

Genealogical History of John Raymond Adams

John Raymond Adams was born about 1942, probably at or near Paris, Monroe County, Missouri, to John Walter Adams and June E. Smith. His parents were recorded in the 1940 census living at 4320 Wyoming Street, St. Louis MO (Figure 1), at which time John Walter was about 31 years old and working as a “warehouseman” for a bakery company, whereas June was about 21 years old and working as a “beauty operator” at a beauty salon. Both reported that they had completed four years of high school education. They also reported that they had been living at Paris, Monroe County MO in 1935. Following is an index of the 1940 census record:

Name John Adam[s]
Age 31
Estimated Birth Year abt 1909
Gender Male
Race White
Birthplace Missouri
Marital Status Married
Relation to Head of House Head
Home in 1940 St Louis, St Louis City, Missouri
St Louis, St Louis City, Missouri
House Number 4320
Residence in 1935 Paris, Monroe, Missouri
Resident on farm in 1935 No
Sheet Number 61B
Number of Household in Order of Visitation 2150
Occupation Warehouseman
Industry W-baking
House Owned or Rented Rented: \$20
Attended School or College No
Highest Grade Completed High School, 4th year
Hours Worked Week Prior to Census 40
Class of Worker Wage or salary worker in private work
Weeks Worked in 1939 34
Income 850
Income Other Sources No
Neighbors View others on page
Household Members (Name) Age Relationship
John Adam 31 Head
June Adam 21 Wife

April 17, 1939 there was a listing in the *St. Louis Star and Times* of John W. and June E. having filed for a marriage license. In that listing John W. Adams was reported living at 5253 Maple Avenue, St. Louis (Figure 2), and June E. Smith was reported living at 4165A, Shaw Blvd., St. Louis (Figure 3), approximately four miles apart. After their marriage they appear to have moved into the rented home at 4320 Wyoming Street, about a mile and a half south of June’s previous address on Shaw Boulevard.

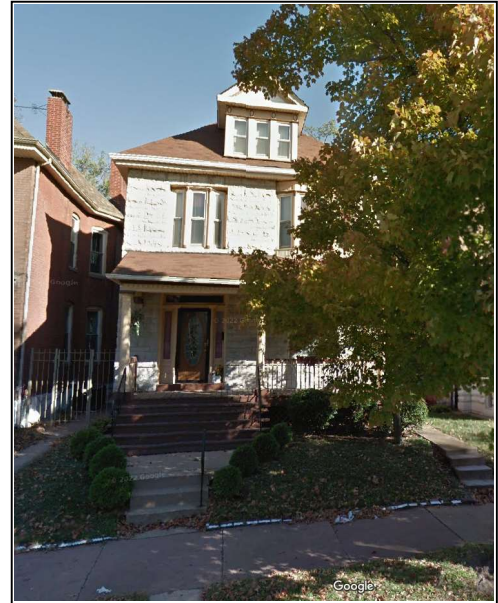


Figure 1
4320 Wyoming Street, St. Louis MO



Figure 2
5253 Maple Avenue, St. Louis MO

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On 16Oct1940 John Walter Adams registered with the Selective Service Agency for the World War II Draft indexed as follows:

Name John Walter Adams
 Gender Male
 Race White
 Age 32
 Relationship to Draftee Self (Head)
 Birth Date 5 May 1908
 Birth Place Paris, Missouri, USA
 Residence Place St Louis, Perry, Missouri, USA [4320 Wyoming Street, St. Louis MO]
 Registration Date 16 Oct 1940
 Registration Place St Louis, Perry, Missouri, USA
 Employer Kroger Grocery and Baking Co
 Height 6 1
 Weight 180
 Complexion Ruddy
 Hair Color Brown
 Eye Color Brown
 Next of Kin June Adams



Figure 3
 4165A, Shaw Blvd., St. Louis MO

From his draft card (Figure 4) we learn that John Walter was born on 5May1908 at Paris, MO, and reportedly was still living at 4320 Wyoming Street, St. Louis and working for Kroger Grocery and Baking Company.

By 1950 the John Walter Adams family had moved to Jefferson, Monroe County, where they were recorded in the 1950 census record summarized as follows:

SERIAL NUMBER 990	1. NAME (Print) JOHN WALTER ADAMS	ORDER NUMBER 19921
2. ADDRESS (Print) 4320 WYOMING ST. ST. LOUIS, MO.	3. DATE OF BIRTH May 5 1908	4. COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP U.S.A.
5. RELATIONSHIP TO DRAFTER Self	6. DATE OF REGISTRATION Oct 16 1940	7. PLACE OF BIRTH Paris, Mo.
8. NAME OF PERSON(S) WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS Mrs. June Adams	9. ADDRESS OF THIS PERSON 4320 Wyoming St. St. Louis, Mo.	10. EMPLOYER'S NAME Kroger Grocery and Baking Co.
11. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS Spring and Shuleman St. St. Louis, Mo.	12. I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.	13. SIGNATURE John W. Adams

Figure 4
 John Walter Adams WWII Draft Card

Name John Adams
 Age 41
 Birth Date abt 1909
 Gender Male
 Race White
 Birth Place Missouri
 Marital Status Married
 Relation to Head of House Head
 Residence Date 1950
 Home in 1950 Jefferson, Monroe, Missouri, USA
 Farm Yes
 Questionnaire Number 100
 Occupation Farmer
 Industry Farm
 Occupation Category Working
 Hours Worked 72
 Worker Class Own Business
 Household members
 Name Age

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John Adams	41
June Adams	31
Richard Adams	9
John Adams	8
Larry Adams	1

From this record we learn that John Walter and June had returned to the vicinity of their births to the township of Jefferson, located about 14 miles east of Paris. There were a total of 18 pages recorded for Jefferson Township in the 1950 census, and the John Walter Adams household appears on Page 18 of 18. By following the handwritten notations recorded by the census taker at the top of each of these pages, it appears that these records were recorded in a west-to-east direction moving along the main roadways, i.e. SR 154, etc. until Page 12, at which point it appears that the census concluded with the community of Florida for the remaining six pages. Consequently, although not specifically designated on the census sheets, it would appear that the John Walter Adams household was situated within the vicinity of the town Florida.

The town of Florida was strategically located at the confluence of the North, Middle and South Forks of the Salt River. From its founding in about 1831 Florida was believed to have had the potential of becoming a major commercial center for the region, but subsequently, the widely fluctuating and unpredictable flows of the Salt River rendered stream navigation an unreliable means of commercial transport. By 1910 the population had reached 200, but continued in steady decline thereafter. Figure 5 presents an excerpt from an 1890 USGS Quad map showing the town of Florida on the bluff overlooking the Salt River.

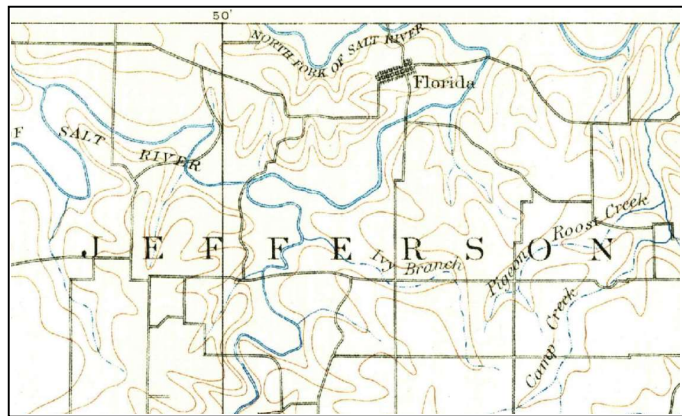


Figure 5
USGS Quad Excerpt, Jefferson Township 1890

Because of the property damage and threat to life from its uncontrolled flooding, plans emerged in the 1930's to construct a dam on the Salt River downstream from Florida. Ultimately these plans brought about construction of the Clarence Cannon Dam on the Salt River in the 1960's. This dam impounds the waters of the Salt River, thus creating Mark Twain Lake. The town of Florida continues to exist to present time, sitting on an isolated peninsula and in close proximity to the shoreline of Mark Twain Lake, boasting a population of five brave souls in the 2020 census. Perhaps Florida is best known as the birth place of Samuel Clemens, aka Mark Twain, born at Florida MO in 1835.

Only one public record was located for John Walter Adams, abstracted as follows:

Name John W Adams
Birth Date 5 May 1908
Address 737 RR 3 Box
Residence Place [O Fallon, Missouri, USA](#)

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Zip Code 63366

Based on information contained in the obituary of John Walter Adams (Figure 6), this foregoing public record was almost certainly for our John Walter Adams. From his obituary we learn that John Walter Adams had moved his family to O'Fallon MO, where he presumably lived for about the last 20 years of his life. This duration of residency is deduced from the fact that he was reported to have worked as the Superintendent of Zumwalt State Park for almost 10 years, and that he was 75 years old at the time of his death. He reportedly was survived by three sons: Richard T. Adams of O'Fallon, John R. [Raymond] Adams of Olathe KS, and Larry H. Adams of Marthasville MO. Additionally, he was survived by a sister, Mrs. Floyd Ling of Mountain Grove MO.

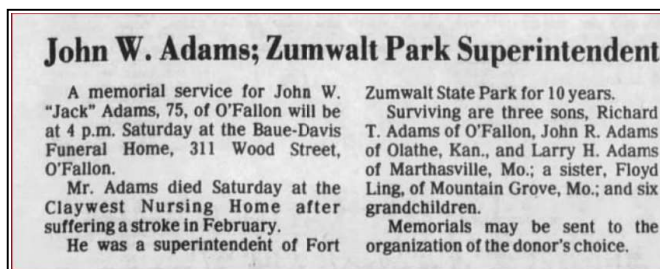


Figure 6
John W. Adams Obit: *St. Louis Post Dispatch*, 5Apr1984

We trace John Walter Adams' earlier life and ancestry through census records indexed as follows:

1930 Census:

Name	Jack W Adams	
Birth Year	abt 1909	
Gender	Male	
Race	White	
Age in 1930	21	
Birthplace	Missouri	
Marital Status	Single	
Relation to Head of House	Son	
Home in 1930	Jefferson, Monroe, Missouri, USA	
Dwelling Number	231	
Family Number	232	
Attended School	No	
Able to Read and Write	Yes	
Father's Birthplace	Missouri	
Mother's Birthplace	Missouri	
Able to Speak English	Yes	
Occupation	Farm laborer	
Industry	General Farm	
Class of Worker	Unpaid worker, member of the family	
Employment	Yes	
Household Members (Name)	Age	Relationship
John L Adams	61	Head
Mary J Adams	56	Wife
Jack W Adams	21	Son
Floyd G Scobee	35	Daughter

From this census record it would appear that John Walter Adams' parents were named John L. and Mary J. Adams, and that the family was living in Jefferson Township. Both parents were reported as having been born in Missouri, and their parents also born in Missouri, except for

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John L. Adams' mother, who was reportedly born in Kentucky. Also in the household was a daughter named Floyd G. [Geraldine] Scobee, widowed. Living next door to the Adams household was a family headed by John S. Scobee, aged 67 years, presumably the father of Floyd G. Scobee's deceased husband. John L. was reported with the occupation of "farmer" and John W. of a "farm laborer". From this data it might be assumed that John L. Adams may have owned a small farm, and that his son may have been working on that farm with his father. John L. and Mary J. Adams were reported to have been married for about 37 years.

1920 Census:

Name	John Walter Adams	
Age	12	
Birth Year	abt 1908	
Birthplace	Missouri	
Home in 1920	Jefferson, Monroe, Missouri	
Residence Date	1920	
Race	White	
Gender	Male	
Relation to Head of House	Son	
Marital Status	Single	
Father's Name	John Adams	
Father's Birthplace	Missouri	
Mother's Name	Mary Adams	
Mother's Birthplace	Missouri	
Native Tongue	English	
Able to Speak English	Yes	
Attended School	yes	
Able to read	Yes	
Able to Write	Yes	
Neighbors	View others on page	
Household Members (Name)	Age	Relationship
John Adams	50	Head
Mary Adams	46	Wife
Leona Adams	22	Daughter
Ruth Adams	16	Daughter
Sallie Adams	69	Mother
John Walter Adams	12	Son

From this record we learn that John and Mary Adams had had at least three children, all still living at home. Also in this household appears to have been John L. Adams' mother, Sallie Adams, aged 69 and born in Kentucky. John L. was again reported with the occupation of "farmer". His son, John Walter was aged 12 years and reported attending school. The 1920 census of Jefferson Township had a total of 19 pages, the first five pages of which were identified as having been of the Stoutsville area, whereas the location of the households on the other pages was unspecified. The Adams household was recorded on Page 6. Figure 7 contains a Google Map excerpt of Jefferson Township and surrounding area. Stoutsville is located on State Route 326 in the northwest corner of the township.

1910 Census:

Name	John Adams
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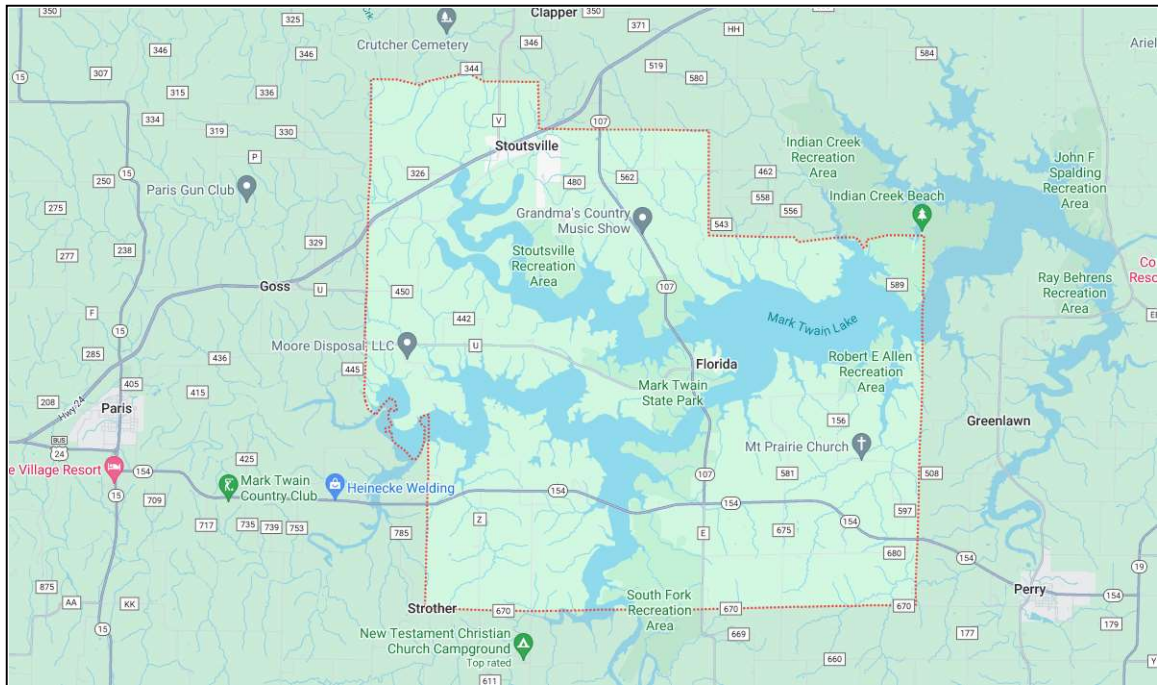


Figure 7
Google Map of Jefferson Township, Monroe County MO

Age in 1910	1
Birth Date	1909
[1909]	
Birthplace	Missouri
Home in 1910	Jefferson, Monroe, Missouri, USA
Sheet Number	9a
Race	White
Gender	Male
Relation to Head of House	Son
Marital Status	Single
Father's Birthplace	Missouri
Mother's Birthplace	Missouri
Enumeration District Number	0122
Enumerated Year	1910
Neighbors	View others on page
Household Members (Name)	Age Relationship
J L Adams	41 Head
Mary Adams	36 Wife
Lloyd [Floyd] Adams	15 Daughter
Leona Adams	14 Daughter
Ruth Adams	6 Daughter
John Adams	1 Son
Sarah [Sally] Adams	59 Mother

There were a total of 20 pages recorded for Jefferson Township in 1910, the first seven of which were identified with Stoutsville. The remaining pages had no specific geographic identification, other than Jefferson Township. The Adams household was recorded on Pages 15-16. John L.

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Adams was again reported with the occupation of “farmer”, married for 16 years, and having had four children, all of which were still living.

1900 Census:

Name John L Adams
[John Adams]
Age 31
Birth Date Mar 1869
Birthplace Missouri, USA
Home in 1900 Jefferson, Monroe, Missouri
Sheet Number 5
Number of Dwelling in Order of Visitation 106
Family Number 106
Race White
Gender Male
Relation to Head of House Head
Marital Status Married
Spouse's Name Mary J Adams
Marriage Year 1894
Years Married 6
Father's Birthplace Missouri, USA
Mother's Birthplace Kentucky, USA
Occupation Farmer
Months Not Employed 0
Can Read Y
Can Write Y
Can Speak English Y
House Owned or Rented Own
Home Free or Mortgaged F
Farm or House F
Neighbors View others on page
Household Members (Name) Age Relationship
John L Adams 31 Head
Mary J Adams 25 Wife
Floyd G Adams 5 Son [Daughter]
Leona Adams 4 Daughter

The John L. Adams household was recorded on Page 10 of 22 in the 1900 census, and John's occupation was given as “farmer”. Living within two households of the John L. Adams family was the household of his presumed parents, indexed as follows:

Name Samuel [W.] Adams
Age 62
Birth Date Nov 1837
Birthplace Missouri, USA
Home in 1900 Jefferson, Monroe, Missouri
Sheet Number 5
Number of Dwelling in Order of Visitation 105
Family Number 104
Race White
Gender Male
Relation to Head of House Head
Marital Status Married

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Spouse's Name	Sarah S Adams	
Marriage Year	1868	
Years Married	32	
Father's Birthplace	Kentucky, USA	
Mother's Birthplace	Kentucky, USA	
Occupation	Farmer	
Months Not Employed	4	
Can Read	Y	
Can Write	Y	
Can Speak English	Y	
House Owned or Rented	Own	
Home Free or Mortgaged	F	
Farm or House	F	
Neighbors	View others on page	
Household Members (Name)	Age	Relationship
Samuel Adams	62	Head
Sarah S Adams	49	Wife

Samuel and Sarah Adams were reported to have been married for 32 years, and Sarah reportedly had had two children, one of which was still living (presumably John L. Adams). Samuel Adams was recorded with the occupation of "farmer". He was reported born in Missouri, whereas his parents were both reported born in Kentucky. Sarah was reported born in Kentucky, her father in Pennsylvania and her mother in Kentucky.

A marriage license record for John L. Adams and Mary Walters is shown in Figure 8. This license was issued at Paris, Monroe County on 7Dec1893. Presumably they were married shortly thereafter.

John L. Adams died at City Hospital, St. Louis MO on 12Sep1939. On his death certificate he was reported born at Paris, Monroe County on 11Mar1869 to parents: Samuel Adams and Mary Waters [sic]. He was reported as "widowed", so ostensibly he was predeceased by his wife, Mary Walters. John L. Adams is believed to have been interred at Pleasant Hill Cemetery in Paris, Monroe County MO.

(MARRIAGE LICENSE.)

STATE OF MISSOURI, COUNTY OF Monroe

This License Authorizes any Judge, Justice of the Peace, Licensed or Ordained Preacher of the Gospel, or any other person authorized under the laws of this State, to SOLEMNIZE MARRIAGE between John L. Adams of County of Monroe and State of Missouri who is over the age of twenty-one years; and Mary Walters of County of Monroe and State of Missouri, who is over the age of eighteen years.

WITNESS my hand as Circuit Clerk and Ex-Officio Recorder, with the seal of office hereto affixed, at my office in City of Paris the 7th day of December, 1893.

By Charles H. Smith Deputy, Circuit Clerk and Ex-Officio Recorder.

STATE OF MISSOURI, }
County of Monroe }
THIS IS TO CERTIFY, That the undersigned, C. H. Smith, do, at Paris Mo in said County, on the 8th day of December, A. D. 1893, unite in Marriage the above named persons.

Filed for record 7 Dec 1893

By Charles H. Smith Deputy, Circuit Clerk and Ex-Officio Recorder.

Figure 8
John L. Adams' Marriage License

From John L. Adams death certificate it appeared that he had been predeceased by his wife, Mary, however there is a death record for a Mary Jane Adams shown in Figure 9, which looks suspiciously like John L. Adams' wife, dated 11May1958. From the place birth [Paris MO] and date of birth [18Nov1873] for this Mary Jane Adams, there seems little doubt but that this was the wife of John L. Adams. We also have her father identified as an "unknown" Walters, and her mother as Mary Noonan. And, lastly we have the informant's name of Mrs. Edward Brockman

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THE DIVISION OF HEALTH OF MISSOURI
STANDARD CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

58-020489
STATE FILE NUMBER

FILED MAY 23 1958 Registration District No. 317 Primary Registration District No. 500 Registrar's No. 1283

1. PLACE OF DEATH a. COUNTY <u>St. Louis</u>		2. USUAL RESIDENCE (Where deceased lived. If institution: Residence before admission) a. STATE <u>Missouri</u> b. COUNTY <u>St. Louis</u>	
b. CITY (If outside corporate limits, give TOWNSHIP only) <u>St. John</u> Inside Limits Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		c. CITY OR TOWN <u>St. Louis</u> Inside Limits Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
c. FULL NAME OF (If NOT in hospital, give location) HOSPITAL OR INSTITUTION <u>Rugh Manor Rest Home</u> Length of stay in 1b <u>4 MON. 20/58</u>		STREET ADDRESS <u>4169 Tyrolean</u> (If outside, give location) Reside on Farm Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
3. NAME OF DECEASED (Type or print) First <u>Mary</u> Middle <u>Jane</u> Last <u>Adams</u>		4. DATE OF DEATH Month <u>May</u> Day <u>11</u> Year <u>1958</u>	
5. SEX <u>Female</u>	6. COLOR OR RACE <u>White</u>	7. MARRIED <input type="checkbox"/> NEVER MARRIED <input type="checkbox"/> WIDOWED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DIVORCED <input type="checkbox"/>	8. DATE OF BIRTH <u>Nov. 18, 1873</u>
9. AGE (In years last birthday) <u>84</u>		10. AGE (In years last birthday) Months <u>84</u> Days <u>84</u> Hours <u>84</u> Min. <u>84</u>	
10a. USUAL OCCUPATION (Give kind of work done during most of working life, even if retired) <u>Nil</u>		10b. KIND OF BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY <u>None</u>	
11. BIRTHPLACE (City and state or country) <u>Paris, Missouri</u>		12. CITIZEN OF WHAT COUNTRY? <u>USA</u>	
13. FATHER'S NAME <u>(Unk.) Walters</u>		14. MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME <u>Mary Noonan</u>	
15. WAS DECEASED EVER IN U. S. ARMED FORCES? (Yes, no, or unknown) (If yes, give year or dates of service) <u>No</u>		16. SOCIAL SECURITY NO. <u>None</u>	
17. INFORMANT <u>Mrs. Edward Brockman</u>		Address <u>4169 Tyrolean</u>	
18. CAUSE OF DEATH [Enter only one cause per line for (a), (b), and (c).] PART I. DEATH WAS CAUSED BY: IMMEDIATE CAUSE (a) <u>Chronic bronchitis generalized</u> DUE TO (b) <u>Diabetes Mellitus</u> DUE TO (c) <u>260X</u> PART II. OTHER SIGNIFICANT CONDITIONS CONTRIBUTING TO DEATH BUT NOT RELATED TO THE TERMINAL DISEASE CONDITION GIVEN IN PART I (a) <u>260X</u>			INTERVAL BETWEEN ONSET AND DEATH <u>2 yrs</u> <u>10 yrs</u>
19a. ACCIDENT <input type="checkbox"/> SUICIDE <input type="checkbox"/> HOMICIDE <input type="checkbox"/>		19b. DESCRIBE HOW INJURY OCCURRED. (Enter nature of injury in Part I or Part II of item 18.)	
19c. TIME OF INJURY Hour <u>12:30</u> Month <u>5</u> Day <u>11</u> Year <u>1958</u>			
19d. INJURY OCCURRED WHILE AT WORK <input type="checkbox"/> NOT WHILE AT WORK <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		19e. PLACE OF INJURY (e. g., in or about home, farm, factory, street, office bldg., etc.)	
19f. CITY, TOWN, OR LOCATION <u>Paris, Missouri</u>		COUNTY <u>St. Louis</u> STATE <u>Missouri</u>	
21. I attended the deceased from <u>6-4-56</u> to <u>5/11/58</u> and last saw her alive on <u>5/10/58</u> Death occurred at <u>12:30</u> m on the date stated above; and to the best of my knowledge, from the causes stated.			
22a. SIGNATURE <u>[Signature]</u> (Degree or title) <u>0</u>		22b. ADDRESS <u>3420 W. 1st St.</u>	
22c. DATE SIGNED <u>5/12/58</u>			
23a. BURIAL CREMATION, REMOVAL (Specify) <u>Removal</u>		23b. DATE <u>May 13, 1958</u>	
23c. NAME OF CEMETERY OR CREMATORY <u>LOCAL</u>		23d. LOCATION (City, town, or county) (State) <u>Paris, Missouri</u>	
24. FUNERAL DIRECTOR <u>C. Hofmeister Mortuaries</u> <u>7814 So. Broadway St. Louis, Mo.</u>		25. DATE RECD. BY LOCAL REG. <u>5-12-58</u>	
26. REGISTRAR'S SIGNATURE <u>[Signature]</u>			

(Licensed Embalmer's Statement on Reverse Side)

Figure 9
Mary Jane Adams (nee Walters) Death Certificate

on both this death certificate and that of John L. Adams. Mrs. Edward Brockman is believed to have been their youngest daughter, Ruth Adams. Mary Jane Walters-Adams is believed to have been interred with her husband at Pleasant Hill Cemetery in Paris MO.

1880 Census:

Name John Adams
Age 11
Birth Date Abt 1869
Birthplace Missouri
Home in 1880 Jefferson, Monroe, Missouri, USA
Dwelling Number 136

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Race White
Gender Male
Relation to Head of House Son
Marital Status Single
Father's Name Samuel Adams
Father's Birthplace Missouri
Mother's Name Sarah Adams
Mother's Birthplace Kentucky
Attended School Y
Neighbors View others on page

Household Members (Name)	Age	Relationship
Samuel Adams	42	Self (Head)
Sarah Adams	30	Wife
John Adams	11	Son
Walter Adams	8	Son

The Samuel W. Adams household was recorded in Jefferson Township in 1880 on Page 14 of 29. Living in this household were Samuels' wife, Sarah Adams and their two sons: John [L] and Walter. Samuel's occupation was reported as "farmer", and he reportedly was born in Missouri, whereas both his parents were reported born in Kentucky. There were three other Adams households recorded in Jefferson Township in 1880, each headed by Joseph and Eugenia Adams, George and Margaret Adams, and S. O. Adams, a widower. Joseph Adams' and S. O. Adams' demographics both seem to fit as possible kinsman of Samuel Adams, possibly brothers or 1st cousins.

Since Mary Walters was reported on her death certificate to have been born at Paris, Monroe County, a search was made for her family's household in the 1880 census, which resulted in identification of the following household believed to have been Mary Jane's family:

Name Mary Walter
Age 6
Birth Date Abt 1874
Birthplace Missouri
Home in 1880 [South Fork, Monroe, Missouri, USA](#)
Dwelling Number 49
Race White
Gender Female
Relation to Head of House Daughter
Marital Status Single
Father's Name Warren Walter
Father's Birthplace Missouri
Mother's Name Lucy Walter
Mother's Birthplace Missouri
Neighbors View others on page

Household Members (Name)	Age	Relationship
Warren Walter	39	Self (Head)
Lucy Walter	29	Wife
Mary Walter	6	Daughter
William Walter	4	Son
Earnest Walter	3	Son

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South Fork Township was situated immediately to the south of Jefferson Township, and probably was so designated for its having encompassed the area around the south fork of the Salt River. Mary Walter's age in this household fits comfortably with the birth year of 1873 as given on her death certificate. What does not quite fit is the mother's name of Lucy as contrasted to "Mary" as given by the daughter, Ruby Adams-Brockman on Jane's death certificate. All things considered, it is highly probable that this was the household of Mary Jane Walter's family in 1880. For further evidence, we also have the following marriage record abstract:

Name Mr Levi W [Warren] Walters
Marriage Date 2 Feb 1869
Marriage Place Monroe, Missouri, USA
Spouse Lucy F Uoonnon [Noonan]

1870 Census:

Name **Jno L Adams**
Birthplace Missouri
Dwelling Number 286
Home in 1870 **Jackson, Monroe, Missouri**
Race White
Gender Male
Post Office **Paris**
Inferred Father
Saml Adams
Inferred Mother
Sarah S Adams
Household Members (Name) Age
Saml Adams 33
Sarah S Adams 20
Jno L Adams 1
Eleanor Adams [Samuel's Mother] 62

From the foregoing census record we have the Samuel and Sarah S. Adams household recorded in Paris, Jackson Township, Monroe County MO. Samuel Adams was again recorded with the occupation of "farmer". It should be noted that an elderly woman named Eleanor Adams (aged 62) was also residing in this household, probably Samuel Adams' mother. Also note that Eleanor was reported with real estate valued at \$3000 and personal estate at \$500. This suggests that Eleanor was widowed, and that she probably held possession of her deceased husband's estate.

Name **Warren Walters**
Age in 1870 29
Birth Date abt 1841
Birthplace Missouri
Dwelling Number 529
Home in 1870 **Jackson, Monroe, Missouri**
Gender Male
Post Office **Paris**
Occupation Farmer
Male Citizen Over 21 Yes
Personal Estate Value 400
Inferred Spouse

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Lucy F Walters	
Household Members (Name)	Age
Warren Walters	29
Lucy F Walters	21

The foregoing census record is believed to have been the household of Mary Jane Walter's parents. It should be noted that the households of both Warren Walters and Samuel Adams were located in Jackson Township with Paris as the nearest post office.

Following is an abstract of the marriage record for Samuel Adams and Sarah Hess:

Name	Mr Samuel W Adams
Marriage Date	20 May 1868
Marriage Place	Monroe, Missouri, USA
Spouse	Sarah S Hess

We also have the baptism record for Samuel Wood Adams recorded in the register of the Pleasant Hill Presbyterian Church at Paris, Monroe County MO abstracted as follows:

Name	Samuel Wood Adams
Baptism Age	0
Record Type	Baptism
Birth Date	17 Nov 1837
Baptism Date	15 Apr 1838
Baptism Place	Paris, Missouri, USA
Church	Pleasant Hill Presbyterian Church
Father	George Adams
Mother	E. [Eleanor] Adams

1860 Census:

Name	Samuel W Adams
Age	23
Birth Year	abt 1837
Gender	Male
Race	White
Birth Place	Missouri
Home in 1860	Jackson, Monroe, Missouri
Post Office	Paris
Dwelling Number	1487
Family Number	1525
Personal Estate Value	100
Married Within Year	Y
Household Members (Name)	Age
George Adams	61
Elender Adams	53
Thomas H Adams	20
James G Adams	17
Samuel W Adams	23

George Adams, head of household was aged 61 years, working as a farmer, and all three apparent sons: Thomas H., James G. and Samuel W. were also working as farmers, presumably

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on their father's farm, which was valued at \$1600. It seems probable that it was this same real estate that was reported by Eleanor Adams in the 1870 census. All members of this family were reported born in Kentucky, so it would appear that they had relocated from Kentucky to Missouri sometime after the birth of the youngest son in 1843 (more to follow).

1850 Census:

Name **Samuel W Adams**
Gender Male
Race White
Age 12
Birth Year abt 1838
Birthplace Missouri
Home in 1850 [District 59, Monroe, Missouri, USA](#)
Attended School Yes
Line Number 17
Dwelling Number 41
Family Number 41
Household Members (Name) Age
George Adams 50
Eleanor Adams 42
Eliza A Adams 27
Sarah J Adams 19
Mary E Adams 17
John W Adams 15
Samuel W Adams 12
Thomas H Adams 10
James G Adams 7

1840 Census:

Name **Geo Adams**
Home in 1840 (City, County, State) [Jackson, Monroe, Missouri](#)
Free White Persons - Males - Under 5 3 (Samuel W., and Thomas H.)
Free White Persons - Males - 5 thru 9 1 (John H.)
Free White Persons - Males - 40 thru 49 1
Free White Persons - Females - 5 thru 9 2 (Sarah J. and Mary E.)
Free White Persons - Females - 10 thru 14 1 (Eliza A.)
Free White Persons - Females - 30 thru 39 1

1830 Census

Name **George Adams**
Home in 1830 (City, County, State) [Western Division, Harrison, Kentucky](#)
Free White Persons - Males - 30 thru 39 1
Free White Persons - Females - Under 5 1 (Eliza A.)
Free White Persons - Females - 20 thru 29 1

The foregoing census record is believed to have been the household of George Adams and Eleanor [Randell] located in Harrison County KY. This census record was not chosen randomly, but was based on a focused search, assuming that the following marriage record was of our target:

Name **George Adams**

Genealogical History of John Raymond Adams

Gender Male
Marriage Date 4 Jan 1827
Marriage Place [Harrison, Kentucky, USA](#)
Spouse [Eleanor Randell](#)

Given that both George and Eleanor were reported in 1850 and 1860 census records having been born in Kentucky, and that their presumably eldest child, Eliza A., was also reported born in Kentucky around 1826-7, a search was made of Kentucky marriage records for a George Adams and bride named Eleanor anywhere in Kentucky around 1827. Only one matching record was found, abstracted hereinabove. Given that the couple was recorded marrying in Harrison County KY in 1827, a search for their household was then conducted of the 1830 census in Harrison County KY, resulting in a hit on the above indexed household. Since George and Eleanor's 2nd eldest child, Sarah J. Adams, was reportedly born in Missouri in 1831, it seems logical that the family had moved from Harrison County KY to Monroe County MO sometime between 1830 and 1831. A search was then made of U. S. Land Office Records resulting in hits on the following three patents taken out by George Adams in Monroe County.

1. Name [George Adams](#)
Issue Date 24 Apr 1833
Place Monroe, Missouri, USA
Land Office Palmyra
Meridian 5th PM
Township 55-N
Range 9-W
Section 27
East ½, SE ¼ (80 acs)
2. Name [George Adams](#)
Issue Date 24 Apr 1833
Place Monroe, Missouri, USA
Land Office Palmyra
Meridian 5th PM
Township 55-N
Range 9-W
Section 31
East ½, SE ¼ (80 acs)
3. Name [George Adams](#)
Issue Date 24 Apr 1833
Place Monroe, Missouri, USA
Land Office Palmyra
Meridian 5th PM
Township 55-N
Range 9-W
Section 32
West ½, SW ¼ (80 acs)

So George Adams filed for three separate patents on 24Apr1833 located in Monroe County. These patents have been plotted on a Township-Range map contained in Figure 10. As evidenced by these patent plots, one containing 80 acres was located in Section 27, about three miles east of the town of Goss MO. The other two containing a total of 160 acres abutted each other in Sections 31 and 32 about one mile south of Goss. All three of these tracts were situated

Genealogical History of John Raymond Adams

sufficiently upstream on branches of the Salt River as to avoid inundation by Mark Twain Lake. It seems probable that it was on one of these patents that George and Eleanor Adams built their home and developed their farming business. It also seems possible that Eleanor Adams may still have been in ownership of this land in 1870, and that their son, Samuel Wood, was operating the farm.

It may be relevant to the investigation of this Adams family that there were also households headed by Otho Adams and Ovid Adams recorded in the same district of Monroe County during the 1st half of the 19th Century. Otho Adams household in 1850 is abstracted as follows:

Name	Otho Adams
Gender	Male
Race	White
Age	49
Birth Year	abt 1801
Birthplace	Kentucky
Home in 1850	District 59, Monroe, Missouri, USA
Occupation	Farmer
Industry	Agriculture
Real Estate	1500
Line Number	32
Dwelling Number	77
Family Number	77
Household Members (Name)	Age
Otho Adams	49
Mary Adams	50
Jane A Adams	21
William Adams	19
Mary Adams	17
Samuel Adams	15
Sarah Adams	13
Joseph Adams	11

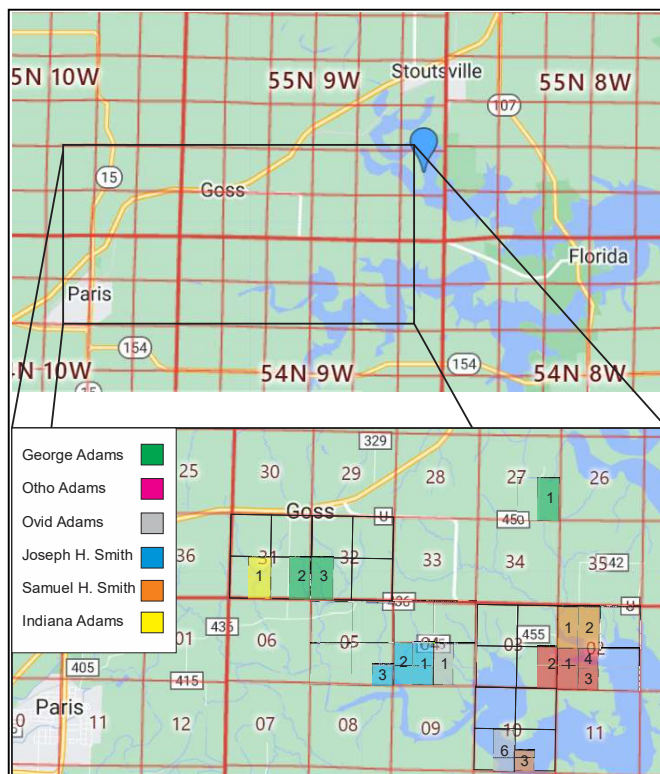


Figure 10
Adams and Smith Patent Map, Monroe County MO

Otho Adams' household was recorded on Page 14 of 203, whereas George Adams' household was recorded on Page 8 of 203. Clearly, these households would have been situated within relatively close geographic proximity. Given the matching surnames of "Adams", and the fact that both George and Otho were born in Kentucky within a couple of years of each other, it seems highly probable that they may have been kinsmen, perhaps brothers or 1st cousins. Based on this prospect, a search of U. S. Land Office records was conducted, resulting in hits on the following patent records:

Genealogical History of John Raymond Adams

1. Name **Otho Adams**
Issue Date 20 Feb 1827
Place Monroe, Missouri, USA
Land Office Palmyra
Meridian 5th PM
Township 54-N
Range 9-W
Section 2
West $\frac{1}{2}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ (80 acs)
2. Name **Otho Adams**
Issue Date 10 Nov 1830
Place Monroe, Missouri, USA
Land Office Palmyra
Meridian 5th PM
Township 54-N
Range 9-W
Section 3
East $\frac{1}{2}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ (80 acs)
3. Name **Otho Adams**
Issue Date 13 Oct 1835
Place Monroe, Missouri, USA
Land Office Palmyra
Meridian 5th PM
Township 54-N
Range 9-W
Section 2
SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ (40 acs)
4. Name **Otho Adams**
Issue Date 1 Apr 1839
Place Monroe, Missouri, USA
Land Office Palmyra
Meridian 5th PM
Township 54-N
Range 9-W
Section 2
NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ (40 acs)

The foregoing patents were taken out by Otho Adams over a 12-year period commencing with the first two on 20Feb1827 and 10Nov1830, respectively, about five years before the arrival of the George Adams family. All four of these patents abutted each other and were located in 54N, 9W, Sections 2 and 3, about 2 miles southeast of George Adams patents in 55N, 9W, Sections 32 and 33 (see Figure 10). Given this close geographic proximity, and the matching demographics of these two households, it seems a virtual certainty that George Adams and Otho Adams were brothers. Their possible kinship connection will be further explored momentarily.

Before pursuing the George Adams - Otho Adams connection, it may be worthwhile to introduce two additional Adams families that took out patents in this same area at around the same time. First, let's look at Ovid Adams, who was recorded in Monroe County in 1840 indexed as follows:

Genealogical History of John Raymond Adams

Name **Obed Adams**

[Ovid Adams]

Home in 1840 (City, County, State) **Jefferson, Monroe, Missouri**

Free White Persons - Males - Under 5 1

Free White Persons - Males - 15 thru 19 1

Free White Persons - Males - 20 thru 29 1

Free White Persons - Males - 30 thru 39 1

Free White Persons - Females - Under 5 1

Free White Persons - Females - 20 thru 29 1

Since we have effectively used land patents as a means of demonstrating geographic proximity, following are two patents filings by Ovid Adams:

1. Name **Ovid Adams**

Issue Date 10 Nov 1830

Place Monroe, Missouri, USA

Land Office Palmyra

Meridian 5th PM

Township 54-N

Range 9-W

Section 4

West ½. SE ¼

6. Name **Ovid Adams**

Issue Date 1 Apr 1839

Place Monroe, Missouri, USA

Land Office Palmyra

Meridian 5th PM

Township 54-N

Range 9-W

Section 10

East ½, SW ¼

Although Ovid Adams filed for a total of six patents between 1830 and 1839, we have included only the two patents closest to George and Otho Adams. Although the other four patents were located within Township 54N, they were spread out within Ranges 8W thru 10W. These two select patents (1st and last filed) are shown in Figure 10, and were situated between the lands of George and Otho Adams, and abutted tracts patented to Joseph H. Smith and Samuel H. Smith.

