

## Thomas Watts (c1723–aft.1796)

Spouse:

Sarah Mills

### Research Notes

#### GENEALOGICAL SUMMARY

**Born:** before February 1724<sup>1</sup>  
**Birthplace:** likely Spotsylvania County (became Orange County, 1734), Virginia,<sup>2</sup>  
**Married:** ca. 1748, **Sarah Mills**, daughter of William Mills and wife Mary (allegedly Walton, although no known evidence is offered and none has been found)<sup>3</sup>  
**Died:** aft. 23 February 1796, Kershaw or Fairfield District, South Carolina.<sup>4</sup>  
**Birth Family:** Son of Edward Watts Sr. of Orange County, Virginia, who first appears on the Pedlar River of Albemarle County in March 1746/7 in association with Sarah Mills's father.<sup>5</sup> In 1752, Edward was taxed a tithe for self and sons Edward Jr., William, George, and John in Lunenburg County (later Bedford) where they had settled on Otter River. Edward Sr. died after 1762, likely in South Carolina's old Craven County or subsequent Camden District (present Kershaw County).<sup>6</sup>  
By an unknown wife or wives (allegedly Elizabeth Downs)<sup>7</sup> Edward fathered five known sons and at least one likely daughter:<sup>8</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> In February 1745, as an adult, Thomas sued Thomas Fletcher for assault and battery; see Albemarle Co., Order Book 1744–1748, unnumbered page; imaged, *FamilySearch* digital film 7893705 > image 14.

<sup>2</sup> Based on the location of his parental family at the time of his birth.

<sup>3</sup> Albemarle Co., Va., Wills & Deeds, Book 1: 96–97 (1748 sale by Thomas Watts and wife Sarah, land on Pedlar River). Also Amherst Co., VA, Will Book 1: 73–76 for 1755 will of William Mills of Pedlar River, naming daughter "Sarah Watts."

<sup>4</sup> 23 February 1796 is the date of his last known record, the sale of the last of his 1763 land grant. He does not appear as a head-of-household on the 1800 U.S. census; nor is there an otherwise unidentified male of appropriate age in the household of any of his children. For the land sale, via a deed recorded in Lancaster County due to changing county lines, see Lancaster Co., SC, "Book C & E," p. 182.

<sup>5</sup> Joanne Lovelace Nance, "Albemarle County, Virginia, Court Orders, ... March 1746[/7]–May 1747," *Magazine of Virginia Genealogy* 28 (August 1990): 202–10, specifically 203, citing p.251.

<sup>6</sup> For the evidence and proof argument that establishes Edward Watts Sr. as the father of Thomas Watts and grandfather of Rev. John Watts, Esq. (ca. 1749–ca.1822), see Elizabeth Shown Mills, "Frontier Research Strategies: Weaving a Web to Snare a Birth Family & Origin: John Watts (1749–ca.1822)," at press, *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*. For an oral presentation of the evidence, see Mills, "Reasonably Exhaustive Research: The First Criteria for Genealogical Proof (The John Watts Project)," National Genealogical Society Conference; May 2016; live-streaming video available at *PlaybackNGS* (<http://www.playbackngs.com/7760-f302>).

<sup>7</sup> One partially documented genealogy asserts this identity for Edward's wife, but provides no documentation for the assertion; see Thomas A. Markham, *The Descendants of Edward Watts, 1650–1728* (<http://www.tommymarkham.com/Watts/edward-watts-1.htm> : accessed 7 May 2016).

<sup>8</sup> The details in this brief overview of Thomas's siblings are documented in Mills, "Frontier Research Strategies," and drawn from the several hundred records transcribed, abstracted, imaged, and analyzed in the following research reports archived at Mills, *Historic Pathways* (<http://www.historicpathways.com>), under the "Research" tab:

- 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 Oct. 2014.

**Thomas Watts (c1723–aft.1796)**  
**Wife Sarah Mills**

- THOMAS WATTS, born *ca.* 1725, the subject of this paper
- WILLIAM WATTS, born *ca.* 1727; obtained 1762 land grant on Little River (present Fairfield County, SC, adjacent to Thomas's brother-in-law Ambrose Mills; obtained 1763 land grant on Wateree River adjacent to brothers Thomas and Edward.
- EDWARD WATTS JR., born *ca.* 1729, d. Fairfield Co., 1809; owned land in 1756 adjacent to Thomas's father-in-law William Mills Sr.; 1763, petitioned for grant on Wateree River adjacent to brothers Thomas and William; 1765, settled on Little River near William and Mobleys from Lunenburg and Bedford Counties, VA.
- ?MARY ELIZABETH WATTS, born *ca.* 1731; alleged wife of John Earl of Lunenburg County, in whose household Thomas Watts was taxed in 1748.
- GEORGE WATTS, born *ca.* 1733; died 1772, Tryon County, North Carolina, leaving widow Frances (possibly Frances Woodward, later Taylor); lieutenant from Bedford County, Virginia, in French and Indian War.
- JOHN WATTS, born *ca.* 1735; aged 16+ at first appearance on record as a tithe in his father's Lunenburg household, 1752; private in French and Indian War.

Residences: Lunenburg Co., VA (1747–54)  
Bedford Co., VA—cut from Lunenburg (1754–54)  
Craven Co., SC—later Camden, Fairfield, Lancaster, Kershaw / Wateree River (1763–96)

Children: Thomas Watts and wife Sarah Mills were the parents of nine children, as proved by associational evidence and confirmed by the estate settlement for their unmarried son Thomas Jr.:<sup>9</sup>

- JOHN WATTS (REV. JOHN WATTS, ESQ.) b. *ca.* 1749; m. [possible daughter of Moses and Catherine (King) Smith] *ca.* 1768;<sup>10</sup> married Judith [–?–] *bef.* 12 May 1808<sup>11</sup>; died aft.

- 
- 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 Oct. 2014, with addenda added 15 Oct. 2015.
  - E. S. Mills, "Revolutionary War Capt. John Watts of Camden District, South Carolina: Was He John Watts of Fairfield's Wateree Creek or John Watts of Kershaw's Lynches Creek?," report to file, 2 Nov. 2014.
  - E. S. Mills, "Watts: Initial Survey of Published Resources for Colonial and Revolutionary Bedford County (formerly Lunenburg and Brunswick), Virginia," report to file, 5 Jan. 2015.
  - E. S. Mills, "Watts: Initial Survey of Published Resources for Eighteenth-Century Bertie, Hertford, and Martin Counties, North Carolina," report to file, 15 Jan. 2015.
  - E. S. Mills, "Watts: Initial Survey of Published Resources for Colonial and Revolutionary Anson County, NC, and Its Parent and Daughter Counties: Lincoln, Mecklenburg, and Montgomery," report to file, 15 Jan. 2015.

<sup>9</sup> *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 vol. C: 31–38, "Thomas Watts of S. Carolina." For brief, documented bios on each of these males, see Mills, "Frontier Research Strategies."

<sup>10</sup> Estimated marriage year is based on birth period of first known child: Catherine, wife of Moses Hornsby, who appears with a young family on 1790 U.S. cens., Fairfield Dist., SC, p. 150, line 24. Also see McGrew, *Watts Is My Line*, 25, and Chapter 4, pp. 39–156, for a robust genealogical treatment of the Hornsby.

<sup>11</sup> It is highly unlikely that Judith was the mother of his children. None of John's 16 children are known to have borne that name. Among his 72 known grandchildren, only 3 Judiths appear. His daughter Amy bore 12 daughters and gave that name to none of them. John had 12 granddaughters born before the first Judith appeared among them; the first to bear that name was a daughter born 12 May 1808 to John's son Reuben. From this, we might hypothesize that John's marriage to the Judith who was his widow occurred before that name was given to the 1808 child of Reuben. For a table of 62 of John's known grandchildren (excluding those born to his daughter Zilphy), see Wynema McGrew, *Watts Is My Line: John and Judith (?) Watts, Settlers of the Mississippi Territory*, vol. 1 (Hattiesburg, MS.: P.p., 2010), 35.

**Thomas Watts (c1723–aft.1796)**  
**Wife Sarah Mills**

29 November 1821<sup>12</sup> and before 29 August 1822, Covington Co., MS.<sup>13</sup>

- MARY WATTS, born by 1755, m. Francis Kirkland; widowed in 1793, Fairfield County;<sup>14</sup> apparently died after 1832 settlement of her brother Thomas's estate.
- ELIZABETH "BETTY" WATTS, b. by 1755; m. Richard Duggans; widow by 1800, Fairfield Dist., SC.;<sup>15</sup> apparently died after 1832.
- GEORGE WATTS, b. 25 Dec. 1756, Bedford Co., VA; d. 12 April 1834, DeKalb Co., GA<sup>16</sup>
- WILLIAM WATTS II, b. by 1763; last on record, Richland Dist., SC, 1840 census.
- THOMAS WATTS JR., b. by 1765; died *ca.* December 1820, Richland Dist., SC.<sup>17</sup>
- EDWARD WATTS III, b. by 1765; died after 1832 settlement of brother Thomas's estate.
- SARAH "SALLIE" WATTS, married James Smith; widowed before 1823 filing in Thomas's estate; resident of Fairfield
- AGNES WATTS, married Christopher Addison;<sup>18</sup> widowed by 1823, apparently deceased by 1832; resident of Fairfield's Little River.

**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 were not asked to provide evidence to document the accuracy of their presumed descent from the named person*. The table below reports their data:<sup>19</sup>

KIT NO.	EARLIEST KNOWN Y-LINE ANCESTOR	PRESUMED ORIGIN
151927	—	Unknown
34618	Evan T Watson b 1759, son of John Watson b. ~1728	England
<b>20376</b>	<b>Thomas Watts b 1771 NC/SC m Elizabeth Lott</b>	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
<b>20203</b>	<b>John Watts/Judith Rawls?, Mississippi</b>	Unknown
<b>587850</b>	<b>Francis Marion Watts (Abt. 1833, MS-Abt. 1864, LA)</b>	Unknown
70698	Commodore Perry Watts	Unknown

<sup>12</sup> Ouachita Parish, LA, Succession file A1082 and Succession vol. C: 31–38, "Thomas Watts of S. Carolina," particularly pp. 36–37 for affidavit of John Watts of Covington Co., Miss., 29 Nov. 1821. For all known evidence on John, see E. S. Mills, "Rev. John Watts, Esq. (ca.1749–ca.1822); Spouses 1: [Smith?]; 2: Judith "Judy" [Rawls?]; Research Notes," report to file, 15 June 2016.

<sup>13</sup> John does not appear on the 1822 tax roll of Covington Co., certified 19 August; see "Series 1201: County Tax Rolls, 1818–1902," *Mississippi Department of Archives and History*, for "1822 Combined Roll."

<sup>14</sup> Fairfield Co., SC, Will Book 2 (1792–1800), 16–18, probated will of Francis Kirkland.

<sup>15</sup> 1800 U.S. census, Fairfield Dist., SC, p. 239a, adjacent households for Betty Duggans and Mary Kirkland.

<sup>16</sup> Edward Watts affidavit, 24 August 1852, George Watts Pension Application (Sgt., Sumter's Brigade, SC, Rev. War), File R11214, Widow Barbara; accessed via "Revolutionary War Pensions," database with images, *Fold3* (<http://www.fold3.com> : accessed 11 September 2014), particularly images 28052950 and 28052951 for the 1852 affidavit. For all evidence I've found to date for George, see E. S. Mills, "George Watts (1856–1834); Wives Ruth Perry & Barbara Compton/Crumpton," 24 October 2015.

<sup>17</sup> *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 vol. C: 31–38, "Thomas Watts of S. Carolina."

<sup>18</sup> Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book CC: 319–22, 1818 sale by Addisons of land on Little River; also see Fairfield Will Book B: 113, 123, for Christopher Addison serving as surety for Agnes's sister Elizabeth, as widow and executor of Richard Duggans in 1800.

<sup>19</sup> 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> : accessed 15 June 2016).

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 line that names Thomas Watts as ancestor tested only 37 markers.
- Descendants of both John (Kit 20203) and Elias (124467) 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). The wife proposed for Elias is said widely, but without evidence, to be a daughter of William Mills of Rutherford County and granddaughter of Col. Ambrose Mills. *If* Eleanor was from Rutherford, it seems more likely that she was the daughter of Ambrose’s brother William Jr., rather than his son of that name.<sup>20</sup>

---

**FEBRUARY 1744 [1744/5?]**  
**ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA**

Court order.

“**Thomas Watts** agst *Thomas Fletcher* for Trespas Asst & Battery, Sheriff returned the deft. no inhabitant of this Colony, suit dismissed.

“In case of **Thomas Watts** agst *Thomas Fletcher* ... same.”<sup>21</sup>

COMMENT:

For Thomas to sue in his own name, he would have been at least 21.

**DECEMBER 1746**  
**LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA**

Court order.

“A State of the County Levy” [Payments to various individuals]

“To Whom Granted; By Whom Granted; Dates of Certificates; Wolves Heads; [pounds tobacco]”

[consecutive entries]

“To John Speed, assignee of **Thomas Watts**; “ [W Howard]; 9/12/1746; 1 young “ [wolf’s head]; 70.”

“To **John Taylor Duke**, assignee of James Hicks; W Howard; 11/7/1746; 1”; 140.”<sup>22</sup>

COMMENT:

The identity of this Thomas is debatable.

