

Rev. John Watts, Esq. (ca.1749 – ca.1822)

Spouses:

1: [Smith?]; 2: Judith “Judy” [Rawls?]

Research Notes

GENEALOGICAL SUMMARY

- Born:** b. 1749,¹ Southside Virginia (Lunenburg or Albermarle)²
- Married:** bef. 1769, *possibly* a daughter of Moses & Catherine (King) Smith;³ left widow **Judith “Judy” [Rawls?]**, who died 1825–27, Covington Co., Miss.⁴; no known evidence identifies the mother of any child fathered by John.
- Died:** aft. 29 November 1821 and before 29 August 1822, Covington Co., Miss.⁵
- Birth Family:** Son of Thomas Watts Sr. and wife Sarah Mills who appear in the records of Lunenburg, Bedford, and Albermarle Cos., 1748–57, then settled a grant on Wateree River (Craven Co., SC; later Kershaw Co.) in 1763. Other key kin include⁶
- EDWARD WATTS, SR. , grandfather, first appeared in Lunenburg, 1752.⁷
 - WILLIAM MILLS (wife Mary), grandfather who made his will in Albemarle Co., 1755, naming daughter Sarah Watts; died, 1766, after Amherst was cut from Albemarle.
 - WILLIAM & EDWARD WATTS JR., uncles who migrated to the Wateree with Thomas.
 - AMBROSE MILLS, uncle and Loyalist colonel who also migrated to the Wateree; Rev. John later bought part of his land.

¹ Year of birth is calculated from last appearance as a juror in Georgia, where law decreed 60 as the upper age for jury duty. See Robert and George Watkins, *A Digest of the Laws of the State of Georgia . . . to the Year 1798, Inclusive* (Philadelphia: R. Aitken, 1800), 627; and notes herein for April 1809.

² Based on known parental residences. See E. S. Mills, “Watts: Literature Survey of Colonial and Revolutionary Bedford, Brunswick, and Lunenburg Counties, Virginia,” report to file, 5 January 2015.

³ Time frame of marriage is extrapolated from known age of his first-born son, Thomas, and the apparent position of his sister Catherine as his older sister. *Some* clues pointing to a Smith identity for the mother of Catherine and Thomas are developed in this set of notes. *Much research remains to be done to prove or disprove this hypothesis.*

⁴ No proof of Judith’s maiden name or birth family has been mounted, insofar as I can find. No marriage record has been found. No known document for John names a wife. Judith emerged on tax rolls after John’s death, being taxed for one slave, 1823, 1824, and 1825. The 1826 tax roll is missing. The 1827 roll does not include her. See “Series 1201: County Tax Rolls, 1818–1902,” *Mississippi Department of Archives and History* (MDAH) (<http://mdah.state.ms.us/arrec/digitalarchives/taxrolls/> : last consulted 6 Oct. 2015). Known evidence suggests she was a late-life wife. Wynema McGrew, *Watts is My Line: John and Judith (?) Watts, Settlers of the Mississippi Territory*, vol. 1 (Hattiesburg, MS.: P.p., 2010), Tables 3.11 and 3.12, show that no grown child of John Watts gave the name *Judith* to a daughter until 1808—roughly 12 years after John’s children began producing daughters. Notably, John’s daughter Barsheba “Barbara” (b. 1775) was the mother of 12 daughters and named none of them *Judith*.

⁵ Ouachita Parish, LA, Succession file A1082 and Succession vols. C: 31–38, “Thomas Watts of S. Carolina,” particularly pp. 36–37 for affidavit of John Watts of Covington Co., Miss., 29 Nov. 1821. John does not appear on the 1822 tax roll of Covington Co., certified 19 August; see “Series 1201: County Tax Rolls, 1818–1902,” MDAH, for “1822 Combined Roll.”

⁶ See E. S. Mills, “Frontier Research Strategies—Weaving a Web to Snare Parents and Origin: John Watts (ca. 1749–ca.1822),” at press, *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*.

⁷ Edward’s pre-Lunenburg origin may be Orange Co., VA, which was created in 1734 from Spotsylvania. As discussed on p. 4 of these research notes, Y-DNA of this Watts line matches that of testers claiming descent from one William Watts of Orange. In 1749, Culpeper Co. was created from Orange. Culpeper’s Will Book A: 10 offers the 1746 will (proved March 1749) of one Thomas Watts who named wife Esther, sons **Edward**, **John**, Benjamin, Thomas, **Jacob**, and **William**, along with daughters Esther, Ann, Elizabeth, Sarah, and Franky. The names bolded here match four Wattses who settled Lunenburg (later Bedford), but I’ve not yet done adequate research to prove or build a case that the four Lunenburg-Bedford men were the same-name men of Culpeper.

Rev. John Watts, Esq. (ca.1749—ca.1822)

Wife 1: Smith?

Wife 2: Judith “Judy” Rawls?

Proved Siblings: As established by the estate settlement for John’s brother Thomas:⁸

- MARY WATTS, born by 1755, m. Francis Kirkland; widow by 1800, Fairfield Dist., SC.⁸
- ELIZABETH “BETTY” WATTS, b. by 1755; m. Richard Duggans; widow by 1800, Fairfield Dist., SC.⁹
- GEORGE WATTS, b. 25 December 1756, Bedford Co., VA; d. DeKalb Co., GA.
- WILLIAM WATTS II, b. by 1763; last on record, Richland Dist., SC, 1840 census.
- THOMAS WATTS JR., b. by 1765; died ca. 1820, Richland Dist., SC.
- EDWARD WATTS III, b. by 1765; died after 1823.
- SARAH WATTS, MARRIED [—?—] Smith; widow by 1823, Fairfield Dist., SC.
- AGNES WATTS, MARRIED [—?—] ADDISON; widow by 1823, Fairfield Dist., SC.

Military Service: Unproved and highly improbable. He is accepted by DAR as Ancestor No. 122826, a soldier from N.C.; however, the service was clearly not his.¹⁰ Nor was he the “Capt. John Watts” of Fairfield Co., referenced in the RW pension applications of numerous Fairfield and Kershaw soldiers.¹¹

Residences: Amherst, Lunenburg, and Bedford Cos., VA (1749—ca.1757)
Craven Co., Camden Dist., then Fairfield Co., SC (*pre*-1783–1792)
Washington, Montgomery, Tattall, and Telfair Cos., GA (1792–1816)
Covington Co., MS (ca. 1817–21)

Children: By an unknown wife or wives, John is widely said to have fathered sixteen children:¹²

⁸ *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 14 October 2015), South Carolina Probate Records, Loose Papers, 1732–1964 > Richland > Probate Court, Estate Records > 1799–1955, Box 033, Packages 801–825, image 21. Ouachita Parish, LA, Succession file A1082 and Succession vols. C: 31–38, “Thomas Watts of S. Carolina.” For brief, documented bios on each of these, see Mills, “Frontier Research Strategies.”

⁹ 1800 U.S. census, Fairfield Dist., SC, p. 239a, adjacent households for Betty Duggans and Mary Kirkland.

¹⁰ One John Watts saw service in NC under Col. William Walton. DAR has accepted many applications in which descendants of Rev. John Watts applied, claiming this N.C. service, asserting that he served from Anson County, and (in some cases) identifying him as John “A.” Watts. However, the N.C. soldier did not serve from Anson, cannot be connected to our Rev. John Watts in any way, and can be documented in Hertford Co., NC at the time our John was clearly in Fairfield. For the records and the proof arguments, see E. S. Mills, “Watts of Eighteenth Century Bertie and Hertford Counties, North Carolina: A Survey of Published Literature,” report to file, 15 January 2015; and E. S. Mills, “Watts: Initial Survey of Published Resources for Colonial and RW Anson County, NC, and Its Parent and Daughter Counties Lincoln, Mecklenburg, and Montgomery,” report to file, 15 January 2015.

Another John Watts from Wilkes Co., Georgia, received RW bounty land in 1783–85, according to George Gillman Smith, *Story of Georgia and the Georgia People* (Macon: George G. Smith, 1901), Appendix: “Headrights Granted by the Georgia Colonial and State Governments from 1754 to 1800,” pp. 567–69. This source is sometimes used as evidence of our John’s military service. However, solid evidence clearly places our John in Fairfield District, SC, at the time this Georgia grant was made. John of Wilkes County, who remained there for years thereafter, was a different man. As a starting point for him, see Frank Parker Hudson, *Wilkes County, Georgia, Tax Records, 1785–1795*, 2 vols. (Atlanta: Privately printed under support of the R. J. Taylor Foundation, 1996). The prevalence of the name *Richard* amid the Wilkes Co., Wattses suggests that the line may also go back to Brunswick and Lunenburg Cos., VA, where a Richard Watts is found in the 1740s and 1750s

¹¹ See the evidence laid out in E. S. Mills, “Captain John Watts of Camden District, SC: Was He John Watts of Fairfield’s Wateree Creek or John Watts of Kershaw’s Lynches Creek?”, report to file, 2 Nov. 2014.

¹² No definitive list exists for their children. Writers who reference a now-lost Bible have long asserted that he had sixteen children. The headright acreage granted to him in Georgia comports with sixteen children, in addition to his wife and self. There is no evidence that he owned slaves who would need to be factored into the analysis of the acreage for which he qualified. I present the likely list above, with supporting evidence or reasoning, in Elizabeth Shown Mills, “Testing the FAN Principle Against DNA: Zilphy (Watts) Price Cooksey Cooksey of Georgia and Mississippi,” *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* 102 (June 2014): 129–52. It remains subject to revision as more evidence is gleaned. Roughly 1000 hours of research conducted on John, since the Zilphy article, provides no evidence to support the tradition (reported in this article) that Judith was their mother.

Rev. John Watts, Esq. (ca.1749—ca.1822)

Wife 1: Smith?

Wife 2: Judith “Judy” Rawls?

1. CATHERINE “CATY” WATTS, b. ca.1769; m. Moses Hornsby, apparently before 1790;¹³ last on record 29 November 1821;¹⁴ likely the female aged 50–59 in the Moses Hornsby household, Rankin Co., Miss., 1830.¹⁵
2. THOMAS WATTS, b. ca.1771; m. Elizabeth Lott, ca.1797–98; died after 20 January 1854 (date of will), Smith Co., TX.¹⁶
3. JOHN WATTS JR., born ca. 1773; served as juror in 1795 and 1796; name drawn in 1802 to serve as juror at next term,¹⁷ after which he died or left Tattnall Co.
4. BARSHEBA “BARBARA” WATTS, b. 9 February 1775; m. Jesse Wiggins Jr., ca. 1794; died after 1843, most likely in Covington County.¹⁸
5. ELIZABETH WATTS, b. ca.1777; her name is carried down in sibling lines.
6. KEZIAH WATTS, b. ca.1778–79; often cited as a child, but no proof is offered; her name is carried down in sibling lines.
7. ZILPHIA “ZILPHY” WATTS, b. ca.1780–81; m. John Price, John Cooksey, and William Cooksey;¹⁹ d. 24 June 1857, Newton Co., MS.²⁰ [*Zilphy’s descendants carry mtDNA matching that of mtDNA lines traceable to Amy (b. ca. 1794) and Rhoda (b. ca. 1796).*]
8. DICEY WATTS, b. ca.1782; m. Nathan Lott, ca. 1797; d. after 1860 census of Marion Co., MS.²¹
9. REUBEN WATTS, b. 24 November 1784; m. Katherine [—?—], 27 November 1805; d. 28 July 1870, Covington Co.²²
10. (?) JAMES WATTS, b. ca.1786; apparently died before 1790 census; his name is carried down in sibling lines.²³
11. (?) BARTLETT WATTS, born ca. 1788; apparently died before 1790 census; the name *Bartlett* is carried down in sibling lines and is also found as a given name in Rev. John Watts’s Fairfield neighborhood.
12. MARY WATTS, b. ca.1790; m. William Webb, 8 August 1809.²⁴ Not yet tracked past 1820 census.
13. ELEANOR “NELLIE” WATTS, b. ca.1792; her name is carried down in sibling lines.

¹³ 1790 U.S. cens., Fairfield Dist., S.C., p. 150, line 24, attributes a young family to Moses. Also see McGrew, *Watts Is My Line*, 25, and Chapter 4, pp. 39–156, for a robust genealogical treatment of the Hornsbys.

¹⁴ Ouachita Parish, LA, Succession file A1082 and Succession vols. C: 31–38, “Thomas Watts of S. Carolina”; particularly see pp. 36–37 for affidavit of Caty and Moses Hornsby of Covington Co., Miss., 29 Nov. 1821.

¹⁵ 1830 U.S. census, Rankin Co., Miss., p. 165.

¹⁶ See McGrew, *Watts is My Line*, 16, 25, also Part 3, pp. 157–717, for an extensive genealogical treatment of Thomas Watts and his offspring. Thomas’s reported age of “79” on the 1850 census, if correct, would place his birth between 2 June 1770 and 1 June 1771. See 1850 U.S. cens., Smith Co., Tx., p. 56, dwell. 196, fam. 19.

¹⁷ Clifford S. Dwyer, *Montgomery County, Ga., Jury Lists, 1791, 1795, 1804* (Vidalia, Ga.: Montgomery County Records Preservation Committee, n.d.), 3, list dated 24 November 1795. James E. Dorsey and John K. Derden, *Montgomery County, Georgia: A Source Book of Genealogy and History* (Spartanburg, S.C.: Reprint Co., 1983), 186 for March 1796; and Montgomery Co., Superior Court Minutes [unlabelled; identified by content], p. 2 (for 1802); FHL Microfilm 218,814.

¹⁸ McGrew, *Watts Is My Line*, 25.

¹⁹ Many online trees identify this child as “Lucy.” None present evidence of her identity or her existence as an adult. In “Testing the FAN Principle Against DNA: Zilphy (Watts) Price Cooksey Cooksey of Georgia and Mississippi,” I present documentary and DNA evidence that the daughter born at this point was actually *Zilphy*.

²⁰ James William Cooksey Bible pages, image copies supplied August 2008 by Kelly Parks; current owner unknown. James was a son of Zilphy and William Cooksey.

²¹ McGrew, *Watts Is My Line*, 25, 749.

²² McGrew, *Watts Is My Line*, 25.

²³ One James Watts is taxed in Covington Co., Miss., in 1822 and 1823; but he is not assessed either year in the distinctive Watts cluster formed by John, his sons, and sons-in-law. One James Watts is also found in the censuses and deed records of Ouachita Parish, LA, 1820–30. He had key (and prominent) associates in common with Joseph Watts, the illegitimate son and principal heir of John’s brother, Thomas Jr.; but no connection to John has been found.

²⁴ Tattnall Co., Marr. Book 1: 2.

Rev. John Watts, Esq. (ca.1749—ca.1822)

Wife 1: Smith?

Wife 2: Judith “Judy” Rawls?

14. AMELIA “AMY” WATTS, b. ca.1794; married Thomas J. Aultman, 11 August 1810;²⁵ d. 4 November 1861, Covington Co.²⁶ [*Descendant’s mtDNA matches that of Zilphy & Rhoda.*]
15. RHODA WATTS, b. ca.1796; m. Mark Rayburn, 13 March 1818, Lawrence Co., MS; d. 23 May 1866, Covington or Marion Cos.²⁷ [*Descendant’s mtDNA matches that of Zilphy & Amy.*]
16. SARAH WATTS, b. ca.1798; her name is carried down in sibling lines; one “Sarah Moore,” an apparent widow, is taxed in Covington, 1822 and 1823 in the distinctive cluster formed by John Watts, his sons, and sons-in-law. She is a possibility that needs exploring.

POTENTIAL KIN: **Barsheba Watts** of Bedford Co., Va., b. about 1755, alleged wife of **William Gulledge**; mother of Rev. Joel Gulledge, who is said to have married in Anson Co., NC, either **Zilphia Huntley** or **Zilphia Meadors**, daughter of **Jason Meadors** and **Elizabeth Stone** of Bedford Co., Va., and Anson Co., NC.²⁸ The Anson marriage location suggests that Barsheba is possibly a daughter of Rev. John Watts’s uncle George Watts (son of Edward Sr. of Bedford Co., Va.) who married about 1755 and migrated with the Meadors to Anson (later Lincoln), where he died in 1772. Some of the Bedford-to-Anson Meadors and Stones also migrated on to Fairfield Co., SC.²⁹ **Note that Rev. John Watts named daughters Barsheba and Zilphy.** If these hypothesized relationships are correct, then Barsheba (Watts) Gulledge would be first cousin of Rev. John.

DNA EVIDENCE: Three proved descendants of Rev. John Watts, Esq., are known to have taken Y-DNA tests. Their posted results identify their **haplogroup** as **I-M223**. The Watts Y-DNA Project has identified only 8 Watts lines for this haplogroup. Each tester was asked to provide an identification of the earliest known ancestor in the line. However, *testers are not asked to provide evidence to document the accuracy of their presumed descent from the claimed person.* The table below reports their data:³⁰

KIT NO.	EARLIEST KNOWN Y-LINE ANCESTOR	PRESUMED ORIGIN
151927	—	Unknown
34618	Evan T Watson b 1759, son of John Watson B. ~1728	England
20376	Thomas Watts b 1771 NC/SC m Elizabeth Lott	Ireland
124467	Elias (Aley) Watts b. abt. 1769/ Eleanor (Mills?)	Unknown
N84482	William Watts, b. c. 1760, Orange Co, VA	England
127151	William Watts, b. abt. 1786, Anson Co., NC	Unknown
20203	“John Watts/Judith Rawls?, Mississippi”	Unknown
587850	Francis Marion Watts (Abt. 1833, MS-Abt. 1864, LA)	Unknown
70698	Commodore Perry Watts	Unknown

²⁵ Telfair Co., Marr. Book A: 1.

²⁶ McGrew, *Watts Is My Line*, 26.

²⁷ McGrew, *Watts Is My Line*, 26.

²⁸ For example, see Virgil W. Huntley, *Thomas Huntley, Sr., of Anson County, North Carolina: His Descendants in the Carolinas and Elsewhere* (Mystic, Conn.: Privately published, 1988), particularly pp. 2 and 8; also “Ancestors of Christopher Howard Allen Clark,” *Genealogy.com* (familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/c/l/a/Christopher-A-Clark-/GENE14-0026.html : last accessed 12 Jan. 2015).

²⁹ As a collateral connection: Barsheba and William’s son Thomas Gulledge moved to Mississippi, where his son Joel married Hannah Warren. Hannah’s sister Polly married John Boyd. Their son James Boyd—nephew of Joel Gulledge—married Elmira Parks, granddaughter of John Watts’s daughter Zilphia. See Elizabeth Shown Mills, “Testing the FAN Principle Against DNA: Zilphy (Watts) Price Cooksey Cooksey of Georgia and Mississippi,” *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* 102 (June 2014): 129–52; also “Warren-Vaughn-Ellison Bible,” *NGS Quarterly* 78 (March 1990): 55–56.

³⁰ Barbara Van Camp and Neal Watts, group administrators, “Watts/Watt/Watson Families Reconstruction Project,” database, *FamilyTreeDNA* (<https://www.familytreedna.com/public/wattsfamilies/default.aspx?section=yresults> : last accessed 5 June 2016).

Rev. John Watts, Esq. (ca.1749—ca.1822)

Wife 1: Smith?

Wife 2: Judith “Judy” Rawls?

Within each haplogroup, Y-DNA tests reveal mutations that can further define lines of descent. Tests are available at 12, 25, 37, 67, and 111 markers. The Watts Y-DNA Project defines the mutation value at each marker tested. Analyzing those markers reveals the following:

- The line that names Thomas Watts as ancestor tested only 37 markers.
- Descendants of both John (Kit 20203) and Elias tested at 67 markers.
- All 67 markers for John and Elias have identical values—as do the first 37 that Thomas’s descendants tested.

Y-DNA suggests that research should now focus on documenting the ancestry of the two **Williams** (particularly William of Orange) and **Elias Watts** (who likely descends from William of Orange). **Elias is said on numerous trees, but without evidence, to have married Eleanor Mills**, whom those trees present as the daughter of William Mills and granddaughter of Col. Ambrose Mills (wife Mourning Stone) of Bedford County, Va.

NORTH CAROLINA?

(The Alleged Residence)

Note:

Some researchers assert that John Watts of Fairfield came there from Anson County, NC, where two records supposedly document his presence:

- In 1769, supposedly, he signed the famed petition of Anson County settlers, protesting the injustices of His Majesty’s colonial officials. As evidence, they cite the published version of the petition, which carries the name “John Watts.” See below for evidence that this John Watts cannot possibly be our Rev. John Watts, J.P.
- In 1774, supposedly, John is named as the heir of William and Agnes Watts. Two documents—and only two—survive for William’s estate and his widow Agnes. Both are also abstracted below. In neither case can the associates of the Anson John-of-William be attached to our John.

9 OCTOBER 1769

ANSON COUNTY, NC

Petition.

“The Petition of the Inhabitants of Anson County ... humbly sheweth ... that the Province in general labour under general grievances, and the Western part thereof under particular ones ... Permit us to conceive it to be our inviolable right to make known our grievances ... 1. That the poor inhabitants in general are much oppress’d by reason fo disproportionate Taxes ... [signed]: John Snor, Isaac Armstrong, Wm. Thomson, Seamor Almond, Isaac Falconberg, Francis Smith, John Ryle, John Culpepper, John Jones Sr. [a misreading, it should be *John Preslar*], Wm Grifen Hogon, Richard Maner, **John Watts**, John Davis, Saml Gaylor, Richard Sands, Jason Iron Hinsinbru, Thoms Preslar, Thompson Culpepper, Daniel Culpepper, John Snider [*skip 61*] **Jason Meadow Jr., Jason Meadow**³¹

³¹ William I. Saunders, *Colonial Records of North Carolina; Published Under the Supervision of the Trustees of the Public Libraries, by Order of the General Assembly*, vol. 8, 1769 to 1771 (Raleigh: Josephus Daniels, 1890), 75–80.

Rev. John Watts, Esq. (ca.1749—ca.1822)

Wife 1: Smith?

Wife 2: Judith "Judy" Rawls?

157

<p> <i>Arthur Hutcheson</i> <i>James Howard</i> <i>John Falconberg Mark</i> <i>James Smith</i> <i>John Pope</i> <i>John C. Pappas</i> <i>John Jones</i> <i>N. Grafen Hogen</i> <i>Richard S. Mann - Mark</i> <i>John O. Wattle Mark</i> <i>John H. Davis Mark</i> <i>Sam. Gayles</i> <i>Richard James</i> <i>John Jacob H. Simon</i> <i>Thos. T. Pester</i> <i>Joseph Calpappas Mark</i> <i>Daniel Calpappas</i> <i>John Smith</i> <i>John Pappas</i> <i>John French</i> <i>Geo. Miller</i> <i>Josy Robinson</i> <i>Robert J. Davis</i> <i>Aquila Jones</i> <i>Thomas Tallant</i> <i>James Benson</i> <i>Wm. Baird</i> <i>John J. Morris Mark</i> <i>Geo. Wilson</i> <i>Robert Webb</i> <i>Thomas Jayles</i> </p>	<p> <i>John J. Brantley</i> <i>Wm. G. B. Smith</i> <i>John A. Smith Mark</i> <i>John M. Smith Mark</i> <i>Benja. Dumas</i> <i>Joseph White</i> <i>Wm. Hildon</i> <i>John F. Walker</i> <i>John Smith</i> <i>David Dumas</i> <i>Benjamin B. Smith Mark</i> <i>William C. Benlon</i> <i>Wm. Coleman</i> <i>Alex. McK. Johnson</i> <i>E. Smith</i> <i>Thomas T. Gower</i> <i>Jonathan Gower</i> <i>John Keet</i> <i>John T. Berger Mark</i> <i>John Johnson</i> <i>James Johnson</i> <i>John E. Walker</i> <i>John C. Bell</i> <i>John A. Wright Mark</i> <i>John T. Wright Mark</i> <i>Richd. Cook</i> <i>Charles H. Smith</i> <i>John H. Smith</i> <i>John A. Smith</i> <i>William Fox</i> </p>
---	---

Rev. John Watts, Esq. (ca.1749—ca.1822)

Wife 1: Smith?

Wife 2: Judith “Judy” Rawls?

COMMENT:

- Of the 176 other names on this petition, none are known former residents of Bedford-Lunenburg, VA, or later residents of Craven-Camden, SC. No other Watts signatures appear.
- As this image of the original shows,³² the John Watts of Anson 1769 *could not sign his name* while our John Watts (a later county justice) left his signature on many documents.
- Notice that the third signee before this John Watts is the John Preslar who would serve (below) as bondsman for John Watts as administrator of William Watts’s estate
- None of these individuals are found among the associates of either John Watts in South Carolina, Georgia, or Mississippi, and none are found among the associates of his parents, grandparents, and other kinsmen in Southside Virginia.

15 JANUARY 1773

ANSON COUNTY, NC

Court minute.

“**Agnes Watts**, wife and relict of **William Watts**, decd., relinq. admrn on decd’s estate.”³³

15 OCTOBER 1774

ANSON COUNTY, NC

Court minute.

“Admr. on estate of **Wm. Watts**, decd., gr to **John Watts** with bond, John Preslar, James Long. £100.”³⁴

COMMENT:

- No evidence has been found to connect this John Watts to John Watts of Fairfield.
- This 1774 man was likely the John Watts who signed the 1769 petition 3 signatures after John Preslar.
- The records of Anson continue to carry the name John Watts in various records through the end of the century.
- A number of contemporary Watts males resided in Anson County who have not yet been assembled into family groups. I have connected one of them with Bedford County (George, husband of Frances, who died in 1772).³⁵
- Victoria P. Young, a professional genealogist and president of the North Carolina Genealogical Society, made a search for me during the summer of 2014, seeking additional records relating to this estate, and found none other than these minutes which, she reports, McBee has transcribed accurately.

AUGUST 1783–MAY 1792

Military pay

In July 1783, the N.C. legislature passed an act to settle the military accounts of the officers and soldiers of the North Carolina’s continental line. The register began in August 1783. One **John Watts**, who had served in Col. William Walton’s company, filed his account there in NC and was granted 6 months pay from 1 January 1782, with interest to 1 August 1783. In May 1792 accounts were reopened to settle soldier accounts for subsistence rations and clothing they were supposed to have received during service. Again, the N.C. John Watts was present there in NC to file his claim.

COMMENT:

³² 1769 petition from Anson County, File “Oct.-Nov., 17 Lower House Committees, Committee of Propositions & Grievances”; Box “General Assembly Session Records, Colonial (Upper and Lower Houses), Oct.-Nov., 1769; Dec., 1770-Jan., 1771 (Lower House Papers-Dec. Bills)”; N.C. State Archives, Raleigh.

³³ May Wilson McBee, *Anson County, North Carolina: Abstracts of Early Records* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1978), 84.

³⁴ McBee, *Anson County, North Carolina: Abstracts of Early Records*, 97.

³⁵ See E. S. Mills, “Watts: Literature Survey of Colonial and RW Anson County, NC, and Its Parent and Daughter Counties Lincoln, Mecklenburg, and Montgomery,” report to file, 15 January 2015 (24 pp.)

- This John Watts is the John Watts whose service has been wrongly used by descendants of Rev. John Watts, Esq., to join DAR and SAR.
- As seen under November 1783 notes below, the Fairfield John Watts was a well-established member of his community by that date—so much so that he was one of 14 community leaders to sign a character affidavit for a former neighbor who was moving to Georgia, attesting that the man had lived among them peacefully for fifteen years. The Fairfield John Watts would appear there in that neighborhood consistently through 1791.
- For evidence of the identity of the John Watts who served in the N.C. Continental Line, see E. S. Mills, “Watts Literature Survey of Colonial and RW Anson County, NC, and Its Parent and Daughter Counties Lincoln, Mecklenburg, and Montgomery,” report to file, 15 January 2015; and “Watts of Eighteenth Century Bertie and Hertford Counties, North Carolina: A Survey of Published Literature,” report to file, 15 January 2015.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Background:

For the South Carolina backcountry, local records begin *after the 1785 creation of post-Revolutionary counties*. Prior to then, deeds, land grants, marriage licenses, and other staples of biographical and genealogical research were *recorded only at Charleston*. Although a system of district courts was established in 1768, the onset of the Regulator Wars and then the Revolution destabilized the system. Few records were created and even fewer have survived. The surviving records are typically found, today, in one of the counties cut from those districts; they have been consulted for this project.

Colony-level records of land grants have been preserved at Charleston. That set of records enables us to identify the Watts who settled old Craven County (later Camden District) before the region became Fairfield and Kershaw Counties.³⁶

Edward Watts, Jr., his brothers **William Watts** and **Thomas Watts**, and the latter’s brother-in-law **Ambrose Mills** all surface along the Wateree River of old Craven County in land grants of 1761–63, with several supplemental grants after that point. **No grant exists for John**, who would have married about 1768. The royal land-grant process was suspended in 1773 (temporarily) and 1774 (permanently), amid political unrest.

John, son of Thomas, appears in the earliest local records created for Fairfield—a 1784 document recorded after 1785—as a well-established resident. He has also been found there in one other pre-1785 record that remained in private hands for decades until filed in a pension claim: a 1783 affidavit signed by fourteen men attesting to the good character of their “former neighbor” Lt. William Coggin, who was moving to Georgia after fifteen years of residence in South Carolina.³⁷ That document also implies that John was

³⁶ See E. S. Mills, “Watts: Literature Survey of Published South Carolina Resources for Old Craven County, Camden District, and the Counties Cut from Them,” report to file (92 pp.); and Mills, “Watts: Legal Records of Fairfield and Kershaw Counties, South Carolina (Previously Camden District and Craven County, Pre-1820,” report to file, 27 Oct. 2014 (89 pp.).

³⁷ Pension application of William Coggin (Lt., Sumter’s Brigade, S.C., Rev. War), S2838; accessed at *Fold3* (www.fold3.com : 25 April 2014), specifically image 12739959.

an established resident of his community, one who had known Coggins for a number of years. However, John’s life during the tumult of the Regulator Wars and the Revolution remain a cipher.

Fairfield County, during the Revolution, was strongly Loyalist—particularly in northern Fairfield where we find John and his brothers Thomas Watts Jr., and William Watts II (John’s partner in the purchase of the Ambrose Mills land)³⁸ and his uncle Edward Watts Jr. Most leaders of the Whig (aka “Patriot”) forces (the Winns, Woodwards, etc.) centered in central and southeastern Fairfield—areas occupied by William Watts Sr. (John’s uncle) and George Watts (John’s younger brother). Patriot service can be documented for George. The main east-west artery through Fairfield ran through *lower* Fairfield, from Winnsboro to Camden—the seat of Camden District and the site of the Battle of Camden. It was heavily trafficked at times by both armies, but no battles apparently were fought along this road in Fairfield.

The only conflict of any consequence I’ve identified for Fairfield during the Revolution is an incident along Little River in the northwest quadrant of the modern county. There, the generally yeoman-class Tories were routed in June 1780 when forces under the planter elite attacked a Loyalist gathering at Mobley’s Meeting House on Little River (just above Edward Watts Jr.’s land grant). Some of the Loyalists escaped, some were killed, many were taken prisoner and sent to North Carolina. The Wattses do not appear on any of the published Loyalist lists for the county.

After that conflict, which pitted friends and family members against each other, Fairfield saw little action. Because of its strong Tory leaning and because it lacked a town of any size or military resource of any significance, British activities were minimal. Local families seemed to settle into an uneasy truce in which most families simply struggled to survive.

The maps that follow represent sections of old Craven County that became Kershaw and Fairfield Counties. In each sectional map, Watts settlements are marked.³⁹

³⁸ The best account of the Fairfield activities during the Revolution seems to be Kenneth Shelton, *All That Dare Oppose Them: The Whig Victory at Mobley’s Meeting House, June 1780* (N.p.: Privately printed, 2005). Also see, for historical context, Alexander Gregg, *History of the Old Cheraws* (Columbia, SC: The State Company, 1925), chapters 7–16. Shelton (pp. 43–44) quotes the incomparable frontier historian Lyman C. Draper—who collected tens of thousands of documents from and about the Revolutionary era—as saying there were “but few Whigs [Patriots] in Fairfield, [that] it was strong Tory region—hence always had but a small regiment.” (Citing “The Draper Manuscript Collection, volumes 14 VV.”) Shelton questions the applicability of Draper’s conclusion to all of Fairfield and suggests that it fits primarily the area of Mobley’s Settlement.

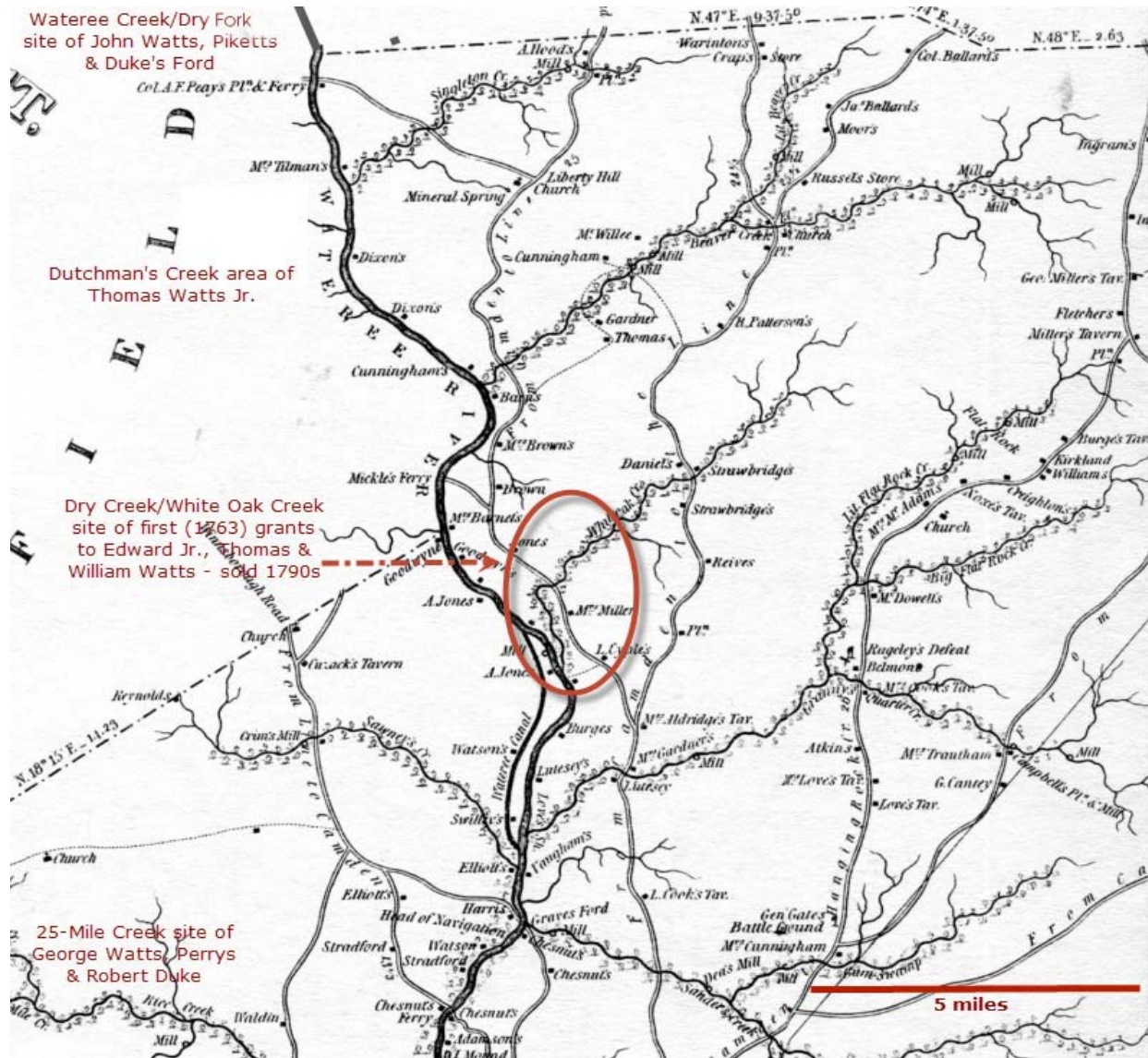
³⁹ For abstracts or transcripts of the grants and deeds that underpin these land placements, see E. S. Mills, “Watts: Initial Survey of Published South Carolina Resources for Old Craven County, Camden District, and the Counties Cut from Them,” report to file, 17 October 2014; and “Watts: Legal Records of Fairfield and Kershaw County, South Carolina (Previously Camden District and Craven County), Pre-1830,” report to file, 27 October 2014.

Rev. John Watts, Esq. (ca.1749—ca.1822)

Wife 1: Smith?

Wife 2: Judith "Judy" Rawls?

Map 2
Fairfield & Kershaw Counties:
Watts Settlements along the Wateree River, 1763-ca.1800⁴⁰



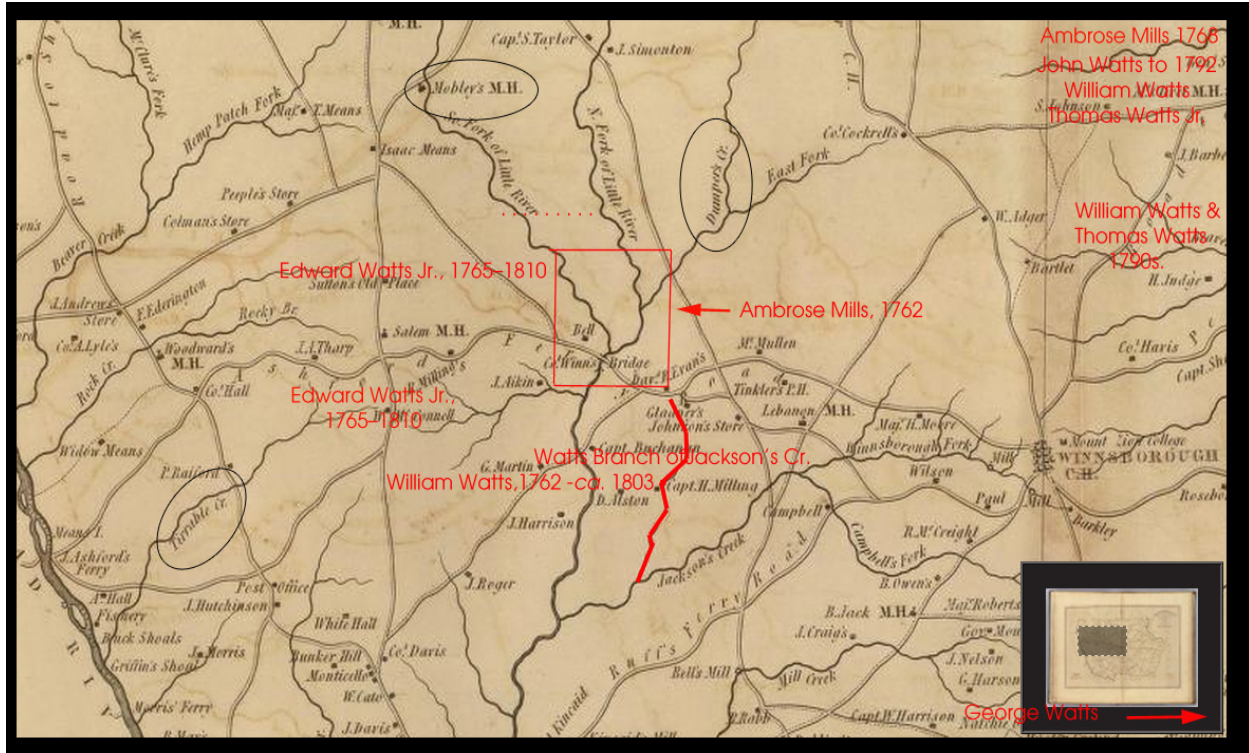
⁴⁰ Map is extracted from Robert Mills, *Mills's Atlas: Atlas of the State of South Carolina, 1825* (reprinted, Easley, S.C.: Southern Historical Press, 1980), "Kershaw County."

Rev. John Watts, Esq. (ca.1749—ca.1822)

Wife 1: Smith?

Wife 2: Judith “Judy” Rawls?

Map 3
West-Central Fairfield County (Little River area)⁴¹
Site of William Watts, Edward Watts Jr., and Ambrose Mills



COMMENT:

- Ambrose Mills, the maternal uncle of John Watts, was the first in this family cluster to petition for land (1761), locating at the strategic forks of Little River—a tract that was surveyed for him in 1762.
- William Watts, a paternal uncle of John, in 1762 petitioned for Little River land below Ambrose Mills, on a stream that joined his grant to Jackson Creek; it would be called Watts’s Branch of Jackson Creek.
- Edward Watts Jr., another paternal uncle of John, in 1765 left Wateree River and took a new grant on Little River, northwest of Ambrose, on the fringes of the Mobley Settlement. (The Mobleys of Lunenburg-Bedford had begun the Bedford-to-Craven/Camden migration about 1756.)⁴²
- From Little River, Edward Jr. spread southwest down Trouble Creek.
- In the region where Little River branches, east of Mobley’s Meeting House, note **Dampier’s Creek**. The **Dampiers can be found amid the John Watts clan in both Tattnall County, Georgia, and Covington County, Mississippi.**⁴³

⁴¹ The colored map snippets in this section are taken from Robert Mills, *Mills’s Atlas of the State of South Carolina, 1825*; available at David Rumsey Map Collection (www.DavidRumsey.com : downloaded 26 August 2014). Although Mills’s collection of maps is dated 1825, many were made a number of years earlier and depict historic sites dating from the late 1700s.

⁴² See, for example, Ann Chilton, *Bedford County, Virginia, Deed Book B2* (Signal Mountain, TN: Mountain Press, 1992), 7, citing B-2:94, wherein “Edw. Mobberly (Craven Co., S.C.)” sold his land on Otter River of Bedford on 10 September 1756.

⁴³ See E. S. Mills, “Cooksey & Allied Families: Tax Data—Montgomery and Tattnall Counties, Georgia, 1798–1820,” 3 January 2011; archived online at *Historic Pathways* (<http://www.historicpathways.com/download/2011-3Jan-CookAssocTattMontTAX.pdf>). Also E. S. Mills, “Possibility to Pursue: Were John and Judith [—?—] Watts the Parents of Zilpha [—?—] Price Cooksey?” 9 July 2010; archived at *Historic Pathways* (<http://www.historicpathways.com/download/Zilphaspossibleparents.pdf>).

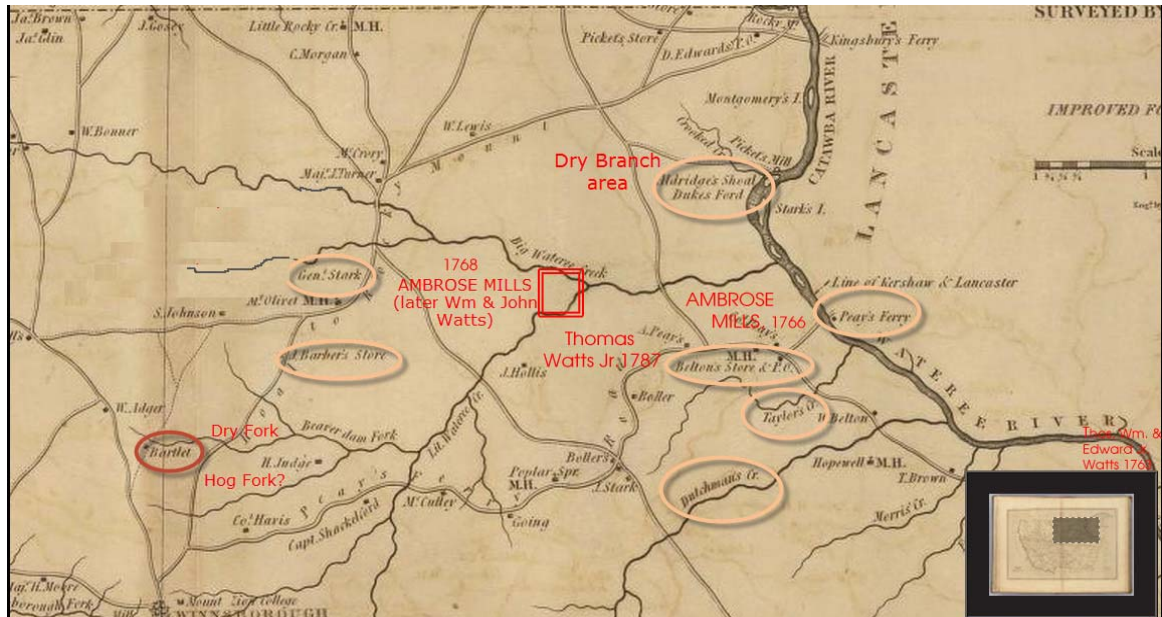
⁴⁴ Brent H. Holcomb, *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals*, vol. 5, 1757–1765 (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 1998), 83. *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database with images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online/archives/> : accessed 7 October 2014), “Mills, Ambrose, Plat for 100 Acres on Little River.”

Rev. John Watts, Esq. (ca.1749—ca.1822)

Wife 1: Smith?

Wife 2: Judith “Judy” Rawls?

Map 4
East Central Fairfield County
Wateree Creek (Big and Little) with its branches: Mill Creek, Dry Fork, and Hog Fork
Dutchman’s Creek and Taylor’s Creek of the Wateree River



COMMENT:

This map graphically shows the cluster of families in which (Rev.) John Watts, Esq. emerged.

In 1766 Ambrose Mills forfeited his Little River land (see Map 3) and secured two new tracts on Wateree River and its branch, Wateree Creek. Over the next 10 years, a new crop of Wattses sprang up around him—including our John Watts. All are extensively interconnected in the records.

After Edward Jr. and William Watts settled on Little River, their brother Thomas Sr. (John’s father) remained at the original site on the Kershaw side of the Wateree River. It was his offspring that, 10–20 years later, expanded gradually across Wateree Creek, Dutchman’s Creek, Taylor’s Creek, and 25-Mile Creek.

As reference points:

- The land of William Watts (Map 3) lay just west of the bottom-left corner of this map.
- The community of George Watts lay just below the bottom right corner of this map about 5 miles south of the Wateree site settled by Thomas Sr.
- The smaller of the two sites marked above for Ambrose Mills—the site marked with a square—is the one purchased from his son and heir in 1784 by **John Watts** in concert with a **William Watts**. John sold that tract in 1786 and, on the 1790 census, appears on nearby Mill Creek, adjacent to the Rev. Edward Pigg—a man rooted in Orange Co., VA, where this Watts family can be placed in the 1730s–1750 period.
- Note the area circled in red: the land of one “Bartlett.” Bartletts appear in Thomas Watts’s neighborhood on the Lunenburg tax rolls of the 1750s. John’s oldest son Thomas would give the name Bartlett to one of his sons (Bartlett S. Watts). However, the source of that child’s name seems to be Fairfield’s Bartlett Smith, a son of Moses Smith by wife Catherine King, whose brother John King was John Watts’s next door neighbor and frequent associate. A grandson of John’s daughter Zilphy was also named “Bartlett Watts Cooksey.” Fairfield records of the late 1780s show the name Bartlett being used as a given name for sons by two John Watts associates, the Gibsons and Hinsons.

