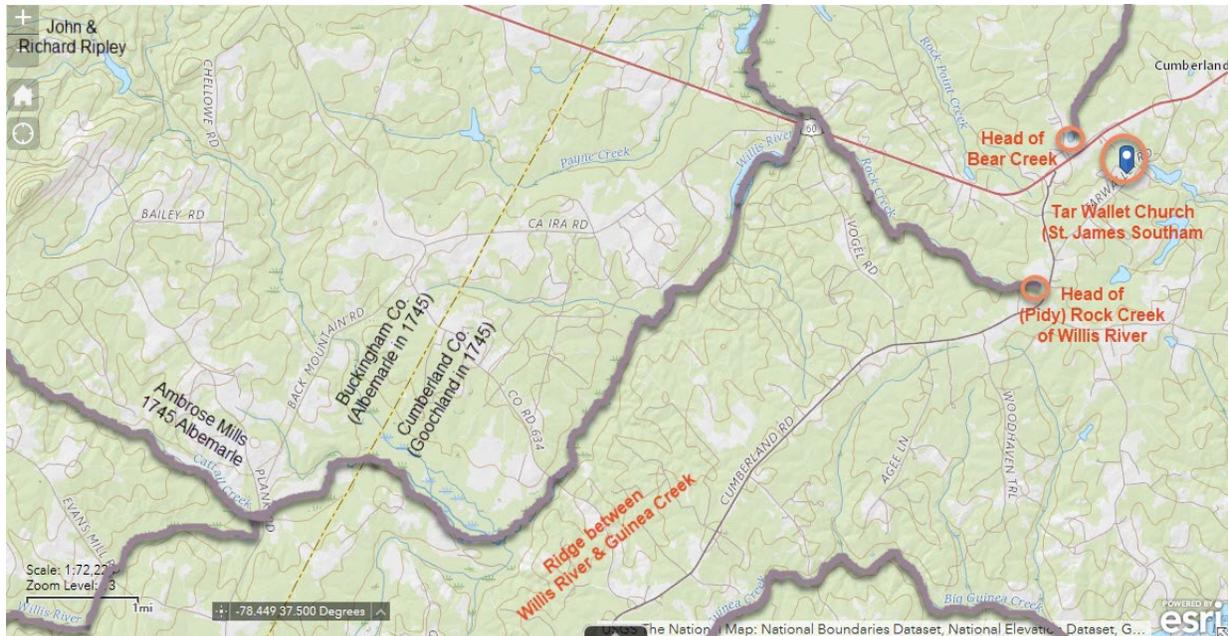
## Map 2

### Key Settlements along Willis River

Ambrose Mills: Willis River & Cattail Creek, 1745, Albemarle (later Buckingham)

William Mills: Ridge between Willis River & Guinea Creek, 1736–44, Goochland (later Cumberland)

William Mills: Land at Head of (Pidy) Rock Creek & Bear Creek, 1746–65, Goochland (later Cumberland)



This paper hypothesizes (subject to revision if and when more evidence is found) that **Tracts 1, 2, 3, and 5 all belonged to the same William and Mary** and that two separate William Millises resided in Goochland from the 1730s:

- **William and Mary** of Lickinghole Creek and (western) Willis River, who arrived by 1728–29, sold their last land in 1744, applied for land on Pedlar River while it was still in Goochland (i.e., 1744 or earlier); and made their first appearance of record in Albemarle County at its first 1745 term of court.
- **William of Aberdeen**, no known wife, who settled on Pidy Rock Run of (eastern) Willis River before 1739 on land that subsequently fell into Cumberland County.

### Associational Evidence

Associations also support a conclusion that William and Mary of Lickinghole Creek was the same couple as William and Mary of Willis River. For example:

## William Mills (c1695–1755) Spouse Mary [—?—]

- 1743: When William and Mary sold their land *on the ridge of Willis River*, they sold it to Josias Payne, in the presence of John Payne, Robert Woodson, and John “Roberts.”<sup>116</sup> Josias Payne was also a landowner on Lickinghole Creek, taking out his first land grant there in 1730.<sup>117</sup>
- 1744: When William and Mary Mills sold the last of *their Lickinghole plantation*, they sold it to John “Robards” in the presence of John Payne, Josias Payne, and Robert Woodson.<sup>118</sup>
- John Payne, the 1743–44 witness to William and Mary’s sale of both tracts, is cited in a Goochland 1739 road order to provide a gang to work the road between Brooks’ Mills and Archer’s Creek of the Fluvanna. *Both sites fell into Albemarle after the 1744 split.*<sup>119</sup> Payne’s Creek lay in the part of Albemarle that became Amherst, then Buckingham. (See Map 2.)
- John Payne in July 1744 won a judgment against Nowel Burton of Willis River (Buckingham portion), who was simultaneously prosecuting a suit against Ambrose Mills.<sup>120</sup>
- 1750–52: Ambrose Mills, son of William and Mary of Pedlar, appears on the Lunenburg tax lists as overseer of a plantation owned by John Payne of Goochland.<sup>121</sup>

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<sup>116</sup> TLC Genealogy, *Goochland County, Virginia, Deeds, 1741–1745* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy 1990), 37; citing Deed Book 4:270.

<sup>117</sup> Library of Virginia, “Land Office Grants,” database with images, *Virginia Memory* ([http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=51&last=&g\\_p=P14&collection=LO Patent](http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=51&last=&g_p=P14&collection=LO Patent) : downloaded 20 May 2016), “Payne, Josias, grantee, Goochland County, 400 acres on the west side of Lickinghole Creek adjoining Robert Adams and Henry Webb; citing “Land Office Patents No. 14, 1728–1732 (pt. 1 & 2), p. 51 (Reel 11). In 1733 he patented a second tract there; see *ibid.* ([http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=72&last=&g\\_p=P15&collection=LO Patent](http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=72&last=&g_p=P15&collection=LO Patent) : downloaded 20 May 2016), “Payne, Josias, grantee, Goochland County, 400 acres on the branches of Lickinghole Creek” adjoining Duncan’s Branch, Thomas Salmon, and Henry Webb; citing “Land Office Patents No. 15, 1732–1735, p.72 (Reel 13),

<sup>118</sup> TLC Genealogy, *Goochland County, Virginia, Deeds, 1741–1745* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy 1990), 47.

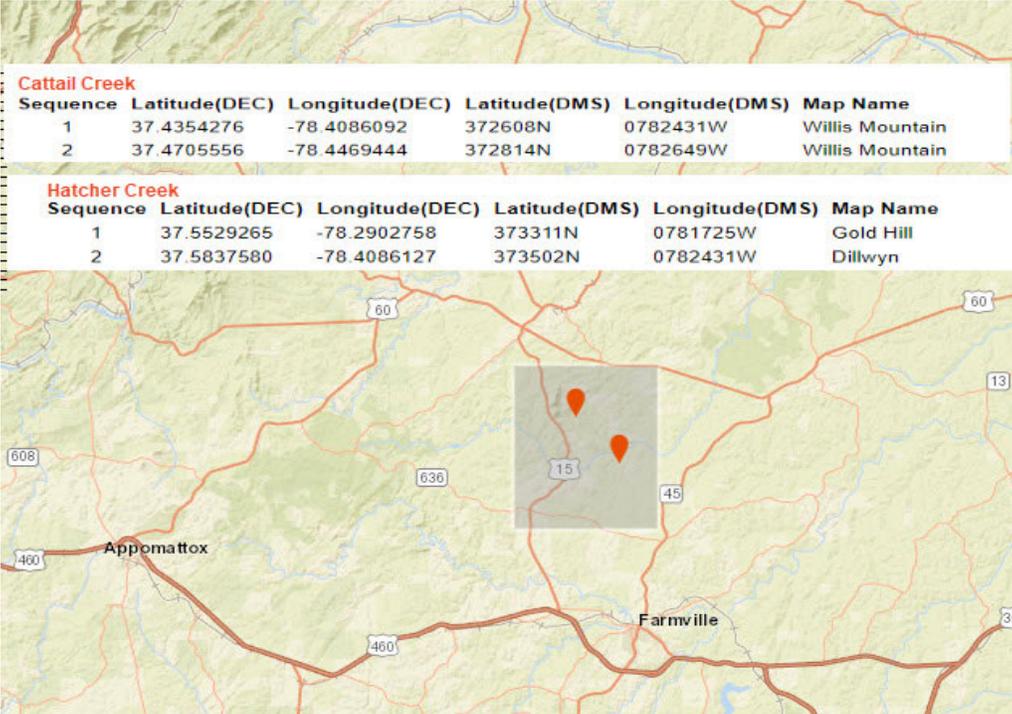
<sup>119</sup> *Albemarle County (Virginia) Road Orders*, 21; also Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, VA (1761–1852) & Albemarle County, VA (1748–1807)* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 14 (order to clear a road from Beards Road on the Ridge between Appomattox and Willis, to replace “Old road from Brooks Mill”). Also Eric Grundset, “*Land Lying in the County of Albemarle:” Albemarle County, Virginia Surveyor’s Plat Books, Volume 1, Parts 1 and 2, and Volume 2, 1744–1853 [and 1892]* (Fairfax, VA: P.p., 1992), 66–67 (Archer’s Creek).

<sup>120</sup> Ann K. Blomquist, *Goochland County, Virginia, Court Order Book 5, 1741–45* (Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 2007), 445.

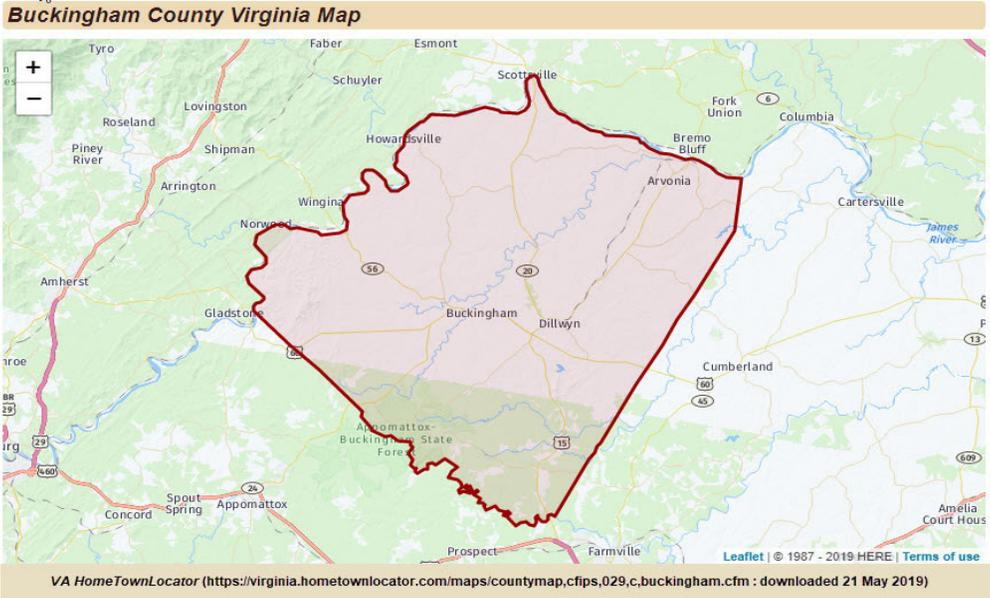
<sup>121</sup> Landon C. Bell, *Sunlight on the Southside: List of Tithes, Lunenburg County, Virginia; 1748–1783* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1974), 144–47, particularly p. 145 (1750); also 202–8 (1752); no source cited.

**William Mills (c1695–1755)**  
**Spouse Mary [—?—]**

**Map 3**  
**Rough Location of Nowel Burton’s Land on Willis River near Hatcher’s Creek & Cattail Creek**



**Map 4**  
**Modern Buckingham County**



## William Mills (c1695–1755) Spouse Mary [—?—]

### Separating William of the Pedlar from Scottish William of the Pidy

- Goochland’s William Mills who ended up on Pedlar River in Albemarle left offspring who were non-conformists to the established church. Meanwhile, Goochland’s Pidy Rock William, “son of William Mills of Aberdeen, Scotland,” ended up in Cumberland County, where he participated heavily in vestry affairs.
- Both William Millses can be placed simultaneously and repeatedly in their respective counties in the 1750s and 1760s, thereby differentiating between the two.
- While both appear to have died about the same time, William of Albemarle > Amherst died leaving a widow Mary who presented his will for an Amherst probate in 1766. Meanwhile, no record for William of Pidy Rock in Goochland > Cumberland mentions a wife. No probate record exists. William simply disappeared amid a court suit that threatened to take all his property.

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### FAMILY ORIGIN: ANALYZING THE EVIDENCE

#### Undocumented claims: Analyzed

Numerous online trees allege that William, Mary, and son Ambrose (along with Ambrose’s wife) immigrated from England. When evidence is offered, it consists of one of the following:

1. Tree hints made to them by *Ancestry* or *FamilySearch*, suggesting the possibility that William of Pedlar River may be this-or-that William found in the several dozen marriage and baptismal entries within English parish records that have been indexed by these two record providers. In each case, the hints have been accepted indiscriminately with no attempt made to find links between the English parish and the Virginia family.

My own reconstruction of the dozen or so William Mills family units that lived contemporaneously in England reveals that those Williams died there or continued to present children for baptism there during the period that William and Mary of the Pedlar are on record in Virginia. No ties have been found between any of those English Williams and William of Goochland > Albemarle > Amherst, other than the fact that one or another of these English Williams gave their offspring one of the same common given names used by William and Mary of the Pedlar: i.e., Anne, Elizabeth, Sarah, Thomas, and William. These databases offer no compatible Jesse or Mildred Mills and just one English-born Ambrose Mills—one baptized 1719 in Tiverton, Devonshire. Tiverton records also prove that Ambrose remained in Tiverton and presented children for baptism there between 1744 and 1754, while the future Col. Ambrose Mills was simultaneously involved in numerous activities of record in Goochland (later Albemarle) and Lunenburg (later Bedford) counties, Virginia.

## William Mills (c1695–1755) Spouse Mary [—?—]

2. Undocumented references to an “obituary” of William and Mary’s grandson, William (of Ambrose). However, no obituary has been found for him.

The newspaper item mischaracterized as an “obituary” was a lengthy account submitted by William and Mary’s great-great-grandson J. M. Edney to the Asheville, NC, *Highland Messenger* in 1846, under the title “Our Ancestors—Revolutionary Incidents, &c.” The article is essentially a paean to Edney’s grandfather William Mills.<sup>122</sup> There, Edney wrote:

“He [William] was the son of Ambrose and Morning Mills, (who emigrated to this country from England) and was born on James River, Va., Nov. 10, 1746.”<sup>123</sup>

Edney’s account of William’s life is demonstrably flawed on two critical points (as well as smaller issues):

- First, Ambrose did not marry his first wife, Mourning Stone, in England; to the contrary, she was from a Goochland family that moved into Lunenburg Co. shortly before Ambrose became John Payne’s Lunenburg overseer. They will be seen with Ambrose in the Lunenburg tax rolls of the 1740s and 50s, extracted below.
- Second, Edney exculpated his grandfather William’s service as a Loyalist by saying, “He was under age at the time and was a dutiful and obedient son.” However, at the time of William’s service, c1779–81, William was (according to the 1746 birthdate Edney himself gave) thirty-three to thirty-five years old. He had, in fact, been married for a decade before the Revolution erupted. He was far from a dutiful minor.

Edney also exculpated his great-grandfather’s service as a Loyalist by saying Ambrose was “a loyal subject of the King of Great Britain.” That much is true, but loyalty does not equate to English birth. A contemporary of Ambrose, John Bryan, late in his life provided a more credible explanation:

“[William] Mills, was the son of Ambrose Mills that entertained so many of the Tories after their defeat at Ready River in 76 ... This old Ambrose Mills Joined [British General] Furgason (and) was Taken at Kings Mountain and hanged afterwards. The cause of his attachment to the British was this – In the time of Bradocks war ... the indians had killed his wife and some of his children ... and he was relieved by the British.”<sup>124</sup>

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<sup>122</sup> The online images do not show the date of the issue or the page or column number; some users of this newspaper item assert that it was written on “October 30, 1845.” For a copy, imaged in two parts, see “Maj. William Mills, 10 November 1746–10 November 1834 (LCD4-4NH), *FamilySearch FamilyTree* (<https://www.familysearch.org/photos/artifacts/12848078>). Edney may have written this sketch originally for Lyman C. Draper who was then combing the South for information about the men of King’s Mountain. Part of his article appears in 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), 481, where Draper offers a brief sketch of Ambrose but does not identify his source. 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 its brief sketch of Ambrose Mills on p. 481, but does not identify his source.

<sup>123</sup> For an image copy, see “Major William Mills (10 November 1746–1834 (LCD4-4NH),” *FamilySearch FamilyTree* (<https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/memories/LCD4-4NH>). I have not yet been able to access the 1846 issues of this newspaper to determine the date of publication.

<sup>124</sup> Recollections of John Bryan, 1823, transcribed and published by Douglas Ransom, as “The Notorious Hallows of Surry County,” *North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal* 5 (February 1979), 2–3; citing “Walter Clark Manuscripts (File # F?. C. \_\_\_? [illegible], N.C. State Archives in Raleigh.”

## William Mills (c1695–1755) Spouse Mary [—?—]

Edney also wrote of the massacre of his grandfather William's mother and siblings and identified William's wife as Eleanor Morris, providing corroboration for Bryan's account. Edney did not identify the birth family or any kin of his grandmother Eleanor. Bryan appears to have been more knowledgeable about the William Mills family than Edney. Bryan not only identified Eleanor's brother and some of that man's escapades, but also wrote of (and identified) a child born out of wedlock to William's wife prior to their marriage, with a story about William's acceptance of that son when he, as a young adult who had been raised by his natural father, paid his mother a visit.

### **Conclusion:**

The 1846 newspaper article on which all claims to English birth hinge—an article written by William and Mary's great-great-grandson—is not a reliable source for the birth places of William, Mary, and Ambrose.

While no known, credible evidence ties William, Mary, or Ambrose to an English birth, *indirect evidence drawn from colonial Virginia land records and land laws attest that William was a native of the colony.*

### **Land Evidence**

In colonial Virginia, land patents were commonly granted on two bases: importation rights and treasury warrants.

#### **1. Importation rights.**

Had William been an immigrant, he would have been entitled to fifty acres each for himself, each family member, and each servant or slave (if any).<sup>125</sup> If William and Mary were indeed immigrants and they arrived by 1730, the family likely consisted of William, Mary, and four children—entitling them to 300 acres. If they did not arrive until shortly before their application for the Pedlar River grant, then it is likely that all eight children had been born before immigration—entitling them to 500 acres by importation rights. Three other possibilities exist:

- *First*, if William and his family were immigrants and had lacked funds to cover the costs of their transportation to Virginia: they might have assigned their headrights to the ship master or other person who financed their transportation.
- *Second*, if they had arrived as servants: the man who bought their time and paid for their transportation would have claimed their importation rights. They would also have had to be in the colony long enough to work off their servitude prior to applying for land (typically seven years of servitude for adults or until the age of twenty-one for those who arrived as children).
- *Third*, if they had paid their own passage and thereby qualified for importation rights: William could have sold those rights for cash after his arrival in the colony. As the first step toward acquiring those rights from the colony's land office, he would have been required to appear before the county court and attest the date of his arrival and the number of individuals for whom he paid passage.

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<sup>125</sup> The land grant process—both importation rights and treasury warrants—is well explained in Frederick Bittle Kegley, *Kegley's Virginia Frontier: The Beginning of the Southwest; the Roanoke of Colonial Days, 1740–1783* (1938; reprinted Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2003), 54–58; extracting from the original 1666 act of the colonial council and its subsequent amendments.

## William Mills (c1695–1755) Spouse Mary [—?—]

### **However:**

- The patent document for grants made on the basis of importation rights were required to state that fact within the body of that patent. William’s did not.
- No grant based on importation rights was made to any William Mills (*var.* Miles, etc.) in the 1700–1760 period.
- No grant based on important rights of William and his family was issued to any other party.
- William has not been found declaring his family’s arrival in any of the surviving county court minutes.

### **2. Treasury Warrants**

As Virginia expanded westward from the seacoast, individuals born in the colony could acquire raw land by purchase directly from the Treasury. Immigrants who wanted to expand upon the holdings they acquired by importation rights might also (with significant limitations) purchase additional lands by Treasury warrant. Both groups were charged five shillings for each fifty acres.<sup>126</sup> The land grant issued to William Mills on Lickinghole Creek and the two on Pedlar River were all Treasury purchases.

### **Conclusion:**

All land evidence points to a conclusion that William Mills of Goochland > Albemarle > Amherst was a native of the Virginia colony—i.e., an offspring of one of the several Mills families that migrated into Virginia in the 1600s.

### **Timing:**

The acquisition process for Treasury lands also speaks to the time frame in which William would have settled his tracts:

Virginia’s land grant process required a settler to make an “entry” in his county’s land books, specifying an exact tract of land the settler believed to be unclaimed. The county surveyor was then to submit the completed survey to the colony’s secretary within nine months but no sooner than six months; that six-month delay would allow for local objections should the claim infringe upon another man’s rights. Also, each June the surveyor was to return a list of all county surveys to the county clerk’s office after which—in at least some counties, including Albemarle in the late 1740s—the clerk copied the list into the court minutes. After the colony’s secretary received the survey, he also had to “let the matter lie” (for two years, in the Secretary’s case) to allow for conflicting claims to be adjudicated.

Only after those three delays—(1) the initial wait for the surveyor; (2) the six-months post-survey delay before delivering the survey to the secretary; and (3) the secretary’s two-year delay—would the patent be issued.<sup>127</sup>

The land-grant process suggests that William, whose first Lickinghole Creek patent was issued on 11 April 1732, entered the land in Goochland’s land register no later than mid-1729 and likely took up

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<sup>126</sup> Frederick Bittle Kegley, *Kegley’s Virginia Frontier: The Beginning of the Southwest; the Roanoke of Colonial Days, 1740–1783* (1938; reprinted Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2003), 54–58; extracting from 1666 and 1705 acts of the colonial council.

<sup>127</sup> Frederick Bittle Kegley, *Kegley’s Virginia Frontier: The Beginning of the Southwest; the Roanoke of Colonial Days, 1740–1783* (1938; reprinted Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2003), 54–58; extracting from 1666 and 1705 acts of the colonial council.

## William Mills (c1695–1755) Spouse Mary [—?—]

occupancy months or years before that. The timing coincides with his first known appearance in the courthouse records of Goochland in 1730, at which time a suit he had previously launched against a Lickinghole Creek neighbor, Robert Wade, was dismissed by the court. Commonly, situations that resulted in a suit simmered for months or years before one party or the other hired an attorney to file a suit; and those suits often languished within the court system for years thereafter.

All of these factors suggest that William and his family were in Goochland by the time Goochland was created. Its first court was held in May 1728 and court minutes make no reference to the suit between then and its 1730 dismissal. By implication, the suit was filed before May 1728 in Goochland's parent county, Henrico—a county whose records are heavily destroyed. Filing in Henrico would not, in and of itself, mean that William himself was a resident of Henrico because suits in that place and time were commonly filed in the county where the defendant resided. However, the fact that Robert Wade simultaneously had a Lickinghole Creek land claim percolating through the system<sup>128</sup> strengthens a presumption that William Mills was also then on Lickinghole Creek.

William and Mary created their last records in Goochland in 1743 and 1744 amid activities that suggest a planned removal.

- In November 1743, William and Mary sold the ridge tract.<sup>129</sup>
- In May 1744, William and Mary of Lickinghole Creek sold the remains of the “plantation called William Mills.”<sup>130</sup>
- In 1744, before Albemarle was cut off from Goochland, William applied for land on Albemarle's Pedlar River. (The patent issued 5 years later, based on the warrant's or survey's description of the land, cited the land as lying in Goochland.)<sup>131</sup>
- By 1745 (month unstated) William of Pedlar River was a landholder in Albemarle, according to a list compiled by a local historian in the late 1800s, which attributed to him land on three branches of the Pedlar: Horsley's Creek, Salt Creek, and Buck Branch. The source from which the list was compiled has not been identified.<sup>132</sup>

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<sup>128</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), “Wade, Robert, grantee, Goochland County”; citing “Land Office Patents No. 15, 1732–1735 (v1 & 2), p. 407 (Reel 11).”

<sup>129</sup> TLC Genealogy, *Goochland County, Virginia, Deeds, 1741–1745* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 1990), 11; citing DB 4:270.

<sup>130</sup> TLC Genealogy, *Goochland County, Virginia, Deeds, 1741–1745* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy 1990), 47.

<sup>131</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).”

<sup>132</sup> C. H. C. Seaman, ed., *The Lee Marmon Manuscript* (Sweet Briar, VA: Sweet Briar College Printing Press for the Amherst Co. Historical Museum & Nelson Co. Historical Soc., 1989), 47; imaged at *Internet Archive* (<http://www.archive.org/details/leemarmomanusc00seam> : accessed 2 June 2018). Marman's published manuscript (p. 45) identifies his own source by saying: “The Nelson historian Alexander Brown, relying on diverse and some now unavailable sources, has listed additional settlers who lived in the area of Old Amherst by 1745.” Marman's footnote 32 on appendix p. 5 cites: “**Alexander Brown Papers, II**, in Swem Library of the College of William and Mary.” That Library's inventory of those papers (<https://ead.lib.virginia.edu/vivaxtf/view?docId=wm/viw00002.xml>) tells us that they span 1815–1910. **They need to be studied.**

## William Mills (c1695–1755) Spouse Mary [—?—]

- In August 1745, his Pedlar River neighbor Edward Watts lodged a law suit against John Partree Burks of Albemarle for assault and slander—a suit for which William Mills was the key witness when it came to trial, implying that William witnessed the mid-1745 confrontation.<sup>133</sup>

Meanwhile,

- William’s son Ambrose in 1743 was sued by Nowel Burton in Goochland. The case was continued through several court sessions. In November 1744 the court appointed commissioners to “settle the severall matters.”<sup>134</sup>
- By the close of 1745, Ambrose and his newly adult brother Thomas were said to be landholders in Albemarle—Thomas on Dancing Creek of the Pedlar and Ambrose on “Cattail Marsh,” a site that cannot be located in Albemarle but may have been Cattail Creek of Willis River, below Payne’s Creek, now Buckingham.<sup>135</sup> (See discussion of this list under 1745 notes, below.)

### **Conclusion:**

Both timing and associations weigh against the possibility that two different couples named William and Mary Mills might have resided in Goochland at the same time. To the contrary, William and Mary of Lickinghole Creek and William and Mary of the ridge of Willis River were almost certainly the William and Mary of Pedlar River.

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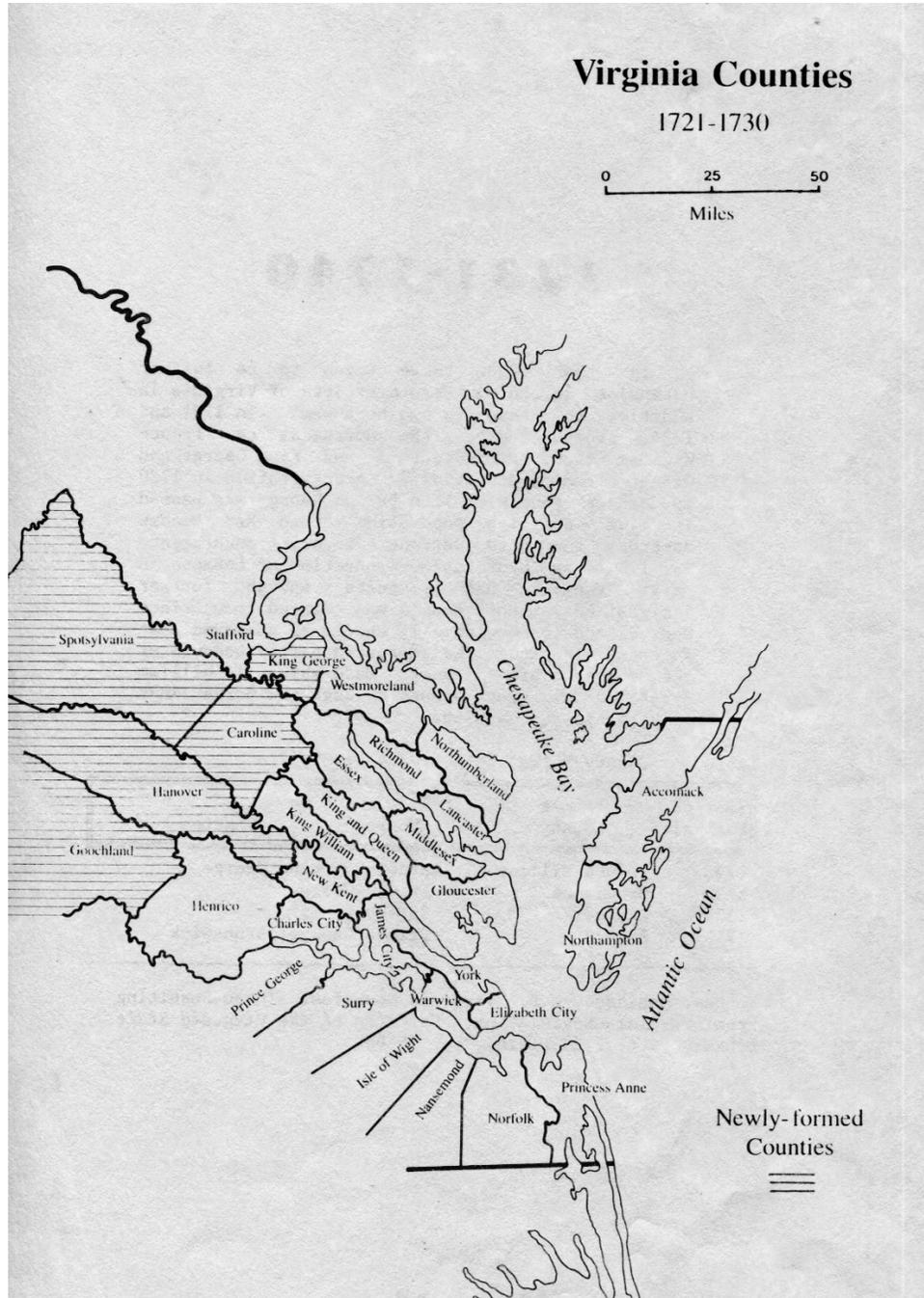
<sup>133</sup> Joanne Lovelace Nance, “Albemarle County, Virginia, Court Orders, ... March 1746[7]–May 1747,” *Magazine of Virginia Genealogy* 28, (August 1990): 202–10, specifically 203, citing original p. 251; imaged in “Virginia Genealogical Society Quarterly,” *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 9 July 2018). The case, which began in August 1745, was finally heard in March 1747/8, at which time William Mills was paid for 10 days of service as a witness to the affair. His son Ambrose was called as a witness and then cited for non-appearance.

<sup>134</sup> Goochland Co., Order Book 5: 517.

<sup>135</sup> C. H. C. Seaman, ed., *The Lee Marmon Manuscript* (Sweet Briar, VA: Sweet Briar College Printing Press for the Amherst Co. Historical Museum & Nelson Co. Historical Soc., 1989), 47; imaged at *Internet Archive* (<http://www.archive.org/details/leemarmomanuscr00seam> : accessed 2 June 2018). Marman’s published manuscript (p. 45) cites his own source as “The Nelson historian Alexander Brown, relying on diverse and some now unavailable sources, has listed additional settlers who lived in the area of Old Amherst by 1745.” Marman’s footnote 32 on appendix p. 5 cites: “Alexander Brown Papers, II, in Swem Library of the College of William and Mary.” That Library’s inventory of those papers (<https://ead.lib.virginia.edu/vivaxtf/view?docId=wm/viw00002.xml>) tells us that they span 1815–1910.

**William Mills (c1695–1755)  
Spouse Mary [—?—]**

**Map 5  
Virginia Counties, 1721–1730<sup>136</sup>**



<sup>136</sup> Michael F. Doran, *Atlas of County Boundary Changes in Virginia, 1634–1895* (Athens, GA: Iberian Publishing Co., 1987), 19.

