

William Mills, Maj. (1746–1834)

Spouse:

Eleanor Morris

Research Notes

William Mills Family Summary:

Born: b. 10 November 1746, James River, Virginia¹
Parents: Ambrose Mills (ca. 1722–1780) and Mourning Stone (d. ca. 1758–59)²
Married: 12 October 1765, “Wateree, Richland” [South Carolina]³
Spouse: **Eleanor Morris** (1743–1833), a Methodist⁴
Occupation: Miller and land speculator⁵
Military Service: Loyalist major during American Revolution; at Battles of Cowpens and Ninety-Six⁶
Died: 10 November 1834,⁷ Edneyville, Henderson County, North Carolina
Residences: Craven Co., SC, December 1761–1768⁸
Tryon Co. (now Polk), NC, ca. 1768–70⁹
Rutherford Co., NC, 1784–97¹⁰
Buncombe Co., NC (Morgan community) 1788–1830¹¹
Henderson Co., NC (Edneyville community) 1834¹²

¹ J. M. Edney’s 1846 biography of his grandfather William Mills. For a typescript, see “Public Member Photos & Scanned Documents,” *Ancestry* (<http://www.Ancestry.com> : accessed 23 June 2015), unidentified contributor, “Maj William Mills 1746 to 1834.” The contributor calls this typescript an “obituary written by his grandson J M Edney” without citing a source. However, the transcript itself states that it was written “October 30, 1845,” 11 years after Maj. William’s death. It is more probable that this grandson wrote this as a sketch for Lyman C. Draper who was, at that time, combing the South for information about the men of King’s Mountain. Draper’s *Kings Mountain and Its Heroes: History of the Battle of King’s Mountain, October 7th, 1780* (Cincinnati: Peter G. Thompson, 1881), reports part of this in his brief sketch of Ambrose Mills on p. 481, but does not identify his source.

² J. M. Edney’s 1846 biography of his grandfather William Mills. Also Elizabeth Shown Mills, “Ambrose Mills, Col. (ca. 1722–1780: Research Notes,” report to file, 1 July 2015.

³ J. M. Edney’s 1846 biography of his grandfather William Mills.

⁴ J. M. Edney’s 1846 biography of his grandfather William Mills.

⁵ J. M. Edney’s 1846 biography of his grandfather William Mills.

⁶ J. M. Edney’s 1846 biography of his grandfather William Mills.

⁷ J. M. Edney’s 1846 biography of his grandfather William Mills.

⁸ For the earliest record placing William’s father Ambrose in South Carolina, see *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database and images (<http://www.archives index.sc.gov/online archives/> : accessed 7 October 2014), “Mills, Ambrose, Plat for 100 acres on Little River,” S213184: Colonial plat Books (Copy Series), Petition filed December 1761. For numerous other records covering the residence there to 1768, see Elizabeth Shown Mills, “Ambrose Mills, Col. (ca. 1722–1780: Research Notes,” report to file, 1 July 2015.

⁹ J. M. Edney’s 1846 biography of his grandfather William Mills.

¹⁰ J. M. Edney’s 1846 biography of his grandfather William Mills mentions the move without a date. Jennie Jones Giles, “William Mills,” posted at “Private Member Stories,” *Ancestry* (<http://trees.ancestry.com/tree /9120625/person/-849620996/story/3e452001-b9c7-4159-b301-b0b5fc94ac1d?src=search> : accessed 16 June 2015), by “jenniekz” on 23 June 2013, gives ca. 1768–70.” “Jenniekz” writes: [This] information is written by Jennie Jones Giles for a booklet related to the Edney and Mills families in Henderson County, N.C. Much of this information is also available on the web site, hendersonheritage.com. Information on the web site is an ongoing process on the history and heritage of Henderson County, as part of the classes taught by Jennie Jones Giles at Blue Ridge Community College. Please note the source when copying information from the web site or as part of this post.

¹¹ J. M. Edney’s 1846 biography of his grandfather William Mills. Also Rutherford County, NC census, 1790 and Buncombe County censuses 1800–40.

¹² J. M. Edney’s 1846 biography of his grandfather.

William Mills, Maj. (1746–1834)
Wife: Eleanor Morris

CHILDREN BY ELEANOR¹³

1. JOHN MILLS (1766–1843), Esq., is said to have married **Sarah Robertson** of “Chester or Camden Dist., South Carolina.”¹⁴ In 1806, John bought land on White Oak Creek from the family’s Fairfield County, SC, friend Micajah Pickett, and expanded his holdings significantly there. He made his will on 20 February 1842, naming sons William, George, Govan, Columbus, and Rufus, along with grandchildren John C. Camp, Louisa Camp, and John M. Dean. An unidentified obituary transcribed at his *Find A Grave* memorial states: “Died, Col. John Mills, February 16, 1843, at his residence in Hendersonville.”¹⁵
2. MARVEL E. MILLS (1771–1849), married 1798 **Mary Dickerson Chamblis**; died 22 July 1849, Rutherford Co.¹⁶ His grave site is at the Mills Cemetery in Polk County, NC.¹⁷ In 1830, the local newspaper referred to him as “Esq.”¹⁸
3. MOURNING MILLS (1773–1827); “married **Henry Graves Lewis**. 1800 census places them in Buncombe County, near her parents. Her grave site is at the Mills Cemetery in Henderson County, NC.”¹⁹

¹³ Some researchers include among their children one Milly Mills who married Richard Yielding by bond of 5 November 1788—offering no evidence; for example, 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. The marriage of those individuals did occur; see Brent H. Holcomb, *Marriages of Rutherford County, North Carolina, 1779–1868* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1986), 166. However, I have found no evidence to support Millie’s placement in the family.

Edney asserted that his mother Sarah had four sisters and two brothers; that corresponds to the documented placements of Mourning, Eleanor “Nellie,” Elizabeth, and Phalby. It also correlates to the account of “Hon. Thomas Laurence Jones,” son of William and Eleanor’s daughter Elizabeth, who authored a Mills sketch in Mrs. J. R. Baird, T. C. Catchings, and Mrs. M. C. Torrey, *The Clendinen, Myers, and Mills Families and Various Related Families in the South* (Atlanta: A. B. Caldwell Publishing, 1923), 156–58; imaged in “North America, Family Histories, 1500–2000,” *Ancestry* (ancestry.com/search/collections/61157/ : accessed 3 March 2019) > C > Clendinen, Myers, Mills. That said, Jones’ other fantastical assertions cast doubts on the credibility of the more distant lore that he offers.

¹⁴ Mrs. J. R. Baird, T. C. Catchings, and Mrs. M. C. Torrey, *The Clendinen, Myers, and Mills Families and Various Related Families in the South* (Atlanta: A. B. Caldwell Publishing, 1923), 156–58; imaged in “North America, Family Histories, 1500–2000,” *Ancestry* (ancestry.com/search/collections/61157/ : accessed 3 March 2019) > C > Clendinen, Myers, Mills. “Hon. Thomas Laurens Jones, of Kentucky,” who is credited (p. 161) with authorship of the Mills section states, several times, that he personally knew Col. John Mills and Marvel Mills (sons of William and Eleanor Mills and grandsons of Ambrose and Ann) calling them “my uncle”; for example, see p. 160. However, his other fantastical assertions cast doubts on the credibility of what he attributes to the family’s oral history

¹⁵ *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. This source assigns John the middle name “Columbus.” However, he appears on the 1790 census as “John T.”

¹⁶ 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, Utah: Ancestry.com, 1998). “Died on the 22d ult., at his well-known residence in Rutherford County, N.C., Mr. Marvel Mills, in the 77th year of his age. He was born on Green River, about five miles distant from the spot where he died. ... He married Mary Chamblis in the year 1798, near Columbia, S.C., and shortly after settled on the estate where he died. He was by profession a merchant. ... He leaves a most worthy widow and five children, together with a large number of relatives and friends to mourn his loss. *Mountain Banner*. (August 10, 1849.”

¹⁷ *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.

¹⁸ Helen Mason Lu and Gwen Blomquist Neuman, *North Carolina Spectator and Western Advertiser (1830–1835), Rutherford County, North Carolina, Abstracts* (Dallas, Tex.: Privately printed, 1982), 8, for 3 Sept. issue reporting the 24 Aug. marriage of “Mr. Paul Young, of Greenville, S.C., to Miss Penelope Mills, daughter of Marvel Mills, Esq.”

¹⁹ *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.

William Mills, Maj. (1746–1834)

Wife: Eleanor Morris

4. SARAH MILLS (1774–1848); “married Rev. Asa Edney. Her grave site is at the Asa Edney Family Cemetery (Townsend) in Hendersonville, NC.”²⁰
5. ELEANOR “NELLIE” MILLS (1776–1842), m. 1793, **Rev. Samuel Edney** (b. 1768, Pasquotank; d. 17 Sept. 1844; ordained by Bishop Ashbury in 1813).²¹ Her grave site is at the Edney-Coston Cemetery in Henderson County, NC. Her name is misspelled on her grave stone and the birth date is incorrect on the grave stone. This grave stone was placed in the 20th century by well-meaning descendnts [sic] using incorrect information. The original stones were discarded.”²²
6. ELIZABETH MILLS (1780–1865) married 1806, **George Washington Jones**. Died after 2 June 1843.²³ “Her grave site is at the ‘Jones at Walker Farm’ Cemetery in Polk County, NC.”²⁴
7. PHALBY MILLS (1782–1854); married **David Myers**. “Her grave site is at the Myers Cemetery in Richland County, SC.”²⁵

BIOGRAPHIES

COMMENT:

Many of the assertions in this set of biographies are disproved by the documents presented in this set of research notes. I include the biographies here only because they are a starting point for research. They should not be stopping point. Rather, each claim in each biography should be evaluated against the actual evidence, with a decision made in each case as to which source is the more reliable.

1746–1834

VA & NC

Biographical sketch.

(“Written by grandson JM Edney.”)

²⁰ *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.

²¹ Daniel K. Bennett, *Chronology of North Carolina, Showing When the Most Remarkable Events Connected with Her History Took Place, from the Year 1584 to the Present Time, with Explanatory Notes* (New York, James M. Edney, 1858), 97–100; digital copy, *Archives.org* (http://www.archive.org/stream/chronologyofnort00be/chronologyofnort00be_djvu.txt : accessed 6 June 2015). Bennett’s unnumbered p. 144 states “ASHEVILLE MESSENGER.”—All the articles from this paper were written by James M. Edney; the one on the ‘Black Mountain’ in 1851, instead of 1857, as quoted.” Apparently Bennett in 1858 pulled together a number of newspaper articles written by Edney, whom other sources call the grandson of William Mills. This book’s biography of Rev. Samuel Edney does not include James M. Edney as a son, leaving one to surmise that he was the son of Sarah Mills and Rev. Asa Edney. Curiously, this volume—which has biographies of William Mills and Rev. Samuel Edney—has no biography of Asa Edney.

²² *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.

²³ Obituary of George Jones, “Marriage and Death Notices from the Greenville Mountaineer,” *South Carolina Magazine of Ancestral Research (SCMAR)* 4 (Fall 1976): page number not given, citing issue of 2 June 1843; accessed as *South Carolina Records and Reference*, CD-ROM (Orem, Utah: Ancestry.com, 1998).

²⁴ *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.

²⁵ *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.

William Mills, Maj. (1746–1834)

Wife: Eleanor Morris

“He was born on the James River in Virginia on Nov 10, 1746. From there the family moved to the Wateree River region of South Carolina which was then quite remote and wild. It was here that his mother Mourning Stone was killed in an attack on her wagon around 1759.*²⁶ It is not known if there were other children with her.

“**His father Ambrose married second Ann Brown, sister in law to Loyalist Thomas Fletchall.** The family moved to the Green River section of what was then Tryon County and is now in Polk County, NC.

“**On October 12, 1765, at the age of 19 he married Eleanor Morris with whom he had 7 children.** In 1780 he was given the rank of Major, under McDaniel and went on an expedition against the Indians. He was in the Battle of Kings Mountain, was wounded in his right foot, from which he never fully recovered.

“In 1781, he, along with some fellow Carolinians, built a fort on White Oak and Green River, 10 miles from Rutherford County court House. These were termed “Regulators”. Being brave, resolute men they governed all about them. He then moved up Green River to a Plantation and was said to be the first white man to cross the Blue Ridge into what is now Henderson county, and the man from whom Mills River and Mills Gap Road took their names

“His father [*sic*], mother, all the children except himself, fell by the tomahawk and scalping knife of the Indians at some time or another, and he was twice burnt out and plundered while living on Green River. He moved to Buncombe in 1788, and settled on Clear Creek. Previous to this he made a trip to Boon’s Lick or settlement in Kentucky. A short stout man by the name of Rims Fallen was his companion for several years. Fallen was killed by the Indians on Rims Creek in Buncomb county.

“At his death November 10, 1834, he was the grandfather of 68 children, great grandfather of 39, and great great grandfather of one.

“He always wore moccasins, flannels, and hunting shirts and rode bareback. He was fond of large fat horses, and delighted in swimming them. He attended to a mill for 50 years. He was overly kind to children and servants.

“Though his wife Eleanor was a Methodist for 51 years, William was a member of no church, but was a constant reader of one book, The Bible. He was temperate in all his habits though he kept “cherry bounce” and good old peach brandy” about his house all his life. His most threatening words were “by zounds”. Peace and honesty were his lawyers, nature and revelation his preachers, temperance and regularity, his physicians. He had but one near relative in this section of the country aside from his descendants---his half brother Ambrose.

“As to the side he took in the revolution we ask no apology, and he needs none at our hands. He was under age at the time [20 in 1776] and was a dutiful and obedient son of a loyal subject of the King of Great Britain. The part he took was owing more to the counsel, commands and advice of an honest parent, than all other subjects together.

²⁶ For a chronology of the whereabouts of Ambrose and Mourning (Stone Mills) during this period, see Elizabeth Shown Mills, “Ambrose Mills, Col. (ca. 1722–1780: Research Notes,” report to file, 1 July 2015.

William Mills, Maj. (1746–1834)

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“He was at the Battle of Cowpens, as before stated, Ninety-Six, and other skirmishes. He never held any office during life after the Revolution, though many were tendered to him. He delighted to see everybody around him prospering. This is but a short, hasty, and very imperfectly written sketch of the life and character of William Mills, the first pioneers, oldest settlers and citizens of our sections of the country.

Written from Edneyville, October 30, 1845”²⁷

1746–1834

VA & NC

Biographical sketch.

“William Mills emigrated to the "block house" on the Catawba, and thence to Green River, now Rutherford County, in 1766. He was of English descent, and was born on James' River, a., the 10th of November, 1746. At an early age he married Miss Eleanor Morris, of South Carolina, and together they journeyed happily through life for sixty-nine years.

They were surrounded by Indians several times, and twice driven from their homes, having their houses and all their contents pillaged and burned. At one time he returned home from hunting, and found his house robbed, his wife gone, and everything laid desolate, which set him perfectly wild ; he commenced moaning and tearing out his hair, when, like an angel, his wife suddenly appeared unharmed. As the Indians entered the house she crept out at a small window in the garret, and down the chimney, making her escape to a swamp near by where she lay concealed till she heard her husband's voice. At another time she escaped in a similar way, and when a whole troop of Indians were ripping up feather beds and yelling over their plunder she raised a shout *solitary and alone* in a swamp near the house — "*Hurrah for King George and his army,*" with such rapidity and vehemence, that the whole horde of savages took to their heels, and she gained a bloodless victory, and saved most of her property. She was not only bold, but a most exemplary woman and Christian, having been a member of the Methodist Church for over fifty years previous to her death, which occurred in the spring of 1833, at the age of ninety-four years, beloved and lamented by all who knew her.

“Wm. Mills was small in stature but compact, sinewy and '*hardy,*' *always wore 'moccasins,* wool hats, and rode bare-backed horses, never having owned but *one saddle.* He was fond of the largest horses, was an unerring rifleman, and a sober, industrious citizen. He fought bravely at '*Cowpens,*' and there received two bullet wounds and one from a sword, which marked him distinctly to his grave; he fought also at '*Ninety-Six.*' Being one of the first adventurers and settlers in the western part of the State, its history grew up under his eye. Mills' Gap, the first wagon road across the Blue Ridge, took its name from him, as also Mills' River, one of the most beautiful streams of pure clear water in the world ; this river is

²⁷ “Public Member Photos & Scanned Documents,” *Ancestry* (<http://www.Ancestry.com> : accessed 23 June 2015), unidentified contributor, “Maj William Mills 1746 to 1834.” The contributor calls this typescript an “obituary written by his grandson J M Edney” without citing a source. However, the transcript itself states that it was written “October 30, 1845,” 11 years after Maj. William’s death. It is possible that the grandson wrote this as a sketch for Lyman C. Draper who was, at that time, combing the South for information about the men of King’s Mountain. Draper’s *Kings Mountain and Its Heroes: History of the Battle of King’s Mountain, October 7th, 1780* (Cincinnati: Peter G. Thompson, 1881), reports part of this in his brief sketch of Ambrose Mills on p. 481, but does not identify his source.

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in Henderson, formerly ‘*Buncombe*’ which in those days was a *great State*, including Haywood, Henderson, Yancy, Madison, a part of Burke and Rutherford, and what is still ‘*old Buncombe*’ being then about 60 miles wide and 100 in length!

“The children of Mr. and Mrs. Mills were two sons and five daughters. **John Mills** married, moved and settled on White Oak, Rutherford County, where he accumulated a fortune and died, leaving a good name and a promising family. **Marville Mills** married and settled on Mills’ Gap road, Rutherford County, made a handsome property, raised a large family, and died at a good old age, honored and beloved. **Phalby** married **David Myers**, who lived some years in Buncombe, then moved to Richland District, South Carolina,²⁸ where he amassed a very large fortune, raise a large family, and was killed by Col. Ellmore, (I believe), in his old age, in a most cowardly manner, by shooting him in the back with a shotgun, without due notice! Ellmore, by his great wealth, escaped the gallows. **Morning** married **Overton Lewis**; **Sarah** married **Asa Edney**; **Eleanor**, **Rev. Samuel Edney**; these three all settled on Clear Creek, near their father, raised large families, lived and died respected and lamented. **Elizabeth** married **George Jones**, who settled on White Oak, Rutherford County, but afterwards moved to **Spartansburg** [*sic*], C.H., S.C. where he remained a number of years, then returned to his farm where he died; he raised and educated a large family, and made a handsome fortune.

“The daughters all attached themselves to the Methodist church in their early days, and lived and died, four of them, in the faith of the gospel, having each spent an average of fifty years in the church! Mrs. Jones is the only one of the family living at this time, 1858.

“Mr. Mills, at the death of his wife, when he walked out by a spring near the grave, remarked, with tears streaming o’er his furrowed cheeks, ‘I and Nelly drank upon our knees at that spring fifty-five years ago, when there was no white man’s foot in the country.’ He was proverbial for his benevolence and kind advice to all his children and neighbors, and almost daily, for an age, rode round to see the three children that lived near him. At his death he had 89 grandchildren.²⁹ His orchards were common property for all, and every year of his life he set out at least 100 of the most choice trees, particularly peaches and cherries. On Saturdays ‘an army’ might always (in fruit season) be seen, mostly children of the neighborhood, filling their baskets, pails and cans, with the contents of the orchards. The only charge ever made was ‘*don’t break my trees.*’

“Once his house was beset by Indians in the night; he was absent, and his family escaped and fled to a hill or brushwood near by; on reaching it, the mother missed ‘Marville,’ then about seven or eight years of age; he had crawled under the bed. The savages entered the house, and among them we the most noted Indian in all that region, known as ‘*Club*’ or ‘*Big Foot*,’ from the fact of his having not only an enormous body by an enormous ‘*foot*,’ which ‘*made its mark*’ wherever he went. Some stood at the door—‘*Club-foot*’ went in first, and went to the hearth, where there was a few chunks or fliciering embers; he got on his knees and commenced ‘blowing up the fire;’ at this, ‘Marville,’ in his boyish innocence, and through fear of being seen, bethought him of the ‘*pail of water*’ (which then bestudded

²⁸ How close to (or distant from) William and Thomas Watts were they in Richland?

²⁹ Note that William and Eleanor’s grandson (see earlier account) said William had 68 grandchildren, 39 great-grandchildren, and 1 great-great-grandchild, making a total of 108 offspring.

William Mills, Maj. (1746–1834)

Wife: Eleanor Morris

every 'log palace'), and instantly made for it, seized, and right over 'Big Foot's' head he emptied its contents into the fire-place, extinguishing every spark of fire, to the amazement of 'Big Foot' and to his amazement, the next thing he knew, he struck the other end of the wall about eight feet from the floor and eighteen from the fire-place! 'Big Foot' having seized him, and with one hand dashed him against the other end of the house. It was perfectly dark, and 'Marville' soon was able to crawl, and knowing the doorway, he crept cautiously out right under the feet of the Indian at the door, and thence under the floor, where he remained until the Indians had 'struck fire,' plundered the house and left. The suspense of the mother in the meantime was as great as her joy when she found the Indians were gone and 'Marville' alive! 'Marville' remembered the impressions of that fire and water, ground and lofty tumbling scene, very distinctly to the day of his death, and always related it with laughter and animation.