In the South Carolina notes that follow, as context for John, I include *selected* records relating to his father, his uncles, and his siblings, from the time of their settlement in old Craven County to the time of John's last appearance in Fairfield records. For John's parents, see full treatment in "Thomas Watts ... Research Notes," bearing this same date.

1761–63

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Settlements

- 1 December 1761 Land warrant, **Ambrose Mills**, 100 acres on Little River⁴⁴ surveyed 7 May 1762⁴⁵
7 September 1762 Land warrant, **William Watts**, 100 acres [Little River]⁴⁶ surveyed 4 Oct. 1762⁴⁷
4 October 1763 Land warrants:
William Watts, 100 acres on Santee or Wateree
Edward Watts Jun'r., 250 acres N side of Wateree at mouth of Dry Creek
Thomas Watts, 550 acres on N side of Wateree at mouth of Dry Creek
adj. lands of [Thomas] Simpson⁴⁸

COMMENT:

- Thomas's allotment of 550 acres would cover himself, spouse, and 9 children and/or slaves.
- Thomas's plat appears below.

14 OCTOBER 1763

CRAVEN COUNTY, SC

Land plat.

"Pursuant to a precept from the Hon. Egerton Leigh, Esq. Surveyor General, dated the 4th day of Oct. A. D. 1763, I have admeasured and laid out unto **Thomas Watts** a tract of land containing five hundred and fifty Acres, Situate lying and being at the **N side of Wateree River** and on the **lower side** of the **Mouth of Upper Dry Creek**, in Craven County, Bounded on the W. side with the Wateree River and up the river on that line which extends outwards from it with land of *Mr. Thomas Simpson, Esq.*, late decd. and part of that line which runs S. one E 53 Chs. is bounded with vacant land and the remainder of that line and all the next lines which runs N89E 33 Chs. is bounded by land surveyed for **William Watts** and the next line which runs S one E 33 Chs. is bounded with vacant land, and the next line which is S 89 W 54 Chs. is bounded with land survd for **Edwd. Watts**. And hath such marks as the above plat represents. Certified by me this 14th day of October 1763.⁴⁹

⁴⁴ Brent H. Holcomb, *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals*, vol. 5, 1757–1765 (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 1998), 83. *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database with images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online/archives/> : accessed 7 October 2014), "Mills, Ambrose, Plat for 100 Acres on Little River."

⁴⁵ *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database with images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online/archives/> : accessed 7 October 2014), "Mills, Ambrose, Plat for 100 Acres on Little River."

⁴⁶ Brent H. Holcomb, *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals*, vol. 5, 1757–1765 (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 1998), 89.

⁴⁷ *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database with images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online/archives/> : accessed 7 October 2014), "Watts, William, Plat for 100 Acres on Little River."

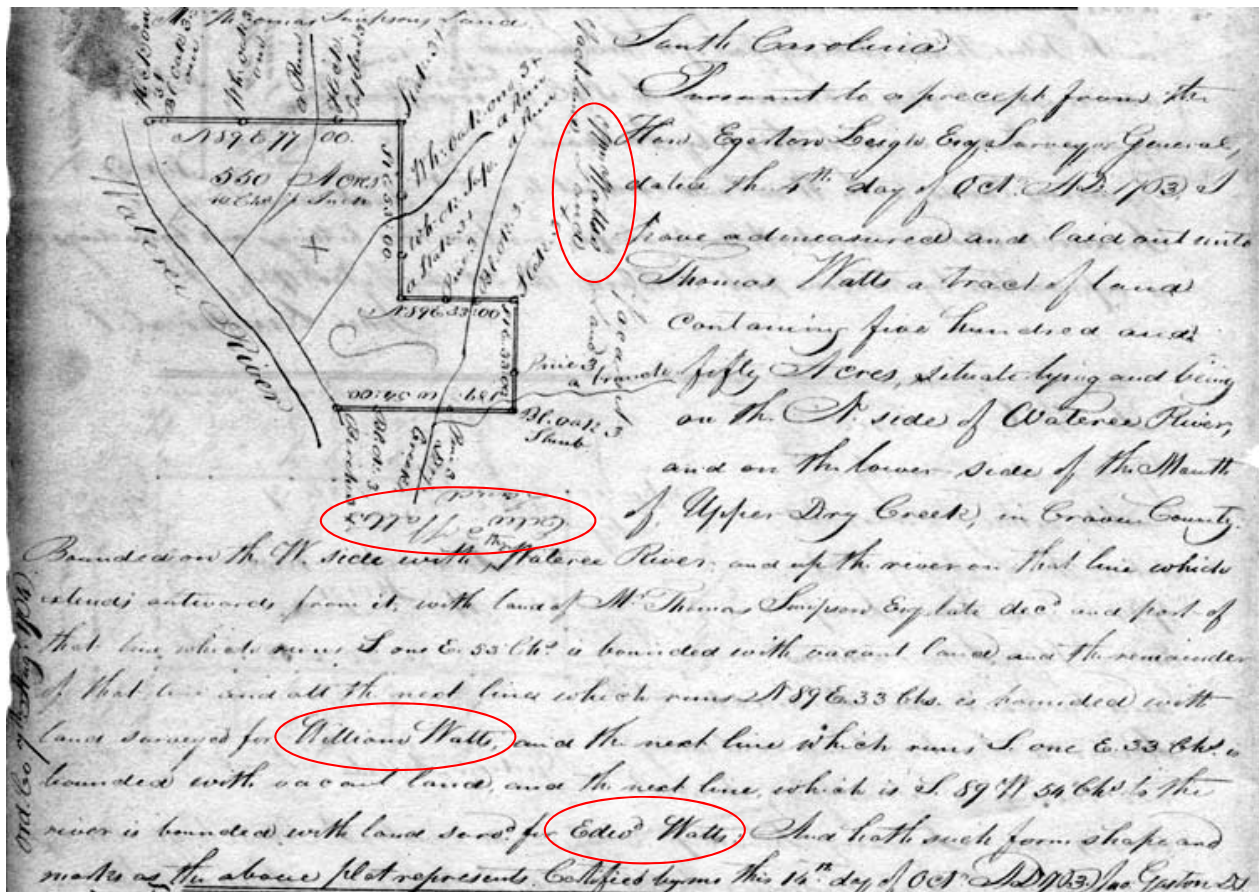
⁴⁸ Brent H. Holcomb, *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals*, vol. 5, 1757–1765 (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 1998), 129–30. 7 Sept 1762 "To pass Fiats on Elapsed cert'd Plats: Thomas Simpson: 150 in Craven County (Holcomb, 91.) ."

⁴⁹ *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database with images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online/archives/> : accessed 7 October 2014), "Watts, Thomas, citing "S213184: Colonial Plat Books (Copy Series)."

Rev. John Watts, Esq. (ca.1749—ca.1822)

Wife 1: Smith?

Wife 2: Judith "Judy" Rawls?



COMMENT:

The next day, the surveyor laid out the adjacent tract for Edward.

JULY 1767

CAMDEN DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA

Context.

COMMENT:

The area that lay between the Wateree River and Little River was frequently traveled in 1767 and 1768 by the itinerant Anglican minister, Charles Woodmason, who kept a memoir of his travels. He was based in the town of Camden (then called "Pine Tree"), present Kershaw County. From there his circuit usually took him to Beaver Creek in modern Kershaw, just above the site where Edward Jr., Thomas, and William Watts received their 1763 grant (see Map 2). From there, Woodmason usually crossed the Wateree at Dutchman's Creek (see Map 4) as a launching point for his travels across Fairfield. One passage in his memoirs tells us about the wilderness nature of the region where Ambrose Mills settled and where his sister's sons (John, Thomas Jr. and William II Watts) would emerge:

"21[st July] at **Dutchmans Creek** on the West Side of the Wateree. Lost my Self in the Woods in going from thence [North] to Rocky Mount and stayed in the Woods the whole Night, quite famished and fatigued— Could find no Water—Would have given all the Mines of Peru (if I had them) for a drop of Water.—In the Morning, found the right Path, and pursu'd my Journey. ... Thus You have the Travels of a Minister in the Wild Woods of America—Destitute often of the very Necessaries of Life—Sometimes starved—Often Exposed to the burning Sun and scorching Sand—Obliged to fight his Way thro' Banditti, profligates,

Rev. John Watts, Esq. (ca.1749—ca.1822)

Wife 1: Smith?

Wife 2: Judith “Judy” Rawls?

Reprobates, and the lowest vilest Scum of Mankind ... No other Clergyman of the Church of England from the Sea to the Mountains, on the North Side of Santee River to the Province Line.”⁵⁰

COMMENT:

Over the next several months, Woodmason reported several ventures across the area that is now northern and central Fairfield:

“[October] 26th [at] Beaver Creek [modern Kershaw County] from whence I was conducted over the **Waterree River** (across the Wild Woods where had never been before) to Little River [modern Fairfield County], where I officiated the 31. to about 300 Persons. ... Here a large Body of People met me—I baptized several Adults, and of them 3 or 4 Quakers, who conform’d to the Church.—36 {miles}.”

“[November] On the ...22d [preached at] Rocky Mount. 24[th] **Dutchman’s Creek**—[then west] on the 29th at **Little River**.”

“December [no date] ... Cross’d the Country, and the **Waterree River** to Rocky Mount [northeast corner of modern Fairfield]—was in Great Danger of my Life—the Stream being so rapid that it carried away the Boat down the River and stove us on the Rocks—We threw the Horses over, and they swam to shore and we were taken out by Canoos that came off. I was quite spent with Toil and Sweat—Wet to the Skin, and all my Linen and Baggage soak’d in Water. ... December 27. Officiated at Rocky Mount. Had but a small Congregation and 5 Communicants—The Name of the Holy Sacrament frightened them all away.”⁵¹

COMMENT;

About the time that John Watts would have married, Woodmason recorded this entry:

[April or May 1768] “On the 10th gave Sermon to the Congregation at Little River [the area of Edward Watts Jr. and William Watts]—I found the Scarcity of Provisions here, greater than on other Side of the River, and not a Bushel of Corn to be had for Money—Nor Necessaries of any Kinds and the poor People almost starving—I was supplied with Bacon and Eggs—but having liv’d a fortnight on this my Stomach became quite Sick—No Bread, Butter, Milk or anything else to be had. Here I baptiz’d a very sensible, and agreeable Young Woman who in Name of her family and Neighbours invited me to come to **head of the Waterree Creek**, [the area of Ambrose Mills’s 1766 grant, where John Watts emerged as an adult] to baptize her Brothers, Sisters, and many others. ...

“Wednesday I went to the family on the Waterree Creek a most romantic Situation—a fine farm, and neat decent People. Here my Horse was took good Care off, and I got some Milk, and a fowl broil’d—the 1st fresh Meat had tasted for some time. I was very weak and reduc’d in flesh, Yet made a long Discourse, on the Subject of Baptism and Regeneration—The Congregation was the best drest, and well behav’d sensible religious People that have met with in these Parts. I baptized 5 Adults and 10 Infants—and at their Desire appointed a Day when I would return and administer to them the Holy Sacrament ...”⁵²

COMMENT:

Within hours, the Rev. Woodmason would again confront the reality of that frontier. Headed south to a congregation in what is now lower Fairfield, Woodmason got lost and, as he put it, he

⁵⁰ Richard J. Hooker, ed., *The Carolina Backcountry on the Eve of the Revolution: The Journal and Other Writings of Charles Woodmason, Anglican Itinerant* (Chapel Hill, N.C.: Univ. of N.C. Press, 1953), 24–26.

⁵¹ *Ibid.*, 28–29.

⁵² *Ibid.*, 35–36.

“was left to wander amidst Bogs, Rocks, Defiles, Swamps, Thickets and Morasses” amid relentless rain. After an overnight drenching he “road back 8 Miles to a Cabbin to get Assistance” from a friendly family that “made my Situation known to Captain Dougharty [whereupon] This Good Man with his People ventur’d their Lives and brought me over on Fallen Trees.”⁵³

COMMENT:

John Daugherty, his wife *Judith*, his son Samuel, and apparent daughter *Rhoda* appear frequently in Fairfield records of the 1780s in company with both George Watts and close neighbors of John Watts. They lived roughly in the Belton Store area of Map 3. In 1786, the J.P. Charles Pickett—who is enumerated 13 houses from John Watts & Thomas Watts [Jr.] on the 1790 census—bought land adjacent to Dougherty.⁵⁴

Woodmason, by no means an impartial observer, also made remarks that help us understand the society in which John Watts and his wife produced their first known child, Catherine, about 1769. Speaking of a trip across mid-Fairfield to Jackson’s Creek (site of William Watts), he wrote of the people along his path:

“[Many] have nought but a Gourd to drink out off Not a Plate Knife or Spoon, a Glass, Cup, or any thing— It is well if they can get some Body Linen. ... They are so burthen’d with Young Children, that the women cannot attend both House and Field—And many live by Hunting, and killing of Deer—There’s not a Cabbin but has 10 or 12 Young Children in it—*When the Boys are 18 and Girls 14 they marry*—so that in many Cabbins You will see 10 or 15 Children. Children and Grand Children of one Size—and the mother looking as Young as the Daughter

.”⁵⁵

COMMENT:

One possible entry from this period in which John likely married could be relevant:

[ca. 18 August 1768]: “Went up the Wateree River to marry and baptize according to Notice given.—Here I published the Proclamation.”⁵⁶

COMMENT:

The proclamation to which he referred was actually a pair of them issued on 3 August by the province’s Lieutenant-Governor Bull against *vigilantes* of the planter-elite class who were sought to “regulate” what they perceived as lawlessness by those hunters reported by Rev. Woodmason—men who, the vigilantes contended, too often shot domesticated cattle to feed their families. (The two best-known leaders of the vigilante effort—known in South Carolina as the Regulator Movement—were William Watts’s neighbor Thomas Woodward and Moses Kirkland whose Wateree Creek land would within 20 years be inherited by Moses Hornsby from his father Leonard Hornsby. Kirkland was subsequently a Tory leader. Thomas Woodward was a Whig, although his kinsman Burbage Woodward, who is listed consecutively with Edward Watts on the 1790 census, was a Tory.)⁵⁷

⁵³ *Ibid.*, 36–37.

⁵⁴ Camden District, SC, Commissioner of Locations, “Plat Book C, 1786–1788,” p. 78; volume deposited in Fairfield Co. Courthouse; microfilmed by FamilySearch as 1,294,175, item 2. For much more on the Dougherty connection, 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.

⁵⁵ Hooker, *Carolina Backcountry on the Eve of the Revolution: The Journal and Other Writings of Charles Woodmason*, 39.

⁵⁶ *Ibid.*, 57.

⁵⁷ The standard study of the South Carolina Regulator movement, which centered in the area that became Fairfield, is Richard Maxwell Brown, *The South Carolina Regulators: The Story of the First American Vigilante Movement* (Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press of Harvard University, 1963). When Moses and “Caty” (Watts) Hornsbie sold the Moses Kirkland land in 1795, in preparation for their move to Georgia, John Watts’s daughter Dicy Watts witnessed the deed; see Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book I: 330. Shelton,

Rev. John Watts, Esq. (ca.1749—ca.1822)

Wife 1: Smith?

Wife 2: Judith “Judy” Rawls?

Within Fairfield, Woodmason found the beginnings of a Baptist movement (the faith in which John Watts would become a minister). Referring to them variously as New Light Baptists, Anabaptists, and Seventh-Day Baptists, Woodmason tells us:

“On East and West Side of the Wateree River, live a Number of Seventh Day Baptists. [To one group about 10 miles from Beaver Creek—the site of Mickle’s ferry across the Wateree about 4 miles above the residence of Thomas Watts Sr.] I read the Laws in force for due Observance of the Lords Day and sent to them to forbear Working, Planting, Riding, Carting and other Avocations and not to give Offence to their Christian Brethren by such Illegal Practices. ... [My] Congregation desir’d my permission to take them up and commit them to Prison, but I would not suffer it.”⁵⁸

COMMENT:

The Hornsbie-Watts region of Wateree Creek, on the *Fairfield* side of the Wateree River, had a more receptive congregation. Woodmason continues:

[August] Sunday 28 [1768]

“Went [from Rocky Mount] to the Wateree Creek to attend the Congregation there—Many People assembled. Read the Proclamation—and in afternoon my late Sermon, which pleas’d them—And they too desired that I would print it.—10 {miles}.”⁵⁹

COMMENT:

Rocky Mount lay at the extreme northwest corner of modern Fairfield. A 10 mile trip to Wateree Creek, by the route of the Rocky Mount Road, would put the congregation’s meeting place in the vicinity of the Mt. Olivet Meeting House on *Mills’ Atlas*. (See Map 3.) Just below that, *Mills’s Atlas* shows “J. Barber’s store”—apparently the store whose contents John Watts inventoried in 1784 for the Barber estate. (See below under date of 2 November 1784.)

From there, Rev. Woodmason traveled south through the 1760s-era neighborhood of Ambrose Mills and the area where John, Thomas Watts Jr., and William II emerged post-war (Wateree Creek to Dutchman’s Creek), then down to 25-Mile Creek (the area of Perry’s Meeting House where George Watts would emerge in 1774):

“Saturday September 3 [1768]

“Rode down the Country on the West Side of the Wateree River into the Fork between that and the Congaree River—This is out of my Bounds—But their having no Minister, and their falling (therefrom) continually from the Church to Anabaptism, inclin’d me to it—The People received me gladly and very kindly. Had on Sunday 4—a Company of about 150—Most of them of the Low Class—the principal Planters living on the Margin of these Rivers. Baptiz’d 1 Negroe Man—2 Negroe Children—and 9 White Infants and *married 1 Couple*—The People thanked me in the most kind Manner for my Services.”⁶⁰

COMMENT:

Two days later, Woodmason doubled back north to Sawney’s Creek about half-way between 25-Mile Creek and Dutchman’s Creek (see Map 3; Sawney lies about a mile below Thorny Creek in lower right of map), at which point Woodmason appears to have done his last preaching.

“Tuesday 6th [1768]

All That Dare Oppose Them, p. 82, presents evidence that Burbage Watts was one of the Tories who jumped over the cliff from Moble’s Meeting House to escape the Whigs and that he broke his back in the process.

⁵⁸ Hooker, *Carolina Backcountry on the Eve of the Revolution: The Journal and Other Writings of Charles Woodmason*, 53.

⁵⁹ *Ibid.*, 59.

⁶⁰ *Ibid.*, 60.

Rev. John Watts, Esq. (ca.1749—ca.1822)

Wife 1: Smith?

Wife 2: Judith “Judy” Rawls?

“Officiated at Sawney’s Creek; I expected at least 3 or 400 People, but had not half the Number—They refus’d to listen to the Governors Proclamation—But readily subscribed My Petitions drawn up for Churches and Chapels—Even several of the Anabaptists subscrib’d.”⁶¹

COMMENT:

From Sawney’s Creek, the minister returned to “Pine Tree” (modern Camden), then Charleston, then eventually to Maryland where he would die before the outbreak of the Revolution. Settlers on both sides of the Wateree were then left to the spiritual guidance of the Baptists.

1768–72

CAMDEN DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA

Religion.

“In 1772, there were branches [of the Congaree Baptist Church] established at **Wateree Creek, Twenty-five Mile Creek**, Amelia, and Four Holes, all of which remained with the parent church [for years to come]. ... No records of Congaree Church during the Revolution have been found. ... The church reappears in 1790. ... The assistants then and shortly after were **Rev. Ralph Jones, Rev. Gabriel Rawls**, and Mr. John Price, a candidate for the ministry.”⁶² (Page 147 tells us that **25-Mile Creek** was formed in 1768).

COMMENT:

25-Mile Creek was the neighborhood in which Rev. John’s brother George Watts surfaced in 1774 and continued to live—amid Rawls and Perrys—until his 1820s move to Georgia.

1772

CAMDEN DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA

Religion.

“Of the branches of Congaree [church] in 1772, only **Wateree Creek** was constituted in the period under discussion. John **Blake** preached here for a time, but this came to be known as **Ralph Jones’s Meeting House**, because it was in this locality and with this church that Rev. Ralph Jones spent his life. The first meeting house twenty-five by twenty feet, was built in 1770 on a lot given by **William Roden**. His plats were on Wateree and Beaverdam Creeks, and if the first building was on this land, the church later moved about five and a half miles south of Winsboro, a **little east of the Charleston Road near the headwaters of Wateree and Dutchmans Creeks**.”⁶³

COMMENT:

Ralph Jones’s Wateree-Dutchman’s Creek meeting house was a bit below the area where “Thomas Watts Junior” emerged as a large-scale landowner in 1787. Jones and Thomas Roden were two of the men who—with our John Watts—signed the 1783 character affidavit of Lt. William Coggin. Jeremiah Roden married Mary Hornsby, sister of the Moses Hornsby who married John Watt’s daughter Caty. In short, the members of this church formed a close-knit community.

7 AUGUST 1775

CAMDEN DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA

Military pay roll.

“Revolutionary War Soldiers From What Is Now Fairfield County: Captain Woodward’s Company.”⁶⁴

⁶¹ Ibid., 62.

⁶² Leah Townsend, *South Carolina Baptists, 1670–1805* (1935; reprinted Baltimore: Clearfield Co., 2003), 144–45.

⁶³ Ibid., 147.

⁶⁴ Fitz Hugh McMaster, *History of Fairfield County, South Carolina, from ‘Before the White Man Came’ to 1942* (Spartanburg, S.C.: Reprint Co., 1980),120.

COMMENT:

No Watts, Rawls, Duke, Mobley, Wade.

2 SEPTEMBER 1775

CAMDEN DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA

Military pay roll.

“Revolutionary War Soldiers From What Is Now Fairfield County: Robert Ellison’s Company.”⁶⁵

COMMENT:

No Watts, Rawls, Duke, Mobley, Wade. The author of this history, after presenting the companies of John Buchanan, Capt. Woodward, and Robert Ellison, adds: “There were men from Fairfield in other commands.”

For four years, residents of the Wateree were spared the trauma of war on their doorstep. However, all able-bodied men were required to serve in the militia and to attend the community-based drills. In 1779, men from the Wateree were sent down into Georgia to help repel the British—including John’s brother George. Two documents of March 1779 help us to understand the impressments that were made on the population, both goods and services, and the state of preparedness that the Revolutionary government required of them.

21 MARCH 1779

KERSHAW SIDE OF THE WATEREE, SC

Impressment list.

“We the Subscribers being duly Sworn do Appraise the Following Horses &c &c for the use of Mathew Singleton’s Quota of the Troop of Horse under the command of Lieut. Coll. Kershaw, now on Duty, to be worth as follows. Imprest by virtue of Genl. Wmson’s warrant dated March 21st 1779.”⁶⁶

COMMENT:

- This list names several dozen individuals from whom horses, saddles, bridles, etc., had been impressed. A second list itemized individuals who had lost horses on the expedition to Georgia.
- **No Wattses named.**
- Matthew Singleton was a large-scale landowner whose Swamps of the Wateree tract lay just a few miles below Thomas Watts Sr. on the Kershaw side of the Wateree—close enough for Thomas’s plantation to fall within Singleton’s district.

23 MARCH 1779

CAMDEN DISTRICT (LATER KERSHAW), SC

Militia order.

“Ordered That Each Capt. or Commanding Officer of Companies duly observe to have the Respective Companies in Readiness to Parade every Morning by 7 oClock under the direction of the Adjutant.

“That every Capt. or Commanding Officer of a Company, every morning Precisely a[t] 5 oClock cause his Company to appear on the Parade Ground, each company separately, each Capt. or Officer commanding to Exercise his men & when done, before discharged to call his List making a true Return to me of all absentees & upon non-attendance, every Defaulter may be assur’d of being dealt with according to Law for Disobedience of Orders.”⁶⁷

⁶⁵ Ibid., 120.

⁶⁶ *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database with images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online/archives/>), “A List of Horses Appraised for Colonel Matthew Singleton’s Quota,” pp. 2–4; citing “Series: S213089; Box 003, Folder 00024, Item 000.”

⁶⁷ *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database with images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online/archives/>), p. 1 of “A List of Horses Appraised for Colonel Matthew Singleton’s Quota,” citing “Box 003, Folder 00024, Item 000; S213089: Robert W. Gibbes Collection of Revolutionary War Manuscripts.”

COMMENT:

Militia service had always been mandatory in the colonies for men roughly aged 18–45. Companies were neighborhood based and typically consisted of 90–100 men. When a community became so thickly settled that a significantly larger number of men existed within a lieutenant’s unit, district lines would be redrawn and a new company created.

In peace time, militias typically met monthly. The above order, mandating *daily* practice, with stiff penalties for non-attendance, shows the heightened tension and need for readiness during those years of war. The order also tells us that avoidance of service in the patriot militia would have been extremely hard for any male in the community.

Given that no service is found for our John or any other Watts male of the Wateree before 1780, *it is probable that the Watts moved away from Singleton’s community to a less-settled area. This is likely the time frame in which Thomas Watts’s family spread across the Wateree into the “wilds” of the area between Wateree and Dutchman Creeks, as described by Rev. Woodmason.* John’s maternal uncle Ambrose Mills (the Tory colonel) had been a resident of that area since 1766.

2 JULY 1779

CAMDEN DISTRICT (LATER KERSHAW), SC

Conscription list.

“To Col^l Matthew Singleton’s Reg^t of Militia for Articles Imprest (by Virtue of B. G^l Wmson’s Warrant of Impress bearing date March 21st 1779) for the Public Use on an expedition into Georgia under Command of Lieu^t Col^l Kershaw in a Troop of Horse.” Individuals from whom impressments were made: Hen^y Richborough, Tho^s Maples. Tho^s Smith. Jn^o Anderson, Dav^d Platt, Benjⁿ Reese [lined through] John Westbury, Ja^s Burtlitt, Fran^s Pringle, W^m Bennet, Edw^d McKay, Stevⁿ Welch, Paul Fulton, Hen^y Price, John Laverty, Tho^s W^m Jenkins, Isaac Hiltons, W^m Williams, Ja^s McCullough, W^m P ___[?], James Gibson, Josiah Furman, Josiah Furman [again] , Henry[?] Horworth [lined through], W^m Williams, Moses Gorden, John [unclear last name], Charles Canty, James Rosse, Peter Millet, Micajah Waller.

“There are also some persons who have Seperate [lists] for some Articles Imprest by Virtue of the within cited Warrant (who are entitled to Public pay for them) & so Consequently not Included in this Bill.

“There are also Several other Articles Imprest by the aforsd authority, the owners of which have Not Yet (altho repeatedly called on to) made their Demands known to me & so could not Include herein the Amt. but as they will be under the Necessity of receieving Seperate Orders, would be glad to remind that they be not Exempted pay on Acct. of this Bill as the Articles was all Made use of in the Same Expedition. [Signed] Matth^w Singleton.”⁶⁸

AUGUST–DECEMBER 1779

CAMDEN DISTRICT, SC

Military pay roll.

“Revolutionary War Soldiers From What Is Now Fairfield County: Pay Roll of Capt. John Buchanan’s Company in the 6th South Carolina or The Continental Es[t]ablishment Commanded by Lieut. Col. William Henderson from the first August to the first December 1779.”⁶⁹

COMMENT:

⁶⁸ South Carolina Department of Archives and History, database with images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online/archives/>), “List of Property Impressed from the Regiment of Colonel Matthew Singleton (2 pages)”; citing “Series: S213089; Box 003, Folder 00025, Item 000.”

⁶⁹ McMaster, *History of Fairfield County, South Carolina, from ‘Before the White Man Came’ to 1942*, 120.

Rev. John Watts, Esq. (ca.1749—ca.1822)

Wife 1: Smith?

Wife 2: Judith “Judy” Rawls?

No Watts, Rawls, Duke, Mobley.

7 SEPTEMBER 1782

CAMDEN DISTRICT, SC

Civic role.

“An Inventory of Su[n]dry Articles belonging to the Estate of William Powel Deceased, was sold by Barnibas Pope Esqr this 7th day of Septr 1782 and Returned by **John Ogilvie**, Guardian. Purchasers: Thomas Parrote Sr., John Miles [Mills?], Thomas Parrote Jr., Magser(?) Yarbrough, Thomas May, *Wm Cato*, Wm Watson, Philip Pearson, Daniel Wooten, Rix Pope, Wm Rabb, Colon Hunter, James Nelson, **Thos Watts**, Jacob Gebson, *John Wooten*, C. D. Bradford, Benjamin May, Barny Pops, Samuel Procter, John Young (no total of receipts).”⁷⁰

COMMENT:

This “Thos Watts” [likely Thomas Sr.] should be in present Fairfield County.

- Thomas Watts “Jr.” of Fairfield in 1787 bought 2 tracts of land from James *Ogilvie*, one of which was adjacent to his brother, **John Watts**. *William Cato* was the surveyor.⁷¹
- *John Wooten* of the above list was 5 houses from **George Watts** (also John’s brother) on the 1790 Fairfield census.
- *Jacob Gibson* was at the Widow Barber estate sale with our **John Watts** in 1784.⁷²
- *Philip Pearson* on 10 December 1784 was indebted to Jacob Flinthem and executed a bond for which one of his three bondsmen was Crispin Morgan, son-in-law of **Edward Watts Jr.** of Little River (one of John’s paternal uncles).⁷³

JUNE 1780

CAMDEN DISTRICT (LATER FAIRFIELD), SOUTH CAROLINA

Military action.

“Between 7 and 11 June, most likely 10 June, 1780, a small body of Whig militia numbering between 100 and 200 total was formed from the commands of Colonel William Bratton, Colonel (Captain) Edward Lacey, Captain (Colonel) John McClure, Colonel Samuel Watson, Colonel Cooper, and Colonel William Hill, with Majors **Richard Winn** and Patrick ‘Paddy’ McGriff as the Field Majors and Adjutant James ‘Jemmy’ Johnston. ... This group attacked a formation of Tories who were plundering the greater Fairfield neighborhood in the aftermath of the fall of Charleston under the active encouragement of Lord Cornwallis at Camden and British Colonel Turnbull at Rocky Mount. The Tories had formed at a well-known rendezvous location called **Mobley’s Meeting House** in the Mobberly Settlement, located on a high embankment on a branch of the Little River in Fairfield. They were under the general command of Tory Colonel Robert Coleman of Fairfield District, Tory Colonel Joseph Fleuquinyan and Tory Captain William

⁷⁰ “Early Wills of Camden District,” *South Carolina Magazine of Ancestral Research (SCMAR)* 4 (Spring 1976): no page, citing unidentified book, p. 312; accessed as *South Carolina Records and Reference*, CD-ROM (Orem, Utah: Ancestry.com, 1998).

⁷¹ Fairfield Co. Plat Book B:441, for 630 acres surveyed to James Ogilvie adjacent to John Watts and John King. Also, *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database with images ([http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online archives/](http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online%20archives/)), “Watts, Thomas, for 630 acres surveyed to James Ogilvie adjacent to John Watts and John King; citing “Series: S213190; Volume: 0020; Page: 00028; Item: 001.” Also *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database with images ([http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online archives/](http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online%20archives/)), “Watts, Thomas, citing “Series: S213190; Volume: 0020; Page: 00023; Item: 001.”

⁷² Kershaw Co., S.C., Estate Records Book A:285–86,

⁷³ “Fairfield County Deed Book A, 1785–1684,” *South Carolina Magazine of Ancestral Research (SCMAR)* 2 (Summer 1974): page number not given, citing Book A:196–97; accessed as *South Carolina Records and Reference*, CD-ROM (Orem, Utah: Ancestry.com, 1998). The bond did not state the relationship between Crispin Morgan and Edward Watts. For that proof, see Fairfield Co., Deed Book R:295–96, a land sale by heirs of Edward Watts.

Rev. John Watts, Esq. (ca.1749—ca.1822)

Wife 1: Smith?

Wife 2: Judith “Judy” Rawls?

Nicholas. This group had plundered many of the possessions of Whigs in the area, in particular members of the Hampton family and had sent John and Henry Hampton prisoner to Lord Cornwallis at Camden. ...

The attack [at Moberly’s] occurred at daybreak with an assault on the Church and a nearby strong/block house or fortified building. The Whig forces attacked from this, leaving the fourth [flank] uncovered as it was thought that the embankment was too hazardous to climb for an attack or to descend in a retreat. However, during the confusion and panic, a number of the Tories attempted just that and were injured in the process. Few casualties were noted on either side other than those resulting from falls down the embankment. Much of the plunder was recovered and restored to the owners, and a significant number of prisoners were taken and sent to North Carolina.”⁷⁴

COMMENT:

At this website, Kenneth Shelton—arguably the foremost historian on Fairfield County—cites the local men who are known or suspected of participating on both sides of the Battle of Moberly’s Meeting House. No Watts are named. Writing elsewhere, Shelton tells us:

“Strictly speaking, the proper name for the site would be Moberley’s Meeting House. The head of the family, Edward Moberly SR, moved to the old C County from southern Virginia in the 1750’s with his sons John, William, Edward JR, Samuel, Benjamin SR, and Clement SR, as well as his married daughters and their families of Halsey [Thomas Halsey in 1766 settled on the Forks of Little River land surveyed for Ambrose Mills⁷⁵], Meador, and Hill, and several other families that over the years became interrelated. Edward [Moberly] came from Prince George’s, Maryland, and in 1742–1746, he migrated *to that area of Brunswick County, Virginia that was later sectioned into Lunenburg County, Virginia. Lunenburg was formed from Brunswick in 1746, and Edward’s grandson Clement Moberly states he was born in Bedford (sic) County in 1746.* He and his sons remained in this area [of Virginia] and in that part that was sectioned into Bedford County, Virginia until their move to South Carolina.”⁷⁶

5 DECEMBER 1783

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Neighbor.

“South Carolina. Camden District: William Coggin Lieut. The Barer here of has Removed to the State of Georgia and has Desired his **former Neighbours** to signifie his Character agreeable to his Deserts. We therefore Certify to all persons to Whom this present writing shall come that he the same William Coggin has Lived in our State this fifteen years and has behavd him self in A very honest quiet way of Living and is an Industress Man and is Quite inofensive person and has bin a friend to his Country. Certified under our hands this 5 day of December 1783.

Ralph Jones
Moses Knighten

Chas. Pickett, J.P.
Thos. Starke, Capt.
William Miller, Lieut.
John Hollis, Luft [old form of “Lieut.”]
Moses Smith

⁷⁴ Ken Shelton, “Synopsis of the Battle of Moberly’s Meeting House, *Ken Shelton* (ken-shelton.com/Mobleys-Meeting-House/Mobleys-Meeting-House.htm : accessed 12 November 2014). The Tories sued by the Hamptons, post-war, for the return of their “plundered” property included six of the Moberlys and **Edward Moberly Sr.’s son-in-law Job Meador**, formerly of Lunenburg and Bedford, by way of Anson Co., N.C.; see Kenneth Shelton, *All That Dare Oppose Them: The Whig Victory at Moberly’s Meeting House, June 1780* (N.p.: Privately printed, 2005), 100, 108, 118. The younger Moberly males were also drafted to serve the Whig cause.

⁷⁵ Brent H. Holcomb, *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals*, vol. 6, 1766–1770 (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 1999), 26.

⁷⁶ Shelton, *All that Dare Oppose Them*, 21.

Rev. John Watts, Esq. (ca.1749—ca.1822)

Wife 1: Smith?

Wife 2: Judith “Judy” Rawls?

John Watts

Thom. Roaden

John King

Jno. Yarbrough

Moses Hollis

Jesse Stevenson

James Rutland⁷⁷

COMMENT:

Identifying the John Watts of this affidavit rests upon identifying the other individuals who said they had been “neighbors” of Coggins. Almost all have been traceable. They lived between Wateree Creek and Dutchman’s Fork, in east-central Fairfield, and shared that neighborhood with our John Watts.

- **Ralph Jones**, whose name appears at the head of column one on this character affidavit was the pioneer Baptist minister discussed above, who headed two churches in Fairfield, one on Little Wateree Creek (John Watts’s neighborhood) and one a bit south on 25-Mile Creek (George Watts’s neighborhood).⁷⁸
- **Moses Knighten** appears on the 1790 census next door to Charles Pickett and 12 households from our John Watts. In 1782, he and two of the other signers above (John King and Charles Pickett) had participated in the estate sale of a deceased neighbor, Thomas Milos.⁷⁹ Knighten also appears in the first document recorded locally for our John Watts, another neighborhood estate sale.⁸⁰ Knighten’s land grant confirmed in 1786, after the state land office reopened, placed him on Layton’s Creek,⁸¹ almost adjacent to land later granted to *Thomas Watts Jr.*⁸² In 1788, he and John Watts were called upon by the j.p. *John King* (a signer above) to appraise a stray horse that had been taken up by a neighbor.⁸³ In 1791 Knighten would take out a new grant on the Wateree adjacent to Thomas Watts Jr.⁸⁴
- **Charles Pickett, J.P.** appears in numerous documents executed by our John Watts, his brother William Watts, and their father Thomas Watts Sr.⁸⁵ On Fairfield’s 1790 census, he is 13 households from Rev. John and Thomas Watts
- **Thos. Starke, Capt.**, His brother Reuben, in 1796, bought from *Thomas Watts Sr.* the Kershaw Co. Wateree River land that had been Thomas Sr.’s plantation for three decades.⁸⁶

⁷⁷ Pension application of William Coggin (Lt., Sumter’s Brigade, S.C., Rev. War), S2838; accessed at *Fold3* (www.fold3.com : 25 April 2014), specifically image 12739959.

⁷⁸ Townsend, *South Carolina Baptists*, 147 for the quote; for Jones, also see 140, 145–47. Fairfield Co., Deed Book I: 415-22, sale of land by McClendon, 25-Mile Creek, adjoining Jones. *Mills’s Atlas*, Fairfield Co., notes the site of Joneses’ Meeting House.

⁷⁹ Kershaw Co., SC, “Camden District 1782–1788; Kershaw District 1817–1824, Estate Records Book A-1”: 2; FHL microfilm 1,029,441, item 1. The filmed index begins with this statement: “Index to Wills: This Index was made by Mrs. Minnie Reese for W. L. McDowell & presented to Kershaw County, W. L. McDowell, May 3, 1934.” Some wills go back as early as 1771. Most inventories are in the early 1780s. All are recopied documents. **Many early Fairfield documents are found in this book.**

⁸⁰ Kershaw Co., SC, “Camden District 1782–1788; Kershaw District 1817–1824, Estate Records Book A-1”: 295; FHL microfilm 1,029,441, item 1.

⁸¹ Camden District, SC, Commissioner of Locations, “Plat Book C, 1786–1788,” p. 220; Fairfield County, SC, Courthouse; FHL microfilm 1,294,175, item 2. Many of the page numbers are illegible.

⁸² Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book K:171–72; see also N:173–74 for James Barber’s sale of this tract to Robert Barber, 1801.

⁸³ Fairfield Co., SC, Court of Common Pleas, Record of Estrays, 1788–1799, p. 6 (counting back from legible p. 10); FHL film 1,294,199, item 1. Much of these pages are faded to the point of illegibility.

⁸⁴ *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database with images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online-archives/>), “Knighten, Moses, Plat for 117 acres on Wateree Creek.”

⁸⁵ See E. S. Mills, “Watts: Literature Survey of Published South Carolina Resources for Old Craven County, Camden District, and the Counties Cut from Them,” report to file, 17 October 2014; and 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

⁸⁶ Lancaster Co., Deed Book C&E: 182 or 248–49 (Watts to Starke); Register of Mesne Conveyances, Lancaster. For Thomas Starke’s identity as Reuben’s brother, see Reuben’s will, Fairfield Co., “Estate Record Book C, Vol. 5,” 85–87; imaged, *Family*

Rev. John Watts, Esq. (ca.1749—ca.1822)

Wife 1: Smith?

Wife 2: Judith “Judy” Rawls?

- **John Hollis**, in 1790, was 3 households from *Charles Pickett*, 4 from *Knighnten*, 5 from fellow signer *John King*, and 16 from John Watts. In 1794, John Hollis bought the Mill Creek land owned by John Watts’s next-door census neighbor of 1790, Rev. Edward Pigg. That 1794 deed was witnessed by two fellow signers of the above affidavit, *Moses Hollis* and *John Yarbrough*.⁸⁷
- **Moses Smith**, brother-in-law of *John King* below.⁸⁸ His wife **Catherine** was daughter of Michael King and widow of John Byrd. By Moses, she had a son Bartlett Smith.⁸⁹ Allegedly, she moved to Burke Co., GA.

TO DO:

These Smiths need to be explored thoroughly. John Watts, by his unknown first wife, named his first daughter Catherine; Catherine would then name a son Moses Smith Hornsby. John Watts’s first-born son gave the name Bartlett S[mith?] to one of his own sons.⁹⁰

- **Thomas Roaden**, father of *Jeremiah Roaden* who married Mary Hornsby, sister of John Watts’s son-in-law Moses Hornsby.⁹¹
- **John King**, in 1782, with fellow signer *Moses Knighton*, appraised a neighborhood estate. Fellow signer *Charles Pickett* was a buyer at the estate sale.⁹² In 1784, after the land office reopened, the survey of King’s land placed him adjacent to *Moses Knighton*.⁹³ In 1790, he was enumerated next door to Knighton and 11 households from our *John Watts*. In 1791, he applied for a land grant next door to *Moses Hornsby*, son-in-law of our John Watts.⁹⁴
- **John Yarbrough**, in 1792, bought land on Layton’s Creek adjoining Frances Layton whose neighbor was *Thomas Watts Jr.*, John’s brother. The land had previously been the home place of *Ambrose Mills*, whose smaller tract John Watts bought from the Mills estate in 1784.⁹⁵ In 1794, Yarbrough witnessed the sale of the Pigg land that was adjacent to John Watts in 1790. The purchaser and a fellow witness were both signers, with John Watts, of the 1783 character affidavit.⁹⁶
- **Moses Hollis**, in 1794, owned land adjoining the Pigg land that was adjacent to John Watts in 1790.⁹⁷
- **James Rutland** in 1785 took out land next door to fellow signer Ralph Jones.⁹⁸

Beyond reasonable doubt, the John Watts of this document (see image, next page) is our John Watts. The fact that he joined with leaders of the Patriot forces to sign this character reference, although he did not serve, suggests that he had an essential occupation (such as miller) and likely made contributions during

Search > South Carolina Probate Records, Loose Papers, 1732–1964 > Fairfield > County Court, Estate Records > 1803–1812, images 44–46.

⁸⁷ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book I: 123.

⁸⁸ Fairfield Co., Deed Book I: 437 (Smith and wife Catherine to John King, her brother).

⁸⁹ As a beginning point for this family see Cherie Fine, “[BYRD-L] Lewis Young,” message, *RootsWeb Archives: Byrd-L Archives* (<http://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/th/index/BYRD>: posted 28 Feb. 2005) > Archiver > Byrd > 2005-02 > 1109652938.

⁹⁰ McGraw, *Watts Is My Line*, 32.

⁹¹ McLaurin, “Genealogy Report: Descendants of Leonard Hornsby,” *Genealogy.com* (<http://www.genealogy.com/ftm/m/c/l/Rex-Mclaurin/GENE1-0003.html>), citing “The actual old 1756 (printed date) Hornsby/Stroud bible ... archived at Winthrop University-Dacus Library (rare books section), Rock Hill, York Co., SC; Winthrop University Manuscripts acc. 1015, box 1, folder 1.”

⁹² Kershaw Co., SC, “Camden District 1782–1788; Kershaw District 1817–1824, Estate Records Book A-1”: 2; FHL microfilm 1,029,441, item 1. The filmed index begins with this statement: “Index to Wills: This Index was made by Mrs. Minnie Reese for W. L. McDowell & presented to Kershaw County, W. L. McDowell, May 3, 1934.” Some wills go back as early as 1771. Most inventories are in the early 1780s. All are recopied documents. **Many early Fairfield documents are found in this book.**

⁹³ Fairfield Co., SC, Plat Book C:110.

⁹⁴ Camden District, SC, Commissioner of Locations, “Plat Book D, 1788–1791,” p. 181; Fairfield County, SC, Courthouse; FHL microfilm 1,294,175, item 2. Many of the page numbers are illegible.

⁹⁵ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book H: 92–94.

⁹⁶ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book I:123.

⁹⁷ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book I:123.

⁹⁸ *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database with images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online/archives/>: accessed 7 October 2014), “Rutland, James,” S213190, vol. 0020, page 00008, item 1, Plats for State Grants.

Rev. John Watts, Esq. (ca.1749—ca.1822)

Wife 1: Smith?

Wife 2: Judith "Judy" Rawls?

impressments. However, no claim from him for reimbursements from the state has been found amid the South Carolina stub indents.

South Carolina
 Camden district
 William Coggin Lieut.
 Remove to the State of Georgia and has
 desired his former Neighbours to signify
 his Character agreeable to his Deserts We
 therefore Certify to all persons to Whome
 this present writing shall come that he the
 same William Coggin has Lived in our State
 this fifteen years and has behav^d him self in
 A very honest just way of Living and is an
 Industrious^{tried} Man and is Quite insensive person
 and has bin a friend to his Country Certified
 under our hands this 5 day of December 1783
 Ralph Jones
 Moses Knighten
 asst. Clarke Capt
 William Miller Lieut.
 John Halls Lieut.
 Moses
 John Watts ←
 Tho^m Rowan
 John Goring
 Jesse Stearns Jun
 A James Ballard

COGGIN, WILLIAM
 (S.C.)
 S-3238

2–5 NOVEMBER 1784

CAMDEN DISTRICT, SC (FAIRFIELD)

Civic activity.

“An Inventory of the Appraisalment of the Effects Belonging to the Estate of the *Widow Barber* Deceased, taken this 2nd Day of November 1784.

[Signed] Samuel Armstrong (O, his mark); **John Watts** (X his mark?); T__? [Jno.?] Johnson

COMMENT:

The attribution of an X to this John Watts appears to be a “copybook” error. John *signed* all other documents he executed in the county. Possibly the X shown for him was meant to be for Johnson, whose first name is scrunched with Watts’s name at the bottom of the page.

5 NOVEMBER 1784

CAMDEN & FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Associates.

“An Inventory of the *Widow Barber’s* Estate Decd. Sold by Public Vendue the 5th Day of November 1784?