---

<sup>20</sup> For foundational research on William Jr., see E. S. Mills, “Mills: Initial Survey of Published Resources for Southside Virginia: Brunswick, Goochland, and Counties Cut from Them—Principally Albemarle, Amherst, Bedford, Cumberland, and Prince Edward—with Peripheral Research in South Carolina and Tennessee to Pursue Leads,” report to file, 28 May 2016.

<sup>21</sup> Joanne Lovelace Nance, “Albemarle County, Virginia, Court Orders, 1744/45–1748; February Term 1744/45 to June Term 1745,” *Magazine of Virginia Genealogy* 26, no. 2 (May 1988): 107; imaged in “Virginia Genealogical Society Quarterly,” *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : 9 July 2018). The Albemarle Court Order series begins with this issue and runs for several years.

<sup>22</sup> TLC Genealogy, *Lunenburg County, Virginia, Court Orders, 1746–1748* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 1990), 46; citing Book 1, p. 97.

- One factor suggests this is the Thomas Watts who married Sarah Mills. **John Taylor Duke was also in Fairfield with the Watts-Mills** families of Albemarle.<sup>23</sup> Like Edward Watts Jr. (brother our Thomas), Duke settled in the Mobberly Meeting House area on Beaver Creek between Little River and Broad River.
- Two factors suggest this is a different Thomas Watts.

**JUNE 1747–JUNE 1748**  
**ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA**

Land Survey.

Report of Joshua Fry, Gentleman, Surveyor.

p. 364 (June 1747–June 1748):

Surveyed for <b>Wm. Mills</b>	<b>54 acres</b>
Surveyed for Marvel Stone	390 acres [Mourning Stone m. Ambrose Mills; g-son Marvel]
Surveyed for Thomas Stone	230, 200 acres
Surveyed for <b>Thomas Watts</b>	<b>335 acres</b> <sup>24</sup>

COMMENT:

- This land survey for Thomas likely comes on the heels of his marriage to Sarah Mills of Albemarle. Thomas and Sarah sold this land in 1749, stating that it lay on Pedlar River. That's the location where her father William and brother Thomas Mills received several land grants.
- On 5 April 1748, Thomas would receive his patent—but it would be 400 acres. Perhaps, he combined the above survey with 65 acres purchased from a neighbor who held an unfinalized title, and he combined both tracts into his final patent. When he sold the land on 9 August 1749, it would also be described as 400 acres. (See both dates below)
- Marriage to a Mills daughter might have triggered a temporary decision to live with her family in Albemarle, but his legal residence is documented in Lunenburg and Bedford almost every year from 1748 to 1756.
- As seen above, Thomas made his first Lunenburg appearance in 1746, collecting his wolf-head bounty. As seen below, Lunenburg is the location in which he was taxed during 1748–52, and the place where he appears in sundry other records through 1756.
- Edward Watts Jr., his brother, is also found in Albemarle (1759) on land adjacent to William Mills, about the time that Edward Jr. married.

**SEPTEMBER 1747**  
**LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA**

Court order.

“Upon the attachment obtained by William Howard, Gent, against the estate of William Clark (who is said to be a runaway or so absconded that the ordinary process of law cannot be served on him) for 14£ 15 shillings and 10 pence, this day came said Howard by his atty, and the sheriff having returned that he had executed the attachment in the hands of George Holloway, John Speed, **Thomas Watts**, Reuben Morgin, David Dodd, Field Jefferson [brother of Thomas and grandfather of Field Farrar, a Watts-Hornsby neighbor in Fairfield, SC], John Darby, and William Abbot, the said **garnishees** appeared in court and declared as follows:

---

<sup>23</sup> TLC Genealogy, *Lunenburg County, Virginia, Court Orders, 1746–1748* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 1990), 46; citing Book 1, p. 97.

<sup>24</sup> Albermarle Co., VA, Order Book 1744–1748, p. 364 (report of surveyor Joshua Fry, Gentleman, listing lands surveyed June 1747 to June 1748).

**Thomas Watts (c1723–aft.1796)**  
**Wife Sarah Mills**

- George Holloway says he has in his hands of the estate of William Clark, 1 waist coat, 1 pair of stockings, 2 pair of breeches, 1 shirt, and no more.
- John Speed says he has 20 shillings and no more.
- **Thomas Watts** says he has 3 shillings and 9 pence and no more.
- Reuben Morgan says he has 2 shillings and 6 pence and no more.
- David Dodde says he has 4 shillings and 4 pence half penny and a book entitled Cockers Arithmatick and no more.
- Field Jefferson has 14 shillings and 9 pence and no more.
- John Darby has nothing.
- William Abbot has 16 shillings and 6 pence, and no more.”<sup>25</sup>

COMMENT:

For this many men to be “holding” such precise sums for Clark suggests that they owe him money for services. Overall, the evidence provided in this court record implies that William Clark may have been a school teacher who boarded with George Holloway and left an arithmetic book with David Dodd, while the 7 men who are said to have money belonging to him might owe him these sums for teaching.

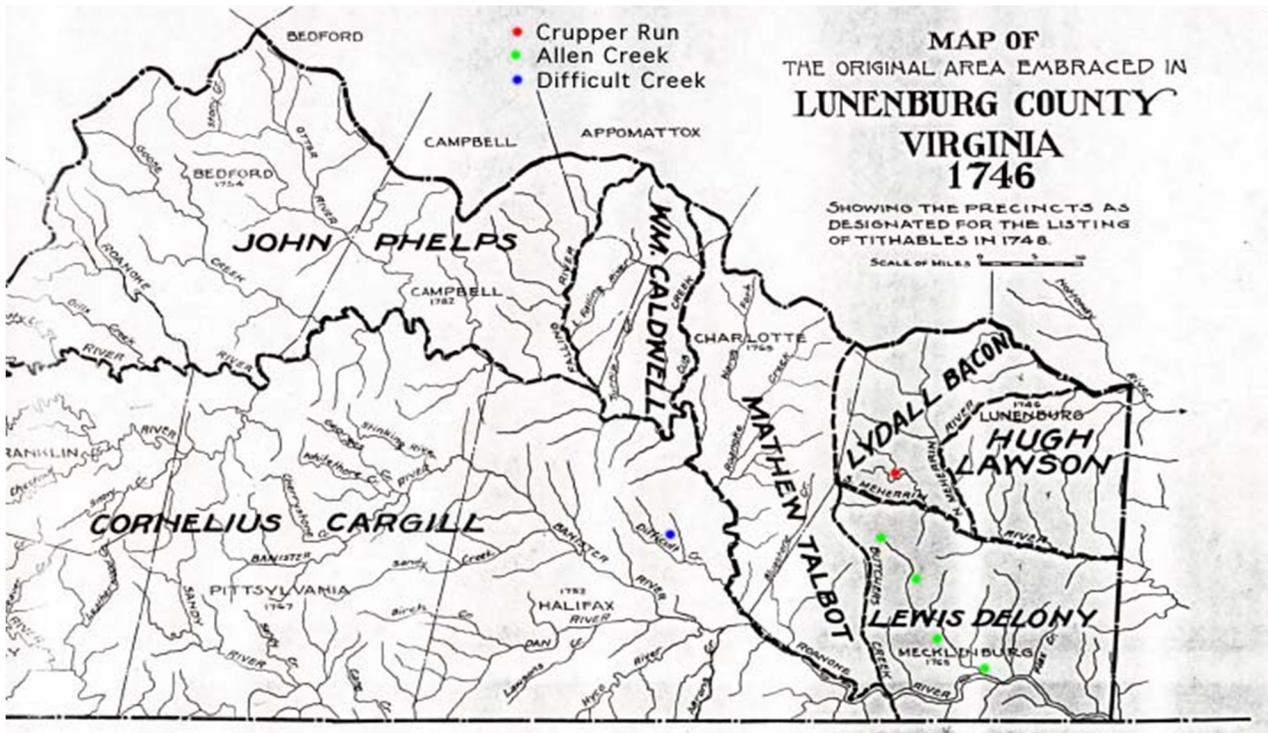
No evidence suggests Thomas and Sarah had an educable child by this time. Documents show that he could not write and signed with the mark WT. **This suggests that the Thomas of this document is not the Thomas who married Sarah Mills.**

For other thoughts on this documents, see E. S. Mills, “QuickTips: Analyzing a Colonial Garnishment,” *Evidence Explained: Historical Analysis, Citation & Source Usage* (<https://www.evidenceexplained.com/quicktips/ee> : posted 6 February 2015).

---

<sup>25</sup> TLC Genealogy, *Lunenburg County, Virginia, Court Orders, 1746–1748* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 1990), 113; citing Book 1, p. 266.

**Map 1**  
 Lunenburg County, Virginia, Tax Districts, 1746<sup>26</sup>



1748

**LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA**

Tax roll.

“List of Tithables for 1748; List Taken by {Lewis} Deloney”

[skip 35 households]

Lewis Delony

John Freeman 8

[skip 17 households]

Henry Delony

John Challis

Jas. Vincent 3

[skip 4 households]

**Edward Whitt** 1

[one Lewis Witt is said to m. Ann Mills, sister of Sarah (Mills) Watts]

[skip 26 households]

Field Jefferson

Thos. Jefferson

George Farrar

Joseph Aking

Wm. Edwards

David Dodd 16

**John Tayloe Duke** 2

[later an Edward Watts Jr. & Mobberly neighbor in Fairfield]

John Duke 3

[skip 32 households]

<sup>26</sup> Landon C. Bell, *Sunlight on the Southside: Lists of Tithes; Lunenburg County, Virginia, 1748–1783* (1931; reprint, Baltimore: Clearfield Co., 1998), 58; color-annotated copy, source not identified, accessed via *Google Images*.

Wm. Sandifer	
John Young	6
[skip 22 households]	
Nickolas Calyham	
John Callyham	
David Caliham	3
[skip 30 households]	
David Allen	1
John Robinson	
Mark Robinson	
Edward Robinson	4
Wm. Douglas	1
<b>Thomas Watts</b>	<b>1</b>
Wm. Hagood and	
Wm. Hagood, Junr.	
Matthew Robinson and	
Wm. Gamblin	2
[13 households to end of list] <sup>27</sup>	

COMMENT:

Other Wattses appear on this 1748 and subsequent rolls for Lunenburg. Their locations (as described on the lists) divide them into two groups

- **Richard, John-the-elder, William-the-elder, & Jacob** (all were in county from its creation)<sup>28</sup>
- **Edward Sr. & sons Edward Jr., William, George, and John** (who first appear as a household unit in 1752)

**5 APRIL 1748**

**ALBEMARLE CO., VA.**

Land patent.

**Thomas Watts** patent for 400 acres, branches of the Pedlar River, in a valley, Albemarle Co., bounded as follows:

Beginning at a Hickory Saplin<sub>[,]</sub> running thence south twenty degrees west twenty two poles to a White Oak in a Valley<sub>[,]</sub> south twenty degrees East ninety poles to pointers<sub>[,]</sub> south ten degrees west sevety three poles to a hickory Saplin<sub>[,]</sub> south thirty five degrees west one hundred and thirty six poles to a pine<sub>[,]</sub> south sixty six poles to four Dogwood Saplins<sub>[,]</sub> south fifty five degrees west two hundred and forty four poles to Pointers<sub>[,]</sub> north four hundred and thirty six poles to pointers<sub>[,]</sub> and north sixty five degrees West one hundred and forty poles to the first Station.<sup>29</sup>

---

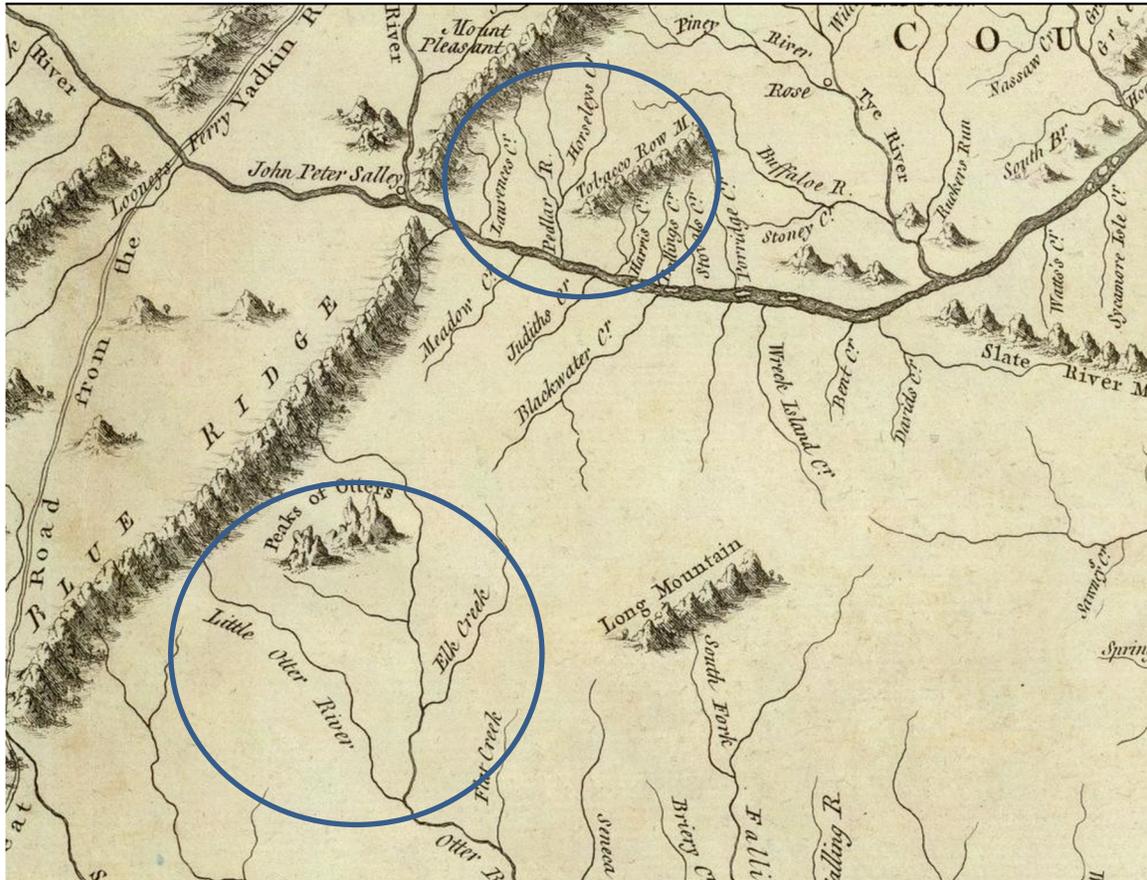
<sup>27</sup> Landon C. Bell, *Sunlight on the Southside*

\: *List of Tithes, Lunenburg County, Virginia; 1748–1783* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1974), 67–73; no source cited.