"While living on Green River, the Indians went to the field or pasture of Mr. Mills, and took out eleven fine blood mares ; a young man was sent down about the time, and discovered them, and instead of their flying away they pursued him to the house, about half a mile; his fright was so great, and the chase so close, that instead of running into the house, the door being ajar to receive him, he ran entirely *round it three times!*

"During this time the Indians halted about sixty yards from the house, about twelve or fifteen in number, and commenced an attack with bows, arrows and fire-arms, which was returned from within, by two or three men, and as many women, among them "**Polly Stepp**,"³⁰ a woman born *never to be killed!* Among the Indians was a very large man, who was leader, and who jumped up and down, making all sorts of gestures, and yelling all the time at the top of his voice; at every leap in the air a new volley saluted the house. The fire from within was pretty steady, and by means of cracks between the logs and '*port holes,*' effectual. Finally '*Polly's*' blood boiled till '*no pent up Utica,*' could restrain her patriotism,

³⁰ Online trees say that Polly Stepp was the daughter Mary "Polly" Walton Mills and husband James Stepp Jr.—and granddaughter of "William Henry" Mills (b. 1727) and wife Rebecca. The time frame is appropriate for this to be William Mills Jr., brother of Ambrose—but he was not William Henry Mills. For examples of the claimed connection to "William Henry Mills," see Sharon McDaniel, "Scruggs/Lanning Family Tree," *Ancestry* (<http://person.ancestry.com/tree/70508182/person/34215292811/facts> : accessed 12 May 2016) and Michelle Snowden, "Philpot Family Tree," *Ancestry* (<http://person.ancestry.com/tree/75380004/person/38524198370/facts> : accessed 12 May 2016). William Jr. is known to have moved to N.C. by 1770. See Elizabeth Shown Mills, "Mills: Literature Survey of Southside Virginia: Brunswick, Goochland, and Counties Cut from Them—Principally Albemarle, Amherst, Cumberland, Bedford, and Prince Edward," report to file, 28 May 2016, for 5 October 1770.

A contemporary of the real William Henry Mills and an in-law of Ambrose Mills provides a brief biography of William Henry, persuasively identifying him as a totally different man: "Colonel Ambrose Mills has been confused with Colonel William Henry Mills, an Irishman who had gone out to America as a surgeon's mate in the British army. Here he served until 1764, when he retired from his military duties and settled in South Carolina, marrying two years later an American lady at Georgetown in that Province. Early in the Revolutionary war, Colonel William Henry Mills served in the South Carolina Provincial Congress, but in June, 1778, he was appointed colonel of the Cheraws loyal militia. He died at Liverpool, England, 7 May, 1786, leaving a widow, Elizabeth, and one daughter. (A. O. 12/52, fos. 45-46, 327-340 ; Stedman, *American War*, Vol. II, p. 223 ; Tarleton, *Hist of the Campaigns of 1780 and 1781*, p. 127 ; Draper, *King's Mountain and its Heroes*, p. 373 ; B. F. Stevens, *Clinton-Cornwallis*.)" See Alexander Chesney, *The Journal of Alexander Chesney: A South Carolina Loyalist in the Revolution and After*, introduction by Wilbur H. Siebert, *The Ohio State University Bulletin* 26 (October 30, 1921), pages 71–74; HTML edition, *Google Books* (<http://www.books.google.com>). The bibliography to this edited copy of Chesney's diary cites "Papers of Colonel Thomas Fletchall (Public Record Office, London, A.O. 12 and 13." Google's page-block "65–71" has an extensive account of Col. Thomas Fletchall.

NOTE: If Mary Mills did, indeed, carry the middle name Walton, then it is possible that her mother was a Walton—which adds another dimension to the hanging of her father by Lt. Jesse Walton.

William Mills, Maj. (1746–1834)

Wife: Eleanor Morris

and seizing a gun from one of the men, she squatted, took aim through a *'port hole,'* fired, and lo! the yelling ceased, the arrows no more whizzed through the air, the powder flashes cleared up, the Indians were seen gathering up the dead, which were several in number, the conflict was over. 'Poll' sprang to her feet, jumped about three feet high, cracked her heels together, let the gun fall, and exclaimed *'I'll be damned if I hain't killed the big Ingin.'* And so it was, the *'chief'* was slain, causing the others to fly as for life; they carried the horses with them, were pursued across the *'ridge,'* but made good their escape.

"Said 'Poll,' if I mistake not, when a child, was taken by the heels and her brains or part of them actually knocked out against a tree by an Indian, and she left for dead; notwithstanding this, the *'big Ingin'* felt the force of her revenge, and she lived to a very old age, a monument of courage and health.

"These are but a little of the incidents in the life and times of *'father Mills'* (as Bishop Asbury used to call him).

"I will close with one or two relating to three well tried and faithful servants *'Lon'* (London), *'Sam'* and *'Liner'* (Carolina). *'Lon'* and *'Sam'* were literally chopped to pieces at various times by the Indians, but they lived to a very old age, truthful, faithful, obedient and honest to a fraction. Their funerals were solemn, and attended by nearly all the whites in the neighborhood. In a hot pursuit by Indians they were once compelled to seek shelter under the *'crossing log'* over a creek, by burying themselves not only under the log but under the water and bank. Immediately the Indians approached, and the first one whose foot struck the log brought *'Lon'* from his hiding place in spite of *'Sam's'* injunction of *'silence or death,'* exclaimin as he rose, dripping with water, *'who steppy ober dis nigga?'* The Indians glided into the water, seized him, dragged him to the other side, tied his arms behind him, withed him to a sapling, and literally *'hacked himup'* with tomahawks, leaving him for dead. *'Sam'* was more discreet, lay still, and escaped; this daring feat checked the pursuit for some time, and thus **Mr. Mills** and some other whites who outran the negroes, made good their escape. *'Lon'* lived, and all were saved, by *'Who steppy ober dis nigga?'* Many the night have I spent until the *'morning hours'* listening to the hair-breadth escapes of these old *'war worn darkeys.'* *'Liner'* was of pure African blood, and was put at the head of a mountain farm. **Mr. Mills** lost a very fine horse under *'Liner's'* practice; on questioning *'Liner'* closely as to treatment, he said he had *'guv him all the backer in de house,'* having first *boiled and distilled it!* **Mr. Mills** exclaimed with amazement, *'What on earth did you do that for?'* *'Why,'* with equal earnestness and amazement, said *'Liner,'* *'I aught wat was good for nigga, was good for hoss!'*

"The Barewallow, Ball Top, Sugar Loaf, Pilot, Point, Lookout, and many other adjacent mountains, were named by **Mr. Mills**. In the fall of 1834, he fell or was thrown from a horse, being in his 88th year; this fall irritated the wound in his ankle, received at *'Cowpens,'* and which had always given him more or less pain; inflammation followed, and a few days of severe pain terminated, on the 10th of Nov., his early career. He sleeps by his wife and daughter "Morning," and other relatives, near Edneyville, Henderson County, and sleeping, he has left a good name behind him—that of an industrious, kind hearted, *honest man.*"³¹

³¹ Daniel K. Bennett, *Chronology of North Carolina, Showing When the Most Remarkable Events Connected with Her History Took Place, from the Year 1584 to the Present Time, with Explanatory Notes* (New York, James M. Edney, 1858), 19–25; digital copy, *Archives.org* (http://www.archive.org/stream/chronologyofnort00be/chronologyofnort00be_djvu.txt : accessed 6 June 2015).

William Mills, Maj. (1746–1834)
Wife: Eleanor Morris

1746–1834

Biography.

“Written by Jennie Jones Giles at Blue Ridge Community College.”

“William Mills was born Nov. 10, 1746, in James River, Albemarle County, Va., the son of Ambrose Mills and Mourning Stone.

“He moved with his father and mother to the region of Wateree in South Carolina. The date of this move is not known. It most likely was around 1758. At this time in history, Craven County, South Carolina, was the area north of Berkeley County (Charleston area) to the North Carolina border.

“The mother of William Mills and his siblings were killed by Indians at Pine Tree Hill in 1761. It is believed that William and his father were not at the cabin at the time of the attack. They were the only survivors.

“This area was not in today's Spartanburg, South Carolina, as stated in some printed publications concerning William Mills. They were living near today's Camden, South Carolina.

“Pine Tree Hill was named in 1758 when Joseph Kershaw established a store and re-named a town once called Fredericksburg that was located in the Wateree Swamp. He brought several settlers into the region. Later, Kershaw suggested the town be re-named Camden. The town is about 30 miles northeast of Columbia, S.C., along the Wateree River.

“There was a grant of land containing 600 acres to Ambrose Mills filed Dec. 16, 1766, in Craven County, S.C., bounding "on the said river on Patrick McCommicks and Frances Laton ... one Pickett .. Richard Ricklands." ³²In 1769, Camden County was one of the new counties created from the old Craven District.

“William Mills married **Eleanor Morris in 1765 in Craven County, S.C. About 1767, Ambrose Mills married Anne Brown of Chester, S.C., in Craven County, S.C.**

“Some time between **1768 and 1770, William Mills and his father moved into what was then old Tryon County, North Carolina.** This was land in today's Rutherford and Polk counties. Ambrose Mills bought 640 acres in 1770 on both sides of the Green River. He established a trading post and a saw mill. His son, William Mills, moved to the same region with his father and also began buying land. The family was considered wealthy at this time in history, and owned several slaves. *Their land purchases totaled about 10,000 acres, possibly more.*³³ A Polk County History book published by the Polk County Historical Association in 1983 states that the first weather-boarded house built in Western North Carolina was built by William Mills in 1742. This is not true. William Mills was not even born in 1742.

“Tradition says the wood was cut off the property and the mantle was brought from England. It is called Seven Hearths and was in the Mills family for several generations on Silver Creek Road. Marvel Mills owned the home in the early 1800s. It is possible it was built by William Mills, but not in 1742.

³² Ambrose Mills actually received several grants in the area that is now Fairfield. See E. S. Mills, Watts: “Literature Survey of South Carolina Resources for Old Craven County, Camden District, and the Counties Cut from Them,” report to file, 17 October 2014.

³³ This claimed acreage is, likely, highly exaggerated.

William Mills, Maj. (1746–1834)

Wife: Eleanor Morris

“In the same book there are statements to the effect that Mills and his father were the first white settlers in Polk County. This is absolutely and positively not true, as there is much evidence and many deeds³⁴ proving other families entered today's Polk County long before the Mills families. Deeds for land in what is today Polk County go back to the 1750s.

“All deeds concerning Ambrose Mills and William Mills prove they bought the land from earlier settlers. And Ambrose Mills did not build a house circa 1748 in Polk County since all records prove without doubt that he was still living in Virginia. And it is truly stretching the imagination to believe that either he or his son “was the first white man to drink from a spring side by side with friendly Indians.” Explorers and traders met with the Cherokee and Catawba in the late 1600s and early 1700s.

“It is further stated in the book, and shown on the same page with the Seven Hearths photographs, that a log cabin on the corner of U.S. 176 and Harmon Field Road was a slave cabin taken from the property of the Mills who owned Seven Hearths. This is also not true. That log cabin was taken apart, piece by piece, as observed by my grandfather, Boney H. Hill, and other siblings, from near the Silver Creek and Bright's Creek community, not far from Green River Cove. The cabin belonged to Mary Arledge Hill. Boney H. Hill took his children to the cabin and told them how it was moved and his memories of the family and the cabin. In much later years, sisters of Boney H. Hill, granddaughters of Mary Arledge Hill, also went to visit the cabin when it was being renovated and refurbished. They stated they knew it to be the cabin of Mary Arledge Hill. It was not taken from the Mills property and it was not a slave cabin.

“During the Revolutionary War, Ambrose Mills was a Tory colonel with British Loyalist forces. **William Mills was also a Tory, attaining the rank of major.** He fought with his father at the Battle of Kings Mountain and was wounded.

“**William Mills**, bleeding from wounds in his shoulder and heel and left for dead after the battle, was discovered by a party of Tories who had missed the battle because they had been foraging for food. He came **home to today's Polk County-Rutherford County** and went to a cave on Sugarloaf Mountain on the border of today's Polk, Rutherford and Henderson Counties to hide from the Patriots until his wounds healed. This was close enough to his home for family members and others to bring him provisions.

“After regaining his strength, he fought with the Tories again at the Battle of Cowpens. **In July 1782, at the Rutherford County Superior Court of Law and Equity, court proceedings were held against suspected Tories. Much of he and his father's land was confiscated.**

COMMENT:

As shown by the research notes in this report, taken from Rutherford's court order books, their lands were *not* confiscated. North Carolina law decreed confiscation of the lands of those convicted of treason. However, Ambrose Mills's widow and sons were exonerated by their

³⁴ The writer addresses the issue of *deeds*, but not *grants*. These need to be examined. It is highly likely that traditional references to early lands held by William Mills “and his father” actually relate to William's uncle, also named Mills. This older William was hung, as a Tory, by Lt. Jesse Walton who grew up with him in Albemarle. See E. S. Mills, “Mills: Literature Survey ...,” 28 May 2016, for the RW pension application of Walton's nephew, William Walton Jr.

William Mills, Maj. (1746–1834)
Wife: Eleanor Morris

friends on the local courts. Not only were their lands not confiscated, they were given thousands of acres more.

"A Grand Jury say the following people all late of Rutherford County, planters, aided and joined the army of Major Ferguson and are convicted as Tories, a True Bill." On the list were Ambrose Mills and William Mills. Their lands were all confiscated under the new state law for their allegiance to the king.

"After the Revolutionary War, William Mills took the Oath of Allegiance to the new nation, renounced his "treasonous activities" and regained some of his land. He then began selling this land and buying land in what is today Henderson County.

"He moved into today's Henderson County in 1785.³⁵

"William Mills was not the first pioneer settler into Henderson County. The first proven deed for William Mills was 1785. There were other persons living in what is today Henderson County and who had earlier deeds, dating back to the areas east of the Continental Divide in 1779. The first deeds west of the Continental Divide were in 1783, and they were not deeds for William Mills.

"This is the **first deed for William Mills, recorded Aug. 22, 1785**: William Mills and James Miller enter land at the "end of a little mountain between 'Ready" Patchand Clear Creeks, includes a spring."

"The first Mills' deed was the same year as several other pioneer settlers recorded deeds in the county, according to court records in Rutherford County. At this time in history, the vast majority of land in today's Henderson County was Rutherford County, not Burke County as some books and genealogies mistakenly state. The only sections of what is today Henderson County that were ever part of Burke County were in the Fletcher area.

"Mills owned a great deal of land in what is today the Fruitland and Edneyville section of the county. He also purchased land over the years along the French Broad River and the Mills River. He bought thousands of acres of land over a 20-year period. He was a land speculator, buying land, and then reselling it to other settlers.

"**The first documented mention of slaves in Henderson County is in a deed for William Mills, June 13, 1790**: William Mills enters land on "three forks of **Hungry Creek of Green River**,³⁶includes my 'negher' Tom's cabin and improvements."

"His home was in Edneyville, not the community of Fruitland. The home place and family cemetery was off South Mills Gap Road, not far from the intersection with today's U.S. 64 East. It later became the property of the Edney family.

³⁵ In 1784, William Mills lived in Rutherford when he sold land to Micajah Picket, who immediately conveyed it to John and William Watts. See E. S. Mills, "Watts: Legal Records of Fairfield and Kershaw Counties, South Carolina (Previously Camden District and Craven County), Pre-1830," report to file, 27 October 2014. William Mills's grandson Edney (see account early in this present report) says he moved to Buncombe in 1788.

³⁶ Online trees for Mary Mills Stepp (mother of Polly and daughter of William [Jr.]) place her on **Hungry Creek of Green River**. See, for example, Michelle Snowden, "Philpot Family Tree," *Ancestry* (<http://person.ancestry.com/tree/75380004/person/38524198370/facts> : accessed 12 May 2016).

William Mills, Maj. (1746–1834)

Wife: Eleanor Morris

“He never lived on land that he purchased along the Mills River or French Broad River. He did give his daughter land along the Mills River.

“Mills River was not named for William Mills. The name of the river was written as "Milles" River (French word) **on colonial maps by the 1760s and in early deeds in the 1780s**. This was the French name, as the French claimed all rivers west of the Continental Divide prior to the French and Indian War.³⁷ [Groan] The Mills River flows into the French Broad River, claimed in Tennessee by France.

COMMENT:

Rutherford’s local land entry books repeatedly identify Widow Mills and William Mills as *Milles* and place William’s land along *Milles* River.

“The community of Fruitland was not called that name until the late 1800s, long after his death, and it is not located at the site of his home. William Mills had no more fruit trees than any other pioneer settler. Fruit tree saplings (peach, apple, cherry, and pear) were brought by every pioneer settler and were planted near all of their cabins and homes.

“There were no apple orchards in Henderson County until the 20th century.

“He brought his family into the county on an old Indian trail, used for many years by explorers, hunters, traders and trappers, which became known as the Mills Gap Road. This road was named for him, as he owned most of the land along the old wagon road.

“Oral tradition states that he named many of the mountains and landmarks around him. This simply cannot be true. Most of the mountains and landmarks were already named in early maps. The first deeds had these mountains and streams named before he settled in the region.

“When his stepmother re-married in 1790, the administration of his father's estate (Ambrose) changed to his son, William. William Mills was appointed guardian for the children still living at home, one half-brother and one half-sister. William Mills filed three law suits against John Carrick (his stepmother's new husband) concerning the estate "in order to compel him to give security for the estate of the deceased."³⁸

“His tombstone at the Mills Cemetery, next to the old home place, states he died in 1837. He was born in 1746. A newspaper obituary written at the time of his death states that he was 88 when he died, but stating that he died in 1734 on the same day that he was born. If he was 88, then his death date was 1833.

“The **cemetery is now bordered by private property** on both sides. It can be viewed, across fields and houses, off U.S. 64 East by turning left into a gated housing development before reaching South Mills Gap Road. To get to the cemetery off Mills Gap Road, it is necessary to turn left onto a private drive, which passes through the family's yard and then enters a dirt road for orchard equipment. Permission

³⁷ The argument here is highly specious. “Milles” was a variant of *Mills*. As a French word used to describe a river, it would not have a plural ending for a singular river. Again, it is likely that oral history has confused the older and younger William—i.e., William Jr. who left Albemarle in the mid 1750s and his nephew, William-of-Ambrose.

³⁸ This occurred back in Rutherford.

William Mills, Maj. (1746–1834)
Wife: Eleanor Morris

must be obtained from the property owner. The cemetery was maintained by the Edneyville Boy Scout Troop and the landowners of properties on either side. It was restored, cleaned and a fence and sign built by the Boy Scout troop.

“Obituary of William Mills, published in an Asheville newspaper:

“WILLIAM MILLS, son of Ambrose and Mourning Mills, immigrants to the U.S. from England; born on James River, Virginia, November 10, 1746, moved to Wateree, S.C., where in 1763 he married Eleanor Morriss; later moved to Green River, Rutherford County; a participant at King's Mountain, Cowpens, and Ninety-Six; the first white man to cross the Blue Ridge into what is now Henderson County; moved to Buncombe County in 1788; died November 10, 1834.”³⁹

“This obituary proves that obituaries cannot be trusted as documentation. The obituary does not mention that he was a Tory participant in those battles.⁴⁰ Also, many hunters, militia units, explorers, and settlers had crossed the Blue Ridge (Continental Divide), beginning with the Spanish in the late 1500s, throughout the 1600s and into the 1700s. There is also a discrepancy on the year he married Eleanor Morris. Most established researchers have him marrying her about 1765, not in 1763. The death date here is also interesting.⁴¹ It has him dying on his birthday in the year 1834 at the age of 89, not 88. His tombstone states 1837.⁴²

1746–1834

VA & NC

Biographical sketch.

Find A Grave memorial

“Birth: Nov. 10, 1746, Virginia, USA

Death: Nov. 10, 1834, Henderson County, North Carolina, USA

“Major William Mills served with Loyalist forces at the Battle of Kings Mountain on October 7, 1780, where he was wounded in the leg. He served under his father Lt. Col. Ambrose Mills who was captured by the Patriot forces and was hanged at Biggerstaff farm with eight other Loyalists who had been captured.

“William Mills had served earlier in the War, in 1775, with the Patriots in the Cherokee Wars. He was

³⁹ If these dates are correct, then he married at sixteen or possibly, shortly after his seventeenth birthday. That comports with the description of marital practices in the Camden District that now comprises Fairfield, as described by Rev. Woodmason. See E. S. Mills, “Watts: Literature Survey of South Carolina”

⁴⁰ The writer’s argument is ill-grounded. The fact that an obituary does not mention every aspect of the life of the deceased does not mean it “cannot be trusted as documentation” and statements of the “first white man” ilk speak of *first known or recorded instances*. They do not purport to cover events during prior centuries for which no records are known.