ABSTRACTS & TRANSCRIPTS

1728

GOOCHLAND & HANOVER COUNTIES, VA

Geopolitical context

**Goochland** was created this year from Henrico, which began in 1634 as an original shire of Virginia.

**Hanover** was created this year from New Kent County, formerly part of York (which had been created in 1634 as Charles River Shire). New Kent lay along the northern line of Henrico County (one of the five original shires), from which Goochland County was created in 1728. (See Map 5.)

COMMENT:

The notes that follow place several William Mills associates in Hanover and New Kent. Notably, New Kent > Hanover was the center of the well-known **Nicholas Mills family**, which was in New Kent by 1687 when the baptism of Henry<sup>2</sup>, son of Nicholas<sup>1</sup>, was recorded in St. Peter's Parish register. On 9 October 1705, St. Paul's Vestry Book (Pt. 1, p. 5) mentioned "Nicholas Mills Sr.," implying there was a Nicholas Jr. The family's principal historian places Nicholas Jr.'s birth at 1670 but accounts for no other children in the gap between 1670 and 1687. Nicholas Sr. dropped out of St. Paul's registers after 1709, presumably his year of death. No known record names his wife.<sup>137</sup> For his offspring, the most careful study of his family presents the following:

**Nicholas<sup>2</sup> (aka Nicholas Jr.)**, b. c1670, married Ann Clopton, daughter of the immigrant William Clopton who had married Ann Booth, daughter of the York Co. physician and burgess Robert Booth. Their descendants are well traced and include associates of William and Mary of Lickinghole Creek and Pedlar River. Several of Nicholas<sup>2</sup>'s offspring, most notably David<sup>3</sup> and Charles<sup>3</sup>, also settled lands in Albemarle.<sup>138</sup>

**Henry<sup>2</sup>**, b. 1687, was a New Kent resident in 1723 when he patented 400 acres "on the lower side of **Lickinghole Creek** of Hanover adjoining the land of Nicholas Mills" (i.e., Nicholas<sup>2</sup>). However, the Lickinghole they chose for their plantation should not be confused with the Lickinghole Creek of Goochland where William Mills soon emerged. Lickinghole Creek (aka Swamp) of Hanover and its offshoot Louisa County was a branch of the Chickahominy River, while Lickinghole Creek of Goochland was a branch of the James.

Henry<sup>2</sup> was last alive in 1748 in Louisa, when (being "a weak man of unsound mind & memory") he sold land to Robert Estes and wife Mary. In response to a suit by Henry's heirs, the Esteses in 1756 sold the land back to "the exors. of Mathew Mills of Caroline," they being Charles Mills of

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<sup>137</sup> Mrs. P. W. Hiden, "Nicholas Mills of Hanover County," *Tyler's Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine* 14 (1933): 237–42, vol. 15 (1934): 38–64, vol. 25 (1943): 146–48; 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: 669–703, particularly 669.

The Walton family into which William and Mary Mills' offspring married were also rooted in New Kent and St. Peter's Parish. See National Society, Colonial Dames of America in the State of Virginia, *The Vestry Book of Saint Peter's New Kent County, Va., from 1682–1758* (1905; reprinted, Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Pres, n.d.). The early family is also very briefly covered in Wilmer L. Kerns, *Waltons of Old Virginia* (Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 2007), 9–15; this genealogy, however, makes many assertions not supported by evidence.

<sup>138</sup> Mrs. P. W. Hiden, "Nicholas Mills of Hanover County," *Tyler's Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine* 14 (1933): 237–42, vol. 15 (1934): 38–64, vol. 25 (1943): 146–48; 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: 669–703, particularly 675–703.

## William Mills (c1695–1755) Spouse Mary [—?—]

Hanover and William Mills of Caroline. According to Hiden, Mathew<sup>3</sup> was “likely” Henry’s *only* child. He married a Terrell and had sons William Terrell<sup>4</sup> Mills, Mathew<sup>4</sup>, Charles<sup>4</sup>, and Menan<sup>4</sup>, as well as daughters Molly<sup>4</sup> and Betty<sup>4</sup>. Menan and Charles both moved to Albemarle. Mathew<sup>4</sup> in 1759 apprenticed himself in 1759 to John *Chiles*.<sup>139</sup>

Genealogists of the Hanover Co. Millses account for no children born to Nicholas<sup>1</sup> between the c1670 birth of Nicholas<sup>2</sup> and the c1687 birth of Henry<sup>2</sup>. **The first Mills grant attributed to New Kent County (subsequently Hanover, now Louisa) was to one Robert Mills, dated 11 July 1719, for 400 acres by treasury warrant on the ridge between Little and Newfound Rivers,<sup>140</sup> adjoining Charles Fleming and Richard Harris.<sup>141</sup> This Robert is not included in Hiden’s reconstruction of the Nicholas and Henry Mills families.** However, contemporary road orders of St. Paul’s Parish (i.e., New Kent and Hanover Counties) place both **Robert Mills and Henry Mills in the same small road-repair district**, where Henry (in 1710) and Robert (in 1717) were assigned to the road crew of John Glynn/Glenn.<sup>142</sup>

In 1752, after William Mills had settled Pedlar River of Albemarle, after he patented one tract there and applied for a second, he sold his original Pedlar tract to a widowed **Martha Massie of New Kent**, widow of William Massie of New Kent who had also owned land near William Mills in Goochland. Martha had no known kin on the Albemarle frontier and no explanation has been found yet as to why she would buy land on the Virginia frontier 200 miles away from her New Kent residence. The circumstance suggests a possible kinship to William Mills or his wife Mary.

### 1728— GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA

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<sup>139</sup> Mrs. P. W. Hiden, “Nicholas Mills of Hanover County,” *Tyler’s Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine* 14 (1933): 237–42, 15 (1934): 38–64, 25 (1943): 146–48; 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: 669–703, particularly 671–74.

<sup>140</sup> Little River (shown on current maps as the North Fork of Little River) branches off the North Anna. Newfound River branches off the South Anna. There was also a Little River branching off the James in southern Henrico County, later Goochland.

<sup>141</sup> Library of Virginia, “Land Office Grants,” database with images, Virginia Memory ([http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=438&last=&g\\_p=P10&collection=LO Patent](http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=438&last=&g_p=P10&collection=LO Patent) : downloaded 20 May 2016), “Mills, Robert, grantee ... New Kent County; citing “Land Office Patents No. 10, 1710–1719, p. 438 (Reel 10).”

According to *VA HomeTownLocator* (<https://virginia.hometownlocator.com/maps>) Little River is a “44.7 mile long tributary of North Anna River” and New Found River, also in Hanover, is a “22.1 mile long tributary of South Anna River.”

**Charles Fleming**, the neighbor of Robert Mills, patented many tracts in New Kent and Henrico using a hundred or so importation rights he had acquired. In 1714, he and John Woodson patented **Elk Island** (then in Henrico, later in Goochland not far up the James River from Licking-hole Creek); **the 26 importation rights they used included “William Waldeon” and “Anne Mills.” No other Mills were included and no other Millses are found amid the importation rights used for his other land patents.** For the Elk Island tract, see Library of Virginia, “Land Office Grants,” database with images, *Virginia Memory* ([http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=166&last=&g\\_p=P10&collection=LO Patent](http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=166&last=&g_p=P10&collection=LO Patent) : downloaded 30 May 2016), “Woodson, John and Fleming, Charles ... Henrico County; citing “Land Office Patents No. 10, 1710–1719, p. 438 (Reel 10).” This “Waldeon” does not appear to be connected to the William **Walton** already established in New Kent.

Fleming also used **Anne Mills** as one of 13 claimed importations by which he obtained land on Fine Creek, across the James from Elk Island. ([http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=132&last=&g\\_p=P10&collection=LO Patent](http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=132&last=&g_p=P10&collection=LO Patent) : downloaded 30 May 2016), “Fleming, Charles, grantee ... Henrico County,” on Fine Creek, South of James River adj. John Pleasants; citing “Land Office Patents No. 10, 1710–1719, p. 132 (Reel 10).”

Richard Harris, Fleming’s neighbor, acquired several tracts in New Kent, several on the basis of importation rights (no relevant names).

John Woodson, partner of Fleming in some of these land patents, also acquired many other tracts on importation rights of another hundred or so individuals. **No others were named Mills.**

<sup>142</sup> Ann Brush Miller, *New Kent County and Hanover County Road Orders, 1706–1743: Transcribed from the Vestry Book of St. Paul’s Parish* (2004; reprinted Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 2008), 5–6.

## William Mills (c1695–1755) Spouse Mary [—?—]

### Historical context

“Goochland County was formed in 1728 from Henrico County, from that portion west of Tuckahoe Creek on the north of the James River, and that portion west of Lower Manakin Creek, south of the James. ...

“In 1744 the County of Albemarle was formed from the western portion of Goochland. [Albemarle] in turn was further divided in 1749 when that part south of the James River became Cumberland County. Cumberland was itself further divided in 1777, when its eastern portion became Powhatan Co. Albemarle County in turn, was mother county to Amherst in 1761, Nelson in 1808 (from Amherst), Buckingham in 1761, Appomattox in 1845 (from Buckingham), and Fluvanna in 1777.

“In colonial times, Goochland County was divided into parishes of the Church of England. **St. James Parish** was created in 1720 from **Henrico Parish**, and remained St. James until 1744, when it was further divided into **St. James Northam**, north of the James River, and **St. James Southam**, south of the river. It was originally formed from that part of Henrico Parish west of Westham Creek on the north side of the river, and the upper line of the lands of the French refugees south of the river. **King William Parish** was formed in 1700 from Henrico Parish, with no set boundaries, but was to encompass the lands near Manakin Town granted to the French Huguenot refugees.”<sup>143</sup>

### 1730

#### GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA

#### Legal suit

“The action of Debt between **William Mills**, Plaintiff and Robert Wade Defendant is dismissed neither party appearing.”<sup>144</sup>

#### COMMENT:

There is no earlier reference to this case in Goochland’s first court order book. This suit apparently began while Goochland was still part of Henrico, a county whose early court order books have been destroyed.

Robert Wade and William Mills both had Lickinghole Creek land titles percolating through the system at this time. Wade’s patent was issued 20 June 1733 for 250 acres with the same land description as William Mills, i.e., “on the branches of Lickinghole Creek.” Wade’s patent identifies only one neighbor: Henry Harper.<sup>145</sup> Harper’s patent, 9 February 1727, places him on a branch of Licking Hole, adjoining “John Man’s branch” and “Mim’s Mill Run.”<sup>146</sup> Man’s patent, dated 4 March 1725, simply cites “branches of Lickinghole Creek,” while David Mims’ two patents of 31 October 1726 cite just “east side of Lickinghole Creek.”<sup>147</sup>

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<sup>143</sup> Benjamin B. Weisiger III, *Goochland County, Virginia, Wills and Deeds, 1728–1736* (N.P.: P.p. 1983), introduction.

<sup>144</sup> Goochland Co., VA, Order Book No. 2, 1730–1731, p. 78.

<sup>145</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), “Wade, Robert, grantee, Goochland County”; citing “Land Office Patents No. 15, 1732–1735 (v1 & 2), p. 407 (Reel 13).

<sup>146</sup> Library of Virginia, “Land Office Grants,” database with images, *Virginia Memory* ([http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=201&last=&g\\_p=P13&collection=LO\\_Patent](http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=201&last=&g_p=P13&collection=LO_Patent) : downloaded 22 May 2018), “Henry Harper; citing “Land Office Patents No. 13, 1725–1730 (v. 1 & 2), p. 201 (Reel 12).

<sup>147</sup> Library of Virginia, “Land Office Grants,” database with images, *Virginia Memory* ([http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=365&last=&g\\_p=P12&collection=LO\\_Patent](http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=365&last=&g_p=P12&collection=LO_Patent) : downloaded 22 May 2018), “John Man, grantee”; citing “Land Office Patents No. 12, 1724–1726,

**William Mills (c1695–1755)**  
**Spouse Mary [—?—]**

**c1730**

**GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA**

Geographic context

Tuckahoe Creek marked the dividing line between Goochland and its parent county, Henrico. As these pioneers moved westward, following the James River from Tuckahoe, this is the order in which they would have encountered Goochland's rivers and creeks that are discussed hereafter:

- Tuckahoe Creek
- Little River
- Genito Creek
- (Unnamed on current maps)
- Beaverdam (apparently modern Courthouse Creek)
- (Present town of Goochland)
- Little Creek
- Lickinghole, from which Little Lickinghole ran west, while Big Lickinghole forked off to north
- (Unnamed on current maps)
- Muddy Creek (which lay across the James to the southwest)
- (Present town of Cartersville, lying across the James to the southwest)
- Willis River (which lay across the James, branching to the southwest after an initial northward bend)
- Byrd Creek, which branches north off Elk Island, with Little Byrd branching off it to the northeast
- Rivanna River branching northwest at present town of Columbia

Then in Albemarle after 1745, on north side of James:

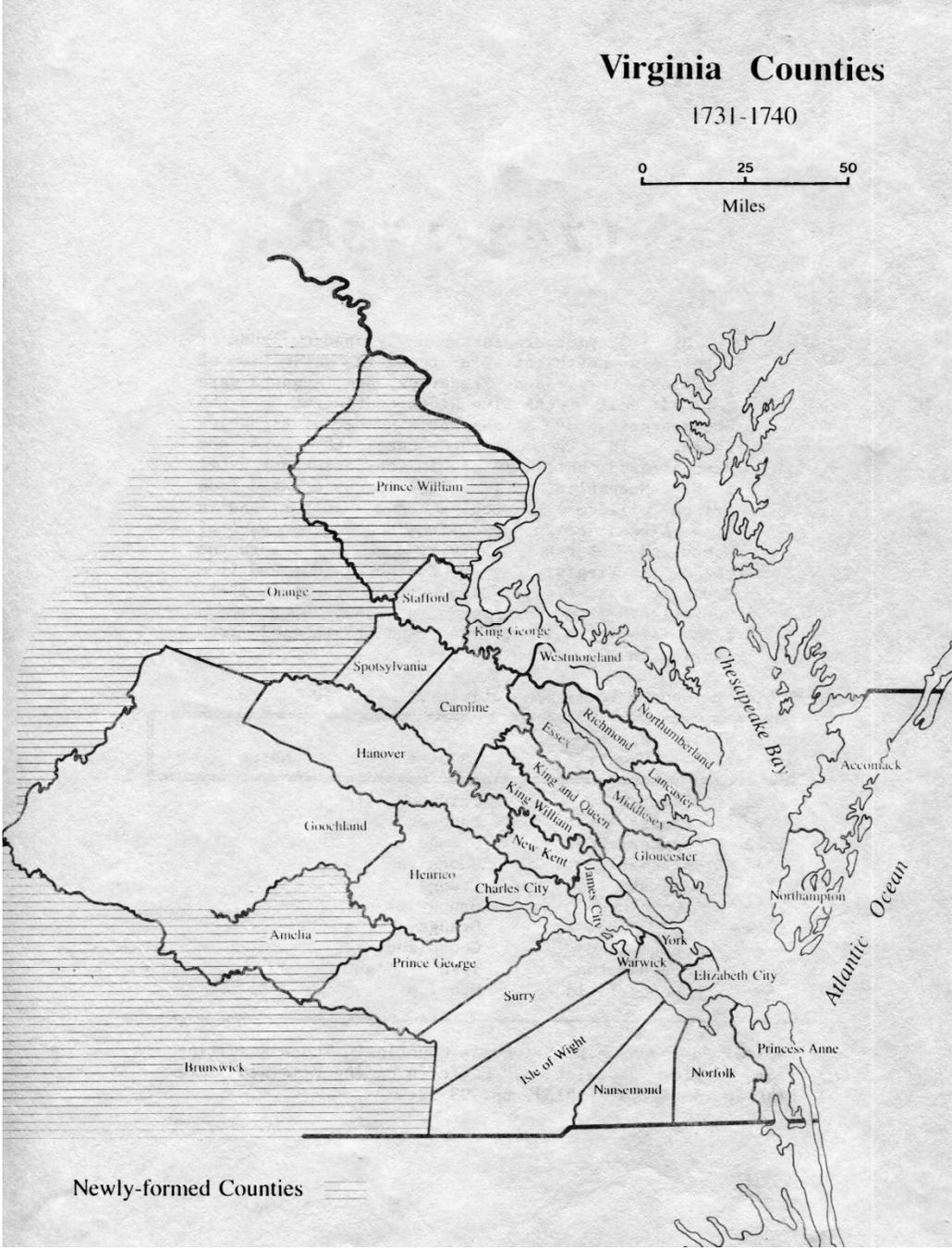
- South Garden Creek
- (Slate River is across the James to the southwest near modern Bridgeport)
- Little Bremo Creek
- Bremo Creek
- Rockfish River
- Hardware River
- (Modern Scottsville)
- Tooler's Creek
- Ballenger's Creek
- South Rockfish Creek & Ivy Creek
- Cedar Creek
- Rucker's Run
- Tye River
- Allen's Creek
- Beck Creek
- (Modern Lynchburg is across river on southwest)
- Pedlar River
- Blue Ridge Mountains

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p. 365 (Reel 11)." Also *ibid.* ([http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=9&last=&g\\_p=P13&collection=LO\\_Patent](http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=9&last=&g_p=P13&collection=LO_Patent) : downloaded 22 May 2018), "David Mims, grantee"; citing "Land Office Patents No. 13, 1725–1730 (v. 1 & 2), p. 9 (Reel 12)."

**William Mills (c1695–1755)  
Spouse Mary [—?—]**

**Map 6**  
Virginia Counties, 1731–1740<sup>148</sup>



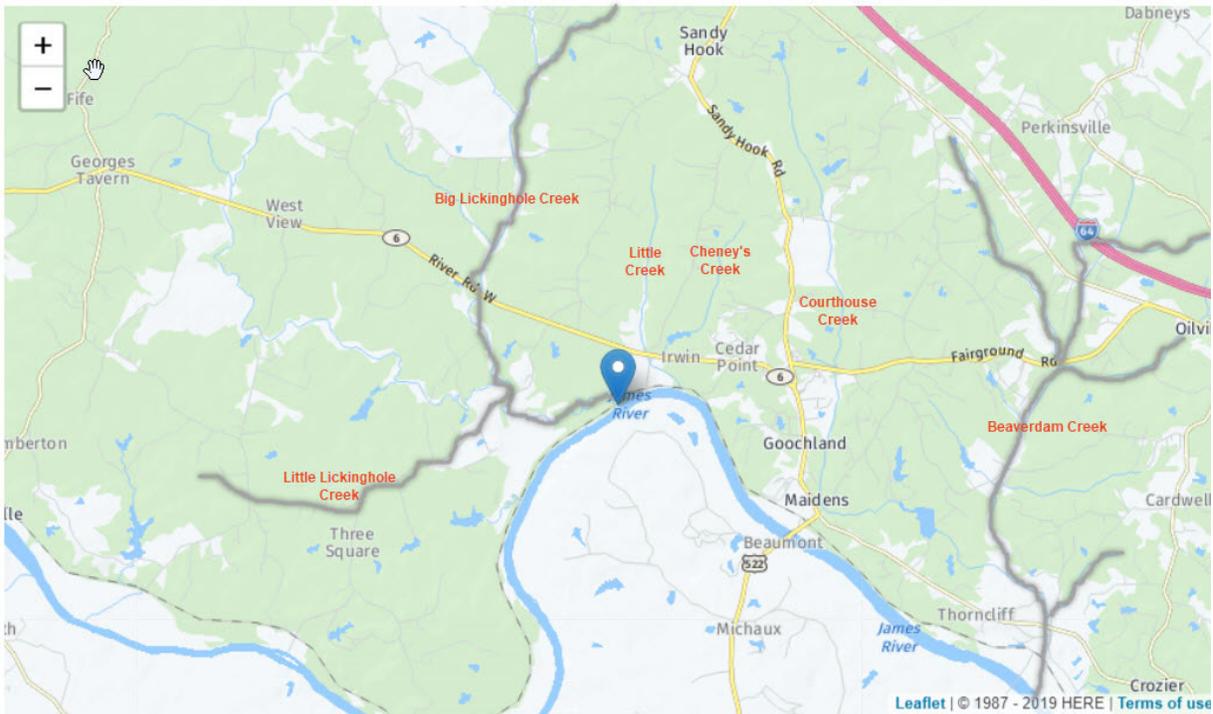
<sup>148</sup> Michael F. Doran, *Atlas of County Boundary Changes in Virginia, 1634–1895* (Athens, GA: Iberian Publishing Co., 1987), 21.

**William Mills (c1695–1755)**  
**Spouse Mary [—?—]**

**Map 7**

Lickinghole Creeks & Beaverdam Creek, Goochland<sup>149</sup>

**Big Lickinghole Creek - Location Map**



**11 APRIL 1732**

**GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA**

Land grant

Patent issued, for 40 shillings, to **William Mills** for a “Certain Tract or parcel of Land” containing 400 acres “lying & being on a branch of Licking Hole Creek in the County of Goochland and bounded as followeth (to wit)”

‘Beginning at a Corner pine of **Samuel Colemans** Land ... then S 56 degrees W 49 chains to a Corner pine, Thence W 26 Chains to a Corner pine, then S 35 Chains to **Chiles** Black Oak on a branch, Thence W 17 degrees N 66 Chains to a Corner red Oak, Thence N 10 Degrees W 7 chains to a Corner black oak, thence W 16 Degrees N 33 Chains to a Corner red Oak & pine, Thence N 17 degrees W on **Scot’s** line 4½ Chains to a Corner hiccory on **Scot’s** Line, Thence N 35 Degrees E 52 Chains to **Kerbys** Corner white Oak, Thence on his Line S 41 Degrees E 54 Chains to a Corner white Oak, Thence East 7 Degrees N 27 Chains to a Corner, Thence E 36 Degrees N 180 Chains to a Corner, Thence S 36

<sup>149</sup> VATownHomeLocator (<https://virginia.hometownlocator.com/maps/> : downloaded 12 May 2019), via query at “Features” tab.

## William Mills (c1695–1755) Spouse Mary [—?—]

Degrees E 70 Chains to a Corner White Oak, Thence W 36 Degrees South to the sd. Line of **Henry Chiles**, Thence on his line to the place began at.<sup>150</sup>

### COMMENT:

The above grant was not obtained on transportation rights. Rather, William purchased the land via a treasury warrant that called for the payment of five shillings per fifty acres of land.

After a settler identified the land he wanted and made an entry in the county land books, the land would be surveyed. Between six and nine months after the survey, the surveyor was to file the plat with the secretary for the colony, where it “rested” for another two years before the patent was issued. Those two delays were designed to allow time for conflicting claims to be filed. **This time table suggests that William applied for the land no later than late 1729 in order to receive a patent in April 1732.**

No earlier grant—importation or treasury—has been found under the name William Mills (Miles, Milles, etc.) and none of the William Miller grants are appropriate to be this William.

**When William Mills arrived in Goochland and chose his first land, he chose land adjacent to (and then subsequently purchased land from) an absentee landowner: Henry Chiles.** That point may be immensely relevant to William Mills’s origin.

When Chiles patented the Lickinghole land in 1725, he was a resident of **King William County**, which lay along the northern border of New Kent. From there, he moved into **Hanover** (formerly New Kent), where he lived in 1732 when he sold 300 acres of his grant to William Mills. His 1742 sale of the remainder of his patented land in Goochland stated that he resided in **Amelia County**. I’ve seen no evidence that he ever lived in Goochland.

**Something lured William Mills to Lickinghole Creek. Did he, like his son Ambrose a generation later, get his start by working several years as an overseer for an absentee landowner—specifically Henry Chiles?** Between Chiles’ acquisition of his first patent on Lickinghole (1725), three to four years elapsed before William Mills applied for the raw land that lay adjacent to Chiles’ tract. That would have been an appropriate time frame for William to get to know the productivity of the land and save the funds needed for the survey and the payment to the Treasury.

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<sup>150</sup> Note that I use half-quote marks for the metes and bounds. All is quoted exactly, except that the directions and numbers are written out in the original. For easier comprehension, I have substituted Arabic numbers and N-S-E-W abbreviations, then added a separation comma after each call. For the patent, see 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”; citing “Land Office Patents No. 14, 1728–1732, p. 407 (Reel 11).” Also for consideration:

- 15 March 1744, **Charles Mills** patented 1300 acres on branches of Lickinghole and Beaverdam of Goochland; see map 7 (Land Office Patents 14: 820–21). He would have chosen the land and had it surveyed during the last few years of William Mills’ residence on Lickinghole; however, the location lay eastward from Big Lickinghole, considerably distant from William Mills of Little Lickinghole.
- 15 March 1744 **Matthew Mills** patented 400a and 327a in Goochland both on Branches of Mechems R., adj. his own land and Michael Woods (Land Office patents 23: 814, 818); this land would fall into Albemarle County but not near the Albemarle land of William Mills.
- In 1723, as previously noted, land had been granted on “Lickinghole Creek” to **Henry<sup>2</sup> and Nicholas<sup>2</sup> Mills**. However, that creek lay in Hanover County, where it was a branch of the Chickahominy River, while Lickinghole Creek of Goochland was a branch of the James. Hiden’s previously cited reconstruction of the Nicholas Mills family (p. 671) proposes this Charles and Matthew to be sons of Henry<sup>2</sup> Mills.

## William Mills (c1695–1755) Spouse Mary [—?—]

Regarding the landowners named in William’s 1732 patent:

**Henry Chiles.** As a resident of **King William County**, Chiles patented two tracts of land on Lickinghole.

- **6 May 1725.** This patent mentions no other water courses, but names “Mr. Joseph Scott” as an adjacent neighbor:

‘Beginning at a Corner White Oak on the E side of Licking hole Creek, thence E 16° S 80 chains to Several pointers, Thence N 7.5° W 182 chains to a Corner White Oak, Thence W 16° N to **Mr. Joseph Scott’s** Line and down his Line 80 chains to a Corner poplar on the Creek, Thence down the Creek according to its Meanders 200 chains to [beginning]’<sup>151</sup>

**This land should lie on Little Lickinghole—i.e., the west branch of Lickinghole Creek.** Considering the starting position on the east bank of the creek, the survey’s heavily northwest orientation (i.e., 80 chains to SE, then doubling back 182 chains to NW, then NW again to Scott’s line) would make it difficult to place a tract that size on Big Lickinghole. (**This tract adjoined William Mills’ 1732 patent, which named Scott and Chiles as adjacent landowners. In October 1732 William Mills bought 300 acres of this land from Chiles.**)

- **13 October 1727.** Chiles’ second patent on Lickinghole places the land on the “north side James River, on the east side Licking Hole Creek” and names “Utley” as a neighbor.<sup>152</sup> In 1742, Chiles (**as a resident of Amelia County**) sold this land and the remaining 100 of his 1725 grant to *John Crenshaw*, while referencing his earlier sale of the remaining 300 acres to William Mills.

Chiles also purchased a third tract on Lickinghole, despite the fact that he did not reside in Goochland. Land records of this tract’s patentee tells us more about the neighborhood.

- 29 January 1729. **Michael Holland** acknowledged in Goochland’s court his deed and bond in favor of **Henry Chiles**.<sup>153</sup> Holland did not yet have full title to the land, hence his need to post a bond to guarantee delivery of the title once the patent was issued.
- 1724, 1727, 1729 Michael Holland patented three 400-acre tracts on south side of Chickahominy Swamp in Henrico; Lickinghole Creek is not mentioned in the patents.<sup>154</sup>

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<sup>151</sup> Library of Virginia, “Land Office Grants,” database with images, *Virginia Memory* [http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=209&last=&g\\_p=P12&collection=LO Patent](http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=209&last=&g_p=P12&collection=LO Patent) : downloaded 29 May 2019), “Chiles, Henry, grantee ... ; citing “Land Office Patents No. 12, 1724–1726, p. 209 (Reel 11).”

<sup>152</sup> Library of Virginia, “Land Office Grants,” database with images, *Virginia Memory* [http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=225&last=&g\\_p=P13&collection=LO Patent](http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=225&last=&g_p=P13&collection=LO Patent) : downloaded 29 May 2019), “Chiles, Henry, grantee ... ; citing “Land Office Patents No. 13, 1725–1730, p. 225 (Reel 12).” Re lands adjacent to Henry Chiles: Of all the patents issued for Lickinghole Creek, only one mentioned Henry Chiles as an adjacent neighbor: In 1747 one **Alexander Grant** patented land on **Elk Licking Branch** of Lickinghole, adjoining Henry Chiles, with no other neighbor listed. I have not yet identified Elk Licking Branch. For Grant’s patent, see Library of Virginia, “Land Office Grants,” database with images, *Virginia Memory* ([http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=33&last=&g\\_p=P26&collection=LO Patent](http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=33&last=&g_p=P26&collection=LO Patent) : downloaded 29 May 2019), “Grant, Alexander, grantee ... Goochland County ... 370 acres on both sides of Elk Licking Branch a run of Lickinghole Creek”; citing “Land Office Patents No. 26, 1747–1748, p. 33 (Reel 24).” **This LoV database places Utley in Hanover County before moving into Goochland.**

<sup>153</sup> Goochland Co., Order Book 1:199.

<sup>154</sup> Library of Virginia, “Land Office Grants,” database with image, *Virginia Memory* ([http://virginiamemory.com/collections/collections\\_by\\_topic](http://virginiamemory.com/collections/collections_by_topic) : accessed 29 May 2019), search for “Michael Holland.”

**William Mills (c1695–1755)**  
**Spouse Mary [—?—]**

- On 28 September 1730, Holland **of Henrico** was issued three apparently adjacent patents to Lickinghole Creek land. The land he sold to Chiles would be part of these 1730 patents. Two of the patents have helpful descriptors.<sup>155</sup>

‘Beginning at a Corner Red oak of the said Hollands Land Thence W 60 chain to two corner pines near Mulkeys path near the **ridge between the East and West Branches of Licking Hole Creek**, Thence S 160 Chain to a Corner pine at the **Head of a Branch of Licking Hole Creek**, Thence E 160 chains to a Corner Pine, Thence N 160 Chains to a Corner on the said Hollands Land, Thence W on his line to the Beginning 40 chains.’

‘[2,400 acres] on the North Side James River **in the Main Fork of Lickinghole Creek ...** Beginning at a Corner White Oak and pine on the E side & the **westermost Main Branch** of the said Creek, Thence E 5° S 206 poles to a Corner White Oak, Thence N 25° E 70 poles to two pines & thence E 18° N 8 poles to a corner pine at the Head of **Stone Horse branch** a Branch of the **Eastermost Lickinghole** [i.e. Big Lickinghole], Thence E 167 chains \_\_\_ two poles to a corner pine, Thence N 45° E 134 poles to a Corner White Oak on the **Eastermost Main Branch** of Lickinghole Creek, Thence up the Creek according to its meanders 364 poles to a Corner, Thence 3° S 60 poles to a Corner pine, Thence N 12° E 146 pole to a Corner pine, Thence N 14° E 110 pole to a Corner pine, Thence E 260 pole to a Corner White Oak on **Scots Line**, Thence N 15° E 260 pole to a pine and oak Corner, Thence W 260 poles to a Corner Black oak, Thence S 15° W 80 poles to a Corner pine, Thence W 20° S 64 poles to a pine on the Land of **Addams**, on his line N 51° W 346 poles to a Corner pine, Thence S 25° W 60 poles to a Corner pine, Thence W 40° S 66 poles to a Corner pine of **Robert Addams** and on his line W 20° N 222 poles to a Corner White Oak on **Lickinghole Creek**, thence down the creek according to its meanders 458 poles to a corner White of **Addams** Land on his line E 10° S 145 poles to a Corner White Oak and pine and S 10° E 120 poles to a Corner pine and Hill on his line W 10° N 170 pole to a Corner White Oak on the Westernmost Main Branch of the said Creek, Thence down the same according to its Meanders 406 poles to the place Began at. Two Thousand four hundred acres, part of the said three thousand seven hundred sixty one acres being granted by former Patent.’

This places the land of Scott, a Mills neighbor, a goodly distance up the **westernmost branch** of Lickinghole—i.e., **Little Lickinghole**.