Monroe County was formed in 1833 by annexation from the western part of Ralls County. Given that Otho Adams and Ovid Adams were both recorded taking out patents in Monroe County in 1827 and 1830, respectively, it seems logical that they might have been recorded in Ralls County in the 1830 census. In fact, they were recorded in the Jackson Township, Cape Girardeau County MO in 1830, households indexed as follows:

Name **Otke Adams**

[**Otho Adams**]

Home in 1830 (City, County, State) **Jackson, Cape Girardeau, Missouri**

Free White Persons - Males - 5 thru 9 1

Free White Persons - Males - 20 thru 29 1

Free White Persons - Females - Under 5 1

Free White Persons - Females - 20 thru 29 1

Genealogical History of John Raymond Adams

Name **Ovid Adams**

[**Ovid Adams**]

Home in 1830 (City, County, State) Jackson, Cape Girardeau, Missouri

Free White Persons - Males - 20 thru 29 1

Free White Persons - Females - 20 thru 29 1

Free White Persons - Females - 50 thru 59 1

Free White Persons - 20 thru 49 2

Otho Adams was recorded on Page 3 of 8, whereas Ovid Adams was recorded on Page 5 of 8. But what is most interesting about these Cape Girardeau census records is that the households of Joseph H. Smith and Samuel H. Smith were recorded on the same page and abutting the household of Otho Adams as illustrated in the census page excerpt shown in Figure 11. The recordation of Otho Adams, Ovid Adams, Joseph H. Smith and Samuel H. Smith all within Cape Girardeau County MO in 1830 is a strong inference that they were migrating as a group out of Kentucky. This collective migration is reinforced by the fact that they all patented lands in Monroe County along the drains of Salt River in close geographic proximity as illustrated by Figure 10. Such close association infers the probability of strong kinship connections, probably through intermarriage.

Name	20-29 M	20-29 F	50-59 F	20-49
John Yates	/	/	/	/
Abraham Kirkland	/	/	/	/
Matthew Hapless	/	/	/	/
Joseph H. Smith	/	/	/	/
Otho Adams	/	/	/	/
Samuel H. Smith	/	/	/	/
Jane McFee	/	/	/	/

Figure 11
1830 Census Excerpt, Cape Girardeau County MO

Let's briefly investigate the possibility of an Adams-Smith intermarriage. First we have the marriage record for Otho Adams abstracted as follows:

Name **Otho Adams**

Spouse **Mary Johnson**

Marriage Date 21 Nov 1827

Location Ralls

State Missouri

Now, let's consider the Last Will and Testament of Joseph Smith of Bath County KY dated 20Oct1822 in which legacies were devised to a daughter named **Mary Johnson**, and sons named **Joseph Smith** [Jr.] and **Samuel H. Smith**. ([Ancestry.com - Missouri, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1766-1988](#)) It doesn't require much imagination to connect the daughter of Joseph Smith named Mary Johnson with the wife of Otho Adams. Particularly when we consider the son named Samuel H. Smith, and the fact that Bath County KY was situated immediately to the southeast of Harrison County. Assuming Joseph Smith, the testator of Bath County, to have been the father of the Joseph H. Smith and Samuel H. Smith who filed patents on Salt River in Monroe County MO in the 1830's, then it seems a virtual certainty that the wife of Otho Adams was born Mary Smith, and that she had married a Mr. Johnson, who was deceased sometime before 1827.

Genealogical History of John Raymond Adams

Last Will and Testament of Joseph Smith of Bath County KY written 20Oct1822. Makes bequest to his daughter, Mary Johnson. It seems probable that Mary Smith-Johnson may have become the wife of Otho Adams in Ralls County MO in 1827. [Ancestry.com - Missouri, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1766-1988](https://www.ancestry.com/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSK3-9S9Y-?i=100&cat=100)

Indiana Adams

Name [Indiana] Anderson Adams
Marriage Date 23 Sep 1830
Marriage Place Ralls, Missouri, USA
Spouse Robert Caldwell

Name **Indiana Adams**
Issue Date 24 Apr 1833
Place Monroe, Missouri, USA
Land Office Palmyra
Meridian 5th PM
Township 55-N
Range 9-W
Section 31
East ½, SW ¼

Ovid Adams

Married Nancy Yates
Nancy Yates-Adams married Samuel H. Smith after death of Ovid Adams

George Adams and Otho Adams were both of about the same age, and each was reported as being born in Kentucky. We earlier made note of the fact that there were households of a Joseph Adams and an S. O. Adams recorded living concurrently in Jefferson County with Samuel Wood Adams. Given that their demographics matched with Samuel Wood Adams, it was hypothesized that they may have been either brothers or 1st cousins. Now we have the household of Otho Adams residing in the same district in Monroe County contemporaneously with the George Adams household, and Otho Adams appears to be the father of the Joseph and S. [Samuel] O. Adams previously noted. This suggests that George Adams and Otho Adams may have been brothers. When we attempt to trace George Adams back to his roots in Kentucky, we will keep open the possibility of connections to Otho Adams.

Joseph H. Smith Patents

Name **Joseph H Smith**
Issue Date 1 Jan 1828
Place Monroe, Missouri, USA
Land Office Palmyra
Meridian 5th PM
Township 54-N
Range 9-W
Section 4
East ½, SW ¼

Name **Joseph H Smith**
Issue Date 15 Feb 1828
Place Monroe, Missouri, USA

Genealogical History of John Raymond Adams

Land Office Palmyra
Meridian 5th PM
Township 54-N
Range 9-W
Section 4
West $\frac{1}{2}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$

Name **Joseph H Smith**
Issue Date 13 Oct 1835
Place Monroe, Missouri, USA
Land Office Palmyra
Meridian 5th PM
Township 54-N
Range 9-W
Section 5
SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$

Samuel H. Smith Patents

Name **Samuel H Smith**
Issue Date 1 Apr 1829
Place Monroe, Missouri, USA
Land Office Palmyra
Meridian 5th PM
Township 54-N
Range 9-W
Section 2
West $\frac{1}{2}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$

Name **Samuel H Smith**
Issue Date 10 Nov 1830
Place Monroe, Missouri, USA
Land Office Palmyra
Meridian 5th PM
Township 54-N
Range 9-W
Section 2
East $\frac{1}{2}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$

Name **Samuel H Smith**
Issue Date 13 Oct 1835
Place Monroe, Missouri, USA
Land Office Palmyra
Meridian 5th PM
Township 54-N
Range 9-W
Section 10
SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$

Married Mary Yates-Adams after death of Ovid Adams.

Following is an abstract of the marriage record between George Adams and Eleanor Randall:

Name **George Adams**

Genealogical History of John Raymond Adams

Gender Male
Marriage Date 4 Jan 1827
Marriage Place [Harrison, Kentucky, USA](#)
Spouse [Eleanor Randell](#)

1840 Census:

Name [Geo Adams](#)
Home in 1840 (City, County, State) [Jackson, Monroe, Missouri](#)
Free White Persons - Males - Under 5 3
Free White Persons - Males - 5 thru 9 1
Free White Persons - Males - 40 thru 49 1
Free White Persons - Females - 5 thru 9 2
Free White Persons - Females - 10 thru 14 1
Free White Persons - Females - 30 thru 39 1

This almost certainly was the household of George Adams and Eleanor Randall in Monroe County in 1840. The location of Jackson Township, Monroe County MO and the demographics of the members of this household are a virtual match for the household of George Adams in 1850.

Harrison County KY

Since their place of marriage was reported as being in Harrison County KY on 4Jan1827, it seems probable that the household of George Adams would appear in the census records of Harrison County in 1830.

1830 Census:

Name [George Adams](#)
Home in 1830 (City, County, State) [Western Division, Harrison, Kentucky](#)
Free White Persons - Males - 30 thru 39 1
Free White Persons - Females - Under 5 1
Free White Persons - Females - 20 thru 29 1

As expected, this would appear to have been the household of George and Eleanor Adams in Harrison County KY in 1830. Consequently, it seems a certainty that the family migrated to Missouri sometime between 1830 and 1831 when their daughter, Sarah J. Adams, was reported born in Missouri. George and Eleanor were married in Harrison County KY in Jan1827, yet a presumed daughter, Eliza A. was reported to have been born about 1823 per the 1850 census. This suggests that Eleanor Randall may not have been Eliza A. Adams mother, rather born to George Adams by an earlier wife. However, the 1830 census record indicates that that first daughter was under age of five years, and likewise the 1840 census showed her to be aged 10 thru 14 years. It seems probable that Eliza A. was actually several years younger than suggested by the 1850 census, and that she was the child of Eleanor [Randell] Adams.

We have now reached the point in our investigation that it becomes necessary to issue a word of caution. In the early 1800's Kentucky was a relatively young territory. Census records for Kentucky do not exist prior to 1810. Even then, it wasn't until 1850 that census records reported anyone by name other than the head of the household. Bottom line, absent any other

Genealogical History of John Raymond Adams

documentation such as estate records, land records, tax records, church records, family bibles, newspaper articles, written histories, etc., it becomes deucedly difficult to trace ancestral connections of persons who migrated through Kentucky during those early days. Regrettably, Kentucky has come to be known as the graveyard where genealogical hopes and aspirations too often have gone to die (the land of “brickwalls”). If the Adams surname was not so common, tracing lineages through the Kentucky abyss might be less difficult. Alas, Adams was not an uncommon surname in Harrison County. For example, in 1830 alone there were a total of nine separate households headed by persons with the surname of Adams as shown in Table 1.

Table 1 Harrison County KY Adams Households - 1830 Census

Head of Houshold	Geographic Division	Slaves	Total Occupants	Page
Solly [Sally] Plams	Western Division, Harrison , Kentucky		3	1 of 60
John Adams	Western Division, Harrison , Kentucky		9	15 of 60
William Adams	Western Division, Harrison , Kentucky	3	11	33 of 60
George Adams	Western Division, Harrison , Kentucky		3	37 of 60
John Adams	Western Division, Harrison , Kentucky	1	5	37 of 60
James Adams	Western Division, Harrison , Kentucky		8	37 of 60
John W Adams	Eastern Division, Harrison , Kentucky		3	
William Adams	Eastern Division, Harrison , Kentucky		12	
James H Addams	Eastern Division, Harrison , Kentucky	1	9	

This does not mean that census records suddenly become useless, but they do become decidedly more difficult to decipher and interpret. Perhaps the greatest value that can be derived from these early census records is their lineal order and spatial proximity within the record, and the demographic composition of each household. Lineal order and spatial proximity can be utilized as an indicator of possible kinship connections. During these early days of migration and settlement people had a tendency to travel and settle in family groups. Frequently, fathers and sons, brothers and sisters, cousins, in-laws, etc. would migrate as a family unit and would take out patents on adjoining or nearby tracts as was evidenced hereinbefore in Monroe County MO. Since the census records were usually compiled by the census taker in a lineal order along waterways or other paths of transport, families of close kinsmen could appear in the census record in close sequence and spatial proximity. For example, if we were to find persons of the same surname listed as heads of households either on the same page, or within a few pages of each other, this would generally suggest a possible kinship connection. Likewise, the listing of surnames matching known in-laws or other close allies in similarly close proximity might also be indicative of kinship connection.

Additionally, these early records between 1810 and 1840 separated household members by gender, age-range and race (demographics). These factors can be utilized to infer a kinship relationship, i.e., fathers and sons, brothers and possibly sisters, cousins, in-laws, etc. within a given census year. These factors can also be utilized to trace a family’s household from one census cycle to the next by comparing the respective household demographic compositions, even if the parties have migrated to a different geographic locale.

So, with respect to the nine Adams households recorded in Harrison County in the 1830 census, it may be possible to infer kinsmen of George Adams by utilizing the aforementioned factors.

Genealogical History of John Raymond Adams

First, it should be recognized that these nine households were divided between two different divisions (or districts) of the County, i.e., East of Licking River, or West of Licking River. The relevance of this delineation is that the Licking River flows from south to north, thus bifurcating the County into two roughly equal parts. From Table 1 we see that six of the Adams households were located on the west side of Licking River, whereas the other three were on the east side. This division by itself does not preclude a kinship connection between persons from each division, but renders such kinship less likely.

The George Adams household was recorded in the Western Division in Page 37 of 60. Closer inspection of the census record reveals that there were two other households headed by persons surnamed Adams recorded on the same page with George Adams: John Adams just three households removed from George, and James Adams just six households removed from George. Such close spacing of these Adams households provides a strong possibility of a kinship connection between two or all three of these men.

Sally Adams was recorded on Page 1 of 60, suggesting a significant geographic separation from George, John and James. Further, Sally Adams almost certainly was a widow of an unknown Mr. Adams, given that she appears to have had two young children in her household. The apparent significant geographic separation of Sally Adams' household from George Adams makes it less likely that there was any kinship connection between them.

William Adams' household was recorded on Page 33 of 60, which is sufficiently close to George Adams (four pages) as to warrant further scrutiny. William Adams' household is indexed as follows:

Name	William Adams
Home in 1830 (City, County, State)	Western Division, Harrison, Kentucky
Free White Persons - Males - Under 5	1
Free White Persons - Males - 40 thru 49	1
Free White Persons - Females - Under 5	1
Free White Persons - Females - 5 thru 9	3
Free White Persons - Females - 20 thru 29	1
Free White Persons - Females - 30 thru 39	1
Slaves - Males - Under 10	1
Slaves - Females - Under 10	1
Slaves - Females - 24 thru 35	1

Given William Adams' age range of 40 thru 49, and the relatively young age of the apparent children in his household, he would appear to be of about the same generation as George Adams, i.e., brother or cousin, and he should not be discounted as a possible kinsperson of George Adams.

The second John Adams household was recorded on Page 15 of 60, suggesting a potentially greater geographic separation from George Adams' household. This second John Adams household is indexed as follows:

Name	John Adams
Home in 1830 (City, County, State)	Western Division, Harrison, Kentucky
Free White Persons - Males - Under 5	2

Genealogical History of John Raymond Adams

Free White Persons - Males - 5 thru 9	1
Free White Persons - Males - 10 thru 14	2
Free White Persons - Males - 40 thru 49	1
Free White Persons - Females - Under 5	1
Free White Persons - Females - 15 thru 19	1
Free White Persons - Females - 40 thru 49	1

Again, the age range for this second John Adams of 40 to 49 years would seemingly place him in about the same generation with George Adams. Such similarity of ages would seemingly suggest a possible kinship relationship as brother or cousin. However, the apparent more divergent geographic separation (22 pages) would seem to reduce the possibility of a kinship connection. Given the presence of an apparent daughter over age 15 and two apparent sons over age 10 would seem to suggest that this couple had been married for more than 16 years, i.e., born before about 1795. Further, the more advanced age of this family suggests that it should appear in Harrison County in 1820, unless they had only recently immigrated.

Before performing a comparative analysis of the three Adams households recorded on Page 37, now might be the appropriate time to introduce the published genealogical history of George Adams. First, it should be noted that there is a profile for George Adams, husband of Eleanor Randell on Wikitree (profile number Adams 32443). Very little data was provided for George Adams with this profile. His parents are unknown. Next, it should be noted that there are a total of 187 Public Tree profiles for George Adams to be found on Ancestry.com. Roughly 30% of those public trees report George Adams' father to have been named William Adams. Roughly 60% of those trees report George Adams' wife to have been Eleanor Randall [aka Randol, etc.]. A relatively small number of those public trees report George Adams' wife as Ann Schooler.

Let it be said that, in spite of the myriad public trees on Ancestry purporting to know the parentage of George Adams, virtually none offer any documentary evidence to support their claims. The origins of the purported parents of George Adams having been William Adams (or William Greer Adams) and Margaret Palmer (or Margaret Hugheston) is a total mystery at this point in our investigation. For the moment, we will ignore the published ancestry for George Adams and attempt to establish that ancestry from the records available.

First, it might be useful to present a complete transcript of the marriage bond record of George Adams as follows:

"Know all men by these presents that Mr. **George Adams** and **Jesse Randell** are held and firmly bound unto the Commonwealth of Kentucky in the sum of £50 current money and for payment well and truly to be made and done to the said Commonwealth, we bind ourselves, our heirs, executors and administrators jointly, severally and firmly by these present sealed and dated this 4Jan1827. The condition of the above obligation is such that whereas a marriage is shortly intended to be solemnized between the above bound George Adams and **Eleanor Randell**, now should there be no lawful cause to obstruct said marriage then the above obligation to be void, else remain in full force. Signed George Adams and Jesse Randell."
[Kentucky, U.S., County Marriage Records, 1783-1965 - Ancestry.com](#)

Perhaps the most significant piece of data to be derived from this marriage bond record is the name of the co-surety, Jesse Randell. Typically, the persons going surety on a marriage bond were kinsmen of the parties thereto. In this instance, it seems probable that Jesse Randell was a kinsman of the bride, Eleanor Randell, possibly her father, uncle or brother. It may be possible

Genealogical History of John Raymond Adams

to infer something further about George Adams by knowing something further about Jesse Randell. As it turns out, Jesse Randell very likely was a brother of Eleanor Randell, and a son of John Randell, whose household was recorded on Page 57 of 60 in Western District Harrison County in 1830 indexed as follows:

Name **John Randal**
[John Randell]
Home in 1830 (City, County, State) Western Division, Harrison, Kentucky
Free White Persons - Males - 10 thru 14 1
Free White Persons - Males - 15 thru 19 1
Free White Persons - Males - 20 thru 29 1 [prob. Jesse Randell]
Free White Persons - Males - 60 thru 69 1
Free White Persons - Females - 10 thru 14 2
Free White Persons - Females - 15 thru 19 2 [poss. included Eleanor Randell]
Free White Persons - Females - 50 thru 59 1

Living just two households removed from John Randell was the household headed by Emily Leach indexed as follows:

Name **Emily Leach**
Home in 1830 (City, County, State) Western Division, Harrison, Kentucky
Free White Persons - Males - 5 thru 9 2
Free White Persons - Males - 10 thru 14 1
Free White Persons - Males - 15 thru 19 2
Free White Persons - Females - 10 thru 14 1
Free White Persons - Females - 15 thru 19 2
Free White Persons - Females - 20 thru 29 1
Free White Persons - Females - 60 thru 69 1

Jesse Randell married Ann Leach in Harrison County on 9Feb1836 indexed as follows:

Name Jeffie Randel
[Jesse Randall]
Gender Male
Marriage Date 9 Feb 1836
Marriage Place Harrison, Kentucky, USA
Spouse **Ann Lach** [Leach]

Not much direct connection can be inferred from these records pertaining to Jesse Randell, presumed brother of Eleanor Randell, except that their family was recorded in the same district as the household of George Adams, albeit separated by 20 pages in the record. It is not as if they were next door neighbors, but they probably lived within about 12 miles of each other.

Next is presented the 1930 census records for the households of George's near neighbors: John Adams and James Adams:

Name **John Adams**
Home in 1830 (City, County, State) Western Division, Harrison, Kentucky
Free White Persons - Males - 60 thru 69 1
Free White Persons - Females - 10 thru 14 1
Free White Persons - Females - 15 thru 19 1
Free White Persons - Females - 40 thru 49 1

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Slaves - Males - 55 thru 99 1

Name **James Adams**

Home in 1830 (City, County, State) Western Division, Harrison, Kentucky

Free White Persons - Males - Under 5 1

Free White Persons - Males - 5 thru 9 1

Free White Persons - Males - 10 thru 14 1

Free White Persons - Males - 40 thru 49 1

Free White Persons - Females - 5 thru 9 1

Free White Persons - Females - 10 thru 14 2

Free White Persons - Females - 30 thru 39 1

James Adams, who was recorded on the same page with George Adams, was aged 40 thru 49 years, making him of about the same generation as George Adams and possibly a kinsman (brother or cousin). The John Adams recorded on Page 37 was significantly older than the other Adams men recorded in the Western District, being aged 60 thru 69. Given his close lineal proximity (and presumably close geographic proximity), John Adams possibly was either the father or uncle of George Adams.

A search of the 1820 census records of Harrison County returned the Adams families listed in Table 2. As seen in Table 2 there were a total of six households in the Western District (South Side) headed by persons named Adams: two listed as William Adams, two listed as John Adams, one listed as James Adams and one listed as Aaron Adams. Three of the households: William, John and James Adams were listed on Page 17 of 20, all in immediate sequence. This provides a very strong inference of a kinship connection between all three of these men. The indices of

Table2 Harrison County KY Adams Households - 1820 Census

Head of Houshold	Geographic Division	Slaves	Total Occupants	Page
Aron Adams	South Side of Licking River, Harrison , Kentucky		10	12 of 20
William Adams	South Side of Licking River, Harrison , Kentucky		5	15 of 20
William Adams	South Side of Licking River, Harrison , Kentucky		6	17 of 20
John Adams	South Side of Licking River, Harrison , Kentucky	1	4	17 of 20
James Adams	South Side of Licking River, Harrison , Kentucky		5	17 of 20
John Adam	South Side of Licking River, Harrison , Kentucky	2	8	19 of 20
James Adams	East Side of the South Fork of Licking River, Harrison , Kentucky	1	6	
William Adams	East Side of the South Fork of Licking River, Harrison , Kentucky		3	
Eliane Adams	East Side of the South Fork of Licking River, Harrison , Kentucky		3	
Absalom Adams	East Side of the South Fork of Licking River, Harrison , Kentucky		10	
Daniel Adams	East Side of the South Fork of Licking River, Harrison , Kentucky		3	
Henry Adams	East Side of the South Fork of Licking River, Harrison , Kentucky		5	

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each of these households are as follows:

Name **William Adams**

Enumeration Date 7 Aug 1820

Home in 1820 (City, County, State) South Side of Licking River, Harrison, Kentucky, USA

Free White Persons - Males - 10 thru 15 1 (prob. **Ovid Adams**)

Free White Persons - Males - 16 thru 25 2 (prob. **George and Otho Adams**)

Free White Persons - Males - 45 and over 1 (**William Adams**)

Free White Persons - Females - 10 thru 15 1 (prob. **Indiana Adams**)

Free White Persons - Females - **45 and over** 1 (**Margaret aka Peggy Adams**)

The head of this household was reportedly over age 45, as was his apparent wife. Given the presence of four apparent children over age 10, with two males over age 16, it would appear that William Adams was considerably older than John Adams and James Adams and very possibly their father. Assuming that to be the case, then this William Adams would appear to have had at least five sons and one daughter. We will soon learn from tax records that this William Adams was the father of James, George, Otho, Ovid, William Jr., John, Indiana and Jane Adams.

Name **John Adams**

Enumeration Date 7 Aug 1820

Home in 1820 (City, County, State) South Side of Licking River, Harrison, Kentucky, USA

Free White Persons - Males - 26 thru 44 1

Free White Persons - Females - Under 10 1

Free White Persons - Females - 45 and over 1

Slaves - Males - 26 thru 44 1

Given the age range of this John Adams (26 thru 44) and the presence of only one child (an apparent daughter under age 10), it seems possible that he was a generation younger than William Adams, very possibly William's son. The demographics of this household are a near match for the John Adams, who was recorded in 1830 on Page 37 of 60 and a near neighbor of George Adams, with the exception of the age differences (26 thru 44 in 1820 versus 60 thru 69 in 1830). It should also be noted that both of these John Adams were reported in possession of one male slave. Few of these Adams in Harrison County were reported with slaves consequently the fact that a John Adams in 1820 and 1830 was reported with a slave provides strong suggestion that they may have been the same person. The age difference aside, it seems probable that these two John Adams were the same person. That being the case, it then seems possible that John Adams and James Adams may have been older brothers of George Adams, or that John Adams may have been a generation older, possibly an uncle or the father of George and James.

Name **James Adams**

Enumeration Date 7 Aug 1820

Home in 1820 (City, County, State) South Side of Licking River, Harrison, Kentucky, USA

Free White Persons - Males - Under 10 1

Free White Persons - Males - 26 thru 44 1

Free White Persons - Females - Under 10 2

Free White Persons - Females - 16 thru 25 1

For the same reasons given for John Adams, above, it seems possible that this James Adams was a son of William Adams or John Adams. Also, given the matching number and age range of apparent children, it seems probable that this James Adams was the same James Adams recorded in 1830 on Page 37 of 60 in close proximity to George Adams.

The 1810 census of Harrison County Adams [aka Addams] households is summarized in Table 3. The 1810 census of Harrison County was not separated into districts as were the subsequent years of 1820 thru 1840, consequently it is not possible to separate its population as west or east of South Licking River. However, the rules of sequence and spatial proximity within the record should still apply. For example, there is good reason to believe that the William Addams and John Addams households recorded on Page 6 of 18 were kinsmen of George Adams.

Genealogical History of John Raymond Adams

Momentarily we will present land records of Adams in Harrison County, from which we will be able to provide greater delineation of these presumed kinfolk of George Adams, as well as a more precise location of their residences within Harrison

Table3 Harrison County KY Adams Households - 1810 Census

Head of Houshold	Geographic Division	Slaves	Total Occupants	Page
William Addams	Harrison, Kentucky		9	6 of 18
John Addams	Harrison, Kentucky	1	6	6 of 18
John Addams	Harrison, Kentucky	2	9	12 of 18
Absolem Addams	Harrison, Kentucky		2	14 of 18
Henry Addams	Harrison, Kentucky		5	14 of 18
Wm Addams	Harrison, Kentucky		7	14 of 18
John Addams	Harrison, Kentucky	2	9	14 of 18
George Addams	Harrison, Kentucky		2	15 of 18
Wm Addams	Harrison, Kentucky		6	15 of 18
Wm Addams	Harrison, Kentucky		4	15 of 18

County. In preparation for presentation of land records, it should be pointed out that the William and John Adams households appeared in the record in immediate sequence. Also, near neighbors were the households of Elizabeth Sellars (two households before) and John Randle [aka Randell] (five households after). We have already intimated that John Randell was the father of Eleanor Randell, wife of George Adams. Now, with this apparent close living proximity, it becomes clearer the opportunity through which this young couple probably became acquainted (girl next door?). Further, from the land records we will learn that John Sellers was an immediately abutting land owner to William Adams and John Adams, and that there were intermarriages between the Sellers and Adams.

Following is a presentation of the indices of these two Adams households from the 1810 census of Harrison County:

Name **William Addams**

Residence Date 6 Aug 1810

Residence Place Harrison, Kentucky, USA

Free White Persons - Males - Under 10 2 (prob. **Otho and Ovid Adams**)

Free White Persons - Males - 10 thru 15 1 (prob. **George Adams**)

Free White Persons - Males - 16 thru 25 2 (prob. **William and John Adams**)

Free White Persons - Males - 45 and over 1

Free White Persons - Females - Under 10 1 (prob. **Indiana Adams**)

Free White Persons - Females - 10 thru 15 1 (prob. **Jane, who married Joseph H. Smith**)

Free White Persons - Females - 26 thru 44 1

Given the older age range of William Adams, as contrasted to John Adams (hereinafter), it seems certain that William Adams was a few years older than John Adams.

Name **John Addams**

Residence Date 6 Aug 1810

Residence Place Harrison, Kentucky, USA

Free White Persons - Males - 16 thru 25 1 (prob. **John Adams Jr.**)

Free White Persons - Males - 26 thru 44 1

Free White Persons - Females - 10 thru 15 1

Free White Persons - Females - 16 thru 25 1

Free White Persons - Females - 45 and over 1

Number of Enslaved Persons 1

Given the extremely close living proximity and the relatively close ages, it seems probable that William Adams was the older brother of John Adams. Given the fact that William Adams was reported with two sons over age 16, it seems probable that William Adams was married before 1795, and possibly born before 1770. No marriage record has been found for William Adams, but the marriage of his presumed brother, John Adams is of record and abstracted as follows:

Genealogical History of John Raymond Adams

- Adams, John/Thompson, Mary, Father: David Thompson, [Nov. 6, 1787](#) Bourbon County KY

From the date of John Adams' marriage it can be inferred that he was born about 1765. If the assumption regarding William Adams having been the older brother is correct, then William likely was born sometime before 1765.

Land Records

"So the exodus began, at first companies of men, then entire families in trains of pack horses by land, or on rafts and barges by water, into this land of promise. It was but natural that they would seek out the richest lands. Time has proven that Bourbon is the richest and most productive of all the Bluegrass counties. In the counties that bound Bourbon, their richest lands are invariably on the side toward Bourbon. The quantity and quality of the Bluegrass seed from Bourbon is superior to that of any other county, and Paris the leading Bluegrass market in the world. So it was that Bourbon lands were soon taken up by the most discriminating of the pioneers, the very cream from Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania and North Carolina. As early as 1810 the population of Bourbon was more than 18,000 and it is about that today. These were men of vision-prophets who saw not only rich rolling lands well drained and free from miasma that would preserve and insure health, but valuable timber lands, an abundance of water for man and mills, roads already surveyed by herds of buffalo who instinctively knew the shortest and most advantageous routes, a climate most exhilarating, in short just the place for a home land." [Bourbon County Genealogical Society \(rootsweb.com\)](#)

Land records were found in Harrison County for persons named William Adams and John Adams listed as follows:

1. [6Oct1795](#): Harrison County Deed Book 1, Page 105: Indenture between Samuel McMillan and Esther, his wife and William Adams, all of Harrison County, for £20 sold a certain tract of land in Harrison County on Lee's Lick, branch of Mill Creek, being part of a tract containing 2,000 acres granted by patent to McMillan and Matthew Patterson, beginning at NW corner of John Adams, various courses, containing 50 acres... *This is believed to have been the first tract of land acquired by William Adams, presumed father of George Adams, in Harrison County. It is important to note that this tract was situated on Mill Creek, as all lands acquired by William Adams and his presumed brother, John Adams, was situated on the drains of Mill Creek. Regrettably, Mill Creek extends for almost 15 miles southwesterly from its confluence with South Licking River. However, a secondary reference to Lee's Lick Branch appears in several of these land records, which reference might suggest a more precise location of these Adams' lands. A small community called "Lees Lick" appears on present day maps on Leesburg-Leeslick Turnpike about three miles north of Leesburg KY. It seems possible that the Adams' property may have been within the near vicinity of Lees Lick KY. It should also be noted that this 50-acre tract adjoined a tract owned by John Adams (presumably, William's brother). Also note that this tract was purchased from Samuel McMillan, who apparently had patented a 2000 acre tract in co-partnership with Matthew Patterson. Under the Virginia Land Law of 1779 it was possible for a person to file a "preemption warrant" for up to 1000 acres, if they had already established a prior claim for 400 acres. Samuel McMillan is credited with having established "McMillan's Fort". Samuel McMillan's preemption purportedly abutted a 1000 acre preemption entered by John Martin, the founder of Martin's Station on Stoner River.*

"(Cert iss'd for 1400 fees &c pd D. D.) John Martin this day claimed a settlement & preemption to a tract of Land lying on the south fork of Licking Creek on the South side thereof about 5 Miles from Riddes [Ruddell's Station] Station with the letters IM on a Tree at a small spring by improving the same and raising a Crop of Corn in the year 1775 and residing in the Country ever since satisfactory proof being made to the Court they are of Opinion that the said Martin has a right to a settlement of 400 Acres of Land-including the said improvement & the preemption of 1000 Acres adjoining and that a Certificate issue accordingly" [Land Acquisitions in Bourbon County, Virginia \(Kentucky\) 1779-1780 \(frontierfolk.net\)](#)

Genealogical History of John Raymond Adams

2. 13Oct1795: Deed Book 1, Page 122: Indenture between Matthew Patterson and Margaret, his wife of Scott County and **William Adams** of Harrison County for £100 sold a certain tract of land in Harrison County lying on **Lee's Lick fork of Mill Creek**, it being **part of a larger tract of 2,000...** beginning SW corner of **John Sellars**, various courses containing **50 acres...**, Witness: James Brown, **David Thompson (John Adams' father-in-law)** and **John Sellars**. [Harrison. Deeds 1794–1803, Deeds 1805–1808 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#) *Just one week after his first purchase, William Adams purchased an additional 50 acre tract, presumably abutting his previous acquisition, and part of the larger Patterson-McMillan preemption warrant. This tract was noted as abutting land owned by John Sellar, presumed father of James Adams wife, _____*
3. 3Nov1795: Deed Book 1, Page 121: Indenture between Samuel McMillan and Esther, his wife, of Harrison County KY to **John Adams** of same, in consideration of £50 current money of Kentucky, sold certain tract of land lying in Harrison County on waters of **Lee's Lick, fork of Mill Creek**, being part of a tract of 2,000 acres granted McMillan by patent, containing **100 acres...** *This is believed to have been John Adams' tract, which was identified as abutting the first 50 acre tract purchased by his brother, William Adams abstracted in Item No. 1, above.*
4. 8May1815: Deed Book 4, Page 340: Sally Hamilton, an orphan, assigned apprentice to **John Adams** to learn the trade of sewing, spinning and weaving until reaching age sixteen years. *It is not certain that this John Adams was the brother of William Adams. There had been almost 20 years elapsed since the above listed tracts were purchased by William Adams and John Adams.*
5. 14Jun1815: Deed Book 4, Page 161: Indenture between **William Adams** and **Ann**, his wife, to **John Adams**, all of Harrison County, for and in consideration of \$1, sold a certain tract of land on waters of South Fork Licking River, various course, abutting Cassel's and McNeese, containing 60 acres. *Given the wife's name of "Ann", this probably was not a record of William Adams, father of George Adams. The identity of this William Adams is unknown.*
6. 4Jul1816: Book 4, Page 538: Vauter, attorney for Benjamin Stevens to **William Adams** for \$100 a tract of land in Harrison County (part of larger tract of 1000 acres granted to said Stevens) on **Lee's Lick of Mill Creek**, beginning at stake on Mill Creek being SW corner of **John Sellars** heirs, various courses (including corner of **John Adams**), containing **100 acres...** Witnesses: Joseph Walker and **James Sellars**. *This was the first additional land acquisition by William Adams since the purchase of the two 50-acre tracts listed in Item Nos. 1 and 2, above. Since this tract was on Lee's Lick of Mill Creek, and abutted lands of John Sellars (heirs) and John Adams, it was almost certainly for either William Adams or his son, William Adams Jr.*
7. Nov1819: Deed Book 6, Page 327: Indenture between [Capt.] Thomas Holt and Paulina, his wife to **John Adams**, all of Harrison County KY, for consideration of \$207, sold a certain tract of land on **Mill Creek**, various courses, containing **41-1/2 acres...** *This acquisition was almost certainly by John Adams, presumed brother of William Adams, given that it was situated on Mill Creek. This probability is strengthened by the fact that John Adams was repeatedly reported in the tax records as possessing 142-1/2 acres (a combination of his first 100 acres, plus this 42-1/2 acres).*
8. 1Mar1821: Book 7, Page 276: Heirs of James Tarbue to **William Adams** for \$70, sold tract of land on **Lee's Lick, fork of Mill Creek** beginning at SW corner of **John Sellars** tract to NW corner of Joseph Walker, various courses, containing **60 acres...** [Harrison. Deeds 1820–1821, Deeds 1821–1823 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#) *Given the location of Lee's Lick and the abutting property owner, John Sellars, this almost certainly was an acquisition by William Adams or his son, William Adams Jr. However, it is worth noting that William Adams Sr. was recorded in the tax records with only 106 acres.*
9. 13Sep1823: Book 9, Page 77: James B. Clarke of Kings County NY by Joseph L. Norris, his attorney sold to **William Adams** of Harrison County for \$33 a tract lying on east side of south fork of **Mill Creek**, being part of larger tract containing 100,000 acres granted to Martin Pickett, beginning at point on Patterson and McMillan west line, being SW corner of **James Sellars** 100 acres, Picketts survey, corner between **Joseph Walker and William Adams**, various courses, containing **16 acres...** Witnesses: **James Sellars** and **Otho Adams**. *Given the location of this tract being on Mill Creek, and abutting lands of James Sellars, Joseph Walker and William Adams, this acquisition was almost certainly be William Adams Sr. or his son, William Adams Jr. It should be noted that this deed was witnessed by Otho Adams, presumed brother of George Adams. It should also be noted that William Adams [Sr.] would be dead within the next few months.*
10. 1Dec1824: Harrison County Deed Book 9, Page 344: Indenture between **Joseph H. Smith** and Jane (nee Adams), his wife, **late Jane Adams**, **William Adams** and **Otho Adams**, **heirs of William Adams**, deceased of Harrison County, Commonwealth of Kentucky of one part and **George Adams** of same of other part, sold

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for \$300 a certain tract of land lying on [Lee's Lick, fork of Mill Creek](#) containing [106 acres](#)... Witnesses: John Curry and William Jacobs. *From this record it can be deduced that William Adams [Sr.] was deceased, probably sometime in early 1824, as he did not appear in the 1824 tax records. Next, that Jane Adams (wife of Joseph H. Smith), William Adams [Jr.] and Otho Adams, as heirs of William Adams, were selling 106 acres from the estate of William Adams [Sr.] to George Adams, presumably their brother. Curiously, William Adams [Sr.] was repeatedly reported in tax records in possession of 106 acres (presumably the same land purchased by George Adams). Yet other heirs of William Adams [Sr.] were also recorded in possession of land from the estate of William Adams [Sr.]. From these facts, it seems probable that it was William Adams [Sr.] who acquired at least part of the additional tracts recorded by deeds hereinbefore.*

11. 29Sep1829: Deed Book 12, Page 5: Indenture between [Margaret Adams](#), [George Adams](#) and Eleanor [nee Randell] Adams, his wife, [Indiana Adams](#) and [Ovid Adams](#) of Harrison County sold to [Thomas Palmer](#) of same, for consideration of \$750, a certain tract of land situated and lying in Harrison County on [Mill Creek](#) and the eastern fork thereof, being part of a tract granted to [Samuel McMillan and Matthew Patterson](#) by patent beginning a pointer on east bank of [Mill Creek](#) also corner of [John Sellars](#) tract, various courses to NW corner of [John Adams](#), continuing various courses to beginning, containing [100 acres](#)... Witnesses: John Zumwalt and [Jesse Randal](#). [Harrison. Deeds 1828–1830, Deeds 1830–1832 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#) *First, note the grantor named Margaret Adams. She is believed to have been the widow of William Adams [Sr.], whom some researchers claim to have been born [Margaret Palmer](#). No documentation has yet been found to further identify Margaret, wife of William Adams, but it seems possible that her alleged maiden name has been inferred from this grantees name, Thomas Palmer. The identity of Thomas Palmer is as yet unknown. From the description of this tract having been originally part of lands patented to McMillan and Patterson, it seems probable that this tract comprised the two 50-acre tracts purchased by William Adams from deeds presented in Item Nos. 1 and 2, above. The fact that George Adams, Indiana Adams and Ovid Adams appear to have held joint interest in this land would be further proof of their having been children of William and Margaret Adams. This tract description places the land on the eastern fork of Mill Creek, and on the east bank of said Creek.*

Tax Records:

It may be useful to put the early tax records of eastern Kentucky into their proper historical setting and context. Taxes were collected once annually by the County government. As an adjunct to the start of the Revolutionary War, the Commonwealth of Virginia established the County of Kentucky described as follows:

“Before 1776 the State of Kentucky was part of Fincastle County, Virginia. In that year the Virginia Legislature divided Fincastle County and named what coincides with what is now all of Kentucky (Exclusive of the Purchase) "Kentucky County." In 1780 Kentucky County was sub-divided into Jefferson, Lincoln and [Fayette](#) (see Figure 12). In 1785 most of the northern part of Fayette was cut off and called [Bourbon County](#) and extended to the Ohio River. In 1792 when Kentucky was admitted to statehood Bourbon was one of the nine counties (including [Harrison County](#) annexed from northern Bourbon) (see Figure 13) that made up the Commonwealth. From time to time thirty-three (33) counties have been carved from the original Bourbon County.” [Bourbon County Genealogical Society \(rootsweb.com\)](#)

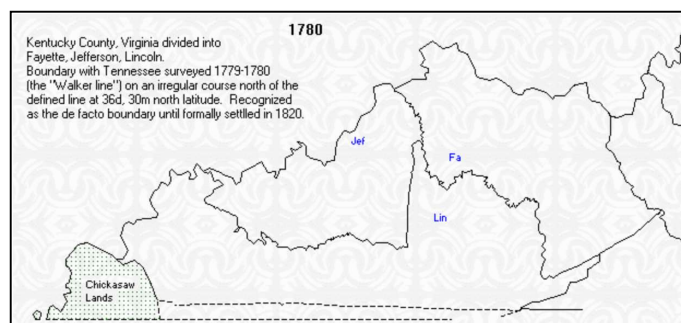


Figure 12
Kentucky County Map Circa 1780

From the foregoing description we find that between 1776 and 1792 Kentucky was considered to be a “county” under the

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jurisdiction and governance of the Commonwealth of Virginia. During that period Kentucky County was subdivided into several smaller counties, beginning with the creation of Jefferson, Lincoln and Fayette counties in 1780 as illustrated in Figure 12. In 1785 roughly the western half of Fayette County was partitioned to form Bourbon County. In 1792 the northern part of Bourbon County was partitioned to form Harrison County as illustrated in Figure 13. So, when we look at tax records during these early formative years of Kentucky it is necessary to inspect the records from Harrison County's parent county, Bourbon County, to find the earliest possible records of William and John Adams.

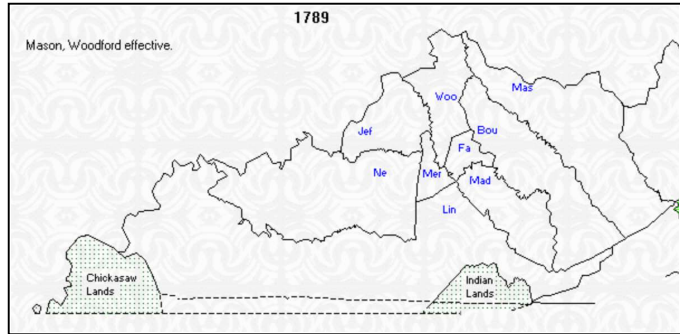


Figure 13
Kentucky County Map Circa 1789

Bourbon County KY Tax Rolls

1787:

- John Adams
John Adams was the only person named "Adams" recorded in Bourbon County in 1787. Presumably, his brother, William Adams, had not yet arrived. John Adams is on record marrying Mary Thompson in Bourbon County on 6Nov1787.