<sup>28</sup> The 1745 will of Thomas Watts of Orange Co., VA (proved 1749 in Culpeper Co., newly cut from Orange), names sons John, William, and Jacob, as well as Edward. All were of a proper time frame to be the John, William, and Jacob above.

<sup>29</sup> Library of Virginia, “Land Office Grants,” database with images, *Virginia Memory* ([http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=276&last=&g\\_p=P26&collection=LO\\_Patent](http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=276&last=&g_p=P26&collection=LO_Patent) : downloaded 20 May 2016), “Watts, Thomas, grantee ... Albemarle County ... 400 acres on the branches of Pedlar River”; citing “Land Office Patents No. 26, 1747-1748, v.1 & 2 p. 1-730, p. 276 (Reel 24).

Map 2  
Otter River in Lunenburg (later Bedford) & Pedlar River in Albemarle (later Amherst)<sup>30</sup>



COMMENT:

- Otter River and Peaks of Otter was the locus of Thomas Watts’s father Edward Watts Sr.
- Pedlar River at Tobacco Row Mountain was the locus of Thomas Watts’s inlaws, William Mills Sr., William’s son Thomas Mills, and Edward Watts Jr.
- Thomas Watts obtained a grant in 1748 near the Pedlar land of his new father-in-law but sold it the following year.

1749

LUNENBURG CO., VA.

Tax roll.

“William Howard’s List of Tithables, 1749”

[Skip 8 households]

John Robinson

Mark Robinson

Edward Robinson

4 tithes

24 heads & scalps

<sup>30</sup> The above map snippet is from Joshua Fry and Peter Jefferson, “A Map of the Most Inhabited Part of Virginia,” 1775; imaged at David Rumsey (<http://bit.ly/1TEYmPT> : accessed 20 May 2016).

[Skip 9 households]

Henry Deloney [a Jefferson in-law]  
William Tait, Constable

[Skip 17 households]

William Hagood, Senr. &  
William Hagood, Junr. 2 tithes  
Francis Ellidge  
John Parnold  
Jacob Mitchell  
**John Earl**

John Carril  
**Thomas Watts** 3 tithes 18 heads & scalps<sup>31</sup>

COMMENT:

- This William Howard District was the Lewis Delony District the previous year.
- Note that Thomas Watts is still listed near the Hagoods, as in the previous year. However, he is now listed in the “household” of John Earl.
- Many online trees at Ancestry and elsewhere assert (without evidence) that John Earl was married to **Mary Elizabeth Watts**.<sup>32</sup>

The identity of this Thomas is debatable. Note that

- **Edward Watts Sr.**, father of the Thomas who married Sarah Mills, still does not appear.
- This Thomas of the Hagood-Earle neighborhood is taxed for three tithes—ostensibly himself and two others over the age of 16. This does not fit the household of the Thomas who married Sarah Mills about 1748.
- Meanwhile, one Thomas Watts and wife Mary of Goochland sold the last parcel of their Goochland land in March 1747. Their residence thereafter is unknown.<sup>33</sup>

TO DO:

Include John Earl on my future worklist to confirm or disprove the Watts connection.

- He is not found in Bedford County’s court minutes, after Bedford was cut out of Lunenburg.
- In 1786 Rutherford County, NC, one John Earl was chosen by Ambrose Mills’s widow to guarantee her bond as administratrix.<sup>34</sup>

## 9 AUGUST 1749

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

Land sale.

“This indenture made the ninth day of August in year of our Lord Christ One thousand seven hundred and Forty nine Between **Thomas Watts** and **Sarah** his Wife of Albemarle County of one part and Peter Bays of County aforesaid of other part Witnesseth that **Thomas Watts** and **Sarah** his Wife for sum of Thirty five pounds current money hath sold unto *Peter Bays* his heirs one parcell of land lying in Albemarle County on **North side of Pedlar River** containing Four hundred acres Begining at a Hicory Saplin runing from

---

<sup>31</sup> Landon C. Bell, *Sunlight on the Southside: List of Tithes, Lunenburg County, Virginia; 1748–1783* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1974), 108–15, particularly 114; no source cited.

<sup>32</sup> For example, see “scanner5” [creator, “Murphy-MacDaniel Family Tree,” *Ancestry.com* ([http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/11032083/person/6159613367?ssrc=&ml\\_rpos=37](http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/11032083/person/6159613367?ssrc=&ml_rpos=37) : accessed 5 January 2015), “John Earl” page.

<sup>33</sup> Goochland Co., VA, Deed Book 5 with Willis, Inventories, Etc., 1745–1749, pp. 377–79.

<sup>34</sup> *Singleton Family Organization*, database (<http://www.singletonfamily.org/getperson.php?personID=I13454&tree=1> : accessed 27 June 2015); citing Hedy Hughes Newton, *Rutherford County, North Carolina, Abstracts of Minutes Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 1779–1786*, (1974), “pg. 47”; the page number could be the number in Newton’s book or the number in the original volume.

thence by marked trees to a white Oake in a valey from thence to a Hicory saplin, from thence to a Pine, from thence to Four Dogwood Saplins and thence along a line of pointers and thence along a line to place began to have and to hold the said parcel of land with their appurtenances unto Peter Bays his heirs and assigns forever In Witness whereof **Thomas Watts & Sarah** his Wife have set their hands and Seals in presence of us *Edmond Manion, Richard Cowell, Thomas Smith*. [Signed] Thomas WT Watts [his mark].

Albemarle August Court 1749

**Thomas Watts** presented in Court and acknowledged within Deed to Peter Bays on whose motion the same is ordered to be recorded.”<sup>35</sup>

COMMENT:

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

Re Thomas and Sarah:

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

Three years later, Sarah’s parents would also sell a 400-acre tract on Pedlar’s River.<sup>36</sup> *Tyler’s Quarterly* in 1933 carried a sketch on Sarah’s father. After a recital of various land transactions that may or may not all be his, the author wrote:

“In the first order book of **Albemarle**, several references to Wm. Mills occur. ... His will, dated Sept. 26, 1755, probated Aug. 4, 1766, is in **Amherst Co. Rec. W. B. 1**, p. 73. In this will, describing himself of Albemarle Co., Wm. Mills mentions the following persons: *wife Mary [Walton], son Ambrose, dau. Sarah Watts, to son Wm.* the 350 a of land that is unsettled (evidently the land for which the patent was recorded in 1756), *daus. Elizabeth Learwood and Ann Mills, son Jesse Mills, dau. Milly Mills, son Thos. Mills’s children, viz., Ambrose Mills, Jr., and Elizabeth Mills, son and dau. of Thomas Mills, deed [decd?]. Wife & Thos. Jopling exors. Witt: John Staples, Isham Davis, Wm. Floyd, Charles Truly, and Robt. Davis.*”<sup>37</sup>

---

<sup>35</sup> Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Deed & Will Abstracts, 1748–1752* (N.P.: Antient Press, 1990), 43, citing “Wills & Deeds No. 1, pp. 96–97.” Peter Bays did not keep the land. On 13 December 1760 William Gilliam sold it to Nicholas Davis of Cumberland Co., saying that Thomas had received patent for the 400 acres “on branches of Pedlar River” on 5 April 1748. No neighbors were named. See Sparacio, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Deed Abstract, 1761–1764* (N.P.: Antient Press, 1988), 4.

<sup>36</sup> Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Albemarle County, Virginia, Deed & Will Abstracts, 1748–1752* (N.P.: Antient Press, 1990), 143, citing “Wills & Deeds No. 1, pp. 476–76.”

<sup>37</sup> Mrs. P. W. Hiden, “Nicholas Mills of Hanover County,” *Tyler’s Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine* 14 (1933): 237–42; 15 (1933): 38–64; reprinted as *Genealogies of Virginia Families; From Tyler’s Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, Gary Parks, ed. 4 vols. (Baltimore: Genealogical Pub. Co., 1981), 2: 657–701; particularly 700–1 for the quotes above.

**Note:** Hiden errs on the reference to “350 a[cres] of land that is unsettled” and the assumption that this part of the will refers to William’s 1756 patent (which was for 350 acres). The original will clearly states that the unsettled tract bequeathed to William Jr. contained 330 acres. the patent for that tract was not finalized by William Sr. until shortly before his death in 1766 and the land was sold by heir William Jr. in 1770. For these documents, see E. S. Mills, “Mills: Initial Survey of Published Resources for Bedford County (Previously Lunenburg and Brunswick), Virginia,” report to file, 28 May 2016. Also see E. S. Mills, “William Mills (ca.1699–1766); Spouse Mary (Walton?): Research Notes, 2 June 2016.

1750

LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA

Tax roll.

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

John Keeth  
John Macfaull  
**William Mills** 1 [of Augusta County]<sup>38</sup>  
William Hays  
John Richardson  
William Bennet  
    Peter Bennet  
    Joseph Bennet  
Nicholas Welsh  
[skip 15]  
Charles Simmons  
William Linch  
**Thomas Wats** 1 [husband of Sarah Mills]  
John Boon  
John Smith  
Peter Kinsey  
Joshua Bartlet  
John Anderson  
Jeremiah Scafe  
[end of list]<sup>39</sup>

COMMENT:

- Note that Thomas Watts is cited in a new district with a new set of neighbors. While in 1749 he was in the household of a man supposedly married to “**Mary Elizabeth Watts**,” he is now in the neighborhood of **William Mills [Jr.]**, who had a sister Sarah, wife of **Thomas Watts**. (See 1749 deed above.)
- See also the William Howard list, below.

“List Taken by William Howard”

[includes Farrars, John Taylor Duke, who also moved to Fairfield, and then ...]

**Edward Whitt** 1  
James McDaniel  
Field Jefferson  
    Thomas Jefferson  
    Steven Houseman 12  
[skip 6 households]  
John Robinson  
    Thomas Moore  
James Smith  
Thomas Avery, Senr.  
    John Avery  
    Thomas Avery, Junt.  
*John King* [a man of this name was Fairfield n’bor of John Watts]

---

<sup>38</sup> See E. S. Mills, “William Mills of Haile’s Tithes List, 1750, Lunenburg Co., Virginia: Identification Needed,” report to file, 20 June 2018. Also Mills, “Augusta County & the Virginias Frontier, Mills & Watts: Initial Survey of Published Literature ...,” report to file 8 February 2019; both archived at *Historic Pathways* under the “Research” tab.

<sup>39</sup> Landon C. Bell, *Sunlight on the Southside: List of Tithes, Lunenburg County, Virginia; 1748–1783* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1974), 135–38; no source cited.

Baxter Davis  
Edward Davis  
John Sanboth  
John Gain Davis  
**Thomas Watts** 1  
William Taber  
John Taber  
[etc.]<sup>40</sup>

COMMENT:

It appears that Thomas Watts is double-listed in this year 1750. Each listing for “Thomas Watts” has “neighbors” that appear for the one Thomas in previous years. A second Thomas Watts has not been found in county records or on other lists. It is likely that a move occurred amid the compilation of the tax rolls, and that one assessor/collector or the other did not remove him. In such cases, taxpayers typically appealed the extra tax and the correction would be shown amid the assessor’s corrections (usually appended to the tax roll). This set of published tax abstracts includes no corrections for any list.

“1750 List taken by John Phelps”

<b>William Mobberley</b>	1	
Benjn. Turman		
John Jennings	2	
<b>Edwd. Mobberly, Junr.</b>		
<b>Thomas Mobberly</b>		
Roger Conner	3	
<b>Edwd. Mobberly</b>	1	[1756 resident of Little River, Cheraw/Chamden/Fairfield] <sup>41</sup>
<b>Benjn. Mobberly</b>	1	
[skip 10 households]		
<b>Clemt. Mobberley</b>	1	[also moved to Little River]
[skip 7 households]		
Capt. Linch		[Wm. Linch is cited adjacent to Thos. Watts in Hailes Dist.]
Harry Cockram	3	
<b>Jno. Mobberley</b>		
<b>Mordecai Mobberley</b>		
<b>Hamon Mobberley</b>	6	
[skip 2 households]		
Jno. Payne		
Chs. Spurlock		
<b>Ambrose Mills</b>	4	[1752 roll identifies Ambrose as John Payne’s overseer]
[skip 5 households]		
<b>Wm. Stone</b>		[Ambrose Mills married <b>Mourning Stone</b> ] <sup>42</sup>

<sup>40</sup> Landon C. Bell, *Sunlight on the Southside: List of Tithes, Lunenburg County, Virginia; 1748–1783* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1974), 138–44, particularly p. 140; no source cited.