**Samuel Coleman.** No prior land grant has been found for Coleman. The earliest Samuel Coleman grant is 1737 in Caroline County.<sup>156</sup> I have pulled all patents along Lickinghole prior to 1747 and only one mentions a name similar to Coleman: George Hilton’s 1734 survey began “at a Corner

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<sup>155</sup> Library of Virginia, “Land Office Grants,” database with images, *Virginia Memory* ([http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=512&last=&g\\_p=P13&collection=LO\\_Patent](http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=512&last=&g_p=P13&collection=LO_Patent) : downloaded 29 May 2019), “Holland, Michael, grantee [no county given]; citing “Land Office Patents No. 13, 1725–1730, p. 512–14 (Reel 12).”

<sup>156</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 29 May 2019), “Coleman, Samuel, grantee ... Caroline County ... 100 acres beginning at Matocosick Run just below a beaverdam where Colonel Beverleys line crosses the water”; citing “Land Office Patents No. 18, 1738–1739, p. 36 (Reel 16).”

## William Mills (c1695–1755) Spouse Mary [—?—]

Pine of Co Comans, thence South .... on **Charles Christians** Land.”<sup>157</sup> Using Christian as a springboard to more evidence, I find the following:

- **July 1731.** **Thomas** Christian acknowledged his deed to **Samuel Coleman** in court.<sup>158</sup>
- **13 October 1727.** John Prier and **Thomas Christian** patented 400 acres on north side of James River, adjoining the land of Edmond New.<sup>159</sup> Edmund New and John Prier were neighbors of several individuals who patented land on Lickinghole.
- **1730.** **Charles Christian** of **Charles City County** purchased land on **Wild Boar Creek** said to be adjacent to **Thomas** Christian and John Prier.<sup>160</sup>

Hilton’s 1734 patent also provides more insight into William Mills’s land that lay between Lickinghole Creek and Wild Boar:

‘Beginning at a Corner Pine of Co Coman’s, Thence S 6° E 6 Poles to a Corner on **Charles Christians** Land, Thence on his Line E 14° N 167 Poles to a Corner Spanish Oak, Thence N 21° E 120 Poles to a Corner Pine, Thence E 17° N 50 poles to a Corner Pine, Thence N 4° W 136 Poles **Crossing the head Branch of Wild Boar**, a branch of the said Creek to **pointers on William Mills’s Land at the head of a meadow of Licking Hole Creek**, thence on his Line S 56° W 34 Poles to Pointers on **Coloman’s** line, thence on his Line S 6° W to the first station.’

**Richard Kirby.** On 28 September 1730, Kirby patented 400 acres “on the north side of James River on the branches of Lickinghole Creek and adjoining **Philip Hoggatt &c.**”<sup>161</sup> My search of the Library of Virginia’s database for Lickinghole Creek did not turn up an entry for Philip Hoggatt or any variant spelling; apparently, he purchased or inherited his land. The 1728–31 court minutes for Goochland do not reference a deed to Hoggatt being proved in court. They do show that in 1731 he was sued by **William Webb**,<sup>162</sup> a man William Mills would file suit against in 1737. **Hoggatt** was also sued in 1732 by Edward Scott, below.<sup>163</sup>

**Joseph & Edward Scott.** On 22 February 1724, two patents for 400 and 350 acres respectively were issued to these men for land on Lickinghole. Joseph was identified as a resident of **New**

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<sup>157</sup> Library of Virginia, “Land Office Grants,” database with images, *Virginia Memory* ([http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=413&last=&g\\_p=P15&collection=LO\\_Patent](http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=413&last=&g_p=P15&collection=LO_Patent) : downloaded 29 May 2019), “Hilton, George, grantee ... Goochland County ... 332 acres on the branches of Lickinghole Creek”; citing “Land Office Patents No. 15, 1732–1735, p. 413 (Reel 14).”

<sup>158</sup> Goochland Co., VA, Order Book No. 2, 1730–1731, p. 154. In 1714, Thomas Christian had patented land on the east side of Western Beaverdam, which branched off the James several miles to the east of Lickinghole. Library of Virginia, “Land Office Grants,” database with images, *Virginia Memory* ([http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=148&last=&g\\_p=P10&collection=LO\\_Patent](http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=148&last=&g_p=P10&collection=LO_Patent) : downloaded 29 May 2019), “Christian, Thomas, grantee ... Henrico County; citing “Land Office Patents No. 10, 1710–1719, p. 148 (Reel 10).”

<sup>159</sup> Library of Virginia, “Land Office Grants,” database with images, *Virginia Memory* ([http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=222&last=&g\\_p=P13&collection=LO\\_Patent](http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=222&last=&g_p=P13&collection=LO_Patent) : downloaded 29 May 2019), “Prier, John, grantee ... Henrico County”; citing “Land Office Patents No. 13, 1725–1730, p. 222 (Reel 12).”

<sup>160</sup> Library of Virginia, “Land Office Grants,” database with images, *Virginia Memory* ([http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=134&last=&g\\_p=P14&collection=LO\\_Patent](http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=134&last=&g_p=P14&collection=LO_Patent) : downloaded 29 May 2019), “Christian, Charles, grantee”; citing “Land Office Patents No. 14, 1728–1732, p. 134 (Reel 11).”

<sup>161</sup> Library of Virginia, “Land Office Grants,” database with images, *Virginia Memory* ([http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=147&last=&g\\_p=P14&collection=LO\\_Patent](http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=147&last=&g_p=P14&collection=LO_Patent) : downloaded 29 May 2019), “Kirby, Richard, grantee ... Goochland County”; citing “Land Office Patents No. 14, 1728–1732, p. 147 (Reel 11).”

<sup>162</sup> Goochland Co. VA, Court Order Book 3: 31, 54, 76, 96, 114.

<sup>163</sup> Goochland Co. VA, Court Order Book 3: 183.

**William Mills (c1695–1755)**  
**Spouse Mary [—?—]**

**Kent County**, while Edward was a resident of **Henrico**. (Again, we have absentee landowners.)

Both survey descriptions state that the land lay on the east side of Lickinghole but identify no adjacent landowners.<sup>164</sup> A subsequent 1728 patent to Edward for 250 acres is more helpful:

‘on the north side of James River on the **westernmost branch of Little Lickinghole** ... beginning at a corner on **Tarlton Woodsons** line on **Little Lickinghole** [i.e., the western branch] Thence on his line N 38° E 78 chains to a Corner White Oak, Thence E 25° S 85 Chains to a corner Spanish oak, thence N 15° E 88 Chains to Several pointers, thence W 25° N 128 Chains to a Corner Beech being a Corner standing on the **Brink of the Bank of Little Creek**, a Land Mark of **Edmond New**, thence own [*sic*] the Said Creek according to its Meanders to the place it began at.’<sup>165</sup>

**All of these survey descriptions suggest that William Mills’s grant lay on the Little Lickinghole—i.e., the “westernmost branch” of Lickinghole.**

To the west of Little Lickinghole and its branch Wild Boar, the next creek of significant size was **Little Byrd Creek**. As subsequently noted, Little Byrd land was owned by both **Nowel Burton** (who sued Ambrose Mills in 1743) and **William Massie** (whose New Kent widow bought Pedlar land from William Mills in 1752).

**TO DO:**

**Pursue Christian, Cobb(s), Coleman, Kirby, New, Scott, and Woodson for possible clues to the origin and birth family of William and Mary.** Someone in this Little Lickinghole neighborhood lured them to that area.

**31 OCTOBER 1732**

**GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA**

Land purchase

“Henry Chiles and Ann, his wife, of **Hanover Co.**, sold to **Wm. Mills** of Goochland, 300 a. on the east side of **Lickinghole Creek** [adjacent to the land William patented in April].”<sup>166</sup>

COMMENT:

The most extensive reconstruction of the Chiles family (well documented) shows the simultaneous existence of two Henry Chiles who were first cousins:

- **Henry Chiles Jr.**, son of Henry Sr, was the Lickinghole landowner. Apparently born in New Kent County in 1698, he married Anne Harrelson, daughter of his father’s Hanover neighbor

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<sup>164</sup> Library of Virginia, “Land Office Grants,” database with images, *Virginia Memory* ([http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=129&last=&g\\_p=P12&collection=LO\\_Patent](http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=129&last=&g_p=P12&collection=LO_Patent) : downloaded 29 May 2019), “Scott, Joseph, grantee” and “Scott, Edward, grantee”; citing “Land Office Patents No. 12, 1724–1726, pp. 129–30 (Reel 11).”

<sup>165</sup> Library of Virginia, “Land Office Grants,” database with images, *Virginia Memory* ([http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=317&last=&g\\_p=P13&collection=LO\\_Patent](http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=317&last=&g_p=P13&collection=LO_Patent) : downloaded 29 May 2019), “Scott, Edward, grantee ... Goochland County; citing “Land Office Patents No. 13, 1725–1730, p. 317 (Reel 12).” Little River flowed into the James between Lickinghole and the present town of Goochland.

<sup>166</sup> Mrs. P. W. Hiden, “Nicholas Mills of Hanover County,” *Tyler’s Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine* 14 (1933): 237–42; vol. 15 (1934): 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 (c1695–1755) Spouse Mary [—?—]

Paul Harrelson. Henry's extensive landholdings at this time sprawled from **Hanover** (on Goochland's northern border), through **Goochland**, into **Brunswick** and **Amelia** (on Goochland's southern border). His will was probated in Amelia on 20 March 1746, naming his widow Anne,<sup>167</sup> sons Paul and John who both lived in **Albemarle Co.**, a son Henry who was left land in **Appomattox** and **Amelia**, daughter Anna who was left land on north side of Staunton River (**Bedford County?**), and daughters Susanna and Elizabeth who were left land in **Lunenburg** on south side of Staunton. Henry's widow Ann of Amelia deeded Albemarle land on 27 February 1748 to Daniel Chiles.<sup>168</sup> (See Maps 6 and 8 for all these counties.)

- **Henry Chiles**, son of Henry Sr.'s brother John who m. (1) Mary Boucher and (2) Eleanor Webber. John d. prior to 16 May 1723 when his widow petitioned the provincial county about Henry's attempt to patent John's lands in his own name.<sup>169</sup> Mary Boucher, the first wife of John Chiles, was likely the sister of William Boucher/Boucher who drafted a will in Hanover County in 1733 bequeathing his real estate and part of his personal property to "Mary Chiles, daughter of John Chiles dec'd."<sup>170</sup> That will is discussed below.

Other connections existed between Millses and Chileses in this place and time:

**Matthew<sup>3</sup> Mills**, son of **Henry<sup>2</sup> Mills** of Caroline and grandson of **Nicholas<sup>1</sup> Mills** made a will in 1753/4 in Albemarle leaving 1650 acres to sons **William, Mathew, Charles, and Menan**. He also named daughters **Mary** and **Betty**. Probate records identify his wife as Mary, **widow of Micajah Chiles**, whose will was dated 1735–36. Charles and Menan were then underage. William and Charles, both said to be of Hanover, were named as executors. Matthew also claimed land in **Louisa County**.<sup>171</sup>

Superficially, the Chiles connections to both Matthew Mills of Albemarle and William Mills of Goochland and Albemarle suggest a possibility that this 1732 Goochland William *might* have been part of the family of the Chiles's in-laws: Nicholas<sup>1</sup>, Henry<sup>2</sup>, Matthew<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>167</sup> Virginia Lee Hutcheson Davis, *Tidewater Virginia Families* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2004), 227–22; and Davis, *Tidewater Virginia Families: Generations Beyond* (Baltimore: GPC 2004), Chapter 9 "The Chiles Family."

<sup>168</sup> Julia Fauntleroy, "Some Notes Regarding the Chiles Family," *William and Mary Quarterly* 16 (April 1908): 285–88; the data above is from an added "Note by the Editor" [Lyon G. Tyler] who adds: "For Chiles Family, see Quarterly I., 75; VI., 147; VIII., 105."

<sup>169</sup> For Henry and John Chiles, see Virginia Lee Hutcheson Davis, *Tidewater Virginia Families* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2004), 227–22; and Davis, *Tidewater Virginia Families: Generations Beyond* (Baltimore: GPC 2004), Chapter 9 "The Chiles Family." Davis notes the William Boucher will transcribed in this paper under 7 January 1733/4 but stops short of identifying Mary Chiles as Boucher's granddaughter.

<sup>170</sup> Rosalie Edith Davis, *Hanover County, Virginia, Court Records, 1733–1735: Deeds, Wills, and Inventories* (Manchester, MO: Heritage Trails, 1979), 6; citing Court Record Book 1733–1735, pp. 18–19. Davis's index has a number of Chiles references that I did not have time to copy: **Chiles**: Anne 16, 78; **Henry** 9, 17, 66, 78; John 6; **Mary** 6; **Micajah** 65; **Walter** 10. Also **Mills**: David 75, Henry 22, 58, Nicholas 48.

Davis's preface notes that

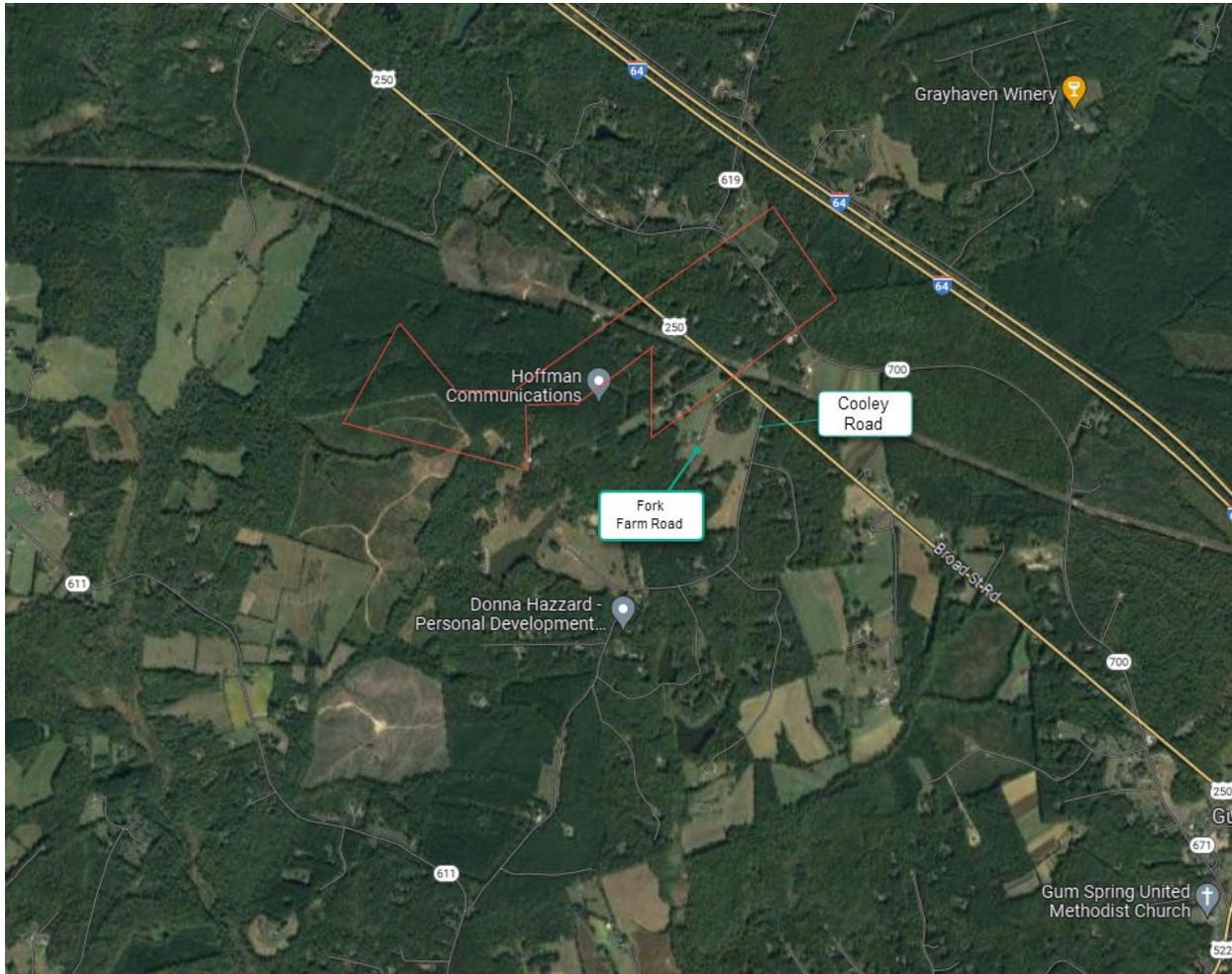
- Hanover included the area that became Louisa Co. and the northern third of Albemarle Co. [i.e., the Mechem's River area where David Mills settled
- Its parish was St. Paul's, cut from St. Peter's.
- St. Martin's Parish was created from St. Paul in 1727.
- Many records were destroyed during Civil War.
- Louisa County, 1742–1761, has records on these families.

<sup>171</sup> Caroline Co., VA, Court Order Book 1746–54, p. 408.

**William Mills (c1695–1755)**  
**Spouse Mary [—?—]**

**Map 8**

Platted Approximation of William Mills' Land Grant & Purchase from Childs



**16 JANUARY 1732/3**

**GOOCHLAND**

Land purchase

“Chiles’s deed to Mills. *Richard Kearby, Patrick Cash, and Edmund Hodges* prove a deed with the Livery of Seizin endorsed from **Henry Chiles & Anne his wife** to **William Mills** to be the act and deed of the said Henry & Anne and it si [*sic*] thereupon admitted to record.”<sup>172</sup>

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<sup>172</sup> Ann M. Blomquist, *Goochland County, Virginia, Court Order Book, 1731–1735* (Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 2006), 149; citing Order Book 3: 125.

**William Mills (c1695–1755)**  
**Spouse Mary [—?—]**

**7 JAN. 1733/4**

**HANOVER COUNTY, VA**

Association

"I **William Boucher of Hanover Co.**, St. Paules Par., being in perfect sence and memory do make this to be my Last Will and Testament: I give and Bequeath my sole to Almitiy god. After my Lawfull debts are paid I give to **Peter Garland** my watch; to **Zebulon Shelton**, all my wolen waring Aparill and all the rest of my Estate both Reall or personal I give to **Mary Chiles daughter of John Chiles** dec'd; to **William Mason** son of **Peter Mason** my saddle and Bridle and lastly I doe appoint Peter Garland and Mary Chiles Exetor and Exectrix of my last will and testament. 7 Jan. 1733/4 [Signed] William Boucher. Wit: Anne (+) Gibson, Zebulon Shelton.

"1 Feb 1733 proved by oath of *Anne Gibson* one of the witnesses who Swore that she saw *Zebulon Shelton* the other witness thereto witness the same. *Peter Garland* one of the Executors named appeared and voluntarily relinquished his Executorship and expressly refused to take upon him the burden of the Execution of the sd. Will whereupon at the motion of *Thomas Prosser* greatest Creditor of the sd. Dec'd. taking the oath appointed by law was granted him for obtaining letters of administration during the minority of **Mary Chiles** the other executor.

"Admin. Bond. We *Thomas Prosser* and *Peter Garland*, Gent. are firmly bound unto *Nicholas Meriwether*, Gent. Commr. of the Peace for Hanover Co. in the sum of £500 sterling. 1 Feb. 1733. Condition if above bound *Thomas Prosser* Admin, with the will annexed shall make or cause to be made a true and perfect inventory of all goods, chattels and credits of the sd. Dec'd. and pay all legacies specified in sd. will this obligation to be void. [Signed] *Thomas Prosser*, *Peter Garland*. 1 Feb. 1733 ack. by *Thomas Prosser* and *Peter Garland*, Gent."<sup>173</sup>

**19 FEBRUARY 1733/4**

**GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA**

Road order

"Ordered that the road between **little Licking hole & great Licking hole Creeks** be turned nearer the foot of the hills."<sup>174</sup>

COMMENT:

As noted amid the land survey descriptions for Lickinghole Creek patents, above, there was a ridge between Little and Big Lickingholes.

**12 MARCH 1733/4**

**GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA**

Land sale

"**William Mills** of Goochland Co. to *Francis Kearby*, for £2/10, 100 acres, being part of 400 acres by patent dated 11 April 1732. Wit: *Richard Kearby*, *Edmond (E) Hogges*, *William (M) Grimes*. Signed: **William Mills**. Recorded 19 March 1733. **Mary**, wife of **William**, relinquished her dower right."<sup>175</sup>

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<sup>173</sup> Rosalie Edith Davis, *Hanover County, Virginia, Court Records 1733–1735: Deeds, Wills, and Inventories* (Manchester, MO: Heritage Trails, 1979), 6; citing Court Record Book 1733–1735, pp. 18–19.

<sup>174</sup> Nathaniel Mason Pawlett, *Goochland County Road Orders 1728–1744* (Charlottesville: Department of Highways & Transportation & the University of Virginia, 1975), 19; citing p. 223. This volume has no Boucher or Boucher. Henry Chiles appears on p. 34.

<sup>175</sup> Benjamin B. Weisiger III, *Goochland County, Virginia, Wills and Deeds, 1728–1736* (N.P.: P.p. 1983), 49; citing DB 1: 487.

**William Mills (c1695–1755)**  
**Spouse Mary [—?—]**

**19 MARCH 1733[/4]**  
**GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA**

Land sale

“Mills’s deed to Kirby<sub>[i]</sub> **William Mills** acknowledges a deed with the Livery of Seizin endorsed from himself to **Francis Kirby** to be his act & deed and it is thereupon admitted to record<sub>[i]</sub> then **Mary wife** of the said William (she being first privately examined) relinquishes her right of dower in the land by the said deed conveyed which is also admitted to record.”<sup>176</sup>

**21 AUGUST 1734**  
**GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VIRGINIA**

Association

“John Parish, 200a, NL [new land], Goochland Co., on **Wild Boar**, a br. of **Treasurers Run**; [adjoining] Stephen Lac’s L[ine]; c[orner] of *Richard Kerby & Henry Atkinson*: **William Mills line**.”<sup>177</sup>

COMMENT:

**Henry Atkinson previously lived in Hanover County** (formerly **New Kent**), where he patented 520 acres on 15 January 1723/4 on Turkey Creek.<sup>178</sup>

Richard Kerby, from 1740s to 1760s, also owned and sold land in Albemarle.<sup>179</sup>

**1735**  
**AMELIA COUNTY**

Historical context

Amelia was created 1735 from Prince George County on the east and Brunswick County on the south. See Map 6.

1735  
**GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VIRGINIA**

Tax roll

“List of Tithes by John Cox 1735”

“A List of Tithables for looking after the tobacco pickers by George Taylor, constable 1735”<sup>180</sup>

COMMENT:

No William Mills appears on either list. Many other known residents of his region are not included. These two lists do not represent the entire county.

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<sup>176</sup> Ann M. Blomquist, *Goochland County, Virginia, Court Order Book, 1731–1735* (Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 2006), 273; citing Order Book 3: 226.

<sup>177</sup> William Lindsay Hopkins, “Virginia Land Patent Book 15, Pages 162–319 (1733–1734),” *Magazine of Virginia Genealogy* 24 (February 1986): 16; citing Land Patent Book 15: 272.

<sup>178</sup> Library of Virginia, “Land Office Grants,” database with images, *Virginia Memory* [http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=305&last=&g\\_p=P11&collection=LO\\_Patent](http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=305&last=&g_p=P11&collection=LO_Patent) : downloaded 29 May 2019), “Atkinson, Henry, grantee ... Hanover County; citing “Land Office Patents No. 11, 1719–1724, p. 305 (Reel 10).”

<sup>179</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, VA (1761–1852); & Albemarle County, VA (1748–1807)* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 9 (citing Deeds & Wills 1: 25 for Richard and Elizabeth Kearby to Jno Farrar); and 116 (citing Deed Book C: 10, land on a branch of Rockfish). Subsequent research notes within this paper show that Thomas Joplin, the Goochland man William Mills appointed coexecutor of his 1755 will, also lived along the Rockfish.

<sup>180</sup> A. Jean Lurvey, *Goochland Co., Virginia, Tithe Lists, 1735–47* (Springfield, MO: P.p., n.d.), 1–2.

**William Mills (c1695–1755)**  
**Spouse Mary [—?—]**

**7 JUNE 1735**

**HANOVER COUNTY, VA**

Association

Indent. “*William Chambers of St. Martins Par., Hanover Co., Carpenter, to John Smith of St. Pauls Par., Hanover Co., Merchant: £70 currt. money of Va.; 50 a. Part of a greater Tract that one John Jones bought of Micajah Chiles and conveyed by sd. Jones unto sd. Chambers by deed 5 Feb. 1730 and ack. Hanover Court ... beginning at Michael Hollands corner upon sd. Southward branch up water course of sd. Branch to sd. John Jones’s line to include 50 a. of land adjoining upon sd. Holland’s line and also another Tract containing two acres with a water Mill thereunto contiguous in Par. of St. Pauls one acre of sd. Last mentioned tract was conveyed by Henry Chiles unto the sd. William Chambers by deed 3 Feb. 1719 and ack. in Hanover Co; last mentioned tract of two acres the sd. Chambers was put in possession of by virtue of an Act of Assembly made Intitl’d ‘An Act for Encouragement of building Water Mills’ which was done by order off the sd. Court of Hanover. [Signed] William Chambers. Wit: Barttelot Anderson, Thomas Tinsley, Edward England, Keziah Chambers. 3 July 1735 proved by oaths of Bartellot Anderson, Thomas Tinsley and Edward England.*”<sup>181</sup>

COMMENT:

This Micajah should be the man whose widow Mary subsequently married **Matthew Mills** of Albemarle. Note that Chambers, who bought land from both Micajah Chiles and Henry Chiles also bought land from William Mills on 17 February 1735/6, below.

*bef.* **17 FEBRUARY 1735/6**

**GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA**

Land sale

“**William Mills of St. James Parish, Goochland Co., for £4 to William Chambers of same, 20 acres on Wild Boar Creek; part of a greater tract said Mills bought of Henry Chiles. Wit: Samuel Coleman, John (I) Clark. Signed: William Mills. Recorded 17 Feb. 1735 [no date of drafting]. Mary, wife of William, relinquished her dower right.**”<sup>182</sup>

COMMENT:

Blomquist provides a transcript of the proving of this deed in court:

**17 FEBRUARY 1735/6**

**GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA**

“William Mills acknowledges a deed with the Livery of Seizen endorsed from himself to *William Chambers* to be his Act and deed and it was thereupon Admitted to Record then **Mary, wife of the said William Mills** (she being first Privately Examined Relinquishes her right of Dower in the land by the said Deed Conveyed which was also Admitted to Record.”<sup>183</sup> [no closing parentheses]

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<sup>181</sup> Rosalie Edith Davis, *Hanover County, Virginia, Court Records 1733–1735: Deeds, Wills, and Inventories* (Manchester, MO: Heritage Trails, 1979), 65–66; citing Court Record Book 1733–1735, pp. 254–55.

<sup>182</sup> Benjamin B. Weisiger III, *Goochland County, Virginia, Wills and Deeds, 1728–1736* (N.P.: P.p. 1983), 79; citing DB 2: 168.

<sup>183</sup> Ann M. Blomquist, *Goochland County, Virginia, Court Order Book, 1735–1741* (Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 2010), 30; citing Order Book 4: 26.

**William Mills (c1695–1755)**  
**Spouse Mary [—?—]**

**1736**

**GOOCHLAND**

Tax roll

“List of Titheables by John Twitty 30 July 1736 between Deep Creek & Fine Creek from River to River”<sup>184</sup>

COMMENT:

Neither William nor his known neighbors and associates appear on this roll. (Fine Creek lay on the south side of James River.<sup>185</sup>) No other tithe roll for Goochland in 1736 has been found.

**15 JUNE 1736 (RECORDED)**

**GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA**

Land sale

“**William Mills** of St. James Parish, Goochland Co., for £ 15/5, to *James Walker* of same, 300 acres on branches of **Licking Hole Creek** part of a greater tract said **Mills** took up by patent 11 April 1732, bounded by *Samuel Coleman, Chiles’s corner, Scott’s line, Kerby’s line* and *Henry Chiles*. Wit: *John Pryer, Henry Chiles, Peter Patrick*. Signed: William Mills. Recorded 15 June 1736. **Mary, wife** of William, relinquished her dower.”<sup>186</sup>

COMMENT:

John Pryer/Prier was not named as a neighbor of William Mills at the time William had his land surveyed. However, as previously shown, Prier took out land in the Lickinghole area in 1730 with Thomas Christian, adjacent to Charles Christian who sold his land to Samuel Coleman.

Henry Chiles identified himself as a resident of Hanover when he sold part of his land to Mills in 1732, a tract adjacent to the land being sold above. As an absentee landowner, was it coincidental that Chiles was present when Mills sold part of this land four years later? Or was there purposeful visitation between their two families?

**15 JUNE 1736**

**GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA**

Land sale

“**William Mills** acknowledges a Deed from himself to *James Walker* to be his Act and deed and it is thereupon Admitted to record, then **Mary wife** of the said William (she being first Privately Examined Relinquishes her right of Dower in the land by the said Deed Convey’d which is also Admitted.”<sup>187</sup>

**8 SEPTEMBER 1736**

**GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA**

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<sup>184</sup> A. Jean Lurvey, *Goochland Co., Virginia, Tithe Lists, 1735-47* (Springfield, MO: P.p., n.d.), 2–3.

<sup>185</sup> Library of Virginia, “Land Office Grants,” database with images, *Virginia Memory* ([http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=132&last=&g\\_p=P10&collection=LO Patent](http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=132&last=&g_p=P10&collection=LO Patent) : downloaded 30 May 2016), “Fleming, Charles, grantee ... Henrico County,” on Fine Creek, South of James River adj. John Pleasants; citing “Land Office Patents No. 10, 1710–1719, p. 132 (Reel 10).” Fleming received this grant using importation rights of 13 individuals including **Anne Mills**. As previously noted, Fleming also used **Anne Mills** as one of 25 importation rights to purchase (with John Woodson), Elk Island on the North side of the James in Henrico.

<sup>186</sup> Benjamin B. Weisiger III, *Goochland County, Virginia, Wills and Deeds, 1728–1736* (N.P.: P.p. 1983), 79; citing DB 2: 231.

<sup>187</sup> Ann M. Blomquist, *Goochland County, Virginia, Court Order Book, 1735–1741* (Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 2010), 68; citing Order Book 4: 67.

## William Mills (c1695–1755) Spouse Mary [—?—]

### Land grant

“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 *James Allen’s* Line, running Thence New Lines N 50° W 126 Poles to a white Oak, N 25° E 170 Poles to a Pine, Thence on *John Marten* N60°s E 70 Poles to a white Oak and Hicory, Thence New Lines N 25° E 142 Poles to Pointers, S 65° E 147 Poles to a white Oak, S 25° W 35 Poles to a white Oak, Thence on *William Warnack* the same Course continued 293 Poles to a Spanish Oak, Thence on *James Allen* N 75° W 52 Poles to a white Oak S 37° W 67 Poles to the first station.’<sup>188</sup>

#### COMMENT:

- This, too, was a Treasury warrant purchase.
- Willis River is a 61.8-mile-long branch of the James River. It “rises in southern Buckingham County [formerly Goochland] and initially flows eastwardly into Cumberland County [formerly Goochland], 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>189</sup>

### MARCH 1737

#### GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA

##### Legal suit

“**Mills vs. Webb**. In the Action of Trespass between **William Mills** plt. and **Willm. Webb** deft. the Plt. having failed to file a declaration on the defts. motion he is Nonsuited whereupon it is Considered by the Court that the deft. do recover agt. the Plt. five shillings Currt. money together with his costs by him in this behalf Expended and a Lawyer’s Fee.”<sup>190</sup>

#### COMMENT:

From this point through 1744, a string of debt suits were filed here against “William Mills.” None of the known court minutes or court orders provide sufficient detail to identify which William was involved in each case. However, one pattern is noticeable. William of Pidy Rock and Tar Wallet, through 1765, was embroiled in debt suits. The William of Pedlar River has not otherwise been found as a defendant in a debt suit during the two decades he lived there.