1788: [Bourbon. Tax Records 1787–1793, Tax Records 1795–1806 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)

- William Adams
- John Adams, 2 Horses
By 1788 both William Adams and John Adams were paying taxes in Bourbon County, and continued to be recorded in Bourbon County in each subsequent year until the formation of Harrison County in 1794.

1789: [Bourbon. Tax Records 1787–1793, Tax Records 1795–1806 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)

- William Addams, 1W>21
- John Addams, 1W>21, 2 Horses

1790: [Bourbon. Tax Records 1787–1793, Tax Records 1795–1806 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)

- William Adams, 1W>21, 1 Horse
- John Adams, 1W>21, 4 Horses
Both William and John began reporting ownership of livestock in 1790.

1791: [Bourbon. Tax Records 1787–1793, Tax Records 1795–1806 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)

- William Adams, 1W>21, 1 Horse
- John Adams, 1W>21, 2 Horses

1792: [Bourbon. Tax Records 1787–1793, Tax Records 1795–1806 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)

- William Adams, 1W>21, 1 Horse, 6 Cattle
- John Adams, 1W>21, 2 Horses, 8 Cattle

1793: [Bourbon. Tax Records 1787–1793, Tax Records 1795–1806 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)

- William Adams, 1W>21, 1 Horse, 9 Cattle
- John Adams, 1W>21, 2 Horses, 15 Cattle

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1793 was the last year that William and John Adams were recorded in the tax records of Bourbon County. They began recording in Harrison County the following year.

1794: (Record Missing) (Harrison County Annexed from Bourbon County in 1794)

Harrison County KY Tax Rolls:

1794: [Harrison. Tax Records 1794–1797, Tax Records 1799–1808 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)

- William Adams, 1 White Male > 21, 2 Horses, 9 Cattle
- John Adams. 1 White Male > 21, 2 Horses, 14 Cattle

Since William and John Adams were immediately recorded in the tax rolls of Harrison County upon its formation, it seems highly probable that they had been living in the northwestern part of Bourbon County which was partitioned to form Harrison County.

1795: [Harrison. Tax Records 1794–1797, Tax Records 1799–1808 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)

- William Adams, 1 White Male > 21, 2 Horses, 8 Cattle, 100 acres, Mill Creek
- John Adams, 1 White Male > 21, 1 Horses, 11 Cattle, 100 acres, Mill Creek

Heretofore, William and John Adams had not been recorded owning any land, until their purchases of tracts in 1795 on Lee's Lick Branch, Mill Creek in the Fall of 1795. It seems probable that they were renting and improving the tracts that they ultimately purchased in 1795, as they had reported owning horses and cattle from before 1792.

1796: [Harrison. Tax Records 1794–1797, Tax Records 1799–1808 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)

- William Adams, 1 White Male > 21, 3 Horses, 11 Cattle, 106 acres, Mill Creek
- John Adams, 1 White Male > 21, 2 Horses, 12 Cattle, 100 acres, Mill Creek

William and John Adams would continue paying taxes on their Mill Creek property (106 acres for William, and 100 acres for John) for the next 15 years, at which time John added 42-1/2 acres by purchase.

1797: [Harrison. Tax Records 1794–1797, Tax Records 1799–1808 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)

- William Adams, 1 White Male > 21, 4 Horses, 106 acres, Mill Creek
- John Adams, 1 White Male > 21, 4 Horses, 100 acres, Mill Creek

1799: [Harrison. Tax Records 1794–1797, Tax Records 1799–1808 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)

- William Adams, 0 White Male > 21, 4 Horses, 100 acres, Mill Creek

*For some reason William Adams ceased being assessed a personal poll for himself in 1799. Usually exemption from tax was only allowed for advanced age or disability. Typically, a male householder over age 65 could be exempted from tax. There is no reason to believe that William Adams was anywhere near the age of 65, so **it seems possible that he may have been exempted for disability.***

*“Women (often executors of estates), free blacks, and veterans are **included** on tax lists if they owned as much as one horse. **Local tax laws may exempt such persons, as well as the impoverished, aged, or infirm, from city or county levies.** The state tax form often identifies those who received such exemptions or other special exclusions.” [Kentucky Ancestors Online | Tax Lists \(1792-1840\): An Overlooked Resource For Kentucky History and Land Titles](#)*

- John Adams, 1 White Male > 21, 4 Horses, 100 acres, Mill Creek

1800: [Harrison. Tax Records 1794–1797, Tax Records 1799–1808 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)

- William Adams, 0 White Male > 21, 2 Horses, 106 acres, Mill Creek
- John Adams, 1 White Male > 21, 3 Horses, 100 acres, Mill Creek

1801: [Harrison. Tax Records 1794–1797, Tax Records 1799–1808 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)

- William Adams, 0 White Male > 21, 2 Horses, 106 acres, Mill Creek
- John Adams, 1 White Male > 21, 3 Horses, 100 acres, Mill Creek

1802: [Harrison. Tax Records 1794–1797, Tax Records 1799–1808 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)

- William Adams, 0 White Male > 21, 3 Horses, 106 acres, Mill Creek

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- John Adams, 1 White Male > 21, 4 Horses, 100 acres, Mill Creek
- 1803: [Harrison. Tax Records 1794–1797, Tax Records 1799–1808 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)
- William Adams, 0 White Male > 21, 4 Horses, 106 acres, Mill Creek
 - John Adams, 1 White Male > 21, 4 Horses, 100 acres, Mill Creek
- 1804: [Harrison. Tax Records 1794–1797, Tax Records 1799–1808 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)
- William Adams, 1 White Male > 21, 3 Horses, 100 acres, Mill Creek
William Adams began reporting a poll for a male over age 21 years in 1804 after five years of no poll tax. It is difficult to explain this deviation from the norm. One explanation might be that the one reported poll was for a son, who had reached his majority in 1804. However, normal poll tax rules should have required reporting any males over age 16 years, in which case we might have expected an earlier reporting of a son, unless perhaps there were exemptions until reaching age 21. If it is assumed that this poll was for William Adams' eldest son (James Adams, more later), then that son would have been born about 1783, almost 5 years before William Adams first appeared in Bourbon County.
 - John Adams, 1 White Male > 21, 4 Horses, 100 acres, Mill Creek
- 1805: [Harrison. Tax Records 1794–1797, Tax Records 1799–1808 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)
- William Adams, 1 White Male > 21, 1 White Male >16 < 21, 4 Horses, 106 acres, Mill Creek
William Adams again reported a poll over 21, and now a poll aged 16 to 21. These polls may have been for William Adams' two eldest sons.
 - John Adams, 1 White Male > 21, 5 Horses, 100 acres, Mill Creek
 - George Adams, 1 White Male > 21, 1 Horse, Mill Creek
The identity of this George Adams is uncertain. William Adams' son, George Adams, would have been only about six years old in 1805. This was the only entry recorded for this George Adams.
- 1806: [Harrison. Tax Records 1794–1797, Tax Records 1799–1808 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)
- William Adams, 0 White Male > 21, 1 White Male >16 < 21, 5 Horses, 106 acres, Mill Creek
Again, William Adams did not report a poll over age 21. It seems possible that the poll over age 21 in 1805 was an elder son, who was no longer living in his household. FWIW, a William Adams began being recorded in 1806 on Grays Run, which was located within about one mile of Mill Creek to the southeast. It seems possible that that William Adams could have been the eldest or 2nd eldest son of William Adams of Mill Creek.
 - John Adams, 1 White Male > 21, 1 White Male >16 < 21, 5 Horses, 100 acres, Mill Creek
It should be noted that John Adams reported a poll aged 16 to 21 years in 1806. In the 1810 census John Adams census record reported a male aged 16 thru 24 years. John Adams is known to have two sons; James Adams and John Adams Jr. It seems probable that this poll aged 16 thru 21 in 1806 was John Adams Jr.
- 1807: [Harrison. Tax Records 1794–1797, Tax Records 1799–1808 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)
- William Adams, 1 White Male > 21, 1 White Male >16 < 21, 4 Horses, 106 acres, Mill Creek
It seems probable that William Adams [Sr.] was entitled to a permanent exemption (possibly for disability) and that he again had two older sons being reported as polls. The poll aged over 21 year probably was the poll previously reported aged 16 thru 21, and that he had another son who just reached age 16 years. These sons were probably James and John.
 - John Adams, 1 White Male > 21, 5 Horses, 100 acres, Mill Creek
John Adams did not report a poll aged 16 thru 21 in 1807, but did report two polls in that age range in 1808.
- 1808: [Harrison. Tax Records 1794–1797, Tax Records 1799–1808 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)
- William Adams, 1 White Male > 21, 2 White Male >16 < 21, 5 Horses, 106 acres, Mill Creek
Following the previous assumptions, it would appear that William Adams now had three sons over age 16 in his household. It seems probable that these sons were James, John and possibly another unknown son.
 - John Adams, 1 White Male > 21, 2 White Male >16 < 21, 1 Slave, 7 Horses, 100 acres, Mill Creek
John Adams reported two polls aged 16 thru 21. He also had acquired one slave, who was over age 16.

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1809: [Harrison. Tax Records 1809–1819, Tax Records 1821–1828 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)

- William Adams, 2 White Male > 21, 0 White Male >16 < 21, 4 Horses, 106 acres, Mill Creek
William Adams reported two polls over age 21 in 1809, and none under age 21. In the 1810 census he reported two males aged 16 thru 21, which would comport with this tax record in 1809.
- John Adams, 1 White Male > 21, 1 White Male >16 < 21, 1 Slave, 6 Horses, 100 acres, Mill Creek.
John Adams reported only one poll in the 16 thru 21 year aged group, which would comport with the 1810 census record. From the 1808 census it appeared that John Adams had an additional (heretofore unknown) son. It seems possible that John Adams had two sons, one of whom had moved out of his household between 1808 and 1809, and whose identity has not yet been discovered (James Adams?).

1810: [Harrison. Tax Records 1809–1819, Tax Records 1821–1828 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)

- William Adams, 1 White Male > 21, 0 White Male >16 < 21, 5 Horses, 106 acres, Mill Creek
William Adams polls in 1810 did not comport with the 1810 census, which suggested two sons, aged 16 thru 24.
- John Adams, 1 White Male > 21, 1 White Male >16 < 21, 1 Slave, 5 Horses, 100 acres, Mill Creek
John Adams' reported polls in 1810 comports with the 1809 tax list (one poll aged 16 thru 21), and the 1810 census record (one male aged 16 thru 24).

1811: [Harrison. Tax Records 1809–1819, Tax Records 1821–1828 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)

- William Adams, 1 White Male > 21, 0 White Male >16 < 21, 5 Horses, 106 acres, Mill Creek
Same polls as reported in 1810
- John Adams, 1 White Male > 21, 1 White Male >16 < 21, 1 Slave, 5 Horses, 100 acres, Mill Creek
Same polls as reported in 1810.
- James Adams, 1,000, Mill Creek (Paid by John Conner)
Given the location of this James Adams being on Mill Creek, it seems possible that he may have been a son of either William Adams or John Adams. There was a suit brought in the Appeals Court of Harrison County on 11Oct1813 by John Payne, with James Adams and John Conners as defendants. Appeal by Payne challenged an earlier judgment which awarded Conners the estimated value of improvements he had made to a 200 acres tract, which he believed rightfully purchased from James Adams, a part of larger tract of 1000 acres. It appears the James Adams' title to the 1000 acre tract may have been flawed, and that John Payne was the rightful owner. [Harrison. Court Records 1794–1921 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)
- George Adams, 1 White Male > 21, 1 Horse, Mill Creek
Another George Adams was recorded on Mill Creek in the 1805 tax roll. He too was recorded with one horse and only one poll over 21. It seems possible that this George Adams could have been a kinsman of William and John Adams.
- James Adams, 1 White Male > 21, 4 Horse, Mill Creek
Given the location of this James Adams being on Mill Creek, it seems possible that he may have been a son of either William Adams or John Adams.

1812: [Harrison. Tax Records 1809–1819, Tax Records 1821–1828 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)

- William Adams, 1 White Male > 21, 0 White Male >16 < 21, 5 Horses, 106 acres, Mill Creek
William Adams still had one adult male living at home, possibly his son John Adams. The other known sons: George, Otho and Ovid would still have been under age 16 years.
- John Adams, 1 White Male > 21, 1 White Male >16 < 21, 1 Slave, 8 Horses, 142-3/4 acres, Mill Creek
John Adams appears to still have had his son, John Adams Jr., living at home in 1812. John Adams commenced paying taxes on the 42-1/2 acre tract purchased from Thomas Holt, even though the deed wasn't recorded until Nov1819.

1813: [Harrison. Tax Records 1809–1819, Tax Records 1821–1828 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)

- William Adams, 1 White Male > 21, 0 White Male >16 < 21, 5 Horses, 106 acres, Mill Creek
Ditto.
- John Adams, 2 White Male > 21, 0 White Male >16 < 21, 1 Slave, 8 Horses, 142 acres, Mill Creek
It would appear that John Adams Jr. had reached his majority between 1812 and 1813.

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- 1814: [Harrison. Tax Records 1809–1819, Tax Records 1821–1828 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)
- William Adams Sr., 1 White Male > 21, 0 White Male >16 < 21, 6 Horses, 162 acres, Mill Creek
Ditto.
 - John Adams Sr., 1 White Male > 21, 0 White Male >16 < 21, 2 Slave, 8 Horses, 142 acres, Mill Creek
It appears that John Adams Jr. was no longer living with his father.
 - James Adams, 1 White Male > 21, 1,000 acres, Mill Creek
Given the matching name and acreage, it seems probable that this James Adams was the same as the one recorded on the 1811 tax roll. He very likely was a son of either William Adams or John Adams.
- 1815: [Harrison. Tax Records 1809–1819, Tax Records 1821–1828 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)
- William Adams Sr., 0 White Male > 21, 0 White Male >16 < 21, 7 Horses, 100 acres, Mill Creek
William Adams no longer had an adult son living at home. His son, John Adams, appears to be head of his own household in 1815 as noted below. William's other known sons, George, Otho and Ovid probably were still under age 16, but George and Otho were very close to that age.
 - John Adams Sr., 1 White Male > 21, 0 White Male >16 < 21, 1 Slave, 9 Horses, 142-1/2 acres, Mill Creek
Ditto.
 - John Adams s/o William, 1 White Male > 21, Mill Creek
Son of William Adams recorded for first time as independent taxable.
 - John Adams s/o John, 1 White Male > 21, 2 Horses, Mill Creek
Son of John Adams recorded for first time as independent taxable.
- 1816: [Harrison. Tax Records 1809–1819, Tax Records 1821–1828 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)
- William Adams Sr., 0 White Male > 21, 0 White Male >16 < 21, 7 Horses, 100 acres, Mill Creek
It appears that whatever the basis for William Adams exemption from taxation, it may also have included sons under the age of 21 years, as George and Otho probably were aged 16 or over in 1816.
 - John Adams Sr., 2 White Male > 21, 0 White Male >16 < 21, 2 Slave, 9 Horses, 11 Cattle, 142 acres, Mill Creek
An additional poll was reported by John Adams, perhaps his son, John Adams Jr. had returned to his household.
 - James Adams, 1 White Male > 21, Mill Creek
Ditto.
- 1817: [Harrison. Tax Records 1809–1819, Tax Records 1821–1828 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)
- William Adams Sr., 0 White Male > 21, 0 White Male >16 < 21, 5 Horses, 100 acres, Mill Creek
Ditto.
 - John Adams Sr., 1 White Male > 21, 0 White Male >16 < 21, 1 Slave, 5 Horses, - Cattle, 142 acres, Mill Creek
A single poll is again reported?
 - James Adams, 1 White Male > 21, Mill Creek
Ditto.
- 1818: [Harrison. Tax Records 1809–1819, Tax Records 1821–1828 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)
- William Adams Sr., 1 White Male > 21, 0 White Male >16 < 21, 4 Horses, 100 acres, Mill Creek
It appears that one of William Adams younger sons had reached 21 years, probably George or Otho.
 - John Adams Sr., 1 White Male > 21, 0 White Male >16 < 21, 1 Slave, 5 Horses, - Cattle, 142 acres, Mill Creek. *Ditto.*
 - James Adams, 1 White Male > 21, 2 Horses, ?? *Ditto.*
 - John Adams, 1 White Male > 21, 3 Horses, 42-1/3 acres, Mill Creek
This record suggests that the John Adams, who purchased the 42-1/2 acre tract from Thomas Holt in Nov1819 may not have been John Adams Sr. Very likely a son of either William Adams or John Adams Sr.
- 1819: [Harrison. Tax Records 1809–1819, Tax Records 1821–1828 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)
- William Adams Sr., 1 White Male > 21, 0 White Male >16 < 21, 4 Horses, 100 acres, Mill Creek. *Ditto.*

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- John Adams Sr., 1 White Male > 21, 0 White Male >16 < 21, 2 Slave, 5 Horses, - Cattle, 142 acres, Mill Creek. *Ditto*.
- James Adams, 1 White Male > 21, 2 Horses, Mill Creek. *Ditto*.
- John Adams, 1 White Male > 21, 1 Horse, 41 acres, Mill Creek. *Ditto*.

1820: (records missing in 1820)

1821: [Harrison. Tax Records 1809–1819, Tax Records 1821–1828 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)

- William Adams Jr., 1 White Male > 21, 0 White Male >16 < 21, 4 Horses, 100 acres, Mill Creek. *Single poll over 21 probably was George Adams.*
- i. NOTE: There was an entry for William Adams Sr [?]. w/ 40 acres on Grays Run.
- John Adams Sr., 1 White Male > 21, 0 White Male >16 < 21, 2 Slave, 6 Horses, - Cattle, 141-1/2 acres, Mill Creek
- James Adams, 1 White Male > 21, 1 Slave, 1 Horses, Mill Creek
- John Adams Jr., 1 White Male > 21, 1 Horse, 40 acres, Mill Creek. *Ditto, all of above.*

1822: [Harrison. Tax Records 1809–1819, Tax Records 1821–1828 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)

- William Adams, 1 White Male > 21, 0 White Male >16 < 21, 5 Horses, 106 acres, Mill Creek
- John Adams Sr., 1 White Male > 21, 0 White Male >16 < 21, 2 Slave, 6 Horses, 141 acres, Mill Creek
- James Adams, 1 White Male > 21, 1 Horse, Mill Creek
- John Adams, 1 White Male > 21, 1 Horse, 42 acres (Pickett), Mill Creek

1823: [Harrison. Tax Records 1809–1819, Tax Records 1821–1828 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)

- William Adams, 1 White Male > 21, 0 White Male >16 < 21, 5 Horses, 106 acres, Mill Creek. *The remaining poll over age 21 probably was the youngest son, Ovid Adams.*
- i. NOTE: There was an entry for William Adams Jr. on Grays Run w/ 45 acres, 1 W >21, 2 Horses.
- John Adams, 1 White Male > 21, 0 White Male >16 < 21, 2 Slave, 6 Horses, 141-1/2 acres, Mill Creek
- James Adams, 1 White Male > 21, 1 Horse, Mill Creek
- John Adams Jr., 1 White Male > 21, 1 Horse, 43 acres (Pickett), Mill Creek
- Otho Adams, 1 White Male > 21, 1 Horses, Mill Creek. *Otho Adams appeared for first time as head of his own household.*
- George Adams, 1 White Male > 21, Mill Creek. *George Adams appeared for first time as head of his own household.*
- John Adams, 1 White Male > 21, no land or livestock

1824: [Harrison. Tax Records 1809–1819, Tax Records 1821–1828 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)

- William Adams (No entry for William Adams [Sr.], presumed deceased)
- i. NOTE: There was an entry for William Adams Jr. w/ on Grays Run, 1 W >21, 1 Slave, 3 Horses.
- John Adams, 1 White Male > 21, 0 White Male >16 < 21, 2 Slave, 7 Horses, 141-1/4 acres, Mill Creek
- James Adams, 1 White Male > 21, 1 Horse, Mill Creek
- Otho Adams, 1 White Male > 21, 1 Horses, Mill Creek
- George Adams, 1 White Male > 21, Mill Creek
- John Adams, 1 White Male > 21, no land or livestock, Mill Creek

1825: [Harrison. Tax Records 1809–1819, Tax Records 1821–1828 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)

- John Adams, 1 White Male > 21, 0 White Male >16 < 21, 2 Slave, 6 Horses, 141 acres, Mill Creek
- James Adams, 1 White Male > 21, 1 Horse, Mill Creek
- William Adams, 1 White Male > 21, 3 Horses, 68-1/2, Mill Creek [may have been unallocated part of estate of William Sr.]
- Peggy [aka Margaret] Adams, 2 Horses, 30 acres, Mill Creek [Margaret, widow of William Adams Sr. acting as agent for following children]
- Indiana Adams, 8 acres, Mill Creek
- Ovid Adams, 7 acres, Mill Creek
- James Adams, 9 acres, Mill Creek

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- **George Adams**, 1 White Male > 21, 1 Horse, 33 acres Mill Creek [purchased of heirs]
- John Adams Jr., 1 White Male > 21, no livestock, 40 acres, Mill Creek

1826: [Harrison. Tax Records 1809–1819, Tax Records 1821–1828 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)

- John Adams, 1 White Male > 21, 0 White Male >16 < 21, 2 Slave, 6 Horses, 140 acres, Mill Creek
- **James Adams**, 1 White Male > 21, 1 Horse, Mill Creek
- **Margaret Adams**, 3 Slaves, 2 Horses, 50 acres, Mill Creek [Margaret, widow of William Adams Sr.]
- **Otho Adams**, 1 White Male > 21, 1 Horse, Mill Creek
- **Indiana Adams**, 9 acres, Mill Creek
- **George Adams**, 1 White Male > 21, 1 Horse, 32 acres Mill Creek
- John Adams Jr., 1 White Male > 21, 1 Horse, 40 acres, Mill Creek
- **William Adams**, 1 White Male > 21, 3 Horse, 80 acres, Grays Run

1827: [Harrison. Tax Records 1809–1819, Tax Records 1821–1828 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)

- John Adams, 1 White Male > 21, 0 White Male >16 < 21, 1 Slave, 6 Horses, 141 acres, Mill Creek
- **James Adams**, 1 White Male > 21, 2 Horse, Mill Creek
- **Peggy [Margaret] Adams**, 3 Horses, 57 acres, Mill Creek [Margaret, widow of William Adams Sr.]
- **George Adams**, 1 White Male > 21, 1 Horse, 33 acres Mill Creek
- **William Adams**, 1 White Male > 21, 3 Horse, 80 acres, Grays Run
- **John Randol**, 1 White Male over 21, 3 Horses, 75 acres, Mill Creek

1828: [Harrison. Tax Records 1809–1819, Tax Records 1821–1828 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)

- John Adams, 1 White Male > 21, 0 White Male >16 < 21, 1 Slave, 6 Horses, 141 acres, Mill Creek
- John Adams, 1 White Male > 21, 1 Horse, 42 acres, Mill Creek
- **James Adams**, 1 White Male > 21, 2 Horse, Mill Creek
- **Margaret Adams**, 3 Horses, 58 acres, Mill Creek [Margaret, widow of William Adams Sr.]
- **George Adams**, 1 White Male > 21, 1 Slave, 1 Horse, 33 acres Mill Creek
- **William Adams**, 1 White Male > 21, 1 Slave, 3 Horse, 107 acres, Grays Run
- **Sally Adams**, 9 acres, Mills Creek

Through the year-by-year progression of tax roll entries it is possible to track the growth of male children in the families of William Adams and John Adams between their first appearance in Bourbon County KY in 1787-8 and William's presumed death in 1823 in Harrison County. From those records it has reasonably been established that William Adams very likely had been married for several years before migrating to Kentucky. For some unknown reason William Adams was exempted from taxation as a poll beginning in 1799. Nothing has yet been found in the record on which to establish the basis for this exemption. He was assessed for one poll over 21 years in 1797, the records for 1798 are missing, in 1799 no polls were assessed, and in 1800 one poll over 21 was assessed, but then stricken in the record. William does not appear to have been assessed for his personal poll thereafter, and appears to have been exempted from paying for his sons until they reached age 21 years (but not always). This suggests that William Adams had been officially granted an exemption, possibly for infirmity/disability. It seems highly unlikely that he would have qualified for an age exemption.

Following these assumptions of exemption for William Adams, and applying the normal rules for John Adams, it is possible to identify when many of their sons reached their majority (or age 16 years in John's case). Assuming the above criteria, it appears that William Adams had a son who reached age 21 years in about 1804. If this assumption is correct, then it seems probable that William Adams was married at least five years before appearing in Bourbon County in 1788. However, there are variances in the polls reported by William Adams after 1805 which are

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incongruous with this assumption. For example, William reported polls in the 16 thru 21 age range in 1805, 1806, 1807 and 1808, but none in that age range from 1809 until his death in 1823. In 1809 he reported two polls over 21 years, and in 1810 through 1814 one poll over 21. If one of the two polls reported in 1808 aged 16 thru 21 had just turned 16, but was exempted thereafter until age 21, then he could have been the poll reported in 1814 over age 21.

The deviations in the polls reported by William Adams are almost impossible to reconcile. Bottom line, it appears with some certainty that William Adams, himself, was exempt from poll tax after 1797. Whether there may have been further exemptions allowed for his sons is less certain, but seems probable. These deviations aside, the tax records seem to provide support for William Adams having had at least six sons: James, William Jr., John, George, Otho and Ovid.

These tax records also seem to suggest that John Adams may have had two sons based on the 1808 tax roll in which he reported two polls aged 16 thru 21 years. In 1806 he reported one poll aged 16 thru 21, in 1807 only one poll over 21, in 1808 one poll over 21 and two polls 16 thru 21, and 1809 and 1810 one poll over 21 and one poll 16 thru 21. The deviations in these records are not conclusive, but the 1808 tax roll does suggest the possibility of two sons. Some researchers claim John Adams and Mary Thompson had two sons: James Adams and John Adams. The 1810 census only shows one apparent son. The 1811 tax roll reports two households on Mill Creek headed by persons named James Adams. It seems possible that these James Adams were sons of William Adams and of John Adams. The 1815 tax roll includes two households headed by young men named John Adams, one is identified as son of William, whereas the other as son of John. This seems almost irrefutable proof that John Adams and William Adams each had sons named John, who both reached their majority at about the same time. Consequently, the tax records do seem to support the possibility that John Adams did have two sons: James and John.

Having fairly thoroughly explored the tax records for William and John Adams, we will close out this investigation of these brothers in Harrison County with a presentation of Court records:

Harrison County Court Records:

1. Feb1795 Court Session: **John Adams** appointed overseer of road from Forks of **Mill Creek to Lees Lick**. [Harrison. Court Records 1794–1806, Court Records 1806–1814, Court Records 1814–1820 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#) *Given the location of this road order involving lands along Mill Creek in the vicinity of Lees Lick, this overseer almost certainly was John Adams, brother of William Adams.*
2. Apr1795 Court Session: Ordered that **William Adams** be **exempted from paying County levy on account of his infirmity**. [Harrison. Court Records 1794–1806, Court Records 1806–1814, Court Records 1814–1820 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#) *From the tax records presented hereinbefore, we had surmised that William Adams had been exempted from his personal tax levy, beginning in tax year 1799, based on the fact that no poll over age 21 years was exacted in that or the following five years. We had also surmised that such exemption may have resulted from an infirmity or disability. Now, we have the actual Court order in 1795 which exempted him from paying the County levy based on a claim of infirmity. However, he was recorded paying a poll for a male over age 21 between 1794 and 1797. If he had been granted an exemption in 1795, it begs the question why he would be reported paying the levies in 1795, 1796 and 1797. The fact that William Adams' exemption from tax levy appears to have continued for the remainder of his life suggests that he was the victim of a chronic ailment or physical disability, which the Court agreed was a permanent affliction.*
3. Nov1821 Session: Harrison County Record Book D, Page 78: On motion of **Sally [Lemmons] Adams** and **Otho Adams**, who made oath thereto and with John McMillan, their security entered into and acknowledged bond in the penalty of \$400 conditioned according to law a certificate is granted them for

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obtaining letters of Administration of the estate of **John Adams**, deceased in due form. [Harrison. Court Records 1828–1835, Court Records 1820–1828 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#) *The deceased, John Adams, is believed to have been a son of William Adams, and older brother of Otho Adams. John Adams had probably died in Sep or Oct 1821, and his widow [Sally Lemmon-Adams] and his brother, Otho Adams, were issued Letters of Administration on his estate.*

4. Nov1821 Session: Harrison County Record Book D, Page 78: Ordered that James Kendrick, Joseph Walker, Micajah Smith and George Cleaveland (sic), or any three of them being first duly sworn before a magistrate of this County do appraise in current money the slaves, if any, and personal estate of **John Adams**, deceased, and return an inventory and appraisal thereof to the Court. [Harrison. Court Records 1828–1835, Court Records 1820–1828 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#) *The Court appointed appraisers on the estate of John Adams.*
5. 13Oct1823 Court Session: On motion of **James Sellers** and **Margaret Adams**, who made oath thereto and with **Thomas Palmer** and William Craig, their securities, entered into and acknowledged bond in the penalty of \$1500, conditioned according to law, a certificate is granted them for obtaining letters of administration of the estate of William Adams, deceased in due form. Ordered that James Kendrick, Micajah Smith, John Miller and George Cleveland, or any three of them being first duly sworn before a magistrate of this County do appraise in current money the slaves, if any, and personal estate of William Adams, deceased, and return an inventory and appraisal thereof to the Court. [Harrison. Court Records 1828–1835, Court Records 1820–1828 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#) *From this record it is learned that William Adams had died intestate, probably around Jul-Aug1823. A surety bond was entered by Thomas Palmer and William Craig in the amount of \$1500. His presumed widow, Margaret Adams, and James Sellers were granted a certificate of administration on his estate in Oct1823, and the Court ordered the inventory and appraisal of his estate by a Commission. Particular note should be made of James Sellers, as he will appear as a party in several records involving this Adams family. His identity is uncertain, but he may have been a son of Isaac Sellers and Rebecca McCall [aka McCaully]. Isaac Sellers is believed to have been of a Quaker family background who immigrated to Kentucky from Pittsburg area of Washington County PA. Isaac is believed to have died in Harrison County Kentucky in about 1799, and his widow and family ultimately settled in Harrison County near the waters of Mill Creek. Rebecca Sellers, widow of Isaac Sellers, was recorded in Page 4 of 18 in the 1810 census of Harrison County, household abstracted as follows:*

Name	Rebecca Sellars
Residence Date	6 Aug 1810
Residence Place	Harrison, Kentucky, USA
Free White Persons - Males - 10 thru 15	1
Free White Persons - Males - 16 thru 25	1 (may have been James Sellers)
Free White Persons - Females - Under 10	1
Free White Persons - Females - 10 thru 15	1 (may have been Rebecca Sellers (Jr.) who married John Adams on 13May1813)
Free White Persons - Females - 16 thru 25	1 (may have been Eleanor Sellers who married James Adams on 12Dec1811)
Free White Persons - Females - 45 and over	1 (Rebecca McCall-Sellers)

Two of the daughters of Isaac Sellers and Rebecca McCall are believed to have married the sons of John Adams (Sr.): John Adams Jr. married Rebecca Sellers on 13May1813, and James Adams married Eleanor Sellers on 12Dec1811. John Adams Jr. is reported to have disappeared in 1856 while on a journey to visit a cousin in Missouri (possibly George Adams of Monroe County).

The identity of Thomas Palmer is unknown, but he may have been a kinsperson of Margaret Adams, perhaps a brother. A Thomas Palmer was recorded in the Western District, Harrison County in 1830, abstracted as follows:

Name	Thomas Palmer
Home in 1830 (City, County, State)	Western Division, Harrison, Kentucky
Free White Persons - Males - Under 5	2
Free White Persons - Males - 5 thru 9	1
Free White Persons - Males - 10 thru 14	1
Free White Persons - Males - 40 thru 49	1
Free White Persons - Females - Under 5	1
Free White Persons - Females - 5 thru 9	1

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Free White Persons - Females - 30 thru 39 1

Slaves - Females - 10 thru 23 1

Given Thomas Palmer's age of 40-49, it seems possible that he could have been Margaret Adams' younger brother. There is good reason to believe that this Thomas Palmer migrated to Monroe County MO and is buried in the Founder's [aka Pioneers] Cemetery at Paris, Monroe County (see Figure 14). His widow, Sydney Clendenen Palmer, and son, Christopher Columbus Palmer are also buried at Founder's Cemetery. Following is believed to have been an abstract of Thomas Palmer's household in Jackson Township, Monroe County in 1840:

Name **Thos Palmer**

Residence Date 1840

Home in 1840 (City, County, State)

Jackson, Monroe, Missouri

Free White Persons - Males - 5 thru 9 1

Free White Persons - Males - 10 thru 14 1

Free White Persons - Males - 15 thru 19 2

Free White Persons - Males - 20 thru 29 1

Free White Persons - Males - 50 thru 59 1

Free White Persons - Females - 5 thru 9 1

Free White Persons - Females - 30 thru 39 1

Slaves - Females - Under 10 1

Slaves - Females - 24 thru 35 1



Figure 14
Thomas Palmer Grave Marker

Whether Thomas Palmer held any kinship connection to this Adams family is not known at this time, but many researchers claim that Margaret Adams, widow of William Adams, was born with the surname of Palmer. No documentation has been found at present to confirm or disprove such connection. The fact that Thomas Palmer appears to have migrated to Monroe County MO at about the same time as George Adams does seems to suggest such a connection. It seems possible that Thomas Palmer may have been George Adams uncle. In 1820 the households of Thomas Palmer and George Palmer were recorded near Millersburg, Bourbon County KY abstracted as follows:

Name Thomas Palmer

Enumeration Date 7 Aug 1820

Home in 1820 (City, County, State) Millersburg, Bourbon, Kentucky, USA

Free White Persons - Males - Under 10 1

Free White Persons - Males - 26 thru 44 2

Free White Persons - Females - 16 thru 25 1

Name Geo Palmer

Enumeration Date 7 Aug 1820

Home in 1820 (City, County, State) Millersburg, Bourbon, Kentucky, USA

Free White Persons - Males - Under 10 1

Free White Persons - Males - 26 thru 44 1

Free White Persons - Females - Under 10 1

Free White Persons - Females - 16 thru 25 1

Free White Persons - Females - 45 and over 1

Slaves - Males - Under 14 1

Given the near matching age ranges of Thomas and George Palmer, and the fact that they appeared in immediate sequence in the record, it seems probable that they were kinsmen, possibly brothers. FWIW, there was a cluster of other Palmer households listed in this census record located in nearby North Middletown, which could also have been kinsmen. Of these three Palmers, John Palmer appears to have been the eldest, and possibly the father of all the other Palmers, abstracted as follows:

Name John Palmer

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Enumeration Date 7 Aug 1820
Home in 1820 (City, County, State) North Middletown, Bourbon, Kentucky, USA
Free White Persons - Males - 16 thru 25 1
Free White Persons - Males - 26 thru 44 1
Free White Persons - Males - 45 and over 1
Free White Persons - Females - 10 thru 15 1
Free White Persons - Females - 16 thru 25 3
Free White Persons - Females - 45 and over 1

Thomas Palmer was married in Kentucky abstracted as follows:

Name **Thomas Palmer**
Gender Male
Marriage Date 15 Dec 1816
Marriage Place Bourbon, Kentucky, USA
Spouse **Sidney Clendenning**

This marriage record comports with the Thomas Palmer household composition abstracted from the 1820 census records of Bourbon County, hereinabove. Virtually all of these Palmers had removed from Bourbon County by 1830.

6. Nov1823 Court Session: Order Book D, Page 208-9: On the motion of **Otho Adams**, ordered that **James Sellers**, George Cleveland, John Zumwalt and William Furnish, or any three of them do examine, state and settle with the said **Otho Adams**, Administrator, and **Sally Adams**, Administratrix, of the estate of **John Adams**, deceased, and report to the Court. On the motion of James Kendrick, ordered that he be appointed guardian to **Richard M. Adams** and **William T. Adams** infant orphans of John Adams, deceased, who with John Conner and James L. Creighton, his securities, entered into and acknowledged bond in the penalty of \$4000, conditioned according to law for the safe securing of the said orphans' estate and indemnifying the Court. [Harrison. Court Records 1828-1835, Court Records 1820-1828 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#) *The Court had already appointed appraisers on the estate of John Adams back in Nov1821 (Item No. 3, above) but for whatever reason was now ordering another set of appraisers (two years later), this time including three new parties: James Sellers, John Zumwalt and William Furnish. This order also included the appointment of James Kendrick as the guardian of John and Sally's infant children: Richard M. Adams and William T. Adams.*
7. Jan1824 Court Session: Order Book D, Page 221: On the motion of **Otho Adams** ordered that **James Sellers**, George Cleveland, John Zumwalt and William Furnish, or any three of them do lay off and allot to **Sarah (aka Sally) Adams**, widow of **John Adams**, deceased, her dower in the estate of her said deceased husband and report thereupon to the Court. *Ditto, Item No. 4, above.*
8. Jan1824 Court Session: Order Book D, Page 221: On the motion of William Furnish ordered that a summons be _____ against **Rhodam Coppage** and **Lucy [Coppage] Sellers**, Administrator and Administratrix of the estate of **John Sellers**, deceased, to appear at the next Court and show cause if any they can why they shall not give Counter Security or render up the estate as the law direct. [Harrison. Court Records 1828-1835, Court Records 1820-1828 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#) . *John Sellers is believed to have been a brother of Eleanor Sellers and Rebecca Sellers, and possibly of James Sellers. John Sellers married Lucy Coppage abstracted as follows:*

Name **John Sellers**
Gender Male
Marriage Date 2 Jul 1812
Marriage Place Harrison, Kentucky, USA
Spouse **Lucy Coppage**

This record has been included in this compilation solely for its association with the heretofore cited intermarriages between Sellers and Adams.

9. Feb1824 Court Session: Order Book D, Page 226: An inventory and appraisement and also a list of sale of the estate of **William Adams**, deceased, returned and ordered to be recorded. [Harrison. Court Records 1828-1835, Court Records 1820-1828 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)

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10. Feb1824 Court Session: Order Book D, Page 226: Ordered that John Curry Esq., John Miller, William Gray, and William Craig, or any three of them be appointed Commissioners to divide the real and personal estate of **William Adams**, deceased, among his several heirs, and also to lay off and allot to **Margaret Adams**, the widow of said deceased her dower in the real and personal estate of which her said husband died seized and possessed and report to the Court. [Harrison. Court Records 1828–1835, Court Records 1820–1828 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)
11. Feb1824 Court Session: Order Book D, Page 226 The persons appointed by a former order of this Court to examine, state and settle with **Otho Adams**, Administrator, and **Sarah Adams**, Administratrix of the estate of **John Adams**, deceased, their accounts of said administration and also lay off and allot the said Sarah Adams her dower in the estate of said deceased. This day returned their report which is ordered to be recorded in the words and figures following, to wit: “We met on 20Dec1823 and proceeded with said Adm. and Admx. And on 20Jan1824 we amended our report so as to allot Sarah Adams. Admx., one-third part of the estate of her deceased husband...” [Harrison. Court Records 1828–1835, Court Records 1820–1828 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#) The appraisers submitted their estate report to the Court on the estate of John Adams, as shown in the following Figure 15.

The Adm. & Admx. to the Estate of John Adams dec'd	
To the Amount of appraisement bill	89.00
one Rifle Gun sold to George Palmer	4.50
Contra	93.50
By cash paid Anne Adams as per acct. no 1.	0.00
George Palmer note no 2.	17.00
William Parry as per acct. no 3.	7.50
2 Nos Johnson \$2.00 James Mcmurtrey \$2.00	4.00
for copy of Appraisement Bill	50
Take \$97.00 from \$93.50 leaves the sum of \$3.50	3.50
added forward	55.50

Figure 15
John Adams' Personal Estate Inventory and Appraisal

There are two items of particular note listed in this appraisal: 1. sale of a rifle to **George Palmer** for \$4.50, and 2. a note to **George Palmer** in amount of \$17.00. Again, in the estate accounts of members of this Adams family we encounter a person named Palmer, this time a George Palmer. In terms of the relatively small size of John Adams' estate, these transactions involving George Palmer must be considered significant. Clearly, there must have been a fairly close association between John Adams and George Palmer, in order for them to have entered into a note, and the sale of a rifle. The identity of this George Palmer is unknown, but probably had a kinship association with Thomas Palmer. All things considered, it seems probable that George Palmer and Thomas Palmer were brothers, and the persons recorded in the 1820 census in Bourbon County near Millersburg, abstracted hereinabove.

“... We find the sum of \$55.50 yet remaining in the hands of said Adm. and Admx., unappropriated. Deduct therefrom the widow's 1/3 part of \$18.50 and the sum of \$37.00 remains unappropriated, all which is respectfully submitted.”