<sup>41</sup> Ann Chilton, *Bedford County, Virginia, Deed Book B2* (Signal Mountain, TN: Mountain Press, 1992), 7, citing B-2: 94; “Deed from Edw. Mobberly (Craven Co., SC) to Samuel Drake, 330 Acres on Otter River,” Bedford Co.

<sup>42</sup> J. M. Edney’s 1846 biography of his grandfather William Mills. For a typescript, see “Public Member Photos & Scanned Documents,” *Ancestry* (<http://www.Ancestry.com> : accessed 23 June 2015), unidentified contributor, “Maj William Mills 1746 to 1834.” The contributor calls this typescript an “obituary written by his grandson J M Edney” without citing a source. However, the transcript itself states that it was written “October 30, 1845,” 11 years after Maj. William’s death. It is more probable that this grandson wrote this as a sketch for Lyman C. Draper who was, at that time, combing the South for information about the men of King’s Mountain. Draper’s *Kings Mountain and Its Heroes: History of the Battle of King’s Mountain, October 7<sup>th</sup>, 1780* (Cincinnati: Peter G. Thompson, 1881), reports part of this in his brief sketch of Ambrose Mills on p. 481, but does not identify his source.

Robt. Irons  
**Wm. Stone Junr.**  
**Eusebius Stone** 4

**JULY 1750**

**LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA**

Court order.

“Silvanus Junon petitioner agst **Thos Watt**; petitioner to recover £3/5/5/ debt.”<sup>43</sup>

COMMENT:

To have been sued in his own name, Thomas was at least 21—i.e., born before 1729.

**1751**

**LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA.**

Tax List.

“For 1751 List taken by Field Jefferson”

[Skip about 40]

Thomas Evins

John Evins

[skip 9]

Charles Evins & son Tom

Gilbird Evins

[skip 20]

William Sandefur {?}

Saml. Young

**Thomas Wats** 1

Edward Henry

David Robertson

Robert Hudson

Ephraim Hudson

Thos. Burnee

John Lankford 1

Thomas Macklin

James Lett

Francis Lett

John Hopson

James Mcdannold and son James

Francis Wray

George Vaughan

David Boring

**Richard Wats** 0 [sic; he was exempted in 1747, likely due to age or infirmity]<sup>44</sup>

James Thompson

Edward White and son John

Saml. Holms

Saml. Holms, Jun.

Wm. Holms

Isaac Home

[skip 8]

<sup>43</sup> June Banks Evans, *Lunenburg County, Virginia: Order Book 2, 1748–1742* (New Orleans, LA: Bryn Ffylliaid Publications, 1995), 71; citing Order Book 2: 322.

<sup>44</sup> TLC Genealogy, *Lunenburg County, Virginia, Court Orders, 1746–1748* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 1990), p.?

Henry Delony [a Jefferson in-law]

[skip 23]

George Farrar

Edward Epts

Morris Evins

[skip 10]

David Calleham

[skip about 50]

**Field Farrar**

[later moved to Craven/Camden/Fairfield SC]

[skip about 40]

Nicho. Hobson

John Hobson<sup>45</sup>

## 1752

### LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA

Tax List.

“For 1752, List taken by John Phelps.”

[skip 28]

“Mr. John Payn’s list

[someone has penciled into the book “of Goochland”]

**Ambrose Mills, Overseer**

7

[skip 12]

**Edwd. Mobberley**

1

[1756 on Little River, Craven/Camden/Fairfield SC]<sup>46</sup>

**Clemt. Mobberley**

1

[moved to Little River, Craven/Camden/Fairfield SC]

**Benjn. Mobberley**

[moved to Little River, Craven/Camden/Fairfield SC]

Thos. Halsey

Richd. Hill

Robt. Baber

Israel Peterson

Wm. Verdeman

Robt. Verrdeman

Wm. Verdeman, Junr.

Jonas Anderson

Stepn. Hudson

Petr. Hudson

Col. Wm. Randolph

Frs. Luck, overseer

[skip 19]

Jas. Standeford

[In 1810–15, in daughter county Franklin, Standefords, Millses & Callaways were neighbors.

[skip 3]

Rich. Callaway

Amb. Bramlet

[skip 56]

Wm. Callaway

Wm. Gowin

[Gowins were Upper Fairfield near-neighbors of Watts]

Robt. Graves

Wm. Simmons

Jno. Mounts

<sup>45</sup> Bell, *Sunlight on the Southside: List of Tithes, Lunenburg County, Virginia; 1748–1783*, 154–73; no source cited.

<sup>46</sup> Ann Chilton, *Bedford County, Virginia, Deed Book B2* (Signal Mountain, TN: Mountain Press, 1992), 7, citing B-2: 94; “Deed from Edw. Mobberly (Craven Co., SC) to Samuel Drake, 330 Acres on Otter River,” Bedford Co.

Jno. Mounts, Jr.  
Wm. Watkins  
Saml. Watkins  
Yowel Watkins  
Jno. Wood  
Capt. Chs. Lynch's list  
Thos. Price  
Rice Price

**Edward Wats**

**Edwd. Wats, Junr.**

**Wm. Wats**

**Geo. Wats**

**Jno. Wats** 5

Jno. Denny  
Jno. Denny, Junr.  
Zach. Denny  
Robt. Worthen's list  
Jno. Braisey, Overs.  
Jno. Reed  
Benjn. Arnolds, Qr.  
Thos. Gaddey, Overs.

Richd. Turner

**Jason Meader**

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

**Job Meader** 2 [in Anson Co., NC, by 1762;<sup>47</sup> in Fairfield, 1790; son-in-law of Edward Mobblerly, Sr.]

**Joel Meader**

Benjn. Orrick  
Jno. Eckols  
Jeffery Crowley  
Wm. Harvey

**Lewis Meador** [moved to Anson Co., NC]

[skip 39]

**Jas. Gibson** 1 [Fairfield, SC, 1790]

**Randal Gibson** 1 [Fairfield, SC, 1790]

Thos. Prather

Adam Biard

Thos. Walker

Wm. Briant

Jno. Davison

Henry Farguson

Matw. Amory

Wm. Armstrong

Thos. Carr

**John Mills** 2 [identity unknown]

[skip 7, to end of list]<sup>48</sup>

<sup>47</sup> Ann Chilton, *Bedford Co., Va., Deed Book A-1, 1754–1762* (Signal Mountain, TN: Mountain Press, 1987), 22; deed from “Job Meador of Anson Co., N.C., to John Williams of Bedford County, 70 acres lying on the South side of Otter River.” The Mobblerlys/Mobleys who moved to Fairfield also lived on Otter River in Bedford. The Wattses of Bedford owned land on Elk and Ivy Creeks, as did the Woodwards who also moved to Fairfield where they were Watts neighbors.

<sup>48</sup> Landon C. Bell, *Sunlight on the Southside: Lists of Tithes, Lunenburg County, Virginia, 1748–1783* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1974), 202–8.

COMMENT:

- Thomas is not taxed in Lunenburg in 1752, even though he is being sued there.
- Note that the Edward Watts family has moved into Lunenburg, in the same district in which Thomas was last taxed—the same district in which Ambrose Mills and the Mobberlys and Meadors (later migrants to Fairfield) resided.
- Note the age of the four males in the household of Edward “Wats” Sr. Males became tithable at age 16. When a cluster of same-name males are charged to an older male, the pattern almost always signifies a father and his still-single, still-at-home sons who are 16 or older.
- **On this premise, John would have been born ca. 1736**, George **1734**, William **1732**, and Edward Jr., **1730**. Thomas, who was married by 1749, would be born **1728** or earlier.

The compiler of these published tax rolls for Lunenburg did not include surviving rolls from 1753–63.

TO DO:

- Seek Lunenburg tax rolls for 1753–63 at Library of Virginia to further analyze the family.
- Search for the existence of Bedford tax rolls after the county’s creation in 1754, to better define the outmigration to the Fairfield area.

**JULY 1752**

**LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA**

Civic role.

“Alexander Mackie agst Amey Jones, Godfrey Jones, David Jones exorts. Thos Jones decd., defendant; **jury**: James Arnold, Saml Perrin, **Thos Watts**, Wm. Bevil, Lewis Morgan, Henry Parrish, Joseph Perrin, James Thomason, Christopher Johnson, Richd Thompson, Wm Jones, Reuben Vaughn; plaintiff to recover for nonperformance.”<sup>49</sup>

**3 SEPTEMBER 1752**

**LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA**

Court suit.

“Wm Calloway agst **Paul Palson** (James Daniel & **Thos Watts** bail) defendant; plaintiff to recover debt.”<sup>50</sup>

**5 SEPTEMBER 1753**

**LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA**

Court order.

“John Thompson agst **Ambrose Mills** for debt due; dismissed.”

“John Harvie agst **Edwd Watts**, dfdnt; plaintiff to recover agst dfdnt & Jas Mitchell late sheriff.”<sup>51</sup>

COMMENT:

- The description of the Clack vs. Watts and Harvie vs. Watts documents imply that Clack and Harvie had property sold by the sheriff at judicial sale, for which Jacob and Edward Watts were the purchasers.
- There are more debt suits against Edward and his sons—as well as Ambrose Mills—that I am not including here in this synopsis for Thomas. There are, in fact, *many* debt suits for many men in this decade—and imprisonment for debt, as well. Field Jefferson’s son Thomas was indicted as an

---

<sup>49</sup> June Banks Evans, *Lunenburg County, Virginia: Order Book 2 ½-A, 1752–53* (New Orleans, LA: Bryn Ffylliaid Publications, 1997), 15; citing Order Book 2 ½-A:103.

<sup>50</sup> June Banks Evans, *Lunenburg County, Virginia: Order Book 2 ½-A, 1752–53* (New Orleans, LA: Bryn Ffylliaid Publications, 1997), 30; citing Order Book 2 ½-A:273.

<sup>51</sup> June Banks Evans, *Lunenburg County, Virginia: Order Book 2 ½-B, 1753–1754* (New Orleans, LA: Bryn Ffylliaid Publication, 1998), 33, 35; citing Order Book 2 ½-B: 373, 386, 391.

absconded debtor. The financial situation of Lunenburg and Bedford in the 1750s appears to have been bleak, a situation that likely prompted outmigration to new lands in the Carolinas.

**AUGUST 1754**  
**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Legal suit.

“James Johnson and Samuel Hairston, Petitioners, against **Thomas Watts**, Defendant, on a petition. This day came the parties by their attorneys, and the matter fully heard on both sides, it is the opinion of the Court that the said Petitioners recover against the Defendant the sum of 1£ 19 shillings and his costs, and a lawyer’s fee.”<sup>52</sup>

**6 AUGUST 1754**  
**LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA**

Legal suit.

“John Hanna agst **Thos Watts** dfndnt; petitioner to recover debt/costs.”<sup>53</sup>

COMMENT:

Note that the suits against Watts are being prosecuted in both Lunenburg and Bedford. 1754 is the year that the county split. Some suits apparently were filed in Lunenburg before the split.

**4 FEBRUARY 1755**  
**LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA**

Court order.

“Robt Wooding agst **Thos Walls [Watts?]** dfndnt in debt; dismissed.”<sup>54</sup>

**MARCH 1755**  
**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Civic duty.

“James Callaway, **Thos. Watts**, and Alexander Boyles are appointed to view a way petitioned for a Road, from Robert Davis’ ford on Nevils Land below his plantation to the Peaks of **Otter River**, and make report to the next Court, the convenience or inconvenience thereof.”<sup>55</sup>

COMMENT:

- Road duties of this type are typically assigned to men who lived along the route.
- Otter River was also the location of the land owned by the Mobberlys who migrated to old Craven Co., SC, ahead of the Watts.

**AUGUST 1755**  
**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Legal suit.

“Ordered that the Sheriff of this County summon **Ambros Mills & Edward Watts** to appear at next Court to answer the complaint of Robert Ewings, Gent.”<sup>56</sup>

---

<sup>52</sup> TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 12–13.

<sup>53</sup> June Banks Evans, *Lunenburg County, Virginia: Order Book 3, 1754–1755* (New Orleans, LA: Bryn Ffylliaiad Publication, 1997), 26; citing Order Book 3: 170.

<sup>54</sup> June Banks Evans, *Lunenburg County, Virginia: Order Book 3, 1754–1755* (New Orleans, LA: Bryn Ffylliaiad Publication, 1997), 43; citing Order Book 3: 273.

<sup>55</sup> TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 44.

<sup>56</sup> TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 69.

COMMENT:

No further mention of this case has been found.

**NOVEMBER 1755**  
**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Civic duty.

“**Thomas Watts** is appointed Surveyor of the Road whereof **Francis Stone** was late Surveyor & it is ordered that he, together with all the hands that assisted the said Stone on the said Road, do forthwith clear & keep the same in repair.”<sup>57</sup>

COMMENT:

- No prior court reference can be found for the assignment of any road to Francis Stone—indeed these court minutes have no reference to a man of that name at all.
- In September 1754, **William Stone** was appointed Surveyor of the road “from Falling Mountain into **Mobberlys** Road.”<sup>58</sup> However, he was replaced by Peter Holland in the March 1755 term.<sup>59</sup>
- Meanwhile, in March 1755, **Francis Callaway** was appointed Surveyor of “the Road leading from Moselys Quarter in William Calloways Road” at the same time that Thos. Watts, James *Callaway* and Alexander Boyles were appointed to select a route for a road from Robert Davis’ ford to the Otter River. The many records in Lunenburg and Bedford that place the Watts in the vicinity of the Callaways suggest that the Francis \_\_\_\_\_ who Thomas Watts was ordered to replace was Francis Callaway. However, my examination of the original court order book confirms that the name is indeed written “Francis Stone.”