On this basis, I am hypothesizing that the William being sued after 1737 in Goochland is the William who settled Pidy Rock by 1739. However, I am retaining the notes in this chronology for William of Pedlar River until more evidence can be found to make a reliable conclusion.

### 10 FEBRUARY 1738

#### GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA

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<sup>188</sup> Library of Virginia, “Land Office Grants,” database with images, *Virginia Memory* ([http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=164&last=&g\\_p=P17&collection=LO\\_Patent](http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=164&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>189</sup> *Wikipedia* ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Willis\\_River](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Willis_River) : accessed 24 May 2016), “Willis River.”

<sup>190</sup> Ann M. Blomquist, *Goochland County, Virginia, Court Order Book, 1735–1741* (Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 2010), 282; citing Order Book 4: 278.

**William Mills (c1695–1755)**  
**Spouse Mary [—?—]**

Road order

“Road to be Clear’d. On the motion of **Henry Chiles** leave is Granted him to Clear a Road from **Brook’s mill** to his Land on Apomattox River.”<sup>191</sup>

**20 MARCH 1738**

**GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA**

Association

“**Joseph Bingley** is Appointed Surveyor of the road from **Jones’s Creek Bridge to the County line** in the room of Mr. Randolph and that all the Titheables without the road do Assist him in clearing the same.”<sup>192</sup>

COMMENT:

See April 1742 notes for suit of Bingley against “Estate of William Mills.” This road order serves to place Bingley’s location in the county. However, no land grant has been found in the name of Joseph Bingley (or variants), and no “Jones’s Creek Bridge” or Jones Creek has been found for Goochland on the various maps examined.

TO DO:

Investigate the possibility that This Joseph “Bingley” is the Joseph *Bickley* who took out lands in Hanover amid several of William Mills’s associates.

**16 MAY 1738**

**GOOCHLAND & HENRICO COUNTIES, VA**

Association

“Deed. *John Winn* of Henrico Co., to *Humphry Parrish* of Goochland Co., for £ 30, land on north side of James River, 400 acres, bounded by *Robert Addams*, *Welcom William Hodges*, **Hanover Co. line** and said *Humphry Parrish*; with all houses, etc. Wit: Willim (W) Parrish, Humphry (+) Parris, **Wm Mills**. Signed: John Winn. Recorded 16 May 1738. Mary, wife of Winn, relinquished her dower right.”<sup>193</sup>

COMMENT:

The landholdings of the men named in this deed serve to identify the witness William Mills as William of Lickinghole For example:

- **William Welcome Hodges** had grants 1727–1734/5 on Deep Creek of Lickinghole and Treasurers Run. Edmund Hodges (see Feb 1735/6 above) patented land on Treasures Run.<sup>194</sup>
- **Humphry Parrish** had grants 1746–47 on **Little Byrd** and Fork creeks in present Goochland.<sup>195</sup>

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<sup>191</sup> Nathaniel Mason Pawlett, *Goochland County Road Orders, 1728–1744* (Charlottesville: Department of Highways & Transportation & the University of Virginia, 1975), 34; citing p. 373.

<sup>192</sup> Nathaniel Mason Pawlett, *Goochland County Road Orders, 1728–1744* (Charlottesville: Department of Highways & Transportation & the University of Virginia, 1975), 35; citing p. 378.

<sup>193</sup> Benjamin B. Weisiger III, *Goochland County, Virginia, Wills and Deeds, 1736–1742* (N.P.: P.p. 1984), 17; citing Deed Book 3: 121.

<sup>194</sup> “Index of Pool,” *Direct Line Software* ([www.directlinesoftware.com/Pool/goochlan.txt](http://www.directlinesoftware.com/Pool/goochlan.txt) : downloaded 7 June 2018), Goochland lands, “items” 113, 215, and 380; citing Virginia Patent Books [VPB] 13: 80; 15: 417–18; 18: 462. Also “Louisa County, Va. Plat Records,” plat abstracts, *VA GenWeb: Louisa County, VA—Genealogy* (<http://trevilians.com/deedmapper/dm8.html> : accessed 11 June 2018), citing Virginia Patent Book 15: 417.

<sup>195</sup> “Index of Pool,” *Direct Line Software* ([www.directlinesoftware.com/Pool/goochlan.txt](http://www.directlinesoftware.com/Pool/goochlan.txt) : downloaded 7 June 2018), Goochland lands, “items” 46 and 56; citing VPB 25: 456–60.

## William Mills (c1695–1755) Spouse Mary [—?—]

Little Byrd flows just northwest of Lickinghole Creek.

- **Robert Adams** is cited as adjacent landowner in 1730–34 patents issued to Henry Atkinson on “main br of Licking hole Ck,” Humphrey Parish on “N side of James River & branches of Treasurers Run,” and Welcome William Hodges on “N branches of Treasurers run.”<sup>196</sup> He is also cited in 1730 as an adjacent owner of land patented by Michael Holland, from which Holland sold part to Henry Chiles.<sup>197</sup>

William and Mary in 1754 (see that date below) sold a part of their Pedlar River land to Martha (Macon) Massie of New Kent, widow of William Massie. In the meanwhile:

- Martha’s husband **William, his father Thomas, and his brother James had extensive lands on Little Byrd River of Goochland** in this period.<sup>198</sup>
- Among court suits prosecuted in Goochland by Martha’s husband was a 1743 suit against the same William Webb<sup>199</sup> whom William Mills had sued in 1737.
- A road order of November 1744 “ordered all the Titheables on the North side [of] the River above **Lickinghole** except John Smiths’ [who bought Henry Chile’s land] and **Mr. Massies** lower Quarter be added to Mr. Hopkins’s Gang.” John Massie was simultaneously “Appointed Surveyor of the road in the room of **William Walton.**”<sup>200</sup>

A Mills-Massie acquaintance in Goochland in the 1730–1744 period—if not earlier in Hanover or New Kent—may explain why Martha, after being widowed in 1749 and after her plantation and dwelling house were advertised for sale by her husband’s executors in 1751,<sup>201</sup> ventured some 200 miles out to the Virginia frontier to buy land from William and Mary Mills on the Pedlar.

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Nowel Burton, who sued Ambrose Mills (son of William of Albemarle) in 1743 also had land on **Little Byrd Creek**. See “Index of Pool,” *Direct Line Software* ([www.directlinesoftware.com/Pool/goochlan.txt](http://www.directlinesoftware.com/Pool/goochlan.txt) : downloaded 7 June 2018), Goochland lands, “item” 211, 400a Beech Creek, a branch of Little Byrd Creek, 27 Sep 1729; citing VPB 13: 407.

<sup>196</sup> “Louisa County, Va. Plat Records,” plat abstracts, *VA GenWeb: Louisa County, VA—Genealogy* ([http://trevilians.com/deed\\_mapper/dm8.html](http://trevilians.com/deed_mapper/dm8.html) : accessed 11 June 2018), citing Virginia Patent Book 14: 144 (Atkinson), 15: 354 (Parish), and 15: 417 (Hodges).”

<sup>197</sup> Library of Virginia, “Land Office Grants,” database with images, *Virginia Memory* ([http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=512&last=&g\\_p=P13&collection=LO\\_Patent](http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=512&last=&g_p=P13&collection=LO_Patent) : downloaded 29 May 2019), “Holland, Michael, grantee [no county given]; citing “Land Office Patents No. 13, 1725–1730, p. 512–14 (Reel 12).”

<sup>198</sup> See Lyon Gardiner Tyler, ed., “Massie Family,” *William & Mary Quarterly* 13 (1890): 196–203, particularly 199–200. Martha was daughter of Col. William Macon who died in New Kent in the 1740s.

<sup>199</sup> Ann K. Blomquist, *Goochland County, Virginia, Court Order Books 5, 1741–1745* (Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 2010), 242.

<sup>200</sup> Ann K. Blomquist, *Goochland County, Virginia, Court Order Books 5, 1741–1745* (Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 2010), 481. At pp. 189–90 Blomquist presents a March 1742/3 court order appointing William Walton surveyor of the River road from **the Byrd** to John Smith’s plantation (**formerly land of Henry Chiles**, purchased by Smith in 1735 from William Chambers who also bought Wild Boar land from William and Mary Mills).

This William Walton (formerly of New Kent) and wife Susannah **Cobb(s)**, was the father of Maj. William Walton Jr. who married William and Mary Mills’s daughter Milly (Mills) Lavender. William Walton Jr.’s first wife was Elizabeth Tilman, whose sister Lucy married William and Mary’s son Jesse Mills. Lucy’s parents and grandparents (Tilman and Hix) also lived here in Goochland in the 1730s and appear regularly in the court order books and deed books. For a skeletal outline of the Walton family, see “Maj. William Walton Jr. 24 December 1736–29 January 1806 (93PC-T5V),” *FamilySearch FamilyTree* (<https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/93PC-T5V> : last viewed 29 May 2019).

Re the wife of William Walton, **Susannah Cobb**:

The not-so-common given name **Ambrose** (which William and Mary Mills gave to their firstborn) was an ancestral name among the Cobbs, dating back to 1639 when **Ambrose Cobbs was granted 350 acres in Henrico** on the Appomattox; see Patent Book 1: 658 (reel 1); Library of Virginia. **Thomas** was also a male name among the Cobbs of Henrico and Goochland.

<sup>201</sup> Lyon Gardiner Tyler, “*Virginia Gazette: Extracts*,” *William & Mary College Quarterly* 12 (1904): 155.

**William Mills (c1695–1755)**  
**Spouse Mary [—?—]**

**17 JULY 1739 (RECORDED)**

**GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA**

Association

“Deed. *James Walker* of St. James Parish, Goochland Co., to *Edmund Hodges* of same, all my 300 acres on **Lickinghole Creek** which said James Walker bought of **William Mills**, bounded by *Samuel Coleman*, *Scott’s line*, *Henry Chiles*. Signed: James Walker.” [No date of execution.]<sup>202</sup>

**AUGUST 1739**

**GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA**

Disambiguation

“Surveyor of Road. Alexander Stinson is Appointed Surveyor of the Road from **Brook’s mill** to Archers, his gang to be Willm. Grays tiths, Peter Brooks, John Hodnet, John Harmer, **John Payne**, James Glen, Henry Cary’s tiths, William Cook, and Richard Henderson,

And *William Wamack* junrs gang to be Chas. Anderson, Thos. Hodges, Henry, Joseph & James Terry, William Kent, Robert Peak, *William Easley*, Alexr. Trents Qr. John Archers Qr. Edward Mcgehee, James Allens Qr., **William Mills**, and John Ownby.”<sup>203</sup>

COMMENT:

Pawlett provides a somewhat different transcription of this road order:

**21 AUGUST 1739**

**GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA**

Road order

“Surveyor of Road. Alexander Stinson is Appointed Surveyor of the Road from Brooks’s mill to Arthers, his gang to be Willm. Grays tiths, Peter Brooks, John Hodnet, John Harmer, *John Payne*, James Glen, Henry Carys tiths, William Cook, and Richard Henderson. **And** William Wamack junr. gangs to be Chas. Anderson, Thos. Hodges, Henry, Joseph & James *Cary*, William Kent, Robert Peak, William Easley, Alexr. Trents Qr., John Arthers Qr., Edward **M’gehe**, James Allens Qr., **William Mills** and John Ownby.”<sup>204</sup>

Two road gangs are named here. Each would be working a different stretch of road. This helps us segment the county—and the William Millses—into “neighborhoods.”

- The Brooks Mill area encompassed the Childs and Mills land on Lickinghole, according to the deed at 10 February 1738, above. William Mills is not named in that road order; however, road duty rotated from year to year. A *surveyor* (overseer of the work) might serve multiple years but the “hands” who made up each year’s crew usually rotated by the year.
- The second road crew includes neighbors of the William Mills whose land lay near the head of Pidy Rock and Bear Creeks, near Tar Wallet church. The fact that he is cited in that neighborhood in 1739 (when the land known as “the plantation of William Mills” was not

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<sup>202</sup> Benjamin B. Weisiger III, *Goochland County, Virginia, Wills and Deeds, 1736–1742* (N.P.: P.p. 1984), 30; citing Deed Book 3: 219.

<sup>203</sup> Ann M. Blomquist, *Goochland County, Virginia, Court Order Book, 1735–1741* (Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 2010), 456; citing Order Book 4: 433.

<sup>204</sup> Nathaniel Mason Pawlett, *Goochland County Road Orders 1728–1744* (Charlottesville: Department of Highways & Transportation & the University of Virginia, 1975), 36; citing original p. 433.

## William Mills (c1695–1755) Spouse Mary [—?—]

sold until 1744), suggests that the Scottish-born William was already in the county and already occupying the land that later would be granted him.

Notably, **over a third of these neighbors had not yet received patents to their lands.** Most, like William of Pidy Rock, would not receive a patent until 1746 or later. The fact that they were recognized landholders in 1739, without final title, reinforces the hypothesis that the William of 1739 is the William of Aberdeen who received his patent in 1746.

The Library of Virginia's land grant database shows these patents issued *before* the road order:

- William Wamack, 1733, 400 acres "on the branches of Great Guinea Creek."<sup>205</sup>
- Edward Mackgehee, 1736, 400 acres on "a South branch of Great Guinea Creek."<sup>206</sup>
- James Allen, 1736, 4000 acres "on both sides of Great Guinea Creek."<sup>207</sup>
- Robert Peak, 1736, 400 acres "on the branches of **Tear-Wallet Run**."<sup>208</sup>
- William Kent, 1738, 200 acres "on both sides of **Tear Wallet Run** adjoining Robert Peak, Stephen Cox, John Williams."<sup>209</sup>

The following patents were issued in that region *after* the road order.

- James Terry, 1741, 500 acres on the "**north branches of Great Guinea Creek**."<sup>210</sup>
- Joseph Terry, 1746, 400 acres on the head of the *east* branch of **Bear Creek** of Willis.<sup>211</sup> Alexander Trent, 1746, 1500 acres "on both sides of Willis River beginning at the **Barren Lick Branch**."<sup>212</sup> (Barren Lick has not been located.)
- Easley, William, 1747, 400 acres "on both sides of **Pidey Rock Run** of Willis's River."<sup>213</sup>

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<sup>205</sup> Library of Virginia, "Land Office Grants," database with images, *Virginia Memory* ([http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=19&last=&g\\_p=P15&collection=LO Patent](http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=19&last=&g_p=P15&collection=LO Patent)) : downloaded 20 May 2016), "Wamack, William"; citing "Land Office Patents No. 15, 1732–1735, p. 19 (Reel 13)."

<sup>206</sup> Library of Virginia, "Land Office Grants," database with images, *Virginia Memory* ([http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=159&last=&g\\_p=P17&collection=LO Patent](http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=159&last=&g_p=P17&collection=LO Patent)) : downloaded 20 May 2016), "Mackgehee, Edward"; citing "Land Office Patents No. 17, 1735–1738, p. 159 (Reel 15)."

<sup>207</sup> Library of Virginia, "Land Office Grants," database with images, *Virginia Memory* ([http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=179&last=&g\\_p=P17&collection=LO Patent](http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=179&last=&g_p=P17&collection=LO Patent)) : downloaded 20 May 2016), James Allen; citing "Land Office Patents No. 17, 1735–1738, p. 179 (Reel 15)."

<sup>208</sup> Library of Virginia, "Land Office Grants," database with images, *Virginia Memory* ([http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/drawer?retrieve\\_image=LONN&dir=/LONN/LO-1/015/015&image\\_number=0192&offset=%2B23&name=Patents+No.17+1735-1738&dbl\\_pgs=no&round=](http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/drawer?retrieve_image=LONN&dir=/LONN/LO-1/015/015&image_number=0192&offset=%2B23&name=Patents+No.17+1735-1738&dbl_pgs=no&round=)) : downloaded 20 May 2016), "Peak, Robert"; citing "Land Office Patents No. 17, 1735–1738, p. 169 (Reel 15)."

<sup>209</sup> Library of Virginia, "Land Office Grants," database with images, *Virginia Memory* ([http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/drawer?retrieve\\_image=LONN&dir=/LONN/LO-1/016/016&image\\_number=0163&offset=%2B18&name=Patents+No.18+1738-1739&dbl\\_pgs=no&round=](http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/drawer?retrieve_image=LONN&dir=/LONN/LO-1/016/016&image_number=0163&offset=%2B18&name=Patents+No.18+1738-1739&dbl_pgs=no&round=)) : downloaded 20 May 2016), "Kent, William"; citing "Land Office Patents No. 18, 1739–1741, p. 1080 (Reel 17)."

<sup>210</sup> Library of Virginia, "Land Office Grants," database with images, *Virginia Memory* ([http://lva-linux-temp.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com:8991/F/IQVDKVM3QIB6M3S35XI4PTLR2294LXC6I4T6G6CVGD81B5EYGG-54721?func=full-set-set&set\\_number=003551&set\\_entry=000030&format=999](http://lva-linux-temp.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com:8991/F/IQVDKVM3QIB6M3S35XI4PTLR2294LXC6I4T6G6CVGD81B5EYGG-54721?func=full-set-set&set_number=003551&set_entry=000030&format=999)) : downloaded 20 May 2016), "Terry, James"; citing "Land Office Patents No. 18, 1739–1741, p. 145 (Reel 16)."

<sup>211</sup> Library of Virginia, "Land Office Grants," database with images, *Virginia Memory* ([http://lva-linux-temp.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com:8991/F/IQVDKVM3QIB6M3S35XI4PTLR2294LXC6I4T6G6CVGD81B5EYGG-47478?func=full-set-set&set\\_number=003514&set\\_entry=000031&format=999](http://lva-linux-temp.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com:8991/F/IQVDKVM3QIB6M3S35XI4PTLR2294LXC6I4T6G6CVGD81B5EYGG-47478?func=full-set-set&set_number=003514&set_entry=000031&format=999)) : downloaded 20 May 2016), "Terry, Joseph"; citing "Land Office Patents No. 24, 1745–1746, p. 290 (Reel 22)."

<sup>212</sup> Library of Virginia, "Land Office Grants," database with images, *Virginia Memory* ([http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=84&last=&g\\_p=P25&collection=LO Patent 9](http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=84&last=&g_p=P25&collection=LO Patent 9)) : downloaded 20 May 2016), "Trent, Alexander"; citing "Land Office Patents No. 25, 1745–1746, p. 84 (Reel 23)."

<sup>213</sup> Library of Virginia, "Land Office Grants," database with images, *Virginia Memory* ([http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=209&last=&g\\_p=P28&collection=LO Patent](http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=209&last=&g_p=P28&collection=LO Patent)) : downloaded 20 May 2016), "Easley, William"; citing "Land Office Patents No. 28, 1746–1749, p. 209 (Reel 26)."

**William Mills (c1695–1755)**  
**Spouse Mary [—?—]**

William Easley's land was adjacent to the Pidy Rock tract patented August 1746 by William Mills "son of William Mills of Aberdeen." Easley and son Warham, as well as Alexander Trent, William Womack, and Ralph Flippen (another landowner adjacent to the Pidy Rock land) continue to be cited as a neighbor of William through vestry processioning lists (below) as late as 1763.

**16 SEPTEMBER 1740**  
**GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA**  
Association

John Parrish, planter, to William Bayley, planter. Sale for 5 pounds lawful money of Virginia, a tract of land on South branches of Owens Creek, bounded as follows:

Beginning at Henry Adkines Corner of two black oak Saplings, thence along **William Mills'** line to a Corner white oak, thence on a line of Markt Trees to a Corner of seven Pines of Stephen Lacy's Land survey, thence along the said Lacys line to a Corner White oak which Divides the said Lacys Lower Survey from his upper Survey, thence along the line of the said Lacy's upper Survey to the place begun at.

"Witnesseth that Judith Pariss Wife to the said John Parish and party to these pr3esents doth freely and Voluntarily Relinquish and Release unto the said William Bailey ..." Signed: John his P mark Parish; Judith her P mark Parish. Witnesses: Robt. Christian, John his I. Mark Wright, Hugh Morris.<sup>214</sup>

COMMENT:

- This William, adjacent neighbor to Henry Adkins (Atkins, Atkinson), should be the same William Mills cited in the 16 May 1738 sale by John Winn to Humphrey Parish of land adjacent to Adkinson.
- Stephen Lacy's two 1731 grants help us place Owens Creek. Both refer to the beginning point of the survey as Owens Creek on "the dividing line between Goochland and Hanover." The first tract was said to adjoin Henry Atkinson."<sup>215</sup> On the Goochland side of the line, Owens creek flowed southwestward over to the *eastern* tip of Big Lickinghole. On topo maps, the curvature of the two watercourses looks as though they once joined.

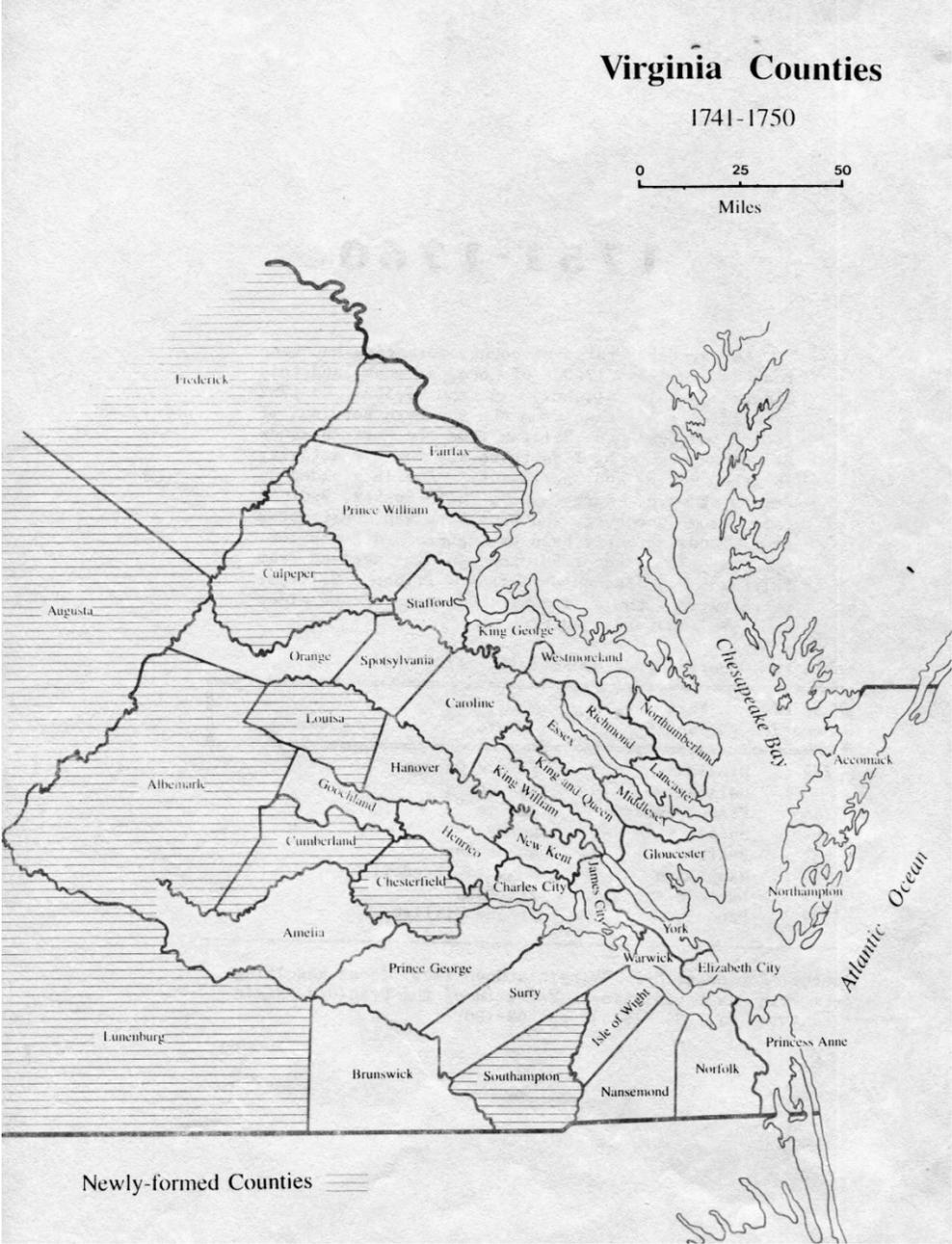
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<sup>214</sup> Goochland Co. Deed Book 3: 396-97; imaged Goochland microfilm roll 1, Library of Virginia.

<sup>215</sup> Library of Virginia, "Land Office Grants," database with images, *Virginia Memory* ([http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=159&last=&g\\_p=P14&collection=LO Patent](http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=159&last=&g_p=P14&collection=LO Patent) : downloaded 20 May 2016), "Lacy, Stephen"; citing "Land Office Patents No. 14, 1728-1732, p. 159 (Reel 11)." Also *ibid.* ([http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=260&last=&g\\_p=P14&collection=LO Patent](http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=260&last=&g_p=P14&collection=LO Patent)) citing "Land Office Patents No. 14, 1728–1732, p. 260 (Reel 11)."

**William Mills (c1695–1755)  
Spouse Mary [—?—]**

**Map 9  
Virginia Counties, 1741–1750<sup>216</sup>**



<sup>216</sup> Michael F. Doran, *Atlas of County Boundary Changes in Virginia, 1634–1895* (Athens, GA: Iberian Publishing Co., 1987), 23.

**William Mills (c1695–1755)**  
**Spouse Mary [—?—]**

**1741**

**GOOCHLAND COUNTY**

Vestry order

“Processioners: ... John Curd and Joseph Lewis .... From Benjamin Bradshaws across to Louisa Co line at Constant Perkins, to **John Mills**, to Goochland Court House, to Bollings Mill Road.”<sup>217</sup>

COMMENT:

This is the first reference I’ve encountered to this man, who may or may not be a kinsman. As seen below, he was dead by September 1742. He did not patent land in Goochland, even though this processioner’s note implies that he owned land and was known well enough to be used as a landmark. See the subsequent 1742 reference to his death.

**JUNE COURT 1741**

**GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA**

Unproved possibility

“Webb vs Mills. On the scire Facias brought by *William Webb* agt. **William Mills** the Sherif having return’d copy left and the deft. now failing to appear on the motion of the Plt. it is ordered that an Alias Scire Facias do issue agt. the deft. Returnable to the next Court.”<sup>218</sup>

COMMENT:

In 1737, Mills had launched a suit against Webb. This would seem to be a countersuit that was soon dropped.

**JULY COURT 1741**

**GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA**

Unproved possibility

“The Scire Facias brought by *William Webb* agt. **William Mills** is dismiss no Prosecution.”<sup>219</sup>

**14 SEPTEMBER 1741**

**GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA**

Unproved possibility

“Deed. *George Hilton* of Goochland Co. to *Arthur Slayden* of New Kent Co., for £ 30 232 acres on branches of **Lickinghole Creek**, being part of a patent of 332 acres granted said Hilton in 1734; bounded by *Thomas Biby*, said Hilton, *Christian’s* line and **William Mills**. Wit: *William Bayley*, *George Brock*, *Nicholas (O) Owen*. Signed: George Hilton, Esther Hilton. Recorded 15 Sept. 1741.”<sup>220</sup>

COMMENT:

- For the survey details of Hilton’s land, including comments on William Mills, see the earlier discussion under Mills’ 1732 patent.

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<sup>217</sup> William Lindsay Hopkins, *St. James Northam Parish Vestry Book, 1744–1850, Goochland County, Virginia* (Richmond: P.p., 1987), 4; citing Vestry Book 13. This volume offers nothing on Boucher/Boucher, Childs/Chiles, or Massey/Massie.

<sup>218</sup> Ann M. Blomquist, *Goochland County, Virginia, Court Order Book, 1735–1741* (Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 2010), 596; citing Order Book 4 :574.

<sup>219</sup> Ann M. Blomquist, *Goochland County, Virginia, Court Order Book, 1735–1741* (Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 2010), 620; citing Order Book 4: 580.

<sup>220</sup> Benjamin B. Weisiger III, *Goochland County, Virginia, Wills and Deeds, 1736–1742* (N.P.: P.p. 1984), 53–65.

## William Mills (c1695–1755) Spouse Mary [—?—]

- George Hilton of Lickinghole sold that land in 1741 and relocated on Raccoon and Cunningham Creek of Hardware River, soon to be in Albemarle.<sup>221</sup> That residence on Hardware did not place him near William Mills of the Pedlar, but it did place him near Thomas Joplin of the Hardware whom William Mills named as coexecutor of his 1755 will.
- One George Brock appears on the 1745 tax list 14 taxpayers from “William Mills.”

**APRIL 1742**

**GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA**

Unproved possibility

“Bingley vs Mills The Attachmt. obtain’d by *Joseph Bingley* agt. the **Estate of William Mills** is dismist no Prosecution.”<sup>222</sup>

COMMENT:

The above reference does not say “estate of William Mills, *deceased*,” as would occur if this William Mills had died. The term “estate” is used here in the sense of “property belonging to,” as when judgment is issued against a defendant, with an order to seize property to cover the debt.

The presence of two William Millses in the county from at least 1739 forward makes ambiguous the identity of the William Mills(es) sued from then through 1744.

**17 MAY 1742**

**GOOCHLAND, AMELIA & KING WILLIAM COUNTIES, VA**

Association

Deed “from **Henry Chiles of Amelia County**, planter, to **John Crenshaw of King William County**, planter for 60 £ 5 shillings, all of Henry Chiles’ tract of land in G on **Lickinghole Cr** containing about 500 acres whereon the said Henry Chiles has a plantation. The same land is the greatest part of 800 acres granted to the said Henry Chiles [in 1725] by 2 patents for 400 acres each, out of which 800 acres Chiles sold a part to **William Mills, laid off at the lower end**, supposing it to be 300 acres. The said 500 acres is adjacent to the lands of *Michael Holland, gent, Edmund Hodges, John Coleman, and the said William Mills*. The land is further described in a G deed to Mills from Chiles. Signed – Henry Chiles. Wit – *Barttelot Anderson, Eliz<sup>a</sup> Anderson, W Ford*. Recorded Sep 21, 1742. *Anne*, the wife of Henry Chiles, relinquished her right of dower to the conveyed lands.”<sup>223</sup>

COMMENT:

Amelia was created in 1735 from Prince George and Brunswick, on Goochland’s southern border. While Henry Chiles owned land across a swath of counties above and below Goochland, **I have found no record placing him as a resident of Goochland at any time. His Goochland lands seem to have been run by managers across some seventeen years.**

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<sup>221</sup> Benjamin B. Weisiger III, *Goochland County, Virginia, Wills and Deeds, 1736–1742* (N.P.: P.p. 1984), 53–65. Eric G. Grundset, “*Land Lying in the County of Albemarle: Albemarle County, Virginia Surveyor’s Plat Books, Volume 1, Parts 1 and 2, and Volume 2, 1744–1853 [and 1892]* (Fairfax, VA: P.p., 1992), 49, 94.

<sup>222</sup> Ann M. Blomquist, *Goochland County, Virginia, Court Order Book 5, 1741–1745* (Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 2007), 31; citing Order Book 5: 32?

<sup>223</sup> TLC Genealogy, *Goochland County, Virginia, Deeds, 1741–1745* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy 1990), 11; citing Deed Book 4: 63.

**William Mills (c1695–1755)**  
**Spouse Mary [—?—]**

**SEPTEMBER 1742**

**GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA**

Unproved possibility

“Mills vs. Harris. **William Mills plt.** and *Benj. Harris* Deft. The Deft. failing to appear on the motion of the Plt. it is Ordered that an Alias Capias do issue agt. the Deft. returnable to the next Court.”<sup>224</sup>

COMMENT:

In May 1752, Benjamin Harris and William Mills appeared together on a short list of returns to Southam vestry made by William Womack, William Daniel, Alexander Trent & others. This suggests that the William of this 1742–44 suit was William of Pidy Rock & Tar Wallet Church— not William of Lickinghole and Pedlar.

**SEPTEMBER COURT 1742**

**GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA**

Unproved possibility

“Mills’s Inventory. Edward Merrit Admr. presents an Inventory of the **estate of John Mills** deceased which is ordered to be recorded.”<sup>225</sup>

COMMENT:

No evidence has been found to suggest an identity for this John Mills. The fact that no Mills was appointed to inventory his estate (specifically not William Mills) suggests that he had no kin in the county.