12. Jul1824 Court Session: Deed Book D, Page 244: The persons appointed by a former order of this **Court to lay off and divide the lands of which William Adams**, deceased, died seized and possessed among his heirs, and also to allot to the widow of the said deceased, her dower therein, this day returned their report, which is ordered to be recorded in the words and figures following: to wit: Pursuant to an order of the Harrison County Court at their February term of 1824, we the undersigned Commissioners named in said order have proceeded the 7Jun1824 to lay off the dower for the widow of William Adams, deceased, and to divide the residue of the estate in the following manner (to wit); After ascertaining that the whole tract contained 110 acres or thereabouts, we laid off the dower by beginning at a stake at 2., thence N2W, 58.75 poles to a stake,

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thence E, 98.5 poles to a Sugar Tree at 4, thence S2E, 58.75 poles to a Sugar Tree at 3, thence W, 100 poles to the beginning, containing 36.5 acres or thereabouts, including the mansion house and spring and orchard; Lot No 1.: Began at 4, thence N2W, 39.25 poles to a stake at 5, thence W, 16 poles to a stake at 6, thence N2W, 100 poles to a Hickory at 7, thence W, 7 poles to a stake at 8, thence S2E 173 poles to a stake at 9, thence W, 24.5 poles to the beginning, containing 11 acres;

The other lots contain as follows:

Lot No. 2 – 8 acres,

Lot No. 3 – 10 acres,

Lot No. 4 – 9 acres,

Lot No. 5 – 8 acres,

Lot No. 6 – 8 acres,

Lot No. 7 – 7 acres,

Lot. No. 8 – 7.25 acres

Exclusive of the creek, the side lines of the lots are all parallel and running S.5S, N.5W, the ends of the lots measure as follows: No. 2 = 11.7 poles, No. 3 = 11.7 poles, No. 4 = 10.5 poles, No. 5 = 9.4 poles, No. 6 = 9.4 poles, No. 7 = 8.2 poles, No. 8 = 11 poles. The lots were all meted and bounded by stakes driver at their corners and were laid off agreeably to quality and quantity, and when drawn were drawn as follows:

No 1: Jane Adams (wife of Joseph H. Smith)

No. 2: James Adams

No. 3: John Adams relic, Sally (aka Sarah) Rutters-Adams

N0. 4: Indiana Adams,

No. 5: Otho Adams,

No. 6: William Adams,

No. 7: Ovid Adams, and

No. 8: George Adams.

Signed by John Milner, John Curry, William Craig and William Gray, Commissioners. [Harrison. Court Records 1828–1835, Court Records 1820–1828 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#) Figure 16 contains a graphic (not to scale) illustration of the land division between the heirs of William Adams. This land division record affirms the children of William Adams having been: Jane Adams, James Adams, John Adams (deceased), Indiana Adams, Otho Adams, William Adams, Ovid Adams, and George Adams. The tract being divided ostensibly was identified as containing 110 acres or thereabout, yet the divided parcels total to only 104.75 acres. Moreover, it is worth noting that William Adams was recorded between 1795 and 1823 paying taxes on 106 acres. We have already presented deed records showing that William Adams purchased two tracts of land on Mill Creek in 1795 containing 50 acres each. It seems probable that those tracts actually contained 106 acres or thereabouts. We also introduced a deed record wherein William Adams purchased in Jul1816 an additional tract situated on Mills Creek, abutting land owned by John Sellers and by William's brother, John Adams, containing 100 acres. That deed record was witnessed by James Sellers. A William Adams acquired an additional tract in Mar1821 situated on Mill Creek abutting the lands of John Sellers and Joseph Walker containing 60 acres. And, finally, William Adams purchased a tract in Sep1823 (presumably near the time of his death) a tract situated on Mill Creek abutting the land of James Sellers, Joseph Walker, and William Adams's own land containing 16 acres. This final deed record was witnessed by Otho Adams and James Sellers.

13. Feb1826 Court Session: On the motion of **James Sellers** ordered that Hugh Levi, William Lowery, William Gray and John Curry, or any three of them being first duly sworn before a magistrate of this County do examine, state and settle with the said Sellers his accounts of the administration of the estate of **William**

		5	4	3
	6			
7	Lot No. 1: 11 acs		9	
8	Lot No. 2: 8 acs		10	
11	Lot No. 3: 10 acs		13	
12	Lot No. 4: 9 acs		14	
15	Lot No. 5: 8 acs		17	
16	Lot No. 6: 8 acs		18	
19	Lot No. 7: 7 acs		21	
20	Lot No. 8: 7.25 acs	1		2
22				

Dower Lot:
36.5 acs

Not to scale: Illustration only

Figure 16
Court-ordered Real Property Division of William Adams

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Adams, deceased, and report thereupon to the Court. [Harrison. Court Records 1828–1835, Court Records 1820–1828 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#) James Sellers, as a Court-appointed Administrator on the estate of William Adams received an order that an appraisal and settlement report be entered into the record (see Figure 17, below):

Ordered in the Words, Figures, Following Court.		\$	cts
The Adminr & Administrator			
To Cash on hands on former Settlement		531	70 1/2
Per Contra			
By Cash paid to Adams Guardian of Ovid Adams one of the heirs of Adams		98	02
By Cash paid Otto Adams No 2. \$3.03 1/2 dep. Geo Adams No 3. \$65.55 1/2		121	57 1/2
By Cash paid to Smith No 4. \$23.50 dep. Geo Adams No 5. \$65.00		96	53
By dep. Isaac Adams No 6. \$34.00 By Cash paid James		84	02
Hendrick as Guardian of the heirs of Adams No 7. \$28.00		28	00
By Cash p. Sarah Adams the present Guardian of the heirs of the Adams No 8.		34	53
By Cash p. Geo. Brown for Counsel No 9.		7	50
By do p. Clerk's fee bill No 10. \$0.50 do do No 11. 18 cents			63 1/2
By do do No 12. 87 cts do No 13. \$2.18 do Dep. Geo Adams No 14. 65 1/2		3	61 1/2
By Sheriff's fee bill No 15. \$1.50 By do No 16. 31 cts		1	81
By do do No 17. \$5.36 do do No 18. 31 cts		5	67
By Justice Certificate of Sett of allowed No 19. \$3.93 1/2 cts		2	93 1/2
By Cash p. Hendrick appraiser No 20. \$1.00		1	00
By Cash States James Adams for prompt payout as per articles signed by the heirs of which the Adminr claims to settle by		5	00
By a Note on James Adams uncollected		100	00
By Margaret Adams rec for the amt of her dower No 21		277	06
By Court Services one day each		13	00
Amounting to \$861.67 from which deduct the sum of		561	67
leaving a balance in favor of the Adminr of the sum of		531	70 1/2
all which is respectfully Submitted John Curry Aug 18		531	70 1/2
Levi and William Craig. Couns			

Figure 17
Court-ordered Estate Account for William Adams

Margaret Adams was devised \$277.06 as her dower interest in her deceased husband's estate. There were also payments to the various children. James Adams was reported owing the estate \$100 on a note held by his deceased father. George Adams received payment of \$68.85 for his share in his father's estate.

14. Aug1826 Court Session: **Ovid Adams**, infant orphan of **William Adams**, deceased, being admitted by the Court, chose **Margaret Adams** for his guardian, who with **William Adams [III]**, her security, entered into and acknowledged bond in the penalty of \$200, conditioned according to law. [Harrison. Court Records 1828–1835, Court Records 1820–1828 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#) Ovid Adams apparently was still a minor in Aug1826 when he elected his mother to be his guardian.
15. Aug1827 Court Session: On the motion of **James Sellers** and **Margaret Adams**, ordered that John Curry, Micajah Smith, Hugh Levi and William Craig, or any three of them being first duly sworn before a magistrate of this County do examine, state and settle with the said Sellers and Adams their accounts of the administration of the estate of **William Adams**, deceased, and report thereupon to the Court. [Harrison. Court Records 1828–1835, Court Records 1820–1828 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)
16. Aug1827 Court Session: Ordered that **Sally Adams** be appointed guardian to **Richard M. Adams**, and **William T. Adams**, **infant orphans of John Adams**, deceased, who with **William Adams [III]** her security entered into and acknowledged bond in the penalty of \$200, conditioned according to law. [Harrison. Court Records 1828–1835, Court Records 1820–1828 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)
17. Oct1827 Court Session: The persons appointed by a former Order of this Court to examine, state and settle with **James Sellers** and **Margaret Adams** their account of the administration of the estate of **William Adams**, deceased, this day returned their report which is ordered to be recorded in the words and figures following,

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to wit: [Harrison. Court Records 1828–1835, Court Records 1820–1828 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)

18. Nov1827 Court Session: On the motion of **Ovid Adams**, ordered that **Margaret Adams**, his guardian be required to give County Security and thereupon Hugh Levi, her Counter Security entered into and acknowledged bond in the penalty of \$500, conditioned according to law. [Harrison. Court Records 1828–1835, Court Records 1820–1828 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)

Harrison County Adams Summary

Having fairly thoroughly researched available records for William Adams and John Adams in Harrison County, we will conclude that part of our investigation with a summary bio of these presumed brothers and their families:

William Adams: b. ~ 1760 place unknown, d. ~ Aug-Sep1823 in Harrison County KY, m. Margaret (mnu, possibly Palmer) ~ ~1780 place unknown.

Children:

1. James Adams: b. ~ 1781 Kentucky, d. 10Mar1861, Macon County MO, m. Betsy (mnu, poss. Bunch) about 1827 *NOTE: This son was named in his father's estate settlement in 1823, but he does not appear to have been recorded in Harrison County census records, suggesting that he may have moved away from Harrison County at an early age. It also seems probable that he had married a 1st wife before marrying Betsy. He very likely was the James Adams reported in the 1830 census record from Cape Girardeau County MO.*
2. William Adams Jr.: b. ~ 1785-6, place unknown, d. ~ Oct1847 in Fayette County KY, m. (1) Polly Rutter in Harrison County on 28Mar1809, (2) Mary [aka Polly] Randell, daughter of John Randell, on 4Dec1815.
3. John Adams: b. ~ 1783, Kentucky, d. 1821 in Harrison County, m. Sally [Sarah] Lemon on 14Dec1818.
4. Jane Adams: b. 13Sep1795, Harrison County KY, d. 30Dec1868, Monroe County MO, m. Joseph H. Smith 10Sep1819, Harrison County.
5. George Adams: b. 9Mar1798 Harrison County KY, d. 26Sep1865, Monroe County MO, m. Eleanor Randell on 4Jan1827, Harrison County KY
6. Otho Adams: b. 24Feb1802, Harrison County KY, d. 5Jun1865, Monroe County MO, m. Mary Smith [Johnson] 1Nov1827, Ralls County MO. *Mary Smith was a sister of Joseph H. Smith who married Jane Adams, above, Samuel H. Smith Alexander H. Smith and John B Smith.*
7. Indiana Adams: b. 15Dec1804 in Harrison County KY, d. 1843-50 in Polk County MO?, m. Robert Caldwell 23Sep1830, Jackson Township, Ralls County MO
8. Ovid Adams: b. 16Jun1807, Harrison County KY, d. 16Mar1848 Monroe County MO, m. Nancy Yates 9Jul1835, Monroe County MO.

John Adams: b. ~1763 place unknown, d. Oct1833, Harrison County KY, m. (1) Mary Thompson 6Nov1787, Bourbon County KY, (2) Barbara Pursell, Oct1825, Harrison County KY.

Children:

1. James Adams: b. ~1788 in Bourbon County KY, d. btw. 1840-50 in Putnam or Hendricks County IN, m. Eleanor Sellers on 12Dec1811 in Harrison County KY. *This James Adams is believed to have been recorded in Harrison County census records in 1820*

Name	James Adams
Enumeration Date	7 Aug 1820
Home in 1820 (City, County, State)	South Side of Licking River, Harrison, Kentucky, USA
Free White Persons - Males - Under 10	1
Free White Persons - Males - 26 thru 44	1
Free White Persons - Females - Under 10	2

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Free White Persons - Females - 16 thru 25 1

Name James Adams

Home in 1830 (City, County, State) Western Division, Harrison, Kentucky

Free White Persons - Males - Under 5 1

Free White Persons - Males - 5 thru 9 1

Free White Persons - Males - 10 thru 14 1

Free White Persons - Males - 40 thru 49 1

Free White Persons - Females - 5 thru 9 1

Free White Persons - Females - 10 thru 14 2

Free White Persons - Females - 30 thru 39 1

Name James Adams

Residence Date 1840

Home in 1840 (City, County, State) Franklin, Putnam, Indiana

Free White Persons - Males - Under 5 1

Free White Persons - Males - 5 thru 9 1

Free White Persons - Males - 20 thru 29 1

Free White Persons - Males - 50 thru 59 1

Free White Persons - Females - 5 thru 9 1

Free White Persons - Females - 15 thru 19 1

Free White Persons - Females - 20 thru 29 2

Free White Persons - Females - 40 thru 49 1

Name James Adams

Home in 1830 (City, County, State) Pulaski, Kentucky

Free White Persons - Males - Under 5 2

Free White Persons - Males - 5 thru 9 1

Free White Persons - Males - 40 thru 49 1

Free White Persons - Females - 5 thru 9 1

Free White Persons - Females - 10 thru 14 2

Free White Persons - Females - 15 thru 19 1

Free White Persons - Females - 30 thru 39 1

Name James Adams

Residence Date 1840

Home in 1840 (City, County, State) Pulaski, Pulaski, Kentucky

Free White Persons - Males - 5 thru 9 2

Free White Persons - Males - 10 thru 14 2

Free White Persons - Males - 15 thru 19 1

Free White Persons - Males - 50 thru 59 1

Free White Persons - Females - 15 thru 19 1

Free White Persons - Females - 20 thru 29 1

Free White Persons - Females - 40 thru 49

NOTE: The composition of this household is a very close match for the James Adams households in the Western Division, Harrison County in 1830 and 1820. However, it should be noted that there was a household headed by a James Adams in the 1830 census of Pulaski County, which was an even better fit, suggesting that the James Adams of Pulaski County was not the same person as James Adams from Harrison County.

Name Elenor Adams

Gender Female

Race White

Age 55

Birth Year abt 1795

Birthplace Kentucky

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Home in 1850	Washington, Hendricks, Indiana, USA
Cannot Read, Write	Yes
Line Number	29
Dwelling Number	656
Family Number	663
Household Members (Name)	Age
Elenor Adams	55
Mahala Jane Adams	33
Luretta Ann Adams	30
Marietta Adams	24
Elizabeth Elenor Adams	19
Isaac N Adams	13

This almost certainly was the household of the widow [Eleanor Sellers-Adams] of James Adams. The fact that the youngest child, Isaac N. Adams, reportedly was born in Kentucky in about 1837 suggests that the family may still have been living in Kentucky in 1840, or could have migrated elsewhere, possibly Hendricks County IN. Refer to Figure 18 for a link diagram showing the continuity between the James Adams and Eleanor Adams households from Harrison County KY in 1830 thru Hendricks County IN in 1850.

2. John Adams Jr., b. ~ 1792, Bourbon [Harrison] County KY, d. 1856 in Harrison County, m. Rebecca Sellers, 13May1813 Harrison County KY
3. Jane Adams, b. ~1795, Harrison County, d. aft 1860 Grant County KY, m. William Lemmon Harrison County 25Mar1816.

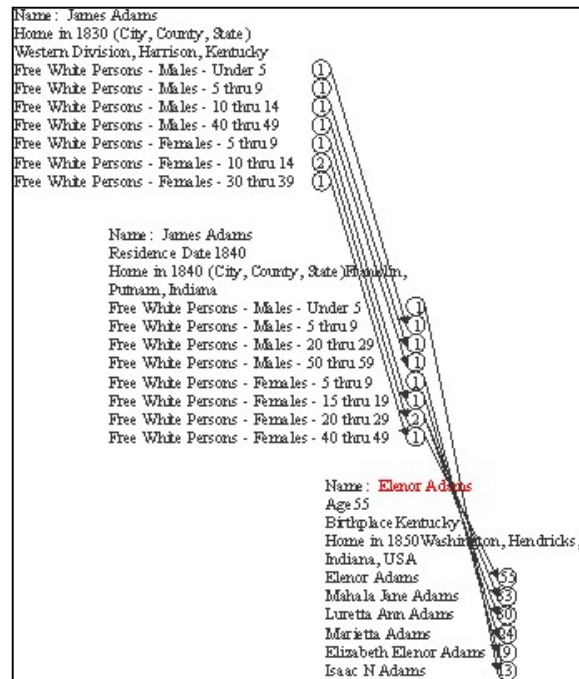


Figure 18
James Adams Family Link Diagram

JOHN ADAMS-Will Book C, Page 63-Names wife, Barbara; son, James; son, John; daughter of John, Mary Ann; daughter, Jane Lemon., Written September, 1833. Probated October, 1833. Executor-John Curry. Witnesses--James J. Ralston, Henry Y. Elbert. John Zumwalt, Pontius Clarke.

We have presented a fairly thorough record account for the families of William Adams and John Adams in Harrison County. Before continuing our search for the ancestry of William Adams, let's wrap-up a few loose ends. The reader may remember a deed record (Deed Book 12, Page 5) dated 29Sep1829 in which Margaret Adams, George Adams, Indiana Adams and Ovid Adams conveyed a 100 acre tract on Mill Creek to Thomas Palmer. At the time of first introduction of said deed, we had not yet fully investigated William's family in Harrison County. Now, in retrospect we have discovered a considerable amount of additional information about William, his wife, children, and allied parties. Previously, we introduced the division of a tract of land from the estate of William Adams in which the Court ordered a division of a 110 acre tract of

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land between the widow and her eight children. At the time of introducing that land division record it was surmised that it had been the original 100 acres purchased by William Adams in 1795 as two separate 50-acre tracts, parts of a larger patent awarded to Samuel McMillan and Matthew Patterson. Now we have Margaret Adams and three of her children selling that 100 acre tract in Sep1829 to Thomas Palmer. It is known from other records presented earlier that Jane Adams (wife of Joseph H. Smith) and Otho Adams had already migrated to Jackson Township, Cape Girardeau County, Missouri by 1829. The son, John Adams was deceased, but his widow, Sally (Lemons) Adams is believed to still have been living in Harrison County. Likewise, the other son, William Adams Jr. is also believed to still have been living in Harrison County. So, the question becomes how was it possible for William Adams' widow and only three of his children to be in possession of his primary property in order for them to convey title to Thomas Palmer? Another important takeaway from this deed record is that Margaret Adams was still alive (and apparently not remarried) in Harrison County in Sep1829, yet she could not be located anywhere in Harrison County in the 1830 census. What had become of her and her son, Ovid Adams?

From the following census record from Cape Girardeau County MO, it would appear that Ovid and his mother had also migrated to Missouri:

Name	Ovid [aka Ovid] Adams
Home in 1830 (City, County, State)	Jackson, Cape Girardeau, Missouri
Free White Persons - Males - 20 thru 29	1 (Ovid Adams)
Free White Persons - Females - 20 thru 29	1 (poss. Ovid's sister, Indiana Adams)
Free White Persons - Females - 50 thru 59	1 (prob. Margaret Adams , mother of Ovid)

23Sep1830: Jackson Township, Ralls County Missouri, Marriage between **Robert Caldwell** and **Indiana Adams**. [Ancestry.com - Missouri, U.S., Marriage Records, 1805-2002](#)

Grouped within about 23 households in the Jackson Township, Cape Girardeau County census records in 1830 (Pages 3 and 5 of 8 (includes interspersed slave list pages)) were the households of Alexander W. Smith, **James Adams**, John B. Smith, Isaac Coppage, John Yates, Otho Adams, Joseph H. Smith, Samuel H. Smith and Ovid Adams. All of these households are believed to have been headed by Adams kinsmen, either through blood or intermarriage. It is probable that James Adams, Otho Adams and Ovid Adams were brothers, and sons of William Adams and Margaret (mnu) of Harrison County KY. Alexander W. Smith, John B. Smith, Joseph H. Smith and Samuel H. Smith were brothers, and sons of Joseph Smith, whose LWT is recorded in Ralls County MO dated 20Oct1822. The identity of Isaac Coppage is uncertain, but possibly was a near kinsperson of Lucy Coppage, who married John Sellers, brother of Eleanor Sellers and Rebecca Sellers, who married James Adams and John Adams (Jr.), respectively, sons of John Adams. Lastly, John Yates may have been the father of Nancy Yates, who is of record marrying Ovid Adams in Monroe County in 1835. After Ovid's death in about 1848, his widow (Nancy Yates-Adams) married Samuel B. Smith.

One final element that should be considered before leaving Harrison County is the possible identity of the wife of William Adams, who many researchers put forward as **Margaret Palmer**. Admittedly, none of those researchers has offered even one scintilla of proof of Margaret's identity. Yet, we do have the association with **Thomas Palmer** and **George Palmer** with members of the William Adams family in Harrison County. They only briefly interacted with the Harrison

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County KY Adams family, but those connections are intriguing and suggestive of the possibility of a kinship. George Adams, son of William and Margaret Adams, along with his mother and a couple of siblings sold land on Mill Creek to Thomas Palmer shortly before George Adams upped stakes and moved to Monroe County MO. Not long after George Adams and several of his brothers and other kinsmen began to appear in records in Monroe County MO, they were joined by Thomas Palmer in Monroe County before the 1840 census. Thomas Palmer also went surety on the administration bond on William Adams' estate. John Adams, another son of William and Margaret Adams, sold a rifle and signed a \$10 bond with George Palmer. When we consider the fact that these Palmers appear to have been from the neighboring County of Bourbon, it seems even more possible that they could have been a kinsmen of the Adams.

The origin of William Adams Sr.'s wife, Margaret, may never be known. However, it may be possible that the Palmers of Bourbon County could have been her kinsmen. If these Bourbon County Palmers were kinsmen of the Harrison County Adams, then it might be useful to know the identity and possible origins of these Palmers. First, it should be recognized that the surname spelling of these Palmers took several different forms (corruptions), even though it seems possible that they may have all been of the same genetic stock. These various spellings included: Palmer, Parmer, Panner, Parmore, Paramore, Paramour, etc.

Using the gamut of these surname variations, there appears to have been a total of nine Palmer households in Bourbon County in 1810 as tabulated in Table 3. Whether all of these nine families were near blood relations is not known with certainty, but possible. It is worth noting that they were all recorded within the Stoner District, even though there were three separate divisions in the County: Stoner, Paris and Millersburg.

Table 3 Palmer Households - Bourbon County, 1810		
Name	District	Total Occs
David Paramore	Stoner, Bourbon	4
George Panner	Stoner, Bourbon, Kentucky	7
Thos Paramour	Stoner, Bourbon	3
Ezekiel Paramour	Stoner, Bourbon	9
John Palmer	Stoner, Bourbon	9
John Parmer	Stoner, Bourbon	6
William Parmer	Stoner, Bourbon	5
James Parmer	Stoner, Bourbon	2
John Parmer	Stoner, Bourbon	9
James Parker	Stoner, Bourbon	4

The boundaries of these Districts in not known, but the fact that all of these Palmer households were clustered within a single District (Stoner) adds weight to their having been related. Given that the other two districts, Paris and Millersburg, were associated with known town sites, it seems probable that these early districts encompassed their namesake town site within its boundaries, perhaps central thereto. Further, it might be assumed that Stoner District encompassed the area along Stoner Creek drainage, which would place that district, within the upper-middle part of the County in the vicinity of Ruddels Mill. Given the afore suggested locations of these three tax districts, Stoner District would have been situated in closest geographic proximity to the Lees Lick area of Harrison County, a distance of about 13 miles overland. Both locations would have been within easy access to the South Licking River drainage, probably the main transport route during this early period of settlement.

A similar search of the 1820 census returned a total of eight Palmer households as tabulated in Table 4. The Thomas and George Palmer households (highlighted in yellow) were recorded as being in Millersburg District. This Thomas Palmer and George Palmer are of good reason believed to have been the same persons who were previously discussed in connection with

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Adams family records. They are also of good reason believed to have been blood related, possibly brothers. A review of their demographics in the 1820 census clearly suggests that they were peers (of the same generation), aged 26 thru 44 years as shown in the following abstracts:

Table 4
Palmer Households - Bourbon County, 1820

Name	District	White Occs	Total Occs
Robt Palmer	Stoner, Bourbon	5	10
Wm Parmer	North Middletown, Bourbon	3	
Jas Parmer	North Middletown, Bourbon	3	
Wm Palmer	North Middletown, Bourbon	4	11
John Palmer	North Middletown, Bourbon	5	
John Palmer	North Middletown, Bourbon	8	
Thomas Palmer	Millersburg, Bourbon	4	
Geo Palmer	Millersburg, Bourbon	1	6

Name **Thomas Palmer**
 Enumeration Date 7 Aug 1820
 Home in 1820 (City, County, State) **Millersburg, Bourbon, Kentucky, USA**
 Free White Persons - Males - Under 10 1
 Free White Persons - Males - 26 thru 44 2
 Free White Persons - Females - 16 thru 25 1

Name **Geo Palmer**
 Enumeration Date 7 Aug 1820
 Home in 1820 (City, County, State) **Millersburg, Bourbon, Kentucky, USA**
 Free White Persons - Males - Under 10 1
 Free White Persons - Males - 26 thru 44 1
 Free White Persons - Females - Under 10 1
 Free White Persons - Females - 16 thru 25 1
 Free White Persons - Females - 45 and over 1
 Slaves - Males - Under 14 1

These census records appeared in immediate sequence on Page 8 of 9, another suggestion of close kinship. Following are marriage records believed to have been associated with these men:

Name **Thomas Palmer**
 Gender Male
 Marriage Date 15 Dec 1816
 Marriage Place Bourbon, Kentucky, USA
 Spouse **Sidney Clendenning**

Name **George Parmer**
 Gender Male
 Marriage Date 19 Sep 1825
 Marriage Place Bourbon, Kentucky, USA
 Spouse **[Mary] Polly Todd**
 Father?: John Rootes Thornton (Surety)

The above record may have been a marriage of George Palmer, presumed brother of Thomas Palmer. If so, it likely was his 2nd marriage, since he appears in the 1820 census of Bourbon County (above) with a wife and two children. The likelihood of this having been the same George Palmer is strengthened by the following census record abstract from 1830:

Name Geo **Parmer [George Palmer]**
 Home in 1830 (City, County, State) **Bourbon, Kentucky**
 Free White Persons - Males - 50 thru 59 1
 Free White Persons - Females - Under 5 1

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Free White Persons - Females - 30 thru 39	1
Slaves - Males - Under 10	1
Slaves - Males - 10 thru 23	2
Slaves - Females - Under 10	1
Slaves - Females - 10 thru 23	1
Slaves - Females - 24 thru 35	1

The foregoing census record of George Palmer indicates an older male with a much younger spouse, consistent with a 2nd marriage. The following record abstract is believed to have been the 1830 census record of Thomas Palmer and Sydney Clendening:

Name	Thomas Palmer
Home in 1830 (City, County, State)	Western Division, Harrison, Kentucky
Free White Persons - Males - Under 5	2
Free White Persons - Males - 5 thru 9	1
Free White Persons - Males - 10 thru 14	1
Free White Persons - Males - 40 thru 49	1
Free White Persons - Females - Under 5	1
Free White Persons - Females - 5 thru 9	1
Free White Persons - Females - 30 thru 39	1
Slaves - Females - 10 thru 23	1

By virtue of this record having been recorded in the Western District of Harrison County, it would appear that Thomas Palmer had relocated from the Millersburg area of Bourbon County to the west side of South Licking River. This relocation of Thomas Palmer to the near neighborhood of the Adams family is further suggestion of a kinship connection with these Adams'. Of course, from the foregoing deed records from Harrison County, we had already established that Thomas Palmer had purchased a 100 acre tract from George Adams, etal. in Oct1823. It seems probable that he moved from the Millersburg area to his newly acquired land on Mill Creek shortly after its purchase from the Adams.

The census records have provided us with a narrow window into the Palmers of Bourbon County, but only a very limited glimpse. From that information, we have established a strong probability of Thomas Palmer and George Palmer having been kinsmen, possibly brothers, but not much more. We have also established that there were several other Palmer households in Stoner District, Bourbon County in 1810 that may have included kinsmen of Thomas and George Palmer. But from that limited data, we have yet to establish those possible kinships, or their origins. In order to get a more in-depth view into these Palmers of Bourbon County it is necessary to dig deeper into the records. The tax records are perhaps the most revealing and provide virtually a year-by-year accounting of these families from as early as 1787. However, from our presentation of the tax records for Adams in Harrison County, it was disclosed that the tax records generally do not record females of any age or males under age 16. Nor do they offer any information regarding the head of household, other than being over 21 years of age. Nevertheless, these tax records can offer a lot of information that might not otherwise be known. Consequently, we have compiled a fairly thorough tabulation of tax records for most of the Palmers recorded in Bourbon County between 1787 and 1820 summarized as follows:

1787

Genealogical History of John Raymond Adams

- Ellis Palmer *The identity of Ellis Palmer is uncertain, but some researchers suggest that his name actually was Elias Palmer, and that he was a son of Thomas Palmer and Mary Catherine de Jarnette, born in about 1755 in Amelia County VA.*

1788

- Ellis Palmer *Ditto, above. Ellis Palmer was found in Bourbon County tax records only in the years 1787 and 1788.*
- John Palmer *The identity of this John Palmer is uncertain, but he continued to be recorded in Bourbon County tax records through the year 1795, after which time he is presumed to have been deceased. He is believed to have been the father of the next generation of Palmers, who are the subjects of this current study.*
- Gideon Palmer *The identity of Gideon Palmer is unknown. He was found in Bourbon County tax record in only 1788.*

1789

- John Palmer (Waller's Company) (same district as William and John Adams) *John Palmer was recorded living in 1789 thru 1793 in the same district with William Adams and John Adams.*

1790

- No records

1791

- No listing of Palmers

1792

- John Palmer (same district as Adams) *This John Palmer is believed to have been the same person recorded previously in Bourbon County in 1788 and 1789.*

1793

- John Palmer (same district as Adams) *Ditto, above.*

1794

- No records

1795

- John Palmer: 1>21, 2 >16 *Commencing in the year 1795 Bourbon County began recording biographical data about each taxable household. This is believed to have been a record of the same John Palmer recorded in the previous years. It was in 1793 that Harrison County was created from the northern part of Bourbon County. It is vitally important to this investigation to note that John Palmer reported two young males, aged over 16 years, in addition to himself. This was the last year in which this John Palmer was reported, so it is presumed that he died sometime between 1795 and 1796.*

1796

- Jeane Palmer: 166 acres (Shelton Patentee), 2>16 *Jeane Palmer is believed to have been the widow of John Palmer. She was reported in possession of 166 acres, which had been part of a patent to Shelton. She also reported two young males aged >16<21, presumably the same two males reported by her husband in the previous year.*

1797

- Jane Palmer, 1>16 *Jane [aka Jeane] Palmer reported only one young male in 1797.*
- John Palmer: 1>21 *This John Palmer is believed to have been the elder son of John and Jeane Palmer, who had reached his majority between 1796 and 1797 giving him a birth year of about ~ 1775-6.*
- Robert Palmer: 1>21, 1>16, 2H, 4C *The identity of this Robert Palmer is unknown. Because of his household composition (one male >16<21) he obviously was middle-aged, and probably newly arrived in the County. There is no reason to believe there was any kinship connection between this Robert Palmer and our target Palmer family.*

1798

- No records

1799

- Jeane Palmer: 1H *Ditto, widow of John Palmer [Sr.]. Note that she reported no males over age 16.*
- John Palmer: 1>21, 3H *Ditto, above. Probably eldest son of John Palmer [Sr.] and Jeane, his wife (widow).*

Genealogical History of John Raymond Adams

- George Palmer: 1>21, 2H *This George Palmer is believed to have been the 2nd eldest son of John Palmer [Sr.] and Jeane. He apparently had reached his majority between 1797 and 1799, giving him a birth year of ~ 1776-8.*

1800

- No records

1801

- John Palmer: 500 acres (Shelton), 1>21, 3H *Ditto, above. Note that John Palmer [Jr.] was recorded paying taxes on 500 acres. It should be noted that Jeane [aka Jane] Palmer was not recorded in the tax records after 1799, so it seems probable that she was deceased sometime between 1799 and 1801. In 1796 Jeane Palmer had been taxed on 166 acres. That amount of land would have matched with her dower (one-third) interest in her husband's property, assuming that John Palmer had died seized of 500 acres. Now that Jeane Palmer appears to be deceased, the entire property has devolved to the eldest son.*
- George Palmer: 1>21, 1>16, 3H *Ditto, above. Note that George Palmer reported a young male over age 16 years, presumably a younger brother, who was now under George's guardianship (more to follow). It seems probable that this younger brother had reached the age of 16 years sometime within the past two years.*

1802

- George Palmer: 500 acres (Shelton), 1>21, 1>16, 3H *Ditto, above. Note that 500 acres now appears to be in possession of George Palmer, or at least he was paying the taxes thereon.*
- John Palmer: (Townsend), 1>21, 1>16, 3H *Ditto, above. Note that John Palmer Jr. was now reporting a male aged >16. This probably was yet another younger brother, so we would appear to now have evidence of four sons of John Palmer Sr and Jane, his wife.*

1803

- George Palmer: 500 acres (Shelton), 1>21, 1>16, 6H *Ditto, above.*
- John Palmer: (Townsend), 1>21, 1>16, 6H *Ditto, above.*

1804

- George Palmer: 500 acres (Shelton), 1>21, 2>16, 3H *Note that both younger brothers now appear to be living with George Palmer.*
- John Palmer: (Townsend), 1>21, 3H *Ditto, above.*

1805

- George Palmer: 500 acres (Shelton), 1>21, 1>16, 3H *Note that only one younger brother appears to be living with George Palmer.*
- John Palmer: (Townsend), 1>21, 4H *Ditto, above.*
- William Palmer: 1>21, 4H *William Palmer was very likely the third eldest son, who was now head of his own household and being taxed independently. Assuming that William Palmer had reached his majority within the past year, his birth year would have been about 1784.*

1806

- George Palmer: 500 acres (Shelton), 1>21, 1>16, 5H *Ditto, above.*
- John Palmer: (Townsend), 1>21, 5H *Ditto, above.*
- William Palmer: 1>21, 2H *Ditto, above.*

1807

- George Palmer: 500 acres (Shelton), 2>21, 1>16, 7H *Given that George Palmer was reporting two males over age 21 suggests that his brother, William Palmer, had moved back under his care. The youngest brother also was still under George's care.*
- John Palmer: (Townsend), 1>21, 4H *Ditto, above.*

1808

- George Palmer: 500 acres (Shelton), 1>21, 6H *Now it appears that all four brothers are >21 years, and living independently.*
- John Palmer: (Townsend), 1>21, 2H *Ditto, above.*
- William Palmer: 1>21, 3H *Ditto, above.*
- Thomas Palmer: 1>21, 3H *Thomas Palmer appears to have been the youngest of the Palmer brothers. He appears to have reached his majority within the past year, giving him a birth year of about 1787.*

Genealogical History of John Raymond Adams

Now would seem to be the appropriate time to point out that these young brothers, George Palmer and Thomas Palmer, were the same persons previously identified as having had interactions with the Adams family.

1809

- George Palmer: 500 acres (Shelton), 1>21, 10H *Ditto, above.*
- John Palmer: (Townsend), 1>21, 3H *Ditto, above.*
- William Palmer: 1>21, 4H *Ditto, above.*
- *Note that for some reason Thomas Palmer was not recorded paying taxes in 1809.*

1810

- Unreadable *Because of the poor quality of the 1810 tax records it was not possible to extract Palmer records in that year.*

1811

- James Palmer: 70 acres, 1>21
- John Palmer: 1>21, 1>16

1812

- James Palmer: 1>21
- George Palmer: 500 acres, 1>21, 4H *We now have George Palmer recorded in tax record after a two-year absence.*
- John Palmer: 1>21, 4H
- Thomas Palmer: 1>21, 4H

1813

- George Palmer: 500 acres, 1>21, 4H
- John Palmer: 1>21, 2H
- William Palmer: 1>21, 5H
- Thomas Palmer: 1>21, 5H

1814

- George Palmer: 175 acres, 1>21, 2H, 4C *Note: For some inexplicable reason, George Palmer appears to have paid taxes on the 500 acres tract, presumably owned by their father, which devolved to the adult sons. Starting in tax year 1814 the 500 acre tract was divided between all four sons, with George Palmer being devised a larger tract than his brothers, perhaps in consideration of his having paid the full tax burden following his mother's death.*
- John Palmer: 112 acres, 1>21, 3H
- William Palmer: 115 acres, 1>21, 1H, 7C
- Thomas Palmer: 122 acres, 1>21, 3H

1815

- George Palmer: 175 acres, 1>21, 1H, 5C
- John Palmer: 112 acres, 1>21, 7H
- William Palmer: 115 acres, 1>21, 1H, 8C
- Thomas Palmer: 122 acres, 1>21, 2H

1816

- George Palmer: 190 acres, 1>21
- John Palmer: 109 acres, 1>21
- William Palmer: 115 acres, 1>21
- Thomas Palmer: 140 acres, 1>21

1817

- George Palmer: 193 acres, 1>21, 1H, 4C
- John Palmer: 109 acres, 1>21, 4H
- William Palmer: 115 acres, 1>21, 3H, 1C
- Thomas Palmer: 140 acres, 1>21, 2H

1818

- George Palmer: 190 acres, 1>21, 1H, 6C

Genealogical History of John Raymond Adams

- John Palmer: 109 acres, 1>21, 3H
- William Palmer: 115 acres, 1>21, 3H, 2C
- Thomas Palmer: 140 acres, 1>21, 3H

1819

- George Palmer: 190 acres, 1>21,
- John Palmer: 109 acres, 1>21
- William Palmer: 115 acres, 1>21
- Thomas Palmer: 145 acres, 1>21
- Jane Palmer: *The identity of Jane Palmer is uncertain.*

1820

- George Palmer: 193 acres, 1>21, 1H, 6C
- John Palmer: 109 acres, 1>21, 7H
- William Palmer: 115 acres, 1>21, 4H, 3C
- Thomas Palmer: 140 acres, 1>21, 4H

From the foregoing presentation and analysis of Bourbon County tax records of persons surnamed Palmer between 1787 and 1820, it would appear that George Palmer and Thomas Palmer were sons of John Palmer Sr. and his wife, Jane [aka Jeane]. There appears to have been a total of four sons, with John (b. ~ 1775-6) (1774), George (b. ~ 1776-8), William (b. ~ 1784), and Thomas (b. ~ 1787). The eldest son, John Palmer Jr. has been traced through Bourbon County Census records to the year 1850, where we have a more detailed record of his demographics, abstracted as follows:

Name	John Palmer
Gender	Male
Race	White
Residence Age	76
Birth Date	abt 1774
Birthplace	Pennsylvania
Residence Date	1850
Home in 1850	District 2, Bourbon, Kentucky, USA
Occupation	Farmer
Industry	Agriculture
Real Estate	5350
Line Number	12
Dwelling Number	305
Family Number	305
Inferred Spouse	
Sarah Palmer	
Household Members (Name)	Age
John Palmer	76
Sarah Palmer	81
Aquilla Palmer	44
Amanda Palmer	29

We had earlier deduced from the Bourbon County tax records that John Palmer Jr. was born in about the year 1775-6. From his 1850 census record his birth year was reported to have been about 1774. Most importantly, his place of birth was reported as Pennsylvania. Prior to the discovery of this record we had no idea from whence these Palmers had originated. We also discover that his wife's name was Sarah, and that she may have been about five years older than John, born about 1769 in Virginia.

Genealogical History of John Raymond Adams

This completes our investigation of the family of George Palmer and Thomas Palmer. From this investigation it was determined that these Palmers of Bourbon County Kentucky originated from Pennsylvania, with at least the eldest son, John Palmer Jr. having been born in about 1774 in Pennsylvania. Given that George Palmer appears to have been only a few years younger than John Palmer Jr., it seems probable that he too was born in Pennsylvania. From the seemingly close connections between George Palmer and his younger brother, Thomas Palmer, with the William Adams Sr.'s family, it was postulated that there may have been a kinship connection between these two families. However, aside from the few noted interactions between George Palmer and John Adams (son of William and Margaret), and between Thomas Palmer and Margaret Adams (widow of William) and her children, nothing more concrete has been found.

As pointed out earlier in this investigation, numerous persons on Ancestry Public Trees have identified the wife of William Adams Sr. having been Margaret Palmer. Yet, no proof of Margaret's maiden name or parentage has been found. If Margaret Adams was born a Palmer, and if she were a kinsperson of the Bourbon County Palmers, she clearly would not have been of the same generation as the four Palmer brothers, since her presumed eldest child, James Adams, was born in about 1781. In fact, if she were a kinsperson of these Palmers of Bourbon County, she most likely would have been of the same generation as John Palmer Sr. Assuming for a moment that these "facts" may have been correct then it seems most likely that Margaret Adams would have been a sibling of John Palmer Sr. If that were the case, then it seems possible that these Palmers and Adams may have migrated from Pennsylvania to Kentucky together. It further seems possible that William Adams and Margaret Palmer would have been married before migrating to Kentucky, and that the apparent eldest son, James Adams, could have been born in Pennsylvania.

It is worth reiterating that James Adams twice reported his place of birth having been Kentucky (1850 and 1860 census, Macon County MO). It is also worth noting that the kinship affiliation between James Adams and his younger siblings does not appear to have been that strong. First, it should be noted that, even though James Adams appears to have migrated from Kentucky to Cape Girardeau County MO at about the same time as his brothers, Ovid and Otho, and his mother and sisters, Indiana Adams and Jane Smith, he ultimately settled about 50 miles apart from his siblings. We also have the fact that his mother appears to have been living with her youngest son, Ovid Adams, in 1830, rather than with her presumed eldest son, James Adams. These "facts" tend to suggest that James Adams may not have been Margaret's son, but rather born of an earlier wife of William Adams. This is all guesswork, but might offer an explanation for Margaret Adams having been somewhat aloof from her eldest son.