⁴¹ This last statement “Most established researchers have him marrying her about 1765 ...” is not evidence. It is simply opinion. As noted above, Woodmason wrote scathingly of the practice of exceedingly early marriages for boys and girls in the wilds of Fairfield in the 1760s.

⁴² Jennie Jones Giles, “William Mills,” posted at “Private Member Stories,” *Ancestry* (<http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/9120625/person/-849620996/story/3e452001-b9c7-4159-b301-b0b5fc94ac1d?src=search> : accessed 16 June 2015), “William Mills,” posted by “jenniekz” on 23 June 2013. The poster writes: “[This] information is written by Jennie Jones Giles for a booklet related to the Edney and Mills families in Henderson County, N.C. Much of this information is also available on the web site, hendersonheritage.com. Information on the web site is an ongoing process on the history and heritage of Henderson County, as part of the classes taught by Jennie Jones Giles at Blue Ridge Community College. Please note the source when copying information from the web site or as part of this post.”

William Mills, Maj. (1746–1834)

Wife: Eleanor Morris

paid as a private in Porter's Company from Tryon County for service under Gen. Rutherford during 1775. His family was of English descent and, once the War became against the English Crown, he chose to remain loyal to the Crown.

“William Mills is said to have avoided capture after the Battle of Kings Mountain by playing dead while the Patriots were collecting prisoners and escaped to Sugar Loaf Mountain, in what is today Henderson County, where he hid in a cave for a period of time. He sent emissaries back to the Committee of Public Safety for Rutherford County offering to serve the balance of the War with the Patriots. He was seeking to save his land (located back near Mills Spring, which had been named for his father) and have it exempted from confiscation by the new government.

“William Mills was politically nimble. Buncombe County was formed in 1791 and included almost all NC land west of the Continental Divide. William Mills’ lands, now part of Henderson County, were then in Buncombe. By the time of the first census of Buncombe County in 1800, Mills had the largest labor supply in the county in the form of 20 slaves. But, Mills never held political office, probably because of his loyalist activities during the War.

“Mills was credited by Sadie S. Patton in her 1947 book ‘The Story of Henderson County’ with being the first white settler in what is now Henderson County, NC. It is not known whether he was the county’s first white settler, but it is true that when he fled to Sugar Loaf Mountain in 1780, after his Tory activities, there were few if any white settlers in what is today Henderson County.

“The apple industry is today the major industry in the area where his lands were located. In 2013, Henderson County produced 65% of the apples sold from Borth Carolina. Mills has been credited, by some historians, as being the first settler to plant apple trees in the area. But, even if this is true, apples would not have been a major commodity for him on his farms. Apples are perishable and, other than as cider, could not be marketed extensively before refrigeration. In the time of William Mills the major agricultural commodity produced in the mountains of NC was livestock which was driven on foot to the Charleston SC markets. Mills lands were located on the eastern end of the Blue Ridge Escarpment and he may have produced corn and other feed for sale to farmers fattening livestock as it was droved to South Carolina markets.”⁴³

LEGAL RECORDS

1768–1790

NORTH CAROLINA

Tax lists.

⁴³ *Find A Grave* (<http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=114368978> : accessed 5 June 2015), memorial 114368978, created by Holt Felmet; no evidence provided for the assertions.

William Mills, Maj. (1746–1834)

Wife: Eleanor Morris

Neither William nor his father Ambrose appear on the surviving tax lists published for NC.⁴⁴

1 DECEMBER 1770 TRYON COUNTY, NC

Land purchase

“Thomas Reynolds of Tryon Co. to **Ambrose Mills** of same, for 100 pounds proc. money ... land on both sides Green River including the mouth of Walnut Creek by the upper end of a small island above the mouth of the creek, 640 A granted 25 September 1760 ... Thomas Reynolds (+) (seal) Wit: **William Mills**, Mose Moore, Henry Reynolds.

Rec. Jan Term 1773.”⁴⁵

COMMENT:

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

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

CA. 1782 RUTHERFORD COUNTY, SC

Neighbors.

“An agreement between Waightsill Avery and James Miller. Lands mentioned on French Broad River, Cane Cr., Hoopers Cr., Davidson River. Other names mentioned, Andrew Blanchard, Esq., Thomas Wadlington, Agnis Miller, **Anna Mills**, **William Mills**, David Miller, **Widow Mills**, Benjamin Davidson. Dated Oct. — ?”⁴⁶

1782 RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Tax list.

Mills, William: No⁴⁷

COMMENT:

There *is* a listing for William Gilbert and John Earl who, c1782, served as sureties on the administration bond of William Mills’s stepmother, Ann (Widow Ambrose) Mills.

- No Millses are shown for Rutherford.
- No Picketts are shown for Rutherford.

⁴⁴ See Clarence E. Ratcliff, *North Carolina Taxpayers, 1701–1786* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1984); and Ratcliff, *North Carolina Taxpayers, 1679–1790* (Baltimore: GPC, 1987).

⁴⁵ *Singleton Family Organization*, database (<http://www.singletonfamily.org/getperson.php?personID=113454&tree=1> : accessed 27 June 2015); citing “Brent H. Holcomb, *Abstracts of Lincoln, Tryon, and Rutherford Counties, North Carolina, 1769–1786; Wills and Estates*, 680.”

⁴⁶ James E. and Vivian Wooley, *Rutherford County, North Carolina, Wills & Miscellaneous Records, 1783–1868* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1984), 1; the Wooley’s begin this entry—the first entry in their book—with “First two pages badly torn.”

⁴⁷ Clarence E. Ratliff, *North Carolina Taxpayers*, vol. 2, *1679–1790* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1984), 59, 74, 132. Does not include Anson, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, or Tryon. Alphabetized statewide, so clues to neighboring entries are obliterated.

William Mills, Maj. (1746–1834)

Wife: Eleanor Morris

- No Stepps are shown for Rutherford. “James Stepp” is shown for Northampton and Wilkes.

26 APRIL 1773

TRYON COUNTY, NC

Land purchase.

“Walter Sharp of Rowan Co., to **Willm. Mills** of Tryon Co., for £50 proc. Money...land on **Green River** and both sides **Panther Creek**, 300 A granted to Walter Sharp 28 Apr 1768. Walter Sharp (Seal), Wit: *Wm. Sharp, Wm. Butler*. Rec. Apr.. term 1775.”⁴⁸

COMMENT:

On 6 Dec 1806, he and Eleanor sold this Panther Creek land to Micajah Pickett.

15 AUGUST 1774

TRYON COUNTY, NC

Deed.

“A Deed of Sale from *Samuel Sharp* to **Wm Mills** for 200 Acres of Land Dated the 1th of August 1774. Proved by *Walter Sharp* evidence thereto. Ordered to be Reg.” April 1775.⁴⁹

COMMENT:

- On 6 December 1806, he and Eleanor sold this land to Micajah Pickett.
- See also 26 April 1773, above, for an abstract of the deed by which he purchased 300 acres on Green River and Panther Creek from Walter Sharp of Rowan.

10 MARCH 1778

TRYON COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

“Granted. *Alexander Mackey* claims 100 ac in Tryon Co on both sides of a creek that runs into **Green R** at **Wm Mills** ‘on S side of river’: entered Mar. 10, 1778. £3.14.”⁵⁰

COMMENT:

At this point, the future Maj. William Mills is the only William in possession of land by a legal and recorded title. His uncle William (“English Billy”) has disposed of his land on the Pacolet. By July 1778, the elder William would have a tract of land surveyed on Walnut River about a mile from Ambrose, a tract cited in a land entry made by a neighbor; but there is no record that the land was actually granted to him.⁵¹

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

⁴⁸ Brent Holcomb, *Deed Abstracts of Tryon, Lincoln & Rutherford Counties, North Carolina, 1769–1786; Tryon County Wills & Estates* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1977), 72; citing Tryon-Lincoln vol. 2: 155–56.

⁴⁹ Lucille Hendrick Gardner and Virginia Greene DePriest, *Minutes of the Inferior Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for Tryon County, North Carolina*, vol. 1, 1769–1772 (Shelby, NC: P.p., 1985), 62.

⁵⁰ A. B. Pruitt, *Abstracts of Land Entrys, Tryon and Lincoln Co., NC, 1778–1780* (N.p.: P.p., 1987), 13; citing page 36.

⁵¹ A. B. Pruitt, *Abstracts of Land Entrys, Tryon and Lincoln Co., NC, 1778–1780* (N.p.: P.p., 1987), 13; citing page 46.

William Mills, Maj. (1746–1834)

Wife: Eleanor Morris

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

Beginning at a black oak running E 40 poles to **Mills’ line**, then with **Mills’ line** S 100 poles to a stake & pointers in **his outside line**, then W 40 [46?] poles to a stake, then N 100 poles to the beginning.⁵²

23 JULY 1778

TRYON COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

“Granted. *Joseph More* claims 100 ac in Tryon Co on **Walnut Cr** of **Green R**; above **William Mills** land: entered Jul. 23, 1778; £3.15.”⁵³

COMMENT:

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

15 JANUARY 1779

TRYON COUNTY, NC

Land grant.

“487. Granted. *William Hall* claims 100 ac in Tryon Co on both sides of **Richland Cr** of **Green R**; border: **William Mills Jr** on N side; entered Jan. 15, 1779; £3.14.”⁵⁴

COMMENT:

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

15 JANUARY 1779

TRYON COUNTY, NC

Land grant.

“489. Granted. Discontinued Oct. 2, 1779 *William Hall* claims 100 ac in Tryon Co on branch of **Green R** about 1 mile from **Ambrose Mills**; border: land claimed by **Ambrose Mills** where **Wm Mills Sr** now lives; entered Jan. 15, 1779; £3.14.”⁵⁵

⁵² Rutherford Co., NC, Deed Book 27–28: 462–63; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7517765 > images 748–49.

⁵³ A. B. Pruitt, *Abstracts of Land Entrys, Tryon and Lincoln Co., NC, 1778–1780* (N.p.: P.p., 1987), 19; citing page 48.

⁵⁴ A. B. Pruitt, *Abstracts of Land Entrys, Tryon and Lincoln Co., NC, 1778–1780* (N.p.: P.p., 1987), 42; citing page 103.

⁵⁵ A. B. Pruitt, *Abstracts of Land Entrys, Tryon and Lincoln Co., NC, 1778–1780* (N.p.: P.p., 1987), 42; citing page 103.

William Mills, Maj. (1746–1834)
Wife: Eleanor Morris

29 SEPTEMBER 1779

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land sale.

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

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

Granted to *John McKnitt Alexander* 29 April 1768, conveyed to *Samuel Sharp*, then to *William Mills*. ... Signed: **William Mills, Elinor Mills**. Wit: **John Earle, Wm. Nevil**.⁵⁶

27 OCTOBER 1779

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Association.

John Kirkconnel of Beaufort Co., N.C. to *Samuel King* of Rutherford Co., for £65 proc. Money ... land on both sides **S fork Broad river**. 200 A granted to sd. Kirkconnel by deed from *Andrew Neel*, 28 Mar 1778, and to sd. Neel by patton (sic) 2 Mar 1775 ... Jno Kirkconnell (Seal), Wit: **Wm. Gilbert, William Mills**.⁵⁷

COMMENT:

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

C1780

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Historical context.

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

"...During the Revolutionary War whence the [3 illegible words] was to [two illegible words], **the mother of Jesse Mills** whose Character & age the deponent [illegible word] in the Annexed? Declaration, **lived at the deponents Fathers House**, that On A day & year that the Deponent cannot now p____, the Ap_____ in Some Person [Persons?] was seen Riding Towards the House. It was Said it was **Jesse Mills Returning from the Army**. His mother Run out to see? Him Claping His Hands—as He Jesse Mills Came up Close to her She Exclaimed it [to be?] Him the deponent further Say that Jesse Mills was Riding a Sorrel Stallion with A Ball [bald?] face. **Jesse's father William Mills, Commonly cal^d English Billy was a Virginia man whose Sucumstances**

⁵⁶ Rutherford Co., NC, Deed Book A-D (transcribed copy): 321–321½; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 75517761.

⁵⁷ Brent Holcomb, *Deed Abstracts of Tryon, Lincoln & Rutherford Counties, North Carolina, 1769–1786; Tryon County Wills & Estates* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1977), 139; citing Rutherford Deeds A-1:139.

William Mills, Maj. (1746–1834)

Wife: Eleanor Morris

would not Justify the Purchase of Sutch to [illegible] as Jesse Rode Home & the Deponant further Say that he understood that Jesse got this Horse for His Services in the Revolutionary War—During the Course of this Services Part was Stationed at a Place Called White Hall in South Carolina in Abbeville District but then & at the time He the Said Jesse Performed those Services was in the District of Ninety Six of South Carolina. The deponent further States that he was Born? In ____ [three unclear words] the House or Station described by the Said Jesse Mills as Having been burned by the _____ Several of ____ being those Killed & wounded. **The House belonged to the Deponants father who with the deponent was Absent at the time of Attack & Conflagration.** The deponent knows nothing about the loss of [illegible word] & Property Stated by Jesse Mills of any other Sircumstance? By Jesse Mills. The Deponent Says no Knowledge & the Deponent from this Say that He has no Doubt of the Present Applicant being the Same Jesse Mills that [illegible word] from those Services Hereto first Described. Sworn to & Subscribed by me this 18th day of May 1833. Jn^o Mills.”⁵⁸

OCTOBER 1781?

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Settlement.

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

“An agreement between *Waightstill Avery and James Miller*. Lands mentioned on French Broad River, Cane Cr., Hoopers Cr., Davidson River. Other names mentioned, *Andrew Blanchard, Esq., Thomas Wadlington, Agnis Miller, Anna Mills, William Mills*, David Miller, **Widow Mills**, *Benjamin Davidson*. Dated Oct. ____?”⁵⁹

COMMENT:

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

Waightstill Avery was an attorney who presented his license at the first court held in Tryon, April? 1769.⁶⁰

JANUARY 1782

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Court order.

“On Enquiry made by the Court Respecting **William Mills**, Charge of treason against the State, it appearing to the Court that sd Mills was in .. Service of the State, the Court therefore are of the opinion

⁵⁸ Jesse Mills Pension Application (Pvt., Miller’s Regt., NC Line), W7448, widow Sarah (née Garrett); imaged in “Revolutionary War Pensions,” *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com/image/246/25852181> and 50 subsequent images : accessed 30 May 2018). For the affidavit of John Mills, see 25852227 and 25852229.

⁵⁹ James E. and Vivian Wooley, *Rutherford County, North Carolina, Wills & Miscellaneous Records, 1783–1868* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1984), 1; citing Book A:1–2.

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

William Mills, Maj. (1746–1834)

Wife: Eleanor Morris

that his property is protected by law, and it is Ord. that the property of sd Mills remain in peaceable possession of his family till the law shall otherwise direct. **James Miller** being obligated to the Court, that the Estate now in the possession of sd **Mills** shall not be Entered, bound in the sum of five Hundred pounds specia.”⁶¹

JULY 1782

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land confiscation.

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

COMMENT:

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

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

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

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

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

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

“582F. Grand Jury returns an inquisition of treason forfeitures against **Thomas Mills** and others; jurors for the State present and find a bill against William **Withrow** and others; Grand Jury dismissed.”⁶²

COMMENT:

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

JULY 1782

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

⁶¹ Hedy Hughes Newton, *Rutherford County, North Carolina, Abstracts of Minutes, Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 1779–1786* (Ellenboro, NC: P.p., 1974), 18; citing p. 48.

⁶² A. B. Pruitt, *Abstracts of Sales of Confiscated Loyalist Land and Property in North Carolina* (N.p.: P.p., 1989), 113–27.

William Mills, Maj. (1746–1834)

Wife: Eleanor Morris

Court order.

“Jurors find a Bill of Profacturas treason against **William Mills** and others. John Goodbread, one charged in sd ... appeared, pleads not Guilty.” Estate of William Henry (agent: John Cook) was confiscated after a jury found him guilty. “The Grand Jury returns an Inquisition of treason against **Thomas Mills** and others.”... “Ord. that the Commissioners of Confiscated property to advertise all persons (returned?) in the Enquisition by the Grand Jury for treason, forfeiture, confiscation against the State, to appear at next Court to answer the Charges. To advertise sixty days before next Court.”⁶³

COMMENT:

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

JULY 1782

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Court order.

“Ord. that the following **Justices** be appointed to take a list of taxable property for the year 1782, to wit: **John Earle, Esq.**, to take a list of *Capt. Nevils* District. ... *William Gilbert, Esq.* in *Capt. Russell’s* Company.”⁶⁴

1782

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Tax list.

Earl, John Rutherford 1782 [No further data]

Gilbert, William Rutherford 1782 ⁶⁵

COMMENT:

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

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

OCTOBER 1782

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Court order.

Various individuals are found guilty of treason in this term and their property subject to confiscation. In the case of the Widow Biggerstaff (the woman whom history credits with burying the corpses of Ambrose Mills and seven others hanged on her farm) the court ordered the confiscation of “all her

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

⁶⁴ Hedy Hughes Newton, *Rutherford County, North Carolina, Abstracts of Minutes, Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 1779–1786* (Ellenboro, NC: P.p., 1974), 26; citing p. 68.

⁶⁵ Clarence E. Ratliff, *North Carolina Taxpayers*, vol. 2, 1679–1790 (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1984), 59, 74, 132. Does not include Anson, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, or Tryon. Alphabetized statewide, so clues to neighboring entries are obliterated.

William Mills, Maj. (1746–1834)

Wife: Eleanor Morris

moveable property except Negroes and also all the lands possessed by her Deceased Husband in his lifetime, and also the rents of her land for the present year.

[but] it is ord. that the trial of Aaron Biggerstaff for forfeiture treason be laid over till next Court.”⁶⁶

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

Ord. by Court that *James Miller* and **Ann Mills** have Authority (to) take into their possession all the Estate of **Ambros Mills** dec’d. in this State (or?) where to be found.”⁶⁷

28 OCTOBER 1782

TRYON COUNTY, NC

Land entry & grant.

James Step grant of land on **Green River** “Including Aaron Reileys and his own Improvement.” Entered 3 November 1779. Surveyed 26 November 1779. Granted 28 October 1782.⁶⁸

22 DECEMBER 1782

LINCOLN COUNTY, NC

Court order.

“A Deed of Sale from **James Taylor** to *John Sloan* for (blank) acres dated December 22nd 1782 proved by *John Alexander* & ordered to be registered.” 11 April 1783 term.⁶⁹

JANUARY 1783

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Court order.

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

“James Gray, George Anderson, Joseph Young, David Moore, John Miller, Rodger Carson, James Hamilton, John Huddlestone, James Armstrong, James Wilson, Alexander McFadin, and Patrick Watson

⁶⁶ Hedy Hughes Newton, *Rutherford County, North Carolina, Abstracts of Minutes, Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 1779–1786* (Ellenboro, NC: P.p., 1974), 35; citing pp. 87–88.

⁶⁷ Hedy Hughes Newton, *Rutherford County, North Carolina, Abstracts of Minutes, Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 1779–1786* (Ellenboro, NC: P.p., 1974), 36; citing p. 91.

⁶⁸ “North Carolina, Land Grant Files, 1693–1960,” database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 7 July 2018) > Anson > 1779–2438 > images 135–39.

⁶⁹ Anne Williams McAllister and Kathy Gunter Sullivan, *Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions, Lincoln County, North Carolina, April 1779-January 1789* (Lenoir, NC: P.p., 1988), 50.

William Mills, Maj. (1746–1834)

Wife: Eleanor Morris

was summoned, Impaneled and sworn to try the Enquiry do find for the plaintiff against the Several Defendants and assess Damages to 1206 pounds Specia and Costs; Verdict.”⁷⁰

COMMENT:

The nature of the suit is not stated, but several of these (Goodbread, Chitwood, Biggerstaff, Mills) are otherwise documented as Loyalists in this set of materials. Likely, they all are. The reference to Ambros would be a reference to Ambrose Sr. whose lands were to be forfeited if the court ruled him guilty of treason.

JANUARY 1783

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Court order.

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

“William Morrison, William Porter, William **Withrow**, Thomas Welch, James Adair, Robert Rankin, Stephen Willis, Junr. James Gray, James McDaniel (of the Cove), John **Twitty**, James McDaniel (of Broad River), and James Armstrong was Summoned, Impaneled and Duly Sworn to try the Enquiry do find for the plaintiff against the Several Defendants and assess Damages to 540 pounds Specia and Costs.”⁷¹

JANUARY 1783

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Court order.

“Petition of John McClaine against **Ambros Mills** and other Enemies of the State. Judgmt. By Default.”⁷²

COMMENT:

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

20 SEPTEMBER 1783

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, SC

Land sale.