Robert Ewing, Benjn. Harrison, James Arnett, John Shains, Elizabeth Lennox, John Connery, Thos. Robinson, Samuel Barber, Thos. Johnston, James Owen, John Winn, John McKeown, James McCreight, James Johnston, **Charles Lewis**, Jarvis Gibson, Alexander Goyne, **John Watts** (bought a “Slide and Tacklings for 0.7.6), John Barber, John Winn, John Goodram, Allen Goodram, James **Hollis**, Jacob Gibson, Edward Morgan, Isaac Graham, John Jenkins. [Signed] John Barber (X his mark).⁹⁹

COMMENT:

- Many of these John Watts neighbors can also be placed on Map 3.
- The nature of the “slide and tacklings” John bought is not stated. They are rarely seen in 18th century inventories, so they were not in common usage among farmers. Studies on historic tools and equipment associate these terms with operators of two significant public services:

Mill Operators:

- However, histories of **milling and mill construction** state that a *hoist system* (“tacklings”) was used to raise the sacks of grain—sometimes as high as the third story of the mill, and then a *slide* fed the grain into the hopper.
- In 1790, John’s next door neighbor was the minister Edward Pigg, who had arrived the year before and bought a 10-acre mill site.¹⁰⁰ In Tattnall County, Georgia, in the first decade of the 1800s, multiple documents place John Watts, the retired justice, next to “Cox’s Old Mill” or show him living on the land of a mill owner.

Ferry Operators:

- No evidence has been found that the family operated a ferry on the Wateree. *However*, John and his sons do appear to have operated a ferry after their removal to Georgia. See the abstract under 3 March 1807, below.

26 NOVEMBER 1784

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Associates.

⁹⁹ Kershaw Co., SC, “Camden District 1782-1788; Kershaw District 1817–1824, Estate Records Book A-1,” 285–86; FHL microfilm 1,029,441, item 1.

¹⁰⁰ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book F: 35-36.

Rev. John Watts, Esq. (ca.1749—ca.1822)

Wife 1: Smith?

Wife 2: Judith “Judy” Rawls?

“Philip Hinson's will was proved in Cheraw Dist. by Thomas Dickson before Wm Pegues, 20 Nov 1784. **Warrant of Appraisal**, 26 Nov 1784 to *John King, John Wats*, Thomas Gaven [Gowen], Charles Johnston & *John Hollis*. Sworn 10 Dec 1784: *John King*, John Woods, and Thomas Gaven, before *Chas. Pickett*, JP. Appraisal, 10 Dec 1784. Purchasers at sale 20 Dec 1784: *John Henson, Obadiah Henson, Bartlett Henson*, Thomas Gaven, *John Hollis Junr.*, Isaac Gibson, Charles Graham, *Nathan Sanders, Henry Sanders, Charles Pickett, John Lewis*. Balance due from Jeremiah Jaggars, John Chasnut. Dedimus to William Pegues Esqr. of Cheraw District, to qualify Exr. 10 Nov 1784. Qualified John Henson, 20 Nov 1784.”¹⁰¹

COMMENT:

- Note that three of John’s fellow purchasers were cosigners with him of the 1783 character reference, saying William Coggin had lived among them peacefully for fifteen or so years.
- Note also the involvement of the Hinson-Sanders-Pickett clan and the fact that John Watts’s neighborhood was an intimately related community.

10 DECEMBER 1784

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Land.

William Mills of Rutherford County, NC to **Macajah Picket** of Craven County, SC. Lease and release. By virtue of a grant made 1__ 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. Recorded 26 June 1792.¹⁰²

COMMENT:

- Pickett almost immediately sold this land to our **John Watts**, in concert with William Watts.
- **Micajah Pickett** was married to **Kinsanna Hinson, daughter of Philip Hinson** (above) and sister of **Bartlett** (*a name carried down by John Watts’s offspring*), Benjamin, Isham, Obadiah, Charles, and John Hinson.¹⁰³
- Kinsanna’s mother (Philip Hinson’s wife) was **Mary Sanders**, daughter of Julius Sanders of **Albemarle Co.,¹⁰⁴ Virginia**, the ca. 1748–55 location of Ambrose and Sarah (Mills) Watts’s parents. *The name Bartlett has also been found among the Sanders associates of John Watts*. See later notes.

Numerous documents reflect ongoing connections with John Watts’s kinsmen, the Millses of Rutherford.

- In 1768 **Philip Hinson** had patented land in Rutherford County on Walnut Creek. The land was sold by John Scoot on 17 April 1784, together with Green River land on both sides of Walnut Creek “adjoining

¹⁰¹ “Notes for Philip Hinson and Mary,” *Janet and Robert Wolfe Genealogy* (<http://www-personal.umich.edu/~bobwolfe/gen/mn/m673x31042.htm#FN56> : accessed 27 June 2015), citing Rutherford Co., NC “Deed (Books-page) 20-21-N63” and “Camden, South Carolina estate Book A1-257, [FamilySearch_Image]; and South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Camden District South Carolina will A1-257, Apt 31, Pck 1112, reports prove date 1785.”

¹⁰² Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book H (1792–93): 9–11; FHL microfilm 23,993.

¹⁰³ “Notes for Philip Hinson and Mary,” *Janet and Robert Wolfe Genealogy* (<http://www-personal.umich.edu/~bobwolfe/gen/mn/m673x31042.htm#FN56> : accessed 27 June 2015), citing Philip Hinson’s will.

¹⁰⁴ Notes for Philip Hinson and Mary,” *Janet and Robert Wolfe Genealogy* (<http://www-personal.umich.edu/~bobwolfe/gen/mn/m673x31042.htm#FN56>), stating “Philip Hinson married to Mary Sanders was from the Albemarle, Virginia area. We suspect that he was the son of John Hinson, of Albemarle County, Virginia. Note that Henry and Nathan Sanders interacted with the family of Philip Hinson in South Carolina.”

Ambrose Mills ... adjacent to land that **Micajah Pickett Senior** owned in 1766¹⁰⁵ (before Micajah settled in Craven-Fairfield).

- In 1790 and 1799, Micajah Pickett (Sr.) was back in Rutherford purchasing 2 tracts of land from one William Griffin.¹⁰⁶
- By 27 March 1800 Micajah had separated from his wife Kinsanna, left her in Fairfield, and relocated in Rutherford, where he executed an unusually documented agreement with Susannah “Sukey” Johns to live with her as husband and wife.¹⁰⁷
- Sukey left Micajah by 1803. In a letter pleading for her return, he promised she could “have the part of land from the house up the river that I bought of **John Mills** [son of Ambrose], including the houses and apple orchard during your life. If you choose to live at Whiteoak you shall have your choice when you come to make your decision of the two places.”¹⁰⁸
- In 1803, Micajah purchased additional Rutherford land from William and **Eleanor** Griffin.¹⁰⁹
- On 11 February 1805, **William Mills (son of Ambrose)** entered 50 acres in Rutherford Co., on both sides of Green R “between” his own lines—including his own improvements “where Micajah Pickett lives.”¹¹⁰
- 10 January 1805, Micajah of Rutherford formally separated from Kinsanna of Fairfield, naming sons Jephtha, Isaiah, William, Micajah Jr., James, John, **Reuben**, and Charles, and daughters Elizabeth **Mobley** (apparently wife of Samuel **Mobley**) and Mary **Jones**. Witnesses were James Knox, **Reuben Starke**, and William Foidden.¹¹¹
- 6 December 1806, Micajah purchased 5 tracts of land on Green River on both sides of Panther Creek, from **William Mills**.¹¹²

¹⁰⁵ “Notes for Philip Hinson and Mary,” *Janet and Robert Wolfe Genealogy* (<http://www-personal.umich.edu/~bobwolfe/gen/mn/m673x31042.htm#FN56>), citing “Caroline Heath Davis, *Rutherford County, North Carolina Abstracts of Deeds 1773-1795* (1973), 55, citing deed I-398, No 944 [and] deed I-399, No 945.”

¹⁰⁶ “Notes for Micajah Pickett and Kinsanna Hinson,” *Janet and Robert Wolfe Genealogy* (<http://www-personal.umich.edu/~bobwolfe/gen/mn/m331x332.htm#FN1> : accessed 27 June 2015), citing Rutherford Co., NC “Deed (Books-page) 20-21-N63.”

¹⁰⁷ “Notes for Micajah Pickett and Kinsanna Hinson,” *Janet and Robert Wolfe Genealogy* (<http://www-personal.umich.edu/~bobwolfe/gen/mn/m331x332.htm#FN1>), citing “Rutherford County, North Carolina Will Book B-55.”

¹⁰⁸ “Notes for Micajah Pickett and Kinsanna Hinson,” *Janet and Robert Wolfe Genealogy* (<http://www-personal.umich.edu/~bobwolfe/gen/mn/m331x332.htm#FN1> : accessed 27 June 2015); no citation for the letter. It apparently comes from the court case launched between Kinsanna and Susannah after Micajah’s death. For that court case, the Wolfes cite “Thomas P. Devereux, *North Carolina reports*, Vol. 16 Equity Cases argued and determined in the Supreme Court of North Carolina 1826-1830 (1923, reprint), 81, of 81-88, [HathiTrust].”

¹⁰⁹ “Notes for Micajah Pickett and Kinsanna Hinson,” *Janet and Robert Wolfe Genealogy* (<http://www-personal.umich.edu/~bobwolfe/gen/mn/m331x332.htm#FN1>), citing “USGenWeb Archives, Deed/20-21/127 & 128/1803.”

¹¹⁰ “Notes for Micajah Pickett and Kinsanna Hinson,” *Janet and Robert Wolfe Genealogy* (<http://www-personal.umich.edu/~bobwolfe/gen/mn/m331x332.htm#FN1>), citing “USGenWeb Archives, Deed/20-21/127 & 128/1803.”

¹¹¹ “Notes for Micajah Pickett and Kinsanna Hinson,” *Janet and Robert Wolfe Genealogy* (<http://www-personal.umich.edu/~bobwolfe/gen/mn/m331x332.htm#FN1>), transcription of agreement said to be “Recorded in [Fairfield Dist.] Book A page 46 the 15th June 1825 by William Choice.” The Wolfes also note: “In the deposition of Jephtha Pickett given February 5, 1827, the second interrogatory and response are as follows (punctuation added): “Int. 2d What were the ages of the legitimate children of Micajah Pickett decd.” “Ans. William Pickett was born Decr 15th, 1769; Mary Pickett was born April 12th, 1772; Elizabeth Pickett was born Sep 13, 1774; Micajah Pickett was born March 5th, 1777; James Pickett was born Oct 11th 1779; John Pickett was born March 21, 1782; Reuben Pickett was born May 27th, 1785; Jephtha Pickett was born April 17th, 1788; Charles Pickett was born April 12, 1791; Isaiah Pickett was born July 19, 1793. The above is according to the family Bible of Micajah Pickett.”

¹¹² “Notes for Micajah Pickett and Kinsanna Hinson,” *Janet and Robert Wolfe Genealogy* (<http://www-personal.umich.edu/~bobwolfe/gen/mn/m331x332.htm#FN1> : accessed 27 June 2015), citing “Rutherford County, North Carolina Deed (Books-page) 25-261; A. B. Pruitt, *Abstracts of Land Entries: Rutherford Co, NC, May 1826-June 1834* (1994), 27, citing page 60, describes adjoining land of William Fisher.”

Rev. John Watts, Esq. (ca.1749—ca.1822)

Wife 1: Smith?

Wife 2: Judith "Judy" Rawls?

- 1 October 1808, Micajah bought land on Panther Creek of Rutherford from **Ambrose Mills II** (son of William and grandson of Col. Ambrose).¹¹³

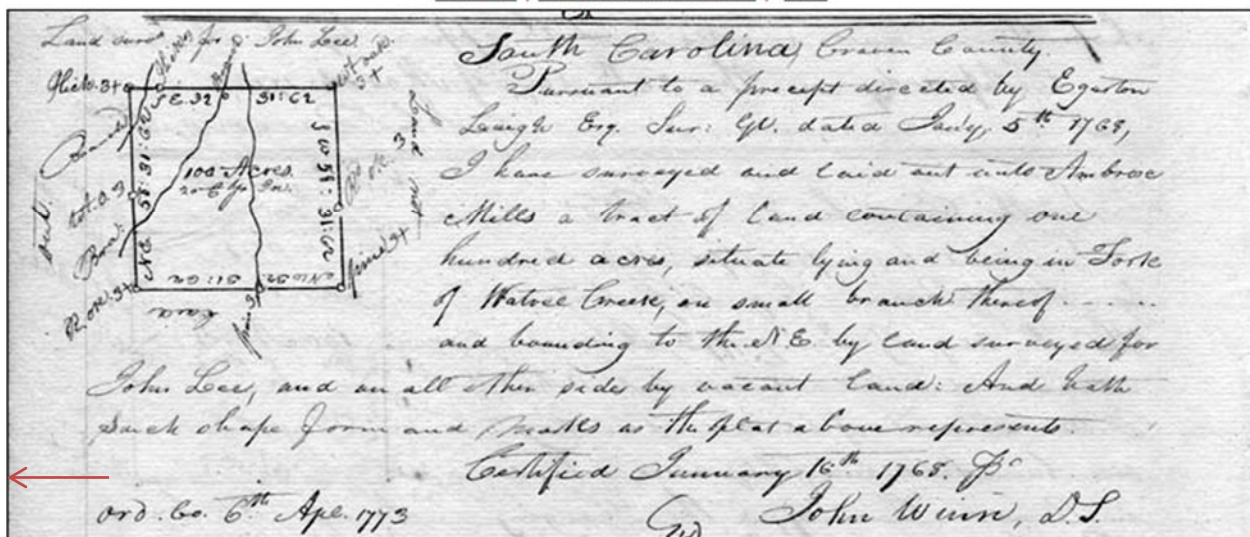
Several non-ordinary circumstances are involved in this December 1784 sale of Ambrose Mills's land to Micajah Pickett—starting with the fact that Micajah kept it for just 19 days before selling it to John and William Watts. As a foundation, we should first identify the land, its location, and some of the connections between the original grantee and the Wattses—especially our John Watts, who appears 8 households from Micajah on the 1790 census.

The land site, at the forks of Wateree Creek, is represented as the square in the center of Map 3 above. The plat below represents the survey made for Ambrose Mills in 1768.¹¹⁴ (For proper North-South orientation, the plat should be turned about 90° clockwise.)

S213184: Colonial Plat Books (Copy Series)

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

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



COMMENT:

Ambrose Mills also had 3 other lands surveyed in Fairfield County—two of which place him adjacent to a Watts or a Watts neighbor:¹¹⁵

- December 1761, Ambrose petitioned for 100 acres of headright land on Little River (present Fairfield), where William and Edward Watts would petition for land in 1762 and 1765. Mills's May 1762 survey on Little River was certified in September 1766 but he let the title lapse and in April 1773, he petitioned the Council at Charleston to recertify his plat and grant him title. **The 1762 plat he submitted with that**

¹¹³ "Notes for Micajah Pickett and Kinsanna Hinson," *Janet and Robert Wolfe Genealogy* (<http://www-personal.umich.edu/~bobwolfe/gen/mn/m331x332.htm#FN1> : accessed 27 June 2015), citing "Rutherford County, North Carolina Deed (Books-page) 25-253."

¹¹⁴ *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database with images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online/archives/> : accessed 7 October 2014), "Mills, Ambrose, Plat for 100 acres in Craven County," S213184: Colonial plat Books (Copy Series).

¹¹⁵ Brent H. Holcomb, *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals*, vol. 5, 1757–1765 (Columbia, S.C.: SCMAR, 1998), 74, 96; Brent H. Holcomb, *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals*, vol. 6, 1766–1770 (Columbia: SCMAR, 1999), 10, 26; Brent H. Holcomb, *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals*, vol. 7, 1771–1774 (Columbia: SCMAR, 1999), 245.

Rev. John Watts, Esq. (ca.1749—ca.1822)

Wife 1: Smith?

Wife 2: Judith “Judy” Rawls?

petition places the land at the site where Little River forks into 3 branches, with all 3 branches partially within the plat.¹¹⁶ (See the site marked “Col. Winn’s Bridge” on Map 2.) **This location places Ambrose Mills, in 1761–66, at the tip of Watts’ Branch of Jackson Creek, which William Watts settled in 1762.**

- November 1762, Ambrose Mills petitioned for 300 acres of headright land on Turkey Creek in Fairfield. He had the land surveyed but turned it back to the colony.
- In 1766, after returning the 300 acres, he petitioned for 600 acres of headright land on the Wateree River, just south of Wateree Creek, with Taylor Creek in its southeast corner. The plat of that land identifies its NE bounds as Wateree River, its SE bounds as lands laid out to Patrick Mackormick, its SW bounds laid out to **Francis Layton**, vacant land, “one **Pickett**,” and Richard *Kirkland*.¹¹⁷ (From the 1780s forward, the only Pickett heads of household in the county were **John Watts’s neighbors Micajah Pickett and Charles Pickett**, the latter being the j.p. used by John Watts—and the former would later own land adjacent to Ambrose’s son William Mills. See abstract of 5 June 1792, below, for more on this land, which lay just southeast of Mills’s 100 acres at the Forks of the Wateree. (**Francis Layton** appears in several subsequent abstracts of the 1780s as adjacent neighbor to **Thomas Watts Jr.**)
- In 1768, after returning the 100-acre grant at the forks of Little River, Ambrose was allotted 100 acres at the forks of Wateree Creek, that had been surveyed for John Lee (another future Loyalist).¹¹⁸ This is the land being sold above, and the land that Pickett would immediately re-sell to William and John Watts.

Several irregularities appear in the Mills-Pickett-Watts transaction:

- Ambrose Mills’s Fairfield lands were “absentee landowner” lands for several years after his death. Given that it was prime land, it was undoubtedly worked by someone (and, likely, someone in his family) rather than abandoned.
- Either William Mills journeyed back to Fairfield to sell this land or Pickett made the trip up into North Carolina; the latter seems more likely, given that Pickett also owned land in William Mills’s neighborhood.
- They did not have the document drafted by a justice of the peace, knowledgeable in the law. Eleven days would pass before one of the witnesses, Surls Lewis, went before Pickett’s neighborhood J.P. to prove the deed.
- Pickett did not keep the land. Eight days after the document was notarized, he sold it—at the same price he paid for it—via a lease-and-release by which the *lease* was executed in favor of **William Watts**, who was put in possession of the land, while the *release* was executed to William’s brother **John Watts**.
- Thirteen months later (January 1786) **John Watts. A;pme.** sold this land to a neighbor—Nathan Sanders, a member of the Sanders, Hinson, Pickett clan—using his neighborhood j.p., **Charles Pickett**. See abstract under that date.

18 DECEMBER 1784

CAMDEN & FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Associates.

¹¹⁶ *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database with images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online/archives/> : accessed 7 October 2014), “Mills, Ambrose, Plat for 100 acres on Little River,” S213184: Colonial plat Books (Copy Series).

¹¹⁷ *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database with images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online/archives/> : accessed 7 October 2014), Mills, Ambrose, “Plat for 600 acres in Craven County,” S213184: Colonial plat Books (Copy Series).

¹¹⁸ Ken Shelton, *All that Dare Oppose Them: The Whig Victory at Mobley’s Meeting House, June 1780* (Imperial, MO: P.p., 2005), 50.

Rev. John Watts, Esq. (ca.1749—ca.1822)

Wife 1: Smith?

Wife 2: Judith “Judy” Rawls?

“Memorandum of the Goods & Chattels of the Estate of **Philip Hinson**, Decd.”

2 slaves, farm tools, tobacco, Lot of cotton, lot of leather, geese, beans, 2 meal sifters, etc. [Seems like the property of a single or widowed male.] Signed: **John King, John Watts, Thomas Gowin**.¹¹⁹

COMMENT:

This John Watts is clearly the one who lived among these same men in 1790—i.e., our John.

20 DECEMBER 1784

CAMDEN DISTRICT, SC (FAIRFIELD)

Civic activity.

Estate sale. **Philip Hinson**. Purchasers included John Hinson, **Obadiah Hinson**, Bartlett Hinson, Thomas Gowin, James *Hollis*, *Isaac Gibson*, Abraham Gibson, Charles Graham, *Nathan Sanders*, *Henry Sanders*, *Charles Pickett*, *John Lewis*. [Signed] John Hinson, executor.¹²⁰

COMMENT:

- Again, the individuals at this estate sale were the 1790 census neighbors of our John Watts and his son-in-law Moses Hornsby.
- Nathan and Henry Sanders are the family of Mary Sanders, widow of Philip Hinson.¹²¹

28–29 DECEMBER 1784

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Land purchase.

By lease and release. **Micajah Picket**, planter of this district, for 10 pounds sterling, leases to **William Watts**, 100 acres lying in the **fork of the Wateree Creek**, bounded to the West on land surveyed for [–?–] **Lee** [first name is bound into crack of book; likely it was the known neighbor **John Lee**] and on all other sides by vacant land. On the second day, for another 10 pounds sterling, Picket executed in favor of **John Watts** a release from the obligation to return the land at the end of the lease. Granted 15 May Anno Domino [bound into crack of book] to **Ambros Miles**, whose son and heir, William Mills, conveyed the land to Picket on 9 & 10 December 1784. Witnesses: *Charles Lewis, Isaac Knighton*.¹²²

COMMENTS:

- In 1790, Micajah Picket was 9 households from our *John Watts* and Thomas Watts [Jr.]
- In 1790 John and Thomas lived between Charles Lewis and Moses *Knighton* (on one side) and Thomas *Knighton* on the other side.
- John Watts sold this land in 1786 to their neighbor, **Nathan Sanders**, with no explanation of how he had the right to sell William’s interest in the land. The lack of explanation implies that the neighbor was familiar with the family circumstances.
- As shown elsewhere in this report, Nathan Sanders was brother-in-law of **Philip Hinson**, who was the brother-in-law of **Micajah Pickett**. The Sanders and Hinson families came out of Albemarle and Bedford, contemporaneously with the **Millses** and **Wattses**. They are also found in Rutherford County, NC, with Ambrose and William Mills (as also noted elsewhere in this report).
- This land was clearly passed around among interrelated families.

¹¹⁹ Kershaw Co., SC, “Camden District 1782-1788; Kershaw District 1817-1824, Estate Records Book A-1,” 223; FHL microfilm 1,029,441, item 1.

¹²⁰ Kershaw Co., S.C., Estate Records Book A-1, 223.

¹²¹ Notes for Philip Hinson and Mary,” *Janet and Robert Wolfe Genealogy* (<http://www-personal.umich.edu/~bobwolfe/gen/mn/m673x31042.htm#FN56> : accessed 27 June 2015), stating “Philip Hinson married to Mary Sanders was from the Albemarle, Virginia area. We suspect that he was the son of John Hinson, of **Albemarle County, Virginia**. Note that Henry and Nathan Sanders interacted with the family of Philip Hinson in South Carolina. We seek evidence about a relationship between these Hinson-Sanders families in Virginia and South Carolina. There are also records for Philip Hinson in Rutherford County, North Carolina, shown below.”

¹²² Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book C: 59.

SUMMER 1785

CAMDEN DISTRICT, SC (FAIRFIELD)

Civic activity.

[Recorded between documents dated 3 August 1785 and 4 June 1785]

"Memorandum of a Sale of Sundries bought & Sold of the Estate of *Samuel Ratcliff*, Deceased."

Buyers included: **John King**, **Charles Pickett**, *Stephen Ratcliff*, *Rachel Butler*, **Peter Tidwell**, **John Watts** (a lot of pewter for 5.0.0), **Moses Knighten**, **Zilpah Tucker**, *Amos Windham*, *Robert Roberts*, *Absolem Galloway*, *Robert Roberts*, *John Turner*, *Charles Kimbrell*, *Frederick Bell*, *Addison Scharborough*, *Charles Kimbrel*, *Susana Ratcliff*.¹²³

COMMENTS:

- Note the presence of 3 females at the auction. Susana Ratcliff was likely the widow. Rachel Butler and **Zilpah Tucker** are *likely* daughters. Otherwise, as females, they were not likely to attend a public auction where bids were typically fueled higher by the free distribution of liquor.
- **Moses Knighten Sr.** made a will probated 16 April 1795 naming wife Susannah; sons Peter, Moses, and James; daughters Margaret & Mary; Executors Moses Knighten and *N. Peay*; Witnesses: Wm. Lenox and Thomas Hear.¹²⁴ (In 1795, when **Moses Hornsby** sold his land, he sold it to *Peay*.¹²⁵ In 1799, when the older William Watts sold his Dry Fork land, the j.p. he used was *Peay*.¹²⁶)
- **John Turner** had purchased the 100-acre Wateree Creek grant made 3 July 1763 to **John Morris** (whose putative daughter **Eleanor Morris** married **Ambrose Mills's son William**). In his 27 July 1807 will, Turner stated that the land lay adjacent to William Jones, Turner's son-in-law "John McCrory's Still branch," and William Lang's.¹²⁷

JANUARY 1786

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Land plat.

"Pursuant to a warrant from John Winn

Esq. [illegible words here] I have admeasured and laid out to **Jas. Ogilvie**

a tract of Six Hundred and thirty acres of land having [illegible ...]

[Illegible line ...]

[Illegible words]

Surveyed ___ Jany '86

Recor^d 13 Feby '86

___ Cato, D.S."

Adjacent landowners shown at bottom of plat: **John Watts**, *John King*.

COMMENT:

- The above transcript follows the line lengths in the original, to aid comparison with the faded image.
- On the imaged plat below, the added red line represents north. **John Watts** and **John King** are to the West of the surveyed tract.

Re the plat:

123 Kershaw Co., SC, "Camden District 1782–1788; Kershaw District 1817–1824, Estate Records Book A-1," 295; FHL microfilm 1,029,441, item 1.

124 Elizabeth Wood Thomas and Sydney Starr Furr, *Fairfield County, South Carolina, Wills, 1773–1797* (Pass Christian, Miss.: Willo Institute of Genealogy, 1967), 18; citing Will Book 1: 55.

¹²⁵ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book I: 330.

¹²⁶ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book N: 194–95.

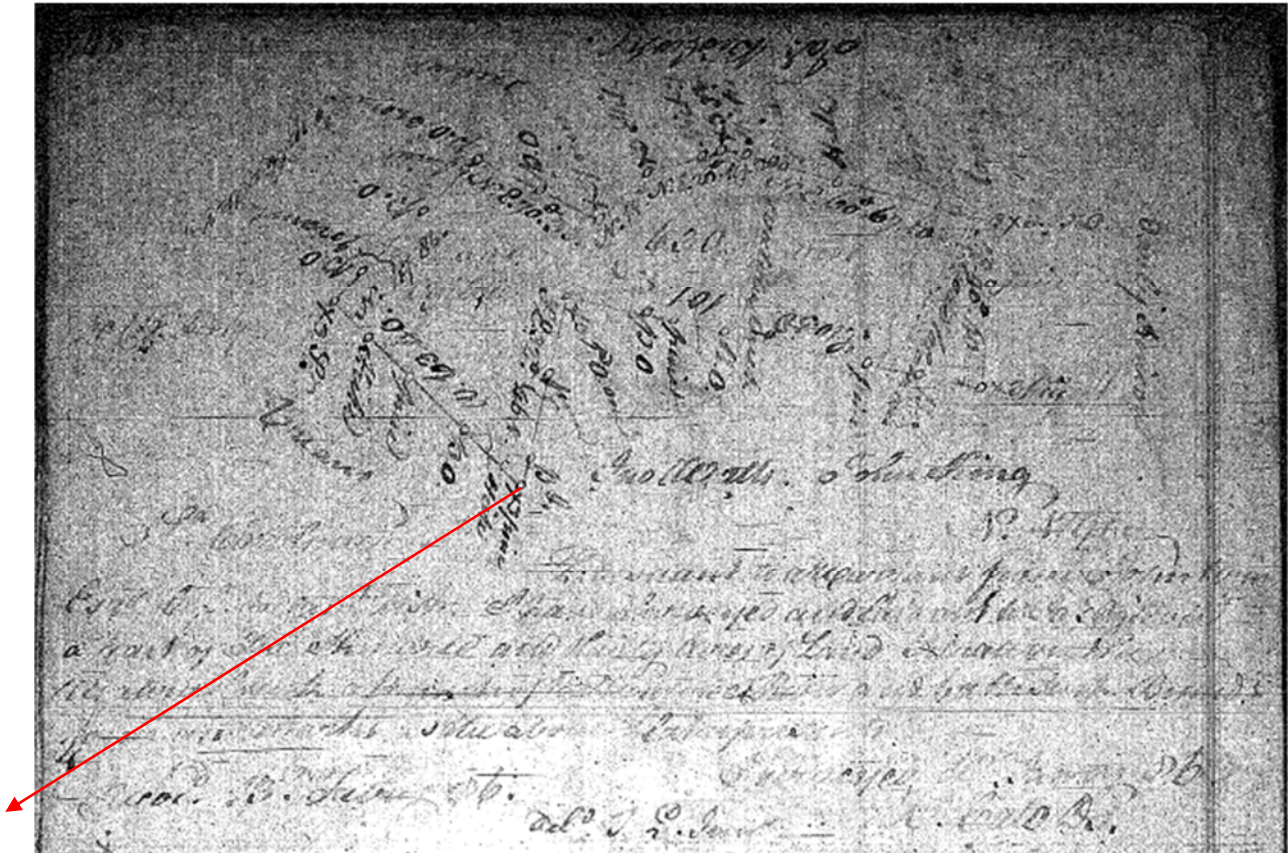
¹²⁷ *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database with images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online/archives/> : accessed 7 October 2014), "Turner, John of Fairfield District, Fairfield County, will Transcript," p. 2; citing "Fairfield District Estate Record Book C, vol. 5, page 195; Estate Packet File 32, Pkg. 509."

Rev. John Watts, Esq. (ca.1749—ca.1822)

Wife 1: Smith?

Wife 2: Judith "Judy" Rawls?

- Although much of the plat is illegible, one notable point is the appearance of John Watts and John King as adjacent landowners. John King, as previously noted, was the brother of Catherine King, wife of Moses Smith and mother of Bartlett Smith, all names brought down in the Watts family through John's daughter Catherine (Watts) Hornsby.
- Note the names of other adjacent neighbors: John Barber, and Bartly [Bartlett] Hinson. These men appear in numerous records as neighbors and associates of our John Watts.
- The plat places our John Watts as an adjacent landowner to the man identified in both Fairfield and Kershaw County as Thomas Watts Jr.



Soon after this survey, Ogilvie sold the tract to Thomas Watts [Jr.]. The sale document has not been found, but the fact of the sale is attested by the plat filed with the state land office for which the land database of the South Carolina Department of Archives and History provides this abstract.¹²⁸

¹²⁸ South Carolina Department of Archives and History, database and images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online/archives/>), "Watts, Thomas, citing "Series: S213190; Volume: 0020; Page: 00028; Item: 001." In April 1787, "Thomas Watts, Jun'r." also bought from Ogilvie an adjacent 737 acres; see Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book X:8

Details

Series: S213190
Volume: 0020
Page: 00028
Item: 001

Date: 7/14/1787

Description: WATTS, THOMAS, PLAT FOR 630 ACRES ON WATEREE CREEK, CAMDEN DISTRICT, SURVEYED BY W. CATO FOR JAMES OGILVIE.

Names indexed: BARBER, JOHN; BISHOP, JAMES; CATO, W.; HINSON, BARTLY; KING, JOHN; OGILVIE, JAMES; WATTS, JOHN; WATTS, THOMAS

Locations: CAMDEN DISTRICT; WATEREE CREEK; WATEREE RIVER

Document type: PLAT

Topics:

[Close](#)

This tract cannot be the 100-acre Ambrose Mills mill-site that our John Watts would sell days after this Ogilvie survey was made. The calls on this tract show significant differences. Consider the following:

- The Ogilvie plat (like most in this plat book) do not show N-S orientation. However, it can be determined by reading the “calls.” When a line is marked “SE 32°,” then the line needs to be headed to the SE at 32°.
- To achieve the proper N-S orientation, we need to turn the Ogilvie plat (on preceding page) roughly 120° clockwise. Doing so places John Watts and John King to the W of the 630 acres.
- No creeks, forks, or other waterways are shown on Ogilvie’s plat. The land has no opening onto water— a problem that would not exist for a landowner if he owned an adjacent tract, as did Thomas Watts Jr.
- Meanwhile, the 100-acre tract purchased by **John and William Watts** in December 1784 straddled the **forks of the Wateree**. If that tract adjoined the Ogilvie–Thomas Watts tract above, then the configuration of streams at that point (both the forks and adjacent creeks) allow no way to place the 630 acres on the map without crossing a waterway.
- The land on the northeast border of the Mills-Watts tract, at Forks of Wateree Creek, had been granted to John Lee—200 acre that were sliced by Wateree Creek in a configuration that exactly matches the Mills-Watts tract. In November 1786, when Lee made his will, he was still in possession of that adjacent land, and left those 200 acres to his daughter Rachel Cameron.¹²⁹
- All things considered, the **Ogilvie-Thomas Watts** tract of 630 acres lay between Dutchman’s Creek and Little Wateree Creek, likely with Mill Creek to its northwest. The 1790 census places our John Watts as

¹²⁹ Works Progress Administration, typescript of will of John Lee, Fairfield County, 1786; *South Carolina Department of Archives and History* (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/onlinearchives/Thumbnails.aspx?recordId=304725> : 6 June 2015), citing S108093, South Carolina Will Transcripts (Microcopy No 9).”

An image of this will, with the word “**Gordon**” pencilled beside the name Sarah and “**Cameron**” pencilled beside the name Rachel, has been posted by Holland Williams, “Balentine (SC) Family Research Tree Unproven,” *Tree, Ancestry* (<http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/16941557/person/18980423603> : accessed 6 June 2015). Williams identifies the wife of John Lee as **Mary Cassells**, but does not identify the husbands of Agnis, Rosana, or Rebeccah, and offers no information on John Lee Jr. He asserts that all the above children were born 1754–1769; that ostensibly rules out any of these daughters as the wife of John Watts.

For a different reconstruction of this family, see ProudToBeOkie, “Black Family,” *Ancestry* (<http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/6657516/person/-1253799535> : accessed 6 June 2015), which asserts that John Lee (1721–86) first married Margaret Howard by whom he had Stephen (1748–1806), Elizabeth, Greenberry, and John; then he married Mary Cassels, by whom he had Rachel (1756–91), Rosana (1760–82 [sic], Agnes “Nancy,” Rebecca, Sarah, and Frances.

an adjacent householder between Thomas Watts and Rev. Edward Pigg whose only tract of land was on Mill Creek.¹³⁰

- Several days after the survey—and before the filing—John Watts would sell a tract of land *but not the tract shown on this survey*. This point will be developed below, after one other related document is presented.¹³¹

29 JANUARY 1786

FAIRFIELD DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA

Land Sale.

John Watts of Fairfield County, Planter. Lease and release to **Nathan Sanders** of same, Planter. 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. Recorded 16 January 1788.¹³²

COMMENTS:

This John Watts is clearly our John who appears on the 1790 census amid the Picketts, Tidwells, and Sanders.

Re Nathan Sanders:

- In 1790, Nathan was 10 houses from Moses Hornsby, son-in-law of John and Judith.
- Nathan made his will 2 December 1793 (proved 14 January 1794) naming wife Mary; sons **Bartlette**; Daus. (mentioned 3 but did not name them); Executors: Son and John Allison; Witnesses: Thomas Watson and G. Coone.¹³³ **Note, again, that the name “Bartlett” was given by Thomas Watts, son of John, to one of his sons and the name “Bartlett Watts” was later given to a grandson of John’s daughter Zilphy.**
- The name **Bartlett** was also given by Philip and Mary (Sanders) Hinson to their son.¹³⁴ (And Philip Hinson had a brother James, who named a son **Reuben**,¹³⁵ a name John Watts gave to his third son, born ca.1784.
- The Hinsons and Sanderses both came out of **Albermarle and Bedford Counties, Virginia**, contemporaneously with the Millses and Wattses.¹³⁶

¹³⁰ John’s next-door neighbor on that census was Rev. Edward Pigg, who, just months before, had bought the mill site on Mill Creek; see Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book I: 123.

¹³¹ Fairfield Co. Plat book B:441.

¹³² Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book A: 508–10.

¹³³ Elizabeth Wood Thomas and Sydney Starr Furr, *Fairfield County, South Carolina, Wills, 1773–1797* (Pass Christian, Miss.: Willo Institute of Genealogy, 1967), 23; citing Will Book 1:94.

¹³⁴ Kershaw Co., SC, “Camden District 1782–1788; Kershaw District 1817–1824, Estate Records Book A-1”; FHL microfilm 1,029,441, item 1.

¹³⁵ “Notes for Micajah Pickett and Kinsanna Hinson,” *Janet and Robert Wolfe Genealogy* (<http://www-personal.umich.edu/~bobwolfe/gen/mn/m331x332.htm#FN1> : accessed 27 June 2015), citing South Carolina Department of Archives and History, S108093, Reel 14, Frame 533.

¹³⁶ “Notes for Philip Hinson and Mary,” *Janet and Robert Wolfe Genealogy* (<http://www-personal.umich.edu/~bobwolfe/gen/mn/m673x31042.htm#FN56> : accessed 27 June 2015) reports:

- “1758 In September, Bartlet Henson was on the militia roster of the Virginia Colonial Militia of Bedford County. [4]
- “1758 In September, William Henson and Philip Henson were on the militia roster of the Virginia Colonial Militia of Albemarle County in the company of Capt. James Nevil. [5][6]
- “1758 Phillip and William Henson were members of Captain Ellis' Company in Albemarle County, Virginia. [7][8]
- “1765 In Albemarle County, Virginia court papers: “Bond of Julius Sanders and Philip Henson to David Ross, dated Sept. “1765, witnessed by William Rea and St. McCaul. Two orders to arrest Julius Sanders 5 above suit, dated 6 Oct. and Jan. 3”. [see 1768 newspaper notice] [9]

Re Henry Sanders:

- On 13 August 1787, Aaron Roberts of Camden District sold to **Mary Henson** (widow of Philip) of same, 150 acres on Taylors Creek, branch of Wateree, granted 5 June 1786. Witnesses were **Henry Sanders** and **Isaac Gibson**.¹³⁷
- On the 1790 census, Henry is adjacent to **Thomas Stone**, formerly of Amherst, where he appears to be the brother of Ambrose Mills’s wife Mourning Stone. Note under January 1796, below, the return of John Watts from Georgia to Fairfield (theoretically, to visit family), during which time he witnessed Thomas Stone’s sale of land back in Amherst.

Re John Lee, neighbor to the original grant:

- Lee appears not only as an adjacent landowner to this 1768 Mills grant at the Fork of Wateree Creek, but he was **also an adjacent landowner to Mills’s 1762 grant at the Forks of Little River**. *He should be studied as potential kin.*
- Ken Shelton cites a narrative by John Watts’s contemporary, General Richard Winn, found in the Library of Congress and published in 1942, in which Winn states that John Lee lived 12 miles [northeast] from Mobley’s Meeting House.¹³⁸
- Shelton also reports that “Lee’s Old Place” was the campsite of Cornwallis’s army on 8 January 1781.¹³⁹

NOVEMBER COURT TERM 1788

FAIRFIELD CO., SC

Estray Record.

“Bay Mare: Four feet two inches high, brand thus A M upon him near Buttock. Valued at L4.3.6 by *Moses Knighton, John Watts & John King Junr. J. King, J.P. Chas. Lewis, Witt.*

7 June 1789: *M. Winn* £2.10¹⁴⁰

-
- “1768 Philip Henson advertised: “Some Years ago I married Mary, the daughter of Julius and granddaughter of William Saunders, both of Albemarle county [Virginia]” ... Philip Henson claims that he and wife Mary are the heirs of several Negroes from the estate of William Sanders, to be inherited after the death of William's widow Mary. Meanwhile, William's son Julius has seized the slaves and is claiming them as his own. Philip warns others not to buy these slaves from Julius, because they do not belong to Julius. Just below, a notice by David Ross, states that Philip Hinson had mortgaged Negroes Pat, Joe, Jenny, and Sall to Alexander Baine {see 1765 court record. These Negroes were not named in the 1776 will of Philip Hinson, father of Kizannah}. [10][11] Photocopy, Philip Henson named father-in-law Julius Saunders, Newspaper notice.

[5] William Armstrong Crozier, *Virginia County Records*, Vol. 2 (New York: Fox, Duffield & Company, 1905), 67.

[6] William Waller Henning, *The Statutes at Large; being a collection of all the Laws of virginia*, Vol. 7 (Richmond VA: 1820), 203.

[7] A. L. Henson, *A Henson Family History in Early America and their Revolutionary War Soldiers, 1725–1850* (1978),

[8] “Letters and Other Papers, 1735–1829 (From the Collection of the Virginia Historical Society),” *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* 23 (1915), 162–92 at 176.

[9] Benjamin B. Weisiger, *Albemarle County Virginia Court Papers 1744–1783* (1987), 42.

[10] Newspaper, *The Virginia Gazette*, Williamsburg, Virginia: 8 September 1768, page 3, column 1.

[11] Virginia Gazette Archival images online, 1768, page 3, [Virginia_Gazette].”

¹³⁷ Tony Draine, *Fairfield County, S.C. Deed Book A, 1785-1788* (Columbia, S.C.: Draban Publications, 1991), 23.

¹³⁸ Kenneth Shelton, *All That Dare Oppose Them: The Whig Victory at Mobley's Meeting House, June 1780* (N.p.: Privately printed, 2005), 48–50.

¹³⁹ Kenneth Shelton, *All That Dare Oppose Them: The Whig Victory at Mobley's Meeting House, June 1780* (N.p.: Privately printed, 2005), 93; citing 11 January 1781 letter from General Sumter to General Green, wherein he stated that Cornwallis’s army camped had camped there on “Monday night.” Assuming it was the immediately preceding Monday, that should have been 8 January.

¹⁴⁰ Fairfield Co., S.C., Court of Common Pleas, Record of Estrays, 1788–1799, p. 6 (counting back from legible p. 10); FHL microfilm 1,294,199, item 1.

Rev. John Watts, Esq. (ca.1749—ca.1822)

Wife 1: Smith?

Wife 2: Judith “Judy” Rawls?

COMMENT:

This John King Sr., in 1783, signed (with John Watts, Charles Picket, and Moses Knighton), the character affidavit for RW soldier William Coggin who was leaving for Georgia. As previously noted, he was a brother of Catherine (King) Byrd Smith—wife of Moses Smith—who also signed the 1783 affidavit.

1788–1791

FAIRFIELD CO., SC

Religion.

“Fairfield County Churches. A short-lived congregation was gathered about 1788 in the extreme northeast corner of Fairfield County, which took the name Rocky Creek Catawba, or Rocky Creek of Catawba River, and entered the Bethel Association in 1791 under the ministry of **Rev. Edward Pigg**. He, with Charles Pigg, a licensed preacher, and Arthur Shuffield, was messenger to the association in that year. The congregation numbered twenty-four in 1790 and twenty-six in 1791; this was the only report made to the association, which recorded the church extinct in 1797.”¹⁴¹

COMMENT:

- The 1790 census of Fairfield places Edward Pigg next door to John Watts and Thomas Watts [Jr.], with Charles Pigg adjacent to Edward. If John Watts and his sizable family were part of this congregation, then their removal to Georgia by February 1792 would have cut drastically into those small numbers and possibly contributed to its demise.
- The author of this history of SC Baptists reports that Edward Pigg, in 1787, had belonged to the Swift Creek Church, about 9 miles below Camden (modern Kershaw);¹⁴² and that, in 1784, he received a grant on a branch of Rafting Creek in Camden District.¹⁴³ She presents Charles Pigg as an apparently “immoral or disorderly” minister around whom various scandals swirled (particularly 1795–1802). In 1793–94 (after leaving Wateree Creek), she reports, he was attached to the Second Baptist Church of Lower Lynches Creek, western Kershaw.
- The documents below identify the location of Pigg’s 1788–91 land—and, by extension, the 1790 place of residence for John Watts.

24 MARCH? 1789?

FAIRFIELD CO., SC

Associate.

William Smith, planter of Fairfield, to **Edward Pigg** of same [Pigg is not called a planter], for 16 pounds sterling, release of 200 acres “on a **branch of the Wateree Creek**, bounded NE on *Moses Hollis*, SW on *Nolle Hollis*, E on N___ *Whitehead*, the other sides on vacant land,” granted to *William Smith* on 3 August 1774. Signed: William Smith (X his mark). Witnesses: *William Cason*, **John Hollis**, *Charles Filks Pigg* (X his mark) Recorded 1 Oct. ’91.¹⁴⁴¹⁴⁵

COMMENTS:

- **Edward Pigg** appears on 1790 census *next door* to **John Watts** and his proposed brother Thomas. Pigg may be significant. Numerous online trees (undocument) assert a prior presence in Orange County, Virginia—contemporaneously with John’s proposed grandfather Edward Watts.

¹⁴¹ Leah Townsend, *South Carolina Baptists, 1670–1805* (1935; reprinted Baltimore: Clearfield Co., 2003), 212.

¹⁴² *Ibid.*, 158 (and 155 for the location of the Swift Creek Church).

¹⁴³ *Ibid.*, 212, n. 98.

¹⁴⁴ *Ibid.*, 80, 99, 100n, 102, 114, 146, 212.

¹⁴⁵ Fairfield Co., S.C., Deed Book F, 22–23.

Rev. John Watts, Esq. (ca.1749—ca.1822)

Wife 1: Smith?

Wife 2: Judith “Judy” Rawls?

- **William Smith**, several years after selling this land, bought 100 acres of a plantation owned by James Smith and his wife Sarah “Sallie” Watts (sister of John Watts).¹⁴⁶
- **John Hollis**, on the 1790 census, appears about 17 houses below **John Watts** & Thomas, while **Moses Hollis** (see above and below) and other Hollises are neighbors of John Watts’s son-in-law **Moses Hornsby**.
- *Mills’s Atlas* (1815–25) shows a **Picket’s Mill** on a small branch of the Wateree River.
- **Moses Hollis** left will dated 9 April 1793 (proved 17 July 1794) naming wife Rosanna; sons Moses, John, Elijah & Berry; daughter Nancy Gladden; granddaughter Catherine Paterson; executor Zachariah Canty; Witnesses: Thos. Goodman and Ed. Tidwell.¹⁴⁷

TO DO:

Pursue this William Smith to see if he was a brother of Bartlett Smith and son of Moses Smith and wife Catherine King.

Question to answer: Did John Watts and his sister Sarah marry Smith siblings?

26 MARCH 1789

FAIRFIELD CO., SC

Associate.

Elijah Hollis of Fairfield County to **Edward Pigg** of same, for 16 pounds sterling, release of a lease made the preceding day, to 10 acres more or less on **Wateree Creek** in Fairfield, “beginning on **Moses Hollis** Corner tree on the west side of **Mill Branch**, running East to the **ford of the branch below the Mill**, from thence SE to a pine station from thence to *Moses Hollis* Line, **including the mill and mill seat**, which said grant was to Moses Hollis ... 1 Decr. 1772 and was conveyed by Moses Hollis to *Elijah Hollis* by Deeds of Lease and Release bearing date of 30th March 1784.” Witnesses: *William Cason, John Hollis, Charles Filiks Pigg*. Recorded 6 October 1795.¹⁴⁸

COMMENTS:

Mills’s Atlas (Fairfield map created 1815–25) places **Duke’s Ford** right below **Picket’s Mill** on the Wateree River (above Wateree Creek).