These are questions to which we probably will never find answers. Whether Margaret, wife of William Adams Sr. was born a Palmer probably will never be established with certainty. The best proof of such a connection might have been a reference to a daughter or sister named Margaret Adams in an estate record of a member of the Bourbon County Palmer family. Unfortunately, the LWT of John Palmer Sr. transcribed hereinafter makes no reference to any other relations aside from his wife and four sons:

3Mar1796: LWT of John Palmer, Bourbon County, Will Book A, Pages 279-80

"I the name of God, Amen, I, John Palmer of the County of Bourbon and state of Kentucky, being low in body, but of perfect mind and memory do make, constitute and ordain this my last will and testament;

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Item: Touching my worldly goods, I do hereby dispose of in the following manner (to wit);

First: I give and bequeath to my beloved wife a mare, her choice of all my cows, and her bed and furniture and the largest iron pot, and one-third part of the tract of land on which I now live during her life;

Secondly: I do give and bequeath to my two sons: John and George one horse and saddle apiece and I do give and bequeath to my four sons: John, George, William and Thomas Palmer all my land to be equally divided between them, reserving the dower left to my wife or the money reserved for the last payment, of the land in case it should be lost, and all the money recovered in consequence of the loss of the land to be divided among them, and each of my children now living I give one cow, and I do further direct all the remaining part of my moveable estate shall be sold at the discretion of my Executors hereinafter named, and equally divided among the whole of my children;

And, Lastly: I do hereby constitute and ordain my beloved wife Executrix, and my son, John Palmer and my friend, Charles Smith Executors to execute this my last will and testament, in witness whereof I have hereby set my hand and seal this 3Mar1796, John Palmer.

Codicil: I do leave my farming tools and loom and tackling to my wife and sons.

Witnesses: Robert McDonnell, John Wells and Dorothy Wells.

At March 1796 Court This LWT of John Palmer was proved by oaths of Robert McDaniel, John Wells and Dorothy Wells, witnesses thereto and ordered to be recorded, and on the motion of Jane Palmer and John Palmer, two of the executors therein named, who made oath thereto and together, with Enos McDaniel and Warner Ford, their securities, entered into and acknowledged Bond in the penalty of £500, conditioned as the law directs..."

[Bourbon. Will Books 1795–1805, Will Books 1786–1805 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)

All things considered, the identity of Margaret, wife of William Adams Sr. cannot be established with any certainty given the record data thus far discovered. Moreover, we have discovered very little thus far that would suggest the origins of William Adams Sr. About the only piece of evidence discovered was the reported birth place of the eldest son, James Adams, having been Kentucky in about 1781. As previously discussed, it seems highly unlikely that James would have been born in Kentucky, given the fact that the Revolutionary War was still in progress, and that the territory that would ultimately become Kentucky was very sparsely settled and a very dangerous place to rear a family, given its vulnerability to Indian, British and French molestation. Consequently, we must continue our search for the origins of William Adams Sr. armed with very little evidence to guide our way. We do have the identity of two brothers, William Adams and John Adams, of virtually the same age, and the fact that they each named their eldest daughters Jane and their eldest sons James.

Before Harrison County KY

It is now time to turn our attention to the possible ancestry of William and John Adams. As earlier stated, Kentucky regrettably has become known as the land of genealogical "brickwalls". Whether that will be the case with our Adams brothers is still unknown. There are clues offered on the Internet, but it is unclear at this point in our investigation whether any of those clues will actually lead anywhere. Let's begin this quest with a presentation of online ancestral sites.

Ancestry.com

There appear to be two groups of public trees on Ancestry for the family of William and Margaret Adams of Harrison County: (1) William M. Adams with 15 trees and (2) William Adams with 12 trees. Of the trees returned under the heading of William M. Adams, eight identify his wife having been **Margaret Palmer**, while another six of the remainder of the trees

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identify the wife as Margaret Hugheston. Actually, only three of these trees give the name of William “M.” Adams, the other 12 is simply identified as William Adams. The biographic data for William Adams on all of these trees (birth date, marriage date, and death date, location) is essentially the same on all 15 of these trees. Only two of the trees offer the name of a parent for William Adams: one tree gives the father as George Adams, whereas the other gives the father’s name as John Adams.

Ironically, only two of these trees have all of the known children of William and Margaret Adams that being the trees entitled “*Peret/Bessey Family Tree*” and “*Kincaid Families*”. All six of the trees which identify the wife as Margaret Hugheston report only one child, by the name of George W. Adams. It appears that these trees are all “clones” of each other. A search of Kentucky Marriages during the 19th century does identify a marriage between a William Adams and Margaret Hugheston, abstracted as follows:

Name **Margaret Hugheston**
Gender Female
Marriage Date **11 Sep 1854**
Marriage Place **Harrison, Kentucky, USA**
Spouse **William Adams**

Clearly, the date of this marriage disqualifies it as having been of our target William Adams, who was deceased by Oct1823. It seems probable that persons have mistaken this marriage as having been for our William and Margaret. It is also curious that seven of the 15 trees corresponding to William M. Adams give his marriage date as 10Jul1786 in Bourbon County, in one instance giving that date as William’s marriage to Margaret Hugheston. None of the 15 trees offer one scintilla of documentary evidence. All things considered, these 15 Ancestry public trees must be considered worthless in terms of aiding the identity of William Adams’ ancestry.

As for the other grouping of 12 public trees, they all identify William Adams’ father as a John Adams. Only one of these trees gives the wife’s name as Margaret Palmer, the other 11 have no wife identified. Most of these trees have William having died in Halifax County VA, variously between 1803 and 1838. The one tree that identifies the wife as Margaret Palmer (*Lewellen Family Tree*), suggests that William’s father, John Adams was from Churchill, Halifax County VA. No documentary evidence is offered in support of these profiles of William Adams. All things considered, these 12 public trees on Ancestry must be considered worthless in establishing the ancestry of William Adams of Harrison County KY.

Before proceeding with an investigation of William Adams’ brother, John Adams, it should be noted that a few researchers have even connected our William Adams to a person ostensibly identified as William Greer Adams, born about 1756 in Halifax County VA, died in Morgan County TN in 1832-9. Clearly, there was no connection between William Greer Adams, whoever he may have been, and our William Adams.

Now, as for John Adams and Mary Thompson, there are two different groups of public trees on Ancestry returned for their search: (1) a set of 29 trees, and (2) a set of 122 trees. A common thread running through several of these trees are parents identified as John Adams and Susannah Woods, several identify John Adams’ wife as Mary Thompson and reference the marriage record

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from 1787 in Bourbon County. Some even accurately identify the children of John Adams and Mary Thompson. Those sporadic and varied commonalities are the only semblances of continuity with our John Adams.

As for the purported parents: John Adams and Susannah Woods, virtually no documentation is offered for that connection. Many of these trees have attached records connected to a John Adams in Halifax County VA in the latter part of the 18th Century, but nothing that would offer any proof of parentage for the John Adams, who married Mary Thompson in Bourbon County KY in 1787. Some of these trees further link the purported father, John Adams, back to a Gabriel Adams and Priscilla Pearson, who purportedly lived at Churchill, Halifax County VA. There is a lot of information presented on these families, but virtually no verifiable connection to John Adams, husband of Mary Thompson.

All things considered, the information provided on William Adams and John Adams in the public trees posted on Ancestry must be considered worthless to any effort to identify their ancestry. Absolutely no record could be located for the families of either William Adams or John Adams on Wikitree. There are profile pages for both William Adams and John Adams on Family Search, however, those records offer no information regarding their parents.

One posting was found on Genealogy.com dating from 19Mar1999 abstracted as follows:

"I am search for their ancestors

Wm b c 1765 d 10/1823 Harrison Co Ky was the s/o Geo b 1740-1750 VA? d 1810-1815 Harrison Co KY & Jane? Unk. Geo emigrated to Bourbon Co, KY due a land grant for serving in the Rev War. Wm's brother John mar 1st Mary Thompson 2nd Barbara Unk

Wm mar 6/10/1786 Bourbon Co KY Margaret Palmer b c 1765 VA d Harrison Co KY d/o John [Palmer].

Children of Wm & Margaret

1. James b 6/28/1787 Bourbon Co KY d 3/10/1861 Macon Co MO mar in Knox Co MO Elizabeth "Betsy"
2. William b 2/15/1790 Bourbon Co KY d ?
3. John b 9/18/1793 Harrison Co KY d 1822 Harrison Co KY
4. George b 3/9/1799 Harrison Co KY d 1866 Monroe Co Mo
5. Otho b 2/24/1802 Harrison Co Ky d Monroe Co MO
6. Indiana b 12/12/1804 Harrison Co KY d MO
- 7 Ovid b 6/16/1807 Harrison CO KY d 7/9/1835 Monroe Co MO"

[Wm Adams mar Margaret Palmer K - Genealogy.com](#)

The foregoing posting on Genealogy.com provides vital information about the ancestry of William Adams and John Adams (brothers), whose father was purportedly George Adams, born about 1740-50 in Virginia, died in Harrison County about 1810-15, and mother named Jane (mnu). Whoever this person was that posted this plea for assistance, they appear to have performed a fair degree of their own research. Telling factors are that they appear to have discovered the filial connection between William Adams and John Adams as brothers. Further, they appear to have concluded that William's eldest son, James Adams, had settled and died in Macon County Missouri, and married a woman named "Betsy". These are pieces of information that do not typically appear in association with this family on Ancestry or elsewhere.

Unfortunately, this post on Genealogy.com generated no meaningful follow-up reply, nor did it provide any documentary support for the assertions regarding George Adams or his purported wife, Jane. It seems probable that the names of the parents were nothing more than educated

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guesses, based on other, circumstantial evidence. For example, William Adams and John Adams christened their eldest daughters with the given name of Jane Adams. Knowing their spouses names to have been Margaret and Mary, respectively, it probably was assumed that these brothers had named their eldest daughters after their mother, hence the assumed name of "Jane". As for the suggestion of the father having been George Adams, nothing was found in the records of either Bourbon County or Harrison County to support his existence. If George Adams had died in Harrison County between 1810-15, it seems probable that he would have been captured in the 1810 census record, yet the only listed George Adams was aged 16 thru 25. Moreover, there were no other listings in the 1810 census in Harrison County of any other Adams, who would have been old enough to have been the father of William and John Adams. Further, no tax records were found for anyone in either Bourbon County or Harrison County named George Adams prior to 1815, except for the extraneous record of a George Adams in the 1805 tax year. Consequently, the purported father of William and John Adams, namely, George Adams, could not be found in the records of Bourbon or Harrison County during the suggested time period that he should have been present. Although enticing, this Genealogy.com posting is of little value in establishing the ancestry of William and John Adams.

Having fairly thoroughly searched the usual on-line data sources for leads to the possible ancestry of our Adams brothers of Harrison County and finding nothing of value, we then turned our attention toward less conventional sources. Both William Adams and John Adams could have been of an age to have performed military service during the Revolutionary War or the War of 1812. Unfortunately, their names are so common that there are just too many potential candidates. For example, there are twelve records for William Adams in Virginia alone, seven of which appear to have served in different regiments and were probably different persons. A similar search for John Adams returned eleven hits, and an apparent nine different persons. No records were found for anyone filing a claim for service by our William or John Adams.

There have been several published biographies or histories of "the" Adams family in America. Perhaps one of the better researched and documented of these is a book entitled "*History of the Adams Family with Biographical Sketches*" written by Henry Whittemore and published in 1893. [History of the Adams family, with biographical sketches of distinguished descendants of the several American ancestors, including collateral branches : Whittemore, Henry, b. 1833 comp : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet Archive](#) This work performed a fair job of compiling information on Adams immigrants during the Colonial period, even tracing several of those immigrant families into the 17th and 18th Century. Nothing was found in this work that would suggest any connections for our William and John Adams.

Nothing was found during this research of our Adams family in Harrison County that would provide a precise date or place of birth for either William Adams or John Adams. Perhaps the most revealing piece of information with respect to the possible date of birth for William Adams can be extrapolated from data connected with the presumed eldest son, James Adams. There is good reason to believe that James Adams, the son of William Adams, was the person recorded in the 1830 census in Cape Girardeau County, Missouri. That James Adams was recorded on Page 3 of 8, immediately preceding the household of John B. Smith, and on the same page with Joseph H. Smith, Otho Adams, and Samuel H. Smith. This James Adams' household composition was recorded as follows:

Genealogical History of John Raymond Adams

Name **James Adams**
 Home in 1830 (City, County, State) **Jackson, Cape Girardeau, Missouri**
 Free White Persons - Males - Under 5 2
 Free White Persons - Males - 40 thru 49 1
 Free White Persons - Females - Under 5 1
 Free White Persons - Females - 5 thru 9 1
 Free White Persons - Females - 10 thru 14 1
 Free White Persons - Females - 15 thru 19 1
 Free White Persons - Females - 40 thru 49 1

There is good reason to believe that the James Adams household recorded in Lewis County MO in 1840 (abstracted below) was the same person as the preceding James Adams in Cape Girardeau County MO. The main reason for assuming this being the same person is that the household composition is an exact match with the 1830 household. Also, Lewis County was only 50 miles northeast from Monroe County, where Otho, George, Indiana and Ovid Adams, and their Smith kinsmen settled.

Name **James Adams**
 Residence Date 1840
 Home in 1840 (City, County, State) **Lewis, Missouri**
 Free White Persons - Males - 10 thru 14 1
 Free White Persons - Males - 15 thru 19 1
 Free White Persons - Males - 50 thru 59 1
 Free White Persons - Females - 10 thru 14 1
 Free White Persons - Females - 15 thru 19 1
 Free White Persons - Females - 20 thru 29 2
 Free White Persons - Females - 50 thru 59 1

Name **James Adams**
 Gender Male
 Race White
 Age 69
 Birth Year **abt 1781**
 Birthplace **Kentucky**
 Home in 1850 **Center, Knox, Missouri, USA**
 Occupation Farmer
 Industry Agriculture
 Real Estate 400
 Line Number 26
 Dwelling Number 97
 Family Number 97
 Inferred Spouse
 Betsy Adams
 Household Members (Name) Age
 James Adams 69
 Betsy Adams 64
 James J Adams 23
 Lucinda Adams 18

Name **Jas Adams**
 Age 79
 Birth Year **abt 1781**
 Gender Male
 Race White
 Birth Place **Kentucky**

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Home in 1860	Liberty, Macon, Missouri
Post Office	Bloomington
Dwelling Number	127
Family Number	129
Real Estate Value	2000
Personal Estate Value	150
Household Members (Name)	Age
Jas Adams	79

Perhaps the most important takeaway from these census records for James Adams, eldest son of William Adams, is that he reportedly was born in **Kentucky in about 1781**. Assuming these demographics to be correct, then it would appear that William Adams had been in Kentucky much earlier than previously known. Prior to this extrapolated data, the earliest date we had of William Adams in Kentucky was in the 1788 tax record. Now it would appear that he had been in Kentucky at a much earlier date. Moreover, it can now be extrapolated that William Adams was married around 1780 or earlier, and that he very likely was born about 1760 or earlier. It is no wonder that no marriage record could be found for William Adams in Kentucky. It would appear that he had been married before marriage records were collected in Kentucky.

However, on further consideration, it seems possible, perhaps even **probable that James Adams was not born in Kentucky**. The odds are in **favor of James Adams having been born in Virginia, North Carolina or South Carolina, perhaps even Pennsylvania (anywhere but Kentucky)**. The basis for this opinion is that serious migration and settlement of Kentucky did not commence until after the end of the Revolutionary War in 1783. Up to that point in time, Kentucky's settlement was extremely tenuous and scattered, concentrated mainly around isolated forts or stations. By Summer of 1777 only a few outposts had been established, and until near the end of the War were constantly at risk of French-Indian attacks. Daniel Boone had established one of the principal of these stations at Boonesboro, about 40 miles south-southwest of Cynthiana in 1775. He and several members of a salt-gathering party were captured and held prisoner by a group of Shawnee Indians in February 1778 near Blue Licks on Licking River. They were marched northward, first to Chilcothe, ultimately arriving at Detroit in March. Later that Spring they were returned to Chilcothe. When Boone became aware of the Indians' preparation for an all-out assault on Boonesboro, he managed to escape on 10Jun1778, and proceeded on his immediate and hasty return to Boonesboro, covering a distance of almost 150 miles in just four days. The enemy forces arrived at Boonesboro in early-August1778 and set-up a siege against this small, fortified settlement. After much resistance this small band of about 35 frontiersmen held against a far-superior force of almost 450, the siege was lifted and the enemy departed on 20August1778.

Following is an account of an attack by Indians under direction of British forces commanded by Col. Byrd at Riddle's Station and Martin's Station, both situated on the waters of South Licking River near present day Cynthiana:

"On the twenty-second day of June, 1780, a large party of Indians and Canadians, about six hundred in number, commanded by Col. Bird, attacked **Riddle's and Martin's stations**, at the **Forks of Licking River**, with six pieces of artillery."¹

¹ Kentucky: The Discovery, Settlement, and Present State of Kentucke (1784), John Filson, 1784, p. 71.

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Riddle's Station was situated on the east bank of South Licking River at its confluence with Hinkston's Creek, about 12 miles east of Lees Lick KY (see Figure 19). Until the end of the War in 1783, there is no reason to believe that any significant settlement had yet been established on Mill Creek, location of the Adams' homesteads. In fact, immigration and settlement of Kentucky prior to the War's end was concentrated in close proximity to these bastions of safety (i.e. Stations or Forts). Unless William Adams had been a part of one of these early pioneering groups from North Carolina or Virginia clustered about Harrods Station, Booneboro, or Riddel's Station, it seems highly unlikely that James Adams could have been born in Kentucky.

It seems far more likely that the Adams brothers had only recently arrived in Bourbon County before they appeared in the tax records commencing in 1787. This probability is supported by the fact that they purchased their land, rather than filing for patents. In all probability, they immigrated to Kentucky around 1786 from parts unknown. If James Adams was born in 1781 as indicated by his census records, then he likely migrated with his parents, most likely from North Carolina or Virginia. Their path of migration could have taken several routes, from floating down the Ohio River and debarking at Maysville, to trekking overland via the Wilderness Trail established by Daniel Boone and company. Because the Ohio River route was more hazardous and prone to Indian attacks, the majority of immigrants opted for the overland route, taking the so-called Great Wagon Road through the Valley of Virginia, and then connecting with the Wilderness Road near Cumberland Gap as depicted in Figures 20 and 21.

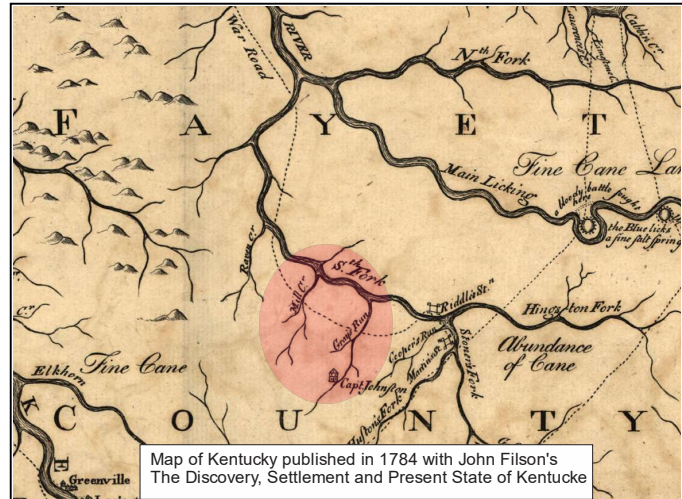


Figure 19
1784 Filson Map of South Licking River Area

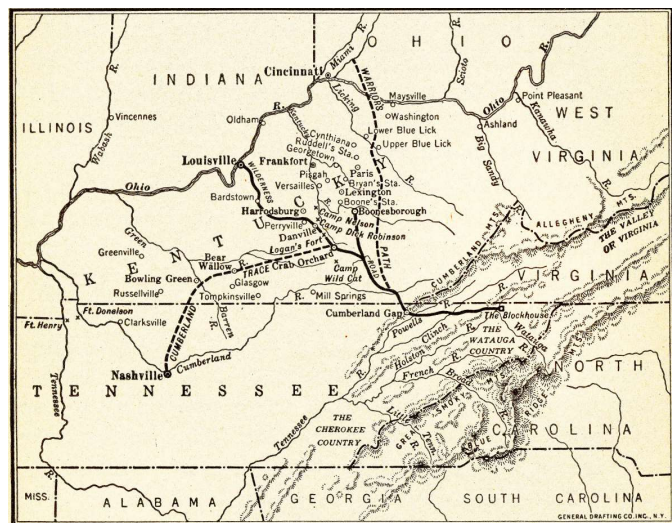


Figure 20
Map of Wilderness Road – Great Wagon Road

“This great road was the main entry into Kentucky from 1775 to 1800 when the population grew from a few hardy pioneers to 220,955. By their presence, those early settlers saved the west for the United States. They were sturdy people, willing to endure hardship, hunger, and death to establish themselves in Kentucky.”

“The southern branch of Licking [South Licking River], and all its other arms, as appears in the map, spread through a great body of first, and some second rate land, where there is abundance of cane, and

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some salt licks, and springs. On these several branches of Licking, are good mill-seats, and navigation to the Ohio, from the fork down to its mouth. The land is hilly, and generally poor, yet along the streams and in valleys we find some excellent land.”²

“An accurate account is kept of all the male inhabitants above the age of sixteen, who are rated towards the expenses of the government by the name of Tithables; from which, by allowing that those so enrolled amount to a fourth part of the whole inhabitants, we may conclude that Kentucke contains, at present, upwards of thirty thousand souls.”³



Figure 21
Artist's Depiction of Early Kentucky Pioneers

Thus far in our search for the origins of William and John Adams, we have found very little on which to base further investigations. On the off-chance that they may have originated from North Carolina, a search was made for any records associated with persons named William Adams born around 1730, which presumably would have been the approximate birth year of our William Adams' father. Interestingly, this targeted search resulted in hits on a family located in Hyde County NC that bore a striking resemblance to our targets, William and John Adams of Bourbon County KY.

Hyde County NC Adams

In order to place this discussion of Hyde County NC Adams into geographic context, following is a brief introduction to Hyde County's history.

“Sparsely populated but frequently visited, Hyde County might be North Carolina's least known yet most historically important county. Carved out of the large Bath County in 1705, Hyde County was initially named Wickham Precinct, named for then Governor John Archdale's ancestral home near Buckinghamshire, England. In 1712, the county received its first name change, becoming Hyde Precinct, in honor of the current governor and lord proprietor of North Carolina, Edward Hyde. When Bath County was abolished in 1739, the precinct's name was permanently changed to Hyde County... In 1819, a portion of Hyde County, west of the Pungo River, was annexed to Beaufort County. (see Figure 22)”⁴

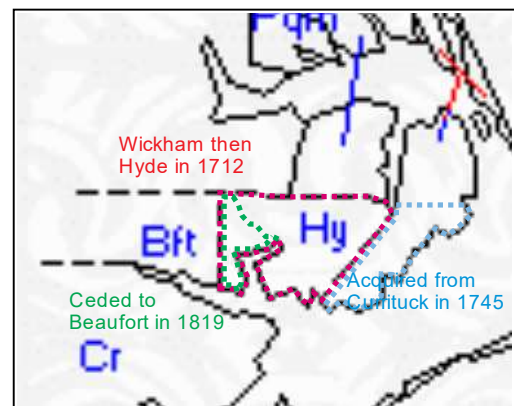


Figure 22
Hyde County NC Formation Map

² Ibid., pp. 17-8.

³ Ibid., p. 28

⁴ [Hyde County \(1705\) - North Carolina History](#), accessed 11Jun2024.

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Until 1739 Hyde Precinct (formerly Wickham) was a subdivision within Bath County, after which date Hyde was established as a separate County. Its territory was significantly increased along its eastern boundary in 1745 by partition from Currituck County. In 1819 the territory west of the Pungo River was ceded to Beaufort County. The earliest extant records from Hyde County as microfilmed at Family Search appear to commence in 1735 with land warrants, deeds of conveyance, and wills and estate records. Records between 1702 and 1735 for the territory that became Hyde County can be found on Family Search under Beaufort County.

We commence this analysis of the Hyde County NC Adams family with a transcript of the LWT of William Adams dated 19Nov1784 as follows:

Will Book 1, Page 338: "In the name of God, amen, 19Nov1784, I, **William Adams** of **Hyde County, State of North Carolina**, being sick and weak in body but of perfect mind and memory, I do make and ordain this my last will and testament in the manner and form following;

First: I give and bequeath unto my beloved wife, **Ann Adams** one feather bed and furniture, my riding horse called Brandy, and plantation utensils, my spinning wheels and other utensils for work about house and my stock of hogs for use of family, likewise, **I give the use of one-third part of my land I now live on to my beloved wife during her natural life;**

Item: I give to my son, **John Adams** a **parcel of land called Holly Ridge containing 114 acres** and the first colt of my young mare, that I shall hereafter will to my son William Adams, likewise my old mare called Jane, one great pot, one hand mill, two cows and calves that is called the said John Adams';

Item: I do give to my son **William Adams** the **land and plantation I now live on containing 80 acres**, one cow and yearling, one cow and calf that is now called the said William Adams', one young mare called Phenix;

My will and desire is that the remainder and residue of my estate equally divided between my wife and two sons, John and William Adams;

I do hereby nominate and appoint my beloved wife and son, John Adams, Executrix and Executor to this my last will and testament, signed, sealed, published and declared in the presence of us, William Adams (his mark) (interlined before assigned the word "County"), Witnesses: **Thomas Cording**, William Cording and T. White. Proved and recorded at February Term, 1785."

There are several important "facts" or inferences that can be gleaned from this LWT of William Adams of Hyde County:

1. The only children named in his Will were sons named William Adams [Jr.] and John Adams,
2. Real property was bequeathed outright to these sons (no trusteeship), suggesting that they both had reached their age of consent (21 year) by Nov1784, otherwise their legacies would have been placed in trust,
3. The estate was to be divided into three equal parts between William's widow, Ann Adams, and his sons,
4. Ann Adams was to retain use of her share of the estate for the remainder of her natural life,
5. Given that both sons were over age 21 in 1784 suggests that William and Ann had been married before about 1760, and that William Adams Sr. was born about 1740 or earlier.
6. Given that Ann Adams held a life interest in the real property, it could not be disposed of in her lifetime, without her legal release,
7. The real property devised by William Adams was comprised of two tracts in Hyde County briefly described as follows:
 1. 114 acre tract called *Holly Ridge* to John Adams, and
 2. 80 acre home plantation to William Adams Jr.
8. The fact that William Adams Jr. was bequeathed the home plantation suggests that he may have been the eldest son, even though of less acreage, almost certainly more valuable having been built upon.
9. John Adams and his mother, Ann Adams, were nominated executors. Naming a younger son executor in favor of an elder son may suggest that William Adams Jr. was either absent from Hyde County in Nov1784, or that he may have had some impediment to his ability to act as executor. (Was William Adams Jr. on active military duty in 1784?)

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10. In order to serve as an Executor, John Adams would need to be over 21 years of age.

William Adams estate inventory was presented at Feb1785 Court by Ann Adams, relic and Executor:

Will Book 1, Page 347: "This a true inventory of the perishable estate of William Adams: 3 head of horses, 21 head of cattle, 34 head of hogs, 3 feather beds and furniture, 1 table, 3 chests, 2 chairs, 2 spinning wheels, 1 loom, 1 hand mill, 3 pair of cards, 2 slays and gears, 2 pots, 2 frying pans, 1 skillet, 2 pot hooks, 2 dishes, four plates, 4 basins, 9 plates, one case of knives and forks, 1 pair cart wheels, 1 saddle and bridle, 2 plow hoes, 4 weeding hoes, 2 axes, 1 pair iron wedges, 1 box iron and ____, 1 bible, 1 looking glass, 2 bread trays, 2 sifters, 2 washing tubs, 2 piggins (pales), 1 can, 2 ____ stands, 1 earthen pot, 2 hogsheads, 4 barrels, 1 half-hour glass, 1 pair fire tongs, 1 currying comb, 1 gin, 4 baskets, 1 claw hammer, 1 drawing knife, 3 chunk bottles, 2 jugs, 2 stocks of bees, 1 half of a whip saw, 7 head of sheep, 1 ____ hook, 4 pounds nine shillings. A true inventory per me, Ann Adams, Executrix."

The inventory of William Adams' personal property estate was typical of a small farmer during the colonial period. No extravagance, just the bare minimum for survival. Of this meager estate, William singled out items he specifically devised to his heirs, viz.: one feather bed and furniture, riding horse, stock of hogs and spinning wheel to wife; young mare named *Phenix*, two cows, a yearling and a calf to William Jr.; and 1st colt from *Phenix*, one old mare called *Jane*, one great pot, one handmill and two cows and calves to John. The fact that William Sr. devised his prize mare *Phenix* to his son, William Jr. is further suggestion of William Jr.'s having been the elder son.

The similarities between this Hyde County NC family and William Adams and John Adams of Harrison County should be self-evident, but are not conclusive. We would seem to have two brothers of the exact same names, and approximate ages as the Harrison County brothers. Through an analysis of land records we may be able to establish other similarities:

1. 6Nov1747: Hyde County Deed Book A, Page 259: **John and Ann Adams** sold to Daniel Freeman of Chapman County, for 600£, 500 acres situated on **north side of Pamlico River**, granted to said **John Adams Jr.** by patent 3Dec1730... [Hyde. Deeds 1716-1762 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#) *The identity of this John Adams is not known with certainty. There are two public trees on Ancestry which appear to match this person, but there is very little documentation offered therewith. Perhaps the most significant document is a LWT dated 8Dec1763, transcribed as follows:*

"In the name of God amen, I, **John Adams**, planter of **Durhams Creek** in the **Parish of St. Thomas, (Beaufort County) Province of North Carolina**, being sick and weak (in body) but of sound mind and memory, thanks be to God do make, constitute and appoint this my last will and testament in manner and form following, to wit:

Imprimus: I give and bequeath to my beloved wife, **Ann Adams**, all my worldly estate both real and personal to her and her heirs forever, except two pewter dishes, one iron pot and one iron skillet, my will and desire is that my daughter, **Dina Dixon** shall have these above mentioned particulars, which is at this time in her possession;

And, I do hereby revoke every other Will that I have heretofore made;

I appoint my beloved wife, Ann Adams, to be my whole and sole Executrix of this my last will and testament, in witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 8Dec1763.

Witnessed: John Roe, John Pardue.

It seems possible that this John Adams, who left his LWT in St. Thomas Parish of Beaufort County in Dec 1763 was the same person who sold 500 acres the north side of Pamlico River in Hyde County in Nov1747. His described location at Durhams Creek was on the south side of the Pamlico Bay estuary directly opposite Bath Creek. There were several persons named Adams living in Beaufort County during the 1st half of the 18th Century, who owned lands on the north and south sides of the Pamlico

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River, some such lands having been in Hyde County and west of Pungo River. This deed describes this tract as having been a patent granted to this **John Adams [Jr.]**, 3Dec1730. We will soon discover that the original Adams of Bath County was a person named John Adams, who first appeared in records commencing in 1702. From that John Adams LWT, it is learned that he had a son named John, perhaps the same person as this John Adams Jr. (more to follow)

2. 29Jan1757: Hyde County Deed Book A, Page 591: **John and Ann Adams** of Beaufort County NC sold to John Chambers of Hyde County for 13£, 6s 8p, a tract of land in Hyde County situated on **north side of Pamlico River**, at head of North Dividing Creek, containing 160 acres... [Hyde. Deeds 1716–1762 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#) This deed may have involved the same John Adams and Ann, his wife, who sold the 500 acre tract in Item No. 1, above. This tract was also situated on the north side of Pamlico River, near the head of North Dividing Creek. North Dividing Creek was the same stream identified as North Creek on present day maps feeding into Ashton Gut just above the mouth of Pungo River. Given that both of these tracts were situated within Hyde County, they probably would have been located within the red oval area shown on Figure 23, and within Beaufort County after 1819.

3. 1Sep1763: Hyde County Deed Book B, Page 87: **William Adams**, planter of Hyde County sold to **Joseph Eckols** of Beaufort County for 50£, a tract of land in Hyde County situated on **west side of Matchapungo River**, beginning at mouth of Canoe Branch, up river to Nathaniel Davis's corner, thence to James Artres line, containing 200 acres, said tract being part of a tract that was **John Brights Sr.**, and by deed (Book H, Folio 62) from **James Bright** to **Thomas Adams** dated 18Aug1732... [Hyde. Deeds 1762–1783 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#) This William

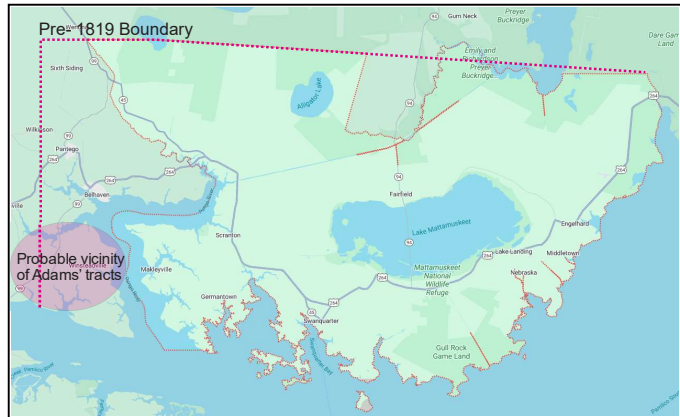


Figure 23
Hyde County NC Adams Land Vicinity Map

Adams is believed to have been the same person who wrote their LWT in Feb1785. This is a very important document in that it links William Adams and Thomas Adams to the same 200 acre tract of land.

- a. 18Aug1732: Beaufort County, Washington Precinct Deed Book 2, Page 179: Indenture between **James Bright** of Hyde Precinct, **Cooper**, to **Thomas Adams** of same, **Planter**, for and in consideration of two shillings, sold a certain tract or parcel of land containing 200 acres, situated and being part of a tract of land that was **John Bright Sr.** **west of Matchapungo River**, beginning at mouth of **Canoe Branch**, running up river swamp to **Nathaniel Davis** line, thence along Davis line to **James Arthus** line... Recorded 10Jun1735, Witnesses: **Richard William Sylvester** and Christopher Putnam. This appears to be an abstract of the same deed referenced in the deed, hereinabove, whereby James Bright conveyed this 200 acre tract of land to Thomas Adams. It may be relevant to this investigation that James Bright left his LWT in Hyde County, dated 2Mar1735, just three years after he sold this tract to Thomas Adams. It should further be noted that James Bright's Will was witnessed by Giles Williams, **Hannah Adams**, and **Richard William Sylvester**. The obvious question is who was Hannah Adams? Given that John Adams [Sr.] and his children were the only persons of that surname living in Hyde County in the early part of the 18th Century it is a virtual certainty that Hannah Adams was a close kinsperson to John Adams Sr., perhaps a daughter-in-law and wife of Thomas Adams. As will be discovered momentarily, John Adams, himself, wrote his own Will in Hyde County in 1733. Given these facts, it seems highly probable that Hannah Adams was a kinsperson of the John Adams family, very possibly the wife of Thomas Adams, and possibly a daughter of James Bright. This connection between James Bright and Hannah Adams is strengthened by the fact that the consideration money in this conveyance was only two

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shillings. Such a token amount suggests that this was the equivalent of a “gift deed” paid the groom as dowery. James Bright’s LWT reference: [Ancestry.com – North Carolina, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1665-1998](#)

- b. 14Jan1734-5: Beaufort County, Washington Precinct Deed Book 2, Pages 177-8: Indenture between **Simon Bright** of **County of Bath**, planter, and **James Bright** of same, Planter, for and in consideration of £85 sold a tract of land situated in **County of Bath**, **Hyde Precinct** containing 467 acres beginning at **Canoe Branch**, running up said Branch, south to a pine, then north to a pine, then north to the River, thence along River to beginning... Witnesses: Andrew Wallis and **John Brights**, recorded June Court 1735. *James Bright, the same person who sold the above 200 acre tract to Thomas Adams in Aug1732, appears to have purchased a 467 acre tract less than two years later from his brother, Simon Bright. By virtue of both this tract and the foregoing 200 acre tract having been situated on Canoe Branch, it seems highly probable that these two tracts adjoined each other, near the junction of Canoe Branch and Matchapungo River. Matchapungo River does not appear on current maps, but most likely was a former name of Pungo River, or one of its several branches. A 1733 map created by John Moseley shows several references to the name of Matchapungo, North Dividing Creek, and Adams as illustrated on Figure 24. John Bright Sr. wrote his LWT in Hyde Precinct on 9Jan1720, in which he devised his home plantation, equally divided between four sons: Simon, James, William and John (Jr.). Given that Simon Bright appears to have been in possession of 467 acres in Jan1734 suggests that John Bright’s original plantation may have contained 1,868 acres (4 x 467 = 1868). Further, this suggests that the 200 acres sold by James Bright to Thomas Adams may have been only part of James Bright’s inherited land.*



Figure 24
Hyde Area Excerpt from Moseley’s 1735 Map

The fact that this 200 acre tract was purchased by Thomas Adams in 1732, and was later sold by William Adams in 1763 provides a strong inference that William Adams probably was an heir of Thomas Adams, most likely his son.

4. 3Aug1771: Deed Book B, Page 390: Indenture between **Thomas and Ann Cording** to **William Adams**, for 40£, 80 acres situated in **Hyde County**, **Cockle Shell Branch**, **Bright’s Bridge**... [Hyde. Deeds 1762–1783 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#) Given the location of this tract having been situated near Bright’s Bridge, it seems probable that this William Adams was the same person as in the preceding deed record wherein William Adams had sold a 200 acre tract formerly in possession of John Bright Sr. and later James Bright and thence Thomas Adams. The 200 acre tract had been described as being situated on Canoe Branch on west side of Matchapungo River (aka Pungo River), whereas this tract was described as having been on Cockle Shell Branch. Unfortunately, neither of these waterways (Canoe Branch or Cockle Shell Branch) could be located on a map. This tract most likely was situated within the red oval shown on Figure 23. This 80 acre tract is believed to have been the “home plantation” of William and Ann Adams, which was devised to William Adams Jr. by his father’s Will.
5. 13Oct1788: Deed Book H, Page 192: Indenture between **John Adams** of **Hyde County North Carolina** of 1st part and **Thomas Jordan** of 2nd part, in consideration of 75£ sold a certain tract of land situated in Hyde County in **Laurels Swamp**, patented by **Philip Jolly** and known by the name of **Holly Ridge**, containing 128 acres... Witnessed by Henry Donelly and **Jesse Latham**. [Hyde. Deeds 1789–1800 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#) By reference to this tract having been called Holly Ridge it seems a virtual certainty that this John Adams was the son of William Adams [Sr.], who wrote his LWT in

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Hyde County in 1784. The fact that John Adams was able to convey this tract without his mother being required to release her interest suggests that Ann Adams very likely was deceased prior to this conveyance. Per the terms of her husband's will, Ann Adams was given a 1/3 life interest in her husband's property. If she were still alive in Oct1788, she would have been required to release her interest in this tract of land. Now for the principal relevance of this land sale and its possible connection to John Adams of Mill Creek, Harrison County KY. The reader may recall that John Adams was recorded on the tax rolls of Bourbon County KY in 1787. Is it possible that this John Adams of Hyde County NC could have been the same person as John Adams of Harrison County KY? At this juncture we have yet to discover anything that would absolutely preclude that possibility. For the moment, let's keep that thought in reserve while we complete our presentation of Hyde County deed records.

6. 13Jun1790: Deed Book H, Page 215: Bill of Sale between **William Adams** and Henry Clark, sold a negro girl named Bet, aged twelve years, for sum of 80£, signed William Adams, his mark. Witnessed: William Dailey and John Ebzer. [Hyde. Deeds 1789-1800 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#) *The identity of this William Adams is uncertain. It cannot be discounted at this point that he may have been the son of William and Ann Adams of Hyde County, and brother of John Adams. If so, he appears to be divesting himself of his primary assets, when considered in context with the following land conveyance.*
7. 12Sep1790: Deed Book I, Page 26: Indenture between **William Adams** and **Noah Eggleton** in consideration of 50£ sold a certain tract of land in Hyde County containing 80 acres, lying and being at **Bright's Bridge**, various courses per patent, thru Tuskey Ground to **Cockshel Branch**... Signed William Adams. Witnessed: **John Eggleton** and **Gibson Harris**. [Hyde. Deeds 1789-1800 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#) *Given the identification of this 80 acre tract having been situated in Hyde County adjacent to Bright's Bridge and on Cockle Shell Branch, this William Adams almost certainly was the son of William Adams Sr., who wrote his Will in 1784. The tract involved in this conveyance was almost certainly the home plantation of William and Ann Adams, which had been purchased from Thomas and Ann Cording in Aug1771, Item No. 4, above, and devised to William Adams Jr. by his father's LWT dated 19Nov1784.*

This concludes our presentation of Hyde County deed records believed connected to the William Adams Sr. family. We will now postulate a hypothesis:

1. *Hypothesis No. 1: William Adams and John Adams, son of William Adams Sr. and Ann, were the same persons as William Adams and John Adams of Bourbon-Harrison County KY.*

In testing this hypothesis let it be recognized that the timing of the sale of their inherited tracts of land in Hyde County closely comports with the first appearance of William and John Adams in Bourbon County KY. John Adams sold his *Holly Ridge* tract to Thomas Jordon by deed dated 13Oct1788. Similarly, William Adams Jr. sold his 80 acre "home plantation" tract to Noah Eggleton by deed dated 12Sep1790. In John Adams' conveyance he was identified as having been a resident of Hyde County, whereas in William Adams' conveyance his place of residence was not specified. We also have a marriage bond issued for John Adams in Bourbon County on 6Nov1787 for his impending marriage to Mary Thompson, and we have John Adams in Bourbon County tax list in 1787, and William Adams and John Adams both in Bourbon County tax list in 1788 and each year thereafter.