**21 SEPTEMBER 1742 (RECORDED)**

**AMELIA COUNTY, VA**

Association

“I, *Henry Chiles* of **Amelia County**, for 5 shillings sterling money of England, gave granted *James Walker* of the Parish of St. James and G, 256 acres of land in the Parish of St. James and G on **Appomattox River**, which 256 acres is part of a greater tract which the said Henry Chiles took up, and bounded by [trees]. Signed Sep 21, 1742 – Henry Chiles. Wit – *Willm. Chambers, John Payne, Josias Payne*. Recorded Sep 21, 1742. *Anne*, the wife of Henry Chiles, relinquished her right of dower to the said land.”<sup>226</sup>

COMMENT:

- Chiles patented this land in 1738, at which time the land was said to lie in Goochland “between Appomattox River and the head branches of Willis River.”<sup>227</sup>
- In 1736 James Walker purchased 300 acres of William Mills’ original 400-acre patent. Walker sold it in July 1739 after being an adjacent owner to Mills and Chiles on Lickinghole Creek for

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<sup>224</sup> Ann M. Blomquist, *Goochland County, Virginia, Court Order Book 5, 1741–1745* (Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 2007), 124; citing Order Book 5: 127.

<sup>225</sup> Ann M. Blomquist, *Goochland County, Virginia, Court Order Book 5, 1741–1745* (Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 2007), 108; citing Order Book 5: 110.

<sup>226</sup> TLC Genealogy, *Goochland County, Virginia, Deeds, 1741–1745* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy 1990), 10; citing Deed Book 4: 57.

<sup>227</sup> Library of Virginia, “Land Office Grants,” database with images, Virginia Memory ([http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=164&last=&g\\_p=P18&collection=LO Patent](http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=164&last=&g_p=P18&collection=LO Patent): downloaded 20 May 2016), “Chiles, Henry, grantee”; citing “Land Office Patents No. 18, 1738–1739, p. 164–65 (Reel 16).”

**William Mills (c1695–1755)**  
**Spouse Mary [—?—]**

three years. Now Walker is buying a Chiles tract in a different part of the county—a new area in which William Mills also had taken out land in 1736, a few months before Chiles' patent.

**21 SEPTEMBER 1742**

**GOOCHLAND & AMELIA COUNTIES, VA**

Association

“Deed from *William Chambers* of the Parish of St James and G to *Josias Payne* of same, for 80£, all that messuage whereon the said William Chambers latterly lived 36 acres on the north side of the James River in G among the branches of Treasures Run, and bounded by patent granted to the said Chambers on Mar 12 1739. Also that tract of land containing 20 acres in the Parish of St James and G upon a creek known by the name of **Wild Boar**, which land Chambers purchased of **William Mills** on Feb 17, 1735. Also one tract of land on **Wild Boar Cr**, which land Chambers purchased of *John Christian*, and bounded as per the deed made to Chambers by Christian, on Jul 19, 1737. Signed – William Chambers. Wit – John Payne, **Henry Chiles**, *Simon* (SW his mark) *Ward*. Recorded Sep 21, 1742. *Judith, the wife* of William Chambers, relinquished her right of dower to the conveyed lands.”<sup>228</sup>

COMMENT:

Treasurer's Run does not appear on any of the Goochland maps I have examined.

**SEPTEMBER 1742**

**GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA**

Unproved possibility

“Mills vs. Harris. **William Mills plt.** and *Benj. Harris* Deft. The Deft. failing to appear on the motion of the Plt. it is Ordered that an Alias Capias do issue agt. the Deft. returnable to the next Court.”<sup>229</sup>

**OCTOBER 1742**

**GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA**

Unproved possibility

“Mills vs Harris. The Action of Trespass on the Case between **William Mills** plt. and *Benjamin Harris* Deft. Is Continued.”<sup>230</sup>

**OCTOBER 1742**

**GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA**

Unproved possibility

“Yuille vs. Mills. The Pet. Of *John Yuille* agt. **William Mills** is Continued.”<sup>231</sup>

COMMENT:

I have found no prior reference to this case or John Yuille in Goochland. YUILLES do appear in

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<sup>228</sup> TLC Genealogy, *Goochland County, Virginia, Deeds, 1741–1745* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy 1990), 10; citing Deed Book 4: 61.

<sup>229</sup> Ann M. Blomquist, *Goochland County, Virginia, Court Order Book 5, 1741–1745* (Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 2007), 124; citing Order Book 5:127.

<sup>230</sup> Ann M. Blomquist, *Goochland County, Virginia, Court Order Book 5, 1741–1745* (Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 2007), 142; citing Order Book 5:145.

<sup>231</sup> Ann M. Blomquist, *Goochland County, Virginia, Court Order Book 5, 1741–1745* (Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 2007), 147; citing Order Book 5:150.

**William Mills (c1695–1755)**  
**Spouse Mary [—?—]**

earlier records of New Kent and Hanover.

**NOVEMBER 1742**

**GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA**

Unproved possibility

“Mills vs Harris. In the Action of Trespass on the Cases between **William Mills** Plt. and *Benja. Harris* Deft. a special Imparlance is granted the Deft.”<sup>232</sup>

**NOVEMBER 1742**

**GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA**

Unproved possibility

“Yuille vs. Mills. The Pet. Of *John Yuille* agt. **William Mills** is dismist no Prosecu’n.”<sup>233</sup>

COMMENT:

Yuille’s prosecution against four other individuals proceeds with various actions.

**MARCH COURT 1742/3**

**GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA**

Unproved possibility

“Mills vs Harris. The Action of Trespass on the Case between **William Mills** Plt. & *Benja. Harris* Deft. is continued at the Plts. Costs.”<sup>234</sup>

**MAY COURT 1743**

**GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA**

Unproved possibility

“Mills vs Harris. In the Action of Trespass on the Case between **William Mills** Plt. and *Benjamin Harris* Deft. the Deft. appears but failing to plead on the motion of the Plt. Judgmt. by nihil dicit is granted him for what damages shall be recovered in this Suit to be discharged nevertheless if the Deft. shall plead at the next Court.”<sup>235</sup>

**JUNE COURT 1743**

**GOOCHLAND**

Unproved possibility

“Mills vs Harris. In the Action of Trespass on the Case between **William Mills** Plt. and *Benjamin Harris* Deft. the Deft. pleads non assumisit.”<sup>236</sup>

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<sup>232</sup> Ann M. Blomquist, *Goochland County, Virginia, Court Order Book 5, 1741–1745* (Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 2007), 165; citing Order Book 5: 169.

<sup>233</sup> Ann M. Blomquist, *Goochland County, Virginia, Court Order Book 5, 1741–1745* (Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 2007), 168; citing Order Book 5: 172.

<sup>234</sup> Ann M. Blomquist, *Goochland County, Virginia, Court Order Book 5, 1741–1745* (Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 2007), 202; citing Order Book 5: 208.

<sup>235</sup> Ann M. Blomquist, *Goochland County, Virginia, Court Order Book 5, 1741–1745* (Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 2007), 221; citing Order Book 5: 229.

<sup>236</sup> Ann M. Blomquist, *Goochland County, Virginia, Court Order Book 5, 1741–1745* (Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 2007), 248; citing Order Book 5: 257.

**William Mills (c1695–1755)**  
**Spouse Mary [—?—]**

**OCTOBER COURT 1743**  
**GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA**  
Unproved possibility

“Mills vs Harris. The Action of Trespass on the Case between **William Mills** Plt. and **Benjamin Harris** Deft. is Continued at the Plts. Cost.”<sup>237</sup>

**NOVEMBER COURT 1743**  
**GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA**  
Unproved possibility

“Burton vs Mills. In the Action of Trespass on the Case between **Nowel Burton** Plt. and **Ambross [sic] Mills** Deft. Gideon Marr enters himself Special Bail and an Imparance is granted the Deft.”<sup>238</sup>

COMMENT:

Most accounts of Col. Ambrose Mills assert his birth in the year 1723. However, he had to be at least 21 to be sued in November 1743. Also, whatever the debt, it would normally be substantially overdue for an attorney to be hired and a suit filed. That should place Ambrose’s birth a year or more before November 1722—i.e., born no later than 1721.

Nowel Burton’s land lay near Hatcher’s Creek of Willis River.”<sup>239</sup> See Map 3. This placed him on the western stretch of Willis, in modern Buckingham County—not the eastern portion of Willis (Pidy Rock region) settled by William Mills of Aberdeen.

**TO DO:**

**Pursue Gideon Marr.** His willingness to risk his personal funds to support Ambrose’s defense suggests the possibility of a kinship or at least an acquaintance long enough for him to know the young man’s trustworthiness. As a starting point for Marr:

1. July 1742, John Coles sued Marr, at which time “**Nowel Burton** enters himself Special Bail and an Imparance is granted the Deft.”<sup>240</sup> In short, Burton provided the same support for Marr that Marr would provide Ambrose Mills sixteen months later when Burton sued Mills.
2. March 1743/4, Gideon Marr is sued by Alexander Mckie for Trespass and **Nowel Burton** enters himself “Special bail, with Oyer granted” to the defendant.<sup>241</sup> Curiously, Burton seems not to have a problem with Marr as a result of Marr’s support of Mills in Burton’s earlier suit against Mills.
3. November 1744, Gideon Marr sued John Allen, at which time **Nowel Burton** “enters himself Special Bail and the Deft. pleads Payment and for tryal thereof Puts himself upon the Country.”<sup>242</sup>
4. 4 September 1745, Gideon married **Sara Miller** in **Amelia County**, with *Jno. Woodson* as

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<sup>237</sup> Ann M. Blomquist, *Goochland County, Virginia, Court Order Book 5, 1741–1745* (Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 2007), 286; citing Order Book 5: 297.

<sup>238</sup> Ann M. Blomquist, *Goochland County, Virginia, Court Order Book 5, 1741–1745* (Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 2007), 302; citing Order Book 5: 314.

<sup>239</sup> Ann K. Blomquist, *Goochland County, Virginia, Court Order Book 4, 1735–1741* (Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 2010), 391, 483.

<sup>240</sup> Ann K. Blomquist, *Goochland County, Virginia, Court Order Book 5, 1741–45* (Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 2007), 97.

<sup>241</sup> Ann K. Blomquist, *Goochland County, Virginia, Court Order Book 5, 1741–45* (Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 2007), 333.

<sup>242</sup> Ann K. Blomquist, *Goochland County, Virginia, Court Order Book 5, 1741–45* (Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 2007), 497–98.

## William Mills (c1695–1755) Spouse Mary [—?—]

- surety.<sup>243</sup> The Woodsons of Goochland also had friendly interactions with Nowel Burton throughout these court order books.
5. Online trees assert that Gideon (variously called Gideon Alexander Marr, although local records separate these two men) was son of John Erskine Marr, born 6 January 1694 at Hilston Park, Monmouth, England, who migrated to Kittery, Maine, married Catherine Surplus, and died 1750 at “Cape, Massachusetts.” His son John, of Virginia, is said to have died March 1777 in Pittsylvania County, VA.<sup>244</sup> Other trees proclaim that Gideon, as another son of John Erskine, was a “gateway ancestor” to British royalty. (My database of William Mills marriages in Great Britain and baptisms of children sired by a William Mills includes only one Monmouth entry—one too late to be relevant.)
  6. In 1748, in Albemarle, Gideon witnessed a sale of Goochland land by Wm. Chambers, 465 acres on **Fishpond Creek**, said to be “part of a tract bought from **Henry Chiles** who took it up.”<sup>245</sup> Chambers also purchased land from William Mills on Lickinghole Creek.
  7. In 1752, Gideon witnessed land sold by Jno. Bostick, “where Jas. Staples lives,” said to include 400 acres patented to **Henry Chiles** 1 February 1738.<sup>246</sup>

**14 NOVEMBER 1743**

**GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA**

Land sale

Deed “from **William Mills** of the Parish of St. James and G, to *Josias Payne* of same, for divers good causes and for 16 £, one tract of land of about 400 acres in G on the *ridge between Willis River and Great Guinea Cr of Appomattox River*, and bounded by *James Allen, John Martin, William Wamack*. Signed - William Mills. Wit – *John Payne, Robert Woodson, John Roberts*. Recorded Nov 16, 1743, **Mary, the wife** of William Mills, relinquished her right of dower to the conveyed land.”<sup>247</sup>

COMMENT:

- In September 1742 Josias Payne bought, from William Chambers, land on Wild Boar Creek that Chambers had bought from William and Mary Mills of Lickinghole Creek.
- The Woodson and Payne association suggests that this 1743 seller is the same William of Lickinghole Creek who would sell that land on Lickinghole in May 1744 in presence of Benjamin Woodson and John & Josias Payne.
- Benjamin, William, and Robert Woodson Jr. had received extensive grants on Jinnetoe/Genito Creek in eastern Goochland, 1714–25. John Woodson was on both Genito

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<sup>243</sup> “Virginia, Marriage Records, 1700–1850,” database with images, *Ancestry* ([https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/3143/vamarriage-records-001095\\_14](https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/3143/vamarriage-records-001095_14) : accessed 28 November 2018), image 25 of 804; imaging Elizabeth Petty Bentley, *Virginia Marriage Records from The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography, The William and Mary College Quarterly, and Tyler’s Quarterly* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1984), p. 14.

<sup>244</sup> tuckerrigsby1, “Tucker Rigsby Family Tree,” *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/27272282/person/12578415129/facts> : accessed 8 Feb. 2019), “Facts” page for John Erskine Rigsby, with link to Facts page for John Jr.

<sup>245</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, VA (1761–1852), & Albemarle County, VA (1748–1807)* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 15; citing Deed Book 1: 15.

<sup>246</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, VA (1761–1852), & Albemarle County, VA (1748–1807)* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 29; citing Deed Book 1: 487.

<sup>247</sup> TLC Genealogy, *Goochland County, Virginia, Deeds, 1741–1745* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 1990), 11; citing DB 4: 270.

**William Mills (c1695–1755)**  
**Spouse Mary [—?—]**

and Lickinghole Creeks, and numerous others.<sup>248</sup>

- However, James Allen and William Wamack remained in Goochland after Albemarle was cut off; they both appear on various lists of the Willis River area of Cumberland County in company with William Mills of Aberdeen.

**16 NOVEMBER 1743**

**GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA**

Land sale

“Mills’s deed to Payne. **William Mills** Acknowledges a Deed &c. from himself to **Josias Payne** to be his Act and Deed, Then **Mary Wife of the said William** (she being first privately examined) Relinquishes her right of Dower in the Land by the said Deed Conveyed all of which is Ordered to be Recorded.”<sup>249</sup>

**22 MARCH 1743/4**

**GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA**

Unproved possibility

“Mills vs Harris. The Action of Trespass on the Case between **William Mills** Plt. & *Benjamin Harris* Deft. is Continued at the Defts. Costs.”<sup>250</sup>

**MARCH 1743/4**

**GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA**

Court order

“Burton vs Mills. In the Action of Trespass on the Case between **Nowel Burton** Plt. & **Ambrose Mills** Deft. the Deft. appear but failing to plead<sub>[,]</sub> on the motion of the Plt. Judgmt. by nihil dicit is granted him for what damages shall be recovered in this Suit to be discharged nevertheless if the Deft. shall plead at the next Court.”<sup>251</sup>

**MAY 1744**

**GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA**

Court order

“Burton vs Mills. The Action of Trespass on the Case between **Nowel Burton & Ambrose Mills** Deft. is Continued.”<sup>252</sup>

**15 MAY 1744**

**GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA**

Land sale

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<sup>248</sup> Index of Pool,” *Direct Line Software* ([www.directlinesoftware.com/Pool/goochlan.txt](http://www.directlinesoftware.com/Pool/goochlan.txt) : downloaded 7 June 2018), Goochland lands.

<sup>249</sup> Ann M. Blomquist, *Goochland County, Virginia, Court Order Book 5, 1741–1745* (Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 2007), 300; citing Order Book 5: 311.

<sup>250</sup> Ann M. Blomquist, *Goochland County, Virginia, Court Order Book 5, 1741–1745* (Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 2007), 343; citing Order Book 5: 359.

<sup>251</sup> Ann M. Blomquist, *Goochland County, Virginia, Court Order Book 5, 1741–1745* (Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 2007), 357; citing Order Book 5: 374.

<sup>252</sup> Ann M. Blomquist, *Goochland County, Virginia, Court Order Book 5, 1741–1745* (Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 2007), 396; citing Order Book 5: 415.

**William Mills (c1695–1755)**  
**Spouse Mary [—?—]**

Deed “from **William Mills**, and **Mary, his wife**, of G to *John Robards* of G, for 72 $\frac{1}{2}$ , one piece of land in G on the east side of **Lickinghole Cr**, about 280 acres so as to include a **plantation called William Millses**, and bounded by a corner above the plantation on the creek on Grainger’s line on Great Lickinghole Cr, *John Payne, Benjamin Woodson*. Signed – William Mills, Mary (X her mark) Mills. Wit – **John Payne, Josias Payne, Rob. Woodson**. Recorded May 15, 1744. Mary relinquished her right of dower to the conveyed lands.”<sup>253</sup>

**MAY COURT 1744**  
**GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA**  
Land sale

“Mills’s deed to Roberts. “**William Mills** Acknowledges a Deed with the Livery of Seizin & Receipt endorsd from himself to **John Roberts** to be his Acts & Deeds Then **Mary Wife** of the said William (She being first privately examined) Relinquishes her right of Dower in the Land by the said Deed Conveyed all of which is ordered to be Recorded.”<sup>254</sup>

COMMENT:

This is the last presence found in Goochland for William and Mary of Lickinghole. Past that point:

- 6 May 1744 (this same month) Albemarle was created from western Goochland.
- late 1744, court order books began in Albemarle and soon included William Mills.
- 1748, deed books began in Albemarle.

**JUNE 1744**  
**GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA**  
Court order

“Burton vs Mills. In the Action of Trespass on the Case between *Nowl. Burton* Plt. & **Ambrose Mills** Deft. time is granted the Deft. to plead Specially.”<sup>255</sup>

**10 JUNE 1744**  
**GOOCHLAND**  
Tax roll

“Tithe List King William Parish by Thos. Turpin<sup>256</sup> No William Mills on this list.

**JUNE 1744**  
**GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA**  
Unproved possibility

“Mills vs Harris. The Action of Trespass on the Case between **William Mills** Plt. & *Benjamin Harris* deft. is Continued.”<sup>257</sup>

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<sup>253</sup> TLC Genealogy, *Goochland County, Virginia, Deeds, 1741–1745* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy 1990), 47.

<sup>254</sup> Ann M. Blomquist, *Goochland County, Virginia, Court Order Book 5, 1741–1745* (Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 2007), 370; citing Order Book 5: 388.

<sup>255</sup> Ann M. Blomquist, *Goochland County, Virginia, Court Order Book 5, 1741–1745* (Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 2007), 428; citing Order Book 5: 450.

<sup>256</sup> A. Jean Lurvey, *Goochland Co., Virginia, Tithe Lists, 1735–47* (Springfield, MO: P.p., n.d.), 3–4.

<sup>257</sup> Ann M. Blomquist, *Goochland County, Virginia, Court Order Book 5, 1741–1745* (Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 2007), 425; citing Order Book 5: 447.

**William Mills (c1695–1755)**  
**Spouse Mary [—?—]**

**JULY 1744**

**GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA**

Unproved possibility

“Mills vs Harris. The Action of Trespass on the Case between **William Mills** Plt. & *Benjamin Harris* Deft. is Continued.”<sup>258</sup>

**NOVEMBER 1744**

**GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA**

Unproved possibility

“Mills vs Harris. “In the Action of Trespass on the Case between **William Mills** Plt. and *Benjamin Harris* Deft. the following Jury are Sworn Robert Hughes, John Pendleton, Richard Ward, George Payne Junr, Isaac Hughes, Alexander Moss, William Hudgens, William Matlock, John Hodges, John Taylor, Miles Gathwrite & Joel Chandler who having heard the Evidence and receiv’d their Charge with draw.

Ordered that the Sherif do keep the Jury together ‘till they agree in their verdict.”<sup>259</sup>

**NOVEMBER 1744**

**GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA**

Court order

“Burton vs Mills. In the Action of Trespass on the Case between **Nowl. Burton** Plt. and **Ambrose Mills** Deft. Edmund Gray and James Terry are Appointed to examine state and settle the severall matters in dispute between them and make report to next Court.”<sup>260</sup>

**22 NOVEMBER 1744**

**GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA**

Unproved possibility

“Bingley vs Mills. On the motion of **Joseph Bingley** a Witness for **Willm. Mills** agt. *Benjamin Harris* it is ordered that the said William do pay him for three days Attendance seventy five pounds of Tobo.”<sup>261</sup>

COMMENT:

See the earlier case in which Joseph Bingley had obtained an attachment on the property of William Mills. See also the comment under Daniel vs. William Mills, below—where evidence suggests that the William Mills of the Bingley case is William of Aberdeen.

**22 NOVEMBER 1744**

**GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA**

Unproved possibility

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<sup>258</sup> Ann M. Blomquist, *Goochland County, Virginia, Court Order Book 5, 1741–1745* (Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 2007), 448; citing Order Book 5: 473.

<sup>259</sup> Ann M. Blomquist, *Goochland County, Virginia, Court Order Book 5, 1741–1745* (Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 2007), 489; citing Order Book 5: 517.

<sup>260</sup> Ann M. Blomquist, *Goochland County, Virginia, Court Order Book 5, 1741–1745* (Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 2007), 489; citing Order Book 5: 517.

<sup>261</sup> Ann M. Blomquist, *Goochland County, Virginia, Court Order Book 5, 1741–1745* (Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 2007), 493; citing Order Book 5: 522.

**William Mills (c1695–1755)**  
**Spouse Mary [—?—]**

“David vs Mills. On the motion of *Peter David* a Witness for **Willm. Mills** agt. *Benja. Harris* it is ordered that the said Willm. do pay him for five days Attendance one hundred and twenty five pounds of Tobacco.”<sup>262</sup>

**22 NOVEMBER 1744**  
**GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA**  
Unproved possibility

“Soblet vs Mills. On the motion of *Peter Louis Soblet* a Witness for **Willm. Mills** agt. *Benja. Harris* it is ordered that the said Willm. day [*sic*] pay him for Six days Attendance one hundred & fifty pounds of Tobacco.”<sup>263</sup>

COMMENT:

Peter Soblet subsequently appears in Albemarle records, adding to the ambiguity about the identity of this William Mills of the Mills vs. Harris suit.

**22 NOVEMBER 1744**  
**GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA**  
Unproved possibility

“Daniel vs Mills. On the motion of *James Daniel* a Witness for **Willm. Mills** agt. *Benja. Harris* it is ordered that the said Willm. do pay him for five days Attendance one hundred & twenty five pounds of Tobacco.”<sup>264</sup>

COMMENT:

The Daniel association suggests that the William Mills of this lawsuit is the sole William Mills taxed in Goochland in 1745–46: i.e., William of Aberdeen whose land lay on Pidy Rock. As seen below, James Daniel and William Mills are just two tithables apart on that list.

**1745**  
**GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA**  
Unproved possibility

“Tithe List Southam Parish by Alexander Trent 1745”<sup>265</sup>

16 Alexr. Trent, Alexr. Trent Jr., Thos. Johns overseer  
4 Benj Harrison  
2 **James Daniel**  
1 William Easely  
1 **William Mills**  
6 Widow Bernard: John Smith overseer  
4 **Nowel Burton**, Allin Burton

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<sup>262</sup> Ann M. Blomquist, *Goochland County, Virginia, Court Order Book 5, 1741–1745* (Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 2007), 494; citing Order Book 5: 522.

<sup>263</sup> Ann M. Blomquist, *Goochland County, Virginia, Court Order Book 5, 1741–1745* (Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 2007), 494; citing Order Book 5: 522.

<sup>264</sup> Ann M. Blomquist, *Goochland County, Virginia, Court Order Book 5, 1741–1745* (Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 2007), 494; citing Order Book 5: 522.

<sup>265</sup> A. Jean Lurvey, *Goochland Co., Virginia, Tithe Lists, 1735–47* (Springfield, MO: P.p., n.d.), 7–8.

**William Mills (c1695–1755)**  
**Spouse Mary [—?—]**

3 Richd. Burton  
2 Josiah Burton  
2 Wm. Spear  
1 Ambrose Hugens  
1 John Jones  
1 John Dickerson  
2 Jam. Cunningame Sr., Jam. Cuningame  
1 John Cuningame  
1 Saml. Allin Sr.  
5 John Merriman  
1 Thos. Roberson  
3 George Brock  
3 Gideon Glen  
3 Nehemiah Glen  
4 Joseph Terry  
1 Henry Terry  
[skip 71 to end of list]

COMMENT:

- This appears to be the William who lived at the heads of Pidy Rock Creek and Bear Creek, near the Tarwallet Church. He would remain through at least February 1765. The processioning lists of Southam Parish (abstracted later in these research notes), place him in the immediate neighborhood of William Easley, the Daniels, and the Trents.
- Note also that the August 1739 road order, abstracted above, places him on the same stretch of road as William Easley, Alexander Trent, and the Terrys.

However,

- Two names after William appears the name “Nowel Burton.” The court minutes of 1743 and 1744 chronicle the debt suit of Nowel Burton vs. *Ambrose Mills*, the young adult son of the William Mills (wife Mary) who received Pedlar River grants after Albemarle was cut from Goochland. As a caveat, Burton owned land at multiple sites in Goochland.

**FEBRUARY 1744/5**  
**ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA**

Court order

William Cabell, Gent. appointed surveyor of the highway from the fford of **Tye River** to the Court House. All male tithables belonging to Revd. Mr. Stith, Mr. Jno. Harris, **Charles Lavender**, John Isham, & Samuel Burks are ordered to assist in clearing.”

“**Thomas Joplin** appointed surveyor of the highway from **Rockfish** to **Hardwar** in the room of John Johns & the hands formerly appointed except Capt. Nevell’s are to assist.”<sup>266</sup>

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<sup>266</sup> Joanne Lovelace Nance, “Albemarle County, Virginia, Court Orders, 1744/45–1748; February Term 1744/45 to June Term 1745,” *Magazine of Virginia Genealogy* 26, no. 2 (May 1988): 115–16; imaged in “Virginia Genealogical Society Quarterly,” *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 9 July 2018). The Albemarle Court Order series begins with this issue and runs for several years.

## William Mills (c1695–1755) Spouse Mary [—?—]

### COMMENT:

- No appointments were made at this time for the Pedlar River area.
- **Charles Lavender** of the Tye River was the father of William Lavender, who married Mildred “Milly” Mills. His 1746 Treasury-warrant patent for 200 acres places his land adjacent to **John Peartree Burks**,<sup>267</sup> who would be sued in 1746/7 for slander, by Edward Watts of Pedlar River, with William Mills testifying for Watts.
- **Thomas Joplin** is the man William Mills named as coexecutor of his 1755 will, to assist William’s wife Mary. His location in Albemarle would have been some 80–90 miles from the Pedlar, by the course of James River; even today the two are 60–70 miles apart, depending upon the toad taken. **However, Joplin’s daughter was married to Robert Davis, an adjacent landowner to William Mills and a witness to William’s will.**<sup>268</sup>

1745

### GOOCHLAND—ALBEMARLE COUNTIES

#### Settlement

“The Nelson historian Alexander Brown, relying on diverse and some now unavailable sources, has listed additional settlers who lived in the area of Old Amherst by 1745 ... **Thomas Mills** occupied over 535 acres on Dancing Creek while **Ambrose Mills** owned 1,100 acres in 1745 on **Cattail Marsh**, the lower side of Pedlar river and on **Goose Creek**; **William Mills** in 1745 possessed 1500 acres on Salt Creek, **Stone House Creek, Horsley’s Creek, and Buck branch of Pedlar. ...**”

“Table II: Place Names Before 1761 ...

Buck Branch — of Pedlar, near Horsley’s C, 1745, **William Mills**

Cattail Marsh — near lower side of Pedlar R., 1745, **Ambrose Mills**

Dancing Creek — 1745, **Thomas Mills**

Goose Creek — near lower side of Pedlar R., 1745, **Ambrose Mills**

Salt Creek— near Pedlar R. and Horseley’s C, 1745, **William Mills**”<sup>269</sup>

### COMMENT:

The William Mills reference, in the first paragraph above, conflates two different men. The William Mills of Stone House Creek in Augusta County was not the William Mills of Pedlar River in Albemarle County.<sup>270</sup>

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<sup>267</sup> Library of Virginia, “Land Office Grants,” database with images, *Virginia Memory* ([http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=300&last=&g\\_p=P25&collection=LO Patent](http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=300&last=&g_p=P25&collection=LO Patent): downloaded 20 May 2016), “Lavender, Charles”; citing “Land Office Patents No. 25, 1745–1747, p. 300 (Reel 23).”

<sup>268</sup> Amherst Co., VA, Order Book, 1773–1782, p.455; imaged *Family Search* digital film 7856348 > image 122. This court order reports Jopling’s appearance in court requesting the administration of Robert Davis’s estate, stating that Davis’s widow Jane was his (Jopling’s) daughter.

<sup>269</sup> C. H. C. Seaman, ed., *The Lee Marmon Manuscript* (Sweet Briar, VA: Sweet Briar College Printing Press for the Amherst Co. Historical Museum & Nelson Co. Historical Soc., 1989), 47; imaged at *Internet Archive* (<http://www.archive.org/details/leemarmomanuscr00seam> : accessed 2 June 2018). Marman’s published manuscript (p. 45) cites his own source as “The Nelson historian Alexander Brown, relying on diverse and some now unavailable sources, has listed additional settlers who lived in the area of Old Amherst by 1745.” Marman’s footnote 32 on appendix p. 5 cites: “**Alexander Brown Papers, II, in Swem Library of the College of William and Mary.**” That Library’s inventory of those papers (<https://ead.lib.virginia.edu/vivaxtf/view?docId=wm/viw00002.xml>) tells us that they span 1815–1910.

<sup>270</sup> For the William of Stone House Creek—and subsequently Clark’s Creek, Anson Co., NC—see E. S. Mills, “Mills & Associates of Augusta County & the Virginia Frontier: Research Notes ...,” report, 28 November 2018; archived at *Historic Pathways* under the “Research” tab.

**William Mills (c1695–1755)**  
**Spouse Mary [—?—]**

Goose Creek does not appear on any Albemarle maps I've consulted. This reference appears to be Ambrose's land in **Bedford** County that he sold to William Callaway before 1761.

"Cattail Marsh" does not appear on Albemarle maps that I've consulted. **Albemarle did have a Cattail Creek, near the Willis River in what is now Buckingham County.** It's a few miles southeast of Ripley Creek, locus of John Ripley who married Ambrose's widowed sister Elizabeth Learwood in the 1760s, and extremely close to the Hatcher's Creek area of Willis River where Nowel Burton owned land.

It appears that the compiler of this list not only assumed that all William Mills references were to the same man but that all the Mills land was in the Pedlar area.

All of these land placements predate the patent records that I've found and include considerably more tracts than I have found. Note that the June 1747–June 1748 record below also credits William Mills with 54 acres for which I've not been able to find a patent.

Brown's notes may come from survey lists such as those for 1747–48 below. Possibly, the rights to some of these lands were sold prior to the patent being issued, as with Ambrose's Bedford tract that he had surveyed in the 1750s and then sold. The patent was then issued in the name of the buyer. See the Walton-Calloway note under 27 April 1761, below.