Re kinships between the **Hollises**, Deed Book B offers the following:

Hollis, Moses to Berry Hollis	Deed of Gift	p209	“for good will & affection,” slave, 1794
Hollis, Moses to John Hollis	“	p211	ditto
Hollis, Moses to Moses Hollis Jr.	“	p212	ditto
Hollis, Moses to Elijah Hollis	“	p214	ditto “my son Elijah Hollis Junr.”

Several subsequent deeds by Pigg and by John Watts’s Tidwell & Garrett neighbors state the proximity of the Pigg/Watts residences to **Hog Fork**.

AUGUST 1790–FALL 1791

FAIRFIELD CO., SC

Census.

BACKGROUND:

¹⁴⁶ Fairfield Dist., Deed Book 5: 208. For Sallie Smith as sister of John Watts, see *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 14 October 2015), South Carolina Probate Records, Loose Papers, 1732–1964 > Richland > Probate Court, Estate Records > 1799–1955, Box 033, Packages 801–825, image 21. Also, Ouachita Parish, LA, Succession file A1082 and Succession vols. C: 31–38, “Thomas Watts of Richland District, S.C..”

¹⁴⁷ Elizabeth Wood Thomas and Sydney Starr Furr, *Fairfield County, South Carolina, Wills, 1773–1797* (Pass Christian, Miss.: Wilo Institute of Genealogy, 1967), 19; citing Will Book 1:49.

¹⁴⁸ Fairfield Dist., S.C., Deed Book F: 35–36.

The official census date was the 1st Monday in August 1790. However, this census (p. 130) begins with certifications by the census officials, including these statements:

14 June 1792 "Before John Winn, Esqr. Personally appeared Martyn Atken and made oath that he received from James Craig a Copy of a return of the number of Inhabitants in Camden District assigned by James Craig and John Gray, assistants to the Marshall of the State aforesaid, which said Copy he put up in the Town of Columbia **some time last fall.**"

4 August 1792 "David Evans, Clerk of Fairfield County, attested that he posted a copy, signed by James Craige and John Gray, Assistants to the Federal Marshal of S.C., "upon the Court-House Door in Winnsborough. Done before J. W. Yongue, J.P.

Overview:

p. 150 Moses Hornsbie
 p. 156 John & Thomas **Watts**
 p. 165 Jesse Rawls
 p. 166 Luke Rawls
 p. 167 Edward **Watts**, Senr.
 p. 170 George **Watts**

(p. 150)

Moses Hornsbie 1 male 21+ 0 males –21 1 female 7 others

NEIGHBORHOOD

George Lott	Stephen Splan
James <i>Hollis</i>	William Johnson
William <i>Holliss</i>	John Hall
Wm. Smith	Alexr. Gowin
Moses <i>Hollis</i>	Henry Gowen
Elijah <i>Hollis</i>	Charles Johnson
Peter Patterson	John Jenkins
Francis Layton	Wm. Gladded
John Ellison [9 slaves]	Nathan <i>Sanders</i> [bought Ambrose Mills land from John Watts]
Moses Hornsbie ¹⁴⁹	[<i>skip 8</i>]
Daniel Gowen	Jesse Gladden [adj. to land Wm Watts sold 1790s on Motley Br.]
[<i>Adjoined Stephen Splan</i>]	[<i>skip 19 to connect to Jesse Ginn, n'bor of John Watts, below</i>]

(p. 152) *Adjacent entries*:¹⁵⁰

John Watts:	2 males	16+	1 male	–16	7 females
Thomas Watts	1 male	16+	0 males	–16	1 female

COMMENT:

Thomas Watts household

This should be "Thomas Watts Jr." who, in 1787, acquired land adjacent to John's land. The census entry suggests that he had a wife but no children. At his death in 1821 (see notes below under that year), he left no widow and no legal children, but one natural son whom Thomas had moved to Louisiana, as a married adult with children, in 1819.

¹⁴⁹ When Moses and wife Caty sold their land in 1795, the deed states that Moses inherited his land on "Hornsby's Branch of Wateree Creek from his father Leonard. See Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book I: 330.

¹⁵⁰ 1790 U.S census, Fairfield Dist., SC, p. 152; accessed *Ancestry* (www.Ancestry.com : accessed 4 October 2014).

John Watts household

The household composition is missing a son. At this time John had 3 sons, not 2:

- Thomas, aged 19–20, who did not marry until the late 1790s in Georgia
- John, who was 21 by the time of the Montgomery Co., Ga., jury list of 1795.
- Reuben, born about 1784.

It is possible that Thomas-of-John may have done as many frontier youth did when the family was contemplating a move to a new area: i.e., gone ahead to Georgia, to scout the area and pick likely land for settlement.

NEIGHBORHOOD:

Jesse Ginn	Edward Pigg [Rev.] ¹⁵¹	Charles Pickett
Thomas Knighton	Charles Pigg	Richard Roberts
Wm. Lewis	James Morris ¹⁵²	John Splon
Musker Boland	Fanny Blake [Wid. Wm.; nee Hornsby] ¹⁵³	Charles Lewis
Wm. Tidwell	Sarah Garret	John Hollis
George Coon	Robert Tidwell Junr.	Wilson Gibson
James King	Jesse Goin	Elisabeth Lewis
John Goin	Robert Shirley	John Sanders
James Lucas	Micajah Pickett	Presly Tidwell
James Burke	M ^w . Hill	
Robert Tidwell ¹⁵⁴	Obadiah Henson	
John Watts	John King	
Thomas Watts	Moses Knighton	
[adjoins Edward Pigg]	[adjoins Charles Pickett]	

COMMENTS:

The preceding census page also includes Garretts, Gibsons (Gervais, Isaac), Hinsons, Sanders, and Tidwells.

Several residents of this neighborhood are identifiable on lists of grants in the 1770s, with land descriptions that help to locate their community.

AUGUSTINE PRESTWOOD, 1 Aug. 1774: 150 acres in Craven County on Hellow’s Creek, branch of Wateree Creek. Bounded NE by **Micajah Pickets**, Wm. Jones, and Joseph Hellows; other sides vacant. Survey certified 6 Apr. 1773; granted 21 Apr. 1774. Quit rent in 2 years. Wm. Glascock, DS. Delivered 23 Sept. 1774 to John

¹⁵¹ Edward Pigg and Charles Filkes Pigg were Baptist ministers; see Leah Townsend, *South Carolina Baptists, 1670–1805* (1935; reprint, Baltimore: Clearfield, 2003), 80, 99, 100n, 102, 114, 146, 158, 212, and 212n. Supposedly Edward was the son of an older Charles Filkes Pigg who died in 1759—allegedly a Virginian from **Spotsylvania County**. See “Smith Helfrey Family Tree,” *Ancestry.com* (<http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/51006647/person/13736164911> : accessed 5 October 2014), “Rev. Edward Pigg.

¹⁵² William Mills, son of Ambrose and proposed first-cousin of John and Thomas Watts (the William Mills whose land John Watts and William Watts bought together in 1784) married in Fairfield (about the time of John’s marriage) to Eleanor **Morris**, whose parents are not identified in the online sources consulted.

¹⁵³ Fairfield Co., SC, Will Book 1:96, estate of William Blake. John Watts was not among the buyers at his estate sale on 12 April 1791, although numerous neighbors were—particularly, John King, Moses Knighton, Chas. Lewis, and Thomas Stark. John’s non-appearance could mean that he had already left for Georgia, or that he was not buying new things, in preparation for the move, or that he simply didn’t find anything there that he needed.

For the identity of Phaniel “Fanny” (Hornsby) Blake, as sister of Moses Hornsby, see Rex McLaurin, “Genealogy Report: Descendants of Leonard Hornsby,” *Genealogy.com* (<http://www.genealogy.com/ftm/m/c/l/Rex-Mclaurin/GENE1-0004.html> : accessed 3 June 2015).

¹⁵⁴ Robert Tidwell is said (without evidence) to be the son of Richard Tidwell and wife “Rebecca Rachel Helms,” of Westmoreland, Va., who moved to Chesterfield with sons John, William, Robert, Edmund, and Richard. See “Hooker/Robbins Family Tree,” *Ancestry.com* (<http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/11012352/person/200754854> : accessed 5 October 2014).

Pooley.¹⁵⁵ (William Jones’s land lay next to that of John Morris,¹⁵⁶ the alleged family of Eleanor Morris who married Ambrose Mills’s son William.)

GEORGE KOONE, 3 Oct. 1774: 100 acres in Craven County [Camden Dist., Craven Co., parent of Fairfield] on a branch of Broad River called Cedar Creek. Bounded NW on *Stephen Smith*¹⁵⁷ and vacant land; NE on vacant land; SE on vacant land and *Henry Koone*; SW on *Henry Koone* and Cedar Creek. Survey certified 30 July 1773; granted 25 May 1774. Quit rent in 10 years. Edwd. Hampton, DS. Delivered 15 Dec. 1774 to Johannes {?-signature}.¹⁵⁸

MASON GREENING, 31 Jan. 1775: 200 acres in Craven County, St. Marks Parish on High Hills of Santee. Bounded S on **Moses Knighton** and vacant land; W on said **Knighton** and Wm. Barden; E on land supposed to be granted and vacant land; N on Mason Greening. Survey certified 2 Mar. 1773; granted 19 Aug. 1774. Quit rent in 2 years, Ishiam Moore, DS. Delivered 25 Feb. 1775 to James McCormick.¹⁵⁹

ROBERT ELLISON, 20–21 September 1783 sold to Hugh Milling of Jackson Creek, planter, 200 acres known as ½ of a survey for 400 acres “on a **branch of Jacksons Creek, known as Watts Branch**, bounding S.E. on Adam Blair, S.W. on vacant Land, N.W. on John Phillips, and N.E. on vacant land.” Signed: Rt. Ellison. Witnesses: Jno. Woodward, H. Hunter, Jno. Milling. Proved 25 January 1786 by John Woodward and Henry Hunter. Recorded 4 March 1786.¹⁶⁰ As previously seen under 1775, above, Robert Ellison was a Whig captain during the Revolution.

MICAJAH PICKETT & OBADIAH HINSON: Their families need to be thoroughly studied for the potential birth family of John Watts’s wife or a potential sister of Thomas Watts Sr.

- Micajah Pickett was married to Kinsanna Hinson, sister of Obadiah, Philip, James and **Bartlett** Hinson.¹⁶¹ (The name **Bartlett** is carried down in the Watts family.)
- Micajah Pickett and James Hinson named sons Reuben,¹⁶² a name given by John Watts to his third son.

ADULT MALES NAMED REUBEN

- Only 4 householders in the county this year carried the name **Reuben**: Reuben Harrison (p. 173), Reuben Johnson (p. 169), Reuben Patterson (p. 173), Reuben Starke (p. 169).
- All 4 are in the Dutchman’s Creek & Mickle’s Ferry area, around Moses Knighton Sr., Widow Ratcliff (adj. to Moses Knighton), **Thomas Stone**, and Henry Sanders—all individuals associated with John Watts in one way or another.
- County records also show a **Reuben Mobley** coming of age about this time.

(p. 165)

¹⁵⁵ Jesse Hogan Motes III and Margaret Peckham Motes, *South Carolina Memorials: Abstracts of Land Titles*, vol. 1, 1774–1776 (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1996), p. 106, citing “12-530:3.”

¹⁵⁶ *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database with images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online/archives/> : accessed 7 October 2014), “Janes [Jones], William, Plat for 150 Acres in Craven County”; citing S213184: Colonial Plat Books (Copy Series).

¹⁵⁷ In 1790, Stephen Smith is enumerated 6 dwellings from Jesse Rawls.

¹⁵⁸ Jesse Hogan Motes III and Margaret Peckham Motes, *South Carolina Memorials: Abstracts of Land Titles*, vol. 1, 1774–1776 (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1996), p. 132, citing “13-36:4.”

¹⁵⁹ Jesse Hogan Motes III and Margaret Peckham Motes, *South Carolina Memorials: Abstracts of Land Titles*, vol. 1, 1774–1776 (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1996), p. 223, citing “13-263-4”

¹⁶⁰ Tony Draine, *Fairfield County, S.C. Deed Book A, 1785–1788* (Columbia, S.C.: Draban Publ, 1991), 6–7, citing pp. 174–79.

¹⁶¹ “Notes for Micajah Pickett and Kinsanna Hinson,” *Janet and Robert Wolfe Genealogy* (<http://www-personal.umich.edu/~bobwolfe/gen/mn/m331x332.htm#FN1> : accessed 27 June 2015), citing “Ethel Nerim Miner, *Hanson, Henson, Hinson, Hynson and Allied Family Names*, Vol. II (1993), 104.”

¹⁶² “Notes for Micajah Pickett and Kinsanna Hinson,” *Janet and Robert Wolfe Genealogy* (<http://www-personal.umich.edu/~bobwolfe/gen/mn/m331x332.htm#FN1> : accessed 27 June 2015), citing “South Carolina Department of Archives and History, S108093, Reel 14, Frame 533.”

Adjacent entries:¹⁶³

Jesse Rawls:	1 male 16+	1 female	
	NEIGHBORHOOD		
	Wm. Owens	Wm. <i>Hendricks</i>	Samuel Crosslin
	James Hendricks	Thomas Hill	James Rutland
	John Compte	Edward Simmonds	Henry Robertson
	John Craig	Jacob Brewbaker	Field Farrar [of Bedford Co., Va.]
	John Dortch	Lewis Daigwood	Thomas H. McCaule
	James Harris	Jesse Rawls	Joseph Quarrell
	Christopher Day	John Crosslin	[<i>begin new page, below</i>]
	Wm. Roach [Reach?]	Wm. Trapp	
	John Blanton	Fredrick Heart	
	Hardy Miles	Fredrick Arick	
	Jonathan Dungan	Sm. Sumersall	
	Edmund Oneal	Stephen Smith	
	[<i>adj. Wm. Hendrix, col.2</i>]	[<i>adj. Samuel Crosslin, col. 3</i>]	

COMMENT:

- Deed Book B:68 offers a plat showing James Hendricks’s land was surrounded by Joseph Woodward, John Sibley, Obede *Kirkland*, Joseph *Kirkland*.
- Stephen Smith is shown on preceding page as an adjacent landowner to George Coon, residing five houses from John and Thomas Watts.
- James Rutland, above, was a signer of the 1783 character affidavit with John Watts.

(p. 166)

Adjacent entries:¹⁶⁴

Luke Rawls:	2 males 16+	2 females	
	NEIGHBORHOOD		
	Henry Robertson	Wm. Moon	Wm. Robertson
	Field Farrar [of Va.]	Alexr. Kennedy ¹⁶⁵	Francis Kirkland
	Thomas H. McCaule	Charnell Derham	John CAMERON
	Joseph Quarrell	John Adam Trick?	Daniel McCoy
	[<i>p. 166</i>]	Luke Rawls	Margret Beesly
	Samuel Young	James McCreight	Shad Noland
	Prudence Durphy	John Robertson	Steven Noland ¹⁶⁶
	Nathan Thomson	Thomas Porter	Joseph Ashly
	Isaac Hussey	Thomas Bradford	Daniel Huffman
	Richard Yarbrough	Thomas Whitehouse	George Beasly
	Disen Yarbro	Ralph Jones	Richard Duggans
	Conrad Koon	Samuel McKinnie	John Cork [end of page]

¹⁶³ 1790 U.S census, Fairfield Dist., SC, p. 165; accessed *Ancestry* (www.Ancestry.com : accessed 4 October 2014).

¹⁶⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 166.

¹⁶⁵ Alexr. Kennedy was a deputy surveyor in 1774; see Jesse Hogan Motes III and Margaret Peckham Motes, *South Carolina Memorials: Abstracts of Land Titles*, vol. 1, 1774–1776 (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1996), p. 223, entry for John Garret.

¹⁶⁶ In 1832, Steven “Nolan” was agent for Agnes “Aggy” (Watts) Addison, sister of John Watts, in the settlement of the estate of their brother Thomas Watts. See *FamilySearch* > South Carolina Probate Records, Loose Papers, 1732–1964 > Richland > Probate Court, Estate Records > 1799–1955, Box 033, Packages 801–825, image 21.

Rev. John Watts, Esq. (ca.1749—ca.1822)

Wife 1: Smith?

Wife 2: Judith “Judy” Rawls?

COMMENT:

Coon (aka Koon)

Note **Conrad Koon**, 5 houses from Luke Rawls. One **George Coon** was 6 houses from **John Watts** (p. 152). Also, under 1793, below, see “Conrad Coon” & **George Watts** co-witnessing a land sale on Cedar Creek.

Duggans

Richard Duggins (1 male over 21, 2 males under 21, and 7 females) was married to **John Watts’s sister Elizabeth Watts**.¹⁶⁷

Kirkland

Francis Kirkland (2 males over 21, 2 males under 21, 6 females) married **Mary Watts, sister of John**.¹⁶⁸ In 1790. Kirkland drafted a will naming wife Mary; sons William, John, Francis & **Ambrose**; daughters **Sarah**, Elizabeth, **Mary**, Abigail, and “Conestine” [Constantine].¹⁶⁹

Noland

Note Stephen Noland above, a close associate of **Agnes “Aggy” Watts Addison**. Below, *William Noland* is 11 houses from Thomas Addison Addison is 5 houses from **Edward Watts**.

(p. 167)

Edward Watts, Senr. 2 males 16+ 2 males –16 5 females¹⁷⁰

NEIGHBORHOOD

Andrew CAMERON
James Rabb
David James
Enoch James
James Kincaid
Isaac Landsdale
James Smith
Morriss Weaver
Samuel Beaty
Solomon Andrews
Wm. *Noland*
[*adjoins Richard Woodward, col. 2*]

Richard *Woodward*
John Aitchison
Robert Lindsay
George *Hollsey*
Celia Delasmate
James Rogers
Burr Davison
Elisabeth Smith
Wm. McMorris Senr.
Mary Aitcheson
Thomas Addison
[*adjoins Samuel Curry, at top of col. 3*]

Samuel Curry [Curey?]
William Dent
John *Woodward*
*Burbage Woodward*¹⁷¹
Edward Watts, Senr.
Isaac Low
Henry Nelson
Henry Rogers
Robert Kearnaghan
Robert Wilson
James Butler

COMMENT:

William McMorris bought land in 1774 from William Kennedy on Little River, St Marks’s Ph. (Fairfield A:269-72); Kennedy was Edwards’s 1775 neighbor. (See below.)

¹⁶⁷ *FamilySearch* > South Carolina Probate Records, Loose Papers, 1732–1964 > Richland > Probate Court, Estate Records > 1799–1955, Box 033, Packages 801–825, image 21. Ouachita Parish, La., Succession file A1082 and Succession vols. C: 31–38, “Thomas Watts of S. Carolina.” For Duggans estate, see Fairfield Co., Will Book B: 113, 123.

¹⁶⁸ *FamilySearch* > South Carolina Probate Records, Loose Papers, 1732–1964 > Richland > Probate Court, Estate Records > 1799–1955, Box 033, Packages 801–825, image 21, for Mary Kirkland as sister of John Watts.

¹⁶⁹ Elizabeth Wood Thomas and Sydney Starr Furr, *Fairfield County, S.C., Wills 1773–1797* (Pass Christian, Miss.: Willo Institute of Genealogy, 1967), 18; citing Will Book 1: 54.

¹⁷⁰ 1790 U.S census, Fairfield Dist., SC, p. 150; accessed *Ancestry.com* (www.Ancestry.com : accessed 4 October 2014).

¹⁷¹ Burbage Woodward was a Tory who broke back his back trying to escape the rout at Mobley’s Meeting House. See Ken Shelton, *All That Dare Oppose Them: The Whig Victory at Mobley’s Meeting House, June 1780* (Imperial, MO: P.p., 2005).

Three grants issued to Edward Watts in the 1770s help to place his 1790 neighborhood on the map:

- EDWARD WATTS, 7 Mar. 1775: 76 acres in Craven County. Bounded NW on *Thomas Woodward*; SE on *William Kennedy*; SE on *Thomas Woodward*; E on one Ouritan’s land on N side of Broad River. **Survey certified 12 Apr. 1773; granted 31 Aug. 1774.** Quit rent in 2 years. Jno. Ellison, DS. Delivered 18 May 1775 to John Bell.¹⁷²
- EDWARD WATTS, 24 Mar. 1775: 224 acres in Craven County on S fork of Little River. Bounded SW and SE on *Nedy Walker*; NE and NW on *Richard Winn*. **Survey certified 14 July 1773; granted 9 Sept. 1774.** Quit rent in 2 years. Jno. Ellison, DS. Delivered 18 May 1775 to John Bell.¹⁷³
- “HUGH LOGAN, 8 Aug. 1775: 100 acres in Camden District, N of Broad River, N and S forks of Little River. Bounded SW by **Edward Watts**; other sides vacant. Survey certified 30 Sept. 1774; granted 17 Mar. 1775. Quit rent in 2 years. John Ellison, DS (Irish).”¹⁷⁴

(p. 170)

George Watts	1 males 16+	4 males -16	8 females ¹⁷⁵
	NEIGHBORHOOD:		
	(p. 169)	David Dunn	John Kelly
	John Walker	Daniel O Harkins	George Watts
	Reuben Johnson	James Hoy	John Stewart
	Samuel Perry	Quintin Hoy	<i>Samuel Duke</i>
	<i>Moses Duke</i>	Jesse Simonds	John Sims
	(p. 170)	John Swett	Wm. Randolph
	Lewis Perry	James Wilson	John Wooten
	Jesse Wilson	Thomas Duke	Benjn. Hodge
	Randolph Simonds	Robert Duke	James Pierson
	Jacob Lewis	Aaron Wooten	Andw. Spradley
	Jesse Perry	Moses Wooten	Joseph Sims

(p. 174)

Nathan Sanders [bought the Ambrose Mills “mill tract” from John Watts; also, brother-in-law of Watts’s neighbor Micajah Pickett who had bought the land from Ambrose’s Mills’s son William of N.C. and then sold it to John & William Watts]

[skip 4]

Widow Ratcliff [John Watts in Summer 1784 bought pewter from her husband’s estate sale; also present, and a probable Ratcliff daughter, was **Zilpah/Zilpha Tucker**]¹⁷⁶

Moses Knighton [frequent associate of John Watts]

Joseph Mickle [this should be Mickle’s Ferry area; aka Peay’s Ferry; see map 4]

Widow Mickle

[skip 4]

Henry Sanders [Brother of Nathan, above]

¹⁷² Jesse Hogan Motes III and Margaret Peckham Motes, *South Carolina Memorials: Abstracts of Land Titles*, vol. 1, 1774–1776 (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1996), p. 64, citing “13-365:1.” The presence of Woodwards next door to Edward Watts of 1790 suggests this is the same man, still living on his grant. Note also that his land adjoins Wm. Kennedy, while 15 years later, Alexr. Kennedy is a neighbor of Luke Rawls. Also note the identity of the surveyor, John Ellison. The 1790 census places this man next door to Moses Hornsby, son-in-law of John Watts.

¹⁷³ *Ibid.*, 284, citing “13-415:6.”

¹⁷⁴ *Ibid.*, 11, citing “2-282:1.”

¹⁷⁵ 1790 U.S census, Fairfield Dist., SC, p. 150; *Ancestry.com* (www.Ancestry.com : accessed 4 Oct. 2014).

¹⁷⁶ Kershaw Co., SC, “Camden District 1782–1788; Kershaw District 1817–1824, Estate Records Book A-1,” 295; FHL microfilm 1,029,441, item 1.

Thos. Stone	[Ambrose Mills allegedly married a sister of Thos. Stone Sr., in Albemarle Co. (later Amherst), VA, before the migrated to SC. In 1795 (see below), on a return trip to Fairfield, John Watts would witness Thomas Stone’s sale of land in Amherst Co.]
John Stone	
James Stone	
Whilis[Willis] Cason	[from Lunenburg & Amherst Cos., Va.—like Mills, Stone, Watts, Sanders; <i>later in Tattnall</i> ; many online trees assert, without documentation, that his wife was Mary Williamson]
Laban Cason	[some online trees assert, without documentation; that his wife was Silva Davis]
Bartlett Smith	[said to be son of Moses Smith and his wife Catherine King , whose brother John King was John Watts’s adjacent landowner in 1796] ¹⁷⁷
Isaac Graham	
John Doyur	
Moses Smith	[2 males over 21; 1 female; wife is said to be Catherine King , sister of John King] ¹⁷⁸
John Blake [Jr.]	[John Blake Sr., the Baptist minister at fork of Wateree Creek, appears on census p. 173] [Fanny Blake, mother of John, sister of Moses Hornsby & widow of Rev. William Blake, is 4 houses from John Watts]

4 DECEMBER 1791
FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Land survey.

“Pursuant to a Warrant from John Winn, Esq. C.L. for Cd. I have laid out to **Thomas Watts** a tract of land Containing 215 acres Situate on the Waters of the Wateree Creek on the **Dry Fork**, in Fairfield County and Camden District, Bounded on the SE part on *Jarvis Galney’s Land*, and on the NE part on **Isaac Gibson**, and on the NW part on Vacant Land on the SE part on *John Gray’s Land*, and hath such Shape form and Marks as the above plat Represents. Certified by me this 4th Decem^r 1791, Andr. McDowell, D.S.; Recorded 16th Decem^r, 1791.”¹⁷⁹

COMMENT:

- The location of this land suggests that the recipient was John’s brother **Thomas Watts Jr.**, who was acquiring many tracts between Wateree Creek (on the north), Dry Fork (on the west) and Taylor and Dutchman Creeks (on the South). John Gray is shown **adjacent to John Watts** on the 1786 survey for the land James Ogilvie sold to Thomas Watts Jr. in 1787.¹⁸⁰
- On 16 February 1799, **William Watts** of Fairfield sold this land (same location, same neighbors) *without saying how he acquired the land*.¹⁸¹ Given the locale of the land and his association with Thomas, this William was likely the William who was a land partner with Thomas adjacent land owner, our John Watts.

¹⁷⁷ For example, see “Working Tree: H–R,” *Ancestry* (<http://person.ancestry.com/tree/10979440/person/6220165153/facts> : downloaded 10/5/2015). No evidence is provided; however, the associational patterns observed between these individuals over the course of researching their community does suggest that the point might be proved if sufficient research is done. For John King as landowner, see January 1786 plat, above.

¹⁷⁸ For example, see “Welcome to the Genealogy World of William Dale Barfield,” *RootsWeb* (<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wbarfieldsr/pafg152.htm> : downloaded 10/5/2015). No evidence is provided; however, the associational patterns observed between these individuals over the course of researching their community does suggest that the point might be proved if sufficient research is done.

¹⁷⁹ Camden District, SC, Commissioner of Locations, “Plat Book E, 1791–1795,” p. 23; Fairfield County, SC, Courthouse; FHL microfilm 1,294,175, item 2. Many of the page numbers are illegible.

¹⁸⁰ Fairfield Co. Plat Book B: 441, for 630 acres surveyed to James Ogilvie adjacent to John Watts and John King; *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database with images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online archives/>), “Watts, Thomas, for 630 acres surveyed to James Ogilvie adjacent to John Watts and John King; citing “Series: S213190; Volume: 0020; Page: 00028; Item: 001.” Also *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database with images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online archives/>), “Watts, Thomas, citing “Series: S213190; Volume: 0020; Page: 00023; Item: 001.”

¹⁸¹ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book N: 194–95.

GEORGIA

1791

WASHINGTON (MONTGOMERY) COUNTY, GEORGIA

Jury Service.

COMMENT:

Allegedly, a jury lists exists for Montgomery County, this year, and neither John Watts nor his adult son Thomas Watts appear.

However, the compiler of the list errs in reading “1797” as “1791.” Montgomery did not exist in 1791. The last digit in the year “1797” appears to be just a straight line on the badly spackled photocopy that she published; the crossbar of the “7” is lost amid the discoloration of the page. It is clearly a 7; the date is written in old script that uses a *long-tailed 7* and a long-tailed 9, making both fall substantially below the line. Meanwhile, the scribe’s 1 is a conventional 1 that rested on the line. The last digit in the year, like the second digit of the year, is a long-tailed 7.¹⁸²

6 FEBRUARY 1792

WASHINGTON COUNTY, GEORGIA > MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Land Warrant.

“Georgia. By the Court of Justices of Washington County, to Fra. Tennille, Esquire County Surveyor for said County, You are hereby authorised and required to admeasure and lay out or cause to be admeasured and laid out unto **John Watts**, a Tract of Land which shall contain **Four hundred and Sixty Acres** in said County of Washington on Head Rights

“Taking especial care that the same hath not heretofore been laid out to any other person or persons. And you are hereby also directed and required to record a plat of the same in your Office and transmit a copy thereof together with this warrant to the Surveyor General within the term of two years from this date. Given under Our hands as Justices of Said Court this Third day of May 1793.

Attest

Benj. Tennille C.W.C.

Thos.[?] Vivian

Samuel Beckum, J.P.

Benj. Tennille J.P.¹⁸³

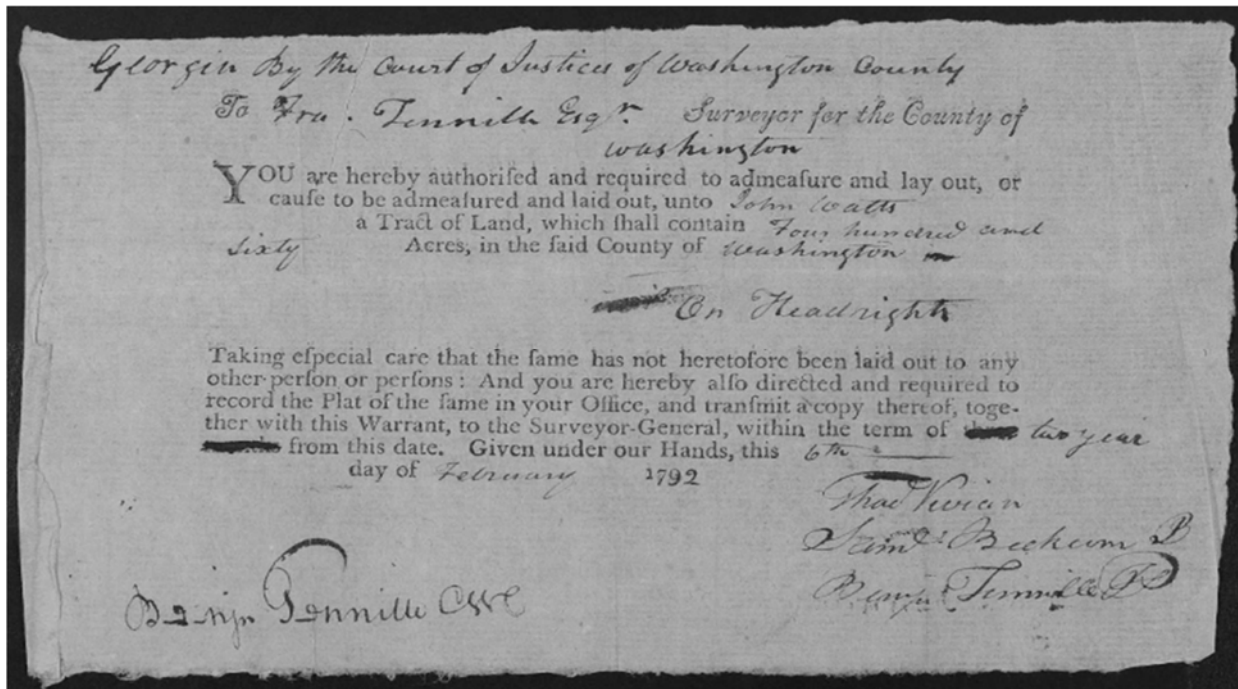
¹⁸² Clifford Dwyer, *Montgomery County, Ga., Jury Lists, 1791 [1797], 1795, 1804* (Vidalia, Ga.: Montgomery County Records Prservation Committee, 1986).

¹⁸³ “Georgia, Headright and Bounty Land Records, 1783-1909,” images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org> : accessed 10 January 2014), volume “Warsdon, James – Watts, William,” folder “**John Watts**,” images 489–90.

Rev. John Watts, Esq. (ca.1749—ca.1822)

Wife 1: Smith?

Wife 2: Judith "Judy" Rawls?



COMMENTS:

Under Georgia's headright law of 1 August 1783, 200 acres was the standard headright for a single adult male citizen. If he were a head of household, he would also have been entitled to an additional 50 acres for each family member or slave, not to exceed one thousand acres.

Faris W. Cadle, the leading authority on Georgia's land grants and surveys, describes the land grant process this way: "To obtain a headright grant, the applicant had to appear before the land court in the county where the land he desired was located, describe the tract for which he wished to obtain a warrant, and take on oral oath declaring that he was legally entitled to a grant. ... The applicant usually accompanied the surveyor to show him the exact bounds to be laid out to supplement the vague description given in the warrant. The applicant was allowed great latitude in fixing his bounds. ... In addition, the applicant was obliged to furnish chainmen, who usually consisted of the applicant himself and one other person—perhaps a close relative or neighbor."¹⁸⁴

6 FEBRUARY 1792

WASHINGTON COUNTY, GEORGIA > MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Land Warrant.

"Georgia. By the Court of Justices of Washington County, to Fra. Tennille, Esquire County Surveyor for said County, You are hereby authorised and required to admeasure and lay out or cause to be admeasured and laid out unto **Thomas Watts**, a Tract of Land which shall contain **Two hundred Acres** in said County of Washington on Head Rights.

"Taking especial care that the same hath not heretofore been laid out to any other person or persons. And you are hereby also directed and required to record a plat of the same in your Office and transmit a copy thereof together with this warrant to the Surveyor General within the term of two years from this date. Given under Our hands as Justices of Said Court this Third day of May 1793.

¹⁸⁴ Faris W. Cadle, *Georgia Land Surveying History and Law* (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1991), 68, 71.

Rev. John Watts, Esq. (ca.1749—ca.1822)

Wife 1: Smith?

Wife 2: Judith “Judy” Rawls?

Attest Samuel Beckum, J.P.; Benj. Tennille C.W.C. [Signed] Dan^l. Burnet, J.P.; Benj. Tennille J.P.¹⁸⁵

COMMENT:

According to Cadle, the process for the completion of these land grants was as follows:

“Within three months after recording the plat in his office, the county surveyor transmitted a copy of it, along with the executed warrant, to the state surveyor general. When the grant fee [none applied in 1793] and office costs were paid, the surveyor general made a copy of the plat in a record book kept in his office. He retained the original plat in his files and transmitted a copy of it to the secretary of state’s office. This copy was attached to the grant, which was then signed by the governor. This done, the grant was returned to the secretary of state’s office for registering and affixing the state seal. It was then transmitted back to the county surveyor to be recorded in the county records and delivered to the grantee. If the grant fee and office fees were not paid into the state treasury within one year of the date of the warrant, the grant would be deemed lapsed and could be issued to any qualified person who should apply for it.”¹⁸⁶

19 DECEMBER 1793

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, GEORGIA

County creation.

Montgomery County was created in December 1793 from the lower half of Washington County. The land of **John** and **Thomas Watts** fell into the bounds of Montgomery. Those bounds were set as follows:

“... beginning at Carr's Bluff on the Oconee River, and running along the Uchee Path, to the place where said path crosses Williamson's Swamp; thence in a direct line to the Ogeechee River; thence down said river to the Effingham (now Screven) line; thence along said line to where it strikes the line of Liberty County; thence along said line to the Altamaha River, thence up the said river to the confluence of the Oconee and Oakmulgee Rivers; thence up to the Oconee to the beginning.”¹⁸⁷

1793–1800

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, GEORGIA

Map of Georgia counties.¹⁸⁸

¹⁸⁵ “Georgia, Headright and Bounty Land Records, 1783-1909,” images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org> : accessed 10 January 2014), volume “Warsdon, James – Watts, William,” folder “**Thomas Watts**,” images 523–24.

¹⁸⁶ Faris W. Cadle, *Georgia Land Surveying History and Law* (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1991), 68, 71.

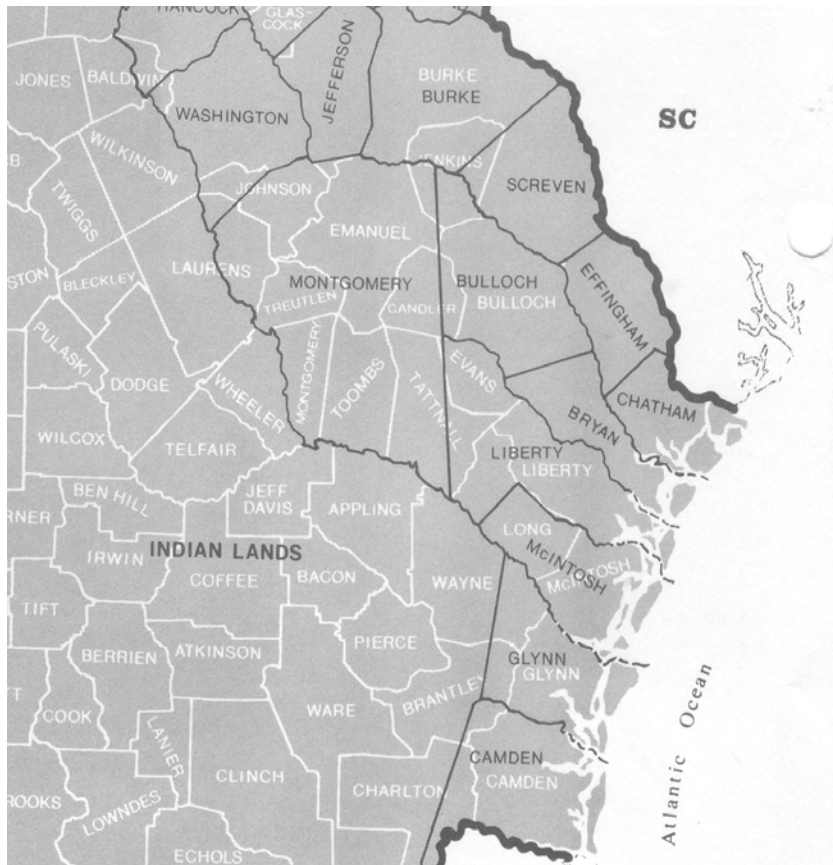
¹⁸⁷ F. Edward Schwabe Jr., *The Boundaries of Original Montgomery County* (N.p.: Montgomery County Historical Society, 1989), 6–7.

¹⁸⁸ William Thorndale and William Dollarhide, *Georgia 1790–1820* (Bountiful, UT: American Genealogical Lending Library, n.d.), 1800 map.

Rev. John Watts, Esq. (ca.1749—ca.1822)

Wife 1: Smith?

Wife 2: Judith “Judy” Rawls?



19 DECEMBER 1793

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, GEORGIA

Civic role.

“And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid [the state legislature], That Solomon Wood, John Watts, Francis Pew, Benjamin Harrison and Jesse Embrey, shall and are here-by appointed commissioners for fixing on a proper place to erect a court house and gaol for the county of Montgomery; until such public buildings are completed, the courts for the said county of Montgomery, shall be held at William Neal’s.”¹⁸⁹

COMMENT:

This same legislature (p. 525) also appointed “John Watts” to the committee to select the site of a new courthouse for Washington County. However, John Watts of Washington County was a different man—a state legislator and colonel of the militia.

1794

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, GEORGIA

Civic role.

“Petition for Establishing Corps of Soldiers on the Frontier (of Montgomery County) 1794.”¹⁹⁰

¹⁸⁹ Robert and George Watkins, *A Digest of the Laws of the State of Georgia . . . to the Year 1798, . . .* (Philadelphia: R. Aitken, 1800), 529.

¹⁹⁰ James E. Dorsey and John K. Derden, *Montgomery County, Georgia: A Source Book of Genealogy and History* (Spartanburg, S.C.: Reprint Co., 1983), 204; citing “File II, Georgia Department of Archives & History.”

Rev. John Watts, Esq. (ca.1749—ca.1822)

Wife 1: Smith?

Wife 2: Judith “Judy” Rawls?

COMMENT:

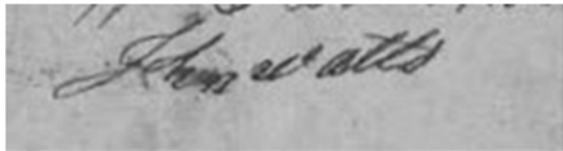
The 23 signatures included several of John Watts’s associates, but not his. We cannot propose that he did not sign because he was a county official, given that Jesse Embry [Embree] did sign. Might his failure to sign stem from illness [see note of 4 August 1794, below] or because, as his non-service in the Revolution might suggest, he had reservations about military actions?

4 AUGUST 1794

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, GEORGIA

Signature specimen.

Land court warrant to Sands Stanley, signed by the court justices.¹⁹¹



COMMENT:

In the court records of both Montgomery and Washington Counties, the signatures of both John Watts who served those counties differ radically on occasion—suggesting that other justices may have signed for them in their absence. The above is one of those occasions. Whatever the reason, someone else definitely signed for our John.

Past this point, the signatures of John Watts, Esq., of Montgomery and later Tattnall and Telfair Counties display noticeable shakiness, as though he has suffered a stroke or become palsied.

APRIL–NOVEMBER 1794

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, GEORGIA

Miscellaneous.

A published list of 99 names appearing in various cattle records during these months, with no detail other than a date for the name:¹⁹²

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 17. Richard Wiggins, Aug. 25, 1794 | [In-laws of John Watts] |
| 18. Daniel Wiggins, Aug. 25, 1794 | |
| 19. Jesse Embree (n.d.) | |
| 20. James Hancock, Aug. 25, 1794 | [tavern keeper, apparent father of Cader Hancock] |
| 21. Thader Price, Aug. 25, 1794 | [Cader Price, first father-in-law of Zilphy Watts] |
| 25. John Price , Aug. 25 1794 | [would marry Zilphy Watts ca. 1798–99] |
| 28. John Watts , Aug. 25, 1794 | [father of Zilphy] |

COMMENT:

Note the cluster of associated names, all grouped together under the same date: John Watts, his Wiggins in-laws, his future son-in-law John Price, Price’s father Cader, and the local tavern keeper who named a son after Cader Price. On this list of 99, these are the only men whose entry carry that date.

TO DO:

¹⁹¹ “Georgia, Headright and Bounty Land Records, 1783–1909,” images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org> : accessed 10 January 2014), volume “Stanford, David–Stevenson, William,” image 52, folder “Sands Stanley.” [Watts signed as 1 of 3 justices in Montgomery County.]

¹⁹² James E. Dorsey and John K. Derden, *Montgomery County, Georgia: A Source Book of Genealogy and History* (Spartanburg, S.C.: Reprint Co., 1983), 201; citing “Records, Marks and Brands and Estray Book, Hughes-Folsom Papers, Georgia Historical Society Collection 406, Box 3, Folder 44.”

Rev. John Watts, Esq. (ca.1749—ca.1822)

Wife 1: Smith?

Wife 2: Judith “Judy” Rawls?

- **Research the Hughes-Folsom Papers, Georgia Historical Society, Savannah, from which this list was extracted.**

13 JANUARY 1795

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Land sale.

Moses Hornsby and wife Caty sold their Fairfield land, consisting of

- 100 acres that Moses had inherited from his father Leonard on Hornsby’s Branch of Wateree Creek; it had been granted in 1757 to Moses Kirkland, adjacent to Frederick Pines, with land vacant on all sides.
- 215 acres granted to Moses Hornsby 7 November 1791, on Hornsby’s Branch of the Wateree, bounded NW on lands belonging [to] **Thos. Stone, John King**, and the said old tract granted to Moses Kirkland, SE on lands Granted to **Charles Lewis and John King**, NE on lands belonging to John Saunders ... recorded ...

Witnesses: **Charles Lewis, Dicy Watts** (X her mark).¹⁹³

COMMENT:

Moses would next appear on record on 20 January 1796 (see below) requesting land in Montgomery County, Ga., as a resident of Washington Co.

24 NOVEMBER 1795

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, GEORGIA

Jury list.

“The following persons were drawn to Serve on the petit Jury at the same Court”:¹⁹⁴

2. John Watts Junr.

9. Jesse Wiggans

26. William Leggett

COMMENT:

A Mary Legget appears in the family cluster on the 1820 census of Covington County, Mississippi. However, John’s daughter Mary married William Webb before leaving Georgia (see below) and the William Webbs also appear in the 1820 census cluster in Covington.¹⁹⁵

1796

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, GEORGIA

Indian depredation.

“Claimant: **Watts, Thomas**

County of Claim: Montgomery

Date petition signed: January 27, 1789 [*sic*; 1798]

Type of Instrument: Affidavit

¹⁹³ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book I: 330.

¹⁹⁴ Clifford Dwyer, *Montgomery County, Ga., Jury Lists, 1791 [1797], 1795, 1804* (Vidalia, Ga.: Montgomery County Records Preservation Committee, 1986). Dwyer errs in reading “1797” as “1791.” Montgomery County did not exist in 1791. The last digit in the year “1797” appears (on her published photocopy of the jury list) to be just a straight line; the crossbar of the 7 is lost amid the gray discoloration of the page. However, it is indisputably a 7; the date is written in old script that uses a long-tailed 7 and a long-tailed 9 (both extending deeply below the line) while his 1 is a short mark that stands on the line. The last digit in the year, like the second digit, is a long-tailed 7.

¹⁹⁵ Webb’s name is given incorrectly as *Wells* in “Georgia Marriages, 1699–1944,” database, *Ancestry* (www.Ancestry.com : accessed 1 July 2009).

Officials: Joel Sherard, J.P.

Other Names: None.

Subject: Claims that in 1796 Creek Indians stole a bay horse and bay mare from him valued at \$170.00.”¹⁹⁶

7 JANUARY 1796

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC

Witness.