Even though the dates of these events in Hyde County and Bourbon County might appear to be overlapping and ?conflicting?, they are not necessarily mutually exclusive. As observed from investigation of other families during this time period, it was not uncommon for family members to conduct exploratory or reconnaissance trips in order to make arrangements for their ultimate relocation. First, there was the necessary settlement of business affairs at their place of origin, an

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act typically undertaken after having first visited their planned place of resettlement. Then, it was necessary to insure the safety and feasibility of the migration route and to establish connections at the planned destination, i.e., accessibility, land availability, materials and goods needed to establish a new homestead, civil and social order and safety in the new community, etc. From all outward appearance William Adams and John Adams of Hyde County were the only children of William and Ann Adams. They probably were in their mid- to late-20's in 1790, and presumably in good health. They had both disposed of their principal assets between 1787 and 1790. Their parents are both believed to have been dead by 1788. They are believed to have had numerous near relations (cousins, aunts and uncles) still living in Hyde and/or Beaufort Counties, but not necessarily familiarly close to them. Having disposed of their principal assets, it would be of financial imperative that they reinvest their monies in new property as soon as possible.

William and John Adams are believed to have reached their majority before their father wrote his LWT on 19Nov1784. This probability is supported by the fact that William's Will made no provisions for their guardianship, or for the trust of their legacies. They would have been precluded from disposing of their inherited real property before their mother's death, as she was devised a life-interest in her husband's lands. Nothing was found in the records of Hyde County to suggest that either William or John acquired new land in Hyde or Beaufort County after having sold their inherited land. Likewise, there was no estate record found in Hyde County for either of these young men. In fact, aside from a possible 1790 census, there was no record for either of these young men in Hyde County after the sale of their inherited lands. Let's take a quick look at the only other records in Hyde County believed to have been associated with this family after the death of William Adams Sr. aside from the deed records already presented. There were two "census Records" which of good reason are believed to have been connected with this family.

At the 1st Session of the General Assembly of North Carolina held 22Oct1784 at New Bern it was enacted that a census would be conducted in order to establish the number of White and Black inhabitants, and the citizens of every age and condition in the State. This act was in accordance with a similar enactment by the United States Congress. The Act directed that within six months following its enactment every County within the State would appoint a person under each Captain's district to undertake the said census. Accordingly, Hyde County appointed persons in each of its five Captain's districts to undertake a census gathering for each district, which was completed in Feb1786. Ann Adams' household was recorded in Capt. Cason Gibbs district, abstracted as shown in Figure 25. This Ann Adams is believed to have been the widow of William Adams Sr. This opinion is based on the fact that her household was recorded immediately adjacent to William Cording's household, and on the same page with the household of Thomas Jordan Sr., who may have been the person to whom John Adams sold *Holly Ridge*.

If this identification of Ann Adams' household is correct, there are two specific deviations that should be noted. First, Ann Adams' household was the only household listed in this census in Hyde County headed by a person with the surname of Adams. It should be noted that there were two white males under the age of 21 listed in her household. This age grouping may have been correct for John Adams, but almost certainly was incorrect for William Adams. If the assumption that both William and John were over age 21 in Nov1784 is correct, then both of these men should have been over age 21 in Feb1786. It is also important to note that two

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Head of Household	White Males 21-60	White Males Under 21 & Over 60	White Females All Ages	Blacks 12-50	Blacks Under 12 & Over 50
Thomas Right	2	4	2	0	0
Mary Chambers	0	0	2	0	0
William Right	1	1	5	0	0
Joel Gerganous	1	2	2	0	0
Dorcas Gilbert	0	3	1	0	0
Henry Moor	1	5	1	0	0
Thomas Jordan, Sr.	2	3	6	6	2
Cosimo Medecei	1	0	0	1	1
James Capps	2	1	6	0	0
Sarah Burges	0	1	4	0	0
John F(illegible)ar	1	1	5	0	0
Cason Capps	1	4	2	0	0
Dianah Bailly	1	2	2	0	0
Sarah Cording	0	5	2	3	1
William Cording	1	0	1	0	0
Ann Adams	0	2	2	0	0
Mary Martain	0	1	2	3	5
James Robins	1	2	3	1	4
George Barrow, Jr.	1	0	3	1	0
Ebenezer Harris	1	0	0	0	0
Joseph Eckols, Sr.	1	1	2	0	0
Abner Eckols	1	1	2	0	0
Joseph Eckols	1	1	1	0	0
Patrick Wilkins	1	4	1	5	9
Burrage, H. Silby	1	5	5	10	7
Joshua Bailly	2	3	5	0	0
Subtotals	24	50	66	30	29

Figure 25
Extract From Hyde County 1786 Census

females were reported in the household. One of these clearly would have been Ann Adams, herself. Since William Adams Sr. made no mention of a daughter in his LWT, the identity of the second female is a mystery. If our hypothesis regarding this William and John Adams having been the same persons as William and John Adams of Harrison County KY is correct, then it is possible that the extra female could have been William Adams Jr.'s wife. It also seems possible that one of the males under age 21 could have been James Adams, eldest son of William Adams [Jr.].

The second instance of an Adams census records in Hyde County was in the 1790 census, abstracted as follows:

Name **William Adams**
Home in 1790 (City, County, State) **Hyde, North Carolina**
Free White Persons - Males - 16 and over 1

And,

Name Absalom Adams
[Absolam Adams]

Genealogical History of John Raymond Adams

Home in 1790 (City, County, State) Hyde, North Carolina
Free White Persons - Males - 16 and over 2
Free White Persons - Males - Under 16 3
Free White Persons - Females 2

The identity of this William Adams in Hyde County in 1790 is not known with certainty. There was only one person reported in this household that being a male over age 16. It is conceivable that he could have been the son of William and Ann Adams. However, a comparison of this household to nearby householders does not show any continuity with known allied families as was seen with Ann Adams in the 1786 census. All things considered, it seems unlikely that this William Adams was William Adams Jr., son of William and Ann Adams.

Given the apparent disappearance of William and John Adams, sons of William and Ann Adams, after 1786 (when William Adams sold his 80 acre home plantation) in Hyde County, it cannot be discounted that they may have been the William and John Adams, who commenced appearing in Bourbon County KY tax records in 1787-8. There are a lot of pieces of circumstantial evidence that seemingly bridge or connect between these two otherwise disparate families. While none of the other connections as parents for William and John Adams of Harrison County as suggested by “researchers”, such as John Adams of Halifax County VA or George Adams of Bourbon County KY can be backed up with even the thinnest of evidence, there are numerous, undeniable similarities between the Hyde County brothers and the Harrison County brothers, i.e. names, dates and financial and familial circumstances. Therefore, it is concluded that Hypothesis No. 1 could be correct.

Margaret Palmer Foray

One additional element that should be considered is the possible identity of the wife of William Adams, who many researchers put forward as Margaret Palmer. Admittedly, none of those researchers has offered any proof of Margaret’s identity. We fairly thoroughly analyzed the John Palmer family of Bourbon County and discovered that they probably originated from Pennsylvania. Assuming our hypothesis of William and John Adams having originated from Hyde County NC, it is hard to visualize a connection between William’s wife, Margaret, and the John Palmer family of Bourbon County. If Margaret Adams was born a Palmer, it may have been a mere coincidence that there was interaction with Thomas and George Palmer of Bourbon County.

Had it not been for all of the references online to William Adams’ wife having been named Margaret Palmer, we probably never would have even considered a familial connection with the Bourbon County family of John Palmer. Since none of those online references to Margaret Palmer provide any hint of documentary proof of her identity, we are left with virtually no basis on which to further investigate her possible background. Let’s assume for a moment that there may have been some reliable basis for her purported maiden name of “Palmer”. Let’s also for a moment consider the possibility that her husband did originate from the William Adams [Sr.] family of Hyde County. It is now time for another hypothesis:

2. *Hypothesis No. 2.: William Adams’ [Jr.] wife was named Margaret Palmer, and they met and married in Hyde County NC.*

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If we are to accept this hypothesis we must be able to identify a potential candidate for Margaret Palmer. Is there any evidence that such a person even existed? There was in fact a Palmer family present in Hyde County beginning in the mid-18th Century. The progenitor of this North Carolina Palmer line is believed to have been Col. Robert Palmer (see Figure 26):



Figure 26
Robert Palmer Portrait

“In 1753, 28-year old Robert Palmer, a lieutenant colonel in the British army, sailed from Scotland with his 32-year old wife, Margaret and two small sons: Robert and William, to the port on Bath Creek where he had been appointed as *customs collector*. He also had been named *surveyor general* of the Colony. These two posts were important ones, and Palmer’s annual salary of £900 made him one of the highest paid Crown officials in North Carolina... When wealthy, warm-hearted Michael Coutanch (merchant), whose Gaelic voice had spoken for Bath citizens over so many years in the General Assembly, died in 1761, Palmer was elected to replace him. After the merchant’s widow married the minister of St. Thomas Parish (see Figure 27), Palmer negotiated to buy the house (Palmer-Marsh House) (see Figures 28 and 29) that stood on lots formerly owned by another surveyor general, Matthew Rowan.⁵ Many times over the past 10 years, the hard-working Scotsman surely must have wished he didn’t have to ride the long five miles to his plantation after a day’s work was done, and the Palmer’s move to the large comfortable house at the corner of Water Street and Carteret was a happy one... The Palmer’s could have a spacious parlor in the room opening onto Water Street where Coutanch carried on his vast business of naval stores and hosted several meetings of the General Assembly... The port collector chose for his own office the northeast corner room with its outside entrance where ships officers could come and go without disturbing Margaret, who had been in poor health for several years... Governor Dobbs named Palmer a member of the royal council the previous year... In the fall of 1765 while most of the colony protested the Stamp Act due to go into effect 1Nov, Margaret Palmer lay dying in the hushed master bedroom... The following year Palmer was appointed a commissioner to contract for constructing a new courthouse and jail in Bath... On New Year’s Eve, 1770... Palmer took a new office as *Secretary and Clerk to the Crown*... he decided the following Spring to leave Bath and move into a house he had built in New Bern...



Figure 27
St. Thomas Church, Bath, NC Circa 1760



⁵ This statement regarding Matthew Rowan having been the owner of the lots on which Palmer-Marsh house was constructed is not accurate. We will later establish the chain of title for the Palmer House lots.

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Col. Palmer deeded the house in Bath, 15 negroes and 250 acres in the County to his younger son (William Palmer). William Palmer and his wife, Mary [Alston], brought a change of lifestyle to the imposing white frame house with its massive chimneys. The oldest (child) was named Margaret for William's mother; then came Euphan Alston; Robert, the only boy, and finally, Helen.

(1775) Governor, Josiah Martin appointed William Palmer to fill the post of militia colonel, as well as to take his father's place as port collector... William, who decided to remain (at Bath), still could not bring himself to take the patriot's test oath, and tried to drink away the demons of indecision that tortured him... William's drinking had become so serious a problem that he was deep in debt and incapable of handling his own or his father's business affairs... he decided to leave Bath after the state confiscated all of Col. Palmer's property except that which he had given to his son⁶ (William). In Jan 1778, William placed a notice in the New Bern Gazette offering to rent both the plantation and the house in Bath... even livestock and household furniture was to be sold..." [Palmer Marsh House | NC Historic Sites](#)

Also,

"Robert Palmer, Loyalist Petition: Memorial: Dec 1783. He is a native of Scotland and was appointed Surveyor-General of North Carolina, and Collector for the Port of Bath Town in 1753, and was also a Member of HM Council for the Province. He lived in North Carolina until 1771 when his failing health obliged him to return to his native country on the advice of his doctors. His son, (William) with the approval of Gov. Tryon, was appointed as his Deputy in New York and then allowed to replace him (father, Robert) on the condition that he remitted funds to his father. Since that time the claimant has received nothing and in 1785 learned that his son had died, having acquired a reputation for heavy drinking; he left a wife and four children, three being with the mother in America and the eldest (only) son in England. The claimant returned to North Carolina in August 1785 in order to obtain vouchers in support of his claim but was refused assistance as an officer of the Crown. Though he was awarded £100 for his loss of office and estate, he has contracted considerable debts and has to begin life again at age of 60. Claim for loss of offices worth £1,200 per year; 2,125 acres on Pee Dee River in Anson County, 2,338 acres near Bath Town in Beaufort County, another tract of 335 acres in Beaufort County; 3,980 acres on Lake Mattimuskeet in Hyde County, 2,000 acres on Rocky and Pacolet Rivers in Mecklenburg County (SC); 717 acres on Neuse River in Johnston County; 640 acres in Bladen County, 640 acres in New Hanover County, 640 acres in Dobbs County; 65 acres in Craven County; 300 acres in Tryon County (included deed references)." [Ancestry.com - American \(Loyalist\) Migrations, 1765-1799](#)⁷

The foregoing biographical narrative and loyalist petition describe the arrival of Lt. Col Robert Palmer to Bath in 1753, and the establishment of his family at Bath over the

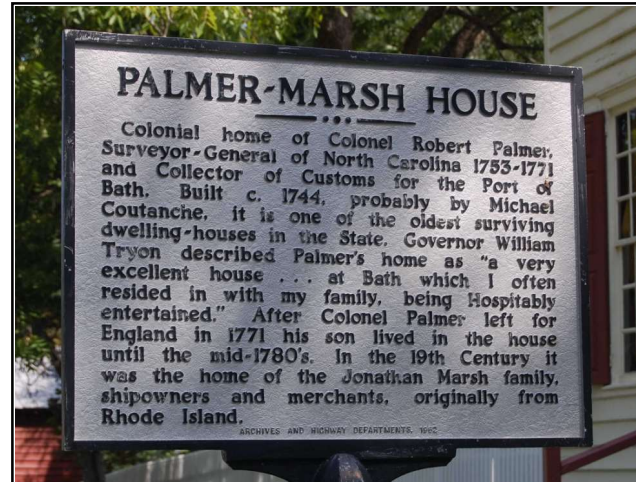


Figure 29
Palmer-Marsh House Historical Marker

Figure 28
Palmer-Marsh House, Bath, NC Circa 1740

⁶ Ditto.

⁷ [American Migrations, 1765-1799](#), Peter Wilson Coldham, 2000, p. 645.

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ensuing 25 years and provide the basis for our introduction of his granddaughter, **Margaret Palmer**, daughter of William and Mary [Alston] Palmer. The biographical narrative has been excerpted from a webpage owned by the State of North Carolina, whereas the loyalist petition is taken from “*American Migrations*”. They contain the most comprehensive biography found for this Palmer family. The accuracy of the information contained in these writings cannot be vouchsafed, but is assumed to be generally accurate. It is lacking in specific detail relative to ages of Robert Palmer’s sons, Robert Jr. and William, except to state that they were children when their father transported them from Scotland to Bath in about 1753, and that William Palmer was younger than his brother, Robert Jr. Moreover, this narrative is equally devoid of the ages of the children of William Palmer, except to state that Margaret was the eldest child. Robert Palmer Sr. also stated in his loyalist petition that his son, William Palmer, was deceased by 1785. That information is not quite correct as William Palmer wrote his LWT dated 23Jan1786 (transcribed herein below), which was reportedly probated in New York. William Palmer reportedly died in New York in 1786, where he had traveled with his family to receive medical treatment.

Last Will and Testament of **William Palmer**, dated 23Jan1786: **Beaufort County NC**: Deed Book D: “In the name of God, Amen, I, William Palmer of Bath Town, in the State of North Carolina, being in a precarious state of health, but, thanks be to God in sound mind and judgment, do make this my last will and testament, hereby giving and bequeathing all and singular, my lands, tenements and hereditaments, negroes, and debts, with all manner of property I am possessed of unto my beloved wife, **Mary Palmer**, and **our children, Robert, Margaret, Euphan Alston and Helen Palmer**, and their heirs and assigns forever, share and share alike; And I do appoint **my father, Robert Palmer and my wife, Mary Palmer, joint Executor and Executrix** of my last will and testament; In witness whereof, I have set my hand and seal, this 23Jan1786, William Palmer. Witnessed: Thomas William, **Abraham Adams** and Francis Williams [North Carolina Probate Records, 1735-1970; https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:SQWF-DH16-9?cc=1867501&wc=32L2-K6N%3A169768801%2C170533701](https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:SQWF-DH16-9?cc=1867501&wc=32L2-K6N%3A169768801%2C170533701)

For the record, we are merely putting forward this information regarding the family of Col. Robert Palmer of Bath Town in the interest of full disclosure. Let it be reiterated that we only have circumstantial evidence suggesting that William Adams and John Adams of Hyde County NC could have been the same persons as William Adams and John Adams of Bourbon-Harrison County KY. By that same token, we do not even have circumstantial evidence to support that William Adams’ wife, Margaret, was surnamed Palmer. That being said, and purely for the sake of full disclosure, we will now present information on Margaret Palmer, eldest daughter of William Palmer and Mary (nee Alston) Palmer of Beaufort County NC, on the outside chance that she may have been the wife of William Adams of Harrison County KY.

As hinted at hereinabove, we do not know when Margaret Palmer was born. Her father, William Palmer, may have been born in Scotland in about 1746, but even his date of birth is not known with any certainty. The dates of his birth and death are memorialized at his wife’s grave marker in Willcox Graveyard, Gulf, Chatham County, North Carolina. [COL William Palmer \(1746-1786\) - Find a Grave Memorial](#) Mary (Alston) Palmer’s head stone still survives and is quite readable as seen in Figure 30. A memorial plaque has been placed at the foot of her headstone which includes references to her husband, Col. William Palmer b. 1746, d. 1786, buried in Trinity Churchyard, NY. It is unknown by whom or when this marker was commissioned, but presumably they had some general knowledge of William Palmer’s vital statistics. If we accept the dates given for William Palmer’s and Mary Alston’s birth years as shown on these markers, then it would appear that Mary was almost 11 years younger than William. If we assume that Mary was at least 17 years old at the time of her marriage to William Palmer, then their eldest

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child, Margaret, would have been born no earlier than about 1773. She would have been only about 13 years old when her father died. For comparison to the wife of William Adams of Harrison County, we refer to the 1830 census record of Ovid Adams in Cape Girardeau County MO, which has an older female, aged 50 to 59 years. It seems reasonable to assume that that older female was Margaret Adams, widow of William Adams. That being the case, then Margaret Adams would have been born sometime between 1771 and 1780. That age range would seem to comport with Margaret Palmer, daughter of Col. William Palmer of Bath, NC.

Given their age difference, it cannot be discounted that William Palmer may have been married before he married Mary Alston, and that Margaret resulted from that earlier union. However, we do have the reference in William's LWT in which he references "our children". Let's assume for a minute, that Margaret Palmer, daughter of William and Mary Palmer, did marry William Adams. Given the appearance of an additional female in the household of Ann Adams

in the 1786 census, it could be assumed that William Adams had already taken a wife. Whether that wife was Margaret Palmer, probably will never be proven, but seems possible.

Given that William Palmer wrote his LWT in Jan 1786, and that he reportedly had traveled to New York for medical treatment, where he presumably died later that year, it is entirely possible that his eldest daughter could have married sometime after William wrote his Will, say Spring, 1786. He may have written his Will just before departing on his trip to New York, as a precaution against his not recovering from his illness. This sequence of events could account for the wording in reference to his legatees in his Will ("our children"), and the possible marriage of his eldest daughter not long thereafter. If we throw James Adams, eldest son of William Adams, into the mix, we still must reconcile his apparent date of birth of 1781. Given our above described scenarios, Margaret Palmer, daughter of Col. William Palmer could not have been his mother. Assuming that Margaret Palmer, daughter of Col. William Palmer was the wife of William Adams, then there seems to be at least two plausible explanations for the age discrepancy of James Adams presumed date of birth:

1. Margaret Palmer was not the mother of James Adams, rather he was the son of an earlier wife, who probably was deceased between 1786 and 1790, or
2. Margaret Palmer was not the daughter of Mary Alston, rather she was the daughter of an earlier, unknown wife of Col. William Palmer.



Figure 30
Mary Palmer's Headstone and Memorial Plaque

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And, lastly on this subject, there does not appear to be any further trace of Margaret Palmer, after her father's LWT in 1786. There are a total of 42 profiles in public trees on Ancestry for Margaret Palmer. Almost without exception, they all have her being born in Beaufort County NC in about 1774, and dying in North Carolina in about 1817. None of those trees provide any documentation on Margaret Palmer, other than a reference to her father's LWT. Peculiarly, many of these trees give Margaret's name as "Lois Margaret Peggy Alston Ritchie Palmer". No documentation is provided to support the notion that Margaret carried the added name of "Lois", or that she was ever married to anyone, nonetheless someone named "Ritchie". Suffice it to say, no reliable information has been found for the whereabouts of Margaret Palmer after her being named as a legatee in her father's Will. All things considered, it seems reasonable to assume that **Margaret Palmer, daughter of Col. Palmer, could have been the wife of William Adams.**

There are two associations between this Palmer family of Bath and an Adams, discussed as follows:

1. From the Last Will and Testament of Col. William Palmer we have a witness named **Abraham Adams**. This is a direct association between William Palmer and an Adams, suggesting some fairly close familiarity. Typically, only the closest of friends would be asked to witness a Will. So, the question becomes, who was this Abraham Adams, and what might his connection to William Adams have been, if any? The answer to these questions is not that easy to establish, except to state that this Abraham Adams almost certainly was descended from the same lineage as William Adams, possibly a 2nd cousin. Unfortunately, the lineages of the Hyde-Beaufort County Adams of the 18th Century are not that well-documented, and there were several Abram or Abraham Adams within that family. In all probability, this Abram Adams was the same person, who appeared contemporaneously with William Palmer in Jesse Blount's, Robert William's and Jacob Shirt's Districts of Beaufort County Tax Lists in 1779, abstracted as follows:
James Adams', John Woodard's and John Hammond's Districts
 - **William Palmer**: £35,432 assessed property value [Beaufort. Taxpayer Lists 1786, Taxpayer Lists 1784, Taxpayer Lists 1789 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)
 - **James Adams**: £2,050
 - Henry Adams: £400
 - John Adams: £440Jesse Blount's, Robert William's and Jacob Shirt's Districts
 - Isaac Adams: £235
 - Joshua Adams: £398.12s
 - **Abraham Adams**: £3,087

And, likewise was probably the Abraham Adams, who appeared contemporaneously with William Palmer in the Beaufort County Tax Lists on 1784, abstracted as follows:

Town of Washington

- **William Palmer**, 8 Lots, \$280 [Beaufort. Taxpayer Lists 1786, Taxpayer Lists 1784, Taxpayer Lists 1789 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)

Capt. Hammonds District

- Henry Adams: 1, 100
- Josiah Adams: 1, 100
- Samuel Adams: 1, 100
- Joseph Adams: 950 acres, 1, 1, 308.13.4
- William Palmer: 7,250 acres in Beaufort, Halifax, etc.
- William Palmer for **John Kerconell, deceased**: 2,400 acre in Mecklinburg

Lots in Bath Town

- Thomas Williams: [Lot No.s 27, 28 & 39](#)
- Jonas Adams: 1 Lot
- **William Palmer**: [27 Lots: Tax: \\$675 val.](#)

Genealogical History of John Raymond Adams

- 14 Total Taxpayers

Capt Williams District

- **Abraham Adams**: 775 acres, 1 >21, 2 >16
- Isaac Adams: 100 acres, 1 >21
- Joshua Adams: 100 acres, 1 >21
- **William Adams**: 1 >21
- Included several Blounts, may have been s/s Pamlico River near Blounts Creek

And, further, probably the Abraham Adams appearing contemporaneously with Mary Palmer in the 1786 tax records, abstracted as follows:

Bath Town

- Josias Adams: 1 Lot
- **Mary Palmer**: 1 Improved Lot, 24 Unimproved Lots, \$660 val.

Capt. Smith's District

- **Abraham Adams**: 775 acres, 1
- Isaac Adams: 100 acres, 1, 1
- Joshua Adams: 100 acres, 1, 1

Not wishing to place too fine of a point on it, suffice it to say that numerous members of the Adams family, virtually all descended from John Adams (d. 1734, Hyde County), were present in Beaufort and Hyde County contemporaneously with William and Mary Palmer, and there would have been ample opportunity for them to have become acquainted. From the 1786 tax records it appears that Mary Palmer, widow of Col. William Palmer, was still in possession of 25 lots in Bath Town, including the improved lot on which Palmer House stood. Whether she was still in residence in Palmer House in Bath is uncertain, but possible. While residing in Bath Town for almost 15 years, the family of William Palmer could have become well-acquainted with the William Adams family, who resided on an 80-acre plantation near *Bright's Bridge*. Although seemingly of different social strata, the Palmers and Adams would have had ample opportunity to interact and perhaps, even intermarry.

2. Another connection between the Palmer and Adams families was less direct, and several generations removed. This connection intersects at Bath Town. In Oct1721 John Adams purchased Lot No. 26, containing ½ acre, and lying in Bath Town, abstracted as follows:

- 1) 4Oct1721: Bath County Deed Book 1, Page 425-6: **John Adams** purchased **Lot No. 26 containing ½ acre, lying in Bath Town**, which had been escheated by Thomas Roper, conveyed this date to John Adams for sum of 40 shillings by Commissioners: **Thomas Harding** and William Sigley. *The grantee in this deed almost certainly was the John Adams, who had purchased a tract on a branch (Bath Creek) of Old Town (Bath) Creek in Apr1702. Interestingly, this town lot was originally sold to Thomas Roper, who is believed to have immigrated to the Neuse River area around 1706-7 from Anne Arundel County MD.*

- a. 8Jan1706/7: Deed Book 1, Page 69: Joel Martin and John Lawson sold to **Thomas Roper** of Maryland, for £1, a lot in Bath Town containing ½ acre and dwelling house, lying on Front Street, known as "Duma Perkins' Lot"... Witenesses: Christopher Gale and Hanna Smith.
- b. 1Feb1706/7: Deed Book 1, Page 69: **Thomas Roper** assigned his interest in above Lot to Capt. John Bayly of Philadelphia...
- c. 6Oct1716: Deed Book 1, Page 192: Thomas Harding and John Drinkwater, Commissioners, sold to **Thomas Roper**, Bricklayer, **lot No. 26 in Bath Town**...

Roper Excursus: Let's take a brief excursus into the background of Thomas Roper. There is strong documentary evidence of three brothers: William Roper, Thomas Roper and John Roper, sons of William Roper Jr. and Alice Davis-Morgan, who migrated from Anne Arundel County MD to Albemarle Sound area of North Carolina in the latter part of 17th and early 18th Century. For whatever reason, the Neuse River-Pamlico River region attracted a number of people from Anne Arundel County during this time period. Among those early immigrants were persons associated with rebellion in Maryland, and had become social and political "outcasts", including

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location of John Adams' home plantation. In fact, it seems highly probable that Adams Creek derived its name from its close geographic association with John Adams' home plantation.

Refer to Figure 31 for an illustration of the location of the Lot No. 26 (highlighted in red) as exhibited on the original town plan, circa 1705. John Adams sold this town lot to Matthew Rowan, an Irish merchant, abstracted as follows:

- 1) "19Jan1725/6: Deed Book 2, Page 38: I, **John Adams** of Bath County, planter, send greetings that for and in consideration of £40 in hand paid by **Matthew Rowan**, merchant of the City of Dublin, Ireland, sold **Lot No. 26** in Town of Bath containing ½ acre, bounded by Beaufort Street to north.

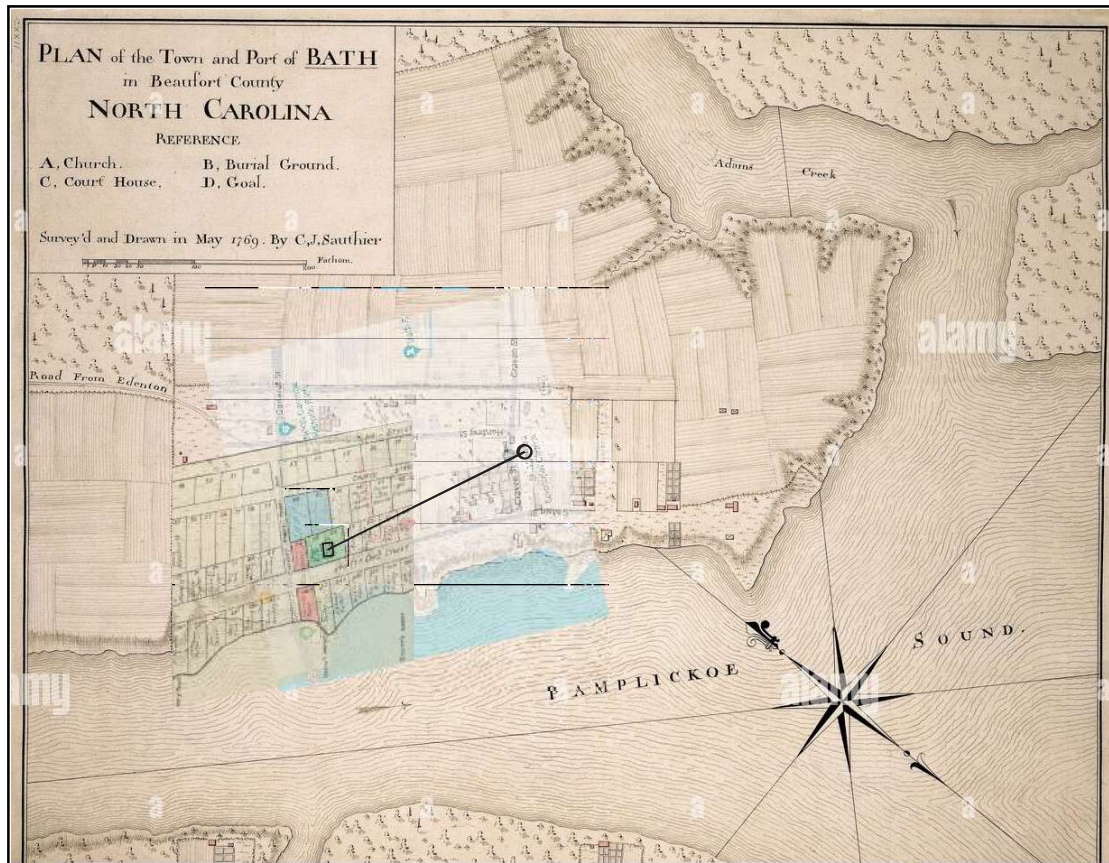


Figure 32
Bath Town and Port Plan, Circa 1769

to east by Lot No.s 40 and 41, to south by Lot No. 25, and to west by Main [aka Bay or Water] Street... purchased by deed dated 4Oct1721... Witnesses: John Baptist Ash and William Sparry.

Figure 32 contains a plan of the Town and Port of Bath dated 1769, onto which has been overlaid the plan excerpt contained in Figure 31. Figure 32 illustrates the geographic proximity of the Palmer-Marsh House in relation to St. Thomas Church. It also illustrates the fact that the stream identified on present day maps as Back Creek was designated as Adams Creek for a span of 70 years or more.

Also,

- 2) "19Jan1725/6: Deed Book 2, Page 37: To all to whom these presents shall come, we, Thomas Harding and William Sigley of Bath County, send greeting, etc.; Know ye that we, the said

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Thomas Harding and William Sigley, two of the commissioners appointed for the sale of lots in Bath Town by an Act of Assembly of the Province made and ratified 17Jan1715...; In pursuance of an act by virtue of the powers and authorities to us therein and thereby given... for an in consideration of the sum of 30 shillings current money... paid by **Matthew Rowan** of the City of Dublin in Ireland... sold **Lot No. 41**, bounded north by Lot No. 40 now in possession of Rhoda Fox, to south by Lot No. 42 and to west by part of **Lot No.s 25 and 26**⁹... Witnesses: John Baptist Ash, William Sparry and William Dunbar.” *It should be noted that Matthew Rowan purchased Lot. No. 26 from John Adams, and Lot No. 41 from Town Commissioners, but not Lot Nos. 24 and 25 on which Palmer-Marsh House stands.*

- 3) 5Mar1739: Deed Book 2, Page 331-2: Indenture between John Freeman and Mary, his wife, of Bath Town, Esq., and **Michael Coutanch** of Boston, Mariner, for and in consideration of £336 sold two town lots in Bath Town called on town plat as **Nos. 24 and 25**, bounded on south by Lot No. 23 owned by James Brown, and on north by Lot No. 26 owned by James Brickell... *Note: This deed was the means whereby Michael Coutanch acquired Lot Nos. 24 and 25 on which he built the residential structure later in possession of the Robert Palmer family and known as “Palmer-Marsh House”.*
- 4) 29Jan1740: Deed Book 2, Page 363: James Brickell and Anna, his wife, sold to **Michael Coutanch**, Merchant, of Bath, two lots in Bath Town, and one front (lot), late in the possession of **Matthew Rowan, Esq.**, of Cape Fear... *This may be the deed conveyance which caused confusion over Matthew Rowan’s involvement in Lot Nos. 24 and 25. It seems probable that Michael Coutanch purchased Lot. No. 26 and Lot No. 41 (plus the water-front part of Lot. No 26.) from the Brickells, who presumably acquired those lots from Matthew Rowan. If that assumption is accurate, then Michael Coutanch would have owned four lots in the northeast quadrant of Cartaret and Bay [aka Water] Streets (24, 25, 26 and 41). However, it should be noted that Palmer-Marsh House was constructed on Lot Nos. 24 and 25, which were never in ownership of Matthew Rowan.*
- 5) 1Apr1741: Deed Book 2, Page 381: Richard and Catherine Barnes sold to **Michael Coutanch**, two town lots in Bath, Nos. 63 and 64. Also, Page 347 Richard Jones sold to Coutanch ½ of Lots 63 and 64.
- 6) 15Jun1748: Deed Book 2, Page 534: Seth Pilkington and wife, Sarah, for love and affection granted two tract of land to **Michael Coutanch** and Sarah, his wife (formerly Sarah Pilkington, d/o Seth and Sarah), one situate on east side of **Bath Town Creek** (aka Bath Creek) containing 275 acres, originally granted to Christopher Gale by patent dated 10May1706, also a second tract of woodland situated at back of 1st tract containing 335 acres, originally granted to Christopher Gale 23Mar1715...
- 7) 2May1753: Deed Book 3, Page 147-8: **Michael Coutanch** and Sarah, his wife, sold to Joseph Turton a tract of land situated on east side of Town Creek containing 275 acres (same tract gifted to Coutanch by father-in-law, Seth Pilkington). *Coutanch sold the 275 acre tract which he received as gift from his father-in-law.*

Thus we have shown that John Adams owned Lot No. 26, which abutted Lots 24 and 25 on which the Palmer-Marsh House is located. However, John Adams’ ownership of Lot No. 26 lasted only about five years, and occurred almost 35 years before Robert Palmer purchased the Palmer House property. So, even though the progenitor of the Bath-Beaufort Adams family appears to have strong ties to Bath Town area, those connections preceded the arrival of Robert Palmer by almost two generations, and his descendants had multiplied and spread, mainly throughout Beaufort County, with a few settling in Hyde County.

Following are deed records involving Robert Palmer and his son, William Palmer from Beaufort County dating from their arrival to beyond William Palmer’s death:

1. 6May1754: Deed Book 3, Page 197-9: John Rinsett of Edenton sold to **Robert Palmer** of Bath Town, three town lots in Bath, Nos. 1, 2 and 71... *This was first deed record found for Robert Palmer. He continued*

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over the next 16 year you amass major land holdings (totaling over 9400 acres) scattered across nine separate counties in North and South Carolina.

2. 24Sep1758: Deed Book 3, Page 440: James Parkinson of New Bern sold to **Robert Palmer** two lots in Bath Town, Nos. 5 and 6... *Ditto.*
3. 11Jul1764: Deed Book 4, Page 48-50: Indenture between Lillington Lockhart and James Lockhart of Bath, and **Robert Palmer** of Bath Town, Esq., several tracts or lots of land, viz.: (1) tract adjoining Bath Town and containing **255 acres** (metes and bounds), (2) situate on Bath Town (Creek?), bounded by ditch dividing land from Town, bounded by James Ellison's land on north, late **Michael Coutanch's** land on east, by Bath Town on south, and Town Creek on west, and (3) two lots in Bath, **Nos. 24 and 25** (Rowan's lots, being the lots and houses whereon the said Michael Coutanch in his life dwelt, and five other lots: Nos. 34, 48, 33, 23, 63 and 64... *This was the deed whereby Robert Palmer took possession of Lot Nos. 24 and 25, on which he established his primary residence in the house built by Michael Coutanch. He also acquired two tracts that abutted Bath Town limits to the north, fronting on Bath Creek.*
4. 15Mar1765: Deed Book 4, Page 66: Peter Caila and Samuel Thompson sold to **Robert Palmer** Lot No. 10 in Bath...
5. 15Mar1765: Deed Book 4, Page 67: **Robert Palmer** sold to Thomas Respes a tract of land situated on Durhams Creek, south side of Pamlico River, containing 640 acres, abutting Coleman Roe's line, patented by Robert Palmer in 1754, witnessed by Myriott Ormond and Roger Ormond...
6. 6Feb1766: Deed Book 4, Page 100: **Robert Palmer** sold to Robert Newell sold Lot No. 10 in Bath...
7. 2Feb1767: Deed Book 4, Page 146: Wyriott Ormond of Beaufort sold to **Robert Palmer**, etal. Justices of Beaufort County the water front part of Lot No. 14 for use of Town of Bath...
8. 7Aug1767: Deed Book 4, Page 157: Nathan Archibald sold to **Robert Palmer** an unspecified ½ acre lot in Bath...
9. 22Aug1767: Deed Book 4, Page 158: Roger Ormond, Sheriff, sold at auction (highest bidder) to **Robert Palmer** several tract in Bath Town, viz.: Lot Nos. 54 and 55, and ½ Lot No. 53...
10. 20Apr1767: Deed Book 4, Page 159: William Brown sold to **Robert Palmer** Lot Nos. 22 and 43, and front of Lot No. 22...
11. 9Aug1767: Deed Book 4, Page 160: Robert Boyd, Peter Blin and Wyriatt Ormond, Esq., commissioners of Bath, sold to **Robert Palmer** lots in Bath Nos. 54 and 55, and ½ Lot No. 53...
12. 5Nov1767: Deed Book 4, Page 170: Robert Newall sold to **Robert Palmer** lot in Bath Town, viz.: No. 10...
13. 13Mar1769: Deed Book 4, Page 220: Winifred Wilson sold to **Robert Palmer** a certain tract of land containing 335 acres situated on north side of Pamlico River, near Old Town Creek on the back on Hancock, was the property of **Christopher Gale** (probably the woodland sold by Seth Pilkington to his son-in-law, Michael Coutanch)...
14. 15Apr1769: Deed Book 4, Page 248: **Robert Palmer** sold to Alderson Ellison Lot. No. 48 in Bath, Witnessed Thomas Rispes and Levi Alderson...
15. 20Apr1771: Deed Book 4, Page 348: **Robert Palmer** of **New Bern**, for love and affection, granted to his son, **William Palmer** of Bath, all his house and lots situate in Town of Bath, also his lands situated and lying adjacent to said Town... *Although still in possession of Palmer House in Bath Town, Robert Palmer had established a new residence at New Bern. This was the gift deed whereby Robert Palmer conveyed ownership of his Bath Town property to his son, William Palmer. Although William Palmer is not believed to have married Mary Alston until about 1773 or later, it seems probable that he was already married to a 1st wife when his father gifted this property to him.*
16. 20Apr1771: Deed Book 4, Page 349: **Robert Palmer** of **New Bern** for love and affection granted to William Palmer, his son, 15 negro slaves...
17. 19Jul1771: Deed Book 4, Page 339: **Robert Palmer** to Thomas Respes of £1000, sold a tract of land lying on north side of Pamlico River, on west side of Broad Creek containing 400 acres, also another tract lying on same Creek containing 200 acres, also another tract of land lying on east side of said creek containing 400 acres, also another tract lying on north side of side creek containing 43 acres with grist and saw mill, witnessed by William Brown, Thomas Alderson and Bryan Mahon... *Reportedly, it was around this time that Robert Palmer became ill, possibly from Yellow Fever, which illness caused his returning to England on advice of his doctor. He reportedly remained in England until after the end of the Revolutionary War. Because of his absence from America during the War, he became labeled a "Loyalist", and his vast land holdings were forfeited.*
18. 4Oct1772: Deed Book 5, Page 13: **William Palmer** sold to Jahleel Smith Lot No. 10 in Bath, witnessed by Benjamin Posten and Joseph John Alston Jr. (William Palmer's brother-in-law).. *William Palmer*

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continued to reside in Bath after the departure of his father from the province. On his father's departure, William was awarded the post of Port Commissioner, formerly held by his father.