**1745**

**ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA**

Settlement

"(Answer to query, p. 134) In **1745–47** there were living on lands along Pedlar and James rivers (in the present county of Amherst, then Albemarle) **Thomas, William** and **Ambrose Mills: Thomas Marvel** and **John Stone**; and in 1761 a William Morris was living on or near the Tobacco-row Mountain the same section. Among the **Cabell papers** there is a Mem<sup>m</sup> of "The First Inhabitants above the **Red Mountains**" (which I take to be the present *Tobacco-row*) without date; but probably written in 1744 or 1745, containing the names of **Thomas** and **William Mills** (probably one of them was the father of Ambrose) and **Thomas Stone**. One of the first entries for land on Pedlar river was made by **Thomas Stone** in September 1744, and as **Ambrose Mills** entered for lands on the same river in 1745 (when he was 22 years old), it is probable that **Mourning Stone**, whom he married about this time, was a daughter of Thomas Stone.—*Alexander Brown.*"<sup>271</sup>

COMMENT:

The previous query was posted by a woman wanting to know whether Mourning Stone was related to Thomas Stone, the Maryland signer of the Declaration of Independence. The Albemarle/Nelson historian Alexander Brown who answered this query for the *William and Mary College Quarterly* was the Alexander Brown whose papers are cited in Searman's *Lee Marman Manuscript*.

I have not found any record of Ambrose making a "land entry" in 1745. Obviously records once existed that are no longer in the courthouse.

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<sup>271</sup> "Historical and Genealogical Notes," *The William and Mary College Quarterly* 8 (April 1900): 208–9.

**William Mills (c1695–1755)**  
**Spouse Mary [—?—]**

The reference to Thomas as a landholder of Crown land by 1744–45 suggests that he was born by 1723–24.

**TO DO:**

**The Cabell Papers need to be used.**

**25 JULY 1746**

**GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VIRGINIA**

Association

“John Chafin, 300a, Goochland Co., between Great Guinea Cr and Willis R, James Allen’s line, **William Mills**, John Martin, Beverley Randolph Esq., the sd. Chafin, on James Allen.”<sup>272</sup>

COMMENT:

The location between Great Guinea and Willis River, as well as the cited neighbors, suggest this land lay on the ridge adjacent to the 1736 William Mills grant. While William had sold that land in November 1743, the adjacent neighbors cited in deeds of this period were often those cited *in the survey of the land*, rather than the current owners.

**28 AUGUST 1746**

**GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA**

Disambiguation

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

Beginning at Pointers **Ralph Flippings** Corner running thence a New Line N 75° E 204 Poles crossing **Pidy Rock Run** to Pointers<sub>[,]</sub> thence on **Anthony Levellain’s** N 30° E 19 Poles crossing a Branch to Pointers<sub>[,]</sub> N 70° E 204 Poles to Pointers<sub>[,]</sub> thence on **William Daniel** S 19½° E 159 poles to Pointers<sub>[,]</sub> thence a new Line S 19° E 100 Poles to Pointers, N 70° W 205 Poles to Pointers<sub>[,]</sub> thence on **William Easley** N 35° W 45 Poles to a White Oak<sub>[,]</sub> S 55° W 201 Poles crossing two Branches of Pidy Rocky Run to Pointers<sub>[,]</sub> Thence on **Ralph Flipping** N 35° W 178 Poles to the first Station.”<sup>273</sup>

COMMENT:

- As previously discussed, a delay of at least two years and nine months was required occurred between the time the land was “entered” in the county land register and the patent was issued by the colony’s secretary. The time lapse often extended many years longer.
- This land would fall into Cumberland County and parcels of it would be sold by its owner “William Mills of Cumberland County” in 1755 and 1759, during the time that William and Mary Mills lived in Amherst.

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<sup>272</sup> J. Philip Bowry III, “Virginia Land Patent Book 25, Pages 1–288,” *Magazine of Virginia Genealogy* 28 (May 1990): 123; citing Land Patent Book 25: 137.

<sup>273</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”; citing “Land Office Patents No. 25, 1745-1747, p. 230 (Reel 23).”

**William Mills (c1695–1755)**  
**Spouse Mary [—?—]**

- William of the Pidy apparently remained there as late as 24 August 1761, when his neighbor Daniels sold part of his land:

“William Daniel of Cumberland to John Seay 4 Aug 1761, recd 24 Aug 1761, £8, 25a in Cumberland on the Heads of **Pidy Rock** and **Bear Cr**, bd John Seays, **William Mills**, John Taylor, Warham Easleys Church Road. No wit.”<sup>274</sup>

- William Daniel is said to have acquired a tract of 400 acres in Cumberland on a “br of TearWallet Ck” adjoining William Mills, 26 Sep 1760.<sup>275</sup> USGS topographical maps show Tear Wallet, in Cumberland County, as a branch of Guinea Creek, headed north then northwest; its juncture with Guinea is slightly northwest of Stony Point Mills.<sup>276</sup> “Tar Wallet Church” is said to have been “built about 1750 as a church of **Southam Parish**, later of Littleton Parish.”<sup>277</sup>

**14 NOVEMBER 1746**  
**ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA**  
Bounty

“To <b>Thomas Mills</b> for 1 wolfs head	140 lbs. tobacco
“To <b>William Mills</b> for 2 Do [Ditto]	280 <sup>278</sup>

COMMENT:

- The fact that Thomas is acting in his own name suggests that he was at least 21 and that he was born before November 1725.
- The William Mills of this record would appear to be William Sr. If this were William Jr., then he also should have been born before November 1725. However, William Sr.’s will in 1755 appears to cite his children in chronological order, with the exception of Thomas who deceased by then. Known information on the eldest son Ambrose, and the order in which children are named in the will suggests that Ambrose was born about 1721, Thomas and Sarah in 1723 and 1725, respectively, with William Jr. falling fourth in line.

**12 MARCH 1746/7**  
**ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA**  
Legal case

“Case of **William Mills** agst *Robert Davis* is dismist by mutual consent.”<sup>279</sup>

COMMENT:

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<sup>274</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), citing “Cumb 3-193).”

<sup>275</sup> “Index of Pool,” *Direct Line Software* ([www.directlinesoftware.com/Pool/cumberland.txt](http://www.directlinesoftware.com/Pool/cumberland.txt) : downloaded 7 June 2018), Cumberland link, “item 45,” citing “VPB 33: 937-1.”

<sup>276</sup> *Topozone* (<https://www.topozone.com/virginia/cumberland-va/stream/tear-wallet-creek/> : accessed 7 June 2018).

<sup>277</sup> *The WPA Guide to Virginia: The Old Dominion State* (San Antonio: Trinity University Press, 2013), unpaginated; locatable under Tour 8, section b, “Richmond to Lexington.”

<sup>278</sup> Joanne Lovelace Nance, “Albemarle County, Virginia, Court Orders, ... [1744/5–March 1747/8],” *Magazine of Virginia Genealogy* 28 (November 1991): 314–19, specifically 317, citing p. VI.

<sup>279</sup> Joanne Lovelace Nance, “Albemarle County, Virginia, Court Orders, ... February Term 1746[/7]–March 1746[/7],” *Magazine of Virginia Genealogy* 28 (February 1990): 48–58, specifically 56, citing p. 239.

**William Mills (c1695–1755)**  
**Spouse Mary [—?—]**

Robert Davis was an adjacent landowner to William. Considering that William's patent was pending, allowing time for conflicting claims to be resolved, that might have been the nature of this dispute.

**13 MARCH 1746/7**  
**ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA**

Legal case.

"**William Mills** awarded 250 lbs. tob. by **Edward Watts** for 10 days attendance as evidence in case agst *John Peartree Burks*."

"**Ambrose Mills** to be summoned to show why he did not appear as evidence in case of Watts agst Burks."<sup>280</sup>

COMMENT:

Watts launched this case of slander against Burks on 23 August 1745. The summons to William and Ambrose Mills, to provide testimony, carries an implication that they witnessed the offense when it occurred—thereby placing them in the company of Burks and Watts as early as summer 1745.

**9 APRIL 1747**  
**ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA**

Legal case

"Summons of **Ambrose Mills** to show why he failed to appear as evidence for **Edward Watts** is dismissed."<sup>281</sup>

**10 DECEMBER 1747**  
**ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA**

Bounty

"To **Thomas Mills** for one ditto [wolfs head at 140 each)           140 lbs. tobacco

"To **William Mills** for two Do [Ditto]                                       70<sup>282</sup>

**10 MARCH 1747/8**  
**ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA**

Road order

"**Wm Mills** appointed Surveyor in the room of **Robert Davis**."<sup>283</sup>

COMMENT:

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<sup>280</sup> Joanne Lovelace Nance, "Albemarle County, Virginia, Court Orders, ... March 1746[/7]–May 1747," *Magazine of Virginia Genealogy* 28 (August 1990): 202–10, specifically 203, citing p. 251.

<sup>281</sup> Joanne Lovelace Nance, "Albemarle County, Virginia, Court Orders, ... March 1746[/7]–May 1747," *Magazine of Virginia Genealogy* 28 (August 1990): 202–10, specifically 208–9, citing pp. 266, 269.

<sup>282</sup> Joanne Lovelace Nance, "Albemarle County, Virginia, Court Orders, ... [1744/5–March 1747/8]," *Magazine of Virginia Genealogy* 28 (November 1991): 314–19, specifically 318, citing p. X. Nance notes: "The following material (page numbered Roman) was recorded at the end of the 'regular' orders 1744/45–1748."

<sup>283</sup> Joanne Lovelace Nance, "Albemarle County, Virginia, Court Orders, ... March Term 1747/48–June Term 1748," *Magazine of Virginia Genealogy* 29 (May 1991): 112–24, specifically 113, citing p. 345.

## William Mills (c1695–1755) Spouse Mary [—?—]

**Robert Davis**, like William Mills, was a landowner on Pedlar River. He appears in several subsequent records involving William Mills. Amherst County records also show that he died leaving land in Montgomery County, where William Mills' alleged granddaughter Sarah (daughter of Jesse Mills) married in 1791.

This is the first road order in Albemarle (or Goochland before it) that named William of Pedlar River or any of his sons. According to the University of Virginia historian Nathaniel Mason Pawlett, working with the Virginia Highway & Transportation Research Council:

“After 1657 road operations were placed in the hands of the gentlemen justices of the county courts, who appointed individual overseers of roads to handle specific roads or portions thereof. ... Actual construction and maintenance were to be placed under the supervision of ‘overseers of roads’ or ‘surveyors of highway’, who were to be appointed annually by the county courts. *All titheables, males above the age of 16 whether free or slave, were to work on the roads under their supervision when so ordered.*”<sup>284</sup>

### 10 MARCH 1747/8 ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA

Jury duty

“In case of William Bishop agst John Cannaday, parties appear as does a Jury, to wit: William Morrison, **William Mills**, John Douglas, Michael Thomas, John Farrow, William Symson, Alexander Patten, Patrick Napier, Thomas Bibb, Leonard Ballow, Moses Higgenbottom & Joseph Higgenbottom who retire to consider their verdict.”<sup>285</sup>

### 12 MAY 1748 ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA

Jury duty

“In slander case of William Bishop agst John Cannady, parties appear by their attys as does a Jury, to wit ... **William Mills.**”<sup>286</sup>

#### COMMENT:

This jury service raises a curious question: Why was William Mills of Lickinghole not called for jury duty in Goochland when he was indisputably a landowner there? Subsequent records in Albemarle/Amherst, where he lived for another eighteen years, show no further jury duty for him.

Across the thirty-six years in which his Virginia activities have been documented, this flurry of civic duty in the spring of 1748 is a striking aberration.

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<sup>284</sup> Nathaniel Mason Pawlett, *A Brief History of the Roads of Virginia, 1607–1840*, rev. ed. (1977, Charlottesville: Univ. of Virginia, 2003), 4.

<sup>285</sup> Joanne Lovelace Nance, “Albemarle County, Virginia, Court Orders, ... March Term 1747/48–June Term 1748,” *Magazine of Virginia Genealogy* 29 (May 1991): 112–24, specifically 114, citing pp. 346–47.

<sup>286</sup> Joanne Lovelace Nance, “Albemarle County, Virginia, Court Orders, ... March Term 1747/48–June Term 1748,” *Magazine of Virginia Genealogy* 29 (May 1991): 112–24, specifically 119, citing p. 361.

## William Mills (c1695–1755) Spouse Mary [—?—]

MARCH 1748 – 9 JUNE 1748

ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA

Land survey

“Joshua Fry, Gent. Surveyor presents the following lists of surveys made by him from June 1747 to June 1748. ... Peter Soblet, **John Ri{pley?}** 199, ... William Phelps 200, **Marvel Stone** 390, George Taylor 200 ... **William Mills** 54, David Wills 125, Francis Baker 230, Arthur Tuley 400, Peter Currey 195, **Thomas Watts** 335, Capt. Lynch 400, Harding Burnley.” [end of list].<sup>287</sup>

COMMENT:

This is the first acreage I have found for William Mills in Albemarle. However, he should already own a tract—at least 100 unimproved acres or at least 25 acres under cultivation with a residence thereon—given his service on the grand jury in March and May 1748. A grand juror in this era had to be a freeholder—i.e., a white male over aged 21 who owned at least 100 acres of unimproved land or at least 25 improved acres with a house thereon.<sup>288</sup>

Ambrose, son of William, married Mourning **Stone**.<sup>289</sup> Their son William Mills (b. 1746), who settled on Ambrose’s land in Rutherford County, NC, gave the name **Marvel** to one of his own sons.<sup>290</sup>

The Stone and Watts surveys were actually made in March 1748 according to the survey plat books transcribed by Grundset:

“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>291</sup>

Using the various online land grant images and databases, I have not been able to find a 54-acre grant for William under any conceivable variant spelling or misreading.<sup>292</sup> Nor does it appear in

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<sup>287</sup> Joanne Lovelace Nance, “Albemarle County, Virginia, Court Orders, ... March Term 1747/48–June Term 1748,” *Magazine of Virginia Genealogy* 29 (May 1991): 112–24, specifically 123–24, citing pp. 374–75.

<sup>288</sup> “The Grand Jury for the General Court was empannelled by the sheriff. ... it was required that they be freeholders and ‘of the most capable persons.’” Hugh F. Rankin, “The General Court of Colonial Virginia” (MS, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation Library, 1990), p. 9; html edition, *Colonial Williamsburg Digital Library* (<http://research.history.org/DigitalLibrary/View/index.cfm?doc=ResearchReports%5CR0088.xml> : accessed 20 July 2018).

“**Freeholder** – The Colony of Virginia voting law of 1736 defined a Freeholder as a white male 21 years of age who owns at least 100 acres of unimproved land or 25 improved acres with a house and a ‘plantation.’ Any qualified Freeholder who failed to vote was subject to a fine of 200 pounds of tobacco. Any non–Freeholder who attempted to vote was subject to a fine of 500 pounds of tobacco.” Quoted from William F. Milam, “Glossary of Colonial Terms,” *Milam in Virginia* (<http://www.milaminvirginia.com/glossary.html> : accessed 20 July 2018).

<sup>289</sup> J. M. Edney’s 1846 biography of his grandfather William Mills, published some time in 1846 in the Asheville, NC, *Highland Messenger*; for an image copy, see “Major William Mills (10 November 1746–1834 (LCD4-4NH),” *FamilySearch FamilyTree* (<https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/memories/LCD4-4NH>), “Memories” tab.

<sup>290</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&|ref=acom> : accessed 6 June 2015), memorial 114368978, “Maj William Mills,” created by Holt Felmet, 25 July 2013.

<sup>291</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.

**William Mills (c1695–1755)**  
**Spouse Mary [—?—]**

the Albemarle survey book of this period that has been transcribed by Grundset. Odds are, the land was consolidated into the larger tract patented in 1750.

**1748**

**ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA**

Court papers.

“1748 Folder ... William Hopkins shows that **Ambrose Mills** is indebted to him 1 Pound, 13 shillings, 9 pence, due by account. Account for above (2 items).

“1749 Folder ... Promissory note of **Ambrose Mills** of Albemarle Co. to William Hopkins 24 Sept. 1748. Wit: **R. Walton**, H. Wood.”<sup>293</sup>

COMMENT:

This marks the earliest known interaction between the Mills and Walton families. No interaction has been found, thus far, in Goochland where both families previously lived.

**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 N Side the said River[,] running Thence down the same and across making in a Right line 220 Poles to a Willow on the S Side [of] the River[,] Thence into the Woods North 25° W at 170 a Branch[,] in all 230 Poles to a red Oak near a Branch[,] N 250 Poles crossing two Branches and **Dancing Creek** to two Dogwoods and a Gum[,] S 76° E at 76 [poles to] Pedlar River[,] in all 216 Poles to Pointers on the side of Valley[,] and S 20° W 220 poles to Beginning.’<sup>294</sup>

COMMENT:

Note that the patent places Pedlar River in *Goochland County*. The patent would be issued according to the details on the survey submitted. By implication, the survey was made while Pedlar River was still part of Goochland—i.e., 1744 or earlier.

**9 AUGUST 1749**

**ALBEMARLE-AMHERST COUNTIES, VA**

Land sale.

“This indenture made the ninth day of August in year of our Lord Christ One thousand seven hundred and Forty nine Between **Thomas Watts** and **Sarah** his Wife of Albemarle County of one part and Peter Bays of County aforesaid of other part Witnesseth that **Thomas Watts** and **Sarah** his Wife for sum of Thirty five pounds current money hath sold unto *Peter Bays* his heirs one parcell of land lying in

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<sup>292</sup> Particularly, Library of Virginia, “Land Office Grants,” database with images, *Virginia Memory* (<http://image.lva.virginia.gov> : accessed 20 May 2018); and “Index of Pool,” *Direct Line Software* ([www.directlinesoftware.com/Pool/bedford.txt](http://www.directlinesoftware.com/Pool/bedford.txt) : accessed 20 May 2018).

<sup>293</sup> Benjamin B. Weisiger III, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Court Papers, 1744–1783* (Richmond, VA: P.p., 1987), 3, 6.

<sup>294</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=P28&collection=LO\\_Patent](http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=539&last=&g_p=P28&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 & 2 p.1-730), p. 539 (Reel 26).”

**William Mills (c1695–1755)**  
**Spouse Mary [—?—]**

Albemarle County on **North side of Pedlar River** containing Four hundred acres ‘Begining at a Hicory Saplin runing from thence by marked trees to a white Oake in a valey from thence to a Hicory saplin, from thence to a Pine, from thence to Four Dogwood Saplins and thence along a line of pointers and thence along a line to place began to have and to hold the said parcel of land with their appurtenances unto Peter Bays his heirs and assigns forever In Witness whereof **Thomas Watts & Sarah** his Wife have set their hands and Seals in presence of us *Edmond Manion, Richard Cowell, Thomas Smith*. [Signed] Thomas wT Watts [his mark].

“Albemarle August Court 1749

“**Thomas Watts** presented in Court and acknowledged within Deed to Peter Bays on whose motion the same is ordered to be recorded.”<sup>295</sup>

COMMENT:

Pedlar River was a short branch of the Fluvanna/James, lying in the western “butt” of Albemarle. To the south of the Fluvanna/James was Lunenburg. In 1754, Prince Edward County (where Sarah’s sister Elizabeth (Mills) Learwood lived) would be created from Amelia (formerly Brunswick) and included the part of Lunenburg that lay along the south side of the James (aka Fluvanna).

Re Thomas and Sarah:

- Neither has been found after this in Albemarle records.
- Sarah did not sign or make her mark. The evidence does not show she was actually present. In most other deeds in this record set, the wife *did* sign/mark or acknowledge the sale.
- Skimming this “Will & Deed” book, reveals that most men who appear in these records (i.e., yeoman class and above) could sign their names. Most women could not.
- Thomas Smith, one of the witnesses above, in 1759 sold land adjoining William Mills and Edward Watts. (See abstract under that date.)

On 15 April 1740, Peter “Bayse,” son of Peter Bayse, was an orphan over age 14 in Goochland County, where he chose David Walker as his guardian with Benjamin Cocke as Walker’s surety.<sup>296</sup> On 14 June 1759, Peter “Bayse” and his wife Sarah of **Halifax County** sold this Watts tract to William Gilliam for £70.<sup>297</sup> They would subsequently live on Goblingtown Creek of **Henry Co.**, after Halifax was split to form **Pittsylvania Co.** and Pittsylvania was split to form Henry.<sup>298</sup>

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<sup>295</sup> Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Deed & Will Abstracts, 1748–1752* (N.P.: Antient Press, 1990), 43, citing “Wills & Deeds No. 1, pp. 96–97.” Peter Bays did not keep the land. On 13 December 1760 William Gilliam sold it to Nicholas Davis of Cumberland Co., saying that Thomas had received patent for the 400 acres “on branches of Pedlar River” on 5 April 1748. No neighbors were named. See Sparacio, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Deed Abstract, 1761–1764* (N.P.: Antient Press, 1988), 4. Nicholas Davis is said to be the father of Robert Davis who witnessed William Mills’s 1755 will.

<sup>296</sup> Ann K. Blomquist, *Goochland County, Virginia, Court Order Book 4, 1735–1741* (Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 2010), 481.

<sup>297</sup> Amherst Co., VA, Deed Book 2: 128.

<sup>298</sup> Library of Virginia, “Land Office Grants,” database with images, *Virginia Memory* ([http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=120&last=&g\\_p=P33&collection=LO Grant](http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=120&last=&g_p=P33&collection=LO Grant) : downloaded 20 May 2016), Bays, Peter, 50 acres on Goblingtown Creek adjoining Jeremiah Claunch’s land, Pittsylvania; citing “Land Office Grants C, 1780–1781, p. 120 (Reel 44).” Also Henry Co. Deed Book 2: 309 (James & Martha Ingrum sell to William Walden Jr., land adj. William Martin, Henry Sumpter, and Haley; witnessed by Peter Bays, Nathan & Joseph Walden, 27 Mar. 1783). [This Walden family is frequently confused with the Waltons by researchers who have not carefully reconstructed the lives of each individual.] Also Deed Book 2: 378–79 (James & Martha Ingrum to William Martin, 75 acres on Goblingtown Creek adj. Roland Horslee Birks, Rowland Chiles, David Haley; witnessed by Peter Bays, Nathaniel & Joseph Walden, 15 Feb. 1783.)

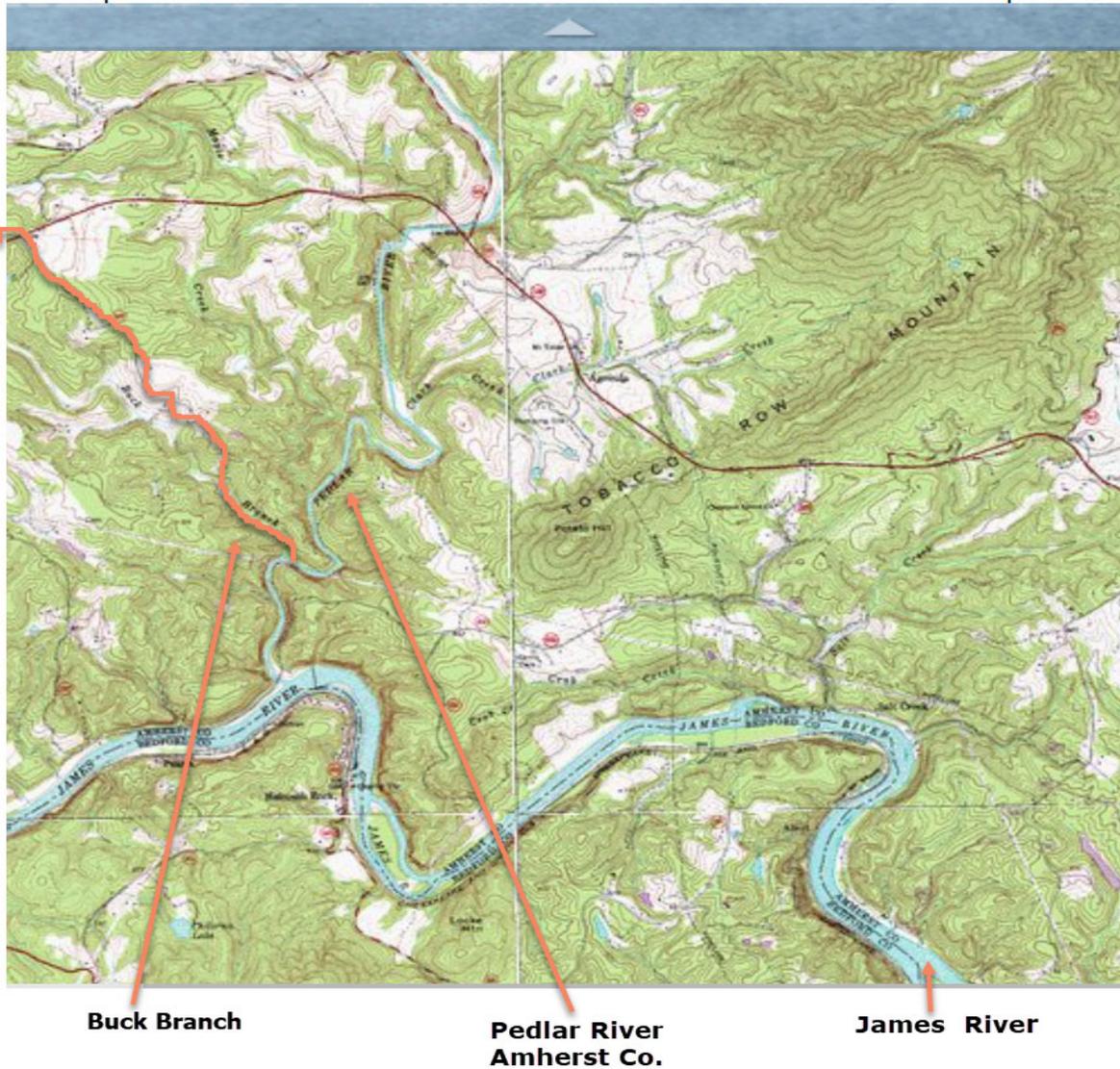
**William Mills (c1695–1755)  
Spouse Mary [—?—]**

**COMMENT:**

Map 9 provides a topographical map of the Albemarle region in which the Millses settled. Note the presence of Miner's Mountain lies to the North, just above Maple Creek and the dotted red line. The green oval above the dotted line is the southwest portion of Miner's Mountain.

**Map 10  
Pedlar River & Buck's Branch: Albemarle (then Amherst) Co. VA**

USGS Map Name: [Lynchburg, VA](#) Map MRC: 37079D2  
Map Center: N37.49977° W79.24635° Datum: NAD27 Zoom: 16m/pixel



**William Mills (c1695–1755)**  
**Spouse Mary [—?—]**

**1750**

**LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA**

Tithe roll.<sup>299</sup>

List taken by **John Phelps**

[skip 34 households]

Jno. Payne[’s list]

Chs. Spurlock

**Ambrose Mills**

**4** [Mills is shown on next year’s list as Payne’s overseer]

[skip 5 households]

**Wm. Stone**

[Ambrose Mills married **Mourning Stone**]<sup>300</sup>

Robt. Irons

**Wm. Stone Junr.**

**Eusebius Stone**

**4**

**1750**

**LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA**

Disambiguation.

List taken by **Nicholas Haile**

Haile’s precinct includes one William Mills and one Thomas Watts, as follows:

**William Mills**

**1**

[skip 17 tithe households]

**Thomas Wats**

**1**

COMMENT:

A second Thomas Watts appears consistently in a different Lunenburg precinct from 1748 through 1752. That precinct had a succession of different captains: 1748, Lewis Deloney; 1749 and 1750, William Howard; 1752, Field Jefferson. *Thomas of the Deloney-Howard-Jefferson precinct was almost certainly the one who married Sarah Mills.* No evidence ties him to the Thomas “Wats” of Haile’s precinct.

At first consideration, one must question whether the two men in Haile’s precinct represent the Mills-Watts family who then lived along the Lunenburg–Albemarle line. The temptation to assume this is strong, given that Lunenburg court and tithe records of 1748–52 includes

- Ambrose Mills, son of William of Albemarle
- Thomas Watts, who married Ambrose’s sister Sarah
- Edward Watts, father of Thomas, who also owned land on Albemarle’s Pedlar River

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<sup>299</sup> Landon C. Bell, *Sunlight on the Southside: List of Tithes, Lunenburg County, Virginia; 1748–1783* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1974), 150–54, particularly p. 152; no source cited.

<sup>300</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. Draper, the famed creator of the Draper Manuscripts at the Wisconsin Historical Society, corresponded from the 1840s with thousands of families of participants in the Revolution to acquire privately held records, memoirs, etc. His biography of Col. Ambrose Mills, however, does not provide sources.

## William Mills (c1695–1755) Spouse Mary [—?—]

However, in 1750 Lunenburg was a vast county that stretched 150 miles from east to west along the Virginia–North Carolina border. (See Map 7.) It embraced 9 modern counties:

1746	Lunenburg was cut from Brunswick County
1752	Halifax was cut from Lunenburg; to the southwest of current Lunenburg
1753	Bedford was cut from Lunenburg; it now lies several counties to the west
1764	Mecklenburg was cut from Southeast Lunenburg; to the south of current Lunenburg
1764	Charlotte was cut from Lunenburg; west of current Lunenburg and Mecklenburg
1767	Pittsylvania was cut from the west of Halifax
1777	Henry was cut from western Pittsylvania; called Patrick Henry County until 1790
1785	Franklin County was created from N half of Henry and S half of Bedford
1790	Patrick County was cut from western Henry

The amount of tithes assigned to the William Mills of Haile’s precinct is insufficient to account for the males in the household of William Mills Sr. of Pedlar River

The 1750 William of Haile’s precinct was not William Jr., son of William and Mary. **A detailed study of the 140 males listed with this William on the 1750 tithe roll closely connects him with one John Mills** who was in Lunenburg as early as 1746,<sup>301</sup> but was cut away into Bedford County where he remained until at least 1766. In 1769, as a resident of Augusta, John sold his Bedford land; after the creation of Botetourt, his Augusta residence fell into the new county and his estate was probated there in 1782. His associates were Smiths, Hays, and Ewings in Bedford, and Sayers in Augusta and Botetourt.<sup>302</sup>

Both John and William were rooted in Augusta County. William’s land was the well-known site, Mills Mountain. John had many holdings there. When William prepared to move to Anson Co., NC, he gave his power of attorney to John (then in Lunenburg) to sell his Augusta lands.<sup>303</sup>

### 12–14 APRIL 1750 ALBEMARLE COUNTY

Land survey.

**“Wm Mills’ 350 ac; Ap 12, 1750; on branches Buck Creek; [surveyed] 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>304</sup>**

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<sup>301</sup> See E. S. Mills, “William Mills of 1750 Tithe List, Lunenburg County, Virginia: Which William Was He?”, report to file, 20 June 2018; archived at *Historic Pathways* under the “Research” tab.

<sup>302</sup> E. S. Mills, “Mills: Extended Survey of Resources for Bedford County, Virginia,” report to file, 28 August 2018. Also E. S. Mills, “Mills & Associates: Montgomery, Fincastle & Botetourt Counties, Virginia: Initial Survey,” report to file, 28 August 2018. Both are archived at *Historic Pathways* under the “Research” tab.

<sup>303</sup> E. S. Mills, “Augusta County & the Virginia Frontier, Mills & Watts: Initial Survey ...,” report to file, 8 February 2019; archived at *Historic Pathways* under the “Research” tab.

<sup>304</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 (c1695–1755)**  
**Spouse Mary [—?—]**

**3 APRIL 1750**  
**ALBEMARLE COUNTY**

Land survey.

John Taliaferro; 400 ac; Ap 3, 1750; on branches Franklins and **Mills Creek** [Mills Creek]; by William Cabell; joining **James Smith**, Howard Cash, James Wade.<sup>305</sup>

COMMENT:

It is likely this is *not* a reference to a creek owned by William Mills. The volume carries no earlier reference to a Franklin for whom a creek might be named. It does provide several earlier references to the adjacent neighbors:

**2, 6 APRIL 1748**

- “Howard Cash; 400 ac ... branches of the Late Secretary Carters Mill Creek; by William Cabell”
- “Howard Cash; 180 ac; on Thresher Creek; by William Cabell”
- “James Smith; “400 ac; on branches Threshers Creek; by Thomas Turpin; joining Jacob Smith.”<sup>306</sup>

**21 AUGUST 1750**  
**GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA**

Unproved possibility

*Franc. Kerby to John Payne*, both of Goochland, “for and in Consideration of the sd *John Payne* Entering into Bond for the Conveying a Certain Tract of Land containing three hundred & twenty Acres lying in the County of Albemarle on **Breamo Creek** ... Kerby conveys to Payne land in Goochland “on the Branches of **Lickinghole & Wild Bore Creeks**,” 150 acres being a Dividend of Land the sd. Frs. Kirby bought of **William Mills** by Deed baring date” 12 March 1733. Described as:

Beginning at a corner Hickory thence South 36 degrees East 148 Poles to a corner white Oak, thence S 54 Degrees West 110 Poles to a large corner Pine, thence N 36 Degrees West 148 Poles to a corner Pine, thence North 54 Degrees East 110 Poles to the beginning.