Thomas Stone of Fairfield to William Bailey of **Amherst County, Virginia**. Sale for 40 pounds sterling, 200 acres lying in Amherst County on Dutch Creek bounded by Ralph Gobblings land, Statams, and Thomas Nash. Signed Thomas Stone (x). Witnesses: **John Watts**, *Micajah Picket*, Christopher Bowker. Picket proved the document on 7 January 1796 before Chas. Picket, J.P. L. Evans, Clerk of Court, then certified that *Micajah Picket* was a duly appointed justice of Fairfield, 7 January 1796.¹⁹⁷

COMMENT:

The neighborhood connections imply that the witness John Watts was our John:

- As noted above under January 1795, **Thomas Stone’s farm lay adjacent to Moses Hornsby**.
- Thomas Stone in 1791 was a neighbor of Obediah Hinson and John King¹⁹⁸—two men who appear as immediate census neighbors of our John Watts in 1790.
- The Pickets were also 1790 neighbors of our John Watts.
- **I have no 1795–96 documents for John in Montgomery County, Georgia, that would conflict with our John being back in Fairfield at this time.** As noted above under January 1795, his daughter Dicey Watts was in Fairfield witnessing a document for her sister and brother-in-law, Moses and Caty Hornsby. The family obviously did visit back and forth in the mid-1790s.
- Only one other John Watts has been placed in Fairfield. Our John’s proposed uncle Edward Watts Jr. had a son John who was an adult by 1810. However, I’ve seen no record to suggest that he was of age to witness documents by 1796.
- Weather may also be germane to the identity of this John Watts, associate of Thomas Stone. Nine days later, the county court of Fairfield was scheduled to convene. Instead, the county clerk in the county’s seat of Winsboro wrote in the court minutes:

“Saturday: the 16th day of January 1796. Court met according to Adjournment. **The waters being out and all creeks impassable none of the Judges attended**[.] Therefore the clerk called the court and adjourned the same until Monday the 18th.”¹⁹⁹

Given these conditions, it seems improbable that the John Watts who witnessed Stone’s deed would be the son of Edward Watts who was several waterways removed. It is more probable that our John Watts is already there, on a Christmas or post-Christmas visit.

Purpose of visit?

- Fairfield records document John’s ownership of a piece of land adjacent to Thomas Watts Jr. and John King. No sale of that property has been found. Possibly, he has returned to attend that property.
- Logic also suggests he was there visiting family. However, the daughter and son-in-law he left behind when he moved had sold their land a year earlier. Just 13 days after this, his son-in-law would request land in Montgomery County, Georgia (see below), saying he was a resident of Washington County.
- John’s known family in Fairfield and Kershaw includes his brothers Thomas Jr., William II, George, and Edward; also sisters Mary Kirkland, Elizabeth Duggans, Sarah “Sallie” Smith, and Agnes “Aggy” Addison.

¹⁹⁶ Donna B. Thaxton, ed., *Georgia Indian Depredation Claims* (Smericus, Ga.: Thaxton Co., 1988), 290.

¹⁹⁷ Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book K: 105-6.

¹⁹⁸ Camden District, SC, Commissioner of Locations, “Plat Book D, 1788–1791,” p. 184; Fairfield County, SC, Courthouse; FHL microfilm 1,294,175, item 2. Many of the page numbers are illegible.

¹⁹⁹ Brent Holcomb, *Fairfield County, South Carolina, Minutes of the County Court, 1785–1799* (Columbia, S.C.: SCMAR, ca. 1981), 121.

Rev. John Watts, Esq. (ca.1749—ca.1822)

Wife 1: Smith?

Wife 2: Judith “Judy” Rawls?

- Was Thomas Stone, for whom he served as first witness, also a family member whom he would have been visiting?

Re Thomas Stone:

- This document, by which Stone sells land in Amherst (formerly Albemarle), suggests a point of origin for Stone.
- One Thomas Stone in Albemarle/Amherst in the 1750s was a neighbor of William Mills, whose son Ambrose married **Mourning Stone** before leaving Virginia. William Mills’s daughter Sarah, as shown early in this set of research notes, married Thomas Watts there in Albemarle before they, too, left for the Wateree.
- The association of John Watts, son of Sarah (Mills) Watts, with Thomas Stone of Amherst strengthens the need to pursue the Stones.
- One Watts genealogy proposes that Edward Watts Sr. (John’s grandfather) was the son of Thomas and **Esther (Stone) Watts** of Culpeper. Proof is insufficient on two key points: (1) no evidence is offered to connect Edward Sr. of Lunenburg to the Edward named as a son in the will of the Culpeper Thomas; and (2) no evidence is offered at all for Esther’s proposed maiden name.²⁰⁰

20 JANUARY 1796

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, GEORGIA

Associates.

“Arthur Moore of Montg. Co. to **Moses Hornsby** of Washington Co. Deed dated January 20, 1796, for 200 acres lying on Ohoopsee River. Witnesses: Robert Lott and Jesse Wiggins.”

COMMENT:

- Moses and his wife (John’s daughter Caty) had sold their land in Fairfield District, SC, on 13 January 1795. (See that date above.) The fact that they first went to Washington Co., Ga., before buying land amid Caty’s family in adjacent Montgomery, suggests that either Moses or the Wattses had family members in Washington Co.
- On 29 October 1784, one Phillip Hornsby had land surveyed in Washington County.²⁰¹

4 MARCH 1796

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, GEORGIA

Civic role.

“Grand Jury, March 4, 1796 ... **Thomas Watts** ... **Jno. Watts.**”²⁰²

COMMENT:

- The published abstract leaves it unclear whether 4 March 1796 was the date on which (a) the jury list was drawn and reported, with cited individuals to appear at next term of court; or (b) the date of an actual trial at which Jno. Watts was a member of the grand jury.
- Either way, this John Watts should be **John Jr.** As a county justice, John Sr. would not be doing jury duty.

8 SEPTEMBER 1796

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, GEORGIA

Civic role.

²⁰⁰ Thomas A. Markham, *The Descendants of Edward Watts, 1650–1728* (http://www.tommymarkham.com/Watts/edward_watts-1.htm : accessed 7 May 2016).

²⁰¹ Clifford S. Dwyer, *Washington County, Georgia, Surveyor’s Plat Book A – 1784* (Gainesville, FL: Privately Printed, 1985), image of original pp. 222–225.

²⁰² James E. Dorsey and John K. Derden, *Montgomery County, Georgia: A Source Book of Genealogy and History* (Spartanburg, S.C.: Reprint Co., 1983), 186; no citation of book or page.

Rev. John Watts, Esq. (ca.1749—ca.1822)

Wife 1: Smith?

Wife 2: Judith “Judy” Rawls?

Appointment of justices:

“Justices of the Inferior Court: Jesse Embree, **John Watt**, and Aaron Lowe, 8 September 1796; John Jones and Robert Craig, 19 May 1798; Abner Davis, 11 March 1799.”²⁰³

Appointment of justices:

“Jesse Embree, **John Wates**, Willis Wood, Aaron Lowe, and Henry Gasten, Justices of the Inferior Court, 8 September 1796; John Jones and Robert Craig, 19 May 1798; Abner Davis, 11 March 1799.”²⁰⁴

COMMENT:

- This derivative source has two lists for the same function, with several differences—and cites a different original document for each.
- Note that, here, he is said to be appointed a J.I.C. on 8 September 1796. That appointment should have carried him to September 1797. However, in July 1797 he signed (shakily) as “John Watts, J.P.”—indicating a change in status. (Not all justices of the peace—i.e., the community justices—served on the inferior court.)

CA. JANUARY 1797

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, GEORGIA

Tax List.

Data categories:²⁰⁵

- Land (Swamp; Pine; Oak & Hickory, 2d or 3d quality)
- No. of Negroes
- No. of Polls
- Amt. of Tax [no distinction between state & county tax]

Data arrangement: Semi-alphabetical by first letter of surname

“W”

Williams, Rowlin	
Warren, Hinchy	400a 2d qual., 1 slave, 1 poll, \$.93 $\frac{3}{4}$
Wilford, Lewis	
Wilkinson, James	
Watts, John, Esqr.	460a 2d qual., 0 slave, 1 poll, \$.68 $\frac{3}{4}$
Watts, Thomas	400a 2d qual., 1 slave, 1 poll, \$.93 $\frac{3}{4}$
WIGGINS, Jesee Senr.	200a 2d qual., 1 poill. \$.47
WIGGINS, Jesse Junr.	100a 2d qual., 1 poll, \$.40
WIGGINS, Richard	1 poll \$.31 $\frac{1}{4}$
WIGGINS, Daniel	1 poll \$.31 $\frac{1}{4}$
Wilson, Spencer	

[end of “W” section]

COMMENT:

As an aside: this Hinchy Warren should be the brother of our ancestor John Warren who moved to Lawrence and Pike Cos., Miss., where his daughter Polly married John Boyd. Their son James would marry Elmira Price, the daughter of John Watts’s granddaughter Nancy (daughter of Zilphy Watts). A second daughter of John

²⁰³ Robert Scott Davis, *A History of Montgomery County, Georgia, to 1918* (Roswell, Ga.: WH Wolfe Associates for the Montgomery County Historical Society, 1992), 336; citing “Bound County Commission Books; Executive Department Commission Book; County Officers 1799–1803; Record Group 1-2-35/1, Georgia Department of Archives and History.”

²⁰⁴ Robert Scott Davis, *A History of Montgomery County, Georgia, to 1918* (Roswell, Ga.: WH Wolfe Associates for the Montgomery County Historical Society, 1992), 336; citing “Loose Original county commissions ... in Record Group 1-2-32, Georgia Department of Archives and History.” To this, Davis adds: “Some of these papers are only orders for commissions but others include signed personal property bonds, with names/signatures of friends or relatives as security.”

²⁰⁵ Montgomery Co., Ga., “Tax Digest ... 1797–1798”; FHL microfilm 159,160.

Rev. John Watts, Esq. (ca.1749—ca.1822)

Wife 1: Smith?

Wife 2: Judith "Judy" Rawls?

Warren married Thomas Gullede, an alleged grandson of **Barsheba (Watts) Gullede of Bedford Co., Va., and Anson Co., NC.** (See "Potential Kin" section that introduces this set of research notes.)

JANUARY 1797

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, GEORGIA

Jury list.

"State of Georgia, Montgomery County. Clerks Office, Superior Court of said County. January 1797. Present *Henry Gaeter* and **John Watts Esq.** The following persons were drawn to serve as Grand jurors at the next term of the Superior Court to be held in the said County on the 22nd March next, to wit:

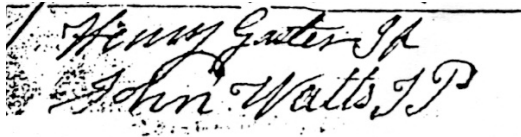
4. Willis Cason [formerly of Fairfield, where he lived amid John Watts's friends & associates]

15. Thomas Watts

23. Arthur Lott

COMMENT:

The published photocopy of the original list carries John Watts's signature:²⁰⁶

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John Watts Esq.", written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

BEF. JUNE 1797

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, GEORGIA

Associations.

"Mark May, Register of Probates: Marriage Licens" ...

"to Thomas Browning June the 11th 1797

Moses Hornsby RP Marriage License"²⁰⁷

COMMENT:

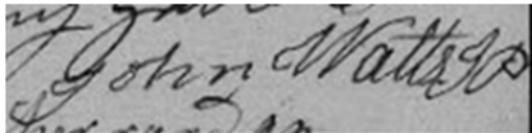
Hornsby's involvement in this license—and the RP after his name—are not yet explainable.

3 JULY 1797

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, GEORGIA

Signature Specimen.

Land court warrant to John Lott, signed by the Montgomery County inferior court justices.²⁰⁸

A close-up photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John Watts Esq.", written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

²⁰⁶ Clifford Dwyer, *Montgomery County, Ga., Jury Lists, 1791 [1797], 1795, 1804* (Vidalia, Ga.: Montgomery County Records Preservation Committee, 1986). Dwyer errs in reading "1797" as "1791." Montgomery County did not exist in 1791. The last digit in the year "1797" appears to be just a straight line on her published photocopy of the jury list, the crossbar of the 7 is lost amid the gray discoloration of the page. However, it is indisputably a 7; the date is written in old script that uses a long-tailed 7 and a long-tailed 9 (both extending deeply below the line) while his 1 is a short mark that stands on the line. The last digit in the year, like the second digit, is a long-tailed 7.

²⁰⁷ Montgomery Co., Ga., Miscellaneous Loose Papers filmed as FHL microfilm 159,033; also imaged at *FamilySearch* > "Georgia County Marriages, 1785–1950 > 0159033 (004849028), image 220 of 337.

²⁰⁸ "Georgia, Headright and Bounty Land Records, 1783-1909," images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org> : accessed 10 January 2014), volume "Livingston, Aaron–Louther, Joseph," folder "John Lott." [Signed as 1 of 3 justices in Montgomery County.]

Rev. John Watts, Esq. (ca.1749—ca.1822)

Wife 1: Smith?

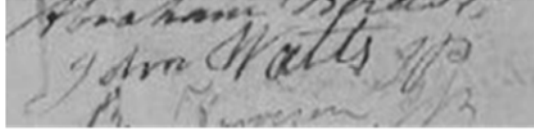
Wife 2: Judith "Judy" Rawls?

3 JULY 1797

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, GEORGIA

Signature Specimen.

Land court warrant to Robert Lott, signed by the Montgomery County inferior court justices.²⁰⁹



5 NOVEMBER 1797

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, GEORGIA

Civic Service.²¹⁰

Joel McLendon of Montgomery Co. for love and affection to son Lewis McLendon of Washington Co. ...

Witnesses: Rolley Robuck (x), **John Watts, J.P.**

5 NOVEMBER 1797

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, GEORGIA

Signature Specimen.

Land court warrant in favor of Sands Stanley, signed by Montgomery County Inferior Court justices.²¹¹



CA. JANUARY 1798

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, GEORGIA

Tax List.

Semi-alphabetized by first letter of surname.

WARREN, Hinchey	[same as 1797]
Watts, John, Esqr.	260a 2d qual., 0 slave, 1 poll, \$.68 $\frac{3}{4}$ [has disposed of 200 acres]
Watts, Thomas	400a 2d qual., 1 slave, 1 poll, \$.93 $\frac{3}{4}$
WIGGINS, Jesse Senr.	200a 2d qual., 1 poill. \$.47
WIGGINS, Jesse Junr.	100a 2d qual., 1 poll, \$.40
WIGGINS, Richard	1 poll \$.31 $\frac{1}{4}$
WIGGINS, Daniel	1 poll \$.31 $\frac{1}{4}$

COMMENT:

- **John Watts Jr.** does not appear as a taxpayer. Land records of the county do not show him with a purchase prior to this point. However, if he is in the county he should be paying a poll, given that he was of age to see jury duty two years earlier. Apparently, he has left the region; but his absence would not be permanent.
- **Enoch Hall & Lewis Hall** are added in this tax year, but not **Ignatius Hall** who, in 1806, was living with one Zilpha as his "wife."

²⁰⁹ "Georgia, Headright and Bounty Land Records, 1783-1909," images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org> : accessed 10 January 2014), volume "Livingston, Aaron-Louther, Joseph," folder "Robert Lott." He signed as 1 of 3 justices in Montgomery.

²¹⁰ Montgomery Co., Ga., Deeds & Mortgages E-F (1797-1799): 28.

²¹¹ "Georgia, Headright and Bounty Land Records, 1783-1909," images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org> : accessed 10 January 2014), volume "Stanford, David-Stevenson, William," image 51, folder "Sands Stanley." Signed as 1 of 3 justices.

Rev. John Watts, Esq. (ca.1749—ca.1822)

Wife 1: Smith?

Wife 2: Judith “Judy” Rawls?

27 JANUARY 1798

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, GEORGIA

Indian depredation.

“Claimant: **Watts, Thomas**

County of Claim: Montgomery

Date petition signed: January 27, 1798

Type of Instrument: Affidavit

Officials: Joel Sherard, J.P.

Other names: Jacob Darbey, Abraham Phillips, *Jessey Wiggians*, **John Watts**, **Absolem Watts [Lott?]**

Subject: Claims that in 1796 Creek Indians stole the following from him: one bay gelding, one bay mare. Further states that the two horses were valued at \$170.00. Also claims that Indians stole 3 horses from Jacob Darbey. Further claims that Indians stole two horses from Abraham Phillips.”²¹²

BEF. 12 MARCH 1798

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, GEORGIA

Sale of Land.

John Watts to **Thomas Wattes**, both of Montgomery County. Sale for 20 pounds sterling, of 200 acres on the Ohoopsee River, “beginning at a Stake at the mouth of the branch on *Darby’s* land ... [no other neighbors or landmarks named]. Witnesses: **John Barr**, John Martin.²¹³

12 MARCH 1798

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, GEORGIA

Sale of Land.

John Watts of Montgomery County to **Archabald Culbraith** of same, sale for \$171, **200 acres** “being part of a tract of land containing four hundred and sixty acres, **on which the said John Watts now lives, including a plantation.** Beginning at the mouth of the **Bluff Branch at the Ohoopsee river**, running with the said Bluff Branch to the second line, thence N 60 West to the tract corner, thence N 30 E to the Ohoopsee river, thence with the said river to the first station. Witnesses: Lazerus Solomon (x), James Erighich [*sic*], Aron Low, J.P. Recorded 23 July 1802.²¹⁴

COMMENT:

- John has now sold all but 60 acres of his 1792 grant. He’s only 49, much too young to be downsizing.
- Why would John sell a chunk of family land to Culbraith? Is he in debt and in need of cash? Is it possible that Culbraith married one of John’s not-yet-identified daughters?
- Two and a half years would pass before he would petition for the rest of the land that was due him under Georgia’s headright laws.
- How will John now support his exceedingly large family on just 60 acres? If his only occupation is *farmer* or *planter*, then his acreage would not allow adequate support. If he has a supplemental occupation such as *mill*, then little land would be needed—only a site appropriate for a mill.

4 JUNE 1798

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, GEORGIA

Signature specimen.

²¹² Donna B. Thaxton, ed., *Georgia Indian Depredation Claims* (Americus, Ga.: Thaxton Co., 1988), 291.

²¹³ Montgomery Co., Ga., Deeds & Mortgages E-F (1797–1799): 175–76. John Barr’s 1800–2 plat in Tattnall Co. shows him with 150 acres adjoining **Mark Lott**. See image files for Tattnall plats.

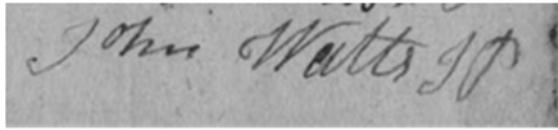
²¹⁴ Montgomery Co., Ga., Deed Book CPG: 322–23.

Rev. John Watts, Esq. (ca.1749—ca.1822)

Wife 1: Smith?

Wife 2: Judith "Judy" Rawls?

Land court warrant for Lewis Hall, signed by Montgomery County justices.²¹⁵



SEPTEMBER 1798

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, GEORGIA

Civic role.

"To his Excellency the Governor of the State of Georgia. The Petition of the undersigned Inhabitants of the County of Montgomery Humbly shewerth That Benjamin Satter hath been convicted this present September term of pettie larceny[,] that from the unfortunate situation of the unhappy youth, he being a person of an unsound mind, and whose punishment cannot operate to prevent the Commission of crimes nor as an example to other offenders; and from several other circumstances your Petitioners are induced to humbly pray that your excellency will be pleased to exercise the pleasing preogative [*sic*] of mercy and pardon an unfortunate young man. [52 signees include 5 j.p.'s] ... Robert Lott, **Willis Cason JP** ... **John Watts, JP** ... John **Mobley** ... Arthur Lott ... Capt. John Lott ... **Moses Hornsbe** ... *Jessey Wiggins*.²¹⁶

COMMENT:

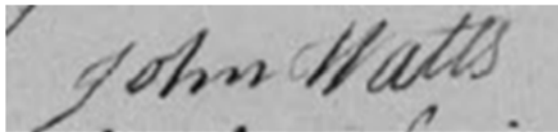
- Note that the list include Willis Cason and a Mobley who (like John Watts) migrated from Bedford Co., Va., through Fairfield, to Montgomery Co., Ga. The other signers include Watts's son-in-laws Moses "Hornsbe" (also formerly of Fairfield, husband of Caty) and Jesse Wiggins (husband of Barsheba "Barbara" Watts). As with the 1783 character affidavit that John Watts signed, the signers of this one were all likely part of the same neighborhood and extended family network.
- Note also that the name *Willis* was the name John Watts's daughter Amy (b. 1794) is said to have given to a son born prior to her marriage to Thomas Aultman.²¹⁷

1 OCTOBER 1798

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, GEORGIA

Signature specimen.

Land Court warrant for Simon Hadley, signed by Montgomery County court justices.²¹⁸



Signature specimen.

Land Court warrant for Joel Sherrard, signed by Montgomery County court justices.²¹⁹

²¹⁵ "Georgia, Headright and Bounty Land Records, 1783–1909," images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org> : accessed 10 January 2014), volume "Hall, Benjamin–Hammond, John," image 122, folder "Lewis Hall." [Jonathan Hall was also a J.P.].

²¹⁶ Robert Scott Davis, *A History of Montgomery County, Georgia, to 1918* (Roswell, Ga.: WH Wolfe Associates for the Montgomery County Historical Society, 1992), 25; citing "Box 44, Telamon Cuyler Collection, MS 1170, University of Georgia Libraries."

²¹⁷ McGrew, *Watts Is My Line*, 23.

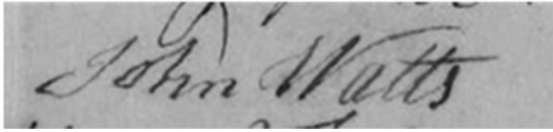
²¹⁸ "Georgia, Headright and Bounty Land Records, 1783–1909," images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org> : accessed 10 January 2014), volume "Guntry, John–Haley, William," image 150, folder "Simon Hadley." Signed as 1 of 3 justices.

²¹⁹ "Georgia, Headright and Bounty Land Records, 1783–1909," images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org> : accessed 10 January 2014), volume "Sherod, Joel–Short, Jonas," image 28, folder "Joel Sherrard." Signed as 1 of 3 justices.

Rev. John Watts, Esq. (ca.1749—ca.1822)

Wife 1: Smith?

Wife 2: Judith "Judy" Rawls?



3 DECEMBER 1798

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, GEORGIA

Land Grant.

"To Abraham Bird Esqr. Surveyor for the County of Montgomery, you are hereby authorised and Required to lay out and admeasure or cause to be laid out and admeasured unto **Thomas Watts** a tract of Land which Shall contain three hundred acres on headrights. Taking Especial Care that the same has not been laid out to any other Person or Persons and you are hereby also directed and required to record a Plat of the same in your office and transmit a Copy thereof together with the warrant to the Surveyor General within the term of two years from this date. Given under our hands this 3d day of December 1798. [Signed] Wm. Neel, Abraham Bird, Abner Davis. Test: W. Rentfro, CMC [Clerk, Montgomery County]

COMMENT:

When Thomas arrived in Georgia in 1792, he applied for the 200 acres due him as a single head-of-household. The additional 300 acres would represent six dependents—a wife, children, and/or slaves.

1799–1804

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, GEORGIA

Tax List.

COMMENT:

None seem to have survived.

4 AUGUST 1800

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, GEORGIA

Land Grant.

"To Abner Davis Esqr. Surveyor for the County of Montgomery, You are hereby authorised & Required to Admeasure Cause to be admeasured & Laid out unto **John Watts**, A tract of Land which shall contain Five Hundred Acres on head Rights, taking especial care that the same has not been Laid out unto any other person or persons and you are hereby also Directed & Required to Record a plat of the same in Your office & transmit a Copy thereof Together with this warrant to the Surveyor General in the term of two Years from this Date Given under our hands this Fourth Day of August 1800. [Signed] James Sartain, Abner Davis, Edward Dugliss; Attest: W? Rentfro, C. L. C. [Clerk of the Land Court].²²⁰

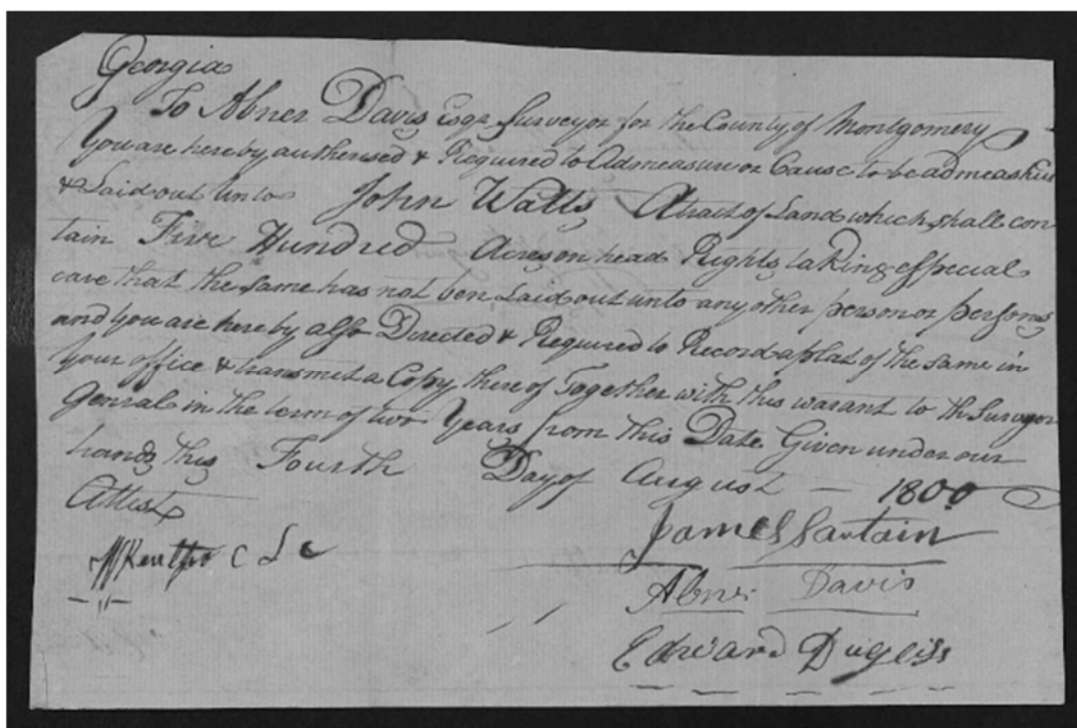
Back of Warrant: "**John Watts, Esq.**, 500, Surveyed 7th August 1800."

²²⁰ "Georgia, Headright and Bounty Land Records, 1783–1909," images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org> : accessed 10 January 2014), volume "Warsdon, James – Watts, William," folder "**John Watts**," images 485–86.

Rev. John Watts, Esq. (ca.1749—ca.1822)

Wife 1: Smith?

Wife 2: Judith "Judy" Rawls?



COMMENT:

John Watts has now received 960 acres of headright land—450 in February 1792 and now 500. Under Georgia law, John's 960 acres would represent:

Himself	200 acres	
Wife	50 acres	
Slaves	0 acres	[he owned none]
Son Thomas	0 acres	[Thomas claimed his own in February 1792]
Daughter Caty	0 acres	[She was married and remained in S.C.]
14 children	<u>700 acres</u>	
Total	950 acres	

This tally supports the traditional assertions that John had 16 children (even though the 16 are identified differently on various lists)

BEF. 9 NOVEMBER 1801

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, GEORGIA

Witness.

"Robert Jackson [to] William McGee. Wit: Baldwin F(—), **J. Watts.**"²²¹

COMMENT:

The abstracts of this note provide no other detail. The witness's form of signature, "J. Watts," is not that of John Watts, Esq. Possibly, this could be the John Jr. However, the land warrants and surveys for the adjacent county of Washington show a "J. Watts" signing many documents under that form.

CA. 1800–1802

²²¹ James E. Dorsey and John K. Derden, *Montgomery County, Georgia: A Source Book of Genealogy and History* (Spartanburg, S.C.: Reprint Co., 1983), 77, citing Deed Book G: 125.

Rev. John Watts, Esq. (ca.1749—ca.1822)

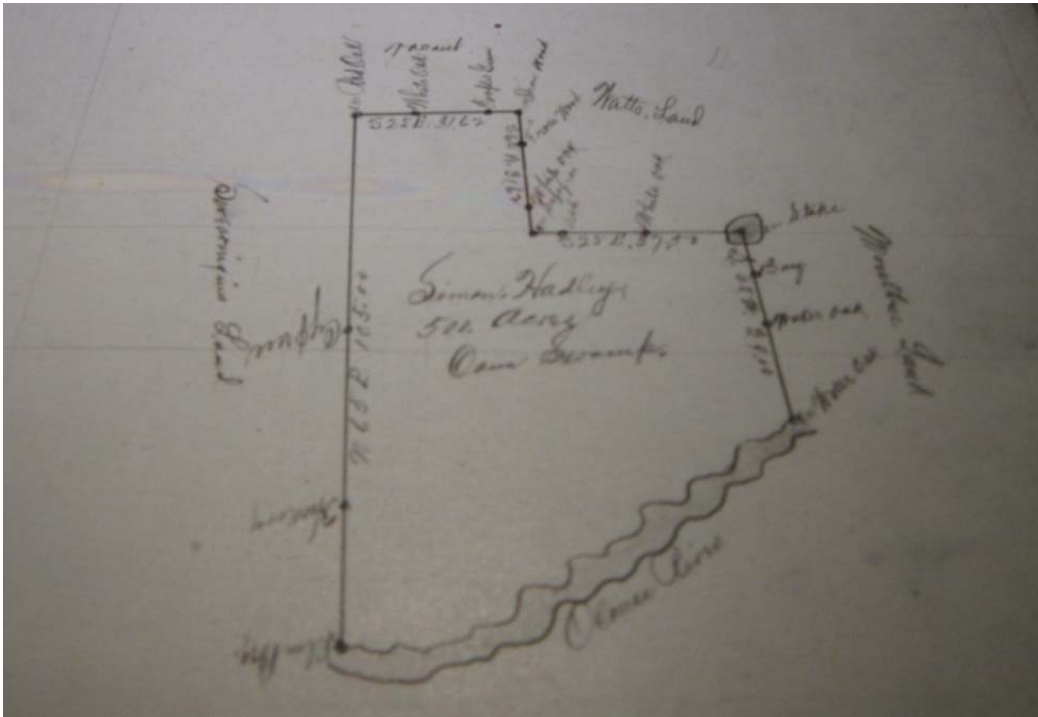
Wife 1: Smith?

Wife 2: Judith "Judy" Rawls?

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, GEORGIA

Land Plat.²²²

Simon Hadley plat, 500a Cane Swamp, adj. Oconee, Moultrie, **Watts**, Swearingen. Imaged.



COMMENT:

Hadley's north line exactly matches the configuration of the plat for Moses "Hansby," but the "Hansby" plat is drawn in the book upside down. That large plat for "Hansby" also drops down to the Oconee, wrapping the west side of Swearingen's land above.

1800—1802

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, GEORGIA

Land Plat.

Abner Davis plat, 425a swamp lands, adj. **John Watts**, "Surveyed Land," "Vacant" and Oconee River.

COMMENT:

This tract is important to the argument that (a) Cader Price's son John, when he married Zilphy, married a neighborhood girl; and (b) Zilphy's father was a neighbor of Cader and John.²²³ Consider the following:

- Jan 1798 **Abner Davis** bought land; witness was **Cader Price**, father of John
- Mar 1799 John Price sues Zilpha for divorce; she, as a propertyless wife, has an attorney, typically provided by her family; **her attorney is Flournoy.**
- Oct 1799 John Price & father Cader exchange lands, using **Abner Davis, J.P.**
- 1800-1802 **Abner Davis's** land grant adjoined land of **John Watts**, Zilpha's father.²²⁴
- Oct 1803 **Thomas Watts**, son of John, goes to court on behalf of **Abner Davis**, using **attorney Flournoy**, although there were at least seven attorneys practicing in the county, among whom he could have chosen.

²²² Montgomery Co., Ga., "Old Field Book – Plats, 1800–1802," 37.

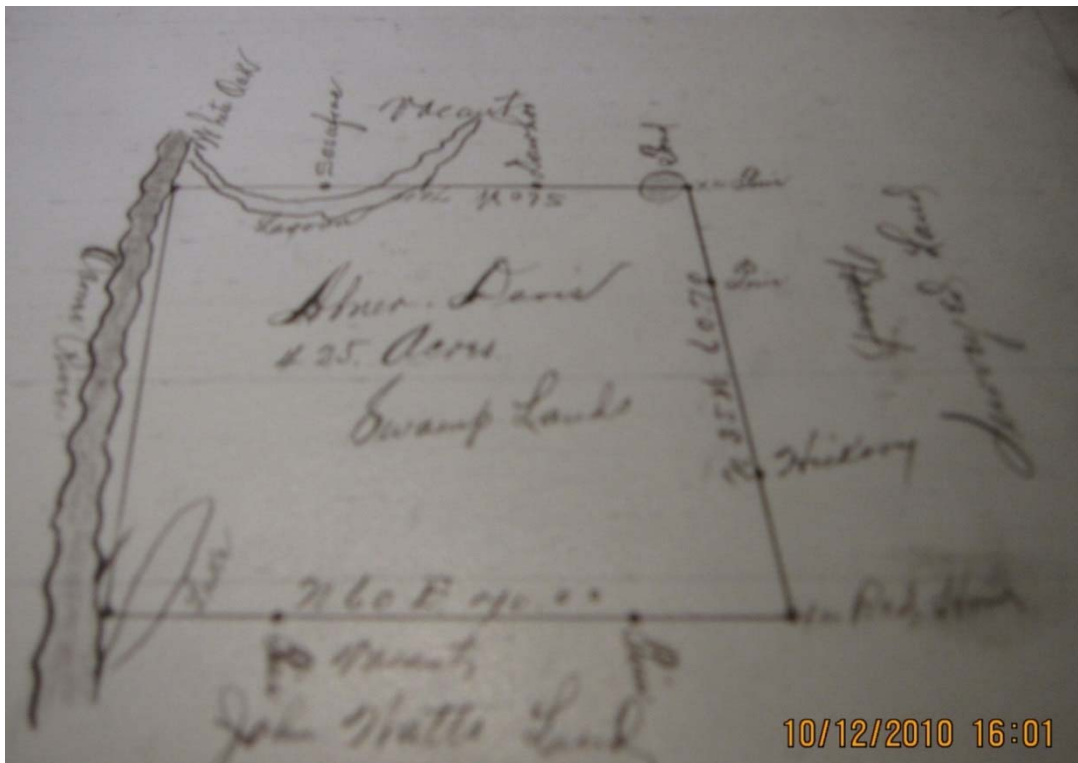
²²³ This argument is now proved by DNA. See Mills, "Testing the FAN Principle against DNA."

²²⁴ Montgomery County, Georgia, "Old Field Book – Plats, 1800-1882," p. 43; FHL Microfilm 218,814.

Rev. John Watts, Esq. (ca.1749—ca.1822)

Wife 1: Smith?

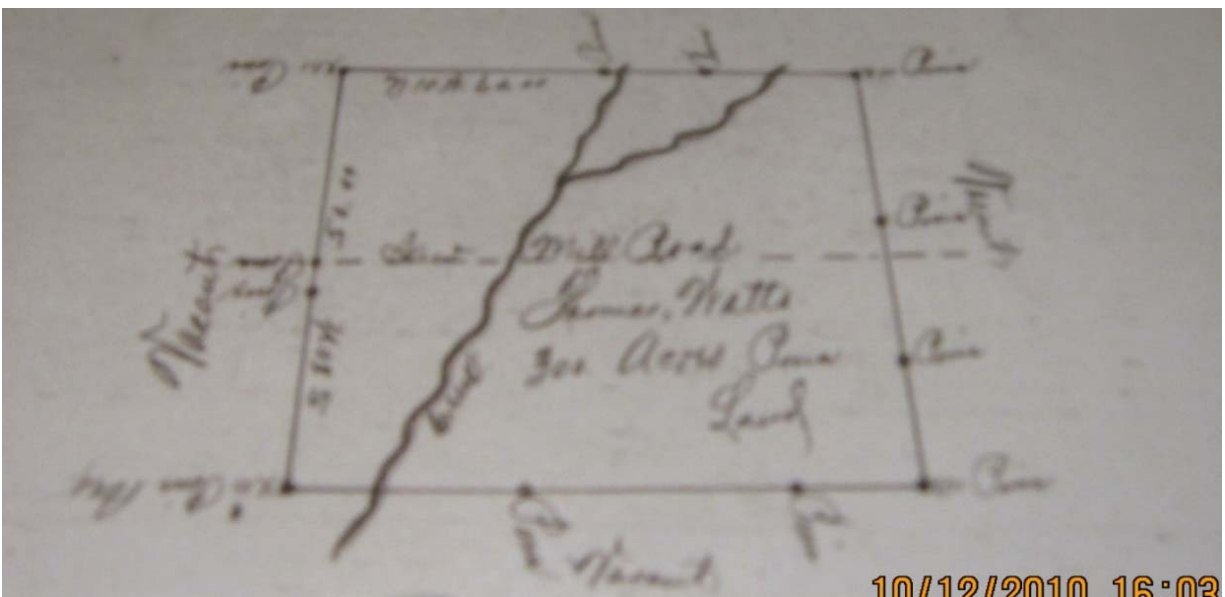
Wife 2: Judith "Judy" Rawls?



1800–1802

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, GEORGIA

Thomas Watts plat, 300a pine, on [unnamed] Creek and Saw Mill Road; vacant on all sides²²⁵



225 Montgomery County, Georgia, "Old Field Book – Plats, 1800–1882," p. 44; FHL Microfilm 218,814.

Rev. John Watts, Esq. (ca.1749—ca.1822)

Wife 1: Smith?

Wife 2: Judith "Judy" Rawls?

1800–1802

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, GEORGIA

Moses Hornsby, 930 acres on Oconee; adj. Johnson, Chance, Durden, Oconee, Swerringen, Moultrie, Vacant, Smith; imaged.²²⁶



COMMENTS:

- See p. 10 for Durden and Chance (Jos Sessions also had land adj. Durden & Chance
- See p. 37 for Simon Hadley, adjoining **Watts, Moultrie, Swerringen**
- Hornsby's plat (*see below*) is drawn into the book upside down.
- See the plats for Hadley and Swerringen, whose surveys were made before Hornsby's survey. Their configurations along the Oconee match the "north" line of Hornsby above; but the Oconee is shown to the *south* of both men.
- **Note particularly, above**, the "plug" of Hornsby's land that adjoins Hadley. When Hadley's land was surveyed and platted, this plug belonged to "Watts," ostensibly John Watts, Hornsby's father-in-law.

1800–1802

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, GEORGIA

Samuel Windham's plat, 250a pine and swamp; adj. **Watts, Moultrie**, Sherrad, Winter, Roberts.²²⁷

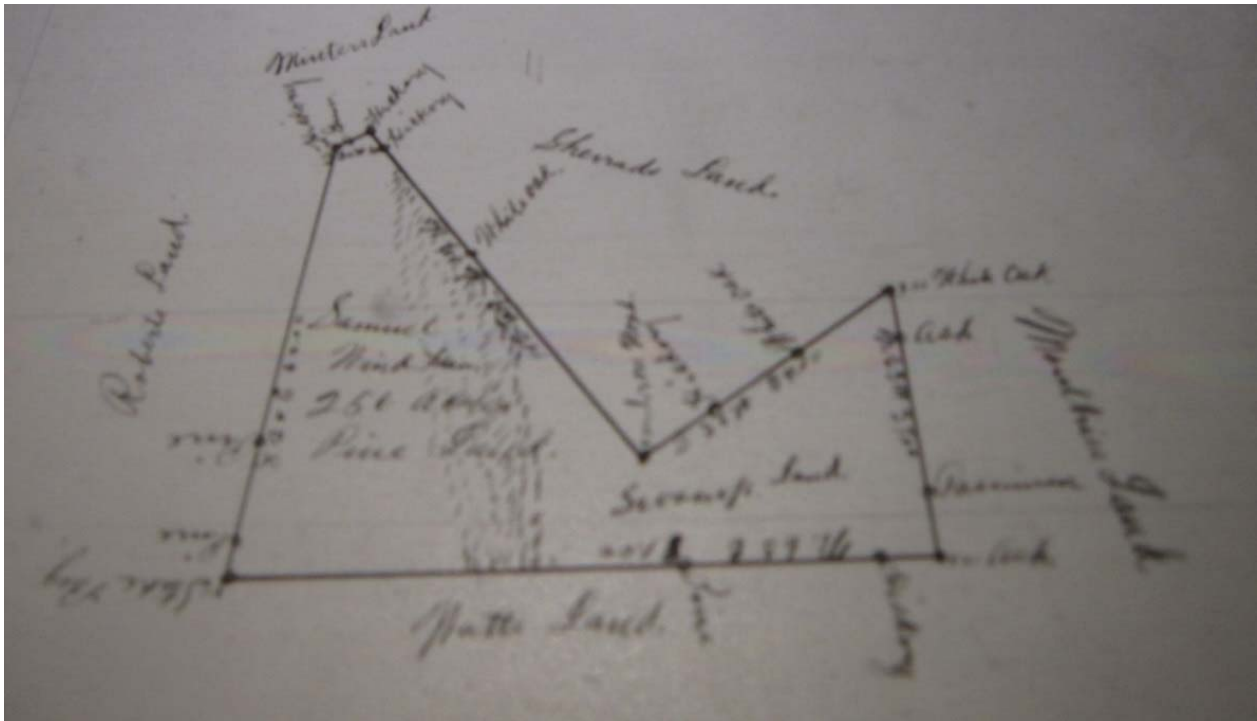
²²⁶ Montgomery County, Georgia, "Old Field Book – Plats, 1800–1882," p. 46; FHL Microfilm 218,814.

²²⁷ Montgomery County, Georgia, "Old Field Book – Plats, 1800–1882," p. 46; FHL microfilm 218,814.

Rev. John Watts, Esq. (ca.1749—ca.1822)

Wife 1: Smith?

Wife 2: Judith "Judy" Rawls?



1801–1802

TATTNALL COUNTY, GEORGIA

County Creation.

By act of 5 December 1801, Tattnall was created from Montgomery County. Records actually begin in 1802. The county's bounds are described as follows: "beginning at the mouth of Limestone Creek on the Oconee river, and from thence a direct course to the mouth of Wolfe Creek on Great Canouchee, from thence down Canouchee to the mouth of Cedar Creek, from thence keeping the late established line between Liberty County and Montgomery [at?] the mouth of Beard's Creek on the Altamaha."

1801–1810

MONTGOMERY-TATTNALL-WASHINGTON COUNTIES, GEORGIA

County creation.

Map of Georgia counties, showing Tattnall as it existed in this decade. ²²⁸

²²⁸ William Thorndale and William Dollarhide, *Georgia 1790–1820* (Bountiful, UT: American Genealogical Lending Library, n.d.), 1810 map.

1802–3–4

TATTNALL COUNTY, GEORGIA

Tax Digest.

Arrangement:²³¹

- Not alphabetical at all; unpaginated; no references to district
- Consolidates data for three years under each name (hence, its label as a *digest*)

Data categories²³²

- Names of persons liable to pay tax
- County in which land &c is situated
- “High river Swamp & from Cathead on the Alatomaha &c to the mouth of the Oconee River
- “High river Swamp & from the mouth of the Oconee to the confluence of the Oconee and Apalachie
- Surveyed for or Granted to [Part of each name in this column is bound into crack]
- “Pine land throughout this state” [Most of column is bound in crack; entire heading is visible on just one page of the roll.]
- Free male white person above 21 years of age
- Negroes &c under 60 years of age
- Total amt. of each person’s tax
- Dates in which the is due [*sic*]
- County tax

[The two “High river Swamp” categories are broken down by 1st, 2d, and 3d quality.]

p. 3

LOTT, Absalom	1802	200a 2d qual., Oconee mouth to confl., gr. to A. Lott, 1 poll, 11 slaves
	1803	Ditto
	1804	Ditto

p.4

LOTT, John Junr	1802	300a 2d qual., Cathead to mouth, gr. to Saml. M____ _50 pine land, gr. to Jones Biven _00 pine land, gr. to Jas. Biven 1 poll, 4 slaves
	1803	Ditto
	1804	Ditto, with 2 alterations: • addition of _00 acres pine land, patented to Robt. Lott • he now has 10 slaves

pp. 5-6, names in sequence

Mobley, John

Embree, Jesse

[1793 served with John Watts on committee to select courthouse location/
chose Arthur Lott’s land]

[1806 witness to Arthur Lott’s sale of land to Jonathan Embree]

Martin, Hardin

[bought land from John Lott Jr. 1805; his wife was a Mobley²³³]

²³¹ Tattnall Co. Ga., “Tax Digest, 1802–1803,” section tab: “1802-3-4”; FHL microfilm 0,206,455, item 2.

²³² The first page of this roll has more categories; but its layout was not used past the first page. No people of interest appear on that first page. For full details, see E. S. Mills’s report, “Cooksey & Allied Families—Tax Data: Montgomery & Tattnall Counties, Georgia,” 3 January 2011, archived at Mills, *Historic Pathways* (www.historicpathways.com), “Research” tab.

²³³ Martin Hardin married Lucretia **Mobley**, 1806; in 1810, he became the brother-in-law of Jesse **Byrd**, who married Sarah Ann **Mobley**, and James **Grace**, who married Lucy **Mobley**. See Marilu Burch Smallwood, *Burch, Harrell, and Allied Families*, vol. 1 (Washington, N.C.: N.P., n.d.), unpaginated; OCR or typescript (<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mobley/burch.txt> : accessed 1 January 2010). Also see Linda Cooper, “Descendants of William Grace: Generation No. 3,” *Linda Cooper’s Home Page* (<http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/c/o/o/Linda-Cooper-Gatesville/index.html> : accessed 1 April 2011).

Stafford Ezekiel		[allegedly married Mary Rawls] ²³⁴
Lott, Arthur	1802	50M____ 237 ½ a 3d qual. Cathead to mouth, gr. to Hi____ _87 ½ a pine land gr. to Ford _87 ½ a pine land gr. to Satawhite __0 a pine land gr. to A. Lott 1 poll
	1803-4	Ditto
Cooksey, Wm.	1802	175a (Mtgy), 3d qual, Oconee mouth to conf., gr. to Wm. Co____ 200 pine land, gr. to Wm. Cooksey 1 white male above 21, 0 slave, \$.87 ½ (state tax), \$.43 ¾ (county tax)
	1803-4	Ditto
Cooper, Richd.		[1809: JP. His bondsman in a suit was Ignatius Hall (Murray, 1:46) whose 1806 wife was said to be one Zilpha (Murray, 1:35)]
Longeno, Bartholomew		
		[page break]
Travis, Asa	1802-4	Part of pine land was acquired from [Davi]d Boyd
		[rest of p. 6 not copied]

COMMENTS:

The column generally called 'poll' is, this year, called "white male persons above the age of 21 years." There is no maximum age, only a minimum.

p. 7

LOTT, Robt. 1 poll

pp. 11–12

[sequence copied exactly]

LOTT, Mark

Daniel, Enoch

Standly, Wm.

HALL, Lewis for

HALL, Enoch

Leary, Dempsey

LOTT, Nathn.

LOTT, Nathn. for Wm. Lott

LOTT, Simon

Do. for Wm. Lott

According to Smallwood, the Tattnall Mobleys descend from the Lunenburg Co., Va., family (a family that neighbored Rev. John Watts's father Thomas Watts. As an example of the extent to which these Tattnall families gave family surnames as given names: the sons of James and Lucy (Mobley) Grace included (according to Cooper, above):

- Byrd Mobley Grace (named for his mother's family and that of his mother's brother-in-law, Jesse Byrd).
- Martin Harden Grace (named for his mother's brother-in-law, Martin Hardin).