19. 17Sep1774: Deed Book 4, Page 394: John Dickinson sold to **William Palmer** a tract of land containing 76 acres, situated at **Eagle Pond**, at a branch called **Holly Branch**, abutting land patented by John Sulavan in Mar1704/5, and another tract lying on north side of a branch of **Blounts Creek**, called **Newton's Run**, containing 100 acres, being part of a 600 acre tract patented by James Adams on 5Apr1749... *William Palmer began to add to his landholdings in the vicinity of Bath. The second tract clearly was situated on the south side of Pamlico River, whereas the location of the first tract is uncertain, possibly on the north side of the River.*
20. 17Sep1774: Deed Book 4, Page 395: John Dickinson sold to **William Palmer** livestock, including cattle, horses, mares, hogs, sheep...
21. 22Nov1774: Deed Book 4, Page 405: Robert Tripp sold to **William Palmer** a tract of land situated on **south side of Pamlico River on Nevil's Creek**, abutting George Pugh's, Jacob Harrington, containing 75 acres, being part of larger tract of 640 acre... *This tract was situated on Nevil's Creek, on south side of Pamlico River, opposite Bath Creek estuary.*
22. 22Nov1774: Deed Book 4, Page 406: Robert William sold tract of land to **William Palmer**, situated on **south side of Pamlico River on Nevil's Creek**, containing 6 acres... *Ditto.*
23. 6Sep1775: Deed Book 5, Page 214: Alderson Ellison, Sheriff, sold at auction to **William Palmer** Lot. No. 40 in Bath... *Lot No. 40 was situated immediately east of Lot Nos. 24, 25 and 26. Willaim Palmer is believed to have already owned those lots, plus Lot No. 41.*
24. 24Sep1779: Deed Book 5, Page 440: **William Palmer** sold to John Kirkconnel for £500, several tracts of land: (1) 200 acres situated in Duplin County on Little Coharry Creek, (2) tract containing 300 acres in Johnson County on south side of Neuse River, (3) 182 acres in Hyde County, (4) 95 acres in Craven County adjoining Dennis Conner's, (5) 160 acres in Johnson County on west side of Neuse River, (6) 65 acres in Craven County on Great Continea, (7) 335 acres in Beaufort County, (8) 300 acre in Tryon County, (9) 400 acres in Hyde County on Ridge of Mattamuskeet Lake, (10) 300 acres in Hyde County on south side of Mattamuskeet Lake, (11) 640 acres in Hyde County, (12) 200 acres in Beaufort County on east prong of **Old Town Creek** adjoining **Ormonds** and **Adams**, (13) 640 acres in Hyde County on Mattamuskeet, (14) 500 acres in Beaufort County on Jackson's Swamp, (15) 400 acres in Hyde County on both sides of Smith Creek, (16) 260 acres in Hyde County on Mattamuskeet, (17) 240 acres in Johnson County on west side of Little Continea, (18) 500 acres in Hyde County on east side of Pongo River, (19) 520 acres in Beaufort County on west side of Bath Town Creek, (20) 300 acres in Beaufort County on South Dividing Creek on Durings (Durham's?), (21) 500 acres in Hyde County on Ridge of Mattamuskeet Lake, (22) 640 acres in Hyde County on Currituck Swamp, (23) 640 acres in Beaufort County on Jackson's Swamp... *This is a particularly unusual deed of conveyance from William Palmer. At this juncture the American colonies have been at war with Great Britain for almost three years. William Palmer had sworn the oath of allegiance to the Revolutionary cause, and had been appointed to the rank of Colonel in the Militia. Although it is difficult to make an exact comparison, the lands listed in this conveyance have a distinct similarity to the lands listed by his father, Robert Palmer, in his loyalist petition. Clearly, there was something untoward in this conveyance. The combined total of land conveyed was over 8300 acres. The consideration of £500 was an insignificant small sum compared to property values before the start of the War. This clearly was a "distress" sale, suggesting that William Palmer may have been in dire financial straights. It is also unclear how he would have had the authority to sell his father's property. It seems probable that a "power of attorney" had been granted from Robert Palmer, but none was found in the record. It is equally peculiar that five years later Robert Palmer would petition the North Carolina General Assembly for the return of these lands. Perhaps this deed of conveyance was somehow tantamount to a seizure of forfeited lands. It is worth noting that William Palmer was recorded paying taxes on lands of John Kirkcollnell, deceased, abstracted as follows:*
Beaufort County Tax Lists on 1784
Capt. Hammonds District
William Palmer for **John Kerconell, deceased**: 2,400 acre in Mecklinburg
So, from this tax record it would appear that some of the land conveyed to John Kirkconnell in 1779 had returned to the possession of William Palmer by 1784.
25. 1Nov1781: Deed Book 5, Page 183: Robert William sold to **William Palmer** a tract of land on **Nevil's Creek** (size unspecified, but metes and bounds)... *More land on Nevil's Reek.*

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26. 24Oct1782: Deed Book 5, Page 397: John Mullowny sold to **Col. William Palmer** of **Halifax County** for £185, several lots in Town of Washington, Nos.: 22, 27, 32, 37,42, 47 and 40, and ½ Lot No 52... *This deed would suggest that William Palmer may have temporarily relocated to Halifax County (the home county of his Alston in-laws) just before the end of the War.*
27. 7Mar1785: Deed Book 5, Page 473: **William Palmer** sold to Henry Brady for £500 a tract of land containing 128 acres situated on north side of **Pamlico River**, east side of easternmost prong of **Goose Creek**, adjacent John Boyd's, Mallard's Creek... Witnessed: Gustavus Brown and Pat Rourk... *The War was over, and William Palmer appears to have returned to Beaufort County, where he was recorded disposing of property. This tract was situated on Goose Creek, which is just upstream from the mouth of Bath Creek (above Duck Creek).*
28. 19Dec1785: Deed Book 5, Page 494: **William and Mary Palmer** sold to Jonathan Loomass Lot No. 40 in Washington Town. *Ditto.*
29. 25Mar1786: Deed Book 7, Page 243: **William and Mary Palmer** sold to Darby Mullowny four town lots: Nos. 47, 32, 27 and 22, and ½ town lot: No. 52 in Washington... *It was around this time period that Bath Town was going into decline, and Washington was emerging as the dominant port and commercial center on the Pamlico-Tar River. According to his father's loyalist petition, William Palmer had fallen on financial hardship and taken up heavy libation. Three months earlier, he had written his Last Will and Testament. These were the same lots purchased just four years earlier from Robert Williams.*
30. 4Apr1786: Deed Book 5, Page 505: **William Palmer** and Alderson Ellison sold to Ambrose Simpson and Michael Peters Lot No. 2 in Washington... *Ditto.*
31. 15Apr1786: Deed Book 6, Page 33: **William Palmer** sold to Hill & Barrow, Merchants, Lot No. 5 in Bath Town... *Ditto.*
32. 5May1786: Deed Book 6, Page 35: **William Palmer** sold to Alderson Ellison a tract of land on east side of **Old Town Creek**, formerly owned by James Ellison, father of grantee, plus 25 acres on back side... *Ditto. It probably was not long after this transaction that William and his family went to New York in search of medical care for William.*
33. 6Mar1788: Deed Book 6, Page 315: John Kennedy, Deputy Sheriff of Beaufort County sold to **William Farris**, **Merchant**, at public auction (highest bidder) for £16, 10s. a certain tract of land situated on south [north?] side of **Pamlico River**, east side of **Goose Creek**, containing 100 acres... *William Palmer is believed to have died in New York sometime in the latter part of 1786, and his wife and children are believed to have returned to Bath Town, resuming residence in Palmer House. Mary Alston-Palmer is believed to have married William Farris sometime in 1790. The grantee in this conveyance is believed to have been the future husband of Mary Palmer, relic of William Palmer. This tract is believed to have been situated on the east side of Goose Creek, north side of Pamlico River, about 5 miles upriver from Bath Town and in the vicinity of tract sold by William Palmer in Item No. 27, above.*
34. 20Aug1789: Deed Book 6, Page 174: Peter Moss sold to **William Farris** for £150, a tract of land situated on **South Dividing Creek**, between lands of George Springle and **William Farris** of Stanton Harold, beginning at the Pitch Hole Gut... including the two tracts of land bought last year from Robert Campbell and Jeremiah Warren... containing by estimation 200 acres... *This tract acquired by William Farris was situated on South Dividing Creek on the south side of Pamlico River, almost directly across the river from North Dividing Creek.*
35. 20Feb1790: Deed Book 6, Page 138: Indenture between John Cowper of Beaufort County and **William Farris**, guardian of **Robert Palmer**, a minor now at this time and supposed at present to be in London, son of **William Palmer**, late of Bath, deceased, for and in consideration of £210, sold a tract of land lying on easternmost side of Lourtton's Herring Run, bounded by Thomas Cook's land, containing 210 acres... Witnesses: Cosmo Medici and William Alston. *This is a particularly important deed in that it links William Farris to the Palmer family. Since Robert Palmer (son of William Palmer) was described as a ward of William Farris, it is highly probable that William Farris and Mary Alston-Palmer had married sometime in the recent past. In Feb1790, Robert Palmer was still a minor and was residing in London, probably sent to attend school. The witness, William Alston, may have been Mary Alston-Palmer-Farris's brother. The wording of this deed suggests that William Farris, acting as guardian of Robert Palmer, was purchasing this tract for his step-son, possibly as partial settlement of the estate of William Palmer. This tract was situated on Herring Creek, a presumed tributary of South Dividing Creek.*
36. 13Mar1790: Deed Book 6, Page174: James Warner sold to **William Farris** of Stanton Harold in **South Dividing Creek**, planter, for £70 a tract of land situated on south side of South Dividing Creek, on the east prong called **Papa Creek**, beginning at mouth of Miry Marsh containing 90 acres, and another tract lying on

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south side of South Dividing Creek abutting Farris's land, containing 50 acres... *This acquisition by William Farris was also situated on South Dividing Creek, probably in near proximity to the other tracts acquired by William Farris on the south side of Pamlico River.*

This concludes our presentation of land records related to the Robert Palmer family in Beaufort County. Following is an abstract of the 1790 census record believed to have been that of the William Farris and Mary Alston-Palmer-Farris household:

Name **William Farris**
Home in 1790 (City, County, State) **Beaufort, North Carolina**
Free White Persons - Males - 16 and over 2 (could have included Robert Palmer)
Free White Persons - Females 5 (could have included Mary Palmer-Farris, Margaret, Euphan and Helen Palmer, with one female to spare, possibly newly-born daughter of William and Mary Farris)
Number of All Other Free Persons 1
Number of Slaves 7
The composition of this household would easily account for Mary Alston-Palmer-Farris and her children: a son and three daughters. However, there appears to have been one more female than the three presumed step-daughters, so it is likely that William Farris had children of his own from an earlier marriage. No records have been found to identify William Farris, or any earlier marriage of children from that marriage. Whether Margaret Palmer was among these five females is uncertain, and cannot be established from this record.

1800 Census:

Name **William Farris**
Home in 1800 (City, County, State) **Beaufort, North Carolina**
Free White Persons - Males - Under 10 1 (possibly son of Euphan Alston Palmer-Rhodes)
Free White Persons - Males - 10 thru 15 2 (unknown males)
Free White Persons - **Males - 26 thru 44** 2 (possibly included Euphan Alston Palmer's 1st husband)
Free White Persons - Males - 45 and over 1 (probably William Farris)
Free White Persons - Females - Under 10 1 (unknown child, could have been another daughter of William and Mary)
Free White Persons - Females - 10 thru 15 1 (possibly daughter of William and Mary Farris)
Free White Persons - **Females - 26 thru 44** 2 (possibly Mary Alston-Palmer-Farris and Euphan Alston Palmer-Rhodes)
Number of Slaves 15
The composition of William Farris's household in 1800 became considerably enlarged and confused. There appears to have been a younger married couple (aged 26 thru 44) in the household and two young children under age 10. It seems possible that these younger children could have belonged to the younger couple, but not inconceivable that they may have been William and Mary Farris' children. Mary Farris would have been 44 years old (reportedly born in 1756), which age would comport with one of the females aged 26 thru 44, and still within child-bearing age. William Farris was over age 45. Unfortunately this census was recorded in alphabetical order, so it is not possible to infer living proximity to neighbors.

Name **Robert Palmer**
Home in 1800 (City, County, State) **Montgomery, North Carolina**
Free White Persons - Males - 26 thru 44 1
Free White Persons - Females - Under 10 1
Free White Persons - Females - 16 thru 25 2
There is good reason to believe that this was the household of Robert Palmer, son of William Palmer and Mary Alston. If this identification is correct, then the younger couple identified in the household of William Farris in 1800 could not have been Robert Palmer's family. That being the case, then it seems probable that William Farris had been married before marrying the widow, Mary Alston-Palmer, and that the children recorded in his household in 1800 were a combination of his children from an earlier marriage and Mary Alston-Palmer's children. Note that Robert Palmer would have been born on or before 1774.

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Name **Lewis Lurry [Leroy]**

Home in 1800 (City, County, State) [Washington, Beaufort, North Carolina](#)

Free White Persons - Males - Under 10 1

Free White Persons - Males - 10 thru 15 1

Free White Persons - Males - 16 thru 25 2

Free White Persons - Males - 26 thru 44 2

Free White Persons - Females - 10 thru 15 1

Free White Persons - Females - 16 thru 25 1

Free White Persons - Females - 26 thru 44 1 (Helen Palmer-Leroy)

Number of Slaves 14

This clearly was the household of Lewis [aka Louis] Leroy, husband of Helen Palmer. However, Lewis and Helen are not believed to have married until sometime around 1795. The numbers of males and females in this household suggest the presence of other families. Is it possible that Lewis and Helen were operating either a hotel or boardinghouse at Washington?

1810 Census:

Name **Wm Farries**

[Wm Farres]

Residence Date 6 Aug 1810

Residence Place [Washington, Beaufort, North Carolina, USA](#)

Free White Persons - Males - 45 and over 1 (William Farris)

Free White Persons - Females - 10 thru 15 1 (probable daughter of William and Mary)

Free White Persons - Females - 16 thru 25 1 (probable daughter of William and Mary)

Free White Persons - Females - 45 and over 1 (Mary Alston-Palmer-Farris)

Number of Enslaved Persons 10

Interestingly, the age ranges of the two young females in this household comport with the two young females reported in 1800. Had they been grandchildren, it seems unlikely that they would still be living in their grandparents' household in 1810, unless perhaps their parents were deceased. Since it appears from the land records that William Farris and Mary Alston-Palmer married sometime between 1788 and 1790, it is conceivable that both of these young females may have been the daughters of William and Mary Farris. The young couple, plus the young male >10 who were recorded in William Farris' household in 1800 were absent from his household in 1810. It seems possible that that younger couple and their son could have been Euphan Alston Palmer's family. As noted below, she is believed to have married Solomon M. Joseph on 30Sep1805. Yet, in their household in 1810 they were recorded with an apparent son aged 16 thru 25, whose age would comport with the young male in William Farris' household less than ten years of age in 1800. That being the case, then it would appear that all of William Palmer's children were accounted for in 1800, except for the daughter, Margaret Palmer.

Name **Robert Palmer**

Residence Date 6 Aug 1810

Residence Place [Montgomery, North Carolina, USA](#)

Free White Persons - Males - Under 10 2

Free White Persons - Males - 26 thru 44 1

Free White Persons - Females - Under 10 1

Free White Persons - Females - 26 thru 44 1

Number of Enslaved Persons 25

Name **Solomon M Joseph**

Residence Date 6 Aug 1810

Residence Place [Shell Castle, Carteret, North Carolina, USA](#)

Free White Persons - Males - 16 thru 25 1 (probable son of Euphan by earlier marriage)

Free White Persons - Males - 26 thru 44 1 (Solomon M. Joseph)

Free White Persons - Females - 26 thru 44 1 (Euphan Alston-Joseph)

Number of Enslaved Persons 7

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It appears that sometime between 1805 and 1810 Euphan Palmer-Alston-Solomon and her new husband, Solomon M. Joseph, removed from her parents household at Washington and settled on Shell Castle Island, a tiny inner island of the outer banks just northwest of Ocracoke.

The Shell Castle Island Pitcher, circa 1805-1810 (Figure 33) was manufactured at Liverpool and circulated as an advertisement for this small, but vitally important trading portal strategically positioned between the Province of North Carolina and the European and Caribbean markets. Also see Figure 34 for an enlarged image of the Shell Castle Island facility as it would have appeared around 1810 when Euphan and her husband became residents on this tiny island outpost at the mouth of Pamlico Sound. Shell Castle Island was a creation of John Wallace, John Blount and his brothers: William and Thomas, described as follows:



Figure 33
Shell Castle Island Pitcher, Circa 1805-10

“In 1789, Blount and Wallace purchased a group of oyster beds called Old Rock, changed the name to Shell Castle Island and began bringing ballast and construction materials to the island. Within a year, the Shell Castle Island was operational. Construction would continue for the next 17 years. Wharfs, a warehouse, tavern, grist mill and homes were built on the island that would eventually be 60 feet across and a half-mile long... Shell Castle,’ lay on the north side of Wallace’s Channel, at the middle of the inlet, strategically placed in deeper water between the inlet’s two main navigable channels, Wallace’s Channel and Ship’s Channel... Wallace, as the onsite manager of operations, lived on the island with his family and ruled his small empire as “the Governor.” As the operation expanded, the population of the island would eventually grow to 45, including slaves, most of whom were owned by Wallace.”¹⁰



Figure 34
Depiction of Shell Castle Island, Circa 1810

The Blount brothers commissioned Jonathan Price to create a chart of the waters of Pamlico Sound surrounding Shell Castle Island as a marketing tool and navigation guide to lure ships through the Wallace Channel. Their commercial efforts were very effective, and Shell Castle Island became the primary port of entry and transfer point for maritime trade in northern North Carolina. Figure 35 contained a copy of Price’s map, which is purported to have been the first map published in the State of North Carolina.

¹⁰ [Our Coast's History: Shell Castle Island | Coastal Review](#)

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- Marriage: **Mrs. Euphen Alston Rhodes** to **Solomon Moses Joseph**, 30Sep1805, Washington, Beaufort County, NC. [Ancestry.com - Marriage and Death Notices from Raleigh Register and North Carolina State Gazette, 1799-1825](#)

The fact that Euphan was recorded as Mrs. Euphan Alston Rhodes gives a strong inference that she had been married to a Mr. Rhodes previous to her marriage to Solomon Joseph. A search of North Carolina Court records discloses that Euphan Rhodes petitioned the Court for divorce in Nov1803, abstracted as follows:¹¹

November 1803 Session, Beaufort County Court: "Arnold and Euphan Rhodes, though husband and wife, have lived apart for two years. As there is no hope of reconciliation, they jointly pray that a law may be passed "dissolving the bands of marriage between your said petitioners & thereby ... Divorce them from Each other -- leaving Each free to Intermarry again to purchase, receive, & dispose of their separate property."

The relatives of **Euphan Alston Rhodes** ask that the said Euphan be granted a divorce from **Captain Arnold Rhodes**. They recount that their relative married Rhodes in 1795 when she was seventeen years old; at the time, Euphan possessed "a valuable Estate in Lands &c besides a number of valuable Slaves." The petitioners lament that the said Rhodes wasted his bride's property shortly after their marriage, losing all the slaves and a large portion of the real estate. They further decry that Rhodes has "abandoned himself to Idleness, Intoxication, gambling &c." Of the belief that "a mutual loathing possess them Each towards the other," the petitioners pray "that a Law may be passed by your Honorable body dissolving the band of marriage between the Said Arnold, & Euphan Alston Rhodes & thereby fully Divorcing them for Ever from Each other."

Additional petitioners included the following:

Name	Age	Color or Race	Sex	Role in document
Sevoy [Mr.] [Lewis]		white	male	petitioner
Hellen Sevoy [Leroy]		white	female	petitioner
Margaret Febey [?]		white	female	petitioner
Mary Farris		white	female	petitioner

This court record is particularly important to our investigation of Margaret Palmer. Heretofore, we had found only one reference to Margaret, that being as a legatee in her father's LWT. Now it seems probable that the co-petitioner on the divorce filing for Euphan Alston Palmer-Rhodes named Margaret Febey [?] was Margaret (nee Palmer), daughter of William Palmer and Mary Alston. That being the case, we now have a strong inference that Margaret Palmer had married a man surnamed "Febey", and that she probably was still living in Beaufort County in 1803.

Name **Luvie [Lewis] Leroy**
Residence Date 6 Aug 1810

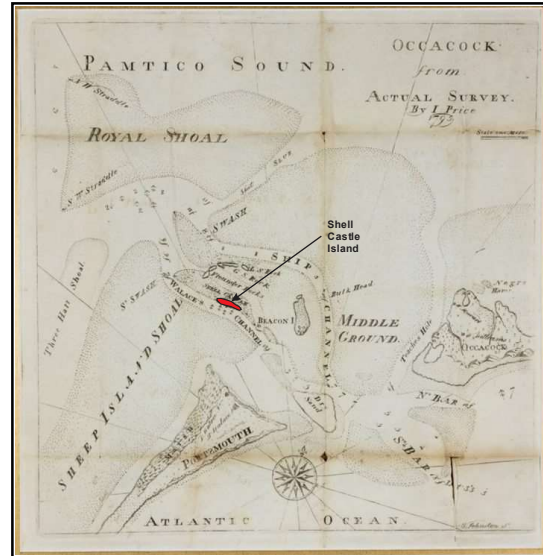


Figure 35
Jonathan Price's Map of Wallace's Channel,
1795

¹¹ [Race and Slavery Petitions, Digital Library on American Slavery \(uncg.edu\)](#)

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Residence Place [Washington, Beaufort, North Carolina, USA](#)

Free White Persons - Males - 10 thru 15 2

Free White Persons - Males - 16 thru 25 3

Free White Persons - Males - 26 thru 44 1

Free White Persons - Males - 45 and over 1

Free White Persons - Females - Under 10 4

Free White Persons - Females - 10 thru 15 1

Free White Persons - Females - 16 thru 25 1

Free White Persons - Females - 26 thru 44 1

The composition of Louis Leroy's household in 1810 clearly includes non-family members. It seems possible that Lewis and Helen Leroy operated at hotel of boardinghouse in Washington.

1820 Census:

Name **Robt Palmer**

[Robert Palmer]

Enumeration Date 7 Aug 1820

Home in 1820 (City, County, State)[Chatham, North Carolina, USA](#)

Free White Persons - Males - Under 10 2

Free White Persons - Males - 10 thru 15 2

Free White Persons - Males - 45 and over 1

Free White Persons - Females - Under 10 1

Free White Persons - Females - 10 thru 15 1

Free White Persons - Females - 45 and over 1

Slaves - Males - Under 14 8

Slaves - Males - 14 thru 25 2

Slaves - Males - 26 thru 44 3

Slaves - Males - 45 and over 1

Slaves - Females - Under 14 8

Slaves - Females - 14 thru 25 3

Slaves - Females - 26 thru 44 5

Name **Solomon M Joseph**

Residence Date 6 Aug 1810

Residence Place [Shell Castle, Carteret, North Carolina, USA](#)

Free White Persons - Males - 16 thru 25 1

Free White Persons - Males - 26 thru 44 1

Free White Persons - Females - 26 thru 44 1

Number of Enslaved Persons 7

Name Lewis Lejoy

[**Lewis Leroy**]

Enumeration Date 7 Aug 1820

Home in 1820 (City, County, State)Beaufort, North Carolina, USA

Free White Persons - Males - Under 10 2

Free White Persons - Males - 16 thru 25 6

Free White Persons - Males - 26 thru 44 5

Free White Persons - Males - 45 and over 6

Free White Persons - Females - 10 thru 15 2

Free White Persons - Females - 16 thru 25 1

Free White Persons - Females - 26 thru 44 2

This record has been indexed as "Lewis Lejoy" but on closer inspection it appears to have been the household of Lewis Leroy, husband of Helen Palmer, daughter of William Palmer and Mary Alston. It is difficult to reconcile the large number males in this household, except to suggest that the Leroy's may have been operating a boardinghouse of hotel at Washington.

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1830 Census

Name **Lewis Leroy**

[Louis Leroy]

Home in 1830 (City, County, State) Washington, Beaufort, North Carolina

Free White Persons - Males - 20 thru 29 3

Free White Persons - Males - **50 thru 59** 1

Free White Persons - Females - 15 thru 19 1

Free White Persons - Females - 20 thru 29 1

Free White Persons - Females - **40 thru 49** 1

Name **Mrs Solomon M Joseph**

Home in 1830 (City, County, State) Washington, Beaufort, North Carolina

Free White Persons - Females - 40 thru 49 1

1840 Census

Name **C N Lorroy** [Helen Leroy?]

Residence Date 1840

Home in 1840 (City, County, State) **Washington, Beaufort, North Carolina**

Free White Persons - Males - 20 thru 29 2

Free White Persons - Females - 20 thru 29 1

Free White Persons - Females - 40 thru 49 1

This may have been the household of Helen Leroy, relic of Lewis Leroy. However, there are several deviations which need discussion. The indexed record indicates that there were two young males in this household, yet those males have been crossed-out in the record, suggesting that they had been tabulated in error. Also, the older female (presumed to have been Helen) was aged 40 thru 49, whereas she was reported as 70 years old in the 1850 census record (hereinbelow). And lastly, the head of household (presumed to have been Helen) was recorded in the record as C. N. Lorroy. All things considered, it seems probable that this was the record of Helen Leroy, relic of Lewis Leroy, and her daughter, Mary Leroy.

Name John Labourde

[**John Labarbe**]

Residence Date 1840

Home in 1840 (City, County, State) Washington, Beaufort, North Carolina

Free White Persons - Males - Under 5 1

Free White Persons - Males - 5 thru 9 1

Free White Persons - Males - 10 thru 14 1

Free White Persons - Males - 15 thru 19 1

Free White Persons - Males - 20 thru 29 1

Free White Persons - Males - 40 thru 49 1

Free White Persons - Females - 30 thru 39 1

This is believed to have been the household of John Peter (Jean Pierre) Labarbe, husband of Margaret Leroy, daughter of Louis Leroy and Helen Palmer.

Name **Euphen A Joseph**

Residence Date 1840

Home in 1840 (City, County, State) Washington, Beaufort, North Carolina

Free White Persons - Females - 40 thru 49 1

1850 Census

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Name **Helen [Palmer-Leroy] Ferry**
 Gender Female
 Race White
 Residence Age 70
 Birth Date abt 1780
 Residence Date 1850
 Home in 1850 **Washington, Beaufort, North Carolina, USA**
 Real Estate 5000
 Line Number 24
 Dwelling Number 90
 Family Number 91
 Household Members (Name) Age
 Helen Ferry 70
 Mary Leroy 49
 Agness Lavender 16
 H D Teal 19
 Joseph P Coffy 35
 James Bell 20

Helen Ferry was born Helen Palmer, daughter of William Palmer and Mary Alston. From this census record we find that she was born about 1780. She was 1st married to Lewis [aka Louis] Leroy, probably of French descent, with whom she had at least two children: Mary Leroy and Margaret Leroy, wife of John Peter Labarbe, also of French descent. Helen married as her 2nd husband, an unknown Mr. Ferry. She wrote her LWT on 22Jun1858 at Washington, Beaufort County NC in which she made bequests to her daughter, Margaret Labarbe, and grandsons: Lewis Labarbe and Amos Labarbe.

Name **John Labarhe [Labarbe]**
 Gender Male
 Race White
 Residence Age 52
 Birth Date abt 1798
 Birthplace France
 Residence Date 1850
 Home in 1850 **Washington, Beaufort, North Carolina, USA**
 Occupation Merchant
 Industry Not Specified Retail Trade
 Real Estate 7000
 Line Number 6
 Dwelling Number 2
 Family Number 2
 Inferred Spouse Margaret Labarhe
 Inferred Child Lewis Labarhe
 Household Members (Name) Age
 John Labarhe 52
 Margaret [Leroy] Labarhe 45
 Lewis Labarhe 21

Name **Amos P Labarbe**
 Gender Male

DIED LAST NIGHT

Mr. A. P. LaBarbe, who was stricken with paralysis Sunday night, quietly passed away last night at twenty-five minutes past twelve o'clock at his home, 155 Chestnut street. He was a devout Catholic, and in his last hours received all the rites of the church. His death, though not unexpected, as he had been in failing health for some time, was a great shock to the family. He leaves a wife, one son, Mr. Hugh LaBarbe of this city, and four daughters, Misses Nellie, Bettie and Gertrude LaBarbe of this city and Mrs. J. M. Lee of Watha, N. C., to mourn his loss. All were present during his illness and at his death.

Mr. LaBarbe was a son of Mr. John LaBarbe and a grand-son of Mr. Louis Le Roy, both very prominent citizens of Little Washington, N. C., and was a descendant of Sir Robert Palmer, first surveyor general of North Carolina, sent over with Sir Walter Raleigh. Mr. LaBarbe was ripe in years, having reached the age of 77 last June. He was well known throughout the state and was highly regarded by all who knew him. Mr. LaBarbe has lived in this city since 1882.

The funeral services will be held at 3 o'clock today at St. Lawrence's church. Interment will be at Riverside cemetery.

The Asheville Weekly Citizen
Asheville, North Carolina
Friday, October 29, 1909

Figure 36
A. P. LaBarbe's Obit

Genealogical History of John Raymond Adams

Race White
Residence Age 19
Birth Date abt 1831
Birthplace North Carolina
Residence Date 1850
Home in 1850 [Georgetown College, Washington, District of Columbia, USA](#)
Attended School Yes
Line Number 14
Dwelling Number 9999
Family Number 0

This concludes our foray into the life of Margaret Palmer, presumed eldest child of William Palmer and Mary Alston. From this exercise we have established that Margaret is known to have appeared in only one record that being the LWT of her father dated 23Jan1786. In his Will William Palmer identified “our children”: Robert, Margaret, Euphan Alston and Helen. The logical inference of this wording is that all four children were born of Mary Alston-Palmer. If that were the case, then Margaret probably was born about 1773-5, given that Mary Alston purportedly was born in 1756. We are prepared to accept that Margaret Palmer was the eldest child of William and Mary Palmer. That being the case, if she were also the wife of William Adams of Harrison County KY, then James Adams probably was not her biological son. That being the case, then William Adams must have been married once, before he married Margaret Palmer. The tax records and “census” records from Hyde-Beaufort County suggest that William Adams may already have been married when his mother’s household was reported to have contained two females in 1786. However, we cannot state with any certainty whether Margaret Palmer may still have been living with her mother, when the census of 1790 reported a total of five females.

Our research into Margaret Palmer has disclosed only two records believed to have been in reference to her:

1. 21Jan1786: Margaret Palmer, legatee of William Palmer in his LWT, and
2. Nov1803 Session, Beaufort County Court: There appears to have been a petition (affidavit?) filed with the Court by **Margaret Febey**(?) in support of the divorce filing by Euphan Alston Rhodes and Capt. Arnold Rhodes.

Given that the other three co-petitioners (affiants?) were Mr. [Lewis] Leroy, Hellen Leroy and Mary Farris, it seems highly possible that Margaret Febey was Euphan’s married sister, Margaret Palmer-Febey. However, this researcher has not actually seen the original petition filings in this case, and has relied entirely on abstracted data posted on a website entitled “Digital Library on American Slavery Race and Slavery Petitions”. Presumably these records still exist in archives housed in North Carolina. Searches for anyone with the surname of Febey anywhere in America in 1800 thru 1850 census resulted in zero hits, so this clearly was not a common surname. There were a few phonetic matches, but none located in North Carolina. The fact that the abstracted name of co-petitioner, Margaret Febey, was flagged with a “?” suggests that the record may have been unreadable, certainly considered questionable. In hand script form the capital letter “F” can be mistaken for a number of other letters of similar appearance, i.e., “T”, “R”, or “P”, to name a few. Without actually seeing the original record, it is difficult to know the true representation of Margaret’s presume husband’s surname.

Genealogical History of John Raymond Adams

If we assume that Margaret Febey was in fact the sister of Euphan Palmer-Rhodes, then it seems unlikely that she would have been the wife of William Adams of Harrison County. We have compiled a substantial history on the family of Col. Robert Palmer of Bath Town, and particularly of his presumed granddaughter, Margaret Palmer, without actually linking her to William Adams. If William Adams' wife was in fact named Margaret Palmer, then it seems unlikely that she was descended from Col. Robert Palmer of Bath Town.

That being said, we cannot at this juncture eliminate William Adams and John Adams, sons of William and Ann Adams of Hyde County as the William Adams and John Adams of Harrison County KY. On the off chance that these sons of William and Ann Adams may have been our target Adams brothers, we will now wrap up our investigation by compiling the rest of the story on the Adams Family of Hyde-Beaufort County NC.

John Adams of Hyde County

William Adams, husband of Ann, can be linked back to John Adams, original Hyde County Adams immigrant, through land and estate records. First, we have the deed record of a 200 acre tract sold by William Adams to Joseph Eckols on 1Sep1763, reiterated as follows:

- 1Sep1763: Hyde County Deed Book B, Page 87: William Adams, planter of Hyde County sold to Joseph Eckols of Beaufort County for 50£, a tract of land in Hyde County situated on west side of Machapungo River, beginning at mouth of Cannoe Branch, up river to Nathaniel Davis's corner, thence to James Artres line, containing 200 acres, said tract being part of a tract that was John Brights Sr., and by deed (Book H, Folio 62) from James Bright to Thomas Adams dated 18Aug1732... [Hyde. Deeds 1762-1783 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)

From this record we are informed that this tract was originally part of a larger tract patented by John Bright, which was later conveyed from James Bright to Thomas Adams on 18Aug1732, abstracted as follows:

- 18Aug1732: Beaufort County, Washington Precinct Deed Book 2, Page 179: Indenture between James Bright of Hyde Precinct, Cooper, to Thomas Adams of same, Planter, for and in consideration of two shillings, sold a certain tract or parcel of land containing 200 acres, situated and being part of a tract of land that was John Bright Sr. west of Matchapungo River, beginning at mouth of Canoe Branch, running up river swamp to Nathaniel Davis line, thence along Davis line to James Arthus line... Recorded 10Jun1735, Witnesses: Richard William Sylvester and Christopher Putnam.

Typically there were two main methods whereby land could be conveyed, either by deed conveyance or by devise through probate of an estate, i.e., Will or Court order. Somehow this tract was conveyed from Thomas Adams to William Adams. No deed could be located for that conveyance, but, likewise, no estate record for Thomas Adams could be located. Since the deed records from this period appear to be fairly complete, it seems more likely that this tract devolved from the estate of Thomas Adams to his heir, William Adams. Consequently, it seems highly probable that William Adams was a son of Thomas Adams, perhaps his only male heir.

Assuming that to have been the case then we are left to ponder the ancestry of Thomas Adams. For the answer to that question we need only look at the LWT of John Adams, transcribed as follows:

Genealogical History of John Raymond Adams

Last Will and Testament of **John Adams**:

17Apr1733: Bath County Will Book

"In the name of God, Amen, I, **John Adams** of Bath County in the **Precinct of Hyde**, being of sound mind and perfect memory, praised be God for the same: I hereby ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form following, that is to say:

First and principally I commend my soul unto the ____ of almighty God, hoping through the merits ____ of Saviour, Jesus Christ compassion and forgiveness of all my sins and to inherit everlasting life and my body committed to the earth to be buried at the discretion of my Executors hereafter named and ____ and disposition of all such temporal estate as it hath pleased Almighty God to bestow upon me:

I give and bequeath as followeth:

Item: I will that all my just debts and funeral charges be payed and discharged:

Item I give and bequeath unto my loving son, **Abraham Adams** my Negro man named Packe, and **the plantation the said Abraham now lives upon** and all the land thereunto belonging to him and his heirs forever lawfully begotten of his body;

Item: I give and bequeath to my loving son, **James Adams**, my Negro man named Damon, **and the plantation that I now live upon**, with all the improvements thereunto belonging and one good bed, and all the furniture thereunto belonging, and two _____ to him and his heirs forever, lawfully begotten of his body;

Item: I give and bequeath unto my loving son, **Emanuel Adams**, one half of a **tract of land lying on the west side of Blounts Creek containing 320 acres** with ½ of the stock of cattle and hogs that belong upon said land, and one Negro woman named Dinah, one good bed and all the furniture thereunto belonging, and _____ to him and his heirs forever, lawfully begotten of his body;

Item: I give and bequeath into my loving son, **John Adams**, my Negro boy named Loney Call and ½ of **tract of land lying on the west side of Blounts Creek containing 320 acres** (line unreadable) _____ one good bed and all the furniture thereunto belonging, and ?two pools? to him and his heirs forever, lawfully begotten of his body;

Item: I give and bequeath to my loving son, **Thomas Adams**, a tract of land lying on the head of the Creek and joining upon the plantation whereon I now live, the tract containing **240 acres**, and ¼ part of the stock that is upon the plantation whereon I now live, with the first child that my aged Menor brings, a good bed with all the furniture belonging thereunto, and "two stools?" To him and his heirs forever, lawfully begotten of his body;

Item: I give and bequeath unto my loving daughter, **Martha Adams**, one (Negro) child and _____ and ¼ part of the stock that is upon the plantation whereon I now live, with a good breeding mare, and one good bed and all the furniture thereunto belonging, with ?two pools?;

Item: I give and bequeath unto my loving daughter, **Rachel Adams**, a Negro woman named Minor, and all the cattle that was named to her formerly, with the ¼ part of the stock on the plantation whereon I now live, and two stools and one good bed with all the furniture thereunto belonging;

Item: I give and bequeath unto my loving daughter, **Mary Adams**, the 2nd child that Rachel Adams' Negro, Manor, brings with the ¼ part of the cattle that is upon the plantation whereon I now live, one good bed and all the furniture thereunto belonging, and ?two stools?;

Item: I give and bequeath all the rest and reserve on my estate, both within doors and without to be equally divided between **Emanuel Adams, John Adams, Thomas Adams, Martha Adams, Rachel Adams, (and) Mary Adams**;

I do hereby constitute and appoint my sons, **Abraham Adams and James Adams** to be my Executors of this my last will and testament, and I do hereby revoke, disannul and make void all wills and testaments heretofore by me made. In witness whereof, I, the said John Adams, to this my last will and testament have hereunto set my hand and seal this 17Apr1733. John Adams (his mark)

Witnesses: Oliver Blackburn, John Aldershire and Robert Sharples."

[North Carolina, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1665-1998 - Ancestry.com](#)

Given that there was no other Adams of record in Bath County in the early part of the 18th Century other than John Adams (with the possible exception of an Abraham Adams and Bathia Willoughby), the foregoing Will is highly likely to have been of the father of Thomas Adams,

Genealogical History of John Raymond Adams

presumed father of William Adams Sr.. That being the case, then it would appear that Thomas Adams had seven siblings: Abraham Adams, James Adams, Emanuel Adams, John Adams, Martha Adams, Mary Adams and Rachel Adams. In his LWT John Adams [Sr.] devised land to all five of his sons, including 240 acres to his son, Thomas Adams, which was situated at the head of a creek adjoining to John Adams Sr.'s home plantation. Thomas Adams would have come into possession of this 240 acre tract from his father's estate about a year after he had purchased the 200 acre tract from James Bright.

Given that John Adams appears to have been the originator (progenitor) of many of the Adams families in Bath County, it seems highly probable that his sons would have been antecedents of many of those persons surnamed Adams that appeared in Hyde-Beaufort County in the next generation. Consequently, it seems highly probable that John Adams was the father of Thomas Adams, the presumed father of William Adams, and that he was the Thomas Adams named as a son in the LWT of John Adams.

During his lifetime John Adams acquired at least three tracts of land in Bath County, two on the north side of Pamlico River and one on the south side of said River, abstracted as follows:

61. 14Apr1702: Bath County Deed Book 1, Page 18: Indenture between **James Hogg** and **John Adams**, both of **Bath County**, for valuable consideration, sold entry of land (patented by Hogg) on **Old Town Creek (Bath Creek)**, beginning at a little creek dividing it from **Thomas Peirt's** land, running up creek until total entry is contained... Witnesses: Thomas Peirte and Levi Gruewhitt (County Clerk). *This was the earliest record found for anyone named Adams in Bath County, which was originally established in 1696. It seems possible that this John Adams may have been the progenitor of many of the Adams who would appear in Beaufort and Hyde County later in the 18th Century. The amount of land involved in this transaction is not specified, but it was identified as having been on the waters of Old Town Creek, which stream was the same as present day Bath Creek. No further record was found for this tract. Unfortunately, these early patent and conveyance records were greatly lacking in specifics, as indicated by the following deed abstract:*
 - a. 1st Monday, May1693: Records of Perquimans Precinct: Suit of Henry Palin Jr. vs. Daniel Prichard Jr.: 1st Jury: **Mr. James Hogg**, etal. [The state records of North Carolina \(carolana.com\)](http://carolana.com), Vol. 1, p. 388.
 - b. Jan1699: Perquimans Precinct Court: Mr. James Long, attorney to **James Hogg**, **Farnifold Green** and Thomas Pears and each of their wives (including Ann Kent-Hogg and Hannah Kent-Green, sisters) acknowledge a deed of sale for a tract of land in Yoapim, up the Indian Creek to William Long. [The state records of North Carolina \(carolana.com\)](http://carolana.com) Vol. 1, p. 521.
 - c.
 - d. **Gamefould [Farnifold] Green** doth give, sell, alien, makeover unto **James Hogg** a fourth part of an entry of land by him made the second of April 1698 with all and singular its rights, members, jurisdictions and appurtenances together with all woods, underwoods ways, profits and commodities whatsoever unto the James Hogg aforesaid has also by agreement and divide these presents agreed and bargain a pine tree standing and growing by the door [deer trail?] -- - marked with these marks shall be the dividing tree between the land of aforesaid Farnefould Green and the land of the said **James Hogg** and further the said Thomas Lepper Esquire and the aforesaid Farnefould Green the said tract of land unto to aforesaid James Hogg against all people, shall and will warrant, acquit and forever defend, and divide these presents acquit exonerate and forever clear all right title, interest and property unto the aforesaid tract of land bounded as afore specified, as witness our hands and seal this first day of July AD 1701. *This may have been the same tract conveyed by James Hogg to John Adams the following year. There was nothing contained in this deed description that would provide any clue as to its location or size. However, the following deed may fill in some geographic data:*

Genealogical History of John Raymond Adams

- e. 1701/2: Deed Book 1, Page 5 (Item 27): Know all men by these presents that James Thirell of the Co. of Bath, renter and Annie his wife, for and in consideration of five pounds to them in hand paid, by William Barrow of the Co. aforesaid the receipt whereof they hereby acknowledge; have therefore and do by these presents bargain, sell assign over all their right, title, and interest of a certain tract of land containing three hundred acres be the same more or less lying and being on the one [east] side of the old town creek, being bounded with a creek called James Hogg Creek on the one side, with a line of marked trees on the other side which divides the same from William Preset; land which is now in the occupation of said William Barrow and all the privileges advantages and appurtenances to the same belonging and all the right title and interest to an entry of land there made by Richard Smith and assigned by him to the said Anie then called Anie Williamson and to hold the same to the said William Barrow, his heirs or assigns forever and the said James Thirell and Anie his wife for themselves their heirs and assigns do covenant to and with the said . . . [not readable] *The fact that this 300 acre tract purchased by William Barrow was described as being on the east side of Old Town Creek, and being bounded by James Hogg Creek provides a strong inference that James Hogg's land was located on the east side of Old Town Creek.*

Another hint at the possible location of this tract purchased by John Adams may be found on John Moseley's map, circa 1735 (Figure 24) which showed Adams as a land owner to the east of Bath Town, on a stream variously named Back Creek or Adams Creek. Adams Creek could have been the same stream referred to in the foregoing deed as James Hoggs Creek. It may also be relevant to the location of John Adams' main plantation tract that Moseley's map also shows Barrows as a land owner near the head waters of North Dividing Creek, to the east of Adams. These are only general hints at the possible location of John Adams home plantation.