**JANUARY 1756**  
**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Legal suit.

“David Bell, Plaintiff, against **Thomas Watts**, Defendant, **in debt**. The Defendant failing to find Special Bail, and the attachment awarded at the last Court being returned executed on a hoe of the Defendant’s estate, on the motion of the Plaintiff by his attorney, it is considered by the Court that the Plaintiff recover against the Defendant 41 £ 16 shillings and 11 pence, the debt in the declaration mentioned, and his costs. But this judgment is to be discharged by payment of 20 £ 16 shillings and 11 pence, with 5% interest from September 1, 1752, and the costs, and it is ordered that the Sheriff sell the said hoe by him attached and to pay the money arising from said sale to the Plaintiff towards paying this judgment and costs.”<sup>60</sup>

**JANUARY 1756**  
**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Legal suit.

“John Hall, Petitioner, against **Thomas Watts**, Defendant, on a Petition. This day came the Petitioner by his attorney, and **the Defendant not appearing**, therefore it is considered by the Court that the Petitioner recover against the Defendant, 350 lbs of net tobacco & his costs & a lawyer’s fee.”<sup>61</sup>

**MAY 1756**  
**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Legal suit.

---

<sup>57</sup> TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 42.

<sup>58</sup> TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 17.

<sup>59</sup> TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 45.

<sup>60</sup> TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 88.

<sup>61</sup> TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 90.

“The Grand Jury returned their several presentments in these words, to wit ‘We present Philip Morris for not coming to hear divine service, we present Cain Davis for ditto, Edmund Franklin for profane swearing, David Shelton for not coming to hear divine service, and David Hues for ditto, Ambros Bryan for profane swearing, Richard Burks for not coming to hear divine service, **Thomas Watts**, Surveyor of a Road from the Peaks {of Otter} to James River, Stephen Chinalt for retailing liquors without license, Jer. Early, foreman; and having nothing further to present, they are discharged.”<sup>62</sup>

COMMENT:

Thomas is being charged with not fulfilling the court’s previous order for him to take over the supervision of a road previously assigned to Stone. Considering his debt problems at this time, it seems unlikely that he had the funds to do so. It is also likely that he had already left for South Carolina to locate new lands for the family.

**AUGUST 1756**  
**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Civic duty.

“Upon the Presentment of the Grand Jury against **Thomas Watts**, for not keeping a Road in repair whereof he is Surveyor (**the said Watts was solemnly called and did not appear**), it is considered by the Court that he forfeit and pay to the Church Wardens of Russel Parish, 15 shillings, and that he pay the costs of this prosecution.”<sup>63</sup>

**NOVEMBER 1756**  
**BEDFORD COUNTY, VA**

Bounty warrant.

“To Benjamin Howard, Assignee of Thomas Hunt, who was Assignee of **Thomas Watts**, for 1 old and 2 young Wolves Heads, 1756, Zach. Isbel, 200.”

“To Thomas Prather, Assignee of **Ambrose Mills**, 1 ditto [old wolf’s head], December 29, 1755, Marck Cole, 100.”<sup>64</sup>

COMMENT:

- Thomas Watts and Ambrose Mills, beyond reasonable doubt, have left Bedford. The Mobberlys, by this time, had already settled in what would become Fairfield Co. Thus far, I’ve found no later reference in the Bedford-Lunenburg-Albemarle area for either Thomas or Ambrose, aside from the April 1757 note below for a court suit Thomas had initiated that was dismissed—as would happen if he were no longer there to prosecute it.
- In assigning his bounty to someone else, who would have to wait for payment until the court session where the payments were made, Thomas would have sold it at a discount. He obviously needed funds for the venture.
- Thomas’s son George, in his RW pesion application, gave his birth date and place as 25 December **1756** in Bedford County, VA. His birth, after his father’s apparent departure, was not unusual. Men typically went ahead to new country without their wives and children, located land on which to settle, and set up some rudimentary accommodations before actually moving their families.

**5 APRIL 1757**  
**LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA**

Court order.

---

<sup>62</sup> TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 101.

<sup>63</sup> TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 108.

<sup>64</sup> TLC Genealogy, *Bedford County, Virginia, Order Book 1, 1754–1761* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 116.

“Thos Watts against Charles Evens for debt; dismissed.”<sup>65</sup>

---

## SOUTH CAROLINA

### Background:

In the South Carolina notes that follow, as context for Thomas, I include *selected* records relating to his brothers and brother-in-law Ambrose Mills—from the time of their settlement in old Craven County to the time of John’s last appearance in Fairfield records. I will also include selected records created by his children, as needed for evidence of Thomas’s activities and the identity of his offspring.

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.<sup>66</sup>

**Thomas Watts and his brothers Edward Watts Jr. and William Watts**, along with Thomas’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. The maps that follow represent sections of old Craven County that became Kershaw and Fairfield Counties. In each sectional map, Watts settlements are marked.<sup>67</sup>

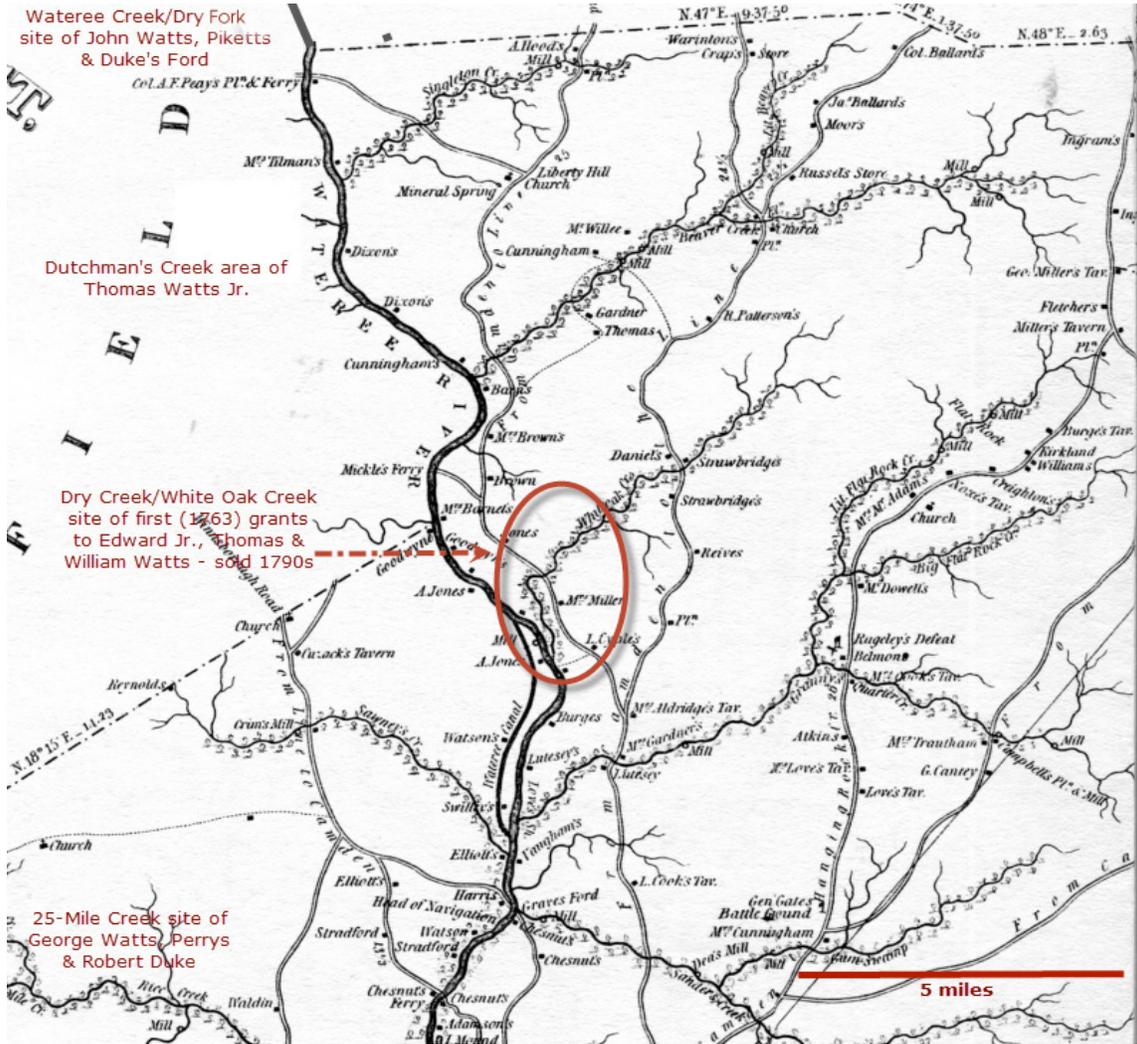
---

<sup>65</sup> June Banks Evans, *Lunenburg County, Virginia: Order Book 4, 1755–1757* (New Orleans, LA: Bryn Ffylliaiad Publication, 1998), 53; citing Order Book 4: 280.

<sup>66</sup> 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; 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.

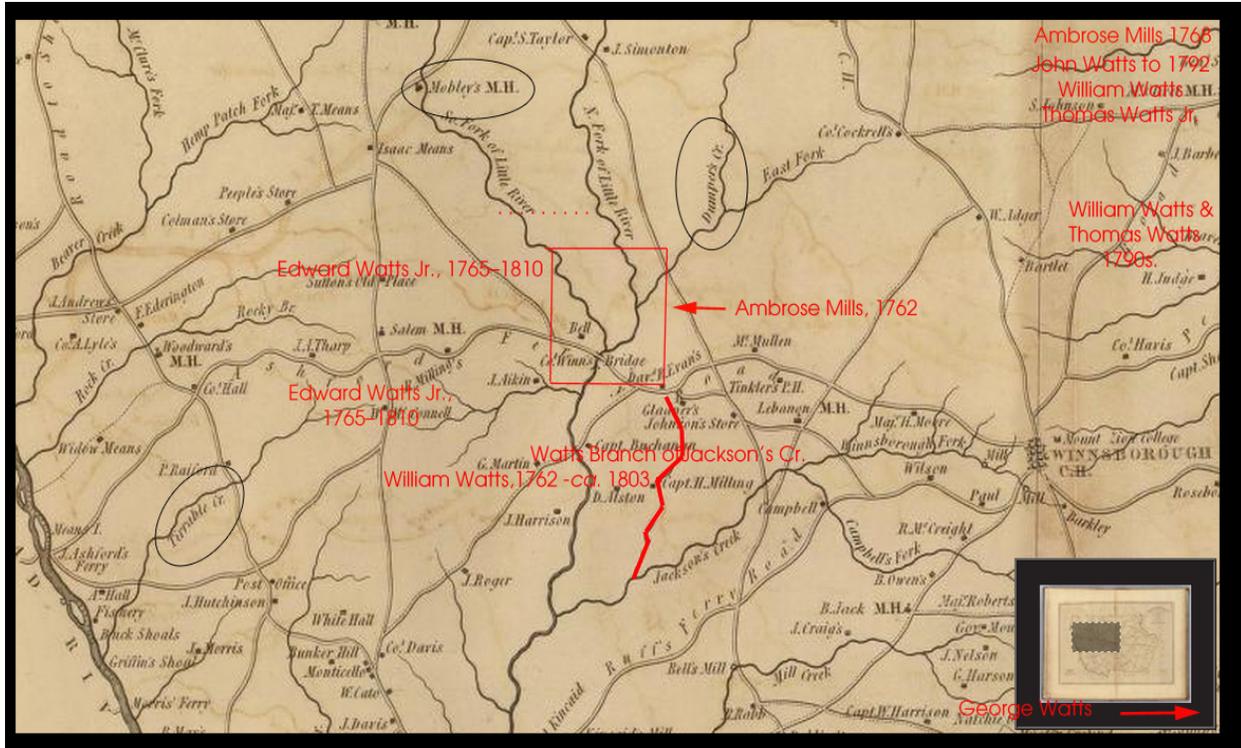
<sup>67</sup> For abstracts or transcripts of the grants and deeds that underpin these land placements, see E. S. Mills, “Watts: Initial Survey of Published South Carolina Resources for Old Craven County, Camden District, and the Counties Cut from Them,” report to file,” 17 October 2014; and “Watts: Legal Records of Fairfield and Kershaw County, South Carolina (Previously Camden District and Craven County), Pre-1830,” report to file, 27 October 2014.

Map 3  
Fairfield & Kershaw Counties:  
Watts Settlements along the Wateree River, 1763–ca.1800<sup>68</sup>



<sup>68</sup> Map is extracted from Robert Mills, *Mills's Atlas: Atlas of the State of South Carolina*, 1825 (reprinted, Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1980), "Kershaw County."

Map 4  
West-Central Fairfield County (Little River area)<sup>69</sup>  
Site of William Watts, Edward Watts Jr., and Ambrose Mills



COMMENT:

- Ambrose Mills was the first in this family cluster to petition for land (1761), locating at the strategic forks of Little River, which was surveyed for him in 1762.
- William Watts, 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. in 1765 left the Wateree 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.)<sup>70</sup>
- 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.**<sup>71</sup>

<sup>69</sup> 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](http://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.