According to Billy Wayne Mobley, *The Mobleys of South Georgia, Berrien County* (<http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/m/o/b/Billy-W-Mobley/WEBSITE-0001/UHP-0096.html> : accessed 1 January 2011), the parents of these Mobley girls were John Mobley and Sarah Ann Barfield. (Note: In Rankin and Newton County, Mississippi, the Watts and Cooksey offspring intermarried with Barfields; the possibility of a connection seems, at best, remote. However, the Mobleys and the Watts were connected in multiple ways in Fairfield District, SC, and Lunenburg-Bedford Counties, Virginia.)

²³⁴ Ezekiel Stafford (1773–1853) is said to have married Mary Rawls. For Stafford, see Jim Lucas, "Knight/Stafford/Surrency /Hall," *Tattnall County, Georgia, Message Board* (www.ancestry.com : posted 29 October 2002).

[page break; then sequence continues]

WATSON, John
BOWEN, Levi
WATSON, Jonathan
Coleman, Moses
BOWEN, Elijah
McKelvey, Wm.

[Mary Cooksey married Robert Watson, 1810]

[His presence places this neighborhood in the "McElvy District" of the unknown-date tax roll]

[McKelvey owned 200 a. in Burke, patented to Eliza. McK.]

[Rest of page not copied here; this marks end of roll.]

COMMENT:.

Neither John nor Thomas Watts are taxed in Tattnall in this year.

MAY 1803—1 MARCH 1804

TATTNALL COUNTY, GEORGIA

Land lottery.

1805 lottery. Official land-office roster has entries presented in alphabetical order statewide. Registration held May 1803—1 March 1804.

Data drawn from the published editions of the statewide index:

"PRICE, John"	Montgomery County	No. 858	drew 2 blanks
"PRICE, Zilpha"	Tattnall County	No. 1008	drew 2 blanks
"PRICE, Zilpha (& 2 children)"	Tattnall County	No. 1013	drew 2 blanks
"WATTS, John"	Tattnall County	No. 1542	drew 2 blanks ²³⁵

COMMENT:

Regarding John Price:

Two draws were allotted to men who claimed to be white male citizens, aged 21 or older, with a wife and/or legitimate minor children. John's father Cader did not apply, having died about 1800—1.²³⁶ The fact that John claimed a wife **and/or** children while Zilphy also filed is another indication that their marriage had dissolved.

Regarding Zilphy:

Only one Zilphy Price has been placed in Tattnall County, the Zilphy who married John Price and was then sued by him for divorce just months later (1799). Tradition among her offspring attribute two children to that marriage—the Rev. Cader Price (born 8 January 1800) and Reuben Price, born 1802—details compatible with the data above.

Two possible explanations exist for the duplicate registrations in the name of "Zilphy Price."

1. (Proposed by some researchers, but highly improbable) Shortly before his death, Cader Price *might* have remarried—and he *might* have married a woman with the same name as the girl who had married his son. The known facts are these:

Beginning 22 March 1796, the local clerk kept a loose sheet on which he listed the names of males who had paid for marriage licenses. Under date of 15 September 1798 he entered the name "Cader Prise."²³⁷

²³⁵ Graham, 1805 Georgia Land Lottery, 449; Wood and Wood, 1805 Georgia Land Lottery, 281.

²³⁶ For abstracts of the documents that bracket Cader Price's death to the 1800—1 period, see Elizabeth Shown Mills, "Cooksey & Associated Families: Montgomery & Tattnall Counties, Georgia," report to Cooksey Research Group, 1 June 2009.

²³⁷ "List of Marriage Licenses beginning March 22, 1796," unnumbered sheet, in Montgomery Co., Ga., Miscellaneous Loose Papers filmed as FHL microfilm 159,033.

No bride was named, only the name of the person who *paid for the license*. No such entry was made for John Price, who married Zilphy during the period this list was maintained.

Two possible explanations exist for the fee record:

- Cader did indeed take a wife and leave a widow—one who, very coincidentally, bore the same uncommon name as the young girl his son married; or
- Cader went in to the clerk’s office and obtained the marriage license for his son and the clerk entered Cader’s name in his fee book because Cader paid for the license. This second probability is the likeliest one.

If the first Zilphy of the 1803–4 lottery registration was indeed Cader’s widow, then yet another coincidence exists, the second being that she (like John’s wife) left Montgomery and relocated in Tattnall. Obviously, these alternative explanations for the identity of the first Zilphy of the land lottery list invoke a tortured chain of circumstances.

More likely:

2. Zilphy, as a single mother, was double-registered in Tattnall. By longstanding custom in the American South prior to the 20th century, legal business for females was usually transacted by their male kinfolk, particularly if they were young women. Zilphy, as a woman who defied conventions, may have registered herself and children, not knowing that a family member had registered for her.

A fragment of the original roll survives for Tattnall County, penned in a small handbook with roughly 15–20 names per page. That fragment presents Zilphy’s father, brother, and brother-in-law on the same page, in an eight-person cluster with William Cooksey, Cooksey’s daughter Letty, and Letty’s “natural” son Henry Duke. The arrangement also suggests that one of these family members applied for Zilphy, not knowing that she had applied separately. See the next research note.

**MAY 1803–1 MARCH 1804
TATTNALL COUNTY, GEORGIA**

Land lottery.

Original local roster, with entries presented in chronological sequence as the applicants presented themselves. The relevant page provides this cluster:²³⁸

161	Neil Paterson	
162	Thomas Hall	
163	Joel Sherwood	
164	Thomas Bridges	
165	William Hatten	
166	James English	[one Margaret English bore illegit child, 1804 (Murray 1:13)]
167	James Viner	
169	Thomas Viner	
170	William Coxy	1, 1 [sic]
172	Henry Duke	1 [illegitimate son of Letty]
173	Letty Duke	1 [Letty Cooksey, daughter of William]
173	John Swilly	2
174	David [Daniel?] Payne	2
175	John Watts	2 [proposed father of Zilpha, aka Zilphy]
176	Thomas Watts	2 [son of John Watts]
177	Moses Hornsby	[torn] [m. Katherine Watts]
178	Zilphy Price	

²³⁸ Tattnall Co., Ga., Mixed Records of the Inferior & Superior Courts, 1807–45; microfilm A&H 101 (drawer 37, box 47), Ga. Dept. of Archives & History, Atlanta. Ignatius Hall appears on a separate page as no. 211. However, no “number of draws” appears after his name. If single and over 21, he should have been entitled to one draw; if married, two draws.

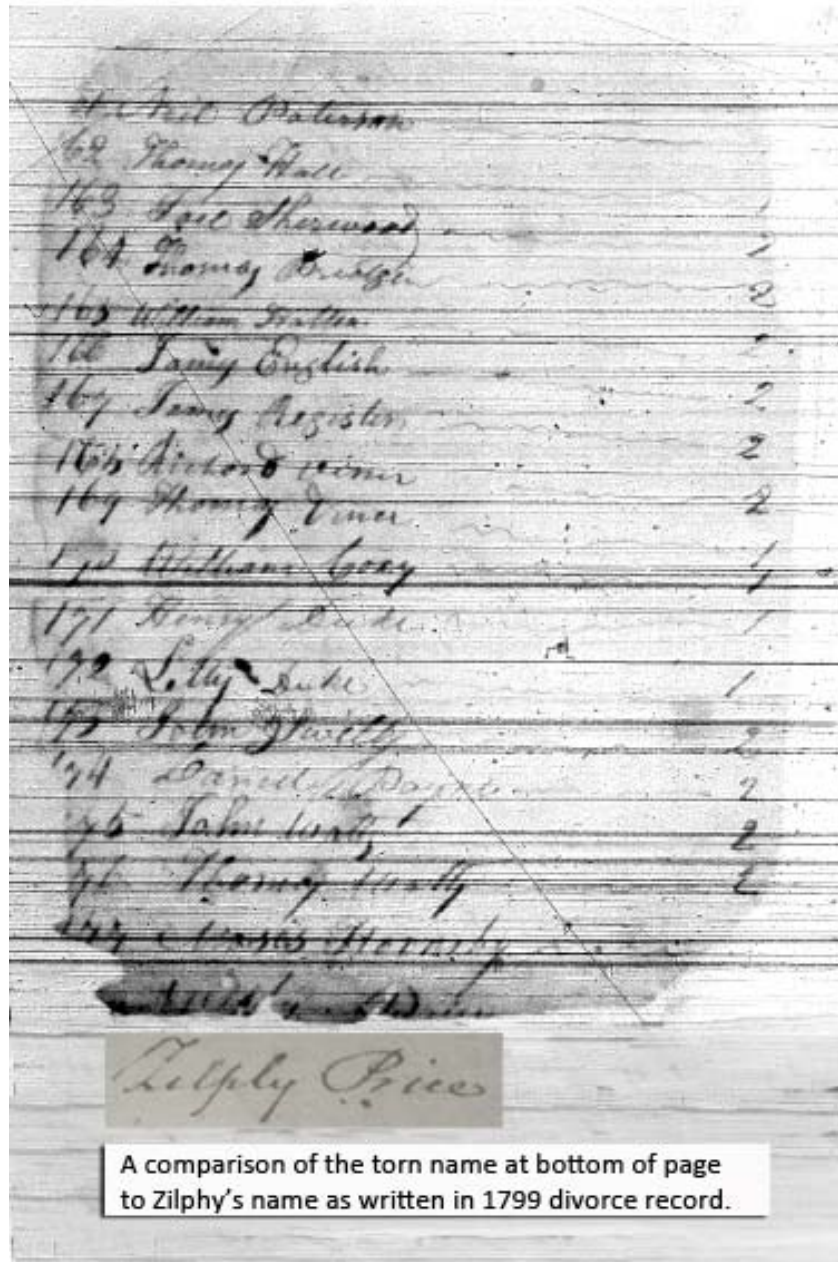
Rev. John Watts, Esq. (ca.1749—ca.1822)

Wife 1: Smith?

Wife 2: Judith "Judy" Rawls?

COMMENT:

The bottom half of name 178 is torn away. The top half is compatible with a Zilphy Price reading. See the imaged original, below.



OCTOBER 1803

TATTNALL COUNTY, GEORGIA

Court docket.²³⁹

"Thomas Watts for Abner Davis vs. James Bevan & Jesse Embry. Case. Judg. Default. Octr. Term 1804. Verdict for Plts." Attorney for Watts: Flournoy; Atty for Bevan: R. Walker"

²³⁹ Montgomery Co., Ga., "Superior Court Appearance Docket, May 1795–April 1803," pp. 30–31; FHL microfilm 0,159,033.

COMMENT:

Note that Thomas Watts, like Zilphy (Watts) Price, used Flournoy as his legal counsel.

1804

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, GEORGIA

Jury Lists.

Published jury lists for 1804 do not include any **Watts**.²⁴⁰

COMMENT:

The practice by which petit and grand jurors were selected in Georgia in this era was as follows:²⁴¹

- Every three years, the assessor was to provide the court clerks with a list of all taxable white males aged 21–60, whose names would be put into a box for drawing
- All taxable males were entitled to serve on the petit jury.
- All taxable males entitled to vote (those worth at least 10 pounds, or practicing a mechanic’s trade, who had resided in the state for at least six months), were also eligible to serve on the grand jury.

27 DECEMBER 1804

TATTNALL COUNTY, GEORGIA

Land Sale.

John Lott Jr. to Martin Hardin, both of Tattnall. Sale for \$1000, tract of 350 acres in Tattnall, described as being on the “Altamaha river, say, beginning at a pine corner running thence South 25 west, to the river, Altamaha, thence down the said river to just below what is called the **Wiggins field**, thence with a gut or Lagoon out to a line which divides the same from *John Sharpes Sr.*, thence with the said line to the corner a straight line to the beginning.” /signed/ John Lott Jr. (seal). Witnesses: *John Smith Jr.*; *Ludd Mobley*, Richard Cooper, J.P. Recorded 1 April 1808.²⁴²

COMMENT:

Jesse Wiggins married Barsheba “Barbara” Watts, daughter of Rev. John Watts.

The unalphabetized “1802-3-4” tax roll of Tattnall places “Hardin, Martin” in this cluster:

- Embree, Jesse²⁴³ [1806 witness to Arthur Lott’s sale of land to Jonathan Embree]
- Martin, Hardin [m. Mobley; bought land of John Lott Jr., when John left for MS]
- Stafford, Ezekiel²⁴⁴
- **Lott, Arthur** [signed recommendation for passport of John Jr.]
- Cooksey, William [his son John in 1809 took out license to marry Zilphy (Watts) Price]
- Cooper, Richard²⁴⁵ [local j.p.; see deed dated 27 December 1804, above]

This group, clearly is a neighborhood cluster.

²⁴⁰ Clifford S. Dwyer, *Montgomery County, Ga., Jury Lists, 1791, 1795, 1804* (Vidalia, Ga.: Montgomery County Records Preservation Committee, n.d.).

²⁴¹ Robert & George Watkins, *A Digest of the Laws of the State of Georgia ... to the Year 1798, Inclusive ...* (Philadelphia: R. Aitken, Printer, 1800); digitized at *Archives.org* (<https://archive.org/details/digestoflawsfst1800stat> : accessed 22 January 2014), 440 (1791 jury selection process), and 627 (1797 revision).

²⁴² Tattnall Co., Ga., “Deed Record A, B, C, D,” p. 98 [Old Book B].

²⁴³ Thus far, I have not been able to determine origins or genealogical information on Jesse and Jonathan Embree.

²⁴⁴ Ezekiel Stafford (1773–1853) is said to have married Mary **Rawls**. That surname, Rawls, is one attributed widely to Judith, the wife of Rev. John Watts. For Stafford, see Jim Lucas, “Knight/Stafford/Surrency/Hall,” *Tattnall County, Georgia, Message Board* (www.ancestry.com : posted 29 October 2002).

²⁴⁵ Cooper was an RW soldier. Like the Halls, he migrated to Montgomery-Tattnall from **Duplin County, North Carolina**. His wife, Lurena Howard, died in 1815; their son George married into the Conner family. For Cooper, see Mary Clyde McArthur, *The Conner Family, Ryals Family, McArthur Family, Mainly of Montgomery County, and Allied lines* (N.p.: N.p., 1978), unpaginated OCR or typescript (<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mobley/conner.txt> : accessed 1 January 2011).

APRIL 1805

TATTNALL COUNTY, GEORGIA

Court Minutes.

Grand jurors for October 1805 term²⁴⁶

3. **John Watts**

6. John Lott, Senr.

9. William Williams [one William Williams in 1807 moved to Mississippi with John Lott Sr.]²⁴⁷

14. Jesse Byrd, Junr.

28. Ignatius Hall

Petit jurors

31. William Cooksey

33. Arthur Lott

OCTOBER 1805 TERM

TATTNALL COUNTY, GEORGIA

Court Minutes.

Grand jurors seated included **John Watts**.²⁴⁸

1805-6-7

TATTNALL COUNTY, GEORGIA

Tax Digest.

A triennial roll.

Data arrangement:

- Same categories as 1802-3-4
- No division by district, no alphabetization, and no pagination

pp. 1–3 (double-wide)

[*Exact sequence copied. Exact tax data not copied, due to lack of time*]

HALL, **Ignatius** [Ignatius is alleged this year to have a wife named *Zipha*.]²⁴⁹

LOTT, Simon “High River Swamp on the Ocona River”

LOTT, Absalom Montgomery Co. land

LOTT, Arthur “High River Swamp on the Altamaha River”

LOTT, William 1 free white male over 21

Armstrong, Thos.

Sharp, Parker Land granted/surveyed to Robt. Lott

Sharp, John

Berryhill, Samuel

[*page break*]

Sharp, Joshua

Sharp, Howel

Sharp, Wm.

HANCOCK, James

[Father of Cader Hancock & **Watts Hancock**; close asso. of Cader Price]

²⁴⁶ Tattnall Co., Ga., Minutes, Superior Court, 1805–1823, unpaginated p. 3; FHL microfilm 206,463, Item 2.

²⁴⁷ Dorothy Williams Potter, *Passports of Southeastern Pioneers, 1770–1823* (Baltimore: Gateway, 1982), 222 and 381, n. 288.

²⁴⁸ Tattnall Co., Ga., “Superior Court Minutes, 1805–23,” p. 3 (April) and unpaginated (October); FHL microfilm 206,463, item 2. Mostly unpaginated, unindexed; scanned every page for items of interest.

²⁴⁹ Sabina J. Murray, *Tattnall County, Georgia, Loose Papers: 1801–1845*, 2 vols. (Homerville, Ga.: Huxford Genealogical Society, 2005–7), vol. 1, 1801–1845, p. 27, abstract of complaint against Ignatius Hall and “wife” Zipha.

Rev. John Watts, Esq. (ca.1749—ca.1822)

Wife 1: Smith?

Wife 2: Judith “Judy” Rawls?

HALL, Lewis
Taxed on Tattnall Co. pine land granted to **John Watts**
[apparent bro. of Ignatius who in 1806 (and only 1806) allegedly had a
“wife” Zilpha, when both were sued for slander; the case was dropped and
no Zilphy is attached to him thereafter.]

HALL, Lewis
Do. for Stanfil
HALL, Thomas
HALL, **Alston**
HALL, Enoch
Collins, Joseph
[page break]
Embree, Jesse
Williams, Wm.
[22 Nov. 1806, Arthur Lott sold his land to Jonathan Embree, before
William Williams, J.P.; Embree was Deputy Sheriff in 1804 (Murray 1:6)]

Stradley, Nimrod
Blackmon, John P.
Buie, John
Buile, Malcolm
Munroe, Archibald
[Apparently this is the region earlier called “Blackmon’s District”]
[See 1810 Montgomery case in which Munroes & Williamses were charged
with murder & William Cooksey (Sr. or Jr. not specified) served as bondsman
for Malcolm Williams]

p. 9
HALL, Lewis Jr.
LARD, Lodwick
Land in Liberty, Wash’n & Tattnall, incl’g land granted to **Jacob Watts**

pp. 13-14
[start at last line of 13]
Jones, John Sr.
[page break]
Watts, John
Watts, Thomas
Saucer, Howell
Cooksey, Wm.
Tattnall pine land gr. to **Arthur Lott**, acreage bound into crack of book
Tattnall pine land granted to McDowell
Tattnall pine land granted to “**John & Thos. Watts**”
[part of Byrd family with whom Lotts-Watts associated]
[his son John took out license to marry Zilphy, 1809]
1805-6-7 200 pine land granted to Wm. Cooksey,
0 “free white males over 21”
0 slaves, \$.61 ¾ tax; \$.36 ½ tax to county

Durrence, Wm.
Gideon, Tilmon
McDonald, Jeremiah
Wilson, David
Smith, Jas.
Daniel, Aaron
Williams, Rowland
Williams, Wm.
[supposedly married daughter of William Williams, below]
[should be Tilmon, Gideon]
[alleged son of Sam’l Williams & Delilah Neville; g’son of Wm. Williams]

COMMENT:

- Rowland and William Williams were in close proximity to Cooksey, Watts, and Lotts on the Montgomery rolls of 1797–1805, as well as Tattnall, 1805–7.
- For a **potential Neville-Williams connection that might lead to another daughter of Rev. John**, see 1816 below.

Rev. John Watts, Esq. (ca.1749—ca.1822)

Wife 1: Smith?

Wife 2: Judith "Judy" Rawls?

Tilmon, Jas.
Laremoor, Robt.
Durrence, Francis

p. 18

LOTT, Mark 300 acres pine land in Montgomery granted to Mark Lott

Defaulters for 1805-6-7

Hatten, William Land in Tattnall granted to Hatten, 1 male 21+

Embree, Jonathan Land in Tattnall granted to "Embree & Abner Davis" [Lott in-law?]

COMMENT:

On 22 November 1806, Jonathan Embree bought 287.5 acres from Arthur Lott, before Wm. Williams, J.P.

1 JANUARY 1806

TATTNALL COUNTY, GEORGIA

Land Sale.²⁵⁰

John Lott Jr. to John Sharpe Sr.,²⁵¹ both of Tattnall. Sale for \$100 cash, 190 acres in Tattnall, "Beginning on the Altamaha river just below what is called the **Wiggins** field, thence out towards the pine land with a gut or lagoon til it intersects a marked line known as the dividing line between **John Lott Jr.** but now **Martin Hardin's** land, and the said *John Sharpe Sr.*'s land, thence South with a marked line fifty chains to a stake, thence South 25 West to the river, thence up the said river to the beginning. " /signed/ John Lott Jr. (seal).

Witnesses: **Martin Hardin**, *Thomas Grace*, J.P.²⁵²

Recorded 6 September 1806

COMMENT:

- Martin Hardin and Thomas Grace were married to **Mobley** sisters whose parents were born in Lunenburg Co., Va. during the period of Watts residence there.
- Jesse Wiggins of Laurens married Barsheba "Barbara" Watts, whose brother Thomas married Elizabeth Lott, daughter of Absalom Lott.
- The three land sales of John Lott Jr., above, in December 1805 and January 1806 reflect his preparation to remove to Mississippi.
- Between December 1805 and November 1807, three passports were issued for members of this Lott family. A fourth, for three additional Lotts, was issued in January 1809. Given the fact that many branches of the Lotts used the same given names, assurance that the 1805–7 passports *were* issued to the Lotts of Laurens, Tattnall, and Montgomery comes from noting the identity of the men who recommended them for their passports.

6 December 1805

"To His Excellency John Milledge. Sir. **Jno. Lott Junior** having expressed to us a wish to travel thro the Indian nation, and wishing to obtain a Passport - We take the liberty of recommending him to you as an honest

²⁵⁰ Tattnall Co., Ga., "Deed Record A, B, C, D," p. 70 [Old Book B].

²⁵¹ James Sharpe was a Revolutionary War soldier, born in Virginia, who served from St. George Parish/Burke County; his wife is said to have been Elizabeth "Betsy" Wynn [another neighborhood family]. See "James Sharpe," *Georgia Society, Sons of the American Revolution* (<http://www.georgiasocietysar.org/drv/index.php/component/tngbridge/?url=getperson&personID=1133&tree=graves> : accessed 1 January 2011).

²⁵² Marilu Burch Smallwood, *Burch, Harrell, and Allied Families*, vol. 1 (Washington, N.C.: N.P., n.d.), unpaginated; OCR or typescript copy (<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mobley/burch.txt> : accessed 1 January 2010. Also see Linda Cooper, "Descendants of William Grace: Generation No. 3," *Linda Cooper's Home Page* (<http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/c/o/o/Linda-Cooper-Gatesville/index.html> : accessed 1 January 2011).

Rev. John Watts, Esq. (ca.1749—ca.1822)

Wife 1: Smith?

Wife 2: Judith “Judy” Rawls?

industrious worthy Citizen - **Arthur Lott**, David Glenn, **Thos. Davis**, **Abner Davis**, 6th Decr. 1805.” Reverse: “recommendation in favor of **Jno. Lott Junr.** for a Pass Port thro the Creek nation. Order taken 6th Decr. 1805.²³¹

²³¹ [Ga. Executive Dept., I.C., File II,] Box 151, see John Lott Junr. John Lott Senr. is shown on page 222 receiving a passport in November of 1807. There was an Arthur Lot, along with Daniel Lot, listed as original settlers of Bulloch County, Georgia. However, this passport application does not indicate their residence, so it is not known if they are identical. Jesse Lott, reference 252, was of Montgomery County Georgia.”²⁵³

7 October - 22 November 1806

“Georgia. Montgomery County. We the subscribers, Inhabitants of the County of aforesaid, being Personally acquainted with **Jesse Lott**, also of Said County, do Certify that we believe him to be an ——honest, Industrious good Citizen. ——— Given under our hands this 7th day of October 1806. — **Thos. Davis Col^o**, **Abner Davis Maj^r**.” (Reverse) “recommendation in favor of **Jesse Lott** for a Pass Port thro the Creek nation. Order taken 22nd Nov. 1806.²⁵²

²⁵²[Ga. Executive Dept., I.C., File II], Box 151, see Jesse Lott.”²⁵⁴

9 November 1807

“Executive Department. Monday 9th November 1807. On recommendation ORDERED That a passport through the Creek nation be prepared for James Taylor, **John Lott Senr.**, **William Williams**, and Samuel Newton, with their families which was presented and Signed.²⁸⁸

²⁸⁸ [Ga. Executive Proceedings...,” Sept., 1806 - Feb., 1808, p. 229; drawer 50, roll 46,] p. 268.”²⁵⁵

9 January 1809

“Executive Department. Monday 9th January 1809. ORDERED That a passport through the Creek nation be prepared for **Robert Lott**, **Amos Lott**, **Stephen Lott**, and William Sharp, which was presented and signed.³⁶⁹

³⁶⁹[Ga. Executive Dept., I.C., File II, Box 131], p. 316.”²⁵⁶

APRIL 1806 TERM

TATTNALL COUNTY, GEORGIA

Court Minutes.

Grand jurors seated: Jessee Embree, **Thomas Watts**.²⁵⁷

1 JUNE–1 AUGUST 1806

TATTNALL COUNTY, GEORGIA

Legal Suit.

One Zilpha is alleged to be the wife of Ignatius Hall,²⁵⁸ occupant of Cox’s Old Sawmill plantation, living in the immediate neighborhood of William Cooksey, and friend/business partner of Cader Price’s friend James Hancock, who also named son **Watts** Hancock.

1 August 1806

²⁵³ Dorothy Williams Potter, *Passports of Southeastern Pioneers, 1770–1823* (Baltimore: Gateway, 1982), 208–10 and 380, n. 231.

²⁵⁴ *Ibid.*, 214 and 381, n. 252.

²⁵⁵ *Ibid.*, 222 and 381, n. 288.

²⁵⁶ *Ibid.*, 234 and 383, n. 369.

²⁵⁷ Tattnall Co., Ga., “Superior Court Minutes, 1805–23,” unnumbered p. 5; FHL microfilm 206,463, item 2. These minutes are mostly unpaginated, unindexed; I scanned every page for items of interest.

²⁵⁸ Sabina J. Murray, *Tattnall County, Georgia, Loose Papers: 1801–1845*, 2 vols. (Homerville, Ga.: Huxford Genealogical Society, 2005–7), vol. 1, 1801–1845, p. 27.

“[Petition] John P. Blackmon says Ignatius Hall and Zilpha Hall, his wife, owe him \$1,000 in damages. On 1 June 1806 they publicly said, ‘He was a liar and a recorded liar in the Clerk’s office of Tattnall Co. and they could prove it’. They are required to appear at court the 2nd Monday in October.”

COMMENT:

Nothing further about this case appears in the loose papers abstracted by Murray. Nor have I found any further reference to this in the Inferior and Superior Court Minutes of Tattnall. Apparently, the case was dropped.

More importantly, I’ve found no further reference to any wife for a man named Ignatius Hall in Tattnall records, until a marriage on **7 December 1814 to Martha Lewis**.²⁵⁹ His descendants who have posted online trees and other Hall researchers report that they had also not found any prior marriage for Ignatius.²⁶⁰

Murray has nearly a dozen abstracts for Ignatius, from 1804 through 1811. Including these:

- In 1805, he was sued for rent on “a plantation called the Old Mills,” and “the Sawmill,” which he had “enjoyed” for “two years and nine months.” A levy was made against a Negro woman and 3 children that he owned (pp. 9–10, 17), but the actual owner of the land was Col. Francis Tennell (pp. 9–10, 17), the county surveyor of Washington County who appears on numerous Watts-Cooksey documents in earlier years.
- In April 1806 Jesse Byrd (who had been a J.P. in 1803) was charged with assaulting Hall at “Coxes old Mill” (pp. 2, 22). Cox’s Mills had formerly been 287.5 acres belonging to John O’Neal (p. 11). In 1801, the legislative act that created Tattnall county decreed that “court business ‘be carried on in the house of Zachariah Cox near the sawmills just west of the Ohoopee.’”²⁶¹ (Some online trees present Jesse Byrd (without evidence) as grandson of Catherine (King) Byrd Smith, wife of Moses Smith who cosigned the 1783 character affidavit with John Watts back in Fairfield.)
- On 3 Aug. 1807 Hall was surety for James Hancock’s liquor license (p. 36) and again on 10 March 1809 (p. 42).
- On 10 May 1809, with Ignatius Hall as a witness, the Grand Jury charged Hancock with keeping a house of ill repute (p. 44).

The 1820 census shows Ignatius (male, 45+), a female (45+) and 8 slaves in Montgomery County, Ga. (unnumbered first page). That woman, presumably, was Martha Lewis who he married in Tattnall County in 1814.

JUNE 1806

TATTNALL COUNTY, GEORGIA

Civic role.

“Be it enacted by the Senate and House of the State of Georgia, in General Assembly met, That Clement Bryan, William Williams, Shadrack Standley, Jesse Bird, sen. and **John Watts** be, and they are hereby appointed Commissioners for fixing on the site of the Court House and Jail in the county of Tattnall; and that they or a majority of them, shall within twelve months after the passing of this act, meet at the present temporary Court House of said county, and fix upon the place for the permanent seat of the public buildings of said county, which shall be as near the centre of said county, as shall be expedient.”²⁶²

²⁵⁹ “Georgia Marriages, 1699–1944,” database, *Ancestry.com* (www.ancestry.com : accessed 29 January 2009).

²⁶⁰ See for example, Carol Miller, “Descendants of Ignatius Hall,” MS, 5 pp.; shared by Hall via email 24 August 2014.

²⁶¹ Gordon Anthony Thompson, *The Tattnall County Inferior Court Records, 1805–1832; Including the 1819 Land Lottery* (Metter, Ga.: Thompson Publishing, 2003), preface.

²⁶² Augustin Smith Clayton, *A Compilation of the Laws of the State of Georgia, Passed by the Legislature Since the Political Year 1800, to the Year 1810, Inclusive* (Augusta: Adams & Duyckinck, 1812), 340.

Rev. John Watts, Esq. (ca.1749—ca.1822)

Wife 1: Smith?

Wife 2: Judith “Judy” Rawls?

8 JULY 1806

TATTNALL COUNTY, GEORGIA

Court Minutes.

“Now at this Term it is ordered that there be a Road Laide out from Montgomery line at or near **Thomas Watses** to Cross the Ohoope at or near **John Watses** and then to intersect the Savannah Road whare a majority of the Commissioners Shall think proper and **Thomas Watts**, John Young, Joseph Collins, Elias Daniel & John Fletcher is appointed to lay out the same and make their Report at the next inferior Court.”

²⁶³

COMMENT:

- This should be the “Old Saw Mill Road” neighborhood, along which Thomas Watts and William Lott received grants.²⁶⁴
- Montgomery Co. Deeds, D:21 and CPG: 12–13, place Cader Price on the North side of the Great Ohoopee, where he used Juniper Hall (Ignatious’ apparent brother) as a witness.
- Ignatius Hall, ca. 1802–04, lived “two years and nine months” on “a 100 acre plantation called the Sawmill” (variously called “Old Sawmills” and, seemingly, Cox’s Sawmill).²⁶⁵

13 OCTOBER 1806

TATTNALL COUNTY, GEORGIA

Court Minutes.

Grand jurors seated: **John Mobley**, John Grace [Mobley inlaw], **John Watts** ... Ignatius Hall.²⁶⁶

COMMENT:

On 14 October, “State vs. John Lott Senr. Misdemeanor. No bill. [And no details.]

JULY 1806–1807

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, GEORGIA

Land (Lottery).

1807 drawing, for which registration occurred in 1806.

Cooksey: NO

Price, John Montgomery Co., Militia District 50 drew Lot 96, Dist. 28, Wilkinson Co.

Watts, John Montgomery Co., Militia Dist.: McDonalds drew Lot 83, Dist. 16, Baldwin Co.

Watts, Reubin Montgomery Co., Mil. Dist.: McDonalds drew Lot 115, Dist. 16, Wilkinson²⁶⁷

COMMENT:

This published list is a list of *winners*. It does not name those who registered unsuccessfully. It does not indicate how many draws any successful person had. Registration rules excluded any person who had *won* land in the prior (1805) lottery. As was usual, to obtain title to the lottery land, a lucky drawer was required to pay \$12.15 per 202.5-acre lot.

²⁶³ Tattnall Co., Ga., “Inferior Court Sitting for Ordinary Purposes, 1805–1839”; Family History Library microfilm 206,434, item 2. Unpaginated, unindexed, all pages scanned for relevant names.

²⁶⁴ See Elizabeth Shown Mills, “Cooksey Associates: Montgomery County, Georgia,” 15 November 2010, report to file; archived online at *Historic Pathways* (<http://www.HistoricPathways.com>) under the “Research” tab.

²⁶⁵ Murray, Tattnall County, Georgia, Loose Papers, 1:7, 17.

²⁶⁶ Tattnall Co., Ga., “Superior Court Minutes, 1805–23,” unnumbered p. 5; FHL microfilm 206,463, item 2. Mostly unpaginated, unindexed; scanned every page for items of interest.

²⁶⁷ Silas Emmett Lucas Jr., *The Second or 1807 Land Lottery of Georgia* (Easley, S.C.: Southern Historical Press, 1986), 117.

Rev. John Watts, Esq. (ca.1749—ca.1822)

Wife 1: Smith?

Wife 2: Judith “Judy” Rawls?

3 MARCH 1807

TATTNALL COUNTY, GEORGIA

Court minute.

“Now at this term Joseph Callens (Collins) was appointed (sic) over seer of the Road from **waitses (Wattses? Watt’s?)** ferry on the **Ohoopo River** to **Cedar Creek**.”²⁶⁸

COMMENT:

- No individual or family of the name “Waites” or its variant spellings have yet been placed in Tattnall.
- Road assignments usually covered a stretch of 2 to 3 miles. That proximity to Cedar Creek should help to locate the Watts land.
- If John Watts had been a ferry operator on the Wateree during the Revolutionary War, that could explain how he managed to avoid conscription.

25 APRIL 1807

TATTNALL COUNTY, GEORGIA

Land (Deed).

25 April 1807 (drawn)

16 November 1807 (recorded)

Arthur Lott of Tattnall to Jacob Linn Jr. of Edgefield District, SC. Lott does “quit claim and convey ... one half of a tract of land containing one thousand [1000] acres **granted to the said Arthur Lott on the 16th of November 1802**, lying in Tattnall County and bounded Westwardly by Travis Thomas’s land, **Eastwardly by Robert Flournoy’s land**, and Southwardly by a line running North 70 East, being a continuation of the lower line of Travis Thomas’s line on river tract. No consideration given. [signed] Arthur Lott (seal). Witnesses: James Pautor, Batt Wyche, J. J. C. Dower relinquishment of Sarah Lott (x), wife of Arthur, undated, before Batt Wyche, J. J. C.”²⁶⁹

COMMENTS:

- When John Price sued Zilphy for divorce in 1799, **her attorney** was “**Flournoy**.”
- Arthur Lott, the seller above, is on the 1802-3-4 tax digest **adjacent to William Cooksey**.

APRIL 1807

TATTNALL COUNTY, GEORGIA

Jury Service

April term, grand jury:²⁷⁰

Asa Travis	Francis Durrance	Jesse Byrd, Senr.	John Watts
William Cooksey	Thos. Armstrong	Howell Sasser	Simon Whites
Sampson Carver	Clement Bryan	Moses Westberry	Littleton Wyche
Jno. B. Bennett	Jeremh. McDonald	John McClelland	Jno. McClendon
Reuben Nail	Joseph Collins	Jas. Perry	William Hall

²⁶⁸ Gordon Anthony Thompson, *The Tattnall County Inferior Court Records, 1805–1832; Including the 1819 Land Lottery Drawers & Districts* (Metter, Ga.: Thompson Publishing, 2003), 15. The alternate suggestions that the ferry owner was a Watts is Thompson’s.

²⁶⁹ Tattnall Co., Ga., “Deed Record A, B, C, D,” p. 93 [Old Book B].

²⁷⁰ Sabina J. Murray, *Tattnall Co., Ga., Loose Papers: 1801–1845*, 2 vols. (Homerville, Ga.: Huxford Genealogical Society, 2005–7), vol. 1, 1801–1845: 33.

Rev. John Watts, Esq. (ca.1749—ca.1822)

Wife 1: Smith?

Wife 2: Judith “Judy” Rawls?

OCTOBER 1807

TATTNALL COUNTY, GEORGIA

Court Minutes.

Jurors drawn for April 1808: ²⁷¹

Grand jury: Jonathan Embree, James Sartin, **Wm. Cooksey, John Watts**

Petit jury: Simon Lott, Arthur Lott

NOVEMBER 1807

BULLOCK, WILKINSON & TELFAIR COUNTIES, GEORGIA

Land purchase.

“Bullock County ... This indenture (page torn) of November (torn) our Lord 1807 by and between (torn) of the State of Georgia and **Thomas Watts** of the (torn) and County of **Wilkinson** of the (torn) Elijah (torn) for and in consideration of the sm of (torn) Bowen hath hereby granted bargained and sold unto **Thomas Watts** that tract of land lying and (situate?) twenty first district in (Wilkinson) known by the number two hundred ... eight as is particulary exp (torn) plat annexed to the grant Granted to the said Elijah Bowen?) excellency Jared Irwin Edq [Signed] Elijah Bowen.

Indenture from Elijah to **Thomas Watts** entered into record this fifteenth [?] Eighteen hundred & nine. A Bird C.S.C. T. C. [Clerk, Superior Court, Telfair County.]”²⁷²

24 DECEMBER 1807

TATTNALL COUNTY, GEORGIA

Land Sales²⁷³

Lot 42, 61.0 a. Sold to **Thomas Watts** of Wilkinson for \$83; surety, **Jesse Wiggins of Wilkinson**

Lot 83, 6.5a. Sold to same for \$5.00; surety, same.

Lot 82, 184a. Sold to same for \$85; surety same.

COMMENT:

On 23 December, there appears an entry for Archibald Smith of Wilkinson, whose surety was also **Jesse Wiggins of Wilkinson**.

14 JANUARY 1808

TATTNALL COUNTY, GEORGIA

Land (Deed).

14 January 1808 (drawn)

20 September 1820 (recorded)

Stephen **Bowen** to Daniel **Daughtary**, both of Tattnall, sale for \$400 sterling, 519 acres on Ohoopee River, “it being **the land said Watts now lives on**, the said land personally granted to Thomas McDonald and bounded as follows: Beginning at a Water Oak on said River, then S30W 71 chains to a pine, thence S40E 75 chains to a stake, thence N 30E 48 chains to a stake on the river, thence meandering the same to the beginning.” [signed] Stephen Bowen. Witnesses: Thomas Cruthman (x), William McElvy, JP ²⁷⁴

²⁷¹ Tattnall Co., Ga., “Superior Court Minutes, 1805–23”; FHL microfilm 206,463, item 2. This work is rarely paginated and unindexed; I scanned every page for items of interest.

²⁷² Catherine Fussell Wells, *Telfair County Georgia: Deed Book A, 1807–1813; Deed Book H: 1830–1838* (Valdosta, Ga.: Wells Gen-Search, 2000), 2; citing Deed Book A:6.

²⁷³ “Journal and Minutes of the Fractional Sales in the Counties of Wilkes and Baldwin, late ceded Territory,” unpaginated; the inclusive dates for this journal are 10 August 1807-25 April 1808; 1 December 1807 is the date of first entry in table of sales.; FHL microfilm 0,465,063.

²⁷⁴ Tattnall Co., Ga., “Deed Record A, B, C, D,” pp. 233-34 [Old Book C].

1808

TATTNALL COUNTY, GEORGIA

Tax List.

p. 1

Embree, Jesse

Embree, Jonathan

p. 5

HALL, **Alston**

[William Cooksey’s son William, Zilphy’s brother-in-law, carried the middle name Elston]

HALL, Lewis Jr.

HALL, Thos.

BUIE, John E.

[skip 7]

HALL, Lewis

& as agent for

John Stancel

_00 acres pineland granted to **Watts**

p. 6

Pattison, Neill

Gifford, John

WILLIAMS, William

[J.P. 10 July 1805 {Murray, 1:13}]

[skip several dozen taxpayers]

pp. 9–12

LOTT, Arthur

LOTT, Simon

Gillen, Richard

LOTT, Absalom

[his daughter Elizabeth m. John Watts’s son Thomas; his sons Nathan & Philip m. John Watt’s granddaughters, Zilphy Wiggins & Mary Wiggins]

LOTT, Mark

Morris, John

Wood, Hardy

Majores? John

Nipper, John

Sherrard, Joel

Pain, Zacheriah

Cowper, William

Wetherington, Wm.

RICKETSTON, Joseph

[page break]

Gainey, Reddick

Coxey, William

400 acres pine land granted/surveyed to Coxey,
0 white male 21+, \$.61 ¼ tax

HANCOCK, James

[father of Cader Hancock and **Watts Hancock**; associate of Cader Price, the first father-in-law of **Zilphy Watts**]

500 +202.5 acres pine land granted to Hancock, 1 white male 21+
“1 lot Tatnall court house worth \$23”

Clifton, Ezekiel

Stripling, Benjamin

[1807, Stripling cosigned bond by **Ignatius Hall**, whose 1806 “wife” was said to be “Zilpha” (Murray, 1:35)]

Watts, John

202.5 acres Oak land in **Randolph Co.**, 1 male 21+

Agt. For

Moses Hornsby

1 lot “Eadenton Courthouse” [Eatonton, Putnam Co.] worth \$50, 1 male 21+
[Moses Hornsby had been married to Watts’s daughter Katherine]

COMMENT:

- **The presence of Ignatius Hall’s bondsman in this Cooksey-Hancock-Watts-Hornsby cluster adds weight to the likelihood that Zilphy (Watts) Price was Ignatius Hall’s putative wife of 1806.**
- Note also that on this unalphabetized neighborhood list, John Watts, father of Zilphy, is just 20 entries from Ignatius Hall, below.
- This issue is extremely important given that Zilphy bore two children (1804 and 1806) whose fathers are unproved. The 1806 son used the surname Cooksey as an adult, but Zilphy did not marry John Cooksey until 1809. No contemporary record gives a maiden name or father for the 1804 daughter, Nancy.

Stueart, John

Hysmith, James

Young, John

Johnson, Randle

[page break]

Johnson, Archibald

Standley, Robert

Hysmith, Daniel

DAUGHERTY, Daniel

202.5 acres in Laurens, granted to Tilmon

[skip 9, then page break]

McNabb, Daniel

Sadler, James

HALL, Ignatius

Hardin, Patrick

Hysmith, Isaac

pp. 13–18

[Nothing of seeming significance]

4 OCTOBER 1808

TELFAIR COUNTY, GA.

Associate.

Jesse Wiggins bought from Thomas Story for \$112.18 3/34 a tract of land in Telfair “on both sides of Horse Creek known by lot number Seventy nine in the eighth district [con]taining Lot number Seventy Eight and Lot number [blank]. Witnesses: William Harris, “..... **Watts**.”²⁷⁵

COMMENT:

This Watts of Telfair was likely Reuben or Thomas. Their father John is still in Tattnall Co.

1809

LAURENS & TELFAIR COUNTIES, GEORGIA

County creation

Map showing 2 new Georgia counties to which Wattses & Cookseys would move: Laurens and Telfair.²⁷⁶

²⁷⁵ Catherine Fussell Wells, *Telfair County Georgia: Deed Book A, 1807–1813; Deed Book H: 1830–1838* (Valdosta, Ga.: Wells Gen-Search, 2000), 1.

²⁷⁶ William Thorndale and William Dollarhide, *Georgia 1790–1820* (Bountiful, UT: American Genealogical Lending Library, n.d.), 1810 map.

Rev. John Watts, Esq. (ca.1749—ca.1822)

Wife 1: Smith?

Wife 2: Judith “Judy” Rawls?



10 OCTOBER 1808

TATTNALL COUNTY, GEORGIA

Court Minutes.

Jurors drawn for April 1809: ²⁷⁷

Grand jury: **John Watts**, Jesse Embree

Petit jury: Wm. Lott

1809

TATTNALL COUNTY

Tax List.

Data Categories

- “Sir Names”
- Given Names
- County in which land lies
- Swamp Land: Altamaha River
- Swamp Land: Oconee River
- Oak & Hickory land
- Surveyed for or Granted to
- Pine land
- Surveyed for or Granted to
- “White persons above 21 years of age”
- Mulattoes & free Negroes
- Slaves under 60 years old
- “Total amt. of each person’s tax”
- “The year the tax became due”

Data arrangement

- No alphabetization; no identification of districts
- No dates for submission of each return (something not shown on any of the Tatnall-Montgomery rolls)

²⁷⁷ Tatnall Co., Ga., “Superior Court Minutes, 1805–23”; FHL microfilm 206,463, item 2. This work is rarely paginated and unindexed; I scanned every page for items of interest.

p. 1

EMBREE, Jesse
EMBREE, Jonathan

p. 5

HALL, **Alston**
HALL, Lewis, Junr.
HALL, Thos.

p. 6

HALL, Lewis
Do., agent for
John Stancel 500 acres pine land (Tattnall) granted to **Watts** [again note coupling of Watts & Hall]
Pattison, Neill
Gifford, John
WILLIAMS, William

p. 8

LOTT, William
HATTEN, Abl. L. 202.5 acres in Laurens, granted to Lilef____

pp. 9-12

LOTT, Arthur
LOTT, Simon
Gittens, Richard

Span, John [Wm. Cooksey's 1793 Washington County grant adjoined "SPANN"]
LOTT, Absalom [3 of his children married Watts]

LOTT, Mark
Morris, John
Wood, Hardy

[page break]

Hasones, John
Nipper, John
Sherraid, Joel
Pain, Zachariah
Conner William

Witherington, Wm. [J.P., 1806 and 1811. See Murray 1:31, 57]
Ricketson, Joseph [County surveyor 1811, see warrant to Shadrack Stanley]
Bryan, John Hill [For a protracted, acrimonious suit against him by Arthur **Lott**, see Murray, vol. 1]

[page break]

Gainey, Redick

Coxey, William 400 acres pineland (Tattnall) granted to W. Coxey, 0 male 21+, \$.61 ¼
HANCOCK, James [data as in prior year; community tavernkeeper; named son **Watts** Hancock]

Stripling, Benjamin [1000 pineland (Tattnall) granted to EMBREE; friend of **Ignatius Hall**]

Watts, John 300 acres pineland (Tattnall) granted to **McFarland**; 1 male 21+

& Agent for
Moses Hornsby [as before]

Steuart, John
Hysmith, James
Young, John
Johnson, Randle
Johnson, Archabald
Standley, Robert

[page break]

Hysmith, Daniel

DAUGHERTY, Daniel [son or brother of John Daugherty who married Letitia Cooksey c1811]

[skip 10]

p. 13

Easter, William

Sadler, James

Hysmith, Isaac

HALL, Ignatius 0 land, 1 (taxable) white person \$.31 ¼ tax due 1809

Harden, Patrick

BOWEN, William

Tire, Major

pp. 14–21

Nothing of apparent relevance

17 APRIL 1809

TATTNALL COUNTY, GEORGIA

Superior Court minutes.