Signed: Francis Kearby.

Witnesses: Wm. Michell, Wm. Payne, *Josias Payne*

21 Aug 1750 proved by oaths of Willm. Michell, Wm. Payne, Josias Payne, “Recd. Pr. Me, Francis Kearby.”

21 August 1750

“At a Court held for Goochland County ... Francis Kerby Acknowledged this Deed with the Livery of Seizin & receipt Endorsed to be his Acts & Deeds which were ord<sup>d</sup> to be recorded. Then **Mary, wife of the sd Kerby** (being first Privately examined) relinquished her right of Dower in the Land. ...<sup>307</sup>

COMMENT:

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<sup>305</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; citing vol. 1, p. 124.

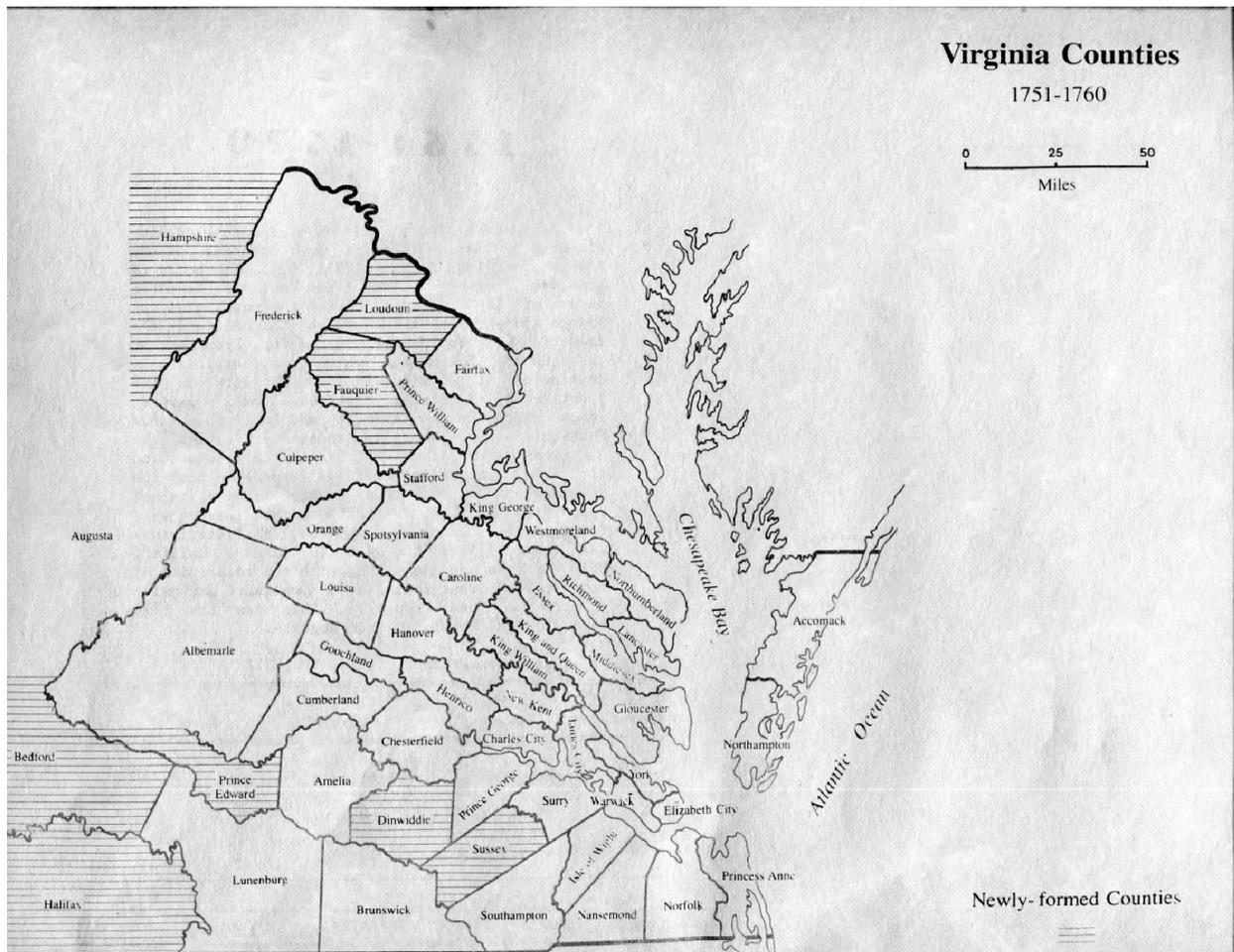
<sup>306</sup> Eric G. Grundset, “*Land lying in the County of Albemarle:*” *Albemarle County, Virginia Surveyors’ Plat Books, Volume 1, Parts 1 and 2, and Volume 2, 1744–1853 [and 1891]* (Fairfax, VA: Privately printed, 1998), pp. 15, 17; citing original pages 57 and 63.

<sup>307</sup> Goochland Co., VA, Deed Book 6, 1748–1855, pp. 85–88.

**William Mills (c1695–1755)  
Spouse Mary [—?—]**

The 1750 and 1752 tax rolls of Lunenburg [1751 is missing] show Ambrose Mills acting as overseer for John Payne.

**Map 11  
Virginia Counties, 1751–1760<sup>308</sup>**



<sup>308</sup> Michael F. Doran, *Atlas of County Boundary Changes in Virginia, 1634–1895* (Athens, GA: Iberian Publishing Co., 1987), 23.

**William Mills (c1695–1755)**  
**Spouse Mary [—?—]**

**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”]<sup>309</sup>

**Ambrose Mills, Overseer 7**

COMMENT:

John Payne was indeed an absentee landlord in Lunenburg and a substantial resident of Goochland from the 1730s where he was a neighbor and associate of the William Mills of Lickinghole Creek and the ridge between Willis River and Guinea Creek.

**13 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.”

Sealed & Delivered in the presence of } [no witnesses named]

“Memorandum That on this xiiith day of August 1752 Quiet & peaceable Possession & Seisin of the within Land & premises was had & taken by the within mentioned William Mills & by him Delivered to the within mentioned Martha Massie according to the form & effect of the within written Deed in due form of Law. [Signed] William Mills. ~~7 August 1752~~, Mills put Massie in possession of the property.

“Recd Augt 13<sup>th</sup> 1752 of Martha Massie the Sum of two hundred Pounds being the Consideration within expressed I say by me. [Signed] William Mills.

“At a Court held for Albemarle County the 13<sup>th</sup> Day of August 1762, This Indenture memorandum of Livery of Seisin & Receipt thereof endorsed were acknowledged by William Mills one of the parties thereto and Ordered to be recorded. Mary the wife of the said William personal appeared in Court & being first privately examined as the Law Directs voluntarily relinquished her right of Dower to the Estate conveyed by the said Indenture. Test [signed] John Nicholas, Clk.”<sup>310</sup>

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<sup>309</sup> This John Payne of Goochland was a large-scale land speculator, who also appeared in deeds with William Mills of Goochland in the 1730s and 1740s. See E. S. Mills, “Mills, Watts & Related Families: Initial Survey of Goochland and Cumberland Cos., VA,” report to file, 21 June 2016; archived at *Historic Pathways* under the “Research” tab.

<sup>310</sup> Albemarle Co. Wills & Deeds, Book 1: 475–76.

## William Mills (c1695–1755) Spouse Mary [—?—]

### COMMENT:

Deeds proved that same day:

- John Moore & wife Mary, drafted 13 August 1752, in favor of Arthur Hopkins, had three witnesses but was acknowledged in court by Moore and wife (pp. 470-72)
- Alexander Henderson of Augusta County to John McWhorter, drafted in July, proved in court by witnesses George Powell, William Simson & Samuel Man (pp. 472–74)
- Thomas his T Mark Wright to Alexander Murray drafted in July, was proved on the same day and processed the same as the above, except that it did have witnesses. The preceding deed from July was proved 13 August 1752 by oaths of John McCord, Peter Hairston, and William Terrell (pp. 474–75)
- This land was William’s first grant in Albemarle, entered and surveyed while he was still in Goochland and patented in 1749 on “**Pedlar River and Dancing Creek.**”
- The purchaser of this land was the widow of the Burgess William Massie; she was née Martha Macon, daughter of Col. Thomas Macon, all of New Kent, although William and his brother Thomas also owned land in Goochland.<sup>311</sup>
- Why would a young widow woman with two small boys—from some 200 miles away—be here in Albemarle? Her husband’s will named no daughters,<sup>312</sup> with whom she might be living.
- Why would a widow choose this land? It’s rural, not a town lot where she would have close neighbors. It was not undeveloped land that could be bought cheaply as a speculative investment. It had a home that was likely commodious, given the size of William’s family and the fact that he died owning slaves.
- **Typically, Mills would be part of Martha’s support network.** However, I have not found any other association between his family and hers.

After selling this first of his Pedlar grant to Martha, William’s principal plantation became the 350 acres that he had surveyed in 1750 on Buck Creek of the Pedlar.

Almost certainly, Martha settled on this land. Four years later, 16 June 1756, she received a patent to a 400-acre treasury-warrant grant in Albemarle described as follows:

‘Beginning at the said Martha Massie’s corner, Pointers and running thence new Lines South 62° E 238 Poles to a white Oak in **Colonel Lunsford Lomax’s** Line, thence on his line S 10° W 105 to Pointers, thence new lines N 43½° E 348 Poles to a white Oak in the River side thence up the River as it Meanders which on a strait Course is 233 poles to a red Oak, thence S 4° E 208 Poles to pointers, thence S 19° E 76 Poles to the first Station.’<sup>313</sup>

The reference to “beginning at ... Martha Massie’s corner” tells us she already held surveyed land. That should be one of the corners of the 400 acres she bought “on both sides of Pedlar River,” from William Mills.

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<sup>311</sup> “Massie Family,” Lyon Gardiner Tyler, ed., *William & Mary College Quarterly* 13 (1890): 196–203.

<sup>312</sup> “Massie Family,” Lyon Gardiner Tyler, ed., *William & Mary College Quarterly* 13 (1890): 201–2.

<sup>313</sup> Library of Virginia, “Land Office Grants,” database with images, *Virginia Memory* ([http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=14&last=&g\\_p=P33&collection=LO\\_Patent](http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=14&last=&g_p=P33&collection=LO_Patent) : downloaded 20 May 2016), “Massie, Martha, grantee ... Albemarle County ... 400 acres on north side of Pedlar River”; citing “Land Office Patents No. 338, 1756–61 (v. 1, 2, 3, & 4 p. 1–1095), p. 14 (Reel 32–32).”

## William Mills (c1695–1755) Spouse Mary [—?—]

Accounts of the Massie family frequently (**but dubiously**) assert that Martha subsequently married Col. Theoderick Bland. They typically attribute this to a note made in the *William & Mary College Quarterly*, by its editor Lyon Gardiner Tyler, in 1890. That note is as follows:

“It is said that after the death of William Massie ... his widow Martha married Theodrick Bland.\*

\*Among the Massie papers in the Virginia Historical Society is a survey of 87 acres on Black Creek by John Street, surveyor of New Kent county, made as stated in the paper, according to an order of the General Court, May 5, 1759, in a suit entitled “Massie by Colon<sup>l</sup> Theoderick Bland in trespass vs. George Wilkinson, Jr.”<sup>314</sup>

However, the fact that Col. Bland sued Wilkinson on behalf of the Widow Massie does *not* mean that he married the widow. He may simply have been acting as her representative in New Kent, given that women did not personally conduct legal suits in this era. Typically a “best friend” (a legal term for a woman’s male representative) pursued court suits for women when they had legal issues to resolve. As a resident of Pedlar River, the widow would have needed a legal representative in New Kent to handle any legal affairs that arose there.

Earlier historians report a second marriage for Col. Bland, who was a county clerk and Burgess in Prince George County, but identify that wife as **Elizabeth Randolph**, daughter of Edward Randolph and widow of Rev. William Yates, the fifth president of the College of William and Mary. In July 1901, the editor of the *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* reported:

There is also in Amelia [County] a deed dated May 8, 1784, from Theoderick Bland, Sr., to Wm. Yates, both of Amelia, reciting the fact that the said Theoderick Bland by his marriage with Elizabeth Yates, widow, mother of the said Wm. Yates, became entitled to several slaves, &c. The will of Theoderick Bland, dated July 16, 1783, was proved in Amelia; legatees: son Theoderic, **wife**, daughter Frances Tucker, grandsons John Banister and Theoderick Bland Ruffin. Son-in-law {step-son}, William Yates and son-in-law St. George Tucker, &c, executors.”<sup>315</sup>

In short, there is no credible evidence that the widowed Martha (Macon) Massie married Col. Theoderick Bland.

### TO DO:

**Pursue Martha Massie’s life, birth family, in-laws, and all identifiable from her widowhood to her grave!**

**12 APRIL 1754**  
**ALBEMARLE COUNTY**

<sup>314</sup> “The Massies,” Lyon Gardiner Tyler, ed., *William & Mary College Quarterly* 13 (1890): 196–203, and 15 (1892): 125.

<sup>315</sup> Theodorick Bland, *The Bland Papers: Being a Selection from the Manuscripts of Colonel Theodorick Bland, Jr.* 2 vols. (Petersburg, VA: E. & J. C. Ruffin, 1840), 2: xv. Also Charles Campbell, *History of the Colony and Ancient Dominion of Virginia* (N.Y.: J. B. Lippincott and Co., 1860), 672. Also William G. Stanard, ed., “Genealogy,” *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* 7 (January 1900): 331–32, 436. Also Stanard, ed., “Selections from the Campbell Papers,” *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* 9 (June 1902): 59–77, transcribing a series of Bland family letters in the Campbell Papers of the Virginia Historical Society; particularly see editorial notes on p. 66.

**William Mills (c1695–1755)**  
**Spouse Mary [—?—]**

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>316</sup>

COMMENT:

- This would seem *not* to be one continuous tract, given the range of waterways. The Pedlar land clearly lay in western Albemarle, while Tuckahoe Creek was the eastern bound of Goochland County.
- Robert Davis would be a witness to the 1755 will of William Mills. Robert, as subsequently noted, died leaving land in Montgomery County where one Sarah Mills married in 1791—believed to be the daughter of William’s son Jesse by Lucy Tilman.

**26 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 Testament 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).

“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—

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<sup>316</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), 63; citing vol. 1, p. 277.

**William Mills (c1695–1755)**  
**Spouse Mary [—?—]**

“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>317</sup>

COMMENT:

This is the last document created by or about William Mills as a living person, suggesting that he died soon after the will was created.

The land on which William lived—the land left to his widow and youngest son Jesse—was the 350-acre tract that was surveyed in 1750 but not patented to him until 1756.

The 330 acres “unsettled,” should be the 330 acres that were surveyed in 1750 and finally patented to the name “William Mills” in July 1766, shortly before his will was submitted for probate. 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.)

The wording of William’s bequest to Ambrose raises issues of interpretation. On the surface it seems simple: “his mother (my wife).” However,

- The double identification is unusual within wills. Why did William Mills, after saying that Ambrose would inherit the land after his mother’s death, then feel the need to amplify that identity by adding that he meant “(my wife)”?
- This question raises the possibility that Ambrose may have been born of an earlier wife and that William’s reference to “his mother” was a slip of the tongue based upon the fact that Mary as a second wife had “mothered” (i.e., reared) all his children—and that, after having written “his mother” with reference to Ambrose, William felt the need to clarify exactly who he was referencing.
- Notice also that in the last Item, where William names his son Thomas’s children as residual

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<sup>317</sup> Amherst Co., VA, Will Book 1: 73–76 for will and executrix’s bond.

## William Mills (c1695–1755) Spouse Mary [—?—]

heirs after the death of Mary, he doesn't say "after the death of their grandmother." Rather, he says "after my dearly beloved Wife Mary Mills's Death."

### TO DO:

- **Study all the witnesses;** use them as pointers to pre-Albemarle origins for William and Mary. All of these witnesses were neighbors on Pedlar River. William Floyd bought his land from Robert Davis, whose alleged father Nicholas Davis/Davies lived in the part of Goochland that was cut off into Cumberland.<sup>318</sup>

### COMMENTS ON JOPLING:

At least one online tree identifies Thomas as the son of Ralph Joplin(g), born 10 February 1674 in Wolsingham, Durham. It places Ralph's immigration at pre-1714 (citing Nugent's *Cavaliers & Pioneers*), and places his death at 1720 in Henrico, the parent county of Goochland. Thomas himself is said to have been born 1708 in Henrico.<sup>319</sup> By 1735, he had married Hannah Freeman, daughter of Henrico's George Freeman.<sup>320</sup>

Joplin—who declined to serve as executor when William Mills finally died in 1766—appears in Albemarle/Amherst deeds of 1750 amid the Roses and Davises who were neighbors of William Mills. He was the father-in-law of William's will-witness Robert Davis.<sup>321</sup> However, Joplin's land grants place him in the area that became Nelson County. In 1782, Joplin posted bond as administrator of the estate of Robert Davis, his fellow witness to the Mills will.<sup>322</sup>

As a summary of what has been found on Joplin through a cursory search of published Goochland and Albemarle records:

- June 1729 (first reference found), **Thomas Joplin** is named as buyer of Goochland land in deed of *John Parish* proved in this month's court. Parish also proved a deed from himself to Joseph Watkins.<sup>323</sup> (Parish has been previously seen as a 1734 neighbor to **Wild Boar** land of William Mills.)
- September 1729, **Thomas Joplin** was named to road crew on "Road from Tuckahoe creek mill to the main River road ... (Thomas Wadloe, Joseph Watkins, **Thomas Joplin**, James Moss, David Clarkson, Thomas Goslby, George Thompson, Samuel Butler, Andrew Pruit, John

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<sup>318</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807; and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), abstracts numerous deeds for all these men that need to be studied more closely.

<sup>319</sup> Ralph Mitchell Thomas, "Thomas Family Tree," *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/60647195/person/40442210492/facts> : accessed 29 January 2019), facts page for Ralph Joplin. Ibid. (<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/60647195/person/40427235079/facts>) facts page for Thomas Joplin.

<sup>320</sup> Henrico Co. Wills & Deeds, 1725–1737, p. 518, will of George Freeman of Henrico, 3 October 1735, with bequest to "son in law Thomas Joplin and his wife my daughter Hannah Joplin."

<sup>321</sup> Amherst Co. Will Book 2: 33, for Thomas Jopling's bond as administrator of the estate of Robert Davis, husband of Jopling's daughter Jane. At Davis's death, he left land in Montgomery County; see Amherst Deed Book R: 223.

<sup>322</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Wills of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1865* (1985; reprint, Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1998), 101; citing Amherst Will Book 2: 33.

<sup>323</sup> Ann K. Blomquist, *Goochland County, Virginia, Court Order Books 1 & 2, 1728–1731* (Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 2007), 105–6.

## William Mills (c1695–1755) Spouse Mary [—?—]

Sorrell, Mathew Collins, George Perrin, **Robert Burton** and Henry Wood.”<sup>324</sup>

### COMMENT:

- Tuckahoe Creek was the eastern boundary of Goochland, separating it from Henrico.
- Re Robert Burton: a litany of Goochland records imply that he was the father of Nowel Burton, who sued Ambrose Mills in 1743.
- August 1731, **Thomas Joplin** was sued for debt by George Alves, at which time the sheriff reported that he could not find Joplin; an alias capias was issued against Joplin, returnable at next court term.<sup>325</sup> The case was dismissed in December 1731.<sup>326</sup>
- May 1733, Daniell Stoner’s suit against **Thomas Joplin** was dismissed for nonprosecution;<sup>327</sup> the origin of this case is not in the Goochland minutes, suggesting that it may have originated in **Henrico** before Goochland was created.
- July 1737, **Ralph Joplin** (apparent brother of Thomas, who also removed to Albemarle and took out land adjacent to Thomas) was sued by Joseph Farrer, case dismissed for nonsuit.<sup>328</sup>
- September 1737, **Thomas Joplin of Henrico** was witness “for the King a[ gains]t John Griffin and was ordered to be paid for “two days Attendance and for Coming and returning twenty miles twice.”<sup>329</sup> [He lived either 10 miles or 20 miles from the Goochland courthouse, depending upon the intent here. He might have made a round trip of ten miles each way on two different days—or one round trip of 20 miles each way, while staying overnight in Goochland.]
- September 1738, **Thomas Joplin** was sued by Henry Cary for debt.<sup>330</sup> No reference is made this time to his being or living out of the county.
- February 1738/9, **Thomas Joplin** was one of a crew (John Watson, Isaac Johnson, John Johnson, John Barnet, John Farrar, Strangeman Hutchens, Joel Watkins & Joplin) assigned to assist Philip Webber, road surveyor, in making a road over Tuckahoe Creek.<sup>331</sup> Again, this tells us that Joplin lived in the extreme east of Goochland, along the Henrico line. That location seems to be about 30 miles from William Mills on Lickinghole Creek.
- September 1741, **Thomas Joplin** and William Farrar Jr. witnessed deed from John Woodson to Robert Burton.<sup>332</sup>
- November 1742, **Thomas Joplin’s** deed of purchase from James Holman was proved in court.<sup>333</sup>

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<sup>324</sup> Ann K. Blomquist, *Goochland County, Virginia, Court Order Books 1 & 2, 1728–1731* (Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 2007), 136. Henry Wood was a merchant who (in 1733) sued Phillip Hoggatt, a resident of the Lickinghole area, for debt to Wood’s “store book” account. See Goochland Co. Order Book 3: 208.

<sup>325</sup> Ann K. Blomquist, *Goochland County, Virginia, Court Order Books 1 & 2, 1728–1731* (Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 2007), 406.

<sup>326</sup> Ann K. Blomquist, *Goochland County, Virginia, Court Order Books 3, 1731–1735* (Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 2006), 6, 27.

<sup>327</sup> Ann K. Blomquist, *Goochland County, Virginia, Court Order Books 3, 1731–1735* (Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 2006), 231.

<sup>328</sup> Ann K. Blomquist, *Goochland County, Virginia, Court Order Books 4, 1735–1741* (Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 2010), 206.

<sup>329</sup> Ann K. Blomquist, *Goochland County, Virginia, Court Order Books 4, 1735–1741* (Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 2010), 379.

<sup>330</sup> Ann K. Blomquist, *Goochland County, Virginia, Court Order Books 4, 1735–1741* (Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 2010), 377.

<sup>331</sup> Ann K. Blomquist, *Goochland County, Virginia, Court Order Books 4, 1735–1741* (Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 2010), 388.

<sup>332</sup> Ann K. Blomquist, *Goochland County, Virginia, Court Order Books 5, 1741–1745* (Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 2010), 3.

<sup>333</sup> Ann K. Blomquist, *Goochland County, Virginia, Court Order Books 5, 1741–1745* (Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 2010), 155.

## William Mills (c1695–1755) Spouse Mary [—?—]

- October 1744, **Thomas Joplin** was sued by Stephen Cox for debt, with imparlance granted to Joplin.<sup>334</sup>
- February 1744/5, **Thomas Joplin** was appointed road overseer between Rockfish Creek and Hardware River in eastern Albemarle.

### COMMENT:

While he seems to have moved there about the time that William and Mary Mills settled on the Pedlar, there was some 70 or more miles distance between his place of settlement and that of William and Mary.<sup>335</sup> However, Joplin's daughter Jane was married to William Mills's neighbor Robert Davis, one of the men who witnessed William's will.<sup>336</sup>

- 20 Sep 1751, **Thomas Joplin** received patents for 300 acres on N side of S fork of Rockfish, adj. Widow Johnson; and 400 acres on S side of Rockfish, adj. Widow Upton's line and John Farrar's? line.<sup>337</sup>
- "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>338</sup>

### COMMENT:

There is no reference to a wife signing with him or relinquishing her dower.

- "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 [allegedly Farrar], wife of Ralph Joplin."<sup>339</sup>
- "20 Aug 1760 Jno. Wright, Orange, N.C. to **Thos. Jopling** for £100, 400 acres **N side of Rockfish**; part of 800 a. bought from Col. Jno. Chiswell, adj. Alex. Montgomery, Chiswell."<sup>340</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>341</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:

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<sup>334</sup> Ann K. Blomquist, *Goochland County, Virginia, Court Order Books 5, 1741–1745* (Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 2010), 475.

<sup>335</sup> Joanne Lovelace Nance, "Albemarle County, Virginia, Court Orders, 1744/45–1748; February Term 1744/45 to June Term 1745," *Magazine of Virginia Genealogy* 26, no. 2 (May 1988): 115–16; imaged in "Virginia Genealogical Society Quarterly," *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : 9 July 2018). The Albemarle Court Order series begins with this issue and runs for several years.

<sup>336</sup> Amherst Co., VA, Order Book, 1773–1782, p. 455, for motion of Thomas Joplin "father to the said Jane Davis" to be appointed administrator of the estate of Jane's late husband Robert Davis; imaged *FamilySearch* digital film 7856348 > image 122.

<sup>337</sup> "Land Office Grants," *Library of Virginia* ([http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=5&last=&g\\_p=P31&collection=LO Patent](http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=5&last=&g_p=P31&collection=LO Patent) : downloaded 9 February 2018), citing "Land Office Patents No. 31, 1751-1756 (v.1 & 2 p. 1-751), p. 5 (Reel 29)." Also *ibid.* ([http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=6&last=&g\\_p=P31&collection=LO Patent](http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=6&last=&g_p=P31&collection=LO Patent) ), 400 acres, Thomas Jopling, citing same vol. p. 6.

<sup>338</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>339</sup> *Ibid.*, 32; citing Albemarle Deed Book 2: 32.

<sup>340</sup> *Ibid.*, 49; citing Albemarle Deed Book 3: 32.

<sup>341</sup> *Ibid.*, 49; citing Albemarle Deed Book 3: 52.

## William Mills (c1695–1755) Spouse Mary [—?—]

- Thomas Farrar, William Cox, James Jopling. Court held at Henry Key's 7 Dec 1761 ... This first courthouse was in what is now **Nelson County**.<sup>342</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>343</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>344</sup>
  - "3 Nov 1766. Jos. Upton, Alb[emarle] to **Thomas Jopling**, AC, for 60 pds, 400 acres. Lines: Bryary Branch. Wit: Geo. Seaton, **Edmund Wilcox**, Neill Campbell."<sup>345</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>346</sup>
  - 4 April 1774." Eliz. 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>347</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>348</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>349</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>350</sup>

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<sup>342</sup> Ibid., 71; citing Amherst Deed Book A: 15. "AC" is the compiler's shorthand for Amherst County.

<sup>343</sup> Ibid., 77; citing Amherst Deed Book A: 120.

<sup>344</sup> Ibid., 78, 85; citing Amherst Deed Book A: 142, 299.

<sup>345</sup> Ibid., 99; citing Amherst Deed Book A: 179.

<sup>346</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>347</sup> Ibid., 82.

<sup>348</sup> Ibid., 184; citing Amherst Deed Book E: 157–59.

<sup>349</sup> Ibid., 185; citing Amherst Deed Book E: 174.

<sup>350</sup> Ibid., 198; citing Amherst Deed Book 3: 334.

**William Mills (c1695–1755)**  
**Spouse Mary [—?—]**

- “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. to Jopling, Sept. 1788.”<sup>351</sup>
- “2 July 1787. **Thos. Jopling**, AC, to Jos. Smith, AC, for £40, 300 acres both sides **Rockfish**.” Then on 19 Jan 1789, **Thomas Jopling**, AC & **wife Hannah**, AC, to Wm. Ball of Albemarle, for £200, 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>352</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>353</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[iah]** 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>354</sup>
- 24 August 1789, diarist William Cabell recorded: “**Thomas Jopling the elder** departed this life in a very advanced age. He was truly an honest Man and his death much lamented by all his Acquaintances.”<sup>355</sup>

COMMENT:

- Past 1789, the Thos. Joplin(g) entries are clearly to Thomas Jr. 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.
  - By 1758, the two men were living in different parts of Albemarle/Amherst.
  - They have almost no associates in common.
  - Joplin *did* have a grandson named Jesse—a name also given to a son by William and Mary Mills—but that Jesse Joplin was also the grandson of Jesse Allen whose daughter Alsey married Joplin’s son.<sup>356</sup>
  - The probate of William’s will also shows that Jopling declined to serve.

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<sup>351</sup> Ibid., 229; citing Amherst Deed Book R: 223.

<sup>352</sup> Ibid., 238; citing Amherst Deed Book E: 169, 380.

<sup>353</sup> Ibid., 242; citing Amherst Deed Book F: 10.

<sup>354</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>355</sup> “Receipt Book, 1751–1755, and Diary 15 July 1783–31 Dec 1795 of William Cabbell Sr.,” Folder 1, image 148, MS 23338, Cabell Family: Diaries, 1751–1825; Library of Virginia, Richmond.

<sup>356</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Wills of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1865* (1985; reprint, Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1998), 3.

## William Mills (c1695–1755) Spouse Mary [—?—]

**SO: Why would William Mills name Joplin to be a co-executor of his estate, together with William’s wife?** The two most common explanations would be these:

- Joplin was a relative or in-law—either related to Mary or married to a sister of William.
- Mills and Joplin seem to have had a friendship that pre-dated their removals to Albemarle. Records do show that they both came to Albemarle from Goochland, but the Goochland records used thus far do not show interaction between them there. To date, I have identified only one connective thread: Thomas Joplin’s friend Robert Burton was the putative father of Nowel Burton who sued Ambrose Mills.

Also relevant: by 1755, William’s son Thomas had died, his son Ambrose was preparing to leave for the Carolinas, and his son William had been in North Carolina for several years. Only the youngest son, Jesse, still not of age, remained at home and was being given the family homestead apparently in exchange for caring for the parents. Joplin’s decision not to assist with the estate settlement in 1766 may have been prompted by the fact that William lived another eleven years after drafting the will and, by the time of his death, did have an adult son in the county to assist the widowed Mary.

However, this 1755 need for a trustworthy executor in lieu of sons does not explain William Mills’s choice of someone with whom we find no prior interaction. If Joplin were a public official—a notary, county clerk, or attorney with legal expertise—his choice might be logical; but at least one of Joplin’s records carry his “mark,” implying he could not read and write.

### 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>357</sup>

#### COMMENT:

Other Learwood researchers offer garbled accounts for this husband of Elizabeth and suggest he was the family’s immigrant. An earlier John Learwood does appear in Goochland county records in a context suggesting that he was an older man or was ill that year. The two records I’ve found for him to-date are as follows:

### JUNE COURT 1733 GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA

“Learwood’s deed to Saunders, **John Learwood & Hannah his wife** (she being first privately examined) acknowledge a deed with the Livery of Seizin endorsed from the themselves to

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<sup>357</sup> TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 87; citing original p. 136.

**William Mills (c1695–1755)**  
**Spouse Mary [—?—]**

John Saunders to be their act & deed and it is thereupon admitted to record.”<sup>358</sup>

**AUGUST COURT 1733**  
**GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA**

“On the petition of **John Learwood** he is exempt from payment of leveys this year.”<sup>359</sup>

- 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:

**DECEMBER 1754**  
**GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA**

“**Moses Helm**, William Moore, Thomas Franklin, John Bollings Tiths, William Rutherford, James Murphy, **James Wheeler**, John Gollaway, Archibald Campbel, James McRunnals, Edward Phair, Nicholas Hayse, Lewis Franklin, Edmond Franklin, John Thompson, John Pleasants tithes, Natth’l Patteson, and John Carson are added to the hands that work on the Road whereof John Beard is Overseer.”<sup>360</sup>

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

**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 N 80° E 106? Poles to Pointers<sub>[,]</sub> S 35° E 19 Poles to **Arthur Tuley’s** Corner, then on Tuley’s Line S 75° E 100 Poles to Pointers in **Edward Watts’s** line<sub>[,]</sub> and on the same S 166 Poles to Pointers thence new lines S 1½° E 54 Poles crossing a **Branch** to Pointers<sub>[,]</sub> S 63° W 115 Poles to Robert Davis’s Corner at Pointers<sub>[,]</sub> thence on Davis’s Line N 74° W 45 Poles to Pointers N 47?° W 45 Poles to Pointers<sub>[,]</sub> N 15 to Pointers<sub>[,]</sub> thence N 15° E 48 Poles to a white oak Saplin<sub>[,]</sub> N 9 ... [the rest of the document seems to be missing from the record book].’<sup>361</sup>

COMMENT:

This Robert Davis, who was a neighbor to Thomas and witnessed William Mills’s 1755 will, was also an associate of Joplin in a capacity suggesting he could be an in-law.