<sup>70</sup> See, for example, Ann Chilton, *Bedford County, Virginia, Deed Book B2* (Signal Mountain, TN: Mountain Press, 1992), 7, citing B-2: 94, wherein "Edw. Moberly (Craven Co., SC)" sold his land on Otter River of Bedford on 10 September 1756.

<sup>71</sup> 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>).

<sup>72</sup> 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 and images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online/archives/> : accessed 7 October 2014), "Mills, Ambrose, Plat for 100 Acres on Little River."

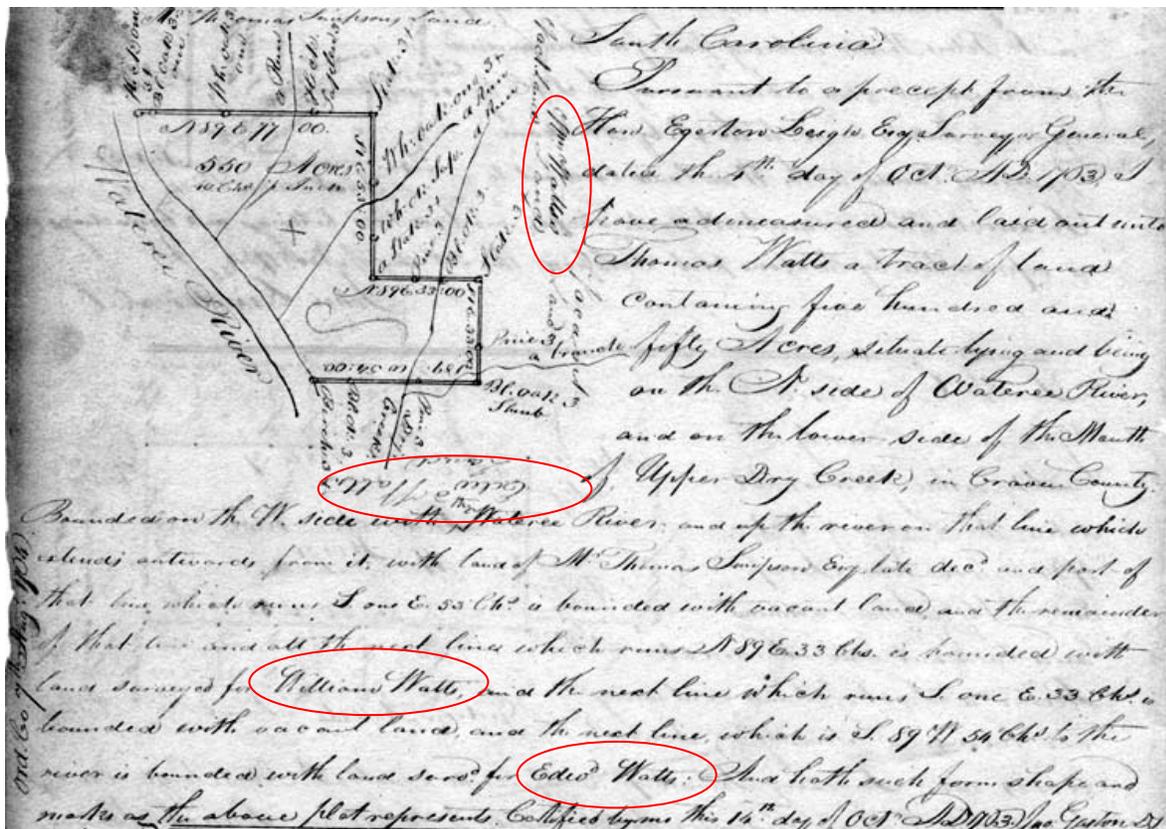


- 1 December 1761 **Ambrose Mills**, 100 acres on Little River<sup>72</sup> surveyed 7 May 1762<sup>73</sup>
- 7 September 1762 **William Watts**, 100 acres [Little River]<sup>74</sup> surveyed 4 Oct. 1762<sup>75</sup>
- 4 October 1763 **William Watts**, 100 acres on Santee or Wateree  
**Edward Watts 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] Simpson<sup>76</sup>

COMMENT:

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

**14 OCTOBER 1763**  
**Craven County, SC**  
Land plat.



<sup>72</sup> 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 and images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online archives/> : accessed 7 October 2014), "Mills, Ambrose, Plat for 100 Acres on Little River."

<sup>73</sup> *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database and images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online archives/> : accessed 7 October 2014), "Mills, Ambrose, Plat for 100 Acres on Little River."

<sup>74</sup> Brent H. Holcomb, *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals*, vol. 5, 1757–1765 (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 1998), 89.

<sup>75</sup> *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database and images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online archives/> : accessed 7 October 2014), "Watts, William, Plat for 100 Acres on Little River."

<sup>76</sup> 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.) .

“Pursuant to a precept from the Hon. Egerton Leigh, Esq. Surveyor General, dated the 4<sup>th</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup> day of October 1763.<sup>77</sup>

COMMENT:

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

**JULY 1767–1768**

**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 Thomas Edward Jr., and William Watts received their 1763 lands. (See Map 3.) 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 Thomas and Sarah’s children would emerge after records began to be kept in 1785:

“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, 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.”<sup>78</sup>

COMMENT:

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

“[October] 26<sup>th</sup> [at] Beaver Creek [modern Kershaw County] from whence I was conducted over the **Wateree 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}.”

---

<sup>77</sup> *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database and images ([http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online archives/](http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online%20archives/) : accessed 7 October 2014), “Watts, Thomas,” citing “S213184: Colonial Plat Books (Copy Series).”

<sup>78</sup> 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, NC: Univ. of NC Press, 1953), 24–26.

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

“December [no date] ... Cross’d the Country, and the **Wateree 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.”<sup>79</sup>

COMMENT;

About the time that Thomas and Sarah’s son John took a wife and began his family, Woodmason recorded this entry:

[April or May 1768] “On the 10<sup>th</sup> gave Sermon to the Congregation at Little River [the area of Thomas’s brothers William and Edward Jr.]—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 Wateree 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 Wateree 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 ...”<sup>80</sup>

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

“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.”<sup>81</sup>

COMMENT:

John Daugherty, his wife Judith, his son Samuel, and apparent daughter Rhoda appear frequently in Fairfield records of the 1780s in company with Thomas’s son George Watts and were close neighbors of their son John Watts. The Daughertys lived roughly in the Belton Store area of Map 3. In 1786, the J.P. Charles

---

<sup>79</sup> Ibid., 28–29.

<sup>80</sup> Ibid., 35–36.

<sup>81</sup> Ibid., 36–37.

Pickett—who is enumerated 13 houses from John Watts & Thomas Watts [Jr.] on the 1790 census—bought land adjacent to Dougherty.<sup>82</sup>

Woodmason, by no means an impartial observer, also made remarks that help us understand the marital patterns that Thomas and Sarah’s children likely followed. Speaking of a trip across mid-Fairfield to Jackson’s Creek (site of Thomas’s brother William Watts), Woodmason 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.”<sup>83</sup>

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.”<sup>84</sup>

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 Jr. on the 1790 census, was a Tory.)<sup>85</sup>

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 and Sarah Watts] 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

---

<sup>82</sup> 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.

<sup>83</sup> Hooker, *Carolina Backcountry on the Eve of the Revolution: The Journal and Other Writings of Charles Woodmason*, 39.

<sup>84</sup> *Ibid.*, 57.

<sup>85</sup> 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) Hornsby sold the Moses Kirkland land in 1795, in preparation for their move to Georgia, their deed stated the provenance of the land; see Fairfield Co., SC, Deed Book I: 330. Shelton, *All That Dare Oppose Them*, p. 82, presents evidence that Burbage Watts was one of the Tories who jumped over the cliff from Mobley’s Meeting House to escape the Whigs and that he broke his back in the process.

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."<sup>86</sup>

COMMENT:

The Hornsby-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}."<sup>87</sup>

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' Atlas* shows "J. Barber's store"—apparently the store whose contents Thomas and Sarah's son John inventoried in 1784 for the Barber estate. (Kershaw Co., SC, "Camden District 1782–1788; Kershaw District 1817–1824, Estate Records Book A-1," 287)

From there, Rev. Woodmason traveled south through the 1760s-era neighborhood of Ambrose Mills's home plantation and the area where the children of Thomas and Sarah 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."<sup>88</sup>

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 6<sup>th</sup> [1768]

"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."<sup>89</sup>

COMMENT:

From Sawney's Creek, the minister returned to "Pine Tree" (modern Camden), then journeyed on to Charleston and 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.

---

<sup>86</sup> Hooker, *Carolina Backcountry on the Eve of the Revolution: The Journal and Other Writings of Charles Woodmason*, 53.

<sup>87</sup> *Ibid.*, 59.

<sup>88</sup> *Ibid.*, 60.

<sup>89</sup> *Ibid.*, 62.

1768–72

**CAMDEN DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA**

Context.

“In 1772, there were branches [of the Congaree Baptist Church] established at **Waterree 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.”<sup>90</sup> (Page 147 tells us that **25-Mile Creek** was formed in 1768).

COMMENT:

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

1772

**CAMDEN DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA**

Context.

“Of the branches of Congaree [church] in 1772, only **Waterree 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 plots were on Waterree 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 Waterree and Dutchmans Creeks.**”<sup>91</sup>

COMMENT:

Ralph Jones’s Waterree-Dutchman’s Creek meeting house was a bit below the area where “Thomas Watts Junior” settled as a large-scale landowner in 1787. Jones and Thomas Roden were two of the men who—with Thomas and Sarah’s son John—signed the 1783 character affidavit of Lt. William Coggin. Jeremiah Roden married Mary Hornsby, sister of the Moses Hornsby who married John Watts’s daughter Katy. In short, the members of this church formed a tight-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.”<sup>92</sup>

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.”<sup>93</sup>

COMMENT:

---

<sup>90</sup> Leah Townsend, *South Carolina Baptists, 1670–1805* (1935; reprinted Baltimore: Clearfield Co., 2003), 144–45.

<sup>91</sup> *Ibid.*, 147.

<sup>92</sup> Fitz Hugh McMaster, *History of Fairfield County, South Carolina, from ‘Before the White Man Came’ to 1942* (Spartanburg, S.C.: Reprint Co., 1980), 120.

<sup>93</sup> *Ibid.*, 120.

No Watts, Rawls, Duke, or Mobley. 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.

**1 DECEMBER 1772**  
**CRAVEN COUNTY, SC**

Land petition.

“For warrants of Survey”

**Edward Watts** 300 “in South Carolina”

[skip 60]

**George Watts** 150 “in South Carolina”<sup>94</sup>

COMMENT:

- Edward Watts, above, is Edward Jr. of the Wateree River, Thomas’s brother who in 1765 had requested 150 acres on Beaver Creek of Little River.
- This George Watts—on the surface—would seem to be too young to be Thomas’s son, who turned 16 that month. However,
  - No other George Watts has been found in South Carolina during this period.
  - Thomas’s brother George Watts of Bedford had, in the meanwhile, moved to Anson Co., NC (later Lincoln Co.) where he bought land and appears on several records from 1769 to November 1772 when his probate was opened.<sup>95</sup>
  - Considerable direct evidence suggests that Thomas’s son George married in his mid-teens and produced at least three children by mid-1780, possibly four.<sup>96</sup> As discussed above, Rev. Charles Woodmason, the itinerant Church of England minister who kept a journal during his travels through the wilds of this region, wrote scathingly of the teenaged marriages that he observed there.<sup>97</sup>

**7 AUGUST 1775**  
**CAMDEN DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA**

Military pay roll.

“Revolutionary War Soldiers From What Is Now Fairfield County: Captain Woodward’s Company.”<sup>98</sup>

---

<sup>94</sup> Brent H. Holcomb, *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals*, vol. 7, 1771–1774 (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 1999), 167, 171, 173.

<sup>95</sup> See E. S. Mills, “Initial Survey of Published Resources for Colonial and Revolutionary Anson County, NC, and Its Parent and Daughter Counties: Lincoln, Mecklenburg, and Montgomery,” report to file, 20 January 2015.

<sup>96</sup> See E. S. Mills, “George Watts (1756–1834); Wives Ruth Perry & Barbara Compton/Crumpton: Research Notes,” 24 July 2015.

<sup>97</sup> 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, NC: Univ. of NC Press, 1953), 39. Similar situations are found throughout the Southern states. For example, an autobiographical sketch submitted to a nineteenth-century history by the founder of Marthaville, Louisiana, states: “At the age of fifteen years and three months (or January 22, 1841), he was united in marriage with Miss Martha Whitlock, also a native Tennessean; the little town of Marthaville derived its name from her in 1855.” See *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Northwest Louisiana* (Nashville: Southern Publishing Co., 1890), 368.

<sup>98</sup> Fitz Hugh McMaster, *History of Fairfield County, South Carolina, from ‘Before the White Man Came’ to 1942* (Spartanburg, SC: Reprint Co., 1980), 120.

COMMENT:

No Watts, Rawls, Duke, Mobley.

**2 SEPTEMBER 1775**

**CAMDEN DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA**

Military pay roll.

“Revolutionary War Soldiers From What Is Now Fairfield County: Robert Ellison’s Company.”<sup>99</sup>

COMMENT:

No Watts, Rawls, Duke, Mobley. This published source presents 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, who would relate the experience in his RW pension application.