Grand jurors serving: **Jno. Watts**, Jesse Embree

Grand jurors to serve in October 1809: No **Watts**

Petit jurors drawn for next term (October 1809): Alston Hall, Simont Lott, Abm. Lott

COMMENT:

This is the last time that John Watts was called to jury duty. Because Georgia law placed the maximum age for jury service at 60, it may be hypothesized that John was born ca. 1749.²⁷⁸

OCTOBER 1809

TATTNALL COUNTY, GEORGIA

Superior Court minutes.

Petit jury: **Jno. Cooksey** is not seated

Petit jurors drawn for next term (April 1810): **Wm. Cooksey**²⁷⁹

CA. DECEMBER 1809

TATTNALL COUNTY, GEORGIA

Tax List.

The published index to the tax roll for 1810 (*a roll that conventionally would have been created in late 1809*) carries no entry for any of the **Watts**s.²⁸⁰

COMMENT:

This appears to mark the period in which John Watts left Tattnall for Telfair, where he, sons Reuben and Thomas, and several sons-in-law had drawn lots in the 1807 land lottery. They would begin leaving in 1815—likely because of the strife between settlers and Native Americans, which one historian described this way:

²⁷⁸ See Robert and George Watkins, *A Digest of the Laws of the State of Georgia . . . to the Year 1798, Inclusive . . .* (Philadelphia: R. Aitken, 1800), 627.

²⁷⁹ Tattnall Co., Ga., “Superior Court Minutes, 1805–23”; FHL microfilm 206,463, item 2. Rarely paginated, unindexed; scanned every page for items of interest.

²⁸⁰ *Index to Georgia Tax Digests* (Atlanta: R. J. Taylor Foundation, 1986), 3:19.

Rev. John Watts, Esq. (ca.1749—ca.1822)

Wife 1: Smith?

Wife 2: Judith “Judy” Rawls?

“For about ten years following the organization of the county [ca. 1808–18]—Telfair being on the frontier—was constantly menaced by the Indians, who occupied the west side of the Ocmulgee River. The white settlers along the river were in constant danger from attack from the Indians, who would cross the river to pilfer and commit other depredations. During the War of 1812 the Indians were incited against the whites by the British soldiers, and it was necessary to keep a force of militia along the frontier from Fort Hawkins, opposite Macon, to Fort Barrington on the Altamaha fifteen miles above Darien, for the protection of the white settlers

“In 1813, for the protection of the settlers, three forts or blockhouses were built in Telfair—one in the forks of the Ocmulgee and Oconee rivers, one two miles above Jacksonville where Blockhouse Church now stands, and the third on Horse Creek at the River Road. ...

“[In 1814] Governor Early, having received information that the Indian frontier of Pulaski, Twiggs and Telfair counties was menaced by depredations from hostile Indians, instructed General Blackshear, September 14, 1814, to ‘send some prudent and judicious officer with a patrol of twenty private soldiers armed with guns, to explore the country between the Ocmulgee and Flint rivers.

“These frontier troubles continued at frequent intervals until the Indians were moved from south Georgia about 1818, and the pioneers of Telfair had anything but an easy time in these early days of the colonization of the county. Many tales are told of adventures between the whites and Indians.”²⁸¹

1810

TATTNALL COUNTY, GEORGIA

Tax List.

Data Categories:

- “Sir Names”
- Given Names
- County in which the land lies
- River Swamp on the Altamaha
- River Swamp on the Oconee
- Oak & Hickory land
- Surveyed for or Granted to
- Pine Land
- Surveyed for or Granted to
- “White persons”
- Slaves
- “Cor --- [sic] Horses
- P[leasure] Carriages
- Amt. of the Taxes
- County Tax

Data Arrangement:

- Semi-alphabetical by first letter of surname; unpaginated; arranged by district
- Adjacent names are not copied, except where noted.

Capt. Whiddon’s Dist.

Hancock, Durham

Hancock, Wm.

Johnson, John [Pine land granted to Davis, EMBREE, and Johnson]

Johnson, Danl. [DJ’s 200a grant adjoined William Lott when surveyed]

Johnson, Allen

Joyce, William

²⁸¹ Floris Perkins Mann, *History of Telfair County from 1812 to 1949* (Macon, GA: J. W. Burke Co., 1949), 14–15.

Joyce, John
Sharp, Parker [200 a Pine land granted to LOTT]

Blackmon’s Dist.

[1st entry, totally out of alpha sequence, is:]

HALL, Lewis 250a pine land (Tattnall) granted to HALL
70a pine land (Tattnall) granted to Thos. HALL
30 a on Altamaha & 257 ½ pine land (Tattnall) granted to HALL
70a on Altamaha & 217 ½ pine land (Tattnall) granted to Bowen?
300a pine land (Montgomery) granted to HALL
1 white person (taxable)
7 slaves
\$3.89 ½ / \$.65 tax

Bell’s Dist.

Bryan, Clem several tracts, including 100?a pine land granted to LOTT
Hall, Ignatius 1 white, 5 slaves, \$1.87 ½ / \$.31 ¼
LOTT, Mark 300 a (Montgomery), granted to LOTT
1 white, 1 slave, \$.85 / \$.14 ¼

Ricketson, Joseph
Sherard, Joel
Witherington, William

Clifton’s Dist.

DAUGHERTY, Danl. 202 1/2a pine land (Wilkinson) granted to Tilmon
Gainey, Reddick
HANCOCK, James 5 Lotts at Tattnall Court house,
287 1/2a on Altamaha (Tattnall)
_43 ¾a, _00a pine land (Tattnall) granted to EMBREE, Bird
202 ½ a pine land (Pulaski) granted to Hancock

Hysmith, Jas.
McEachen, John 217a Oak & Hickory (Telfair) granted to William LOTT
McFARLAND, Jno. B. 400a pine land (Tattnall) granted to **Cocksey** [sic]
100a pine land (Tattnall) granted to **Watts**
1 white, 7 blacks, \$2.87 ½ / \$.48

COMMENT:

Note that McFarland has bought the land of both Cooksey and Watts, whose son and daughter, respectively, had taken out a license to marry the prior year.

SELLARS, Saml., Agent for

Jno. Sellars 3 slaves
& **Zilphy** Sellars 1 slave

Do. For the heirs
of Jno. Staton 997 a pine land (Tattnall) granted to Statan

COMMENT:

- This Zilphy Sellars was née Zilphy Staton, daughter of John, under age 14 in 1806; her 1806 guardian had been Samuel Sellers whose bondsman was **Ignatius Hall** (Murray, 1:24). Hall, in 1806 but only 1806, was said to have a wife Zilphy. (Murray, 1:27).
- This Zilphy Sellars is the only other Zilpha “Zilphy” I have found in the county amid reading the courthouse records page by page. However, she seems much too young to have been the female identified as Hall’s wife in the 1806 court suit. Furthermore, if she *had* married Hall by then, then Sellers would not have been appointed her guardian. She was clearly single in 1806.

McElvy’s Dist.

BOYD, David	200a+ 100a pine land (Tatnall), gr. to BOYD	1 white, \$.53 ¾/.09
BOYD, Bani	250a pine land (Tatnall), gr. to D. BOYD 1 white, \$.50/.08 ¼	
 DAUGHARTY, Jno.	200a pine land (Tatnall), gr. to Sikes 1 white, \$.46 ¼ / \$.07 ¾	
 DAUGHARTY, Dempsey	200a pine land (Tatnall), gr. to Lott ; 1 white, 1 slave, \$.77 ½ / .12 ¾	
McElvy, William	land granted to WOOTEN and McElv]	
McDonald, Bryan	land granted to Daugharty	
Parker, Elisha		
Sikes, Dyre?	land granted to Sikes & BOYD	
Studstill, Thos.	land granted to LOTT	

COMMENT:

- **Jno. Daugharty**, who married **Letitia Cooksey** ca. 1811, lived in the neighborhood of the Lotts, inlavs of Zilphy (Watts) Price Cooksey.
- **Bani Boyd** is the man to whom Letitia Cooksey’s illegitimate child, Henry, was bound after she married Daugharty.
- I have not backtracked these Daughertys (var. spellings) to see if this John might also originate in Fairfield, where Daughertys and Watts were neighbors and associates.

29-30 JANUARY 1810

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, GEORGIA

Deed.

“**John Watts** [to] Abner Davis. Wit: James Ford, James Sarten.

Abner Davis [to] Travis Thigpin. Wit: Duncan Thomson, Burton H. Pitts.”²⁸²

COMMENT:

It is possible that the land (presumably it’s land) Davis bought from Watts via the document executed or filed on 29 January is the same property Davis sold to Thigpen by the document that the abstract assigns to the next day. In that case, the sale from Watts to Davis could have occurred years before.

TO DO:

Get both documents. Confirm that no wife participated in the sales.

10 FEBRUARY 1810

TELFAIR COUNTY, GEORGIA

Associations.

“Know all men by these presents that I **Absalom Lott** do give my beloved daughter **Elizabeth Watts** and to the heirs of her body one Negro woman named Amy and her increase. ...²⁸³

COMMENT:

Elizabeth Lott was the wife of Thomas Watts.

²⁸²James E. Dorsey and John K. Derden, *Montgomery County, Georgia: A Source Book of Genealogy and History* (Spartanburg, SC: Reprint Co., 1983), 99; citing “Montgomery County Deed Book H, 1809–1817 (Loose Papers, Georgia Department of Archives and History),” pp. 87–88.

²⁸³Catherine Fussell Wells, *Telfair County, Georgia; Deed Book A, 1807–1813; Deed Book H, 1830–1838* (Valdosta, Ga.: Wells Gen-Search, 2000), 45–46, citing A: 187.

Rev. John Watts, Esq. (ca.1749—ca.1822)

Wife 1: Smith?

Wife 2: Judith “Judy” Rawls?

1 MARCH 1810

TELFAIR COUNTY, GEORGIA

Land purchase.

David Ward of Jefferson County and Samuel Ward and Luke Bozeman of Twiggs County, to **Thomas Watts** of Telfair County. Sale for \$700, all that land belonging to them as heirs of “Mary Ward (widow) of the 56th district Montgomery County” being lot 43 in Wilkinson County (Now Telfair)” bounded on NE by Lot 42, NW by Lot 40, SW by Lot 44, and SE by Lot 82.²⁸⁴

16 APRIL 1810

TELFAIR COUNTY, GEORGIA

Jury duty.

Sworn in as grand jurors ... **Jesse Wiggins Junr.**, Arch Smith, **Thos Watts.**²⁸⁵

Drawn to serve as grand jurors at next term ... Wm. Lott, Jesse Wiggins Junr., **Thos. Watts.**

Drawn to serve as petit jurors at next term ... Absalom Lott, David Wiggins, **Thos. Aultman**, Nathan Lott, Nathan Lott Junr.²⁸⁶

16 APRIL 1810

TATTNALL COUNTY, GEORGIA

Land grant.

Final title issued to **William Cooksey**, 400 acres “bounding southwest by **Thomas Watts** and on all other sides by vacant land.”²⁸⁷

5 JUNE 1810

TATTNALL COUNTY, GEORGIA

Jury Lists.

Master lists made for the coming year, showing pool of names from which would be drawn the grand and petit jurors. **No Cooksey or Watts.**²⁸⁸

COMMENT:

The absence of the Cookseys and Watts is accounted for by the fact that they had relocated in Laurens and Telfair Counties.

11 AUGUST 1810

TELFAIR COUNTY, GEORGIA

Marriage.

Rev. John Watts performed the marriage ceremony for his daughter “Aimy Wats” to marry Thomas Aultman. His return, which does not state the county in which the marriage occurred, was filed 14 months

²⁸⁴ Catherine Fussell Wells, *Telfair County Georgia: Deed Book A, 1807–1813; Deed Book H: 1830–1838* (Valdosta, Ga.: Wells Gen-Search, 2000), 32, citing A: 137.

²⁸⁵ Catherine Fussell Wells, *Telfair County, Georgia, Superior Court Minutes, 1810–1837* (Valdosta, Ga.: Wells Gen-Search, 2000), 1; no citation of book and page but presumably this is the first page of the first court-minute book.

²⁸⁶ Catherine Fussell Wells, *Telfair County, Georgia, Superior Court Minutes, 1810–1837* (Valdosta, Ga.: Wells Gen-Search, 2000), 2; no citation of book and page.

²⁸⁷ Land Grant Book HHHHH: 89, State Land Office Records, Georgia Department of Archives and History, Atlanta.

²⁸⁸ Tattnall Co., Ga., “Inferior Court Sitting for Ordinary Purposes, 1805–1839”; Family History Library microfilm 206,434, item 2. Unpaginated, unindexed, all pages scanned for relevant names.

Rev. John Watts, Esq. (ca.1749—ca.1822)

Wife 1: Smith?

Wife 2: Judith “Judy” Rawls?

later in Telfair County. See image under October 1811.²⁸⁹

APRIL 1811

TELFAIR COUNTY, GEORGIA

Jury duty.

Sworn in as grand jurors ... **Jesse Wiggins**, Arch Smith, **Thos Watts**.

Drawn to serve as petit jurors at next term: **Reuben Watts**, Nathan Lott, Absolam Lott, **Wm Webb**, Nathan Lott Junr., Daniel Wiggins, **Thos Aultman**.²⁹⁰

4 MAY 1811

TELFAIR COUNTY, GA

Land purchase.

Sale by Lewis Lambkin Hatten of Telfair County to **Reubin Watts** of same, for \$20, a lot of land in “Wilkinson (now Telfair),” in 8th District, being the S end half of Lot 184, containing 100.25 acres. Witness: **Thomas Watts**.²⁹¹

5 AUGUST 1811

TATTNALL COUNTY, GA

Neighbor.

Joshua Kemp’s survey of “800 acres on Altamaha River, adjoining Manford, Pendleton, Hall, Thompson, **John Watts**. cc: William Easters, Joshua Kemp. Surveyor: Joseph Ricketson.”²⁹²

5 AUGUST 1811

TELFAIR & MONTGOMERY COUNTIES, GA

Land purchase.

“This indenture made this fifth day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hunderd [sic] & eleven between James Moore of the County of Montgomery and State of Georgia of the one part and **John Wats** of the County of Telfair [for \$27.50] land in 8th District of Wilkenson, being lot 176, adjoining Nos. 175 & 177. ...

“The foregoing copy of an indenture from James Moore to John Watts and the probate of the said James Moore thereunto annexed entered on record this” **1 April 1812**.²⁹³

COMMENT:

As with the marriage return for his daughter Amy, John Watts has shown no haste to have his land purchase recorded at the courthouse.

2 SEPTEMBER 1811

²⁸⁹ Telfair Co., Ga., “Marriage Book A, 1810–1858,” p. 1. Family tradition among descendants holds that Amy had borne a son Willis prior to marrying Aultman. If true, the circumstances of her tardily recorded marriage, performed by her father, somewhat parallels the circumstances of Zilpha’s quasi-marriage to John Cooksey, that was accepted by the Watts. For the tradition, see Wynema McGrew, *Watts is My Line* (Hattiesburg, Miss.: Privately printed, 2010), 23.

²⁹⁰ Catherine Fussell Wells, *Telfair County, Georgia, Superior Court Minutes, 1810–1837* (Valdosta, Ga.: Wells Gen-Search, 2000), 2–4; no citation of book and page.

²⁹¹ Catherine Fussell Wells, *Telfair County Georgia: Deed Book A, 1807–1813; Deed Book H: 1830–1838* (Valdosta, Ga.: Wells Gen-Search, 2000), 35, citing A: 149–50.

²⁹² “Tattnall County, Georgia, Land Grants, 1802–1837 Land Grants,” *Huxford Genealogical Society Quarterly* 2 (Winter 1975): 271.

²⁹³ Catherine Fussell Wells, *Telfair County Georgia: Deed Book A, 1807–1813; Deed Book H: 1830–1838* (Valdosta, Ga.: Wells Gen-Search, 2000), 343–44, citing A: 176–78.

Rev. John Watts, Esq. (ca.1749—ca.1822)

Wife 1: Smith?

Wife 2: Judith “Judy” Rawls?

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, GA

Court Docket.²⁹⁴

“Eth. Hays vs. Patrick McGriff

Bearer of Embree Note to **Thomas Watts**

David Ross vs. **Abner Davis**, Executor”

SEPTEMBER 1811

TATTNALL COUNTY, GA

Land grant.

Final title issued to **Lewis Hall** for 250 acres “bounding north by **John Watts Sr.** and by Beckham and on all other sides by Vacant and unknown land.”²⁹⁵

COMMENT:

John Watts, by this time, had sold his land to John B. McFarland—as did William Cooksey.

OCTOBER 1811

TELFAIR COUNTY, GEORGIA

Jury duty.

Sworn in to serve: Daniel Wiggins, **Thomas Aultman**.²⁹⁶

1811–15

TATTNALL COUNTY, GEORGIA

Tax List.²⁹⁷

No Watts or Cooksey. All Lotts have left, except for Mark in Capt. Bell’s District.

COMMENT:

The Cookseys, Watts, and Lotts have now relocated in Laurens and Telfair.

7 OCTOBER 1811

TELFAIR COUNTY, GEORGIA

Marriage.²⁹⁸

“I do hereby certify that on the eleventh day of August 1810, I joined together in the holy bonns [*sic*] of matrimony **Thomas Aultman** and **Aimy Wats**. By **John Watts, M. I. N.** [all in capital letters, with periods]

“The foregoing certificate was duly recorded this seventh day of October in the year of one thousand eight hundred and eleven. Duncan Curry, C. C. C. [Clerk of County Court]

²⁹⁴ Montgomery Co., Ga., Clerk’s Office, “Court Records & Deeds, Miscellaneous Dates” [loose papers], FHL microfilm 0,159,033, for “State papers in the Clerks Office ... Sept. the 2nd 1811,” sheet 10, lines 5-7.

²⁹⁵ Land Grant Book HHHHH: 89, State Land Office Records, Georgia Department of Archives and History, Atlanta.

²⁹⁶ Catherine Fussell Wells, *Telfair County, Georgia, Superior Court Minutes, 1810–1837* (Valdosta, Ga.: Wells Gen-Search, 2000), 4–5; no citation of book and page.

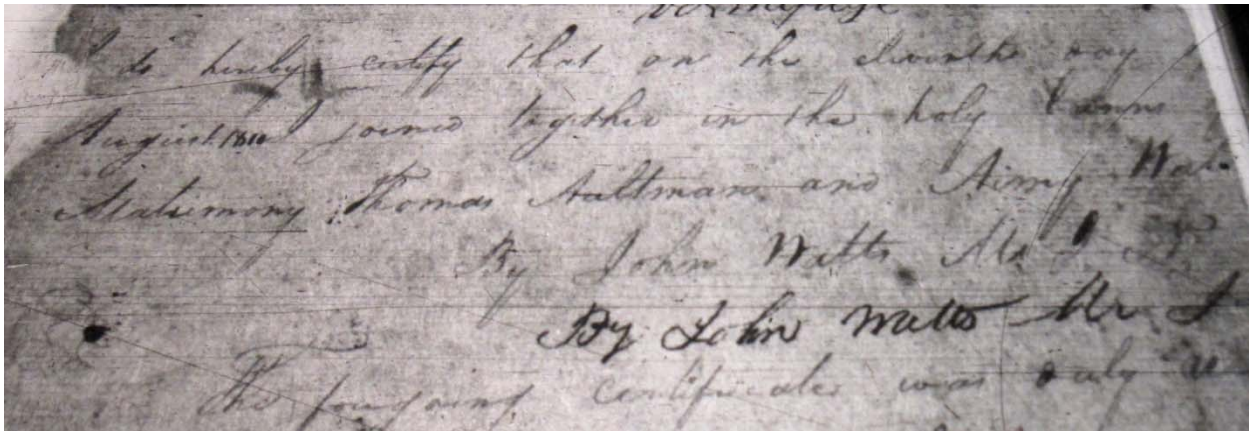
²⁹⁷ Tattnall Co., Ga., “Tax Digest, 1802–1823”; FHL microfilm 0,206,455. The 1813 list is filmed out of place. It is presented as the first digest in the new county, but it is identifiable as 1813 by the tax data for the Cooksey property sold to McFarland, by the district names, by the information on Bani Boyd, and by the elimination of other years for which registers are clearly identified. The 1814 roll was similarly mislabeled 1804, when the loose rolls were assembled and bound.

²⁹⁸ Telfair Co., Ga., Marriage Book A, 1810–1858, p. 1.

Rev. John Watts, Esq. (ca.1749—ca.1822)

Wife 1: Smith?

Wife 2: Judith "Judy" Rawls?



COMMENTS:

- Note that John Watts waited 14 months before filing this return.
- No license is on record.
- Curry was clerk of both Superior and Inferior Courts in Telfair.

7 JULY 1812

TATTNALL COUNTY, GEORGIA

Association.²⁹⁹

Jesse Byrd to John P. Blackman, both of Tattnall, sale for \$100, 100 acres granted to **Isaac Odom of Burke County**, Georgia, lying now in Tattnall, on waters of Oconnee River. No further description. /signed/ Jesse Byrd (seal). Witnesses: **Thomas Watts**, Abraham F. Powell J.P.

COMMENT:

Thomas Watts has been in Telfair County since 1808. The above suggests that his family has continued their friendships and visitations in Tattnall—and suggests a particularly close friendship with either Byrd or Blackman. Byrd (a Fairfield County family) is the likeliest prospect. Jesse Byrd, like numerous others from Fairfield, was also in Burke before moving to the Montgomery-Tattnal area.³⁰⁰

OCTOBER 1812

TELFAIR COUNTY, GEORGIA

Jury duty.

Sworn in to serve: **Thos Watts**, Jesse Wiggins Jnr.³⁰¹

APRIL 1813

TELFAIR COUNTY, GEORGIA

Jury duty.

Drawn for grand jury at next term of court: Jesse Wiggins Jnr., Jesse Wiggins, **Thos Watts**.

Drawn for petit jury at next term of court: **Thomas Aultman**, Nathan Lott.

²⁹⁹ Tattnall Co., Ga., "Deed Record A, B, C, D," p. 156.

³⁰⁰ 1791 land warrant to Jesse Byrd, 250 acres in Burke County; imaged in "Georgia, Headright and Bounty Land Records, 1783-1909," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.3.1/TH-1951-24160-492716?cc=1914217&wc=M617-R68:200589001>); citing "Georgia State Archives."

³⁰¹ Catherine Fussell Wells, *Telfair County, Georgia, Superior Court Minutes, 1810–1837* (Valdosta, Ga.: Wells Gen-Search, 2000), 12; no citation of book and page.

“Thomas Pridgen & **Thomas Aultman** having been found guilty of riotous conduct during the session of the court and within hearing of the court it is ordered that each of them do stand recognized in the sum of five hundred with good security in the same amount conditioned to keep the peace towards all persons for the term of one year.

“**Thomas Aultman** and **Reubin Watts** in open court acknowledge themselves indebted to the governor & his successors in office in the sum of five hundred dollars to be void on the condition the said Aultman keep the peace towards all men for one year. 19th April 1813. [Signed] Thomas (his X mark) Aultman; Reubin Watts.”³⁰²

COMMENT:

- Thomas Pridgeon was son of Mark Pridgeon of Telfair. His sister Nancy was the wife of one John Mobley, of the Virginia-to-South Carolina Mobleys.³⁰³ The continued association of Watts and Mobleys across three states and three generations is a common pattern that helps to define family relationships.

Note:

- I will not continue to make notes for John’s sons-in-law. The foregoing has served to establish who was there with him.
- I also will not continue to show every jury service for John’s sons. Both sons and sons-in-law continued to appear through October Term 1815, at which time they were drawn for service at the next (April) term of court. Only Thomas Aultman served at that next term—suggesting that the others had moved in the interim.
- *No service appears for John at all*—in keeping with the Georgia law that mandated 60 years at the upper age for jury service.

8 AUGUST 1814

TELFAIR COUNTY, GEORGIA

Land sale.

“This indenture ... between **Thomas Watts** of the County of Telfair of the one part and William Ashley of the County of Camden of the other part ... the sum of eleven hundred dollars ... two certain tracts of land containing 202 ½ acres each ... 8th District Wilkinson County now Telfair ... No. 80 originally granted to James Archer of Scriven County, No. 43 to **Mary Watts (widow)** ... [Signed] Thomas Watts; in presence of Gibson Clark, Abraham F. Powell J.P.

“**Elizabeth Watts, wife of Thomas Watts**, gives oath she voluntarily relinquishes any right or right of dower to the above described property. [Signed] Elizabeth (her X mark) Watts; Alexander F. Powell J.P.

“Recorded 22nd October 1814, Duncan McRae Clk.”³⁰⁴

COMMENT:

The reference to “Mary Watts (Widow)” is incongruent with known facts about this family. Checking the published alphabetical list of 1807 land lottery winners who drew land in Wilkinson County, I find no Mary Watts. However, in reading the *land descriptions* for all entries, I find the following which indicates that the Mary *Watts* reference above is a clerk’s error or one made by the creator of the published abstracts:

“**Ward, Mary (Wid.)**

“Resident of Montgomery Co., Military District 56; Drew Lot 43 of District 8, Wilkinson County.”³⁰⁵

³⁰² Catherine Fussell Wells, *Telfair County, Georgia, Superior Court Minutes, 1810–1837* (Valdosta, Ga.: Wells Gen-Search, 2000), 15–16; no citation of book and page.

³⁰³ Floris Perkins Mann, *History of Telfair County from 1812 to 1949* (Macon, GA: J. W. Burke Co., 1949), 16.

³⁰⁴ Catherine Fussell Wells, *Telfair County, Georgia, Deed Books D, E, F & P* (Valdosta, Ga.: Wells Gen-Search, ca. 2000), 12–13; citing Deed Book D: 64–65.

³⁰⁵ Silas Emmett Lucas Jr., *The Second or 1807 Land Lottery of Georgia* (Easley, S.C.: Southern Historical Press, 1983), 149 (Ward), 150-51 (Watts).

Rev. John Watts, Esq. (ca.1749—ca.1822)

Wife 1: Smith?

Wife 2: Judith “Judy” Rawls?

14 AUGUST 1814

TELFAIR COUNTY, GEORGIA

Land sale.

“This indenture ... between **Thomas Watts** of the County of Telfair of the one part and William Ashley of the County of Camden of the other part ... the sum of eleven hundred dollars ... all that tract or parcel of land containing 251 ½ acres ... 8th District of Wilkinson County, now Telfair County consisting of three fractions ... No. 82, 83, and 42 originally granted to the aforesaid **Thomas Watts** ... [Signed] Thomas Watts.

“In presence of Gibson Clark, Abraham F. Powell J.P.

“**Elizabeth Watts**, wife of Thomas Watts, gives oath that she has voluntarily given up all right or claim of dower to the above described property. [Signed] Elizabeth (her X mark) Watts; Abraham F. Powell J.P.

“Recorded 22 October 1814, Duncan McRae, Clk.”³⁰⁶

COMMENT:

This is the last reference found to Thomas Watts in Telfair. As such, it suggests the timing of his removal to Mississippi.

1 DECEMBER 1815

MISSISSIPPI

Petition.

“**John Watts** ... *might have been in the Mississippi Territory in 1815*. He was among the many signers of the “Memorial to Congress by Citizens of Pearl River,” dated 1 September 1815. Other signers of this document associated with John Watts were (1) **Mark Raburn**, who later married his daughter Rhoda Watts, (2) **Nathan Lott, Jr.**, who married his daughter Dicey Watts, (3) **Thomas Watts**, who was probably his son and married Elizabeth Lott, (4) thirteen other Lotts, and (5) **four Rawls**.⁴⁴ ...

“This Memorial characterized the signers as living in easy circumstance before moving from the middle and southern states, but now they had been reduced to indigence and penury, even though they were enterprising and industrious folks. They, further, stated that soon after their arrival in this “savage and unexplored country,” they were called out to defend the country at the commencement of the late war—the War of 1812. Since they received no pay for their services or were unable to work the land, they were in arrears for further payment after paying the first installment. They faced forfeiture of the lands. For six months after the forfeiture became final, the signers or memorialists sought to re-enter the lands under the same terms and regulations to which they had originally agreed. The disposition of the Memorial to Congress was not discovered. Whether the John Watts who signed the indenture in Georgia in 1816 and the one who signed the petition to Congress in 1815 were the same person was not established.”³⁰⁷

COMMENT:

It is more likely that this 1815 John, who signed with Rayburns, Lotts, and Rawls, was **John Jr.** As shown below, John Sr. was still in Telfair County as of 29 June 1816.

1 DECEMBER 1815

TELFAIR COUNTY, GEORGIA

Land deed.

³⁰⁶ Catherine Fussell Wells, *Telfair County, Georgia, Deed Books D, E, F & P* (Valdosta, Ga.: Wells Gen-Search, ca. 2000), 12–13; citing Deed Book D: 62–63.

³⁰⁷ McGrew, *Watts Is My Line*, 22; citing (for n. 44) “Clarence Edwin Carter, compiler and editor, *The Territorial Papers of the United States*, Volume VI (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1938), 550-553.”

Rev. John Watts, Esq. (ca.1749—ca.1822)

Wife 1: Smith?

Wife 2: Judith “Judy” Rawls?

Reubin Watts to Duncan Graham, both of Telfair County. Sale of lot in “Wilkinson now Telfair County, eighth District,” Lot 184 containing 202.5 acres. Witnesses: Angus Morrison, **William E. Cooksey.**”
28 August 1816: Deed is proved by affidavit of Angus Morrison, alone, before Duncan McRae, J.P.³⁰⁸

COMMENT:

Both Reubin Watts (son of Rev. John) and William E. Cooksey (son of William and brother of John who took out the 1809 license to marry Zilphy Watts) apparently left Telfair between 1 December 1815 and 28 August 1816.

25 JANUARY 1816

TELFAIR COUNTY, GEORGIA

Land deed.

“I, **Moses Hornsby** of the county of Telfair ... in consideration of the sum of one hundred eighty dollars to me in hand paid by William Ashley of the state & county aforeaid ... tract of land ... 8th District of Wilkinson now Telfair County on Horse Creek it being lot No. 50 & granted to James Herd of Lynn County & drawn by him in the last land lottery it joins No. 49 & 57 ... 25th January 1816. [Signed] Moses Hornsby; in presence of **Marma D. Hornsby**, Lewis Ablewis Lamkin, Abb L. Hatten J.I.C.

Recorded 8th February 1816, Duncan McRae Clk.”³⁰⁹

COMMENT:

This record suggests that Hornsby left with, or in the wake of, Reuben Watts and young William Cooksey.

11 MAY 1816

TATTNALL COUNTY, GEORGIA

Associates.

“Deed Record A, B, C, D,” p. 282 [Old Book C] 11 May 1816

“**Nancy Wats (x)** and **Ellender Nevils (x)** witnessed a deed from Thomas Wood (x) and Amos Anderson (x) to John Wood, all of Tattnall, for a Negro girl of about 4 years.”

COMMENT:

This appears to be a family unit, with Thomas Wood and Anderson inheriting a slave from a Wood estate and selling the slave to another Wood heir. In such a case, Nancy Wats and Ellender Nevils could have been née Wood.

This supposition is partially corroborated (but without evidence) by a published sketch of Amos Anderson (b. 1797, Greenville Co., S.C.) that asserts he married Martha Wood, daughter of Thomas.³¹⁰

No Nancy Wats/Watts is known to fit into the family of Rev. John Watts, although his daughter Zilphy gave that name to her first-born daughter. The name *Eleanor* appears on some lists of Rev. John’s children, as supposedly taken from family Bibles of John and his son Reuben. Another John Watts resided in nearby Washington County between 1785 and 1803, but he is not known to have a Nancy or Eleanor in his family.

The Nevils/Nevilles of Tattnall were associates of both Byrds and Bowens (Rev. John’s associates) several years earlier:

“7 May 1802 - (Bond) Francis Nevils, Stephen Bowen, and Jesse Byrd are to appear to answer a

³⁰⁸ Telfair County, Ga., Deed Record and Mortgages, Book D, 1813–1816 [typescript], 156–57; FHL microfilm 327,631.

³⁰⁹ Catherine Fussell Wells, *Telfair County, Georgia, Deed Books D, E, F & P* (Valdosta, Ga.: Wells Gen-Search, ca. 2000), 27; citing Deed Book D: 37.

³¹⁰ Jeanette Holland Austin, *The Georgians: Genealogies of Pioneer Settlers* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1984), 10.

Rev. John Watts, Esq. (ca.1749—ca.1822)

Wife 1: Smith?

Wife 2: Judith “Judy” Rawls?

complaint against ‘the woman, Frances Nevels’.”³¹¹ Frances was nee Frances Ann Mixon, married to John Neville. Their daughter Delilah, said to have been born 1767 in Effingham, married Samuel Williams, the son of William Williams Sr.³¹²

William Williams, a Cooksey-Lott-Watts neighbor on tax roll, went to Mississippi in 1807 in the company of John Lott Sr., formerly of Effingham.³¹³

Nevils also resided in Lunenburg-Bedford, VA, during the time John Watts was born there.

29 JUNE 1816

TELFAIR COUNTY, GEORGIA

Land sale.

“This indenture ... between **John Watts** of the county of Telfair in the State of Georgia of the one part and William Ashley of the county of Telfair in the same state of the other part ... the sum of two hundred dollars ... parcel of land in the 8th District Wilkinson now Telfair [sic] County ... No. 176. [Signed] John Watts. In the presence of Nathaniel Ashley, J.I.C.; Gibson Clark.

“Recorded 17th October 1816. Duncan McRae Clk.”³¹⁴

COMMENT:

This is the last known appearance of John Watts in Georgia. The land he is selling here appears to be the land he drew in the 1807 lottery.

12–13 OCTOBER 1816

TELFAIR COUNTY, GEORGIA

Marriage.

Abraham Lott and Zilphy Wiggins. License, 12 October; married 13 October 1816 by Abraham F. Powell, J.P.³¹⁵

1816 TAX LIST

MARION COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Tax Roll.

“The next hint that John Watts was in the Mississippi Territory was suggested by **taxes paid by a son in 1816**, and the enumeration of another son and a grandson in the Territorial census of 1816. His son Thomas Watts paid taxes in Marion County. His **son Rubin [Reuben] Watts** and **grandson Reubin Hornsby** appeared in the Territorial census in Greene County. The last evidence of their domiciles as being in Georgia was deeds--Thomas Watts in the summer of 1814, Reuben Watts in winter of 1815, and Reuben Hornsby in the fall of 1815. These three, as well as others, could have come to the Territory before their father and grandfather, John Watts, came.”³¹⁶

³¹¹ Murray, *Tattnall County, Georgia, Loose Papers*, 1:1. 19

³¹² Cheryl K. Hendricks, Hendricks & Loys and Related Familys (<http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/l/o/y/John-P-Loy/GENE16-0019.html> : accessed 2 January 2011), for “249. Delilah Neville.”

³¹³ 9 November 1807 “Executive Department. Monday 9th November 1807. On recommendation ORDERED That a passport through the Creek nation be prepared for James Taylor, John Lott Senr., William Williams, and Samuel Newton, with their families which was presented and Signed.288 “ The transcriber’s note 288 cites “Ga. Executive Proceedings...,” Sept., 1806 - Feb., 1808, p. 229; drawer 50, roll 46,] p. 268.” See Dorothy Williams Potter, *Passports of Southeastern Pioneers, 1770–1823* (Baltimore: Gateway, 1982), 222 and 381, n. 288

³¹⁴ Catherine Fussell Wells, *Telfair County, Georgia, Deed Books D, E, F & P* (Valdosta, Ga.: Wells Gen-Search, ca. 2000), 34; citing Deed Book D: 161–62.

³¹⁵ Telfair Co., Ga., Marriage Book A, 1810–1858, p. 11,

³¹⁶ McGrew, *Watts Is My Line*, 22.

Rev. John Watts, Esq. (ca.1749—ca.1822)

Wife 1: Smith?

Wife 2: Judith “Judy” Rawls?

COMMENT:

The non-appearance of John Sr. on the 1816 tax lists concurs with *John’s personal appearance in Telfair as late as June 1816* and the marriage of his Wiggins granddaughter in October 1816. John may have moved west with the Wigginses.

1818

LAWRENCE COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Census.

Undated, but apparently drawn before 5 July 1818, the date of the birth of the 2nd living daughter of William Cooksey, Jr.³¹⁷

Unnumbered p. 8, beginning line 1

Watts, John	1 white male	21+	3 white females	21+
	2 white males	0–21	2 white females	0–21

NEIGHBORHOOD:

*Unnumbered end of p. 8, beginning at line 19*³¹⁸

Watts, Thomas	[son of John Watts who appears 4 lines later]
Watts, Reuben	[son of John Watts, allegedly married Patsy Lee]
Lott, Abraham	[married 1816 Telfair Co., Ga., Zilphy Wiggins, g-dau of John Watts]
Wiggins, Jesse	[son-in-law of John Watts; m. Bathsheba “Barbara” Watts]

unnumbered p. 9

Watts, John	
McAll Hugh	[Wm. Cooksey was surety for adm. of one William McCall estate, 1810]
Lee, Stephen	[undocumented online trees say his mother was one Judith Shelly]
Parker, Aron	[Numerous trees identify his wife as Mark Rayborn’s sister Tabitha]
Rayborn, Mark	[son-in-law of John Watts; m. Rhody Watts]
Altman, Thomas	[son-in-law of John Watts; m. Amy Watts]
Hornsby, Reuben	[son of Catherine Watts, g-son of John Watts]
McFarson, David	[father -in-law of William Cooksey (Jr.) below]
Cooksey, William	1 male 21+ [William E.] 1 female 21+ [nee Flora McPherson, m. 1816] 1 female –21 [Barbara, b. 3 March 1817]
Cooksey, William, Sen.	1 male 21+ 1 female 21+ 1 male –21
Webb, William	[married Mary Watts, 8 August 1809 Tattnall] ³¹⁹
Webb, William, Sen.	
Ship, John	
Head, William	
Williamson, Francis	

³¹⁷ Affidavits of Barbara (Cooksey) Copeland, born 3 March 1817, and Massa Ann (Cooksey) Allen, born 5 July 1818, eldest two children of pension applicant Flora Cooksey, widow of William; in William E. Cooksey (Pvt., Capt. Atkinson’s Co., Georgia Militia, War of 1812), pension no. S.C. 19,478, Case Files of Pension and Bounty-Land Applications Based on Service in the War of 1812; Records of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Record Group 15; National Archives, Washington, D.C.

³¹⁸ 1818 State Census, Lawrence County, Mississippi, unnumbered p. 9, William Cooksey [Jr.] and [Senr.]; digital image, “Mississippi State and Territorial Census Collection, 1792–1866,” *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 12 September 2010), citing Mississippi State and Territorial Censuses, 1792–1866, microfilm collection V229, roll 2, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson.

³¹⁹ Tattnall Co., Marr. Book 1: 2; Webb’s name is given incorrectly as *Wells* in “Georgia Marriages, 1699–1944,” database, *Ancestry.com* (www.ancestry.com : accessed 1 July 2009).

Riley, Jesse
Faber? William
Miles? William
Scarborough, Peter
Coulter, Charles
Lane, Joseph
Gordon? John

OCTOBER 1818

COVINGTON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Ministerial Activity.

“In October 1818, **John Watts** was one of two church elders who pronounced a group of like-minded persons a gospel church. ‘The foregoing articles of faith being publicly read and agreed and no impediment appearing the right hand of fellowship was given to the above mentioned persons by elders John Watts and John Tucker and elder Watts pronounced them a gospel church.’(47)

In conference on 5 December 1818, the congregation named their church Providence. McLaurin avowed that, “None of the [Hornsby] family knew John as a reverend, but knew they were Baptist.”(48)³²⁰

15 OCTOBER 1819

COVINGTON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Tax roll.

[A combined land & property roll, semi-alphabetical by first letter of surname]

(p. 1)

Aultman, Thomas 1 white poll, \$1 tax

(p. 2)

Cooksey, William 1 white poll, \$1 tax

(p. 3)

Hornsby, Reuben 1 white poll, \$1 tax

Holloway, William

Hornsby, Duke 1 white poll, \$1 tax

[skip 12]

Hornsby, Marmaduke 1 white poll, \$1 tax

(p. 4)

Lott, Absalom 1 white poll, 7 slaves, \$8 tax

Lott, Abraham 1 white poll, 2 slaves, \$3 tax

Lewis, Elisha

Leggett, Benjamin 2 slaves, \$2 tax [probable husband of Mary Leggett, 1820 Watts neighbor]

(p. 5)

Raburn, James 1 white poll, \$1 tax

Raburn, Mark 1 white poll, \$1 tax

Smith, Andrew 1 white poll, \$1 tax

Stinson, Elisas

Snow, John

³²⁰ McGrew, *Watts Is My Line*, 22, citing (for n. 47), “Tanner, ‘Providence Baptist Church ... 1895,’ 1”; and (for n. 48) “McLaurin to LottCircle, e-mail, 25 February 2001.”

Scarver, David

Shows, John

Stone, Marvin [Marvel] 160 acres, 4th class, 2d quality, land tax 64.8¢ on “Booye,” U.S. ½ paid
1 white poll, \$1 tax

Stone, Thornton

1 white poll, \$1 tax

Simpson, Thomas

Smith, Oliver M.

1 white poll, \$1 tax

(p. 8)

Watts, Thomas

320a 4th class, 2d qual., 64.8¢ land tax, on “Booye,” U.S. ¼ paid
1 white poll, 10 slaves, \$11.648 total tax

Watts, Reuben

1 white poll, \$1 tax

Wade, Isaac

Wiggins, Jesse

1 white poll, 6 slaves, \$7 tax³²¹

COMMENT:

- The reference to “U.S. 1/2 paid” or “1/4 paid” referred to the fact that purchases from the U.S. land office at this time were credit purchases, for which the purchaser made a down payment.
- William Cooksey is missing. When he next appears, it is on the 1823 tax list of Bainbridge, a shortlived county that was cut from Covington and then soon returned to Covington.
- If he owned no land and no slave, and had no adult male son or stepson at home, then he would not be assessed a tax.
- Marvel Stone is traceable back to Lunenburg-Bedford, VA, where John Watts’s uncle Ambrose Mills married a girl from the Thomas & Marvel Stone family.

19 OCTOBER 1819

RICHLAND DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA

Kinship.

“In the name of God amen. I **Thomas Watts** of Richland District, State of South Carolina, being in full possessison of my faculties But calling to mind the uncertainty of life and the certainte [*sic*] of death, after commending my sole to Almighty God through the _____? Of my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and my body to be buried at the Discretion of my hereafter named Executor. ITEM, I will that all my property both real and personal be sold and the monies arising from the sales to be divided as followeth: First, I give and bequeath to **Joseph Watts**, six thousand Dollars, then after all my just Debts and funeral Charges are paid, the balance of the monies to be equally divided between **my brothers and sisters**. ITEM, I do appoint and ordain my friend William Guphill my lawful Executor. Given under my hand and seal this 19th October in the year of our Lord Jesus Christ one thousand eight hundred and nineteen, in the forty fourth year of the Sovereignty and Independence of the United States of America. [Signed] Thomas Watts.” Witnesses: Jane Killingsworth (X, her mark), Anne Guphill, Archelaus Watkins.

“Personally appeared Archelaus Watkins who being duly sworn made oath that he saw Thomas Watts sign and publish, pronounce and declare the within Instrument of writing to be his last will and Testament, that he was then of sound and disposing mind, memory and understanding, according to the best of this deponent’s knowledge and belief, and that he with Jane Killingsworth and Anne Guphill, at the request of

³²¹ “Series 1201: County Tax Rolls, 1818–1902,” *Mississippi Department of Archives and History* (MDAH) (<http://mdah.state.ms.us/arrec/digitalarchives/taxrolls/> : last consulted 6 Oct. 2015), “Covington, 1819 – Combined,” page 1 is image 2 in this digital file.

the Testate in his presence and in the presence of each other, witnessed the due execution thereof. [Signed] Archelaus Watkins. Sworn before me 21 December 1820, James S. Guignard, Ordinary.”³²²

COMMENT:

Page 2 of this set of research notes identifies a family of siblings that I reconstructed for John from his associations in Fairfield. The settlement of the estate of this Thomas Watts confirms that family unit. Three of his brothers are Thomas (who lived adjacent to him in 1790), William II, and George, the Revolutionary War soldier. Tracking these men and their proposed siblings led me to Richland—the county just below Fairfield—where a trio of names appear on the 1820 census: Thomas, William, and George Watts. The Thomas of the 1820 census was this testator.

On the surface, this will offers no evidence to prove that Rev. John was a brother and heir of this Thomas. Pursuing the estate settlement for this Thomas does provide that evidence. Those documents will be abstracted below under 1821.

Land and court records have been destroyed for Richland (whose county seat is the state capital, Columbia). Only probate records remain.

1820

COVINGTON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Tax roll.

A combined land & personal roll; not in alpha order.

(original p.1, line 1)

Hornsby, Marmaduke 1 white poll, \$.75 tax

(original p. 7)

Thomas Aultman 1 white poll, \$.75 tax

Mark Raibun 1 white poll, \$.75 tax

George Armstrong

Daniel McKimmon

Edward Curry

Fredrick Craft

Peter Coulter

William Reid

Reubin Watts 0 white poll, \$.75 tax

Hugh McCall

Button Burgess

John B. Lowe

Jemimah Scarbrough

Francis Williamson

John Coulter Junr.

Jesse Wiggins 1 poll, 6 slaves, \$4.5

Mary Leggett

[apparent widow of Benjamin 1819]

Absolom Lott

Abram Lott

Phillip Lott

Thomas Watts 1 poll, 11 slaves, \$9.00

John Watts 1 poll, 1 slave, \$1.50

[a son or grandson has come of age]

Tristram B. Thomas

³²² Richland Co., SC, Will Book G: 150–52. Page 153 offers the inventory and appraisal of Thomas’s estate, undated, but created about January 1821.

James Tate

William Webb 1 poll, \$.75

Reuben Hornsby 1 poll, \$.75

[end of page]

(original p. 8, start line 1)

John W. Hornsby 1 poll, \$.75

Mills Taylor

Frederick Pope

Ann Lewis

Hackly Warren

Marvel Stone

James Taylor

Joseph Price

Philip Allen

Drewry Burge

Angus Morrison

John Bond

William N. West

Reddick Rogers

Squire Thims

Thornton Stone

Richard Flowers

Cooksey, William 1 white poll, \$1 tax [should be stepson Cader Price, who just turned 21]

(p. 3)

Hornsby, Reuben 1 white poll, \$1 tax

Holloway, William

Hornsby, Duke 1 white poll, \$1 tax

[skip 12]

Hornsby, Marmaduke 1 white poll, \$1 tax

(p. 6)

Watts, Thomas 320a 4th class, 2d qual., 64.8¢ land tax, on "Booye," U.S. ¼ paid,
1 white poll, 10 slaves, \$11.648 total tax

Watts, Reuben 1 white poll, \$1 tax

Wade, Isaac

Wiggins, Jesse 1 white poll, 6 slaves, \$7 tax³²³

21 DECEMBER 1820

RICHLAND DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA

Kinship.