“**William Mills** of Rutherford Co. to **William Twitty** of same for 200 pounds specia 150 A on north side of Green River, part of a tract conveyed to Ambrose Mills and Falling to sd. William by heirship ... Powels Cabin ... William Mills (seal) Wit: **Ann Mills, John Mills**.”⁷³

⁷⁰ Hedy Hughes Newton, *Rutherford County, North Carolina, Abstracts of Minutes, Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 1779–1786* (Ellenboro, NC: P.p., 1974), 41; citing p. 103.

⁷¹ Hedy Hughes Newton, *Rutherford County, North Carolina, Abstracts of Minutes, Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 1779–1786* (Ellenboro, NC: P.p., 1974), 42; citing p. 105.

⁷² Hedy Hughes Newton, *Rutherford County, North Carolina, Abstracts of Minutes, Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 1779–1786* (Ellenboro, NC: P.p., 1974), 43; citing p. 107.

⁷³ *Singleton Family Organization*, database (<http://www.singletonfamily.org/getperson.php?personID =13454&tree=1> : accessed 27 June 2015); citing “Brent H. Holcomb, *Abstracts of Lincoln, Tryon, and Rutherford Counties, North Carolina, 1769–1786; Wills and Estates* (1977), 182.”

William Mills, Maj. (1746–1834)

Wife: Eleanor Morris

COMMENT:

William Mills had a stepmother named Ann and a half-brother named John, as shown in subsequent abstracts.

1 AUGUST 1783

BURKE COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

Anne Mills entered a tract of 247 acres that would be described in its patent of 15 December 1787 as “lying and being in Our County of Burke on the Western Waters on the West Side of **French Broad River** above the mouth of **Mills Creek**.”

Beginning [*sic*] at a large black oak on the river bank marked WM and runs with this 80 poles to a white oak near **Mills Creek**, thence S 80 poles to a maple in a swamp at the head of a pond, thence W 80 poles to a black gum in a swamp, thence S 227 poles to a stake, thence E 83 poles to a black oak on the river bank, thence up the meanders of the river to the beginning.⁷⁴

1 AUGUST 1783

BURKE COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

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

Beginning at a sourwood tree on the river bank above the mouth of **Mud Creek** and runs E 400 poles to two large white oaks and a black oak marked W.M. then S 220 poles to a branch, the same course 40 poles to a black oak on a **high ridge**, then W 28 poles to a red oak and black oak on the river bank at the upper end of **the bottom**, then down the meanders of the river to the beginning.⁷⁵

1 AUGUST 1783

BURKE COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

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

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

⁷⁴ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 65:491; citing Burke Co. File No. 1088, NC microfilm reel S108.160.15N, frame 750, State Archives.

⁷⁵ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 65:490; citing Burke Co. File No. 1086, NC microfilm reel S.108.517, State Archives.

William Mills, Maj. (1746–1834)

Wife: Eleanor Morris

large meadow, then N 84 poles to the creek, the same course 260 poles to a stake, then E 316 poles to a stake on the river bank, then up the meanders of the river to the beginning.⁷⁶

AUGUST–SEPTEMBER 1783

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Military service.

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

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

“589. Sept. 1783 a suit vs **Thomas Mills** (of Rutherford Co)—on Sept. 10, 1780, he was a captain in the King’s Army; evidence: **Wm Gilbert**, Ben Cleveland, Geo. Black, & Saml Hunter; ‘not a true bill’.”⁷⁷

27 SEPTEMBER 1783

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Military service.

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

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

Witnesses: **Ann Mills, John Mills**.⁷⁸

COMMENT:

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

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

13 OCTOBER 1783

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Association.

⁷⁶ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 65:490; citing Burke Co. File No. Burke file no. 1087, NC microfilm reel S.108.160.15N, frame 750, State Archives.

⁷⁷ A. B. Pruitt, *Abstracts of Sales of Confiscated Loyalist Land and Property in North Carolina* (N.p.: P.p., 1989), p. ?.

⁷⁸ Rutherford Co., Deed Book A-D (a transcript): 182; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7517761 > image 101.

William Mills, Maj. (1746–1834)
Wife: Eleanor Morris

"*John Smythe, 100 A on First Broad River adj. William Milles Jun., Collinwood, including a shoal ... 13 October 1783. Alex Martin.*"⁷⁹

COMMENT:

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

OCTOBER 1783
RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land sale.

"**William Mills** ack. A deed in open court to **William Twitty** for 150 acres land. Ord. to be reg."⁸⁰

APRIL 1784
RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Court order.

"*James Jeffrey*, bail for **William Mills** at the Suit of *Robert Campbell*, came into Court and surrendered the principal in discharge of the bail."⁸¹

APRIL 1784
RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Court order.

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

"*John Allen* bound in the sum of 50 pounds Sp. To prosecute the sd. **Wm. Mills.**"⁸²

APRIL 1784
RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Road order.

"Ord. that **John Earle**, John Cummons, Abraham Music Jun., George Potts, (Terkub?) [*sic*] Potts, Matthies May..... Henry Wolf, Wm. Capshaw, George Green, William Thompson, John Fisher, John Thompson, Jonathan Potts, **James Step** be and is hereby appointed a Jury to lay off and mark a road...from *Hooper's*

⁷⁹ Brent Holcomb, *Deed Abstracts of Tryon, Lincoln & Rutherford Counties, North Carolina, 1769–1786; Tryon County Wills & Estates* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1977), 151; citing Rutherford Deeds A-1:241–42.

⁸⁰ Hedy Hughes Newton, *Rutherford County, North Carolina, Abstracts of Minutes, Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 1779–1786* (Ellenboro, NC: P.p., 1974), 61; citing p.162.

⁸¹ Hedy Hughes Newton, *Rutherford County, North Carolina, Abstracts of Minutes, Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 1779–1786* (Ellenboro, NC: P.p., 1974), 74; citing p. 194.

⁸² Hedy Hughes Newton, *Rutherford County, North Carolina, Abstracts of Minutes, Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 1779–1786* (Ellenboro, NC: P.p., 1974), 77; citing p. 200.

William Mills, Maj. (1746–1834)

Wife: Eleanor Morris

ford on **North Pacolet** to **Mills Gap** on **Green River**, and that the Sheriff summons them to appear before **John Earle, Esq.** to qualify for their charge.”⁸³

COMMENT:

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

OCTOBER 1784

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Road order.

“The court appointed overseers on that part of the public road leading from **Hoopers ford** on the **Pacolet** to **Mills Gap**. *John Cummons* overseer to *Michael Hawkins* place. **Tho. Justice** from there to the gap. That the inhabitants from *Capshaw Mill* to North Fork of **White oak**, as far as ... to work on *Cummons* road. The inhabitants from the **Widow Mills** to the extent of the County to work on *Justices* road.”⁸⁴

COMMENT:

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

14 OCTOBER 1784

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

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

“No. 104. Granted to Riges. **William Mills** Entring 100 acres of Land in Rutherford County Ling on **Rotens Creek** of Green River, Including Robson’s **Lick Log**, this for Compliment.”⁸⁵

COMMENT:

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

15 OCTOBER 1784

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

“No. 105. Granted Riges. **William Milles** Entring 100 acres of Land in Rutherford county Ling on **Panter Creek** of Green River up nier the mountin, this for Compliment.”⁸⁶

⁸³ Hedy Hughes Newton, *Rutherford County, North Carolina, Abstracts of Minutes, Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 1779–1786* (Ellenboro, NC: P.p., 1974), 77; citing p. 201.

⁸⁴ Hedy Hughes Newton, *Rutherford County, North Carolina, Abstracts of Minutes, Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 1779–1786* (Ellenboro, NC: P.p., 1974), 88; citing p. 232.

⁸⁵ Rutherford Co., NC, "Rutherford Land Entries, 1783–1788, unpaginated; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7517759 > image 157.

⁸⁶ Rutherford Co., NC, "Rutherford Land Entries, 1783–1788, unpaginated; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7517759 > image 157.

William Mills, Maj. (1746–1834)
Wife: Eleanor Morris

18 OCTOBER 1784

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

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

Beginning at a black gum and pointers on **Gilberts** old line, thence S 30 E 80 poles to two white oakes, thence S 7 W 110 poles to a Spanish oak black oak one post oak, thence W 50 poles to a stake, thence **N 30 W 178 poles** to the corner of the corner of **the 50 acres tract John Mills got from Fish**, then N 33 W 60 poles to the beginning of said tract, thence **N 47 E 72** poles to a large black oak, thence SE 18 poles to a Spanish oak in the old line, thence S 8 E 80 poles to a stake, the old corner, thence with the other old line N 82 E 30 poles to the beginning.⁸⁷

OCTOBER 1784

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Road order.

"The court appointed overseers on that part of the public road leading from *Hooper's* ford on **Pacolet** to **Mills Gap**. John Cummons overseer to Michael Hawkins place. **Tho. Justice** from there to the **gap**. That the inhabitants from Capshaw Mill to **North Fork of White oak**, as far as ... to work on Cummons road. The inhabitants from the **Widow Mills** to the extent of the County to work on Justices road."⁸⁸

COMMENT:

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

1784

BURKE COUNTY, NC

Legal suit.

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

(File 1784, No. 1) ...

"Adlai Osborn vs. **James Stepp**, Sept. 6. Bond: John Carson, Jno. Cooper."⁸⁹

COMMENT:

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

⁸⁷ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 124:182; citing Rutherford Co. file 2711, NC microfilm reel S.108.160.33N, frame 352, State Archives.

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

⁸⁹ Edith Warren Huggins, *Burke County, North Carolina, Land Records and More Important Miscellaneous Records, 1751–1809* (Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1987), 93.

William Mills, Maj. (1746–1834)
Wife: Eleanor Morris

documents.

1784 & 1787
NORTH CAROLINA
State censuses.

COMMENT:

There are no schedules for Rutherford County.⁹⁰

10 DECEMBER 1784
CAMDEN DISTRICT, FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC
Associates.

William Mills of Rutherford County, NC, to Macajah Picket of Craven County, SC. Lease and release. By virtue of a grant made 18? May 1773 to *Ambrose Mills*, 100 acres situated in Craven on a **small branch of the Wateree Creek** bounded NE by *John Lee*, and on other sides by vacant land. Sale for **20 pounds**, cash. Signed: *William Mills*. Witnesses: **John Mills, Surls Lewis, Ann Mills**. Proved 21 December 1784 by Surls Lewis before John Winn, J.P.[a Fairfield official] Recorded 26 June 1792.⁹¹

COMMENT:

The two witnesses appear to be the widow Ann and her newly adult son by Ambrose.

John does not appear on the 1790 census of Rutherford County. Meanwhile, deed records appear in Craven County for a John Mills. However, that John began accumulating land in the 1760s, contemporaneously with Ambrose.⁹²

- The document does not say where it was drafted. Possibly, **William Mills journeyed down to Fairfield**, given that Macijah Pickett executed another purchase that same day in the area of Winnsboro. (See William Tidwell deed, 10 December 1784.) If so, then his widowed stepmother and half-brother John seemingly went with him, for them to sign the document.
- The document appears to have been personally penned by William Mills—a man who had lived in “*Craven County, SC*” in his youth—at which time it was, indeed, Craven Co. At the time of the deed, the area had been *Camden District* for 15 years. If the document were penned by someone living in that district, he would not likely have called it by its old name.

⁹⁰ Alvaretta Kenan Register, *State Census of North Carolina, 1784–1787*, 2d ed. rev. (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1983).

⁹¹ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book H (1792–93): 9–11; FHL microfilm 23,993.

⁹² This John Mills acquired his first Craven County land in 1765, making him a contemporary of Ambrose; however, he was not a brother of Ambrose, according to the will of Ambrose’s father. Still, for Ambrose’s NC-based son to seek out a Fairfield man of the same surname to serve as witness implies some family connection. (Mills research in Lunenburg, Albemarle, and Amherst Counties, Va., shows there was a John Mills in the William Mills neighborhood in 1754 and later. See E. S. Mills, “Mills: Literature Survey of Southside Virginia.”) This John Mills’s of Camden District speculated on land in disparate parts of Fairfield, Rocky Creek, Bush Creek, Cedar Creek, and Sandy River; see *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database with images (http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online_archives/ : accessed 7 October 2014), “Mills, John,” numerous database entries and some plats, series S213184: Colonial plat Books (Copy Series). I have found no evidence of military service by him on either side. He may be the John Mills Sr., whose same-name son was an RW captain in S.C., discussed in numerous pensions.

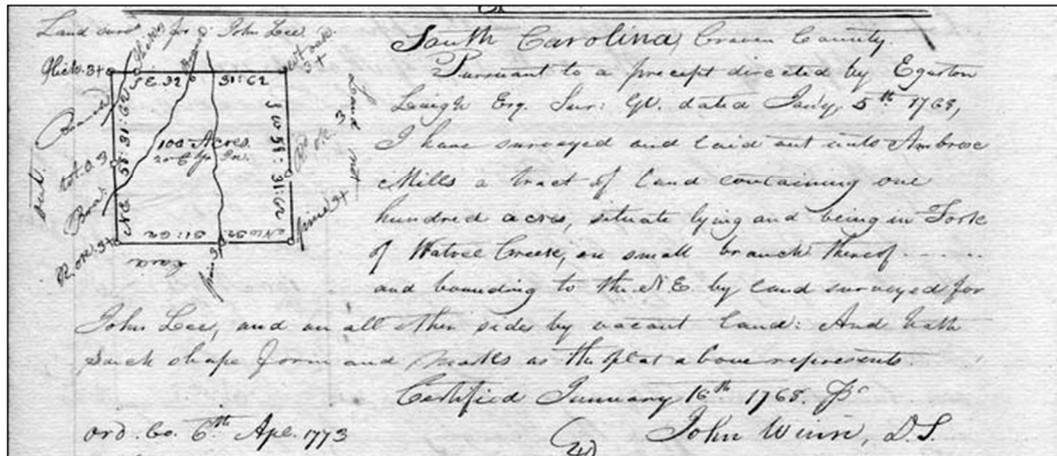
William Mills, Maj. (1746–1834)

Wife: Eleanor Morris

S213184: Colonial Plat Books (Copy Series)

MILLS, AMBROSE, PLAT FOR 100 ACRES IN CRAVEN COUNTY.

[Previous](#) | [Return to image index](#) | [Next](#)



10 JANUARY 1785

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

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

Beginning at a hickory on the N bank of the creek in a **bottom**, thence N 90 poles to a black oak, thence W 180 poles to a stake, thence S 90 poles to a stake, thence to the beginning.⁹³

COMMENT:

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

1785

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

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

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

Entered [day and month not state].⁹⁴

⁹³ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 65:320; citing Rutherford Co. file 302, NC microfilm reel S.108.160.15N, frame 665, State Archives.

⁹⁴ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 65:318; citing Rutherford Co. file 293, NC microfilm reel S.108.160.15N, frame 664, State Archives.

William Mills, Maj. (1746–1834)

Wife: Eleanor Morris

COMMENT:

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

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

12 JANUARY 1785

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

"No. 142. Granted to Rigs. **William Milles** Enteres 100 acres of Land in Rutherford Countey L[y]ing on Both Sides of **Roton's Creek** a bout a mile a Bove the **old path** the waters of **Green River** this for Compliment."⁹⁵

COMMENT:

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

20 JANUARY 1785

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

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

Beginning at a red oak marked thus WM, then N 180 poles to a red oak, then W 90 poles to a black oak, then S 180 poles to a black oak. then to the beginning.⁹⁶

JANUARY 1785

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Court order.

"A Writt of Error was moved by John Goodbread and others on the suit of **William Gilbert** against John Goodbread, Joseph Underwood, Thomas Townsend, John Camp, **William Mills**, Richard Ledbetter and Thomas Camp, and on the affidavit of John Crawford in open court. It is thereupon ord. that a Writ of Error be granted to the sd. John Goodbread, Joseph Underwood, Thomas (Townsend), **William Mills** and Thomas Camp – on the Judgement that the sd. William Gilbert recovered against them and that the Clerk Certify the same to Superior Court acco. to law."⁹⁷

COMMENT:

⁹⁵ Rutherford Co., NC, "Rutherford Land Entries, 1783-1788, unpaginated; imaged, FamilySearch digital film 7517759 > image 164.

⁹⁶ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 65:324; citing Rutherford Co. file 317, NC microfilm reel S.108.160.15N, frame 667, State Archives.

⁹⁷ Hedy Hughes Newton, *Rutherford County, North Carolina, Abstracts of Minutes, Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 1779–1786* (Ellenboro, NC: P.p., 1974), 98; citing p. 258.

William Mills, Maj. (1746–1834)

Wife: Eleanor Morris

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

APRIL 1785

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Road order.

"On petition, it is ord. by Court that **William Mills**, George Green, Benjamin Johnson, ... Justice [sic], Amos Justice, Abram Musick, John Cummons, George (Potts?) [sic], William Thompson, David Musick, **George Paris** and James Rice be ... hereby appointed a Jury to lay off and mark a road the nighest and best way from **Col. John Earles** to **William Mills**, and from thence tothe Mountain, and report the same to our next court."⁹⁸

APRIL 1785?

LINCOLN COUNTY, NC

Court minute.

"The Administrators of the Estate of **William Mills, Decd** came into Court & made a settlement of said Estate & the whole amount of the Estate was £374.5.10 Credit for vouchers filed £286.4.0.½ Balance in the hands of the adms. £88.1.9.½."⁹⁹

COMMENT:

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

10 JUNE 1785

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

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

Beginning at a hickory on the N bank of the creek in a **bottom**, thence N 90 poles to a black oak, thence W 180 poles to a stake, then S 90 poles to a stake, thence to the beginning.¹⁰⁰

10 JUNE 1785

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

⁹⁸ Hedy Hughes Newton, *Rutherford County, North Carolina, Abstracts of Minutes, Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 1779–1786* (Ellenboro, NC: P.p., 1974), 103; citing p. 271.

⁹⁹ Anne Williams McAllister and Kathy Gunter Sullivan, *Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions, Lincoln County, North Carolina, April 1779–January 1789* (Lenoir, NC: P.p., 1988), 92.

¹⁰⁰ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 54:292; citing Rutherford Co. file No. 191, NC microfilm reel S.108.160.15N frame 651, State Archives.

William Mills, Maj. (1746–1834)

Wife: Eleanor Morris

Survey warrant.

“State of North Carolina. No. 104. David Miller’s Entry Office of Claims for Land in the County of Rutherford, to the surveyr of said County, Greeting, You are hereby Required as soon as may be to Lay off and survey for **William Mills** a tract or parcel of Land Containing a hundred acres Lying in the Countey aforesaid Lying on **Rotens Creek** of Green River, Inclouding **Roten’s Lick Loge**, this for Compliment. — Observing the Directions of the act of Assembly in Such Case made and provided for Runing out Lands Two just and fair plans of such survey with a proper Certificate Annexed to Each you are to Transmit with this warrant to the Secretarys Office without delay. Given under my hand at office the 10 Day of June anno Dom. 1785. David Miller Et.” Note: “in the new office.”

Reverse: “No. 104, William Mills 100 acres on Rotens Creek of Green River, Rutherford • No. 2692. date 22d Decemr 1808 • June 10th 1785 • E? M.O. • in the new office • then this plat to the Secretary without any further trouble? • Corresponds —Entd. 14 Oct⁴ 1784.”