The next two documents, dated 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 21<sup>st</sup> 1779.”<sup>100</sup>

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 a few miles below Thomas Watts on the Kershaw side of the Wateree—close enough that Thomas could easily have been in his 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

---

<sup>99</sup> Ibid., 120.

<sup>100</sup> *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database and 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.”

for Disobedience of Orders.”<sup>101</sup>

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 any son of Thomas and Sarah, except George, *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.* Thomas’s brother-in-law, 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<sup>l</sup> Matthew Singleton’s Reg<sup>t</sup> of Militia for Articles Imprest (by Virtue of B. G<sup>l</sup> Wmson’s Warrant of Impress bearing date March 21<sup>st</sup> 1779) for the Public Use on an expedition into Georgia under Command of Lieu<sup>t</sup> Col<sup>l</sup> Kershaw in a Troop of Horse.” Individuals from whom impressments were made: Hen<sup>y</sup> Richborough, Tho<sup>s</sup> Maples. Tho<sup>s</sup> Smith. Jn<sup>o</sup> Anderson, Dav<sup>d</sup> Platt, Benj<sup>n</sup> Reese [lined through] John Westbury, Ja<sup>s</sup> Burtlitt, Fran<sup>s</sup> Pringle, W<sup>m</sup> Bennet, Edw<sup>d</sup> McKay, Stev<sup>n</sup> Welch, Paul Fulton, Hen<sup>y</sup> Price, John Laverty, Tho<sup>s</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Jenkins, Isaac Hiltons, W<sup>m</sup> Williams, Ja<sup>s</sup> McCullough, W<sup>m</sup> P \_\_\_[?], James Gibson, Josiah Furman, Josiah Furman [again] , Henry[?] Horworth [lined through], W<sup>m</sup> 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<sup>w</sup> Singleton.”<sup>102</sup>

**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

---

<sup>101</sup> *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database and 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.”

<sup>102</sup> *South Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database and 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.”

Company in the 6<sup>th</sup> South Carolina or The Continental Es[t]ablishment Commanded by Lieut. Col. William Henderson from the first August to the first December 1779.”<sup>103</sup>

COMMENT:

No Watts, Rawls, Duke, Mobley.

#### AUGUST–DECEMBER 1779

##### CAMDEN DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA

Military pay roll.

“Revolutionary War Soldiers From What Is Now Fairfield County: Pay Roll of Capt. John Buchanan’s Company in the 6<sup>th</sup> South Carolina or The Continental Es[t]ablishment Commanded by Lieut. Col. William Henderson from the first August to the first December 1779.”<sup>104</sup>

COMMENT:

No Watts, Rawls, Duke, Mobley.

#### 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 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 Mobley’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.”<sup>105</sup>

COMMENT:

---

<sup>103</sup> McMaster, *History of Fairfield County, South Carolina, from ‘Before the White Man Came’ to 1942*, 120.

<sup>104</sup> McMaster, *History of Fairfield County, South Carolina, from ‘Before the White Man Came’ to 1942*, 120.

<sup>105</sup> Ken Shelton, “Synopsis of the Battle of Mobley’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 Mobleys and **Edward Moberley Sr.’s son-in-law Job Meador**, formerly of Lunenburg and Bedford, by way of Anson Co., NC; see Shelton, 100, 108, 118. The younger Mobley males were also drafted to serve the Whig cause.

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[raven] 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 Mills<sup>106</sup>], **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.”<sup>107</sup>

## 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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).”<sup>108</sup>

### COMMENT:

- This “Thos Watts” should be in present Fairfield County, but not necessarily as a resident. He is likely Thomas Sr., given that Thomas Jr. has not yet come into the records as an adult.
- Thomas Watts “Jr.” of Fairfield in 1787 would buy 2 tracts of land from James *Ogilvie*, one of which was adjacent to Thomas Sr.'s son **John Watts**. *William Cato* was the surveyor.<sup>109</sup>
- *John Wooten* of the above list was 5 houses from **George Watts** on the 1790 Fairfield census.
- *Jacob Gibson* was at the Widow Barber estate sale with **John Watts** in 1784.<sup>110</sup>
- *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.<sup>111</sup>

These overlapping associations support the conclusion that the Thomas Watts of this 1782 document was not an unrelated stray from elsewhere who had temporarily moved into the Wateree River.

---

<sup>106</sup> Brent H. Holcomb, *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals*, vol. 6, 1766–1770 (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 1999), 26.

<sup>107</sup> Shelton, *All that Dare Oppose Them*, 21.

<sup>108</sup> “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).

<sup>109</sup> 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 and images ([http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online\\_archives/](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 and images ([http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online\\_archives/](http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/online_archives/)), “Watts, Thomas, citing “Series: S213190; Volume: 0020; Page: 00023; Item: 001.”

<sup>110</sup> Kershaw Co., SC, Estate Records Book A: 285–86,

<sup>111</sup> “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:2 95–96, a land sale by heirs of Edward Watts.

**5 DECEMBER 1783**  
**FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SC**

Associates.

On this date John Watts, son of Thomas and Sarah, signed a character affidavit for a neighbor and Revolutionary War officer who was moving to Georgia. The list of other neighbors signing the affidavit includes several men from East Central Fairfield who repeatedly associated with John in the 1780s, before he moved to Georgia. They also appear in Thomas Watts's last records as he closed out his life.<sup>112</sup>

"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  
**John Watts**  
Thom. Roaden  
John King  
Jno. Yarbrough  
Moses Hollis  
Jesse Stevenson  
James Rutland<sup>113</sup>

**AUGUST 1790–FALL 1791**  
**LANCASTER CO., SC**  
Census.

**BACKGROUND:**

When the reorganization of South Carolina occurred, the portion of Camden District in which Thomas resided (northeast side of the Wateree River) was assigned to Lancaster County. Kershaw would be created from that in 1791.

The official census date for this first U.S. enumeration was the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday in August 1790. However, South Carolina was the last state to complete its returns. The date of completion for Lancaster County is not given on its return; but the returns for adjacent Fairfield County are not certified until 4 August 1792.<sup>114</sup>

---

<sup>112</sup> For a fuller analysis of this list of men and an image of the document, see my "Rev. John Watts, Esq. (ca.1749–ca.1822); Spouses 1: [Smith?]; 2: Judith "Judy" [Rawls?]: Research Notes," report to file, 15 June 2016.

<sup>113</sup> Pension application of William Coggin (Lt., Sumter's Brigade, SC, Rev. War), S2838; accessed at Fold3 (www.fold3.com : 25 April 2014), specifically image 12739959. For a more extensive analysis of this document, see E. S. Mills, "Frontier Research Strategies: Weaving a Web to Snare a Birth Family & Origin: John Watts (1749–ca.1822)," at press, *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*.

<sup>114</sup> 1790 U.S. census, Fairfield Dist., SC, p. 130, certifications.

**Thomas Watts (c1723–aft.1796)**  
**Wife Sarah Mills**

*Many* household entries on the enumeration of the Lancaster District are greatly or totally illegible. We know that two different Thomas Wattses resided in Lancaster—Thomas with wife Sarah on the Wateree River (western bounds of present Kershaw) and Thomas with wife Tabitha on Lynches Creek (eastern bounds of present Kershaw).

Of the legible names on the 1790 Lancaster census, only one Thomas Watts can be identified. Two factors suggest this to be Thomas of the Wateree:

- His neighbors, as best they can be discerned (most notably the Perrys), *suggest* that he is likely our Thomas of the Wateree.
- Thomas of Lynches Creek had several sons who were adults by this time. They are all missing from the legible portions.

**Thos. Watts**      1 male    16+                      1 male –16                      2 females                      4 slaves

COMMENT:

- Thomas Watts Jr. is enumerated this year in Fairfield, adjacent to his brother John.
- All the sons of Thomas and Sarah should be past 16 by this time. However, one son is missing from the 11-member 1790 household of their son John in Fairfield.

**14 NOVEMBER 1790**

**KERSHAW & LANCASTER COUNTIES, SC**

Disambiguation.

Will of *William Norris*. Witnesses: *James Williams*, (R, his mark), John Netin?

Recorded 19 July 1791 *Reuben Cook*

24 June 1791: Order of Francis Boykin, C.C., to “**George Evans, Thomas Watts & Lewis F. Bryant**” to “divide unto Martha Norriss, Executrix & *George King & Reubin Cook*, Executors of *William Norris*,” and appraise the property.

7 July 1791: Appraisement by George Evans, **Thomas Watts (X his mark)** and Lewis F. Bryant.<sup>115</sup>

COMMENTS:

- One Susannah **Bryant** and **George Evans** witnessed the October 1792 deed in which [Lt. Col.] John Watts of Washington County, Georgia, conveyed his interest in his father’s estate to Tabitha, Isaiah, Julius, and Benjamin Watts.
- Associations suggest that this Thomas Watts, above, should be **Thomas of Lynches Creek**, husband of Tabitha.

**28 FEBRUARY 1792**

**KERSHAW COUNTY, SC**

Civic role.

Grand jurors ... **Tho’s Wats**.<sup>116</sup>

COMMENT:

---

<sup>115</sup> Kershaw Co., SC, “Camden District 1782–1788; Kershaw District 1817–1824, Estate Records Book C,” 1–2; FHL microfilm 1,029,442 (“Kershaw County, 1791–1799; Kershaw District, 1800–1811”).

<sup>116</sup>Brent Howard Holcomb, *Kershaw County, South Carolina, Minutes of the County Court, 1791–1799* (N.P.: n.p., 1986), 7; citing p. 21.

- The lack of a designator after the name (“Jr.” or “Sr.”) suggests there is only one Thomas in the county of age to do jury duty; hence, when the county clerk issued a warrant to appear, there would be no doubt as to which Thomas was being summoned.
- Thomas Jr. is not likely to be this juror because he is a significant landholder in Fairfield and a known resident there in 1790–91. He would, however, become a Kershaw resident before February 1796 (see below).
- Thomas Sr. and Thomas-of-Lynches Creek are the two remaining Thomases on the Kershaw side of the Wateree. The Lynches Creek man was apparently the older of the two Thomases and, thus, more likely to have passed the mandatory age for jury service. He would die before the October term of court.

**22 MAY 1792**  
**KERSHAW COUNTY, SC**

Civic role.

Grand jurors ... **Tho’s Wats.**<sup>117</sup>

**13 OCTOBER 1792**  
**KERSHAW COUNTY, SC**

Disambiguation.

**John Wats** of the County of Washington and State of Georgia of the one part and **Tabitha Watts, Benjamin Watts, Julius Watts, and Isaiah Watts** of the County of Kershaw and State of South Carolina of the one part. Witnesseth that the said John Watts for and in Consideration of the Sum of *thirty pounds* of good and lawful money of the State of South Carolina to him in hand paid by the said Tobitha Watts, Benjn. Watts, Julius Watts, and Isaiah Watts before the Sealing and Delivery of these presents to the receipt whereof is hereby Acknowledged, the said John Watts hath Granted bargained sold enfeofed conveyed and confirmed and by these presents do Grant bargain Sell alienate convey and Confirm to the said Tabitha Watts Benjm Watts Julius Watts and Isaiah Watts all the Estate right tittle Interest claim and Demand whatsoever of him the said John Watts to the estate of his Father Thomas Watts late of the County of Kershaw and state of South Carolina Deceased, to the only proper use benefit and behoof of the said Tabitha Watts Benjm Watts Julius Watts and Isaiah Watts their heirs and assigns forever the said John Watts the estate and premises aforesaid to the said Tabitha Watts Benjm Watts Julius Watts shall and will warrant and forever defend by these presents against him the said John Watts his heirs & assigns. In Witness whereof, the said John Watts have hereunto Set his hand and affixed his Seal the Day and Year above Written.

Signed Sealed & Delivered in presence of  
Susannah Bryant  
George Evans

Rec’d in Office 23<sup>rd</sup> of April 1793.

**John Watts** (L.S.)

(p. 277)

“Received the Day and Year within mentioned of and from the Within named **Tabitha Watts Benjm Watts Julius Watts** and **Isaiah Watts**, the Consideration money within mentioned I say re’d by me.

South Carolina, Kershaw County:

---

<sup>117</sup>Brent Howard Holcomb, *Kershaw County, South Carolina, Minutes of the County Court, 1791–1799* (N.P.: n.p., 1986), 16; citing p. 45.

Personally appeared before me *George Evans* who make the Oath and Saith he was present and Saw **John Watts** Sign Seal and as his Act and Deed deliver the Within Instrument of Writing for the purposes therein contained and that **Susannah Bryant** with this Deponent Signed their names as Witnesses to the due Execution thereof.

Sworn to this 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1793  
Before me Francs. Boykin J.P.

George Evans<sup>118</sup>

COMMENT:

There were two John Wattses in Washington County, Georgia, at this moment.

- On 6 February 1792 (8 months before this document was drafted) John Watts of Fairfield and his son Thomas appeared before the land court in Washington Co., GA, requesting headright grants. A justice on that land court was also named John Watts.
- That earlier John Watts, better known as Lt. Col. John Watts, got his first grant there in 1785, the same year he received a gubernatorial appointment as a justice and lieutenant colonel of the militia of the new county of Washington. The evidence for this “Col. John” quite conclusively identifies him as the John of the Kershaw document above—and son of Thomas and Tabitha Watts of Lynch Creek.<sup>119</sup>

**AUGUST TERM 1795**  
**KERSHAW COUNTY, SC**

Civic role.

“Grand Jury Drawn from Box N’o 1 to N’o 2. ... **Thomas Watts.**”<sup>120</sup>

COMMENT:

Again, the lack of any suffix to the name “Thomas Watts” implies that he’s the only one left in the county or the only one who has not passed the maximum age for jury service.