Will of Thomas Watts, filed in Richland.³²⁴

LATE 1820

COVINGTON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

³²³ "Series 1201: County Tax Rolls, 1818–1902," *Mississippi Department of Archives and History* (MDAH) (<http://mdah.state.ms.us/arrec/digitalarchives/taxrolls/> : last consulted 6 Oct. 2015), "Covington, 1820 – Combined."

³²⁴ Richland Co., SC, Probate Box 33, Package 801, Thomas Watts; FHL microfilm 24,445.

Census.³²⁵

John Watts [Sr.]	1 male 45+	1 female 45+
	1 male 10–15	2 females 16-26
		1 female 0-10

Neighborhood (p. 17—)

James RAIBURN

John Ship, Esq.

Richard Walsh

Dawson Walters

Jason PARKER

[skip 20 houses], then:

Mary Leggett

Norvell Robertson

[Reverend, of Washington and Warren Counties, Georgia; supposedly married Sarah Powell at Rocky Mount, Burke Co., Ga.;³²⁶ his daughter *Rhoda* married James Easterling, whose sister is said to be Reuben Watts’s second wife³²⁷]

Reuben Watts

[son of John Watts Sr.; allegedly married 2nd Katherine Easterling]

Abram Lott

[married *Zilphy* Wiggins, daughter of Jesse Wiggins and Barsheba “Barbara” Watts, the daughter of John Watts Sr.]

Absolom Lott

[father of Abram Lott, above, and Philip Lott and Elizabeth Lott Watts, below]

Jesse Wiggins

[husband of Barbara Watts, daughter of John Watts Sr.]

Philip Lott

[married Mary Wiggins, daughter of Jesse Wiggins and Barbara Watts]

Thomas Watts, Esq.

[married Elizabeth Lott, daughter of Absalom, above]

James Nelson

[a single man, no land, possibly overseer for Thomas Watts, Esq.]

William Cooksey

[married to Zilphy Watts, daughter of John]

Stephen Dampier

[Dampiers were near Watts in both Richland Dist., SC, & Tattnall Co., GA]

William Webb

[married Mary Watts, 7 August 1809, Tattnall Co. (Marriage Book 1, p. 2)]

Jeremiah Scarbrough

James Tate

Peter Coulter

Francis Williamson

Daniel McIntyre

William Miles

(p. 21)

William Hartly

Squire Thims

Miles Dowlin

Joseph Price

Cader Price

[son of Zilphy, grandson of John Watts]

James Taylor

Luke Norris

William Toney

Amos Edmundson

John Graves Junr.

³²⁵ 1820 U.S. Census, Covington Co., Miss., p. 17 (stamped), line 42; National Archives microfilm publication M33, roll 58.

³²⁶ 1_rut1, “Whittington” tree, *Ancestry* (<http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/47329546/person/6986880869> : viewed 12 July 2015).

³²⁷ Norvell Robertson Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, *Norvell Robertson* (<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~msnrctar/NorvellRobertson.html> : accessed 8 March 2010).

Rev. John Watts, Esq. (ca.1749—ca.1822)

Wife 1: Smith?

Wife 2: Judith “Judy” Rawls?

Daniel McCastel
Robert Williams
John Watts [Sr.]
Drewry Burge
Nathaniel Burge
Washington Burge
William Reid
Hugh McInnis
William Bynum
Jesse Bynum
Neill Grimes
William Woods
[end of census]

COMMENT:

About the 1820 census, McGrew writes:

“The last data found that correlated with our John Watts was the 1820 census of Covington County, Mississippi. The family included one female under 10 years of age, one male between 10 and 15 years, two females between 16 and 25, one male and one female 45 years or older. Presumably, the older male and female were John and Judith. Someone suggested that the male between 10 and 15 years of age was their grandson, Willis Watts, the illegitimate son of their daughter Amy. The four persons under the age of 26 years were perhaps grandchildren, some other relative, or no kinsperson at all. The writer leaned toward grandchildren.”³²⁸

20 JUNE 1821

RICHLAND DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA

Kinship.

Joseph Watts of Ouachita Parish, Louisiana, primary heir to **Thomas Watts of Richland District, SC**, writes James S. Guignard, Esq., requesting that a copy of the will be sent to him at “Monroe, Ouachita, State of Louisiana.” He also wishes to know whether the will has been proved and states that the expense of sending the will should be sent to William Guphill, executor. [Signed] Joseph Watts.³²⁹

COMMENT:

On the basis of this document, I searched successions in Ouachita Parish and found the following:

9 June 1821

Estate of “Thomas Watts, of S. Carolina, dec’d.,” opened in Ouachita Parish, Louisiana. An inventory of the property of Thomas Watts (slaves and a bay mare) found at the residence of “Joseph Watts, a man of color,” was taken this day by Oliver J. Morgan, Parish Judge. Signed by Morgan, *William Duggans*, James Fort Muse, and *Joseph Watts*.³³⁰ Other documents in the file tell us:

- William Duggans was the son of Elizabeth Duggans, a sister and heir of Thomas. Duggans, who is said to be a resident of Ouachita, asks to be appointed administrator of the estate as its “principal creditor,” saying that the deceased owed him \$1,000; his attorney was Muse.
- Joseph, who identified himself as the “half-blood” “natural son” of Thomas countered that *he* was the principle creditor because the will left him \$6,000.

³²⁸ McGrew, *Watts Is My Line*, 23.

³²⁹ Richland Co., SC, Probate Box 33, Package 801, Thomas Watts file, image 17; FHL microfilm 24,445.

³³⁰ Ouachita Parish, LA, Succession file A1082 and Succession vols. C: 31–38, “Thomas Watts of Richland District, S.C.”; particularly p. 30.

- Judge Morgan, a New York transplant to Louisiana, sided with Duggans and appointed Duggans curator of the Louisiana estate.
- Duggans accused Joseph (who was his first cousin) and "Nancy Watts, a woman of color of said parish," of hiding several slaves belonging to the estate: children Bob and Aggy and "a Negro woman Minta."
- Joseph countered with evidence that Thomas had deeded those slaves to him. Nancy was Joseph's wife, who Thomas had manumitted in Mississippi, in 1819 (the manumission document is filed). Bob and Aggy were her grandchildren. Minta was Joseph's mother. (Note: In the free paper that Joseph filed in the parish, he swore himself to be "half-blood," not mulatto, which suggests that Minta was Indian rather than Negro. However, Joseph also X'd an affidavit by his attorney in which Minta is described as a Negro.)
- Duggans's attorney identified Thomas's siblings and "absent heirs" as **Edward Watts, Amey Kirkland, George Watts, Elizabeth Duggans, Aggy Atteson, and Sally Smith. John Watts** is not included in the list.
- Duggans, meanwhile, traveled to Covington County, MS, and brought back the two affidavits shown below under 29 November 1821, by which he obtained John Watts's rights to the estate. John's sale of his rights to his nephew explains why John is not listed as an heir in the Louisiana settlement.

6 NOVEMBER 1821

COVINGTON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Tax roll.

A combined land & property roll; not in alpha order, so neighborhoods are preserved.

(p. 1)

John Smith	1 poll, \$.75 tax
William Smith	1 poll, 1 slave, \$1.50 tax
Joseph McAfee	1 poll, 21 slaves, \$16.50 tax
Baley Jinnings	1 poll, \$.75 tax

(p.2)

Hackley Warren

James Miller

Elijah Chism

George Bryant

William Usry

Isum Chism

Marvel Stone

1 poll, \$.75 tax

Thomas Graves

Jacob Tomlinson

Thomas Page

Henry Page

Robert Graves

Wilson Price

(p.3)

David Dickins

James Hartley

John Dickens

William Loftin

Leonard Kennibru

Christian Nelson

William Naples

James Tate

John Atwood, Snr.
 John A[t]wood Junr.
 Solomon Langston
 Peter Coulter
 John Reid
 Jemima Scarber
 Federick Craft
Francis Williamson

John Watts 1 poll, 1 slave, \$1.50 tax

Reubin Hornsby 1 poll, \$.75 tax

Daniel McFarson 1 poll, \$.75 tax [in-law of William Cooksey Jr.]

Joshua Collins

Miles Taylor

Daniel McIntyre

William Watts 1 poll, 2 slaves, \$1.50 tax [Is this a son & heir of John Jr.??]

Marmaduke Hornsby 1 poll, \$.75 tax

Absalum Lott 1 poll, 7 slaves, \$6.00 tax

Mark Raborn 1 poll, \$.75 tax

William Watson

William Graves

Duncan Thompson & as “Agent of
 Archibald Thompson, deceased”

Jesse Wiggins 0 poll, 6 slaves, \$4.50 tax

Hugh McCall 1 poll, \$.75 tax

John Armstrong

Lami Granbury

[end of page]

(p.4)

Reubin Watts 1 poll, \$.75

Abraham Lott

Philip Lott

Thomas Watts 1 poll, 8 slaves, \$6.75 tax

Anguish Morrison

John Graves Junr.

James Nelson

Thomas Altman 1 poll, \$.75 tax

William Webb 0 poll, 8 slaves, \$6.00 tax

Stephen DAMPIER 1 poll; \$.75 tax

Joshua Vining?

Benjamin Herrin

David Scarbrough

Norvel Robertson

(p.7)

Noah Michels

Wilson WINN [Winns were close associates in Richland District]

William Denny

Silus HOLLIS [Hollises were close associates in Richland District]

James Raborn 1 poll, 1 slave, \$1.50 tax

Cornelius Raburn 1 poll, \$.75 tax

[skip 11]

John Sellers 1 poll, \$.75 tax

[skip 2]

Josiah Evens
[skip 3]
Evan Harvey
Daniel Yates
Jesse Lee 1 poll, 4 slaves, \$3.75 tax
William Maclemore
Andrew Smith 1 poll, \$.75 tax
Benjamin Roberts
Christopher Burge
Washington Burge

(p.9)
Oliver M. Smith 1 poll, \$.75 tax
[skip 7]
Isaac Herington
John W. Hornsby 1 poll, \$.75 tax
[etc.]

(p.10)
Albert Dear
John Jarret
Joseph Price
Francis Cearl
James Taylor
Mary Leggit 0 poll, 2 slaves, \$1.50 tax
John Norwood
[smeared line]
Joseph Warren
Nancy Lewis
Cader Price 1 poll, \$.75 tax
Edward Clemont
Isaac Ainsworth
Robert Lewis
Colmon Nichols
Arthur Gay
James Smith 1 poll, 4 slaves, \$3.75 tax
John Simpson
[etc.]³³¹

COMMENT:

- William Cooksey is missing. He is past the age for poll tax and apparently owned no land. When he next appears, it is on the Bainbridge 1823 tax list, which was cut from Covington and then soon returned to Covington.
- If he owned no land and no slave, and had no adult male son or stepson at home, then he would not be assessed a tax. Note that his stepson Cader Price—the likely poll in William’s 1820 tax household—appears now as a man responsible for himself.

29 NOVEMBER 1821

COVINGTON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Kinship.

³³¹ “Series 1201: County Tax Rolls, 1818–1902,” *Mississippi Department of Archives and History* (MDAH) (<http://mdah.state.ms.us/arrec/digitalarchives/taxrolls/> : last consulted 6 Oct. 2015), “Covington, 1821 – Combined,” p. 1 is image 3.

Rev. John Watts, Esq. (ca.1749—ca.1822)

Wife 1: Smith?

Wife 2: Judith "Judy" Rawls?

"Know all men by these presents that I, **John Watts of Covington County** in the State of Mississippi, for and in consideration of the sum of Eight hundred Dollars to me in hand paid at and before the signing of these presents by **William Duggans of Ouachita Parish** in the State of Louisiana, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, has bargained, sold, transferred, and set over to the said William Duggans, all my portion, share, right, title, interest, and claim of, in and to, the estate real and personal of **my brother Thomas Watts, late of Richland District** in the State of South Carolina, deceased, wheresoever the said Estate may be, in the said State of South Carolina, or in the parish of Ouachita in the State of Louisiana, or elsewhere, now particularly of, in, and to, those portions of the said estate the said Deceased, which is in the hands of William Guphill, Executor of the last will of said Deceased, in the said Richland in the state of South Carolina, and in the hands of James Fort Muse, attorney in fact appointed to administer the Estate of the said deceased for the said **William Duggans, nephew to the said deceased**, and curator of that portion of the said Estate of the said deceased, which lies in the said parish of Ouachita, in the said State of Louisiana, and which is in the hands and possession of **Joseph Watts, a man of color**, who had the charge and care of said portion of said Decedents property in said parish of Ouachita, at the time of his death, hereby vesting him the said **William Duggans, my said nephew**, with all the rights and powers which I derived from **my said Brother, Thomas Watts, dec'd**, by the effect of his will, and the laws of the said States of South Carolina and Louisiana. To ask, demand [*illegible word*] for, recover, and receive such portions, or parts to which I am or have been entitled, as aforesaid, in whatever state, and in whosoever hands or possession the same may be found, and to certain of such of said Estate, as may be in the hands of his said attorney in fact, as will make his full part or portion of said Estate of said Deceased, after the payment of the just debts or demands which appear legally established against said Estate of the said deceased, hereby warranting the same from and against all persons or claims whatever, to the said William Duggans, his heirs and assigns forever. In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and Seal, this twenty-ninth day of November, in the year of our lord one thousand Eight hundred and twenty-one, and in the forty-sixth year of American Independence.

In the presence of

(Signed)

A. Morrison

Jesse Wiggins

(Signed)

John Watts

"I, **Thomas Watts, Justice of the Quorum**, in and for the county of Covington in the State of Mississippi, do certify that **John Watts**, whose name is signed and seal affixed to the foregoing instrument of writing, did sign, seal, and deliver the said instrument of writing, declaring the same for the consideration and purposes therein mentioned, in my presence and in the presence of the above witnesses, who subscribed their names thereto as such, at the same time.

Certified this twenty-ninth day of November, in the year of our Lord, A. D. 1821

(Signed) **John Watts** [*sic*]

Justice of the Quorum for Covington County

"Clerk's Office, Covington County

"The 29th day of November 1821

I, Norvell Robertson Junr., Clerk of the Court in and for the County of Covington aforesaid, do hereby certify that the foregoing instrument of writing, with the certificate thereto, was duly recorded in Book A and pages 25 & 26, in my office of records, in and for said county, this twenty-ninth day of November 1821. Given under my hand and private seal (there being no seal of office) the day and year above written.

(Signed) Norvell Robertson, Junr.

Clerk of Covington County Court

"The State of Mississippi

Rev. John Watts, Esq. (ca.1749—ca.1822)

Wife 1: Smith?

Wife 2: Judith "Judy" Rawls?

Covington County

I, **Thomas Watts, Justice of the Quorum**, in and for the county and state aforesaid, do certify that Norvell Robertson, Junr., whose name is signed to the above certificate, is the clerk of said county court and that his said certificate and attestation is in due form. Given under my hand this 29th day of November 1821.

(Signed) **Thomas Watts**, a Justice of the
Quorum for the County of Covington

"George Poindexter, Governor of the State of Mississippi

To all who shall see these presents,

Be it known that **Thomas Watts** was on the twenty-eighth [*sic*] day of Instant and is still a Justice of the County court, in and for the County of Covington, and that full faith and credit are due to all his acts as such. Given under my hand and great seal of said State at the town of Columbia, the thirtieth day of November 1821.

(Signed) Geo. Poindexter

"The State of Mississippi

Covington County

Personally appeared before me **Thomas Watts**, Justice of the Quorum and a Justice of the County Court in and for said County, **Moses Hornsby and Katy Hornsby**, who being first duly sworn, say That they have been personally acquainted with **John Watts**, whose name is signed to the annexed instrument of writing, given to **William Goggans** of Ouachita Parish in the State of Louisiana, and also with **Thomas Watts**, late of Richland District in the State of South Carolina, deceased, for about forty years, that they have been *personally acquainted with the father and mother of the said John and Thomas Watts for a great number of years and until their death*, that their said parents always claimed and called them both their sons, and full brothers with each other, and that the said John and Thomas always claimed and called each other brother, and that they were generally known, called, and recognized as brothers of the same parents wherever they have been seen or known. The said Thomas Watts is the same brother of the said John Watts of the state and County, first aforesaid, and that the said William Duggans is the sister's son and nephew of the said Thomas Watts, deceased.

(Signed), **Moses Hornsby**
Katy Hornsby

"Sworn to and subscribed before me this twenty-ninth day of November 1821

(Signed) **Thomas Watts, J.Q.**

A Justice of the County Court

for Covington County & State of Mississippi"

1822

COVINGTON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Church minutes.

Delegates to the Pearl River Baptist Association (constituted 6 November 1820 at Fair River Church, Lawrence County, Mississippi), included:

Reuben Watts and John Graham of Pentecost Church, Covington, Mississippi

Norvell Robertson and **Stephen Lee** of Providence Church, Marion, Mississippi³³²

³³² "Minutes of the Pearl River Baptist Association," pp. 4–9; Kay Rhett, transcriber, *History of Half Moon Bluff Baptist Church, 1812–1830, Washington, St. Tammany, and Tangipahoa Parishes, Louisiana* (<http://files.usgwarchives.net/la/sttammany>)

19 AUGUST 1822

COVINGTON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Tax roll.

A combined land & personal property roll, non-alphabetized.

(p. 1)

[skip 5]

John Atwood Snr.

John Atwood Jur.

Leonard Kinnebrew

Christopher Nelson

John Terrell

Arthur Deese

Joseph Warren 1 white male, \$.75 county tax, \$.125 state tax

Sterling Williams

William Loftin

Samuel Holliman

Bretain Drake

Moody Holliman

John M. Elder

Winston Hamilton

George Pope

Frederick Pipes

Samuel Hartley

William N. West

Andrew Smith 1 white male, \$.75 county, \$.125 state

Nathaniel Burge

Drury Burge

John Carlisle

John Reed

Heatwick Lumpkin

Jesse Lee 1 white male, 4 polls, \$3.75 courty, \$.125 state

Evan Harvey

Tabitha Shelton

Abraham Craker

John Craker

John Strickling

Joseph Ingram

Benjamin Windham

Stacy Collins

Joseph Evans

John Parker

[end of page]

(p. 2)

James Watts

Colin Summerland [a Thomas Summerlin was on 1820 census as a Wade-Showes neighbor]

Isaac Wade

Rev. John Watts, Esq. (ca.1749—ca.1822)

Wife 1: Smith?

Wife 2: Judith "Judy" Rawls?

John Showes
John Showes Jnr.
Cornelius Showes
Cornelius Rayburn
Abraham Mott
Samuel Poll
Andrew McDaniel
Lemuel Evans
Redding Wade
Adam Showes
Isaac Anderson
Abraham Fairchild

Anner Session

Enning Moore
Howel Lewis
Hugh Gillender
James Jourdan
Samuel Funches
George Funches
John Evans
Reuben Copeland
Robert Williams
Matthew Lawrence
Elisha Williams
Matthew *Grantham*
Peter Lowry
Daniel Glover
John Snow

Thornton Stone

David Dickens
George Bryant
James C. Baskin
William C. Baskin
[*end of page*]

(p. 3)

Hackley Warren
Thomas Wheat
Elijah Chisum
John Walling
Isham Chisum
James Miller
Henry Rogers
William Hartley
Francis Williamson
Isaac Hickman
Jesse Hedgepeth

[**William Cooksey** appears at this spot in 1823, but he does not appear on this 1822 list; if he had no slave & no land & no child over 21 at home, he would not be taxed.]

Georgia Phillips
William Coulter
William Hickman

Rev. John Watts, Esq. (ca.1749—ca.1822)

Wife 1: Smith?

Wife 2: Judith “Judy” Rawls?

Joseph Hickman
Peter Coulter
Thomas Page Junr.
Wilson Price

[appears 1821 adjacent to the new adult Cader Price, grandson of John Watt]

Nancy Lewis
William Worthy
Solomon Langston
James Tate
Frederick Craft
John Graham
Jacob Pope
Angus McInnis
John McInnis
Alexander McLeod
Gilbert Taylor
Hugh McInnis
William Webb

160 acres, 4th class, 2d quality, 480 tax, Booye, U.S.
0 poll, 9 slaves, \$6.99 county, \$1.165 state

Jemima Scarborough
John Clair
Mills Taylor
Charles Tony
Joshua Collins
Amos Edmonson

Reuben Hornsby
[end of page]

1 poll, 0 slaves, \$.75 county, \$.125 state

(p. 4)
Joshua Herring
William Drummond
William Graves, Junr.

Jesse Wiggins
Sarah Moore

0 poll, 6 slaves, \$4.50 county, \$.75 state
1 poll, \$.75 county, \$.125 state

[her ongoing presence in the midst of these Watts suggests she should be studied as one of John Watts’s unidentified daughters—especially since she bears his mother’s name.]

William Watts

1 poll, 2 slaves, \$2.25 county, \$.375 state

John Watts

1 poll, 1 slave, \$1.50 county, .25 state [“Little John” Watts; son of Thomas]

Thomas Watts

0 poll, 9 slaves, \$6.75 county, \$1.125 state [apparently has aged off poll tax]

Nathan Lott

1 poll, \$.75 county, \$.125 state

William Wattson

Daniel McPherson

[McPhersons are inlaws of William Cooksey Jr.]

Hugh McCall

George Armstrong

Norvell Robinson, Snr.

Norvell Robinson

Duncan Thompson

John Binum

William Binum

Loami Granberry

[skip 4]

John Terrell (Bogue Homo)

[skip 13 to end of page]

(p. 6)

Econa Smith
Barnis Landrum
George Bailless
George E. Smith
Oliver Smith
Zachariah Williams
Charles W. Smith
John Lightsey
William Head
John F. Smith
Isaac Herrington
[skip rest of page]

(p. 7)

Mark Bincham
James Raburn 1 poll, \$.75 county, \$.125 state
Sampson West
David Chesnut
Matthew Parham
Reddick Rogers
Squire Thomas
John W. Hornsby 1 poll, \$.75 county, \$.125 state
Green Young
William Burleson
Elilia Baldwin
William Graves
LOTT Graves
John Graves Junr.
John Dickens
Uriah Flowers
William Holliday
[skip rest of page]

(p. 8)

Intemittently, we find Franklin Jourdan, Bailey Jennings, several Magees, John Smith, John Cooper, then ...
Stephen Dampier 1 poll, \$.75 county, \$.125 state
Thomas Aultman 1 poll, \$.75 county, \$.125 state
Mark Raburn 1 poll, 2 slaves, \$.272 county, \$.375 state
James Nelson 1 poll, \$.75 county, \$.125 state
Marmaduke Hornsby 1 poll, \$.75 county, \$.125 state
Daniel McShine [In 1811, in Laurens Co., Ga., Wm. Cooksey served as surety for Daniel “Shine” administrator of the estate of the late William McCall.³³³ McCall had served as tax assessor in Montgomery Co. in the period that John Watts was a county justice there.]

Abraham Lott
Phillip Lott
Jesse Lott
Absalum Lott
[end of page]

(p. 9)

³³³ Laurens Co., Ga., “Book A, Administrators and Guardians Bonds,” 23–24; FHL microfilm 0,414,388.

Rev. John Watts, Esq. (ca.1749—ca.1822)

Wife 1: Smith?

Wife 2: Judith “Judy” Rawls?

Stephen Herring

Reuben Watts

1 poll, \$.75 county, \$.125 state

Robert Haley

Aaron Parker

Alexander Grimes

Daniel Curry

[*skip 19*]

James Reddock

Lewis Smith

William Rutledge

[*skip 3*]

Abbel Hatten

[*skip 3 to end of page*]

(p. 10)

Hezekiah Walker

William Wilcox

James Ivy

William Ivy

George Duckworth

William Ducksowrth

John Williams

Nathan Lott

Josiah Blackwell

James Matthews

Morris I? Well

Daniel Whitehead

Thomas Dean

John *Jourdan*

Edward Smith

Isaac Alexnder

Daniel McIntosh

Thomas Dupre

Jacob Page

“James Smith (Ohy)”

0 land, 1 poll, 4 slaves, \$3.75 county, \$.625 state

Stephen Smith

[a Stephen Smith was in Watts neighborhood in Fairfield, 1790s, at time John Watts’s sister Sarah was married to James Smith]

Archibald Black

Coleman Nichols

Elisha Nichols

John Norwood

Eli Smith

Arthur Gay

William Tanner

John Lucas

Robert Lucas

Richard Flowers Junr.

Clemard Lewis

John Smith

[*end of page*]

(p. 11)

James Hill

William Smith

Joseph McAfee

[skip 20]

James Batson

John Bond

Joseph Price

Silas Bullock

Elisha Bond

James Biggs

Seaborn Brown

Frances Searl

James Taylor

William Leggett

1 poll, 3 slaves, \$3.00 county, \$.50 state

[end of page]

(p. 12)

Aaron Pickering

James B. Rawlings

Isaac Ainsworth

Thomas Graves

Henry Page

Rebecca Warren

[seemingly a widow, but both Hackley & Joseph of previous years are still here]

Jones Burns

Thomas Bingham

Thomas Colbert

480 acres, etc.

Marvel Stone

1 poll, \$.75 county, \$.125 state

Richmond Colbert

0 land, 1 poll, \$.75 county, \$.125 state

Charles Brumfield

Albert Night

Joseph Pryor

Daniel Yates

John McGuffee

[end of list]³³⁴

COMMENT:

John Watts is now missing. Likely, he has died. No widow appears this year, but one “Judith Watts,” with 1 slave (John’s previous taxable property) emerges in 1823 on the Covington/Bainbridge list.

1822

COVINGTON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Burial.

“He most likely died in Covington County since that was where he lived during his Mississippi tenure. His burial site is unknown, but perhaps it was on the family farm or the ‘Old Settler’s Cemetery’ near present day New Hope Baptist church in Covington County. According to Girley, that cemetery was the first one in the area where many Watts families lived.”³³⁵

1822

COVINGTON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Petition.

³³⁴ “Series 1201: County Tax Rolls, 1818–1902,” *Mississippi Department of Archives and History* (MDAH) (<http://mdah.state.ms.us/arrec/digitalarchives/taxrolls/> : last consulted 6 Oct. 2015), “Covington, 1822 – Combined,” p. 1 is image 3.

³³⁵ McGrew, *Watts Is My Line*, 17; citing “Owen C. Girley, Seminary, Mississippi to LottCircle, e-mail, 30 April 2001, ‘Cemetery,’ privately held by LottCircle <http://www.groups.yahoo.com/group/lottCircle/>.”

Rev. John Watts, Esq. (ca.1749—ca.1822)

Wife 1: Smith?

Wife 2: Judith “Judy” Rawls?

“To the Honourable the General Assembly of the State of Mississippi to convene at the House of Town of Jackson on the fourth Monday in December 1822. The Petition of the Undersigned Citizens of Covington County Respectfully Sheweth That Your petitioners labour under intolerable grievances: For, that whereas, the said county of Covington is of the most inconvenient and unreasonable extent—comprehending within its extended boundaries an expanse of country amply sufficient for two constitutional counties We believe that the area designated by the constitution is, generally, the most eligible extent for a county:—But that your petitioners should be necessitated to suffer the many inconveniences resulting from a residence in a county the enlarged boundaries of which includes a tract of country of more than double that extent is a burthen to which we cannot submit with silence. —It is a duty we owe to ourselves to present our grievances before you. We sensibly feel those grievances. And a removal of them would be of unspeakable advantage to the county. We petition not for the sake of private interest, but for the general good of the County. All parts of the County most cordially concur in the measure. It is not the selfish request of a few interested individuals. It is the prayer of a county which is severely suffering innumerable disadvantages and hardships arising from the extensive dimensions of our County.

“We therefore pray your Honourable Body to remove our grievances by passing a Law to divide or said county and form a new County of a part thereof. And we your Petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray.
/Signed/ Norvell Robertson Junr., Norvell Robertson, Sen. [etc.]

Section 2

[skip 9]

Reubin Watts

[skip 21]

William Weeb [Webb, husband of Mary Watts]

William Coocey³³⁶ [husband of Zilphy Watts]

COMMENT:

Note the non-participation of John Watts Sr., although one son and two sons-in-law did sign. This supports the conclusion, drawn from tax data, that he died before mid-1822.

17 JANUARY 1823

BAINBRIDGE COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

County creation.

“Covington County ... lost two-thirds of its territory on January 17, 1823 upon the creation of Bainbridge County. Bainbridge County was eliminated on January 21, 1824, and all of its territory was returned to Covington County. ... There is no extant 1823 tax assessment for the small remnant that was Covington County.”³³⁷

13 AUGUST 1823

BAINBRIDGE COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Tax roll.

³³⁶ “Citizens of Covington County, Request to Divide County, circa December 1822”; folder 13, box 6812, series 2370, Petitions, 1817–1908; Record Group 47, Legislative Papers; Mississippi Department of Archives and History. (A transcription, with some variances, is published as “**Jones County**, Mississippi, 1822 Petition,” *Mississippi Genealogical Exchange* 21 [Spring 1975]: 21–22.

³³⁷ “Series 1201: County Tax Rolls, 1818–1902,” *Mississippi Department of Archives and History* (MDAH) (<http://mdah.state.ms.us/arrec/digitalarchives/taxrolls/> : last consulted 6 Oct. 2015), “Covington (then Bainbridge), 1823 – Combined,” image 2, “Archivist’s Note”; p. 1 of the actual tax roll is image 4.

Rev. John Watts, Esq. (ca.1749—ca.1822)

Wife 1: Smith?

Wife 2: Judith "Judy" Rawls?

A combined land and poll tax roll; not in alpha order; certified 11 October, although the cover to the list states the date as 13 August. [I'm dropping Leggetts, Prices, Smiths & Stones, unless something new emerges.]

(p. 2)

James Rayburn 1 poll, \$.75 tax

(p. 3)

Marvel Stone 1 poll, \$.75 tax

COMMENT:

About 1745–48, in Brunswick/Lunenburg Cos., Va., John Watts's uncle Ambrose Mills married Mourning Stone, the daughter of one Marvel Stone. See E.S. Mills, "Col. Ambrose Mills: Research Notes," 1 June 2016.

(p. 4)

[consecutive entries]

Eli Smith 1 poll, \$.75 tax

Zamala King 1 poll, \$.75 tax

Hypolitus King 1 poll, \$.75 tax

John Graves

Lott Graves

[skip 15]

William Watson 1 poll, \$.75

Cader Price 1 poll, \$.75

Mark Raburn 1 poll, \$.75

William Webb 160 acres, 4th class, 3d quality, 0 poll, 9 slaves, \$6.91

Stephen Dampier 160 acres, 4th class, 3d quality, 1 poll, 1 slave, \$2.66

Abraham Lott 160 acres, 4th class, 3d quality, 1 poll, 2 slaves, \$2.73

(p. 5)

[consecutive entries]

Robert Haley

Jesse Lott 1 poll, \$.75

Philip Lott 160 acres, 4th class, 3d qual., 1 poll, 1 slave, \$1.98

Absalom Lott 1 poll, 6 slaves, \$5.25

Norvell Robison

Norvell Robison

John Bincham

William Boyett

William Wood

Elias Stinson

Aaron Parker 1 poll, \$.75 tax

Duncan Thompson

John Baillyham

Reuben Watts 160 acres, 4th class, 3d qual., 1 poll, \$1.23

Thomas Watts 0 polls, 8 slaves, \$6.00

William Watts 1 poll, 2 slaves, \$2.25 [William Watts, son of Thomas]

John Watts 1 poll, 4 slaves, \$3.75 ["Little John" Watts, son of Thomas]

John W. Hornsby 1 poll, 1 slave, \$1.50

John Jourdan 1 poll, \$.75

[16 to end of page]

(p. 7)

[consecutive entries]

Whitmell Craft
Nathan Lott 1 poll, 10 slaves, \$8.25 tax
 Thomas Page (Caf River)

(p. 8)
 [consecutive entries, skip 7]
 Jesse Lee 1 poll, 5 slaves \$4.50 tax
 Daniel Yates
 John B. Carlisle
 William Bond
Zedekiah Parker
 John Reed
 Alexander McCleod
 William Hickman
 William Coulter
 Georgia Phillips 80 acres, 4th class, 1st qual, Bogue U^s, 1 poll, \$1.07
William Cooksey 160 acres, 4th class, 2d qual., Bogue U^s, 0 poll, \$.24
 John Cooper
Thomas Aultman 1 poll, \$.75
James Nelson 150 acres, 4th class, 2d qual, 1 poll, 2 slaves, \$2.49
 Joshua Collins
Judith Watts 1 slave, \$.75
 Amos Edmondson
 John Tucker
 William Graves Junr.
 Francis Williamson 160 acres, 4th class, 2d qual. Bague U^s
 William Drummond
 Shepherd Herring
John Parks 1 poll, \$.75 [new married to Nancy, daughter of Zilphy Watts]
Jesse Wiggins 1 poll, 7 slaves, \$6.00
Sarah Moore 1 slave, \$.75
Reuben Hornsby 1 slave, \$.75
 Nancy Thompson 2 slaves, \$1.60
 [end of page; first person of next page is Hugh McCall] ³³⁸

21 SEPTEMBER 1824

COVINGTON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Tax roll.

(p. 2; consecutive entries)

William *Leggett* 80 acres, 3d qual., on Pearl River, U.S. land, 1 poll. 3 slaves, \$3.32
John W. Hornsby 1 poll, 1 slave, \$1.50
Jesse Wiggins 320 acres, 3d qual. "Booy," 10 slaves, \$8.58
 Wm. Nelson 1 poll, 12 slaves, \$9.00

(p. 4)

Nathan Lott 320 acres, 3d class, "on Leaf? River, 1 poll, 10 slaves, \$8.57

(p. 6; consecutive entries)

James *Raybourn* 1 poll, \$.75

³³⁸ "Series 1201: County Tax Rolls, 1818–1902," *Mississippi Department of Archives and History* (MDAH) (<http://mdah.state.ms.us/arrec/digitalarchives/taxrolls/> : last consulted 6 Oct. 2015), "Covington, 1824 – Combined,"; p. 1 of the actual tax roll is image 3.

James Nicholas 1 poll, \$.75
Aaron Parker 1 poll, \$.75
 Nancy Thompson 2 slaves

(p. 7; consecutive entries)

Thomas L. Motts
 John Shous, Senr.
 James Shous
 Daniel Winddum
 Willis Winddum
James Watts 1 poll, 1 slave, \$1.50
 Isaac Wade
 Calvin Summerlin
John Parker
 William Boyt
 Redden Wade
 Lamuel Evans
 [skip 14]
Hezekiah Parker
 [skip 6]
John Barefoot 1 poll, \$.75
 John Williams
 [end of page]

(p. 8; consecutive entries)

John Morris
 Albert Wood
 Jesse Hedgepeth
 Peter Colter
 John Stucky
 Joshua Herrin
 Anguish McInnis
 Lawd Kelly
 William Reade
William Webb 160 acres, 2nd class, 0 poll, 9 slaves, \$6.99
Stephen Dampier 160 acres, 2d class, 1 poll, 1 slave, \$1.75
John Watson 1 poll, 6 slaves, \$5.45 | William Cooksey had daughter Mary who married Robert Watson
William Wattson 1 poll, \$.75 | but that was 1811; these are too young to be born of that marr.]
William Cooksey 160 acres, 2d class, 0 poll, \$.24
Thomas Altman 1 poll, \$.75
 James Nelson 1 poll, 2 slaves, \$2.49
Thomas Watts 320 acres, 2d class, 10 slaves, \$8.46
William Watts 160 acres, 3d class, 1 poll, 2 slaves, \$2.41
Judy Watts 1 slave, \$.75 [apparent widow of John]
John Parks 1 poll, \$.75 [married to John Watts’s granddaughter Nancy, daughter of Zilphy]
Jesse Lott 160 acres, 3d class, 1 poll, 1 slave, \$1.66
Absolum Lott 1 poll, 6 slaves, \$5.25
Rheubin Watts 160 acres, 2d class, 1 poll, \$1.47
 Duncan Thompson 320 acres, 2d class, 1 poll, 8 slaves, \$7.23
 George Armstrong
 Mathew Hubbard
 Hugh *McCall*
 Abm. *Lott*
 Philip Logg

Rev. John Watts, Esq. (ca.1749—ca.1822)

Wife 1: Smith?

Wife 2: Judith "Judy" Rawls?

William Graves, Junr.

John Watts 160 acres, 2d class, 1 poll, 4 slaves, \$1.50 ["Little John" Watts, son of Thomas]

Nathan *Lott*, Junr.

Stephen Herring

Lawson Booth

James B. Rollins

[*end of page*]

(p. 9; consecutive entries)

Luke Norris

John Graham

Fredk Craft

Mills Taylor

Francis Williamson

David Scarboro

Jeremiah Scarboro

Howell Scarboro

John B. Low

John Rankin

Thomas Celten?

William Low

Allen Heden

Solomon Langston

William Worthy

Joseph Price 4 slaves, \$3.00

Arthur Dese

Thomas Graves

Samuel Graves

Isaac Ainsworth

James Ward

Thomas Page, Senr.

Thomas Page, Junr.

Cader Price 1 poll, \$.75

[son of Zilphy (Watts) Price Cooksey Cooksey]

William Lofline

Even Shelby

Bryant Walsh

[*skip 6 to end of page*]

(p. 10; consecutive entries)

Several Smiths, Baily Jennings, several Lees

(p. 12)

Thomas Gill 160 acres, 3d class, \$.16³³⁹

20 JUNE 1825

COVINGTON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Tax roll.

A combined land and poll-tax roll; semi-alphabetized by first letter of *given* name, thereby destroying neighborhood context.

³³⁹ "Series 1201: County Tax Rolls, 1818–1902," *Mississippi Department of Archives and History* (MDAH) (<http://mdah.state.ms.us/arrec/digitalarchives/taxrolls/> : last consulted 6 Oct. 2015), "Covington, 1824 – Combined," p. 1 of the actual tax roll is image 3.

(p. 1)

Abram Lott

[skip 11]

Abb L. Hatten

(p. 2)

Baley Jennings [land on Booye]

[skip 4 "B" entries & 6 "C" entries]

Cader Price 1 poll, \$.75

[skip 1]

Cornelius Rabourn 1 poll, \$.75

(p. 4)

John W. Hornsby 1 poll, 1 slave, \$2.50

[skip 1]

James Nelson [land on Booye]

James Rabourn

John Barefoot 160 acres, 3d class, \$320 value, 1 poll, \$1.39

Joseph Thigpen

James Miller

Joshua Herring

James Hill

[end of page]

(p. 6)

Jobe Hammond

Jesse Wiggins 400 acres, 4th class, 3d quality, \$800 value, on Booye, 0 polls, 10 slaves, \$9.10

[skip a couple of dozen]

Joseph Price

[skip 1 to end of page]

(p. 7)

[consecutive entries]

John Morris

John Watson Junr.

Jesse Lott 320 acres, 3d qual. \$640, 1 poll, 1 slave, \$2.78

Jesse Bynum

Jesse Walling

John Bynum

John Graham

Judy Watts 1 slave, \$.75

John Watts 160 acres, 3d qual., \$320 value, Booye, 1 poll, 4 slaves, \$4.39

[son of Thomas; note that John Parks, married to John Watts's granddaughter Nancy, is not listed next to Judy Watts as in the previous year]

[skip a couple of dozen]

Jesse Lee 1 poll, 3, slaves, \$3.00

John Evans 1 poll, slaves, \$6.00

(p. 8)

John Snow

John Hood

James Pitman

James Jourdan

Jospeh Evans

John Creal

John G. Price

James Sellers

Jesse Stevens

Jon Tarbutton

Isaac Anderson

John Moffit

James Watts 320 acres, 3d class, \$640, 1 poll, 1 slave, \$2.78

John Parker Jr.

Jesse Scrivner

John Scrivner

Isaac Wade

John H. Morris

John Shows Senr.

[skip 18 to end of page]

(p. 9)

Mark Rabourn 1 poll, \$.75

[Marvel Stone, formely in this position, is no longer taxed]

[skip to "N" entries]

Norvell Robertson Jr.

Nathan Page

Nicholas Pyle

Nathan Lott Senr.

[skip to end of page]

(p. 10)

Nathaniel Robertson

Nathan Lott

Nathan Simpson

Norvell Robertson Senr.

Nathan Lott "Marion Cty" [land on Booye]

[end of "N" section]

[skip 5 "P" entries]

Philip Lott

[skip 1 "P" & 10 "R" entries]

Reuben Watts Jr. 1 poll, 1 slave, \$1.50

Reuben Watts Senr. 79 acres, 2d class, \$240 value, 1 poll, \$1.23

[skip 9 to end of paage]

(p. 11)

Stephen Dampier 1 poll, 2 slave, \$1.50

[skip rest of "S" entries]

Thomas M. Hornsby 1 poll, \$1.50

[skip 1 to end of page]

(p. 12)

[skip 10 "T" entries]

Thomas Altman 1 poll, \$.75

Thomas Watts 320 acres, 2d class, \$960 value, Booye, 9 slaves, \$8.67

[skip 10 "T" entries]

Thornton Stone

[skip rest of "T", then 8 "W" entries]

William Watts 160 acres, 3d class, \$320 value, Booye, 1 poll, 2 slaves, \$2.89

[skip to end of page]

(p. 13)

[skip 19 "W" entries]

Wilson Price

Wm. Read

Wm. Wilcox

Wm. Cooksey 160 acres, 2d class, \$480, Booye, \$.96

William Webb 240 acres, 2d class, \$720, —, 10 slaves, \$8.94

William Hatten

[skip 12 to end of page]

(p. 14)

Zachariah Lee

[addenda is added here]

John Watson³⁴⁰

1826

COVINGTON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Tax roll.

Missing.

20 JUNE 1827

COVINGTON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Tax roll.

A combined land and poll-tax roll; semi-alphabetized by first letter of surname, thereby destroying neighborhood context.

(p. 1)

Altman, Thomas 1 poll, \$.50

[skip 2 "A" entries, then 3 "B" entries]

Barefoot, John 240 acres, 4th class, 3d quality, \$480 value, 1 poll, \$1.50

[skip to end of page]

(p. 2)

[skip 13 "C" entries]

Cooksey, John 1 poll, \$.50 [son of Zilphy Watts, who has just come of age]

Cooksey, William 160 acres, 4th class, 3d qual., \$320 value, \$.80

[skip rest of page]

(p. 3)

["D" section, **Dampier is missing**]

Easterling, Shadrack [Reuben Hornsby is said to have married an Easterling, 2d time]

1 poll, \$.50

(p. 5)

[consecutive entries]

Lott, Nathan

Lott, Philip

Lott, Abraham

Lott, William

Lott Absalom

³⁴⁰ "Series 1201: County Tax Rolls, 1818–1902," *Mississippi Department of Archives and History* (MDAH) (<http://mdah.state.ms.us/arrec/digitalarchives/taxrolls/> : last consulted 6 Oct. 2015), "Covington, 1825 – Combined," p. 1 of the actual tax roll is image 3.

Lott, Jesse
 Lott, Absalom
 Lowe, Aaron
 Lowe, John B.
 Leggett, William
 Lewis William
 Lee, Zachariah
 [skip to end of page]

(p. 6)
 Nelson, Levi
 Norris, Luke
 Nelson, James
 Nichols, James
 Norwood, John
 Nelson, William
 [skip to end of page]

(p. 7?)
 [skip 16 "P" entries]

Price, Reubin 80 acres, 4th class, 3d quality, \$160 value, 1 poll, \$.90
 [skip 5]
 Price, Willson
 Price, Joseph
 [skip rest of page]

(p. 8?)
 Robertson, Norvell Sr.
 Robertson Asaph P
 Robertson, Norvell, Jr.
 [skip 3]

Rawls, John 1 poll, \$.50 [The first Rawls reference I've spotted in these records]
Rabourn, Mark 1 poll, \$.50
 Rabourne, James 160 acres, 4th class, 3d qual., \$320 value, 1 poll, 2 slaves, \$2.55
 Reddock, James
 [skip rest of page, including many "S" entries]

(p. 9)
 [skip rest of "S" and all of "T" entries]

[skip 4 "W" entries]
 Warren, Rebeckah 4 slaves, \$2.50
 [skip 4 entries]
Watts, John 160 acres, 4th class, 3d quality, \$320, 1 poll, 5 slaves, \$4.425
 Wiggins, Jesse 320 acres, 4th class, 3d qual., \$640, 0 poll, 9 slaves, \$7.225
 Wiggins, Martha 0 poll, 1 slave, \$.625
Watts, Reuben, Senr. 80 acres, 4th class, 3d qual., \$160, 1 poll, \$.90
Watts, Thomas 320 acres, 4th class, 3d quality, \$640, 8 slaves, \$6.60
Watts, Reuben Jr. 1poll, 1 slave, \$1.126
Watts, William 1 poll, 5 slaves, \$3.625
 [skip 5 to end of page]

(p. 10)
 [skip 5]
 Williamson, Francis 1 poll, \$.50

Rev. John Watts, Esq. (ca.1749—ca.1822)

Wife 1: Smith?

Wife 2: Judith “Judy” Rawls?

Weathersby, Isham

Williamson, Wm.

Williamson, Darling B.

Williamson, Wm. Jr.

75 acres, 4th class, 2d qual., \$225, 10 slaves, \$6.8725

1 poll, \$.50

1 poll, \$.50³⁴¹

COMMENT:

- Judith Watts is now missing. Apparently she has died or else given up her slave. Death is likely.
- William Cooksey, husband of Zilphy Watts, is here for the last time.
- Now that John and Judith have both (ostensibly) passed on, I will drop this tax roll series in these notes. The tax data for their offspring will be continued in my county-level notes.

1825–1827

COVINGTON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Death.

“Judith ... likely died in Covington County, Mississippi, where she apparently lived. She like John was probably buried on the family farm or in the ‘Old Settlers Cemetery.’”³⁴²

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, “Rev. John Watts, Esq. (ca.1749—ca.1822): Research Notes,” a working file updated 5 June 2016,” 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.

³⁴¹ “Series 1201: County Tax Rolls, 1818–1902,” *Mississippi Department of Archives and History* (MDAH) (<http://mdah.state.ms.us/arrec/digitalarchives/taxrolls/> : last consulted 6 Oct. 2015), “Covington, 1827 – Combined,” p. 1 of the actual tax roll is image 3.

³⁴² McGrew, *Watts Is My Line*, 17.