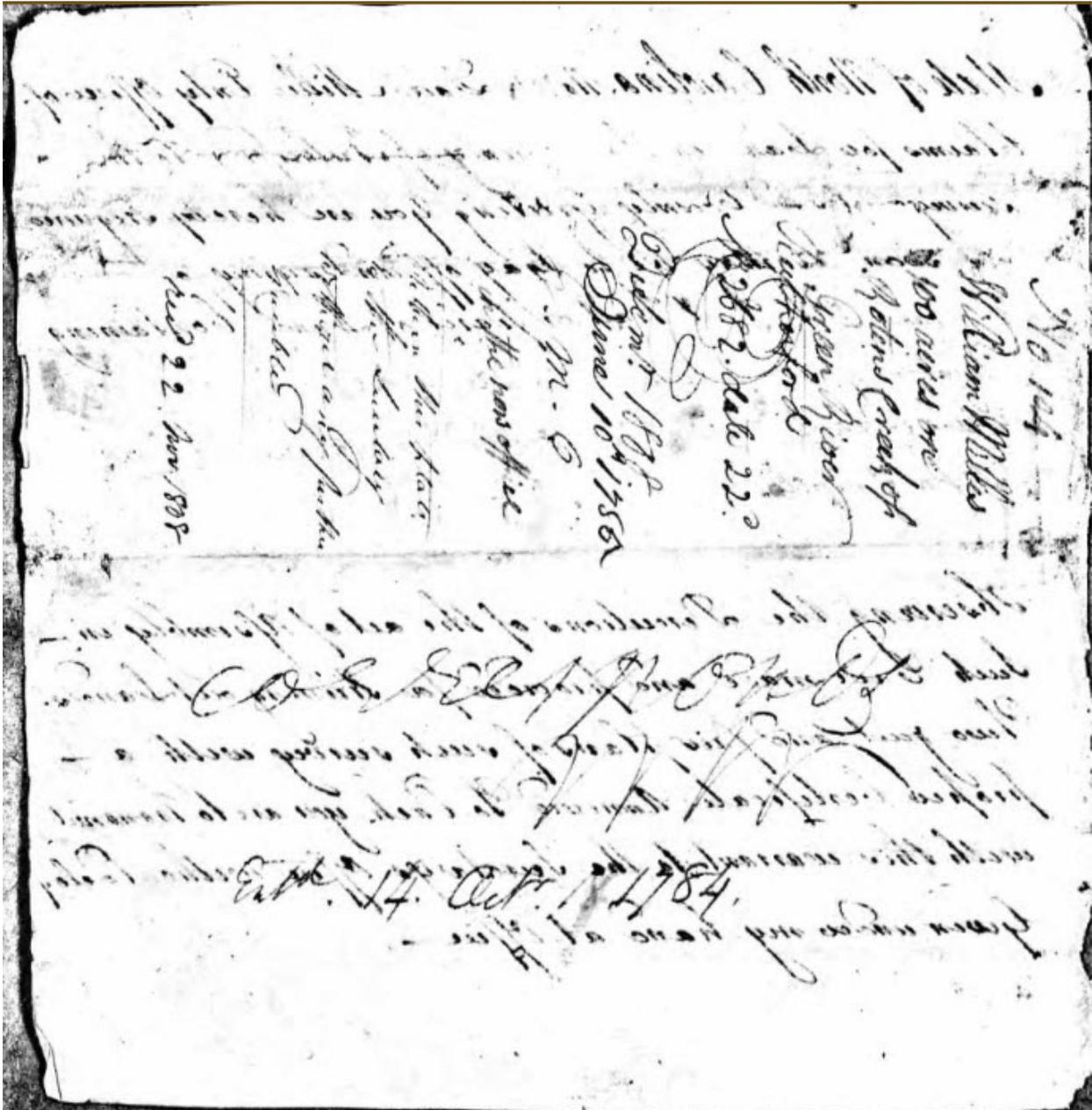
State of North Carolina. No 104 David Miller's Entry Office of
Claims for Land in the County of Rutherford To the
surveyr of said County Greeting You are hereby Required
as soon as may be to Lay off and survey for
William Mills a Tract or parcel of Land containing
a hundred acres Lying in the County aforesaid Lying on
Rotens Creek of Green River Inclouding Rotens Lick Loge
this for Compliment

Observing the Directions of the act of Assembly in
Such Case made and provided for Runing out Lands.
Two just and fair plans of such survey with a
proper Certificate Annexed to Each you are to Transmit
with this warrant to the Secretarys Office without Delay
Given under my hand at office the 10 Day of Jun
anno Dom 1785
in the new office

David Miller Et

William Mills, Maj. (1746–1834)

Wife: Eleanor Morris



30 JUNE 1785

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land sale.

"William Mills to Samuel McBryer for 100 pds. Proc. Money, 100 a. which formerly belonged to

William Mills, Maj. (1746–1834)
Wife: Eleanor Morris

Ambrose Mills on Green River on N. side below mouth of Walnut Creek.¹⁰¹

COMMENT:

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

15 JULY 1785

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land purchase.

“Peter Johnston of Mecklenburg Co., N.C. to **William Mills** of Rutherford for 50 pds. Spe. 200 a., in Rutherford Co. on both sides **Green River** incl. *Vaughns* imp. Land was granted *John Kerkonel* by Pat. Dtd. 9 July 1775. Rec. 4 Jan. 1794. [Witnesses:] *James Miller, Benjamin Adams.*”¹⁰²

22 AUGUST 1785

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land purchase.

“The first proven deed for William Mills was 1785. There were other persons living in what is today Henderson County and who had earlier deeds, dating back to the areas east of the Continental Divide in 1779. The first deeds west of the Continental Divide were in 1783, and they were not deeds for William Mills.

“This is the **first deed for William Mills, recorded Aug. 22, 1785**: William Mills and James Miller enter land at the “end of a little mountain between ‘Ready’ Patch and Clear Creeks, includes a spring’.”¹⁰³

10 DECEMBER 1785

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

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

Beginning at a red oak in the N side of a **mountain**, then N 84 W 264 poles crossing the creek to a stake and pointers, then N 8 W 100 poles to a pine, thence N 33 E 62 poles to a white oak, then N 77 E 60 poles to three white oaks, thence E 180 poles to a stake, then to the begining.¹⁰⁴

12 DECEMBER 1785

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

William Mills & James Miller entered a tract that would be described in its patent of 26 November 1789

¹⁰¹ Caroline Heath Davis, *Rutherford County, North Carolina, Abstracts of Deeds, 1773–1795* (Rutherfordton, NC: P.p., c1973), 32; citing G:213?.

¹⁰² Caroline Heath Davis, *Rutherford County, North Carolina, Abstracts of Deeds, 1773–1795* (Rutherfordton, NC: P.p., c1973), 80; citing J:127.

¹⁰³ Jennie Jones Giles, “William Mills”; undocumented.

¹⁰⁴ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 71:340; citing Rutherford Co. file 497, NC microfilm reel S.108.160.17N, frame 429, State Archives.

William Mills, Maj. (1746–1834)
Wife: Eleanor Morris

as 100 acres in Rutherford “Between the branches of **Broad river** and **Clear Creek** on the dividing ridge”:

Beginning at a white oak on the NE side of a mountain, runing N 15 E 100 poles to a black oak, thence N 55 E 40 poles to a red oak, then N 40 W 36 poles to a stake on the S side of a branch, thence N 75W 80 poles to a hictory, thence S 15 W 235 poles crosing over a mountain to a stake thence to the beginning.¹⁰⁵

28–29 JANUARY 1786
FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Land sale.

John Watts of Fairfield County, *Planter*, to **Nathan Sanders** of same, planter. Lease & release, for 10 pounds sterling, 100 acres in the **fork of Wateree Creek**, bounded N.E. on land surveyed for *John Lee*, all other sides by vacant land. Originally granted to deceased *Ambros Mills* 16 May 1773 and **sold by William Mills, son and heir of Ambros Mills** to **Micajah Pickett** 9 & 10 December 1784. [Watts does not say how he got the land from Pickett.] [Signed] **John Watts**. Witnesses: *Henry Sanders, William Tidwell* (X). Proved 13 November 1787 by Sanders and Tidwell [no j.p. named]. Recorded 16 January 1788.¹⁰⁶

JANUARY 1786
RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Court order.

“John Guffee vs. **William Mills**: Ralph Wilson, James Miller, Micajah Proctor, John Whiteside, Wallis Beaty, Robert Young, Thomas Rowland, Benjamin Huder, Alexander McFadin, William Webb and William Webb, a Jury sworn. Non suit.”¹⁰⁷

23 JANUARY 1786
RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land survey.

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

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

“By me Jno. Riggs, S^r. John Shipley, Marvel Mills Ch[ain] bearers.”¹⁰⁸

COMMENT:

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

¹⁰⁵ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 71:322; citing Rutherford Co. file 447, NC microfilm reel S.108.160.17N, frame 420, State Archives.

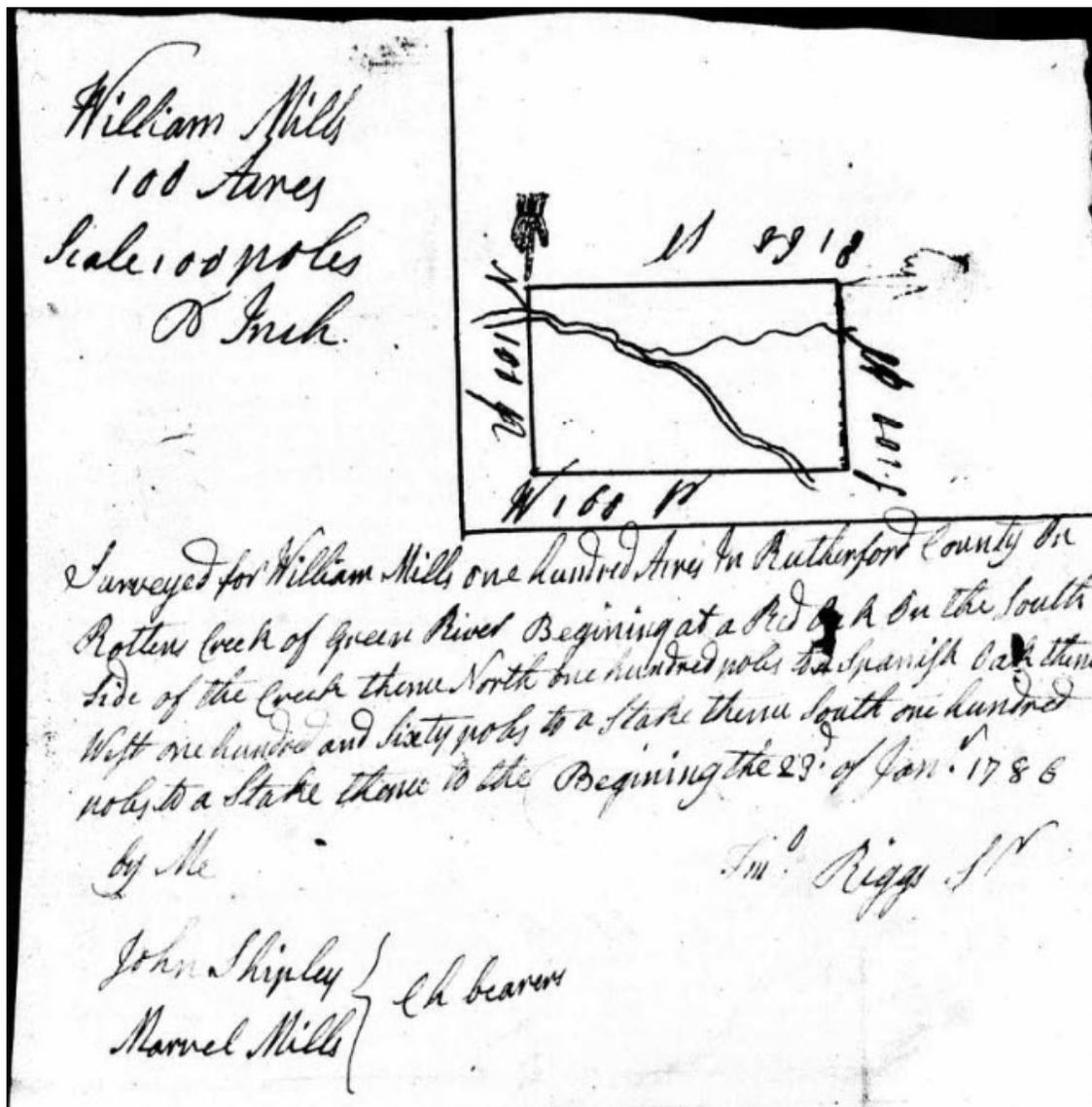
¹⁰⁶ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book A: 508–10.

¹⁰⁷ Hedy Hughes Newton, *Rutherford County, North Carolina, Abstracts of Minutes, Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 1779–1786* (Ellenboro, NC: P.p., 1974), 120; citing p. 317.

¹⁰⁸ “North Carolina, Land Grant Files, 1693–1960,” database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 7 March 2021) > Rutherford > 1–303 > image 1366

William Mills, Maj. (1746–1834)

Wife: Eleanor Morris



JANUARY 1786

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Court order.

"William Capshaw proved a deed from **William Mills** to Christopher (Plunkett?) for 200 acres land. 5/ sh. Pd. To Walker."¹⁰⁹

¹⁰⁹ Hedy Hughes Newton, *Rutherford County, North Carolina, Abstracts of Minutes, Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 1779–1786* (Ellenboro, NC: P.p., 1974), 123; citing p. 326.

William Mills, Maj. (1746–1834)
Wife: Eleanor Morris

COMMENT:

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

1 FEBRUARY 1786

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land purchase.

“*John R. Ratton, Jr.* of S.C. to **William Mills** of Rutherford Co. for 15 pds. Proc. Money of N.C., 100 a. on **Green River above mouth of Alston’s Creek**. Land granted by Pat. To John Roten (sic) 28 Ocr. 1782. Rec. 4 Jan. 1794. [Witnesses:] *John Johnes, John Newport.*”¹¹⁰

COMMENT:

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

11 FEBRUARY 1786

8 APRIL 1786

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

“No. 326. Granted. **William Mills** Enters 100 acres of Land in Rutherford Countey Lying on Green River Including the mouth of Boardmans Briner Blow, a track of Land Blonging to Alxander Markey, this for Compliment.”¹¹¹

10 APRIL 1786

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

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

Begining at a red oak on the north side of the creek, thence N 100 poles to a Spanish oak, then W 160 poles to a stake, then S 100 poles to a stake, then to the begining.¹¹²

JULY 1786

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Court minute.

William Mills is appointed to juror for next district term.¹¹³

23 SEPTEMBER 1786

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land sale.

¹¹⁰ Caroline Heath Davis, *Rutherford County, North Carolina, Abstracts of Deeds, 1773–1795* (Rutherfordton, NC: P.p., c1973), 80; citing J:126..

¹¹¹ Rutherford Co., NC, "Rutherford Land Entries, 1783–1788, unpaginated; imaged, FamilySearch digital film 7517759 > image 191.

¹¹² David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 77:114; citing Rutherford Co. file 745, NC microfilm reel S.108.160.19N, frame 381, State Archives.

¹¹³ James Alan Williams, *County Court Records, 1779–1794, Rutherford Co., NC* (Banner, KY: Williams Publishing, 2014), 138.

William Mills, Maj. (1746–1834)

Wife: Eleanor Morris

“No. 1036 ... **William Mills** to *John Young, Sr. & Robert Young* for 250 pds. Proc. Money, 200 a. **Green River** at mouth **Walnut Creek** above plantation where *John Young* now lives and run. Up branch to **Ambrose Mill’s** line to *John Scoot’s* new line. Rec. 13 July 1793. [Witnesses:] Thos. Wadlington, Francis Brown.”¹¹⁴

29 APRIL 1787

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Slave purchase.

“I, James Walker, in consideration of £133 lawfull money, in hand paid by **William Mills** have bargained, sold, and delivered a negro named Jean, about 16 years old, and will forever warrant and defend said negro unto William Mills against all claims. Wit: David Music, Robert Brooks. Signed: James Walker. Proved 6 April 1793.”¹¹⁵

13 JUNE 1790

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

“The first documented mention of slaves in Henderson County is in a deed for **William Mills**, June 13, 1790: William Mills enters land on “**three forks of Hungry Creek of Green River** includes my ‘negher’ Tom’s cabin and improvements.”¹¹⁶

COMMENT:

Henderson was created 1838 from Buncumbe, which was created in 1791 from parts of Burke and Rutherford.

30 JUNE 1787

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land sale.

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

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

Witnesses: Thomas Wadlington, Robt. Young.¹¹⁷

10 JULY 1787

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

¹¹⁴ Caroline Heath Davis, *Rutherford County, North Carolina, Abstracts of Deeds, 1773–1795* (Rutherfordton, NC: P.p., c1973), 68-69; citing J:42.

¹¹⁵ James E. and Vivian Wooley, *Rutherford County, North Carolina, Wills & Miscellaneous Records, 1783–1868* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1984), 11; citing Book A: 10.

¹¹⁶ Jennie Jones Giles, “William Mills”; undocumented.

¹¹⁷ Rutherford County Deed Book E-I (transcribed copy): 213–14; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 75517761 > images 370–71.

William Mills, Maj. (1746–1834)

Wife: Eleanor Morris

Land sale.

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

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

Land was granted to **John Rotten** by patent 28 October 1782. Witnesses: Thomas Wadlington and "Miller, E."¹¹⁸

JULY 1787

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Court order.

"A deed proved from *John Rotton* to **William Mills** containing by estimation one hundred acres & ord. to be registered. Fees to pay, paid."¹¹⁹

19 OCTOBER 1787

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Agreement.

"*Waightstill Avery* – *James Miller*, agreement, 19 Oct., 1787, Oct. Ct. 1791. Whereas divers suits and controversy by caviat for land have subsisted between said Avery and Miller and others hereafter named and a composite hath taken place in such a manner that said Avery is to have 348 a land in compute above the **Horseshoe of French Broad River** and 320 a land on **Cane Creek** claimed by Miller heretofore which he hath this day agreed to convey to said Avery, each party shall dismiss a caviat by himself in the name of Andrew Blanchard, Esq., against on and his caviats by him procured against said Avery in names of *Thomas Wadlington*, *Sarah Miller*, *Agnis Miller*, **Ann Mills**, **William Mills**, and Ann Haz . . . and that James Miller shall also dismiss all caviats by him procured against said Avery in names of Thomas Wadlington, Sarah Miller, Agnis Miller, Anna Mills or William Mills or other persons that each party shall pay their own attorneys fee in suit aforesaid same land against James Miller and David Miller and pay cost thereof except the attorneys fees for defendants of which he shall be clear or shall not pay more than a proportionable part accruing it is further agreed that all claimants on dismissal of the caviats aforesaid no judgments shall be entered for the defendants. Signed: Waightstill Avery, James Miller; Wit: Charles McDowell, James Greenlee, Reubin Wood.

"The said Avery agrees to disclaim in favor of said Miller and partners 640 a at the mouth of **Hoopers Creek**[,] Wadling on [an] entry at **Crabtree the Horse bottom**[,] Millers entry at and near the mouth of Davidsons Creek, the **Widow Mills** entries above the mouth of the same creek or the River and the said James Miller agrees to disclaim in favor of said Avery his entries on Benjamin **Davidson's Creek** and the said Averys other entries on the creek below the Horse bottom and those for which the said Miller and partners have ... Surveys on interest. 19th 1787. Signed: Waightstill Avery, James Miller. R. Wood, Jurat."¹²⁰

¹¹⁸ Rutherford County Deed Book E-I (transcribed copy): 107–8; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 75517761 > image 317.

¹¹⁹ James Alan Williams, *County Court Records, 1779–1794, Rutherford Co., NC* (Banner, KY: Williams Publishing, 2014), 188.

¹²⁰ Caroline Heath Davis, *Rutherford County, North Carolina, Abstracts, Will Book B, 1791–1813* (Rutherfordton, NC: P.p., c1972), 1; citing Will Book B:1.

William Mills, Maj. (1746–1834)

Wife: Eleanor Morris

COMMENT:

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

JANUARY 1788

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Sale of land.

“**William Mills** acknowledges a deed to Saml McBriar containing by estimation hundred [sic] acres & ordered ted [sic] 3/paid.”¹²¹

18 JANUARY 1788

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

“No. 554. Discon’d. Andrew Miller & David Miller Enters 1000 acres of Land in Rutherford Countey Lying on **Milles River** above John Cass’ Improvement on Clier River for Compliment.”¹²²

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

“No. 556. Granted to Enlow. David Miller Enters 200 acres of Land in Rutherford Countey Lying on **Milles River** or Clear River above my other Entery above Cass Improvement for compliment.” *Note:* “a paton for this.”¹²³

COMMENT:

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

JULY 1788

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Jury duty.

“The court exempted **William Mills** from serving on the jury the present term for certain lawful reason shown.”¹²⁴

JANUARY 1790

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Road order.

“James Miller, James Gray, William Gray, Benjamin Yardby, James Withrow, Patrick Scott, George Musick, **William Mills**, **John Mills**, James Doile, John Goodbread, *Charles Tailor [Taylor]*, Geo Green, *Freeman Jones*, Hugh *Kilpatrick*, John Hughs & Anthony Dicky a jury appointed to lay off the above

¹²¹ James Alan Williams, *County Court Records, 1779–1794, Rutherford Co., NC* (Banner, KY: Williams Publishing, 2014), 211.

¹²² Rutherford Co., NC, "Rutherford Land Entries, 1783–1788, unpaginated; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7517759 > image 225.

¹²³ Rutherford Co., NC, "Rutherford Land Entries, 1783–1788, unpaginated; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7517759 > image 225.

¹²⁴ James Alan Williams, *County Court Records, 1779–1794, Rutherford Co., NC* (Banner, KY: Williams Publishing, 2014), 226.

William Mills, Maj. (1746–1834)

Wife: Eleanor Morris

mentioned road.” [The previous minute, as transcribed, reads] “a road joining the road that leads from the court house beginning ?bitheal George’s the ? by Thos Walker’s thence to **Thos Wadlington’s** ford on Wornest Creek thence to **Cooper’s Gap** thence to point lookout.”¹²⁵

COMMENT:

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

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

APRIL 1790

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Jury duty.

William Mills served as juror for the case State vs. Charles McCray, finding the defendant guilty of assault. Also **Col. James Miller** vs. *Matthew Jordan*, in which the jury found for the plaintiff “balance of acct £16.16.6.”¹²⁶

AUGUST 1790–1791

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Census.

“12th Company”¹²⁷

Robt. Young

Robt. Caruth Rev.

Rd. Yielding 1 white male 16+

2 white females

COMMENT;

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

James Jeffery

Henry Russell

Jno. Young

COMMENT:

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

Mary Garrett 1 white male 16+

5 white females

¹²⁵ James Alan Williams, *County Court Records, 1779–1794, Rutherford Co., NC* (Banner, KY: Williams Publishing, 2014), 290.