**9 FEBRUARY 1796**  
**KERSHAW COUNTY, SC**

Legal suit.

“Jonathan Belton vs. **Thomas Watts Sen’r.** Debt. Judgment Confess’d agreeable to Specialty with Costs of Suit With Stay of Ex’on Untill August next.”<sup>121</sup>

COMMENT:

- Thomas apparently asked for a stay of execution in order to sell his land and pay the debt. Had the land been seized, and auctioned at the courthouse door, it would have brought only a fraction of its value.
- Thirteen days after this decree above (22 February below), he sold his grant from the 1760s to a man who, in 1790, lived in Fairfield’s Dutchman’s Creek/ Taylor Creek area where (a) Thomas Watts Jr. held two tracts of land; and (b) our John Watts held a tract adjacent to one of those.

---

<sup>118</sup> Kershaw Co., SC, Deeds B (1791–96): 276; FHL microfilm 024,044, item 2.

<sup>119</sup> See 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 Lynch Creek?”, report to file, 2 Nov. 2014.

<sup>120</sup> Brent Howard Holcomb, *Kershaw County, South Carolina, Minutes of the County Court, 1791–1799* (N.P.: n.p., 1986), 73; citing p. 195.

<sup>121</sup> Brent Howard Holcomb, *Kershaw County, South Carolina, Minutes of the County Court, 1791–1799* (N.P.: n.p., 1986), 87; citing p. 216.

The witnesses to that deed would then prove the document before **John Watts's** neighborhood justice, **Charles Pickett**.

- The **Beltons** were merchants and planters between Wateree Creek (on the north) and Taylor Creek (on the south)—i.e., the neighborhood of Thomas's sons **John Watts and Thomas Watts Jr.**

**9 FEBRUARY 1796**  
**KERSHAW COUNTY, SC**

Civil role.

"The State vs. Jesse Minton. Jurors: **Thomas Watts Jun'r.**"<sup>122</sup>

COMMENT:

Note, in the same term of court, the separate and distinctive identifications of Thomas Watts, *Sen'r.* and Thomas Watts, *Jun'r.*

**12 FEBRUARY 1796**  
**KERSHAW COUNTY, SC**

Civic role.

"Ordered that the following Persons are appointed overseers of the several districts of roads within this County for the ensuing year, each overseer to appoint a summoner for his district. ... **Tho. Watts.**"<sup>123</sup>

COMMENT:

This **Kershaw** man should *not* be Thomas Watts "*Sen'r.*" By 1796, a man who was over 21 in 1763 (when he applied for the grant) would be too old to be assigned road duty. This "young" **Thomas of Kershaw** should be the Thomas who appears in both Kershaw and Fairfield records as Thomas "Junior" (the Dutchman's Creek grantee of 1787 and the 1790 neighbor of our John Watts).

**22 FEBRUARY 1796**  
**LANCASTER COUNTY, SC**

Land sale.

"Camden Dist.: **Thomas Watts of Kershaw County**, for s 5, to **Reubin Starke** of Lancaster & Kershaw Co., ... 250A part of tract laid out for **Thomas Watts 1 Feb 1768** adj. **Francis Kirkland**. . . 22 Feb 1796. Thos Watts (Seal), Wit: Nicholas Peay, Austin Peay, Elijah Ivey. Prov. By Austin Peay in Fairfield County, 11 April 1796, before Chas. Pickett, J.P."<sup>124</sup>

COMMENT:

- This Thomas *was* **Thomas Sr.**—one of the three Watts who in 1763 had 3 adjacent tracts surveyed on Dry Creek of Wateree River.
- The j.p. used to prove this Thomas Watts deed was the 1790 neighbor of our John Watts and Thomas Watts [Jr.].
- The purchaser, Reuben Stark, is enumerated in the 1790 census amid Dutchman's Creek and Taylor Creek households—i.e., the area in which **Thomas Watts Jr.** had acquired land in 1786 and 1787.

---

<sup>122</sup> Brent Howard Holcomb, *Kershaw County, South Carolina, Minutes of the County Court, 1791–1799* (N.P.: n.p., 1986), 87; citing p. 218.

<sup>123</sup> Brent Howard Holcomb, *Kershaw County, South Carolina, Minutes of the County Court, 1791–1799* (N.P.: n.p., 1986), 94; citing pp. 237–38.

<sup>124</sup> Lancaster Dist., SC, "Book C & E," p. 182.

- On 23 November 1834, Austin F. Peay of Fairfield District sold for \$18,670 to Roland Cornelius of Kershaw District, 1260 acres in Kershaw and Lancaster on **NE side of Wateree River** including “one tract granted to **Thomas Watts**.”<sup>125</sup>
- This north-of-Wateree land should be the tract surveyed for Thomas in 1763. 1768 would be the date the grant was finalized.

**23 FEBRUARY 1796**  
**LANCASTER COUNTY, SC**  
Bond.

“**Thomas Watts** of **Kershaw Co.**, bound for s 5 to *Austin Peay* of Lancaster Co., 200 A laid out for **Thomas Watts 1 Feb 1768** ... 23 Feb 1796. **Thomas Watts** (Seal), Wit: Nicholas Peay, *Reubin Starke*, *Saml Starke*. Prov. By Reubin Starke, 11 Apr 1796, before Chas Pickett, J.P. on Fairfield County.”<sup>126</sup>

COMMENT:

- Some Starke researchers assert (without evidence) that Reuben and Samuel were sons of Capt. Thomas Starke with whom our **John Watts** cosigned the 1783 letter of recommendation for their “former neighbor” William Coggins.
- The “laid out” language implies that the land was *surveyed* that year, rather than *patented* that year. However, I have not been able to find, within the colonial land office records, any tract surveyed for Thomas Sr. other than the 1763 survey.

**AUGUST TERM 1797**  
**KERSHAW COUNTY, SC**  
Civic role.

“Grand Jury Drawn from Box N’o 1 to N’o 2. ... **Thomas Watts**.”<sup>127</sup>

COMMENT:

- The last deed for Thomas Watts (Sr. or Jr.) in the Holcomb abstracts I’m using here (which go through 1811), is the **23 February 1796** sale by Thomas Sr. of the land patented to him in the 1760s.
- The grand jury records also have no further mention of either Thomas. The drawing of the name means that Thomas was then *expected* to appear at the next term of court or be fined. No fine was ordered.
- **This is the last reference found in Kershaw or Fairfield that could possibly be Thomas Watts Sr.** Past that point:
  - Thomas Jr. remained in the county, with his brother William II, through the 21 February 1809 court action below.
  - The 1800 census of South Carolina shows only one Thomas Watts head-of-household in the state: a male 26–45 in Pendleton County—the county to which George of Fairfield would soon move. That Thomas was George’s son.<sup>128</sup>

---

<sup>125</sup> Brent H. Holcomb, *Lancaster County, South Carolina, Deed Abstracts, 1787–1811* (Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press, ca. 1981), 91; citing “Book C & E,” pp. 248-49.

<sup>126</sup> Lancaster Dist., SC, deeds, “Book C & E,” p. 182.

<sup>127</sup> Brent Howard Holcomb, *Kershaw County, South Carolina, Minutes of the County Court, 1791–1799* (N.P.: n.p., 1986), 110; citing p. 267.

<sup>128</sup> For the records that establish the identity of the Pendleton Thomas as son of George, see see E. S. Mills, “George Watts (1856–1834); Wives Ruth Perry & Barbara Compton/Crumpton,” 24 October 2015.

- The household of William II, here in Kershaw, contained an extra male of age to be the bachelor Thomas Watts Jr.
- This set of research notes for Thomas Sr.—who is almost certainly deceased by now—will lightly follow Thomas Jr. and William through the settlement of Thomas Jr.’s estate, because those records identify the sibling-set produced by Thomas and Sarah.

**21 FEBRUARY 1809**  
**CAMDEN DISTRICT, SC**

Civic role.

“Exparte Joseph English. Petition for Writ de lunatico Enquirendo. The Petition and affidavit accompanying it having been read, Ordered on motion of Mr. Blanding Solicitor for the Petitioner that a Writ do issue directed to Thomas Hopkins, James English, William Guphill, **Thomas Watts & William Watts** requiring them to enquire of the Lunacy of William Fitzpatric, and that the said Commissioners do make their return to the Court of Equity for the district of Columbia.”<sup>129</sup>

COMMENT:

- This Thomas and William Watts should be Thomas Jr. and William II, sons of Thomas Sr. and Sarah.
- William Guphill, who served with them above, in the Joseph English matter, would also serve as the executor of Thomas Jr.’s estate, below.
- As seen in the documents that follow, Thomas Jr. died unmarried and without legal offspring. By law, his siblings would be his legal heirs. However, the provisions that Thomas’s will made for a “natural” son created a situation that would have created a conflict of interest if Thomas had appointed one of his siblings to execute his will.

**19 OCTOBER 1819**  
**RICHLAND DISTRICT, SC**

Will.

“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 19<sup>th</sup> 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

---

<sup>129</sup> “Camden District Equity Journal,” *South Carolina Magazine of Ancestral Research (SCMAR)* 15 (Spring 1987): page not given, citing unidentified book, p. 165; accessed as *South Carolina Records and Reference*, CD-ROM (Orem, UT: Ancestry, 1998).

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.”<sup>130</sup>

**21 DECEMBER 1820**  
**RICHLAND DISTRICT, SC**

Probate.

Will of Thomas Watts, deceased, is filed.<sup>131</sup>

**CA. JANUARY 1821**  
**RICHLAND DISTRICT, SC**

Probate.

[No date shown; recorded after document of 13 January 1821]

“An Inventory and Appraisalment of the Goods and Chattels of the Estate of Thomas Watts.” Includes Negroes Santee, Tom, Derry (Perry?), Sarah, Sucky & child Sarah, Robin, Frank & Mingo, 3 beds, table & chairs, “Beaufet & furniture,” etc.<sup>132</sup>

**10 JUNE 1821**  
**OUACHITA PARISH, LA.**

Probate.

10 June 1821

Letter, Joseph Watts to James S. Guignard, Esq., letter requesting that a copy of the will be sent to him at “Monroe, Ouachita, State of Louisiana.” Also wishes to know whether the will has been proved. The expense of sending the will should be sent to William Guphill, executor. [Signed] Joseph Watts.<sup>133</sup>

COMMENT:

Neither this nor the subsequent probate volume has a final disposition of Thomas’s estate. However, two other sources see us through the end of the settlement:

- The original packets for Richland’s probate records of this era have survived.
- A second probate (succession) was opened in Ouachita Parish, LA, to dispose of property that Thomas had left with his natural son Joseph, when Thomas moved and Joseph, his wife, children, and some of her kin to Ouachita in 1819. There, in that probate file, we find the following:

**29 NOVEMBER 1821**  
**COVINGTON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**

Kinship.

“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, wheresoever the said

---

<sup>130</sup> Richland Dist., SC, “Will Book G, 1815–23,” pp. 150–52.

<sup>131</sup> Richland Dist., SC, probate files, box 33, package 801, Estate of Thomas Watts; digitized at *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/search> : 15 October 2015) > South Carolina Probate Records, Files, and Loose Papers, 1732–1964 > Richland > Probate Court, Estate papers > Box 033, Packages 801–825.

<sup>132</sup> Richland Dist., SC, “Will Book G, 1815–23,” pp. 153.

<sup>133</sup> Richland Dist., SC, probate files, box 33, package 801, Estate of Thomas Watts, image 17.

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 29<sup>th</sup> 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

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 29<sup>th</sup> 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 Caty 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**  
**Caty 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”

COMMENT:

The reference to “forty years” in the Hornsby document seemingly refers to the period of time that *Moses Hornsby* knew John and Thomas Watts. *Caty Hornsby* would have known them from her infancy and she was, in 1821, past fifty.

**7 JANUARY 1832**

**RICHLAND DISTRICT, SC**

Probate.

7 January 1832

Settlement of account, with interest from 1 January 1822.

“...leaving the sum of \$11003.27 to be distributed amongst the eight general Legatees [i.e., the legatees to whom Thomas left the residue of his estate after providing for his son Joseph], viz: *Wm. Watts, Geo. Watts, Jno. Watts, Edward Watts, Elizabeth Duggains, Mary Kirkland, Mrs. S. Smith & Mrs. A. Addison.*”

“Charles Ellis has settled with **Wm. B. Watts**, who was authorized to settle for **William, George & Edward Watts** the full proportion of said Estate to which they were entitled, including certain Debts due the Estate, yet uncollected; and he has settled with & paid to **William Duggans** the full share of **Sally Smith & John Watts** of the whole Estate including the uncollected Debts, he being authorized to receive their shares. He has settled with & paid **Mrs. Mary Kirkland & Mrs. Elizabeth Duggans** their full shares of said Estate; and he has paid to **Stephen Nolan**, the agent & exr. of **Agnes Addison** the full share of said Agnes, except of

the uncollected Debts, which when collected, (if ever) she will be entitled to her distributive share of. The uncollected Debts are W. Moy's note for about \$387.50, with Interest from the Jan. 7, 1822; Graham's Note, 86.50, Interest as above."<sup>134</sup>

---

### 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, "Thomas Watts (c1723–aft.1796); Spouse Sarah Mills: Research Notes," a working file updated 29 November 2019, 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.

---

---

<sup>134</sup> Richland Dist., SC, probate files, box 33, package 801, Estate of Thomas Watts.