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<sup>358</sup> Ann M. Blomquist, *Goochland County, Virginia, Court Order Book, 1731–1735* (Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 2006), 236; citing Order Book 3: 197.

<sup>359</sup> Ann M. Blomquist, *Goochland County, Virginia, Court Order Book, 1731–1735* (Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 2006), 249; citing Order Book 3: 207.

<sup>360</sup> *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 35.

<sup>361</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 (c1695–1755)**  
**Spouse Mary [—?—]**

Thomas Mills is said to be dead in the 1755 will of his father. After the patent was received, his land would not be sold for twenty-two years. In 1777, about the time that his estate would have been settled—assuming that his two children Ambrose and Elizabeth were infants at his death—his full 335 acres were sold by a John Turner and wife Elizabeth. No deed of purchase has been found by which the couple obtained it.

**19 SEPTEMBER 1777**  
**CHARLESTON, SC**

“**Jno. Turner & wife Eliz, Charles Town, S.C.** to Ashcraft Roach, AC, for £150, 335 acres on branch of Bader (sic) [Pedlar] River. Lines: Ro. Davis, Atthus Tuley, **Edwd. Watts**. Pat. to Thos. Mills 20 Mar 1756. Wit: Gabl. Penn, Thos. Lumpkin, Wm. Vannerson.”<sup>362</sup>

If Elizabeth Turner was Elizabeth Mills, daughter of Thomas, then this eliminates her from consideration as a mother of William Mills (with a Witt Y) who was born c1785.<sup>363</sup>

**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 of Pedlar River** bounded as follows:

‘Beginning at a Poplar and running thence W 35° E a leight [along?] **Peter Buck branch** 212 poles to Pointers on **Maple Creek**,<sup>[,]</sup> N 60° W at 10 poles a branch at 86 poles crossed it again to **Edward Watts Junr.** his corner Maple<sup>[,]</sup> and with his Line S 84° W 220 poles to pointers a new Line<sup>[,]</sup> S 40° W 48 poles to Pointers in **Thomas Mills’s** Line and with it S 16 Poles [to] other Pointers<sup>[,]</sup> the same course continued on a new Line<sup>[,]</sup> in all 192 Poles to Pointers<sup>[,]</sup> and N 83° E 268 poles to the Beginning.’<sup>364</sup>

COMMENT:

This should be the tract of land surveyed for William Sr. in 1750 and the home plantation referenced in William’s 1755 will. It was sold 1 September 1766 (just after his probate was opened) by his son Jesse, who appears to be the only son remaining in Virginia.

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

Court order.

“**Jas Mills** on attachment agst Jeremiah Moray dfdnt in debt; dfdnt’s debt not fully recovered by public

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<sup>362</sup> Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761–1807; and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748–1763* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), 179; citing Amherst Deed Book E:91. **Check original deed for more data.**

<sup>363</sup> See E. S. Mills, “William Mills (b. c1783–88; d. c1863) & Spouse Drucilla Kemp: Research Notes,” a work-in-progress last updated 28 August 2018; archived online at *Historic Pathways* under the “Research” tab.

<sup>364</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).”

**William Mills (c1695–1755)**  
**Spouse Mary [—?—]**

sale attachment, further execution ordered.”<sup>365</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.

This does not seem to be the James Mills who emerged as a non-landowner on the 1782 tax roll of Bedford County. Although online trees allege that James was born in Ireland in 1730 (and that he married “Octavia Breckenridge”), his children appear to have been born in the 1770s and 1780s, he did not own land until 1789 after his Maggoty Creek area of Bedford was cut away into Franklin, and no known record connects him to the Breckinridges of Augusta, Botetourt, and Montgomery Counties. James died in Franklin County, VA, 24 April 1824—according to countless online trees that provide no evidence for these specifics.<sup>366</sup>

**13 JUNE 1757**

**LUNENBURG COUNTY**

Land grant.

“On payment of 15 shillings, grant made unto **Thomas Leerwood** for 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** [Walton’s] Corner pointers on **Beard’s Old Path**, thence new lines N 65° E 134 poles to a Hicory, N 85° E 74 poles to a Hicory<sub>[,]</sub> N 65° E 36 poles to a white Oak<sub>[,]</sub> N 15° E 30 poles to a white Oak<sub>[,]</sub> S 65° E 120 poles to three white Oaks<sub>[,]</sub> S 20° E 44 poles to a Chesnut<sub>[,]</sub> S 75° W 76 poles to a white Oak<sub>[,]</sub> N 83° W 38 poles to a Hicory<sub>[,]</sub> S 70° W 80 poles to a white Oak<sub>[,]</sub> N 80° W 140 poles to a white Oak<sub>[,]</sub> S 15° W 40 poles to a Spanish Oak in **Wathens** line and thence along his line N 28° W 54 poles to the first Station.’<sup>367</sup>

**COMMENT:**

- The only Pilot Mountain I’ve located on Virginia maps lies in Montgomery County, formerly Botetourt. Beards were also in Botetourt. That Pilot Mountain is not in proximity to Lunenburg’s Reedy Creek.
- 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)

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<sup>365</sup> June Banks Evans, *Lunenburg County, Virginia: Order Book 24, 1755–57* (New Orleans, LA: Bryn Ffylliaid Publication, 1998), 38; citing Order Book 4: 198

<sup>366</sup> See E. S. Mills, “James Mills (bef. 1750–1823-24) & Wife [?Octavia Breckinridge?]: Research Notes,” a work-in-progress last updated 28 August 2018; archived at *Historic Pathways* under the “Research” tab.

<sup>367</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, William, 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).”

**William Mills (c1695–1755)**  
**Spouse Mary [—?—]**

Leerwood. Witnesses: Nathaniel Patterson, Joseph McMurtray, James Patterson.<sup>368</sup>

COMMENT:

Prince Edward was created 1754 from Amelia County. Lunenburg lies to the SE, Amelia to the NE, Buckingham to the NW, Cumberland to the N, Appomattox to the W, and Charlotte to the SW.

**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>369</sup>

**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 [Tuley]** 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 N & E to pointers[,] & N & W crossing **Maple Creek** to **Edward Watts’s Junr.** his corner Maple on the same[,] thence up the Creek with his line according to its meanders to **Stone’s** line & with the same S & E cross **Pedlar River** to pointers by the River[,] thence down the same according to its meanders to other pointers[,] thence S & W to a Sorrell Tree S & W crossing Pedlar River to pointers[,] N & W to Maple Creek 104 poles to Pointers[,] & N 23° W 92 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>370</sup>

COMMENT:

Thomas Smith witnessed the land sale of Thomas & Sarah (Watts) Mills in 1749. In the actual deed (the recorded version of 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>368</sup> Bedford Co., VA, Deed Book 1: 139–41. 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.

<sup>369</sup> TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 134.

<sup>370</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 recorded deed to verify the details.)

**William Mills (c1695–1755)**  
**Spouse Mary [—?—]**

TO DO:

Investigate Thomas Smith as potential kin of William or Mary.

**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 W 80 Poles to **William’s** corner white oak in the same, thence along his line N 224 Poles to his corner white Oak in **Kay’s (Ray’s? Key’s?)** line<sub>[,]</sub> thence along his line N 80° E 150 Poles to his corner two red Oaks in Callaway’s line, Thence along his line S 10° E 94 Poles to a red Oak<sub>[,]</sub> S 40° W 40 Poles to a Pine, S 50° E 64 Poles to the Creek aforesaid, thence down the same as it Meanders to the first.”<sup>371</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.
- George Walton, however, was a land surveyor and speculator who acquired grants in numerous south-central Virginia counties. This reduces the likelihood of any significance to their adjacent ownership of land.

The next several documents show that

- Ambrose Mills also entered land in Bedford, surveyed by George Walton, which Ambrose sold before the patent was issued.
- Learwood’s grant apparently (but ambiguously) adjoined Ambrose’s land, which he had by that time sold to William Callaway.

**1760**  
**BEDFORD & HALIFAX COUNTY, 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>372</sup>

COMMENT:

The abstract quoted above does not explain the cryptic note “7465 Joyce Summary.”

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<sup>371</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>372</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 (c1695–1755)**  
**Spouse Mary [—?—]**

**(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>373</sup>

COMMENT:

- By the 1790s, when Franklin County emerged from parts of old Bedford and Henry Counties, the Callaways—and Sanderfurs who also appear in this set of research 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>374</sup>
- Ambrose Mills did not complete the patent process. Therefore, he does not appear in the patent files. After having the land surveyed, he sold his interest in the 898 acres to George Walton. Callaway’s patent tells us the following:

**15 JULY 1760**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

For 4£ 10s, a patent is issued to William Callaway for 898 acres “lying and being in the County of Bedford on the East side of **Elk Creek** and Bounded as followeth (to wit):

‘Beginning at **Waltons and Calloways corner** Red Oak on the said Creek, Thence along the Line S 20° E 54 poles to a Red Oak, S 70° E 90 poles to a Locust, S 10° W 144 poles to a white Oak, S 30° E 212 poles to a white Oak, Thence along **Waltons** Line N 80° E 262 poles to his Corner Locust in **Payne’s line**, thence along his Lines N 10° W 62 poles to an Old Corner fallen Down, N 5° E 67 poles to **Callaways** Corner Red Oak in the same, Thence along [several torn words] W “one hundred and [torn words]” to a Hicory, N 84 poles to a White Oak, N 60° W 214 poles to a Red Oak, S 73° W 80 poles to a Pine, N 50° W 54 poles to the Creek aforesaid and thence down the same with Meanders to the first station.’<sup>375</sup>

**1761**

**ALBEMARLE > AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

County creation.

Albemarle has been subdivided. Its lower half became Amherst. The Mills land on Pedlar Creek fell into lower Amherst near the Bedford County line.

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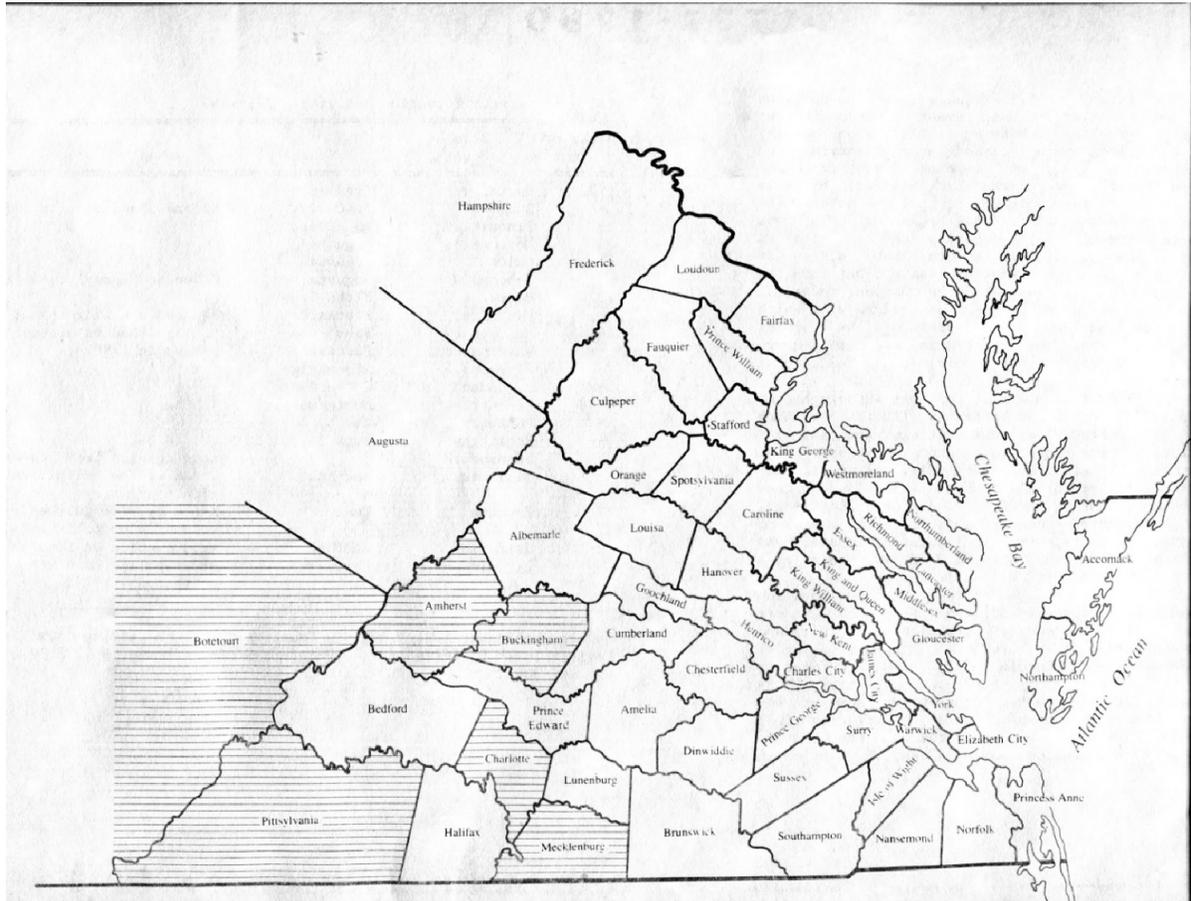
<sup>373</sup> Ann Chilton, *Bedford Co., Va., Deed Book A-1, 1754–1762* (Signal Mountain, TN: Mountain Press, 1987), 8.

<sup>374</sup> TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 233.

<sup>375</sup> Library of Virginia, “Land Office Grants,” database with images, Virginia Memory ([http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=602&last=&g\\_p=P34&collection=LO\\_Patent](http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=602&last=&g_p=P34&collection=LO_Patent) : downloaded 20 May 2016), “Callaway, William, grantee ... Bedford County ... 898 acres on the east side of Elk Creek”; citing “Land Office Patents No. 34, 1756–1765, p. 602 (Reels 33–34).”

**William Mills (c1695–1755)  
Spouse Mary [—?—]**

**Map 12  
Virginia Counties, 1761–70<sup>376</sup>**



**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:

<sup>376</sup> Michael F. Doran, *Atlas of County Boundary Changes in Virginia, 1634–1895* (Athens, GA: Iberian Publishing Co., 1987), 27.

**William Mills (c1695–1755)  
Spouse Mary [—?—]**

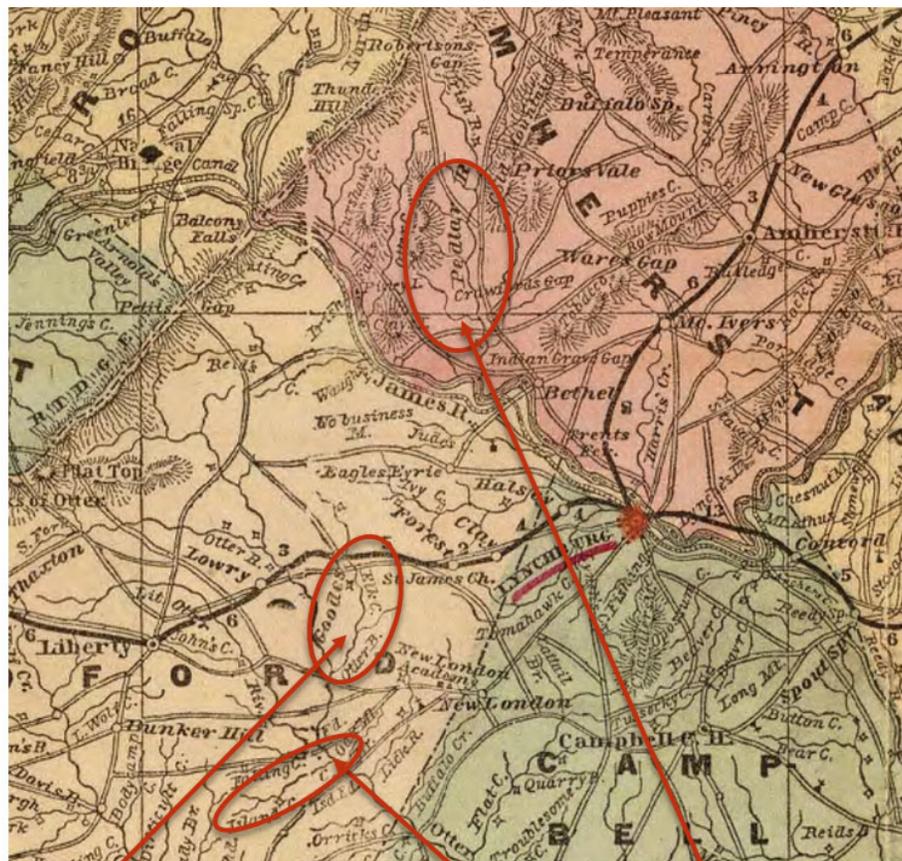
William Tiller, **Jesse Mills**, Stephen Gee.”<sup>377</sup>

**COMMENT:**

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

**Horseshoe Mountain is now in Nelson County.** The nearest waterways are North Prong of Davis Creek (to the South) and Reids Creek of Rockfish River (to the North). After Amherst was cut from the lower half of Albemarle, Nelson was cut (1807) from the upper half of Amherst.

**Map 13**  
**Mills Lands on Elk Creek & Island Creek of Otter River (Bedford County)**  
Buck Creek of Pedlar River (Albemarle > Amherst County)



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

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

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

<sup>377</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 (c1695–1755)**  
**Spouse Mary [—?—]**

**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 S65° W 112 poles to a Spanish oak<sub>[,]</sub> and with **John Davis’s** Line S 12° E 104 [105?] poles to a pine<sub>[,]</sub> S 24° E 44 poles to pointers<sub>[,]</sub> thence on **Isham Davis’s** S 46° E 174 poles to Pointers<sub>[,]</sub> E 88 Poles to a white oak N 77° E 180 poles to pointers<sub>[,]</sub> N 18° W 142 poles to Pointers<sub>[,]</sub> S 39<sup>2</sup>° W 8 [88?] poles to a poplar<sub>[,]</sub> S 83° W 221 poles to pointers<sub>[,]</sub> and N 192 Poles to the beginning.’<sup>378</sup>

COMMENT:

This 330-acre tract is 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. Learwood; 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>379</sup>

**4 AUGUST 1766**

**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Will probate.

Thomas Joplin declined his appointment as executor of the will of William Mills, deceased. An administrator’s bond was then filed by the widow **Mary Mills**, with son **Jesse Mills** and son-in-law **Wm. Lavinder** as her sureties.<sup>380</sup>

**1766**

**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Context.

“There are nineteen recorded inventories [in Amherst County] between 1765 and the end of the

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<sup>378</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>379</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>380</sup> Amherst Co. Will Book 1: 73 (will), 75 (administrator’s bond), 104 (inventory).

## William Mills (c1695–1755) Spouse Mary [—?—]

decade. Some seven estates were worth less than £50, four between £50 and £100, six between £100 and £266, and only two worth more than £400. ... The most humble estate, that of James Gamble, was valued at less than £10. Yet, his pair of glasses and Buckle's Anatomy indicate that he was an educated man who was either devastated by some financial calamity or had transcended material worries. ... The next class of wills indicate that the deceased individuals of middling circumstances constituted the most religious segment of the population. ... All of those with estates worth more than £100 bequeathed slaves except for Edward Stephenson. Slaves comprised more than one-half of their personal worth, excepting Moses Ray, who left household effects on Gilbert's Creek, land in Buckingham, and three slaves. ... Thomas Mitchess [Mitchell?] had three, and **William Mills** and Francis Wright possessed six slaves each. Of the nineteen decedents, only Charles Carter and William Horsely were extremely prosperous planters."<sup>381</sup>

**1 SEPTEMBER 1766**  
**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**  
Land sale.

**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>382</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 had been dead since 1755 or before—suggests that the family has held onto his land until his children reaches adulthood. As previously seen above, in 1777 Thomas's land would be sold by one John Turner and wife Elizabeth. I have found no purchase of the land by John Turner or any others from whom he might have inherited.

**27 FEBRUARY 1767**  
**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**  
Inventory

**William Mills** estate. £265-4-9, taken by Henry Key and Wm. Welton [likely **Walton**].<sup>383</sup>

**TO DO:**

Get this inventory and any other documents.

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<sup>381</sup> C. H. C. Seaman, ed., *The Lee Marmon Manuscript* (Sweet Briar, VA: Sweet Briar College Printing Press for the Amherst Co. Historical Museum & Nelson Co. Historical Soc., 1989), 138; imaged at *Internet Archive* (<http://www.archive.org/details/leemarmomanuscr00seam> : accessed 2 June 2018). Marman's published manuscript (p. 45) cites his own source as "The Nelson historian Alexander Brown, relying on diverse and some now unavailable sources, has listed additional settlers who lived in the area of Old Amherst by 1745." Marman's footnote 32 on appendix p. 5 cites: "Alexander Brown Papers, II, in Swem Library of the College of William and Mary." That Library's inventory of those papers (<https://ead.lib.virginia.edu/vivaxtf/view?docId=wm/viw00002.xml>) tells us that they span 1815–1910.

<sup>382</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>383</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.

**William Mills (c1695–1755)**  
**Spouse Mary [—?—]**

**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, [of] **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: George Seaton, **Wm. Walton**, Jno. Ryan, Edmund Wilcox, Clerk.”<sup>384</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 more-northern Tye.
- 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.
- William Walton, the witness, married Elizabeth Tilman (sister of Jesse’s wife Lucy) in Goochland’s St. James Northam Parish on 1 December 1758.<sup>385</sup>

**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>386</sup>

**3 MAY 1768**

**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Court order

“John Ripley & Elizabeth his wife Plts. against **Mary Mills**, Executrix of **William Mills** Decd. Deft. In

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<sup>384</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.

<sup>385</sup> W. Mac. Jones, *The Douglas Register: Being a detailed record of Births, Marriages, and Deaths ... as kept by the Rev. William Douglas, from 1750 to 1797* (Richmond: J. W. Fergusson & Sons, 1928), 90.

<sup>386</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.

**William Mills (c1695–1755)**  
**Spouse Mary [—?—]**

Chancery. On the motion of the Defendant by her counsel, time till the next Court is allowed her to file her answer in this cause.”<sup>387</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>388</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.

**5 SEPTEMBER 1768**  
**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**  
Court order

“John Ripley Plt. [wife Elizabeth is not mentioned] against **Mary Mills** Executrix of **Wm. Mills** Decd Deft. In chancery. This day came the Parties by their Council and the Defendant having filed her answer on the Motion of the Plaintiff time till the next court is allowed to consider the said answer, and then to reply; and by consent of parties a commission is awarded them to examine & take the Deposition of **Jesse Mills** a witness in this Suit according to law.”<sup>389</sup>

**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>390</sup>

COMMENT:

Fluvanna is the name used for the James River west of Columbia. It marks the boundary between present Fluvanna County (on the North) and Buckingham (on the South). Fluvanna County, created 1777, is the northeastern part of old Albemarle. Buckingham was created 1774 from southeastern Albemarle.

No Eleonar (*var.* Eleanor, Ellender) Mills has been identified amid the Amherst Millses—not the William Mills family of the Pedlar or the ostensibly unrelated David & Mathew Mills family of Meecham’s River. William & Mary did not have a daughter Eleonar. Their son Ambrose married Mourning Stone and Ann Brown. Their son Jesse was married in this period to Lucy Tilman. Their

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<sup>387</sup> Amherst Co., VA, Order Book, 2 June 1766–1769, p. 328; imaged *Family Search* digital film 8151599 > image 181.

<sup>388</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>389</sup> Amherst Co., VA, Order Book, 2 June 1766–1769, p. 391; imaged *Family Search* digital film 8151599 > image 216.

<sup>390</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 (c1695–1755)**  
**Spouse Mary [—?—]**

son William had left for North Carolina about the time of his marriage (c1750; possibly to Rebecca Walton), and their son Ambrose had moved to the Carolinas c1755–56 with his sister Sarah, her husband Thomas Watts and Thomas's brothers.

Meanwhile, William and Mary son Thomas died, before his father's 1755 will, 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 likely that Eleonar is widow of Thomas, holding her family together on Thomas's land.***

See 4 July 1774, below, for one further reference to Eleanor Mills, in association with Joseph Cabell and William Penn—the latter being an associate of the Millses and Waltons on Tye River.

**17 APRIL 1770**  
**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**  
Land purchase.

"Grymes exrs. To **Wm. Lavender** – see p. 33 for details of Grymes – for £25, 546½ acres on **branch of Tye**. Lines: **Mills**, Alcock, King. Wit: Zach. Taliaferro, Thos. Mitchell, Thos. Hawkins, Ambrose Jones, Geo. Galasbey, Moses Campbell."<sup>391</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>392</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** daughter of Elizabeth (Mills) Learwood whose sister Milly was Wm. Lavender's wife.<sup>393</sup>
- When William Lavender died, **Richard Tankersley** was one of the three men who inventoried his estate. See 1776, below.

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<sup>391</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>392</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>393</sup> James Larwood, "Morphology of Larwood Genealogy" (MS, n.p., 1933); imaged at *Ancestry* from a copy at Sutro Library, San Francisco, CA.

**William Mills (c1695–1755)**  
**Spouse Mary [—?—]**

- **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>394</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 Gillespie** (Clasby), who would later serve as surety for **Milly (Mills) Lavender**. Details of the Tankersley 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>395</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>396</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>397</sup>)

**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>398</sup>

**5 OCTOBER 1770**

**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Land sale.

“**William Mills of North Carolina**,” to John Lewis of Amherst, for £25, 330 acres branch of **Buck Creek of Pedlar**, described as

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<sup>394</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.

<sup>395</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>396</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 Tankersley Sr. is also identified in Deed Book B:388, according to Davis, p. 112.

<sup>397</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>398</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 (c1695–1755)**  
**Spouse Mary [—?—]**

Beginning at Pointers on **Thos. Mills'** line & running with his line S 65o W 112 poles to a Spanish Oak & with **John Davis'** line S 12o E 104 poles to a pine, S 24o E 44 poles to pointers, then on **Isham Davis's** line S 56o E 174 poles to pointers, E 88 poles to a white oak, N 77o E 180 poles to pointers, N 18o W 142 poles to pointers, S 32o W 88 poles to a poplar, S 83o W 221 poles to pointers, N 192 poles to the beginning.

Witnesses: David Crawford, Alex. Reid Jr., Rich. Powell. William "signed" his acknowledgment of the deed with an † mark.<sup>399</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 cited as an unsettled tract in the 1755 will of William Sr.

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.)

The † mark is the same William used the year before in Lincoln Co., NC, when he conveyed his NC property to his son Jesse.

**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>400</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>401</sup>

COMMENT:

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<sup>399</sup> Amherst Co. Deed Book C: 118; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS4H-495M-8?i=493&cat=282807> : 3 October 2017).

<sup>400</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>401</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.

**William Mills (c1695–1755)**  
**Spouse Mary [—?—]**

Jesse, in July, had already mortgaged his land, his enslaved woman, and his crop. Now he is mortgaging his last goods: his household. He is in quite desperate shape.

**8 OCTOBER 1771**  
**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**  
Mortgage.

“**Jesse Mills**, AC, to Edwd. Tilman, for £12, stock. Wit: Ann NBAS(?) JONES, Lede Jones.”<sup>402</sup>

COMMENT:

- The garbled Jones name is likely a male *Annenias* or *Ambrose*.
- Jesse’s debt is seriously increasing. Having already mortgaged his land, enslaved woman, crops, and household furnishings, he is now mortgaging the livestock he’ll need for future crops.
- Apparently, his return on his 1771 crop sufficed to pay off the mortgages. In the next document below, he begins the debt cycle again for funds to begin this year’s crop.

**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>403</sup>

**9 FEBRUARY 1773**  
**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**  
Land purchase contract

**Lewis Witt** contracted with John Cooper to buy a parcel of land on Otter River, giving his bond in the penal sum of 8£, “to be discharged by the payment of Four pounds on or before the first day of February 1774.” Shortly after executing the bond, the Witts learned that the land “appeared to be the property of a certain **George Walton**, who sold the said Land to a certain James Chastain & conveyed it to him by a Deed bearing date the 28<sup>th</sup> day of March 1774.” During this interval, apparently, Lewis Witt died. **His widow and administratrix, Ann**, refused to pay Cooper and Cooper launched a suit against the estate— one that would not be settled until 1785. See notes below for 1774, 1784, and 1785.<sup>404</sup>

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

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<sup>402</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.

<sup>403</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>404</sup> Petition of Ann Witt, admx. of Lewis Witt, through attorney Innes & Camp, admitted to court 28 June 1784; in Witt vs. John Cooper, Bedford Chancery Records, 1785–011; imaged at Library of Virginia, *VirginiaMemory* ([www.lva.virginia.gov/chancery/case\\_detail.asp?CFN=019-17885-011](http://www.lva.virginia.gov/chancery/case_detail.asp?CFN=019-17885-011)): accessed 14 May 2016).

**William Mills (c1695–1755)**  
**Spouse Mary [—?—]**

“**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>405</sup>

COMMENT:

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

**1 APRIL 1774**

**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Court minute

“At a court held for Bedford County ... Cooper vs. Chasteen—A. caps; Same vs. **Witts admx.**—A. Caps ...”<sup>406</sup>

COMMENT:

- “Witts admx.” should be Anne, widow of Lewis Witt.
- “A. Caps” was an abbreviation for “alias capias,” a second writ issued to take someone into custody.
- The “second writ” designation tells us that there should be a prior court order for this case, but it is not included among “Witt” index entries in the volume, which covers Court Order Books 6 & 7. Possibly the case began in Book 6. **That should be checked.**
- Almost certainly, this represents the beginning of the 1784–85 Bedford chancery case, Ann Witt vs. John Cooper, for which a few records survive as Cooper vs. Witt. (See notes under those years below.) Shortly before his death Lewis Witt had contracted with Cooper to buy land. Witt’s widow Ann, as administratrix of his estate, discovered that the land had previously been sold by George Walton to \_\_\_\_\_ Chasteen. Checking prior entries for Cooper and Chasteen here in this order book, I find

**28 MARCH 1774**

“A deed Walton [to] Chasteen ackd. & o. rd.” (Book 6, p. 1)

**4 JULY 1774**

**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Charles Burrows Plaintiff against Joseph Cabell Defendant. In Trespass Assault & Battery. This day came the parties by their attorneys and on the motion of the Deft. a Dedimus is awarded to take the Depositions De bene esse of William Penn and **Eleanor Mills** Witnesses for the Defendant, he giving the plaintiff reasonable notice of the time and place of taking the same.”<sup>407</sup>

**JULY 1776**

**AMHERST COUNTY, VA**

Probate.

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<sup>405</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>406</sup> Bevin J. Creel, *Bedford County, Virginia, Court Orders, 1774–1783* (N.P.: [Lulu.com], 2011), 69; citing Order Book 6: 188.

<sup>407</sup> Amherst Co., VA, Order Book, 1773–1782, p.102; imaged *Family Search* digital film 8151599 > image 360.

**William Mills (c1695–1755)**  
**Spouse Mary [—?—]**

**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>408</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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Elizabeth Shown Mills, “William Mills (c1695–1755) of Goochland and Albemarle Counties, Virginia; Spouse Mary [—?—]: Research Notes,” a working file last updated 10 May 2024, p. \_\_\_\_.

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<sup>408</sup> Amherst Co., VA, Order Book 1773–82, for July 1776 term of court summoning Ambrose Mills to administer Mary’s estate.