¹²⁶ James Alan Williams, *County Court Records, 1779–1794, Rutherford Co., NC* (Banner, KY: Williams Publ., 2014), 297–98.

¹²⁷ 1790 U.S. census, Rutherford Co., N.C. p. 145, lines 1–16.

William Mills, Maj. (1746–1834)

Wife: Eleanor Morris

| | | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| | 2 white males -16 | | |
| Jesse Mills | 1 white male 16+ 0 white males -16 | 3 white females | [son of “Inglis Billy”] |
| Sam. McBriers Jno. Fisher | | | |
| Wm. Mills | 1 white male 16+ 2 white males –16 | 6 white females | 8 slaves |

COMMENT:

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

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

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

- In 1808, Samuel McBrayer “Jr.” fathered a son William who, on 4 June 1831 in adjacent Burke Co., married Elizabeth Fortune.¹²⁸
- Elizabeth Fortune was born 1808 in **Buncombe Co.** to Richard Fortune and Mary Lavender.¹²⁹
- Mary (Lavender) Fortune was the daughter of William and Mildred “Milly” (Mills) Lavender.
- **Mildred (Mills) Lavender was sister to William “Inglis Billy” and Col. Ambrose.** With her second husband, William Walton, she moved from Amherst Co. VA in the mid-1790s to Buncombe (later Burke) where her nephew Maj. William was already acquiring land he would settle on about that same time.¹³⁰

Jas. Logan

¹²⁸ As a starting point for the McBrayers, see merrillannejordan, “Merrill Family Tree,” user-contributed tree, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/17601673/person/539986468/facts> : accessed 2 May 2022), “Elizabeth Fortune” facts page.

¹²⁹ *Find A Grave* (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/77038692/elizabeth-mcbrayer> : 28 August 2022), “Elizabeth Fortune McBrayer” memorial for an image of her tombstone with birth and death dates.

¹³⁰ For much more on Mildred, her Lavender family, and her Walton husband, see the following research reports archived online at Mills, *Historic Pathways* (<https://www.historicpathways.com>) under the “Research” tab.

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

William Mills, Maj. (1746–1834)

Wife: Eleanor Morris

Yelverton Neville

Abr. Carter

Jno. Jones

Thos. Justus Jr.

[skip 11]

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

[skip 24]

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

COMMENT:

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

The 7 females in Carrick’s household would include his wife Ann (Brown) Mills, Mary (age 20, who would wed Russell Twitty in November 1790), Milly (age 15, who would marry Merrimon Featherstone in 1799), and Anna “Nancy” (age 10).

Three females remain unidentified. Were these Carrick’s children by a prior marriage or *might these be the remnants of English Billy’s family (i.e., his widow and two daughters)?* The affidavit of Col. John Mills in the pension application of English Billy’s son Jesse states that Jesse’s mother (English Billy’s widow) resided with John’s parents when Jesse returned from war c1781.

[skip 100]

13th company (p. 147)

Godfry Cody

Jas. Johnson Jr.

James Johnson

Jos Warren

Jos Green [Greer?]

Robt Haslip

Andw. Lyda

Thos. Case

| | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| James Stepp | 2 white male 16+ 4 white male -16 | 4 white females |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|

Wm. Shelton

George Shelton

Jno. Gray

[end of district]

COMMENT:

James Stepp is alleged to be the husband of “Mary Walton Mills”—the daughter of William Mills Jr. of Albemarle and first cousin of Ambrose’s son Maj. William Mills of Green River.

- In 1782, land was patented to Stepp on Green River, land for which he filed an entry in 1799.
- 1792, Stepp had land surveyed on Clear Creek of Broad River. How long he had been there is indeterminable from the known records.

William Mills, Maj. (1746–1834)

Wife: Eleanor Morris

OCTOBER 1790

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Association.

“On motion ordered that administration issue to **William Mills** on the goods & chattels rights & credits of *William Mariam* deceased who entered into bond with *John Miller* in the sum of £140.¹³¹”

OCTOBER 1790

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Guardianship.

“**Mildred Mills** aged sixteen years next March, **Ambrose Mills** aged fourteen years next February & **Nancy Mills** aged eleven years next June came into open court & chose *Thomas Wadlington* their guardian, who entered into bond with James Gray & Richard Singleton in the sum of five hundred pound.”¹³²

COMMENT:

By this court action, William is relieved of his financial guardianship of his minor siblings. The catalyst for this court order—and the subsequent order involving the “committee settlement” with Ann Carrick appears to be Ann’s remarriage and the arrival of son John to adulthood, at which time he would be entitled to his share of his father’s estate.

OCTOBER 1790

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Probate order.

“*Adam Whiteside* & *Timothy Riggs* esquires a committee settled with **Ann Mills** alias **Ann Carrock** & James Miller admr on the estate of **Ambros Mills** decd see report filed.”¹³³

NOVEMBER 1790

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

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

Beginning at a leaning forked white oak, runs N 64 E 40 poles to a red oak, then S 73 E 40 poles to a stake, then South 45 E 80 poles to a stake, then E 20 poles to a stake, then S 45 E 60 poles to a stake, then S 80 poles to a white oak and three chesnuts, then W 200 poles to a stake, then to the beginning.¹³⁴

¹³¹ James Alan Williams, *County Court Records, 1779–1794, Rutherford Co., NC* (Banner, KY: Williams Publishing, 2014), 308.

¹³² James Alan Williams, *County Court Records, 1779–1794, Rutherford Co., NC* (Banner, KY: Williams Publishing, 2014), 313.

¹³³ James Alan Williams, *County Court Records, 1779–1794, Rutherford Co., NC* (Banner, KY: Williams Publishing, 2014), 314.

¹³⁴ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 82:309; citing Rutherford Co. file 908, NC microfilm reel S.108.160.21N, frame 177, State Archives.

William Mills, Maj. (1746–1834)

Wife: Eleanor Morris

OCTOBER 1791

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Court order.

“Ordered by the court that *Lewis Colwell*, a base born mullotto child six years old be bound to **William Mills** till he attain to the age of twenty one years who agrees to learn him the art & mistery of a **tailor** & give him such freedom dues as the law directs.”¹³⁵

COMMENT:

William Mills’s biography, written by his grandson J. M. Edney, identifies him as a miller. It does not identify him as a tailor. William is known to have held slaves. Whether one of his enslaved men was a skilled tailor—or whether William himself would be teaching the child “the art & mistery of a tailor”—has not been determined.¹³⁶

1 NOVEMBER 1791

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land entry & grant.

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

Beginning at a white oak, then 20 poles to a white oak, then S 60 poles to a stake, then W 72 [22?] poles to a stake, then S 40 poles to a stake, then W 48 poles to a stake, then to beginning.¹³⁷

APRIL 1792

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Jury duty.

William Mills serves on jury for case of State vs. Abraham Enloe.”¹³⁸

10 APRIL 1792

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

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

¹³⁵ James Alan Williams, *County Court Records, 1779–1794, Rutherford Co., NC* (Banner, KY: Williams Publishing, 2014), 343.

¹³⁶ J. M. Edney’s 1846 biography of his grandfather William Mills; location of original unknown. For a typescript, see “Public Member Photos & Scanned Documents,” *Ancestry* (<http://www.Ancestry.com> : accessed 23 June 2015), unidentified contributor, “Maj William Mills 1746 to 1834.” The contributor calls this typescript an “obituary written by his grandson J M Edney” without citing a source. However, the transcript itself states that it was written “October 30, 1845,” 11 years after Maj. William’s death. It is more probable that the grandson wrote this as a sketch for Lyman C. Draper who was, at that time, combing the South for information about the men of King’s Mountain. Draper’s *Kings Mountain and Its Heroes: History of the Battle of King’s Mountain, October 7th, 1780* (Cincinnati: Peter G. Thompson, 1881), reports part of Edney’s details in his brief sketch of Ambrose Mills on p. 481, but does not identify his source.

¹³⁷ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 82:301; citing Rutherford Co. file 889, NC microfilm reel S.108.160.21N, frame 173, State Archives.

¹³⁸ James Alan Williams, *County Court Records, 1779–1794, Rutherford Co., NC* (Banner, KY: Williams Publishing, 2014), 360–61.

William Mills, Maj. (1746–1834)

Wife: Eleanor Morris

Beginning [*sic*] at a white oak in the line of a 300 acre survey, runs then N106 poles to a post oak, then runing near **Haslips** line E 130 poles to a stake in **John Miller's** line, then with the same S 46 poles to a post oak **Miller's corner**, then with Miller's other line E 200 poles to a stake, then S 90 poles to a stake, then W 200 poles to a stake, then N 30 poles to a stake, then to beginning.¹³⁹

COMMENT:

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

OCTOBER 1792

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Court minute.

"William Mills vs Peter Pride. The same jury sworn find the note not paid & assess damage to thirty two pound £32.0. Motion for arrest of judgment, motion overruled."¹⁴⁰

COMMENT:

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

11 JANUARY 1793

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land sale.

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

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

Witnesses: Isham Ravis [Davis? Revis?], Thomas Justice. Recorded 25 March 1795.¹⁴¹

COMMENT:

This tract was surveyed for William in January 1787, at the fork of Rotten Creek. Yielding would not keep the land. See 11 January 1794, below.

JANUARY 1793

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Jury duty.

William Mills serves on jury in case of State vs. Thomas Camp. Defendant found not guilty. Charges not stated. Also on case of State vs. Stripling Byas, "jury withdrawn by consent."¹⁴²

¹³⁹ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 82:421; citing Rutherford Co. File No. 1012, NC microfilm reel S.108.160.21N, frame 233, State Archives.

¹⁴⁰ James Alan Williams, *County Court Records, 1779–1794, Rutherford Co., NC* (Banner, KY: Williams Publishing, 2014), 382.

¹⁴¹ Rutherford Co., NC, Deed Book J-L (transcribed copy): 382; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7517761 < image 688.

¹⁴² James Alan Williams, *County Court Records, 1779–1794, Rutherford Co., NC* (Banner, KY: Williams Publishing, 2014), 388–89.

William Mills, Maj. (1746–1834)
Wife: Eleanor Morris

13 APRIL 1793

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Association.

"*William Twitty [Mills?] to Allen Twitty for 200 pds., 150 a. on N. side **Green River** being part of tract from the property of **Ambrose Mills**, decd., and falling to **William Mills** by heirship. Oct. 20, 1794. [Witnesses:] Ad. Osborn, W. Alexander."*¹⁴³

APRIL 1793

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Jury duty.

William Mills appointed to grand jury to serve the present term.¹⁴⁴

1 MAY 1793

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Association.

"*Freeman Jones to David Jection [Jackson] for 100 pds., 100 a. on S. fork **Brights Creek** of **Green River** above *Austin's Entry* incl. *Pullums Imp.* [Witnesses:] **William Mills, John Mills, Marvil Mills**. Rec. 27 March 1795."*¹⁴⁵

COMMENT:

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

16 MAY 1793

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land purchase.

"*John Auston of Washington County "territory of the United States of America South Side of the Ohio" to **William Mills** of Rutherford for 100 pds. tract of 150 a. in Rutherford on **Bright's Creek** of **Green River** incl. the **forks** of sd. Creek and a cabin where **James Slep** (sic) [Stepp] lived, on N. side **Green River**. Rec. 19 July 1794. [Witnesses:] *Thos. Wadlington, John Mills, Marvill Mills.*"¹⁴⁶*

COMMENT:

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

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

¹⁴³ Caroline Heath Davis, *Rutherford County, North Carolina, Abstracts of Deeds, 1773–1795* (Rutherfordton, NC: P.p., c1973), 103; citing L:287.

¹⁴⁴ James Alan Williams, *County Court Records, 1779–1794, Rutherford Co., NC* (Banner, KY: Williams Publishing, 2014), 391.

¹⁴⁵ Caroline Heath Davis, *Rutherford County, North Carolina, Abstracts of Deeds, 1773–1795* (Rutherfordton, NC: P.p., c1973), 115; citing L:384.

¹⁴⁶ Caroline Heath Davis, *Rutherford County, North Carolina, Abstracts of Deeds, 1773–1795* (Rutherfordton, NC: P.p., c1973), 92; citing K:213.

William Mills, Maj. (1746–1834)
Wife: Eleanor Morris

13 JULY 1793

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land sale.

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

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

Witnesses: Thos. Wadlington; Francis Brown.¹⁴⁷

COMMENT:

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

JULY 1793

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Jury duty.

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

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

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

Both John and William also served on case of State vs. William Tate & Charles Wilkins. Unspecified charges. Court ordered that "Robert Magness one of the prosecutors pay cost."¹⁴⁸

JULY 1793

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land deeds proved.

"**John Mills & Wm. Mills** proved a deed from Freeman Jones to David Jackson containing by estimation one hundred acres."

"**William Mills** acknowledge a deed to *Richd Yielding* containing by estimation one hundred acres."

"**John Mills** proved a deed from John Austin to **William Mills** containing by estimation one hundred and fifty acres."¹⁴⁹

¹⁴⁷ Rutherford Co., Deed Book J-L (transcribed copy): 42–43; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7517761.

¹⁴⁸ James Alan Williams, *County Court Records, 1779–1794, Rutherford Co., NC* (Banner, KY: Williams Publishing, 2014), 403.

¹⁴⁹ James Alan Williams, *County Court Records, 1779–1794, Rutherford Co., NC* (Banner, KY: Williams Publishing, 2014), 404.

William Mills, Maj. (1746–1834)

Wife: Eleanor Morris

COMMENT:

Note that John and William's appearance at court to prove a series of deeds coincides with the jury service of John and William. Jurors in this time and place were frequently men who appeared at court to transact other business—even ones who were being sued.

OCTOBER 1793

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Jury duty.

William Mills named to jury panel. **John Mills** on jury for case of Jonathan Hampton vs. Gavin Irvine, finding for defendant. New trial ordered.¹⁵⁰

10 JANUARY 1794

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

William Mills entered a tract that would be described in its 20 December 1796 deed as land in Rutherford County "on **Brights Creek of Green River.**"

Beginning at a pine on the S bank of the Creek, his own Corner, thence N 20 poles to a pine, thence W 20 poles to a stake in **David Jackson's** lines, thence S 70 poles to a pine, thence E 160 poles to a stake, thence N 50 poles to a stake in his own line, thence with said line W 140 poles to the beginning.¹⁵¹

11 JANUARY 1794

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land sale.

William Mills to Henry Russel, both of Rutherford Co., sale for 30£ NC money, previously paid, 100 acres on **Rotton Creek** described as

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

Witnesses: William Hays, Martin Edwards.¹⁵²

COMMENT:

The legal description of the tract above is exactly the same as the description for the land William sold Yielding. It would appear that the Yielding sale was rescinded for some reason and then William resold the land to Russell. I have not found any other 100-acre tract owned by William on Rottons Creek prior to this time, so it should not be a case of William copying from the wrong grant or prior deed when he or a local attorney drafted this deed.

¹⁵⁰ James Alan Williams, *County Court Records, 1779–1794, Rutherford Co., NC* (Banner, KY: Williams Publishing, 2014), 405–6.

¹⁵¹ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 91:396; citing Rutherford Co. file 1345, NC microfilm reel S.108.160.23N, frame 733, State Archives.

¹⁵² Rutherford Co., NC, Deed Book M-Q (transcribed copy): 94–95; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7517762 < image 52.

William Mills, Maj. (1746–1834)
Wife: Eleanor Morris

Henry Russell in 1790 had been two houses from Richard Yielding and wife Milly Mills, and three houses from Jesse Mills.

See also the 19 August sale by William Mills to Edmond “Rushel” of 150 acres on Bright’s Creek where James Stepp had lived.

10 MARCH 1794

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land entry & grant.

Catalog description: 300 acres Both sides of **Richland Creek of Pidgeon [Pigeon] River**, File No. 997, **Andrew Miller, David Miller and Williams Mills.**” Entered 10 March 1794; issued 9 July 1794.¹⁵³

COMMENT:

No actual image appears.

1 NOVEMBER 1794

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

William Mills entered a tract of land that was described in its 18 December 1797 patent as 200 acres in Rutherford County on the S side of **Green River** “Joining his own land and near Joining Land Claimed by **Thomas Justice.**”

Beginning at a Spanish oak near a **hollow** S side of the **school house**, then N 63 E 127 poles to a stake, then N 27 W 253 poles to a stake in his own line, then with said line S 63 W 127 poles to a Spanish oak in the same, then S 27 E 253 poles to the beginning..¹⁵⁴

COMMENT:

The survey warrant dated 1 April 1795 describes the land as “lying on the south side of Green River **on both the main Road** Joining my own lands & Extending out & **Including the School House** & Joining a tract of land claimed by Thomas Justice **Formerly called Spencer Williams’ Cabin where Huston Newman now lives.**”¹⁵⁵

Cataloging data attached to the patent identifies this as a grant to **William Mills {assignee of William Hays}.**” That information is not stated in the warrant, the survey, or the patent.

1 APRIL 1795

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land survey.

¹⁵³ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 82:341; citing Rutherford Co. File No. 997, NC microfilm reel S.108.160.21N, frame 193, State Archives.

¹⁵⁴ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 96:374; citing Rutherford Co. file 1640, NC microfilm reel S.108.160.25N, frame 214, State Archives.

¹⁵⁵ “North Carolina Land Grant Files, 1693-1960,” database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 7 July 2018) > Rutherford > 1622-1817 > image 566 of 1539.

William Mills, Maj. (1746–1834)

Wife: Eleanor Morris

“By Warrant Dated the 1st day of April 1795 for an Entry made the 13 Day Nov. 1794.” Survey for **William Mills** 200 acres, Rutherford County, S side Green River “Joining his Own land & near Joining land Claimed by Thomas Justice”:

Beginning at a Spanish oak near a **Hollow** S side of **School House** then N 63 E 127 poles to a stake, then N 27 W 253 poles to a stake in **his own line**, then with said line S 63 W 127 poles to a Spanish oak in the same, then S 27 E 253 poles to the beginning

Chain bearers: **Marvel Mills**, John Fisher. Signed: D. Dickey, D.S.¹⁵⁶

1 MAY 1795

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

Jesse Mills entered a tract of land whose 18 December 1797 patent would describe as 100 acres in Rutherford County on “the **flat branch**” of Green River **above** said Mills’s:

Beginning at a chesnut not fare from his **new Cabbin** then N 25 W 100 poles to a post oak, then N 65 E 160 poles to a stake, then S 25 E 100 poles to a stake, then S 65 W to the beginning.

[Entry date not stated; but the website’s cataloging data identify it as 1 May 1795].¹⁵⁷

COMMENT:

The survey warrant would be issued this same day. The survey itself would not occur until 7 October 1797. See that date below.

13 AUGUST 1796

BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

William Mills entered a tract of land that would be described in its 31 August 1798 patent as 150 acres in Buncombe County:

Beginning at a White Oak in the line of the place he now live on, “which was the land he bought of the **Honl. Spence McCoy** on Clear Creek ...” then runing N 115 poles to a white oak and black tum, then W by or near **Chambles** land 230 poles crossing a creek, to a Spanish oak on a ridge, then S by or near land belonging to the **Heirs of Edward Hampton** 115 poles to a stake, then E on said **William Mills’s land** to the beginning.¹⁵⁸

COMMENT:

Henderson was created 1838 from Buncombe, which was created in 1791 from parts of Burke and Rutherford.

¹⁵⁶ “North Carolina Land Grant Files, 1693-1960,” database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 7 July 2018) > Rutherford > 1622-1817 > image 568 of 1539.

¹⁵⁷ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 22 May 2021), imaging Book 96:395; citing Rutherford Co. Grant No. 1554, NC microfilm reel S.108.160.25N, frame 2242, State Archives.

¹⁵⁸ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 98: 282–83; citing Buncombe Co. File No. 591, NC microfilm reel S.108.160.25N, frame 731, State Archives.

William Mills, Maj. (1746–1834)

Wife: Eleanor Morris

15 APRIL 1797

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Probate settlement.

“Apr. Ct. 1797. **Ambrose Mills**, dec’d. died intestate in year 1780 leaving a widow **Anna Mills** and 7 surviving children to wit: **William Mills, Thomas Mills, John Mills, Ambrose Mills, Milly Mills** [cited as Mildred in 1790], **Polly Twitty** [cited as Mary in 1790] & **Amelia Mills** [apparently a copying error; not cited in 1790 and not named below] & **Anna Mills the younger** [cited as “Nancy” in 1790] and the sd. Widow Anna Mills and **Col. James Miller** in 1782 administrated the Estate of the dec’d. and the sd. Anna Mills in Feb. 1790 intermarried with **John Carrick** and such proceedings have been had and management with estate of dec’d as appear in this copy hereunto annexed—Certified by Richard Lewis, Esq.

“William Mills appointed Guardian by Court of his brother Ambrose Mills the younger and his sister Anna Mills the younger and as Guardian has caused 3 sales to be instituted against sd. John Carrick in order to compel sd. Carrick to give security for the Estate of the dec’d., suggested by Petition to be in hands of sd. John Carrick on action of debt supposed to be for price of a Negro wench Rachel as part of Estate as appears in account of 2nd sale in the annexed copy and a 3rd sale by Petition against sd. John Carrick, Anna, his wife & James Miller, Administrator and Administrix in order to compel them to account for a still, some wagon irons, a note on McCafferty for four half Johanas, a mare, yearling, 5 cows and calves, a yearling heifer, 1 gray horse, 9 guineas, 4 dollars and lock Chain suggested by Petition to be unaccounted for by Administrators and also to compel the sd. Administrators to account for the Estate of dec’d. in general and whereas some dispute has arisen between sd Carrick & sd. William Mills concerning right of dower in lands of dec’d, and also other claimants of that estate –

“Now this Indenture Wittnesseth sd. **William Mills** & John Carrick agree to settle sd. Law suits, the sd. Wm. Mills for himself and for sd. Wards Ambrose Mills & Anna Mills as their Guardian and also agent for sd. **Thomas & John Mills, Polly Twitty & Pamella** [Milly—i.e., Mildred; no Pamela appears in first paragraph] Mills, agree to dismiss sd. three law suits in Rutherford Court at his own expense and pay all costs—Also sd. Bond on John Carrick be cancelled. All lands descended from Ambrose Mills dec’d. to Anna Carrick his wife, to wit: a tract of 600 a. conveyed to Ambrose Mills dec’d. by *Thomas Reynolds* by deed dt’d. 1 Dec. 1770 on N. branch Green River, conveyed heretofore by sd. William Mills and now in possession of Edwards, adjoining Edwards line, assigned for dower to sd. John Carrick & Anna his wife during their joint lives. And John Carrick shall not recover any sums of money, 3rd share or dividend of sd. Ambrose Mills other than what he has rec’d. and such as he the sd. John had in possession and has as he left it at sd. Old Plantation where he went to Cumberland, including 1 negro Rachel, the beds, household and kitchen furniture, farming tools, 1 horse and some cattle. Signed: **William Mills**, John Carrick. [Witnesses] Waightsell Avery, John McKinny, John Goodbread.”¹⁵⁹

COMMENT:

The recorded copy of this document (Rutherford Will Book B:76) has a glaring error. The document begins with these words:

¹⁵⁹ Caroline Heath Davis, *Rutherford County, North Carolina, Abstracts, Will Book B, 1791–1813* (Rutherfordton, NC: P.p., c1972), 16-17; citing Will Book B:76.

William Mills, Maj. (1746–1834)

Wife: Eleanor Morris

“Whereas Ambross Mills, Deceased, died Intestate in the year 1780, Leaving a widow Anna Mills, and Seven Surviving Children to wit, **William Mills, Thomas Mills, John Mills, Ambross Mills, Milly Mills, Polly Mills** Twitty [*sic*], **Pamela Mills, and Anna Mills ...**”

While there are said to be seven children, eight are named. We see a corrected error with Polly. The “eighth” child stems from the duplication of “Milly” and “Pamela” whose names are thereafter merged in the document. For example, the clerk’s register, p. 77 (imaged at *Family Search* <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:37SQ-29XY F69?i=142&cc=1867501&cat=182814>) carries three references:

“William Mills for himself and for his said Wards, Ambross Mills and Anna Mills as their guardian and also as agent for the said Thomas and John Mills Polly Twitty and **Pamilla [written over as Pamilly]** Mills doth by these presents agree

“and the said William Mills for and in behalf of his said wards Ambross and Anna Mills and also as agent for the said Thomas and John Mills and the said Polly Twitty and **Pamilla Mills**, doth further agree and covenant to and with the said John Carrick ... for the said William Mills and the said Thomas & John Ambross Polly **Pamilly** and Anna shall and will release and acquit and discharge the said John Carrick ...”

William Mills’s “guardianship” of the minors did not mean that he took physical custody of them. Rather, he was guardian of their inheritance. Their mother’s new husband appears to have helped himself to part of that inheritance, prompting the suit by William Mills.

17 OCTOBER 1797

BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

William Mills, Assignee, entered “100 acres Beg. on a large white oak on the path from Cane Cr. to the gap.” Entered 17 October 1797; no issue date “because patent not recorded.”¹⁶⁰

10 FEBRUARY 1798

BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

William Mills entered a tract described in its 6 December 1799 patent as 50 acres in Buncombe County “joining his own line lying between **John Chamles** and the heirs of **Edward Hamptons** land and the **Green Mountain**.

Beginning in said Milles’s own line on a chesnut oak on the top of a hill and runs N 68 degrees W 100 poles passing a B. oak on a **ridge** marked as a corner, to a stake on the side of a **ridge**, then S 80 poles to a stake in the land of [rest of document is missing].¹⁶¹

¹⁶⁰ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), no image; citing Buncombe Co. file no. 505, “William Mills, Assignee,” NC microfilm reel S.108.536, State Archives.

¹⁶¹ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 103: 230–31; citing Buncombe Co. File No. 672, NC microfilm reel S.108.160.26N, frame 750, State Archives.

William Mills, Maj. (1746–1834)

Wife: Eleanor Morris

19 AUGUST 1798

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land sale.

William Mills to Edmond Rushel, both of Rutherford co., sale for 50£ NC money, already paid, 150 acres on **Brights Creek** of **Green River** including the forks of said creek and a Cabbin where **James Step lived** [past tense] on the N side of Green River:

Beginning at a poplar, then N 150 poles to a stake, then W 100 poles to a post, then S 150 poles to a stake, thence to the beginning.

Witnesses: **Marvel Mills, Merryman Fetherston.**¹⁶²

13 FEBRUARY 1799

BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

William Mills entered a tract that was described in its 6 December 1799 patent as 150 acres in Buncombe County “on both sides of **Henderson Creek**, joining his own lands ...”

Beginning upon a white [no genus named] upon the E side of said creek on his own at the edge of a swamp, and runs S crossing said creek 120 poles to a pine & B. oak, then E 200 poles crossing said creek to a white oak and two post oak in **Henry Lewis** line, then N 120 poles in said **Milles’** [*sic*] line, then W 200 poles to the beginning.¹⁶³

COMMENT:

Henry Lewis was married to Mourning Mills, a daughter of William and Eleanor.

13 FEBRUARY 1799

BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

William Mills entered a tract that would be described in its 6 December 1799 grant as 150 acres in Buncombe County, on both sides of **Henderson Creek**, joining his own lands ...”

Beginning upon a white [no genus named] upon the E side of said Creek on his own at the edge of a Swamp, and runs S crossing said Creek 120 poles to a pine & B. Oak, thence E 200 poles Crossing said Creek to a White Oak and two post Oak in **Henry Lewis** line, thence N 120 poles in said **Milles’** [*sic*] line, then W 200 poles to the beginning.¹⁶⁴

COMMENT:

Henry Lewis was William Mills’s son-in-law.

¹⁶² Rutherford Co., NC, Deed Book 15–17 (transcribed copy): 257–59; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7517763 < images 611–12.

¹⁶³ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 103: 224–25; citing Buncombe Co. File No. 662, NC microfilm reel S.108.160.26N, frame 747, State Archives.

¹⁶⁴ “NC Land Grant Images and Data,” *State Library of North Carolina* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 103: 224–25; citing Buncombe Co. File No. 662, NC microfilm reel S.108.517, State Archives.

William Mills, Maj. (1746–1834)

Wife: Eleanor Morris

16 JULY 1799

BUNCOMBE COUNTY

Land entry.

William Mills and **Joseph Henry** entered a tract that would be described in its 15 December 1801 patent as 50 acres in Buncombe County “on the head of the S branch of **Kyles Creek** joining **Chambles Gap** as the path runs thro towards **Hoopers Gap**.”

Beginning on a white oak **Mills** and **Millers** corner and runs W 32 poles to a black oak, thence N 15 poles to a black oak at a **clift of rocks**, thence N 52 W 66 poles to a maple on the E bank of **Kyles Creek**, thence down the meanders thereof S 120 poles passing a Spanish oak marked as a corner, to a stake and then E 86 poles to a stake, thence N 60 poles to the beginning.¹⁶⁵

17 OCTOBER 1799

BUNCOMBE COUNTY

Land entry.

William Mills and **Joseph Henry** entered a tract that would be described in its 11 December 1800 patent as 250 acres in Buncombe County “on the North side of the big Mountain between Bald Top Mountain and the waters of **Hoopers Creek**, extending toward the **Bear Wallow Mountain** and including the **Springs** of **Kyles Creek** of **Clear creek**, also including the **locust spring** of Hoopers creek and the head of **Camp Creek** of Clear Creek.”

Beginning upon three chesnuts on the NW side of said mountain a small distance from a **clift of rocks**, and runs N 38 E 295 poles crossing some branches to a gum near said **Mills** and **Henry**s line in the fork of a branch, then S 52 E 145 poles to a stake, then S 38 W 295 pole to a stake, thence N 52 W 145 poles to the beginning.¹⁶⁶

1 NOVEMBER 1799

BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

William Mills and **Joseph Henry** entered a tract that would be described in its 11 December 1800 patent as 200 acres of land in Buncombe County “including the head spring that **James Withrow** lives on and the **Old horse trail** on the Mountain and **Henry Dunehams lick log** and extending up towards the **Bear Wallow Mountain** for compliment.”

Beginning upon three Chestnuts on the top of said mountain at the edge of the path lettered thus W.M. and J.H. and runs with the top of said **mountain** crossing on the E side and crossing some branches of **Clear creek** N 38 E 254 poles to a black oak on a **ridge**, thence N 50 W 127 poles to two forked chesnuts on the W side of a **ridge**, thence S 38 W 254 poles crossing some

¹⁶⁵ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 114:110 citing Buncombe Co. file 908(A), NC microfilm reel S.108.160.30N, frame 166, State Archives.

¹⁶⁶ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 112:110; citing Buncombe Co. file 887, NC microfilm reel S.108.160.29N, frame 434, State Archives.

William Mills, Maj. (1746–1834)

Wife: Eleanor Morris

branches of **Hooppers** creek to a Chesnut on the W point of a **ridge** above a **clift of rocks**, thence S 52 E 127 poles to the beginning.¹⁶⁷

1 NOVEMBER 1799

BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

William Mills entered a tract that would be described in its 11 December 1800 patent as 200 acres in Buncombe County on S side of **Henderson's Creek of Clear Creek** in the gap of a mountain "including an Older spring and some marked trees and gum W.M. below the old ford on the **Saludy Path**."

Beginning upon a crooked chesnut lettered thus WM on the N side of a mountain near the **gap** below a **clift of rocks** and runs W 40 poles to a pine on said mountain at a rock, thence N 30 poles to a chesnut oak on said **mountain**, thence N 72 degrees W 14 poles to a white oak in the **gap** of said mountain, thence N 28 poles to a chesnut on the side of said **mountain**, thence N 52 degrees W 80 poles to a pine on the W bank of a small branch in or near **Vandikes**, thence N 200 poles to a stake in said Mills' line, thence E 120 poles with said line to a stake, thence S 300 poles to the beginning.¹⁶⁸

7 DECEMBER 1799

BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

William Mills entered a tract that would be described in its 11 December 1800 patent as 250 acres in Buncombe County "on both sides of the road that leads from Point Look out to **William Mills** near the Rock house and including a small branch of the **Ready Fork** of **Broad River** and **Lydia's Meadow** and the plan where **Anderson's Cabbin** was burned."

Beginning upon a black oak on the W side of Point Look Out in a line of survey of 150 acres made for **John Step**, then N 22 degrees W 50 poles to a white oak, then N 47 degrees E 20 poles to a poplar on bank of a small branch, then S 55 degrees E 28 poles to a Spanish oak, then N 20 degrees E 60 poles to a Spanish oak on side of a mountain at a **clift of rocks**, then N 70 degrees W 200 poles to a pine, then S 43 degrees W 160 poles, crossing a creek to a post oak, then S 32 degrees E 60 poles to a white oak, then S 50 degrees E 76 poles to a stake in said **Step's** line, thence N 20 E 50 poles to a hicory said **Step's Corner**, then W 150 poles to beginning.¹⁶⁹

AUGUST 1800

BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NC

Census.

¹⁶⁷ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 112:111; citing Buncombe Co. file 888, NC microfilm reel S.108.160.29N, frame 434, State Archives.

¹⁶⁸ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 112: 108–9; citing Buncombe Co. File No. 842 (A), NC microfilm reel S.108.160.29N, frame 433, State Archives.

¹⁶⁹ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 112: 110; citing Buncombe Co. File No. 886 (A), NC microfilm reel S.108.160.29N, frame 434, State Archives.

William Mills, Maj. (1746–1834)

Wife: Eleanor Morris

Morgan District¹⁷⁰

| | | | |
|----------------------|------------------|----------------------|-----------|
| William Mills | 1 white male 45+ | 1 white female 45+ | 20 slaves |
| | | 1 white female 16–25 | |

COMMENT:

3 Twitty households are in Morgan District of *Rutherford* this year: Allen, Russel, and William.

AUGUST 1800

BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NC

Census.

Morgan District¹⁷¹

| | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Samuel Edna | 1 white male 26–45 | 1 white female 16–25 | [Nellie Mills b. c1776] 1 slave |
|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|

| | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| Essa [Asa] Edna | 1 white male 45+ | | |
| | 1 white male 16–25 | 1 white female 16–25 | [Sarah Mills b. c1774] |

| | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Henry Lewis | 2 white male 26–45 | 1 white female 16–25 | [Mourning Mills b. c1773] |
| | 3 white males 0–10 | 2 white females 0–10 | |

| | | | |
|----------------------|------------------|----------------------|-----------|
| William Mills | 1 white male 45+ | 1 white female 45+ | 20 slaves |
| | | 1 white female 16–25 | |

COMMENT:

- 3 Twitty households are in Morgan District of *Rutherford* this year: Allen, **Russel**, and William.
- Note that only one daughter remains at home with William and Eleanor.

10 OCTOBER 1801

BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

Joseph Henry and **William Mills** entered a tract whose 10 December 1804 survey described as 125 acres in Buncombe County, “on the waters of **Hoopers Creek**, joining their 200 acre Survey of their own that includes **Dunham’s Lick Log** at the N^o West corner.”

Beginning on their corner double chesnut on the S side of the top of the **mountain**, and runs with their line S 52 E 60 poles to a chesnut on the E side of a **ridge**, then N 40 E 40 poles on the top of the mountain, thence with the same N 85 W 26 poles to a hickory on the same, then with the same N 70 W 88 poles to a hickory, thence with said **mountain** N 60 W 30 poles to three chesnuts from one root, at a **rock**, thence S 10W 80 poles to a chesnut, thence S 64 W 210 poles

¹⁷⁰ 1800 U.S. census, Buncombe Co., N.C. p. 178, line 2. All households are rearranged into semi-alphabetical order, thereby destroying neighborhood context. No other Millses appear.

¹⁷¹ 1800 U.S. census, Buncombe Co., N.C. pp. 167 (Edney [“Edna”]), 176 (Lewis), 178 (Mills). All households are rearranged into semi-alphabetical order, thereby destroying neighborhood context. No other Millses appear.

William Mills, Maj. (1746–1834)
Wife: Eleanor Morris

passing a chesnut oak marked as a corner, to a stake, thence S 47 E 115 poles to a stake opposite their corner, thence passing the same with their line N 38 E 280 poles to the beginning. Entered 10 October 1801; issued 10 December 1804.¹⁷²

COMMENT:

The website's description of this document states: "125 acres on East side of Pigeon River on waters of Hoopers Creek." The text of the grant does not reference Pigeon River. Apparently that reference comes from the corresponding plat that is not imaged here.

5 OCTOBER 1802

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Association.

David Miller's will bequeaths several dozen tracts of land to "son John Miller ... lying in the Counties of Buncombe & Rutherford," including:

- 100 a. on both sides of **Mills River** No. 407
- 200 a on **Clear & Mud Creek** No. 1161, also my part of the unsold land that is between me and **William Mills** in partnership.
- 400 a. lying in Buncombe Co. on both sides Mud Creek above John Earle's Mill seat, No. 171

Also other tracts to son Andrew Miller, son-in-law **Allen Twitty** "husband of my daughter Martha," grandson David Briggs, son John Miller, son-in-law Jesse Briggs "husband to my daughter Esther."¹⁷³

7 OCTOBER 1803

BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NC

Land sale.

"**William Mills** and **James Miller** of Rutherford County to Samuel Edney of Buncombe County, 35£, part of 500 acre tract granted to Mills and Miller in 1794 on Clear Creek - McCoy's Line, adjoining **Lyda** and **Justus**, near Stills old cabin, 385 acres.¹⁷⁴

12 APRIL 1804

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Marriage bond.

"Jackson, Tandy & Eliz. Smith, 12 Apr 1804; **Marvel Mills**, bm."¹⁷⁵

20 SEPTEMBER 1804

BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NC

¹⁷² David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 120:98; citing Rutherford Co. File No. 1373, NC microfilm reel S.108.160.32N, frame 71, State Archives.

¹⁷³ Rutherford Co., NC, Will Book B:162 ff. Note: Caroline Heath Davis, *Rutherford County, North Carolina, Abstracts, Will Book B, 1791–1813* (Rutherfordton, NC: P.p., c1972), 31–37; misreads the "Mill seat" passage, presenting it as "**John Earle Mills seal**." There as no John Earle Mills.

¹⁷⁴ Marshall Styles, "Henderson County, NC – Wills – Asa & Sarah Mills Edney Estate, Part 2," *USGenweb Archives* (<http://files.usgwarchives.net/nc/henderson/wills/edney12.txt> : accessed 27 June 2015), citing Deed Book B, page 266, Buncombe County.

¹⁷⁵ Brent H. Holcomb, *Marriages of Rutherford County, North Carolina, 1779–1868* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1986), 77.

William Mills, Maj. (1746–1834)

Wife: Eleanor Morris

Land entry.

Joseph Henry and **William Mills** entered a tract that would be described in its patent of 16 September 1809 as 60 acres in the County of Buncombe, “on the waters of **Clear Creek**, joining their own one hundred and twenty five Acre tract on the East and continuing towards the **Bear Wallow Mountain** for Complement.”

Beginning upon their NE corner leaning black oak on a **ridge** of their 200-acre tract, and runs with the line of the same N 52 degrees W 67 to their corner chesnut on the E side of a **ridge** of their own 125-acre tract, thence with the line of the same N 40 degrees E 40 poles to their corner hickory on the top of the **mountain**, then with the same S 85 degrees E 14 poles to a red oak, thence with said mountain S 75 degrees E 30 poles to a hickory in a **gap** of said mountain, thence with the same S 50 degrees E 126 poles to a stake, thence S 40 degrees W 60 poles to a stake, then to beginning.¹⁷⁶

18 DECEMBER 1804

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land sale.

“**Marvel Mills** to Gabriel Jackson, for 150£ NC money, sale of a “plantation or tract of land” on **Bright’s Creek** of **Green River** “including the forks of said Creek, Including a Cabbin where **Jas. Step** formerly lived on the N side of **Green River**:

Beginning at a poplar, then N to a **moved lined** then W to the **old line**, then S 150 poles to a stake, then to the beginning.

“The number of acres unknown.” Signed: M. Pickett [Micajah Pickett], Ephraim Jackson (x).¹⁷⁷

COMMENT:

I have found no deed or grant by which Marvil obtained this land.

On 19 August 1798, Marvel’s father William sold to one Edmond Rushel what appeared to be this same tract (“150 acres on **Brights Creek** of **Green River** including the forks of said creek and a Cabbin where **James Step lived** [past tense] on the N side of Green River ... Beginning at a poplar, then **N** 150 poles to a stake, then W 100 poles to a post, then S 150 poles to a stake, thence to the beginning”). The Rushel sale appears to have fallen through—perhaps due to the uncertainty over the amount of acreage involved.

25 OCTOBER 1805

BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

William Mills: “Two hundred acres joining his own line and **John Justice’s** line.” Entered 25 October 1805; no issue date “because patent not recorded”¹⁷⁸

¹⁷⁶ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 1837; citing Buncombe Co. File No. 1837, NC microfilm reel S.108.160.33N, frame 510, State Archives.

¹⁷⁷ Rutherford Co., NC, Deed Book 24–26:313–14; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7517762 < images 156–57.

William Mills, Maj. (1746–1834)
Wife: Eleanor Morris

15 _____ 1806

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land sale.

Marvel Mills to Martin Bailey, both of Rutherford Co., sale for \$38 already paid, 50 acres on a branch of the S fork of **White Oak**:

Beginning on a red oak on the S side of the branch on a hill, running N 126 poles crossing the branch to a pine, then E 63 poles to a black oak, then S 126 poles to a stake, then W 63 poles to the beginning.

“except what is taken off by McKinney’s survey.” Witness: **A. Mills**, Andrew Hamilton. Filed 23 March 1816, no. 206.¹⁷⁹

COMMENT:

The man who signed habitually as “A. Mills” was Ambrose Mills, Esq. (aka Ambrose Mills Jr.), son of Col. Ambrose and Ann (Brown) Mills.

6 DECEMBER 1806

RUTHERFORD & BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NC

Land sale.

William Mills and wife **Ellener** of Buncombe Co. to **Micajah Pickett** of Rutherford, sale for \$1500£ already paid, 100 acres on both sides of Green River, both sides of **Panther Creek**, “including the improvement where the [said] Pickett now lives, which was previously granted to Walter Sharp on 26 April 1768:

Beginning on a post oak and red oak on the N side of the river at the mouth of a **gully**, thence N 45 W 260 poles to a hickory on **Panther Creek**, then S 45 W 187 poles to a stake, then S 45 E 260 poles to a stake, then to beginning

Also 175 acres granted to **John Kirkonell** and conveyed to the said **William Mills** by **Peter Johnson**, the heir & Executor of the said **Kirkonell**, situated on both sides of Green River, including the **mouth of Bright’s Creek**:

Beginning at a Spanish oak on the top of a hill on the N side of the river above the mouth of the creek & near the path leading up the river, runing then N 48 E 200 poles, crossing the creek to a stake, then S 36 E 140 poles, crossing the River to a post, then S 58 W 200 poles to a stake, then crossing the river to the beginning.

Also one tract of 200 acres granted to the said **William Mills** on the S side sd. river adjacent the aforementioned lands & hath such shape form & marks as a plat of the same represents.

Also one tract of 50 acres granted to sd. **Wm Mills** joining the first named premises & hath such shape form & marks as appears from a patent thereof.

¹⁷⁸ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), no image; citing Buncombe Co. File No. 1130, NC microfilm reel S.108.539, State Archives.

¹⁷⁹ Rutherford Co., NC, Deed Book 27–28: 460–61; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7517765 > images 747–48.

William Mills, Maj. (1746–1834)

Wife: Eleanor Morris

Also one tract of 50 acres Granted to **Richard Newport** lying on **Panthers Creek** & hath such marks & shape & form as a plat of same.

The whole contains 775 acres more or less. Witnesses: Asa Edney, **Gabriel Jackson** (x).¹⁸⁰

COMMENT:

Pickett, in this pair of 1806 deeds, sold his extensive lands at White Oak to John Mills, Esq., and then relocated to Panther's Creek on land John's brother William had purchased on speculation. In October 1808, Pickett would buy another two tracts of Panther Creek land from John and William's brother Ambrose Jr.

27 APRIL 1807

RUTHERFORD & BUNCOMBE COUNTIES, NC

Neighbor.

"I, John Miller of Rutherford Co., N.C. Now lying in the house of Andrew Erwin, Esq. in the town of Asheville in the County of Buncombe. Being of perfect mind and memory, I give to my beloved wife Susanah Miller the plantation she lives on with two other plantation with the grist mill & distillery, & two negroes named Bradick & Dave and negro woman named Bet, All household furniture at her death to be equally divided between my two sons David & William. I give to my son David a man negro named Dick, with a set of blacksmith tools, one negro man named James, one negro girl named Nancy, with 140 acres of land, **another tract of 50 acres between myself & William Mills, in the County of Buncombe,** and \$125 for a horse, bridle and saddle. I give to my son William Miller, two negroes named Stephen & Jack and a negro girl named Serena. Also 200 acres of land known as the Patterson place on **French Broad River**, another tract on **Little River in Buncombe County**, A note of \$350. Also \$125 for a horse, saddle and bridle. I give to my dtr. Sucky a negro woman Sally & her three children. A negro woman named Annie. One horse worth \$100. Also \$100 in money, a good saddle & bridle, two feather beds & her household furniture. I give to my dtr. Betsy one negro girl named Liza, two negro boys the chn. of (from here over a half of a page is too blurred to be read) He wish the children stay with their mother until they come of age. The negroes left to **sons David & William** to be rented out for their use. Robert McAfee is not to have any share of the notes or bonds. I appoint my friends John Lewis, Jonathan Hampton, David Dicky, Robert McAfee and my wife Susannah executrix & executors. Witnesses: _____ Ferguson, Andrew Erwin, Daniel Mathews. Signed: John Miller."¹⁸¹

19 OCTOBER 1807

BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

William Mills entered a tract of land whose 30 May 1808 patent would describe as 50 acres in Buncombe County, "lying on both sides of the **Main road** Including **Bartlet Anderson's** improvement and some of the **waters of Hoopers Creek.**"

¹⁸⁰ Rutherford Co., NC, Deed Book 25: 260–61; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7517765 > images 496–97.

¹⁸¹ James E. and Vivian Wooley, *Rutherford County, North Carolina, Wills & Miscellaneous Records, 1783–1868* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1984), 34; citing Deeds & Wills Book A:196.

William Mills, Maj. (1746–1834)

Wife: Eleanor Morris

Beginning at a large poplar and forked Spanish oak, on N side of a mountain at a large **rock**, below a large **cliff of rocks**, then S 30 degrees E 117 poles to a stake, then N 60 degrees E 64 poles to a stake in **John Smith's** lines, then N 30 degrees W 127 poles to a stake **Millar's** line, then S 60 degrees W 64 poles to a stake, then S 30 degrees E 10 poles to beginning.¹⁸²

7 APRIL 1808

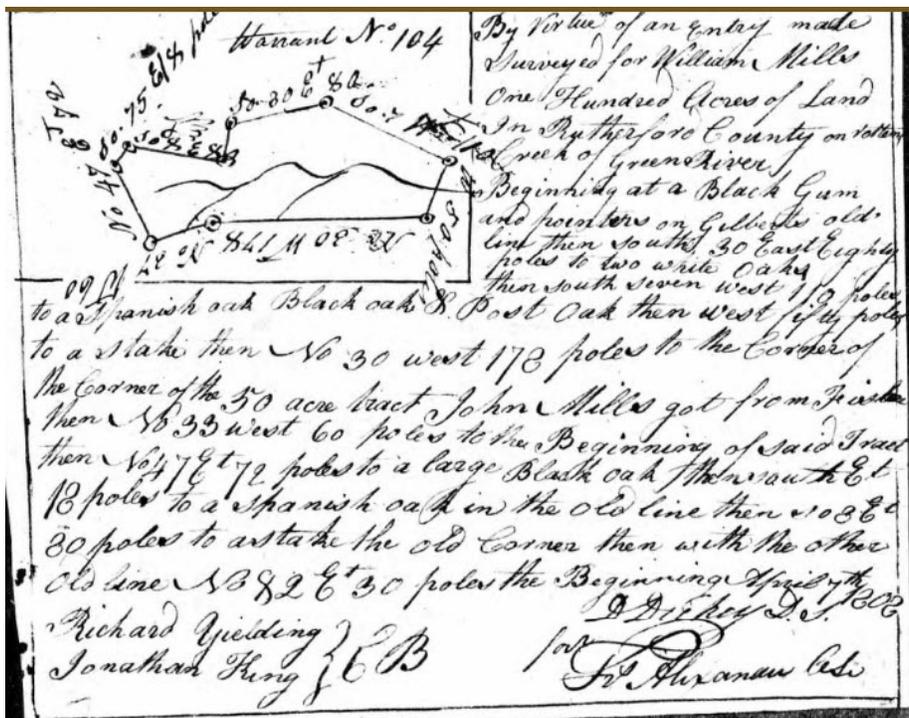
RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Land survey.

"By virtue of an Entry made [18 October 1784, warrant dated 10 June 1785], [I, D. Dickey, Deputy Surveyor, have] Surveyed for **William Mills**," 100 acres of land in Rutherford County on **Rotton's Creek** of Green River:

Beginning at a black gum and pointers on **Gilbert's old line**, then S 30 E 80 poles to two white oaks, then S 7 W 110 poles to a Spanish oak, black oak & post oak, then W 50 poles to a stake, then n 30 W 178 poles to the corner of the 50-acre tract John Milles got from Fisher, then N 33 W 60 poles to the beginning of said tract, then 18 poles to a Spanish oak in the **old line**, then N 8 E 80 poles to a stake, the **old corner**, then with the **other old line** N 82 E 30 poles to beginning.

Chain bearers: Richard Yielding, Jonathan King. Signed: D. Dickey, D.S.¹⁸³



¹⁸² David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 123:157; citing Buncombe Co. File No. 1102, NC microfilm reel S.108.160.33N, frame 103, State Archives.

¹⁸³ "North Carolina, Land Grant Files, 1693–1960," database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 7 July 2018) > Anson >2580–2829 > image 757 of 1435. Images 755–56 present the land entry and warrant.

William Mills, Maj. (1746–1834)

Wife: Eleanor Morris

17 DECEMBER 1808

BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NC

Land entry.

William Mills entered a tract of land that would be described in its 17 December 1808 patent as 200 acres in Buncombe County, "Joining his own lines and joining **John Justice's** lines and **John Witherow's** line, Including the **Clear Branch of Clear Creek** and a small Improvement made by **John Morison** for Compliment."

Beginning in the line of 150 acre tract of said **Mills** upon a chesnut and sowerwood on the point of a **narrow ridge** near the head of a **steep hollow** and runs E 50 poles to his chesnut corner, thence with his other line S 20 degrees W 160 poles to his corner white oak in the line of his 500 acre tract, then with the line of the same N 50 degrees E 150 poles to its corner white oak on a ridge, then with his other line E 40 poles to **John Justice's** corner white oak, N 10 degrees W 200 poles to a Stake supposed to be in **John Witherow's** line, thence with the same W 160 poles to a Stake on a mountain, then S 150 poles¹⁸⁴

COMMENT:

The text of the document continues onto the next page, but I do not see a mechanism for moving from one page to the next.

12 JUNE 1809

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Associate.

"I, **Thomas Moore**, In a low state of health but of perfect & memory. My burial expenses and just debts to be paid. My estate depends on the issue before the County Court & Equity in S.C. I am therefore obligated first to devise my negroes. I will then make out a list of obligations in my hand for money, when collected are to be despose of in the manner herein after mentioned. A total of \$5770.00 To my brother **Michael Moore** of **Fairfield Dist., S.C.** The following negroes. Stephen a black man for \$500; Levi a yellow man for \$500; Tom an old black man for \$300; Silvia & child for \$450. To my brother John Moore of Rutherford Co., N.C. The following negroes. Charles an elderly man for \$375; Leah, a black woman for \$400; Betty, a dark mulatter for \$375 & one horse & bay horse for \$200; Frank a negro boy for \$375; Mary a small girl for \$300. To the chn. of William Moore, decd. of Rutherford Co., N.C. The following: Milly a buding woman for \$400; Perry & Esther for \$300; Nancy for \$375; Sam a little boy for \$270; Daniel for \$450; Bill for \$200. The amount of money due me from: Malachi Howell, of Richland \$250, John Hooker of N.C. \$93, R. Milligany \$122, Doctor Samuel Green \$114, Elisha Hagwood \$150, Elisha Hagwood on note \$340, John & Elisha Hagood \$270, Phillip Sligh \$302, Robert Campbell, N.C. \$290, John Brown of **Fairfield** \$240, Rowland Williams **Fairfield** \$75, **William Mills** \$20, Michael Moore, cash lent \$100, Saml & Thomas Nelson \$78, Henry Ruff of Newberry \$300. Robert Rabb, total of \$3,400. Tract of land on Little River \$450. a tract of land on Cannons Creek, a note on Morrow \$130. The and

¹⁸⁴ David McCorkle, *NC Land Grant Images and Data* (<http://www.nclandgrants.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), imaging Book 123:435; citing Buncombe Co. File No. 1738, NC microfilm reel S.108.160.33N, frame 242, State Archives.

William Mills, Maj. (1746–1834)

Wife: Eleanor Morris

[sic] last mentioned negroes to be sold at private sale. My executors to keep \$400 for their truble in handling my busness. The remainder to be divided among Michael Moore, Senr. John Moore, and the children of William Moore, decd. To Michael Moore I give my hoster & pestol also a debt against Thomas Davy. Also a note on Edward Cornwall for \$350. To John Moore I leave my watch & mahogany sideboard, that stands in the house of Michael Moore in Columbia. I appoint my brother John Moore sole executor. Wit: David Byers, (Jurat), Lack. Wood (Jurat). Signed: Thos. Moore.” Proved April Term 1810.¹⁸⁵

AUGUST 1810

BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NC

Census.

[District not stated]¹⁸⁶

Henry G. Lewis [alleged son-in-law of William Mills]¹⁸⁷

James Laughter

John Laughter

Shadrack Lew Allen

Samuel Laughter

George Marshal

Ephraim Jackson

Boaz Still

Jacob Lyday

James Smith

Isaac Shelton

Stephen Shelton

William H. Cross

John Lockhart

James Withrow

Andrew Lockhart

John Justice Senr.

John Justice Junr.

Samuel Edney

Andrew Maxwell

James Kincaid Senr.

William Mills 1 white male 45+

1 white female 45+

15 slaves

2 fpc

Asa Edney

John Low

William Justice

John Chamless [Wm. Mills’s son Marvel allegedly married Mary Chambliss “near Columbia, S.C.”] .”¹⁸⁸

¹⁸⁵ James E. and Vivian Wooley, *Rutherford County, North Carolina, Wills & Miscellaneous Records, 1783–1868* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1984), 39–40; citing Wills & Deeds Book A: 238.

¹⁸⁶ 1810 U.S. census, Buncombe Co., N.C. p. 242 (penned), entire page abstracted above.

¹⁸⁷ *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.

William Mills, Maj. (1746–1834)

Wife: Eleanor Morris

COMMENT:

Re Withrow:

Both FamilyTree DNA and AncestryDNA show shared autosomal segments with Withrows.

- FTDNA shows matches for Withrow matches for (a) descendants of both William's aunt Sarah (Mills) Watts—specifically Mae Jeffcoat Mitchell and F W Jeffcoat; and (b) descendants of William Mills-Watts of Franklin County, Virginia.¹⁸⁹
- AncestryDNA places me into a DNA circle with two individuals said to share descent from one *William Harrell* of Rutherford County. I cannot connect to Harrell. However, One of those matches, Robin Withrow, has posted a tree tracing her descent from the above **James Withrow** of 1810 Rutherford, for whom she shows the following data:¹⁹⁰
 - b. 1746, Va.,
 - m. 1772 Syndey Brandon in Rowan Co., N.C. (N.C. Marr. Index 1741–2004)
 - 1776–1780, RW, under Andrew Hampton, Col. Benjamin Cleveland
 - 1779, bought land on Cane Creek in Rutherford from John Withrow¹⁹¹ 1781-1805, served in N.C. House of Commons
 - 9 Nov. 1792, divorce petition Rutherford Co., N.C. (images provided)
 - m. 3 Oct. 1818 Margaret [—?—] (Rutherford Co. Marriages, 1779–1868)
 - 23 Oct. 1832, filed for RW pension
 - d. 6 Dec. 1838, Hinton, Rutherford Co., N.C. (U.S. headstone ap for military vets)

Withrows, like Col. Ambrose Mills's S.C.-based brother-in-law Col. Thomas Fletchell, were also S.C. loyalists.¹⁹²

1 JUNE 1820

BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NC

Census.

[District not stated]¹⁹³

Charles Gries

Abraham Kuykendall

William Cases (Senr.)

James D. Justice

Thomas Justice

George Justice

¹⁸⁸ *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.

¹⁸⁹ See my Excel database "Mills-Lavender-Learwood Matches, Sorted."

¹⁹⁰ Robin Withrow, "Withrow Family Tree," *Ancestry* (<http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/8474398> : downloaded 26 June 2015).

¹⁹¹ Brent Holcomb, *Deed Abstracts of Tryon, Lincoln & Rutherford Counties, North Carolina, 1769–1786; Tryon County Wills & Estates* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1977), 134.

¹⁹² Alexander Chesney, *The Journal of Alexander Chesney: A South Carolina Loyalist in the Revolution and After*, introduction by Wilbur H. Siebert, *The Ohio State University Bulletin*, 26 (October 30, 1921), page blocks 63–65 and 65–67; HTML edition, *Google Books* (<http://www.books.google.com>). The bibliography to this edited copy of Chesney's diary cites "Papers of Colonel Thomas Fletchall (Public Record Office, London, A.O. 12 and 13."

¹⁹³ 1820 U.S. census, Buncombe Co., N.C. p. 78 (stamped), entire page abstracted above.

William Mills, Maj. (1746–1834)
Wife: Eleanor Morris

John Case
 Ezekiel Waldrop
 Elizabeth McMinn

John Crawford
William Justice

William Brookes
 John M. Smith
 Epraim McClain
 William Drigers

[fmc]

Robert Jones
 Peter Conn

Asa Edney
Ambrose Edney

John Morrison
 Jacob Lyddy
 Azier Jenkins

John Justice (Senr.)

William Kincaid
 James Kincaid
 Andrew Lockhart
 Jacob Garron

John Robinson
 John Love
 Joseph Stepp

James Case
 George Allen
 William Staunton
 James Ruth

Joseph Garron
 William Rimer
 James Morrison

James Roberts
 William Laning
 Louis Martin

William Mills 1 white male 45+

1 white female 45+
 1 white female 20–29

12 slaves
 2 fpc 0–14
 7 in agr.

Jane Towensend
 David Rhoades
 John Rhodes
 Thomas Case
 Jonathan Tabor
 _____ane King
 _____ham **Stepp**
 _____mel **Edney**

[end of page; no known connections on prior page]

William Mills, Maj. (1746–1834)
Wife: Eleanor Morris

15 MAY 1828

BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NC

Deed.

Deed Book 1, page 256, 15 May 1828, Buncombe County, **William Mills** to Asa Edney, 50 acres at mouth of Little Clear Creek. {Area later became Henderson County}¹⁹⁴

1 JUNE 1830

BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NC

Census.

[District not stated]¹⁹⁵

Daniel Gilbert

Polly Justice

John Jones

Reuben Stepp

Polly Stepp

[said to be the granddaughter of William Mills Jr., brother of Ambrose; her mother is said to be Mary "Polly" Mills who married James Stepp]

[skip 9]

Bird Laughter

Edward Thorn

James Ownes

James Stepp

James Laughter

[skip 9 to start of next page]

Thomas Kees

John Jummy?

Isac Justice

Asa Edney

William Mills

1 white male 80–89

1 white female 80–89

9 slaves

1 white female 20–29

0 fpc

COMMENT:

Apparent son of William Mills, Jr. and uncle of Polly Stepp.

William Ewing

Joseph Perry

William Kinkade

Robert Kinkade

Andrew H. Lockhart

¹⁹⁴ Marshall Styles, "Henderson County, NC – Wills – Asa & Sarah Mills Edney Estate, Part 2," *USGenweb Archives* (<http://files.usgwarchives.net/nc/henderson/wills/edney12.txt> : accessed 27 June 2015), citing Deed Book 1, page 256, Buncombe County.

¹⁹⁵ 1830 U.S. census, Buncombe Co., N.C. pp. 225–26 (penned).

William Mills, Maj. (1746–1834)
Wife: Eleanor Morris

William Lanning
Russell Townsend
Hezekiah Drake
Nathaniel Drake
John Shipman
Joseph Stubblefield
Moses Shipman
Agnes Turner
Thomas Wallace
Ann Hamlin
[skip 7 to end of page]

10 NOVEMBER 1834
HENDERSON COUNTY, NC

Death.

“Obituary of William Mills, published in an Asheville newspaper:

"WILLIAM MILLS, son of Ambrose and Mourning Mills, immigrants to the U.S. from England; born on James River, Virginia, November 10, 1746, moved to Wateree, S.C., where in 1763 he married Elleanor Morriss; later moved to Green River, Rutherford County; a participant at King's Mountain, Cowpens, and Ninety-Six; the first white man to cross the Blue Ridge into what is now Henderson County; moved to Buncombe County in 1788; died November 10, 1834."¹⁹⁶

SHARING POLICY

I am happy to share this file, as a PDF, with anyone who can use it. If you wish to extract a portion of it into your own notes or correspondence, please place quotation marks around any material you extract and credit it as follows:

Elizabeth Shown Mills, “William Mills, Maj. (1746–17834), Wife Eleanor Morris: Research Notes,” a working file updated 6 September 2022, p. ____.

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

¹⁹⁶ Jennie Jones Giles, “William Mills,” posted at “Private Member Stories,” *Ancestry* (<http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/9120625/person/-849620996/story/3e452001-b9c7-4159-b301-b0b5fc94ac1d?src=search> : accessed 16 June 2015), “William Mills,” posted by “jenniekz” on 23 June 2013. The poster writes: “[This] information is written by Jennie Jones Giles for a booklet related to the Edney and Mills families in Henderson County, N.C. Much of this information is also available on the web site, hendersonheritage.com. Information on the web site is an ongoing process on the history and heritage of Henderson County, as part of the classes taught by Jennie Jones Giles at Blue Ridge Community College. Please note the source when copying information from the web site or as part of this post.”

William Mills, Maj. (1746–1834)
Wife: Eleanor Morris