As to the possible size of John Adams home plantation, it might be inferred from the size of the tract bequeathed to Thomas Adams. John Adams bequeathed a tract to his son, Abraham Adams, being a tract on which Abraham was already residing. Given that John bequeathed two tracts of 320 acres each to his sons Emanuel Adams and John Adams [Jr.] situated on Blounts Creek, south side of Pamlico River, it can be inferred that the remainder of John Adams' land was situated on the north side of Pamlico River (640 acres being John's entire holdings south of Pamlico). That being the case, then it seems probable that the bequests to Abraham, James and Thomas were divisions of the home plantation purchased from James Hogg in 1702. The fact that Abraham Adams was already in possession of his dividend suggests that he may have been the eldest of these sons of John Adams. If this land division was equally distributed between these three sons, then the original tract probably contained 720 acres, more or less (240 acres x 3 = 720 acres).

62. 4Oct1721: Bath County Deed Book 1, Page 425-6: John Adams purchased Lot No. 26 containing ½ acre, lying in Bath Town, which had been escheated by Thomas Roper, conveyed this date to John Adams for sum of 40 shillings by Commissioners: Thomas Harding and William Sigley. *The grantee in this deed almost certainly was the John Adams, who had purchased a tract on a branch (Back or Adams Creek) of Old Town (Bath) Creek in Apr1702. Interestingly, this town lot was originally sold to Thomas Roper, who is believed to have immigrated to the Neuse River area around 1706-7 from Anne Arundel County MD.*

- a. 19Jan1725/6: Deed Book 2, Page 38: I, John Adams of Bath County, planter, send greetings that for and in consideration of £40 in hand paid by Matthew Rowan, merchant of the City of Dublin, Ireland, sold Lot No. 26 in Town of Bath containing ½ acre, bounded by Beaufort Street to north, to east by Lot No.s 40 and 41, to south by Lot No. 25, and to west by Main [aka Bay or Water] Street... purchased by deed dated 4Oct1721... Witnesses: John Baptist Ash and William Sparry. *So, John Adams owned Lot No. 26 for a little more than five years before selling it to Matthew Rowan (future Governor of North Carolina). Rowan was a true scoundrel, who abandoned his human cargo on a desolated island in the Bay of Fundy in about 1742. Almost all perished from starvation and exposure, while Rowan sent a salvage crew to retrieve his mercantile cargo.*

63. 3Sep1730: Bath County Deed Book 2, Page 50: Indenture between Joseph Persons Bath County, Beaufort and Hyde Precincts, planter, and John Adams, of same, Cooper, for and in consideration of £45, sold a certain tract of land situated on south side of Pamlico River, on west side of Blount's Creek, containing 100 acres, adjoining on tract of land now in possession of said Adams (640 acres), tract formerly in possession of John Adams and sold to said Persons, also nine head of black cattle, ten head

Genealogical History of John Raymond Adams

of hogs, four head of sheep, some bearing Adams mark, remainder of Persons' mark, also crop of corn, peas and every other thing growing... Witnesses: Henry Crofton, **James Adams**, and Alexander Hambleton. *This grantee, John Adams, was almost certainly the same person involved in the preceding deed records. This deed demonstrates that John Adams had acquired land on the south side of Pamlico River on the waters of Blount Creek totaling almost 640 acres. As will be evidenced by bequests made by John Adams to his children in his Last Will and Testament, he clearly owned 640 acres in the vicinity of Blounts Creek. No deed of conveyance was found for that tract south of the River, so possibly it was acquired by patent. It should be noted that Adams was identified as a "Cooper" (barrel maker). We will learn from later records of a John Adams (Jr.) of Lower Norfolk County VA, that that John Adams was a carpenter. The original deed of conveyance of this 100 acre tract from John Adams to Joseph Persons is abstracted as follows:*

- a. 12Mar1728: Deed Book 1, Page 518: Indenture between **John Adams** and Joseph Parsons, planter, both of the County of Bath, for sum of £10 sold a tract of land situated on south side of Pamlico River and west side of Blounts Creek containing 100 acres, beginning at Thomas Morris's corner and binding along upon the first line mentioned in **my patent**... Witnesses: Mattius Ellery and Kenneth O'Brien. Recorded 26Mar1729. *The foregoing description infers that John Adams had acquired an abutting tract by way of patent, probably the 640 acre tract devised to his two sons: Emanuel and John.*

We do not know the chronological age of John Adams' children, but trailing records of various members of this family seem to suggest that most settled and lived their lives in Beaufort County, with only a few settling in Hyde County. Even though Thomas Adams was bequeathed 240 acres abutting his father's home plantation in Beaufort County, the 200 acre tract purchased from James Bright was situated further to the east in Hyde County. Aside from the references to Thomas Adams in his father's LWT, and as purchaser of the 200 acre tract from James Bright, no other record was found of his existence.

There are a total of 589 public trees on ancestry for John Adams of Bath County. Many of those trees give his name as "John Q. Adams", but with virtually no documentary proof of a middle name. Also, many of those trees report John Adams to have had two wives, most frequently identified as 1st: Mary Ann Taggert, and 2nd: Rachael Jackson. There is virtually no documentation for the alleged 1st wife, Mary Ann Taggert. In fact, no one with the surname of "Taggert" appears anywhere in the vast record compiled by the State of North Carolina known as *The Colonial Records of North Carolina* (ten (10) volumes from 1886 to 1890) and *The State Records of North Carolina* (sixteen (16) volumes between 1895 and 1905). It seems highly probable that had John Adams 1st wife been born a Taggert, her family members would have been recorded living somewhere in North Carolina during colonial or post-colonial times. Consequently, the existence of a 1st wife, much less a wife named Taggert cannot be given any credence.

However, as for the alleged 2nd wife, Rachael Jackson, there is one record which is highly suggestive. Following is an abstract of the LWT of Isaac Jackson:

27Sep1716: Hyde County Will Book B, Page 28: In the name of God, Amen, I, **Isaac Jackson** of North Carolina, **Bath County, Hyde Precinct**, being sick and weak in body, but of a sound and disposing mind and memory, praised be to God for it, and knowing the frailty of this life and that I must die, do make this my last will and testament in writing;

Item: I bequeath my soul to God that gave it me, and my body to the earth to be decently buried at the discretion of my Executrix herein mentioned;

Genealogical History of John Raymond Adams

Item: I give my now dwelling plantation being 640 acres of land to my son, Thomas and my wife, Elizabeth, to hold and enjoy the plantation and land adjoining to it during her natural life, then my son Thomas to enjoy it, and his heirs forever;

Item: I give all my books and carpenters and coopers tools to my son, Thomas;

Item: I give the bed I usually lay on to my son Thomas and the chest;

Item: I give to my daughter, Elizabeth Chester, one shilling to be paid by my executrix;

Item: I give to my daughter, **Rachael Adams**, one shilling to be paid by my executrix;

Item: I give to my daughter, Margaret one cow called Jonbell with her increase;

Item: my will is that my son Thomas live with his mother until he shall attain to the age of 21, but if his mother shall die before that, he attain the age of 21, then my will is that my said son Thomas shall live with John Jordon until he shall attain to the age before ____;

Item: I give the surplus land belonging to my plantation to my wife, Elizabeth, and her heirs forever;

Item: I make my loving wife, Elizabeth Jackson sole Executrix of this my last will and testament;

Item: I desire my loving friend, John Jordon to over see and assist my Executrix in this affair, that my will may be performed;

In witness whereof I have set my hand and seal this 27Sep1716. Signed Isaac Jackson, his mark.

Witnesses: John Jordon, Thomas Morris and Elizabeth Morris.

Recorded 3Apr1717 at Bath Town: Book B, Page 28.

[Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) - North Carolina, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1665-1998

It may be relevant to our investigation into Thomas Adams, that Isaac Jackson's LWT was recorded in Hyde County.

Given that John Adams was the only person of that surname known to have been living in Bath County at that time, it seems highly probable that Rachael Jackson-Adams, daughter of Isaac Jackson, was the wife of John Adams. It also seems entirely possible that Thomas Adams may have been named in honor of his uncle, Thomas Jackson. All things considered, it seems highly probable that Rachael Jackson was the wife of John Adams. However, whether she was the mother of all of John Adams children is uncertain. Many researchers suggest that Abraham, James and Emanuel were the eldest of John Adams' sons, and that they were born of an earlier wife, identity unknown/uncertain. That assessment of the age and birth order of these three sons may be correct. The fact that Abraham and James Adams were named executors of their father's LWT may support the notion of their having been the eldest sons. Assuming that to have been the case, it seems almost certain that John Jr. and Thomas Adams were the youngest of these sons, and possibly the children of Rachael Jackson-Adams. Given that none of the three daughters were identified with a married name in the LWT of John Adams, it seems probable that they were still unmarried in 1733, i.e. born after 1710.

Following is the transcript of the last will and testament of a person named Abraham Adams Sr. At first glance, it might be tempting to identify this Abraham Adams as the eldest son of John Adams Sr. However, there are several factors established by this document which raise doubt about such identification. This Will was written just six months after John Adams Sr. wrote his own Will. Based on the fact that this Abraham Adams made bequests of real property to two sons: Abraham and Richard, but made no mention of their having been minors provides a strong inference that these sons had already reached their majority. That being the case, then it would appear that this Abraham Adams may have been a peer of John Adams (of the same generation).

"23Oct1733: In the name of God, Amen: The last will and testament of **Abraham Adams Sr.**, being very sick and weak in body, but of sound and perfect memory, and calling to mind the uncertainty of this transitory life, hoping through the merits and the death and passion of my saviour Jesus Christ to inherit eternal life do for avoding controversies after my decease make, publish and declare this to be my last will and testament, revoking and denying any other former will by me made and recommending my soul to the

Genealogical History of John Raymond Adams

hands of Almighty God who gave it and my body I commit to the earth to be decently buried at the discretion of my Executors hereafter mentioned after all my debts and personal charges are paid and discharged;

Item: I give and bequeath unto my son, **Abraham Adams** part of my land lying on **Pamlico River**, beginning at the fork of the branch up the gut that parts me from **Mr. Thomas Jewel's** and running up **North Gut** to a place called the **Gum Going Over** and up along the branch to the back line, then beginning again at the aforesaid, for and running up the easternmost branch to a branch called the **Island Branch**, thence up the branch till it leaves the island, and so still up the branch to the Going Over to make my tar kiln, thence across a ridge to the savannah to the back line, containing by estimation **76 acres** of land, which said land I give to my son Abraham Adams and to the male heirs lawfully begotten of his own body, which said land I will not have to be sold, let or mortgaged, but from one brother to the other;

Item: I give unto my son, **Richard Adams**, a part of the land I live on in **Pamlico River**, joining upon my son, Abraham Adams, and Mr. Thomas Jewel, being the upper part of my land being **76 acres** more or less to him and his male heirs lawfully begotten of his own body, which said land is not to be sold, let or mortgaged but from brother to brother;

Item: I give unto my son, **William**, all my tools, horse, gun and new coat;

Item: I give unto my son, **Willoughby** a certain cow yearling of a red, brown and white face and all her increase;

Item: I give to my daughter, **Abia**, a certain two-year old heifer, black pied and all her increase, one trundle bedstead and bed and furniture belonging to it;

Item: I give unto my loving wife, **Bathia**, the use of my plantation whereon I now live with all the rest of my goods and chattels and estate during her widowhood and in case of death or marriage then my plantation I give to my son, Willoughby and his male heirs lawfully begotten of his body, not to be sold, let or mortgaged, but from brother to brother;

And my moveable goods and chattels to be equally divided between my sons, William and Willoughby, and Abia, my daughter;

And I do hereby nominate and appoint my loving wife to my whole and sole executrix of this my last will and testament, revoking all other wills by me heretofore made;

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and fixed my seal this 23Oct1733. Signed: Abraham Adams, his mark.

Signed, sealed, published and declared in the presence of: Phillip Shute, Mary Shute and John Collisson."

[Ancestry.com - North Carolina, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1665-1998](#)

From his LWT we learn that Abraham Adams Sr. had four sons: Abraham Adams [Jr.], Richard Adams, Willoughby Adams and William Adams, and a daughter named Abia. We also learn that his wife was named Bathia. The fact that Phillip Shute, Mary Shute and John Collison witnessed this Will suggests that they probably were near neighbors, perhaps even sharing some sort of kinship connection with Abraham Adams. Abraham Adams bequeathed two tracts of land to his sons: Abraham and Richard. He also bequeathed his home plantation to the use of his wife and then to his son, Willoughby Adams. Nothing in this Will can be linked either directly or indirectly to Abraham Adams, the presumed elder son of John Adams Sr. The fact that this Abraham Adams' sons appear to have been adults provides a strong suggestion that he was more likely a peer (same generation) of John Adams Sr., possibly his brother. If it is assumed that this Abraham Adams' sons were adults, then it logically follows that he, himself, was born before about 1683.

Norfolk Virginia Excursus

Before we proceed any further with our wrap-up of the John and Abraham Adams families of Bath County NC, we will digress to another John Adams, who wrote his LWT at Lower Norfolk VA on 7Nov1679 transcribed from microfilm image (see Figure 37) as follows:

In the name of God, amen, I, **John Adams** being very sick weak in body, but having perfect sense and memory, and I commend my soul to God, and my body to the ground, I bequeath to my loving wife my plantation that I now live upon, induring her life, and after her death to be equally divided for my three

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children, my wife, **Alice Adams**, I give three cow calves **to my three sons**, and have them _____ but not for to have them taken away from their mother, but let them be delivered them and their increase as they come of age, for the rest of my stock and movables I give to my wife, a cutlass to my son, **John**, and a gun for my son, **Richard**. Dated 7Nov1679. Signed: John Adams. Witnesses James Jackson and Robert Arden. Proved in Court at October session, 1683.

For the name of god amen I John Adams being very sick and weak
in body but having full perfect sense & memory, and being desirous
my soul to go to god, and my body to be buried, I bequeath to my loving
wife my plantation that I now live upon for the term of her life, and after
her death to be equally divided for my three children, my wife
Abigail Adams I give three cow calves to my three sons, and have them
delivered to my sons. But not for to have them taken away from
their mother, but let them be delivered to them and their increase as they
come to age, for all of my stock and movables I give to my
wife, a cutlass to my son John, and a gun for my son Richard
November 7th 1679
John Adams
James Jackson Robert Arden
Proved in Court 15th Octob 1683
Rat. 16th Dec 1683

Figure 37
Microfilm Image of John Adams LWT

We present this will of John Adams of Lower Norfolk County VA at this juncture, because many of the public trees posted on Ancestry for John Adams of Bath County suggest that he was a son of John Adams of Lower Norfolk. A quick review of this John Adams' LWT indicates that his wife was named Alice, and that he had three sons, two of which were named John [Jr.] and Richard. The third son went unnamed. If we assume for a moment that John Adams of Bath County was the son named John in the foregoing LWT, then it seems possible that the unnamed son may have been the Abraham Adams, who wrote his LWT in Bath County on 23Oct1733 (transcribed hereinabove). It should also be noted that the LWT of this John Adams of Lower Norfolk was not proven in Court for almost four year in Oct1683. We will shortly present record evidence of the existence of a fourth son named William Adams.

But, first let us study the relevant records for this John Adams of Lower Norfolk County:

1. Cavaliers and Pioneers, Volume 1, Page 134: 25Aug1642: **William Lawson**, 491 acres, **Isle of Wight County**, bounded on west side with **Lawnes Creek**, east and north by **James River** and south by land of Mr. Tooke, for transport of ten persons: Michael Billin, Jon. Dix, Jon. Tomlin, James Greene, **Jon. Adams**, John Parker, Mary Smith, Thomas __, Jon. Damson (or Davison) and Peter Greene. Some researchers have put forward the foregoing record as representing the immigration (transport) record of John Adams of Lower Norfolk County. This seems highly unlikely given that the date of this patent record occurred almost 30 years before the first appearance of John Adams in Lower Norfolk

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2. Cavaliers and Pioneers, Volume 2, Page 155: 29Sep1674: **Cornelius Ellis**, 82 acres, **Lower Norfolk County**, **east side of south branch of Elizabeth River**, on **Hargrove's** land, for transport of two persons: **John Addams** and Timothy Harra. *This patent record filed by Cornelius Ellis seems far more likely to have contained the transport record of our target John Adams into Virginia. There are several factors auguring in favor of this having been the transport of our target John Adams, including the fact that this filing occurred less than one year before John Adams filed his own patents, plus the fact that the location of Ellis's patent filing was on Elizabeth River, the exact same location that John Adams would file patents.*
 - a. Cavaliers and Pioneers, Volume 1, Page 229: 11Mar1652: **Richard Hargrove**, 250 acres, **Lower Norfolk County**, 150 acre lying **northward side of a branch of the eastward branch of Elizabeth River, called Broad Branch**, etc., 100 acres on said creek, adjacent marked trees of his former land. 150 acres granted to John Watkins, 31May1644, assigned by him to Hargrove, 100 acres for transport of two persons. *This patent filed by Richard Hargrove very likely was the tract that abutted the patent filed by Cornelius Ellis.*
3. Cavaliers and Pioneers, Volume 2, Page 162: 10Jun1675: **John Adams**, 160 acres, **Lower Norfolk County**, on **north side Elizabeth River, adjacent his own land**, for transport of three persons (unnamed).
4. Cavaliers and Pioneers, Volume 2, Page 168: 9Oct1675: **John Adams**, 170 acres in **Lower Norfolk County, Elizabeth River**, between two small creeks, in **Ellett's [Elliott's] Creek**, to the **Glebe land**, for transport of four persons: John Cleare, Andrew Martin, Samuel Green and Elizabeth Richards.

The two foregoing patent filings by John Adams totaling 330 acres are believed to have been taken out by our target John Adams. There appears to be a contradiction in the location description of the first tract in that it was identified as being on the “north side” of Elizabeth River. However, that same description makes reference to adjoining “his own land”. Since he was found in possession of only two patents, it seems probable that the adjoining tract was the same tract as his second patent filing, which references landmarks which clearly place these patents on the north side of Eastern Elizabeth River and within short distance of the future town site of Norfolk, and the Glebe land.

One particularly vital landmark reference is to Ellett's Creek. Following is a transcript of the LWT of Abraham Elliott, presumed father-in-law of John Adams:

7Feb1675/6: Lower Norfolk County, Deed Book 4, Page 16: LWT of **Abraham Elliott**: In the name of God, Amen, in the year of almighty God, 1675, I, Abraham Elliott do make and declare this my last will and testament in writing, revoking both in deed and in law all other former will and testaments; First, I recommend my soul into the hands of God...;

Item: I give and bequeath unto my daughter, **Jane Eliot** two cows of three years old or thereabouts to be delivered unto her at the time of my death or at any time within 12 months ____;

Item: I give and bequeath my daughter, **Alice Adams**, one cow to her delivered within 12 months after my decease;

Item: I give and bequeath to my daughter, **Sarah**, 100 acres of land bounding ____ from the plantation whereon I now live, and joining upon a creek called **Dun-in-the-Mire Creek**, and a cow to be delivered within 12 months after my decease;

Item: I give and bequeath unto my beloved wife, **Alice Elliott**, the plantation whereon I now live, giving her all the land, which may properly be called mine to her and her disposing forever, excepting my before mentioned bequest, I likewise give and bequeath unto my wife all movable, all form of chattels, goods, bedding, furniture and all other things which or shall be my just due now or ever hereafter, appointing her my Executrix and sole rights of all, but what I have hereby disposed of, granting it not only to her forever, but likewise to her disposal, and for the time aforesaid hereof. I have hereunto put my hand and seal...

Signed: Abraham Elliott. In the presence of: Thomas Shanks and Lazarus Jenkins. Proven: 18Apr1675.

[Deeds Book 4, 1675-1686, Norfolk County, Virginia: Norfolk County. Deeds 1675-1686 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)

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The fact that John Adams appears to have been a close neighbor of Abraham Elliott, and that Abraham Elliott made a bequest to a daughter named Alice Adams, and that John Adams named his wife in his own LWT as Alice Adams, it seems a virtual certainty that John Adams had married a daughter of Abraham Elliott. That being the case, we now present records for Abraham Elliott:

Name **Abraham Elliot**

Gender Male

Marriage Date 24 Aug 1642

Marriage Place **Stepney, Middlesex, England**

Spouse **Alice Forde**

This is believed to have been the marriage record of Abraham Elletts and his wife, Alice Forde.

Name **Alice Elliott**

Gender Female

Baptism Date 11 Jul 1654

Baptism Place **Saint Dunstan, Stepney, London, England**

Father **Abraham Elliott**

Mother **Martha**

This is believed to have been the birth record of Alice Ellett, daughter of Abraham Ellett and Alice Forde. There appears to have been an error in the name of the mother, as there were several more birth/christening records for children born to this Abraham Ellett (mariner), all of which showed the mother's name to be Alice, not Martha.

There is good reason to believe that the foregoing marriage abstract was for Abraham Elliott and his wife, Alice Forde, who would later settle in Lower Norfolk County, Virginia. Similarly, the birth record for Alice Elliott dated 11Jul1654 is believed to be that of the future wife of John Adams of Lower Norfolk. There is a discrepancy in the mother's name, recorded as Martha, but still believed to have been for a child of Abraham Elliott and Alice Forde. Abraham Ellett [aka Elliott] is of record having transported himself, his wife, his daughter, Alice Ellett, and two others as evidenced by the following patent records:

5. Cavaliers and Pioneers, Volume 1, Page 499: 24Mar1664: **Abraham Ellett**, 250 acres, Lower Norfolk County, northerly upon land of William Ship, westerly crossing small creek, abutting the **Glebe land**, for transport of five persons **Abraham Ellett**, **Alice Ellett** his wife, **Alice Ellett**, his daughter, **Elizabeth Ellett** and William Ligsby.

The identity of the transportee, Elizabeth Ellett was not given in the patent record, but she undoubtedly was another daughter of Abraham Ellett. There are several records from Saint Dunstan Church, Stepney, Middlesex County for children born to Abraham Elliott abstracted as follows:

Name **Jane Ellitt**

Gender Female

Baptism Date 29 Sep 1643

Baptism Place Saint Dunstan, Stepney, London, England

Father Abraham Ellitt (**Poplar, shipwright**)

Mother Alice

Name **Elizabeth Ellett**

Gender Female

Baptism Date 23 Aug 1647

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Baptism Place Saint Dunstan, Stepney, London, England
Father Abraham Ellett (Limehouse, shipwright)
Mother Alice

Name Margrett Eliott
Gender Female
Record Type Christening (Baptism)
Baptism Date 7 Jun 1650
Baptism Place St Dunstan and All Saints, Stepney, Tower Hamlets, Middlesex, England
Father Abraham Eliott (Poplar, shipwright)
Mother Alice Eliott

Name Alice Elliott
Gender Female
Baptism Date 11 Jul 1654
Baptism Place Saint Dunstan, Stepney, London, England
Father Abraham Elliott (Poplar, shipwright)
Mother Martha

The foregoing birth records with a virtual certainty were for children of Abraham Ellett and Alice Forde. The child named Elizabeth, born 23Aug1647 almost certainly was the Elizabeth Ellett claimed as a headright by Abraham Ellett in his patent filing dated 24Mar1664, abstracted hereinabove. The child named Alice, born 11Jul1654 almost certainly was the daughter named Alice Ellett claimed as a headright in that same patent record. In his LWT Abraham Ellett named three daughters as legatees: Jane Ellett, Alice Adams and Sarah Ellett. Presumably, the daughter and legatee named Jane Ellett was the eldest daughter, born 29Sep1643. No transport record could be located for Jane Ellett. No birth record or transport record was found for the daughter and legatee named Sarah Ellett.

There were several death records found for children of Abraham Ellett and Alice Forde abstracted as follows:

Name Sarah Elliott
Gender Female
Burial Date 2 Apr 1652
Burial Place St. Dunstan, Stepney, Middlesex, England
Father Abraham Elliott (Wapping, mariner)
Mother Alice Elliott

Name Unknown Ellett
Gender Female
Burial Date 13 Oct 1652
Burial Place St. Dunstan, Stepney, Middlesex, England
Father Abraham Ellett
Mother Alice Ellett

Name Margrett Ellett
Gender Female
Burial Date 26 Dec 1653
Burial Place St. Dunstan, Stepney, Middlesex, England
Father Abraham Ellett (Poplar, shipwright)

Name Margrett Ellett

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Gender Female
Burial Date 4 Jun 1655
Burial Place St. Dunstan, Stepney, Middlesex, England
Father Abraham Ellett
Mother Alice Ellett

Name **Hanah Ellett**
Gender Female
Burial Date 8 Aug 1656
Burial Place St. Dunstan, Stepney, Middlesex, England
Father Abraham Ellett
Mother Alice Ellett

No birth records were found for Sarah Elliott, buried 2Apr1652; Unknown daughter Ellett, buried 13Oct1652; Margaret Ellett, buried 4Jun1655; or Hanah Ellett, buried 8Aug1656, nor was there a birth record found for the daughter and legatee named Sarah Ellett. From these records it appears that Abraham Ellett and Alice Forde had a total of nine children, all of whom were daughters. Four of these daughters appear to have survived to adulthood, and were transported to Lower Norfolk County, viz.: Elizabeth Ellett, Sarah Ellett, Jane Ellett and Alice Ellett. It seems probable that Elizabeth Ellett predeceased her father, who mentioned only three children in his LWT in 1673. It also would appear that Jane Ellett and Sarah Ellett were still unmarried at the time of their father's death, even though Jane Ellett would have been about 30 years old. Abraham Ellett was consistently recorded in the records of Saint Dunstan Church as having the trade of "shipwright", a carpenter skilled in ship construction and repair.

From the foregoing records we have established that Abraham Ellett arrived in Lower Norfolk County with his wife and two daughters sometime before 24Mar1664 at which time he received a patent for 250 acres situated on the south side of the south branch of Elizabeth River which abutted the Glebe land. In order to place Abraham Ellett's land into a proper geographic jurisdictional construct, it might be helpful to review the history of Lower Norfolk County and its principal settlement, Norfolk Township.

...the first white man to own the site on which Norfolk was established was Captain Thomas Willoughby, who patented two hundred acres "upon the first eastern branch of the Elizabeth River" on February 13, 1636/37... Born in England around 1601, Willoughby came to Virginia as a boy on the ship Prosperous in 1610. He became one of the most important merchants in Seventeenth Century Virginia, and his "manor plantation" was on the present site of Ocean View. Willoughby was successively a justice of the peace, a member of the Virginia Assembly at Jamestown, and a member of the Governor's Council. *NOTE: Keep the name of "Willoughby" in mind, as we will revisit the family of Thomas Willoughby Jr. when we return to our wrap-up of the Adams of Bath County NC.*

Willoughby owned the original site of Norfolk for only seven years, however, for he sold it on April 1, 1644 to John Watkins, another prominent Lower Norfolk County citizen, who again sold it on April 30, 1644, to a man named John Norwood. He continued to hold the property until March 4, 1649/50, at which time he sold the site to Peter Michaelson "and others, owners of the Ship Huis van Nassau (House of Nassau)." This group, headed by Michaelson, is presumed by historians to have been a Dutch trading company.

Once the land was surveyed it was deeded to the trustees of Lower Norfolk County on August 16, 1682, by Nicholas Wise Jr., a shipwright and a son of Nicholas Wise Sr. The fifty-acre tract, purchased from Wise for ten thousand pounds of tobacco in cask, was bounded on the south and west by the [Elizabeth River](#) and

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on the north and east by [Back Creek](#) and [Dun-in-the-Mire Creek](#). [Norfolk Highlights 1584 - 1881, The History of Norfolk's Site \(historicforrest.com\)](#)

Norfolk, Old Town

Of these, Main Street and Church Street (the lower part of the latter now being known as St. Paul's Boulevard) are the oldest.

Main Street, laid out between 1680 and 1681 by John Ferebee, the Lower Norfolk County surveyor when the town was established, extended from Four Farthing Point (later [Town Point](#)) to [Dun-in-the-Mire Creek](#) (later [Newton's Creek](#)) in the east. Its original zigzag shape, now considerably truncated, followed the high ground between creek branches.

Church Street, first known as "the street that leadeth into the woods" and later as "the street that leadeth out of town," originally crossed a natural causeway connecting the land on which the town was first laid out and the country to the north of [Town Back Creek](#) and [Dun-in-the-Mire Creek](#). It was later called Church Street because the [Norfolk Borough Church](#), now [St. Paul's Episcopal Church](#), stood on its west side.

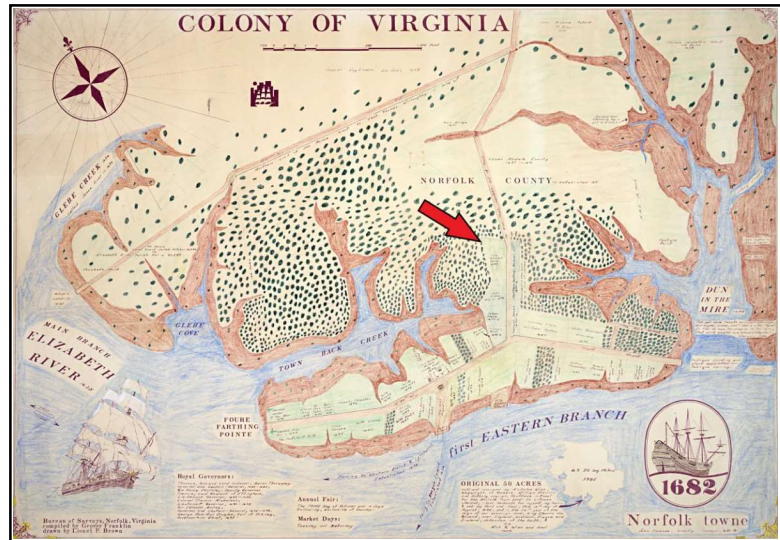


Figure 38
Lower Norfolk County Map, Circa 1640

There are several geographic references contained in the foregoing histories of Norfolk town site, which have already found their way into the records thus far presented relative to Abraham Ellett and John Adams. Specifically, the reference to Norfolk Borough Church, aka St. Paul's Church was sited on the land referenced as "the Glebe land" which abutted Abraham Ellett's patent for 250 acres. Then we have the reference to a stream known as "[Dun in the Mire](#)" and later known as "[Newton's Creek](#)", which was cited in Abraham Ellett's LWT as abutting the 100 acre tract he devised to his daughter, Sarah Ellett. These references allow us to place Abraham Ellett's 250 acre patent along the west side of [Dun in the Mire Creek](#), which stream marked the eastern boundary of the original Norfolk Town site as illustrated in Figure 38. At the time of its establishment, Norfolk Town was situated on an elongated (foot-shaped) spit of land, almost being an island cutoff from the mainland by Town Back Creek.

Abraham Ellett's land probably was situated near the head of Dun in the Mire Creek, since it also abutted land described as being on the waters of Tanner's Creek (see Figure 39), which was about two miles north of town center as evidenced by the following patent abstract:

6. Cavaliers and Pioneers, Volume 2, Page 129: 24Aug1673: [John Williams \[aka Williamson\]](#), 444-1/2 acres in Lower Norfolk County, south side of [Daniel Tanner's Creek](#), adjacent [Abraham Ellett's](#) and [Richard Jones](#), his own land, and land of William Cooper, for transport of nine persons (named).

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The foregoing patent taken out by John William [aka Williamson] abutted Abraham Ellett's patent, and was also described as being on Daniel Tanner's Creek. Refer to Figure 39 for the approximate location of Tanner's Creek in relation to Norfolk. By virtue of John Adams' patents having abutted the Glebe Land and also lying on the waters of Ellett's Creek, John Adams' land would have been either adjoining or in very close geographic proximity to Abraham Ellett's patent. John Adams filed his patents almost 10 years after Abraham Ellett filed his patent. This suggests that the area around Abraham Ellett was still relatively unoccupied, when he first settled in Lower Norfolk. It



Figure 39
Norfolk Town Map, Circa 1682

also seems probable that John Adams was a young, unmarried man on his arrival around 1672/3. At time of his arrival his future wife, Alice Ellett, would have been only about 18 years old. They probably married not long after John Adams' arrival, and would have lived very close to the Ellett plantation. John Adams probably knew his father-in-law only briefly, as Abraham Ellett wrote his LWT in Feb 1675/6. Abraham Ellett devised 100 acres from his 250 acre plantation to his daughter, Sarah, which was described as having been on Dun in the Mire Creek. From the following deed record it appears that Sarah Ellett sold her 100 acre tract to her mother:

7. 12May1681: Lower Norfolk Deed Book 4, Page 100 (Film No. 160): To all Christian people to whom these presents shall come, I, William Newman of Elizabeth River Parish, County of Lower Norfolk, Surgeon, send greetings in our lord God everlasting, know that I, the said William Newman with the free and voluntarily consent of Alice, my wife, for and in consideration of the sum of £600 ___ to me in hand paid by Thomas Morris of Linhaven Parish of County aforesaid, planter, hereby I acknowledge receipt, have sold ___ to Thomas Morris ... a tract of land situated, lying and being on the northern side of the Elizabeth River, aforesaid, containing 100 acres, said 100 acres of land given by Abraham Ellett, deceased, by his last will and testament to Sarah, the wife of Daniel Lenior, and by him and his wife sold to Alice [Forde-Ellett, widow of Abraham Ellett], the wife of Dr. Newman by deed on record in said County, commonly called the Hickory ___, bounded... land of John Adams... Signed: William Newman and Alice Newman. Witnessed: Humphrey ___, and Sarah Lenior.

From the foregoing deed of conveyance we find that Alice Forde-Ellett had married Dr. William Newman a few years after her husband's decease. We also find that Sarah Ellett had married Daniel Lenior, and that Daniel and Sarah had sold the 100 acre tract to Dr. Newman and his wife, Alice Forde-Ellett-Newman. And, lastly, we learn that Dr. William Newman and his wife, Alice, sold that tract to Thomas Morris of Linhaven Parish in 1681 for £600.

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From the following patent record we learn that Dr. William Newman filed a patent for 184 acres on Tanner's Creek, which abutted the land of Abraham Ellett, John Williamson and Richard Jones on the same date that John Adams filed his patent for 170 acres. We also find that Richard Jones, mariner, filed an abutting patent for 709 acres on that same date.

8. Cavaliers and Pioneers, Volume 2, Page 168: 9Oct1675: William Newman, 184 acres in Lower Norfolk County in Tanner's Creek Precinct, adjacent Abraham Ellett, Richard Jones, John Williamson, for transport of four persons: William Palmer, Thomas Draper, William Cordridge and Thomas Hewes.
 - a. Cavaliers and Pioneers, Volume 2, Page 265: 20Sep1683: Mr. William Newman, 234 acres in Lower Norfolk County, adjacent Abraham Ellett, Richard Jones, and John Williamson, 184 acres granted him 9Oct1675, 50 acres for transport of Richard Peacock.
9. Cavaliers and Pioneers, Volume 2, Page 169: 9Oct1675: Richard Jones, 709 acres in Lower Norfolk County, eastward side of Elizabeth River, south side of Lambert's Creek, north side of the mouth of Ellett's Creek, over the mouth of Sandy Branch Creek to the Brushy Neck to creek dividing this land from Abraham Ellett's, 680 acres granted him 1Jul1672, and 29 acres for transport of Mary Filks.
10. Cavaliers and Pioneers, Volume 2, Page 302: 30Oct1686: John Warden, 100 acres in Lower Norfolk County in Tanner's Creek, between two creeks parting this land from land of James Symonds and James Jackson, east on Gater's Creek for transport of two persons (unnamed) *John Warden is believed to have married Alice Newman, daughter of Dr. William Newman and his 1st wife, Mary.*
11. Cavaliers and Pioneers, Volume 2, Page 302: 30Oct1686: Elizabeth River Parish 100 acres for a glebe, in said parish on east side of said river, beginning on a point on south side of the mouth of Ellett's Creek, near Nicholas Wise's line for transport of two persons (unnamed).

We will shortly discover that Richard Jones and John Warden play important roles in our study of this Adams family. First, let's look at the LWT of Richard Jones, transcribed as follows:

12. 18Sep1691: Norfolk County Deed and Will Book No. 5, Page 164: In the name of God, Amen, I, Richard Jones of Elizabeth River Parish, County of Norfolk, mariner, being aged and weak in body, but of perfect and sound mind and memory, blessed be God for the same, and knowing the certainty of death and the time ____, and being desirous to dispose and ____ to that small estate God in his mercy has been pleased to possess, to wit, I do make this my last will and testament in manner and form following... Item: I give and bequeath to my loving friend, Malachy Thruston and his heirs forever one tract of land commonly called the ____ containing by estimation 100 acres, bounded upon William Newman's line one the one side, and on the other side by a branch commonly called Muddy Branch; Item: I give and bequeath unto my daughter and only child, Hester Jones, all the residue of my land, to her and her heirs forever, with all my household goods, provided she continues putting up, remains and abides with her aged father; Item: I give and bequeath unto Elizabeth Branton [Brent?], the wife of Thomas Branton [Brent?], three ewes, two ____ pair of sheep, besides five barrows and a sow, and a young pied steer that do ____ belong to her, the said Elizabeth; Item: I give and bequeath to my loving friend Francis Saylor three young ____ ... Nominate, appoint and ordain my loving friends Francis Saylor and Malachy Thruston my whole and sole executors of this my last will and testament. Signed and sealed this 18Sep1691: Richard Jones. In presence of Walter Cono, Thomas Saylor and Elizabeth Eldon. Proven at 16Jan1691/2 Court on oath of Walter Coniers. [Deed Book 4-5, 1675-1695, Norfolk County, Virginia: Norfolk County. Deed Books 1675-1686, Deed Books 1686-1695 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)

So, aside from a small bequest to Malachy Thruston of 100 acres and a few livestock to friends, Richard Jones bequeathed the entire remainder of his estate to his daughter, and only heir, Hester Jones. From the following marriage bond record we find that John Adams Jr. married Hester Jones, daughter of Richard Jones:

13. 16Jul1692: Norfolk County Deed and Will Book No. 5, Page 178-9: Know all men by these presents that we, John Adams, carpenter, and George Newton, gentleman, both of Norfolk County, do owe and stand firmly indebted to Francis Saylor and Malachy Thruston, executors to the last will and testament of Richard

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Jones of the said County, mariner, late deceased, in the full and just sum on £100 sterling, good and lawful monies of England for the just and true payment and hire of £1000... The conditions of the above said obligation is such that whereas the above said Francis Sayer and Malory Thruston, executors above said have this day by a judgment of writing under their hands and seals **given full power and possession of the said Richard Jones into the hands, management and ordering of the above said John Adams, who has intermarried with Hester Jones, the daughter and only child of the above said Richard Jones, deceased...**
Signed: John Adams and George Newman. In presence of: William Striker and Thomas Sayer. *NOTE:*

This is a vitally important record for establishing the identity of John Adams Jr.s' wife. First, it should be understood that this John Adams of a virtual certainty was John Adams Jr., son of John Adams and Alice Elliott. So, from this marriage bond record we can establish that John Adams Jrs.' 1st wife was Hester Jones, daughter of Richard Jones. We also have established by this record that there was a fairly close connection between John Adams and George Newton, who will shortly be disclosed as the 1st husband of Frances Mason, daughter of Col. Lemuel Mason. We had already established to a high probability that John Adams mother-in-law, Alice Forde-Elliott appeared to have married Dr. William Newman as her 2nd husband, per the above cited deed record dated 12May1681 (Item No. 7, above). We also have from this marriage bond record that Maj. Francis Sayer was a co-executor on the estate of Richard Jones, John Adams Jrs.' deceased father-in-law. By this bond, John Adams Jr. would have taken possession of the estate of his deceased father-in-law. And, lastly it is established that John Adams Jr. was a carpenter by trade. Given that John Adams was married by Jul1692, it seems probable that he was born on or about 1670.

Next we present the following deed record for examination:

14. Cavaliers and Pioneers, Volume 2, Page 386: 29Apr1693: **John Warden** 200 acres in **Norfolk County**, north side of **Elizabeth River**, part of a 250 acre tract patented to **Abraham Ellett**, deceased, 25Mar1664, who **bequeathed said plantation to his wife, Alice**, who by deed of gift dated 5May1687, as also by her Will dated 15Mar1688, assigned the above to said Warden, beginning Mr. Porteen, across **Ellers [Ellet's?] Creek to Jone's** line, at head of Madeley [Muddy?] Branch.

It is curious that John Warden would need to file a patent on land that had already been patented by Abraham Ellett, and devised by Alice Forde-Ellett-Newman, but that appears to be the purpose of this document. So, who was John Warden, and why might the widow of Abraham Ellett have gifted and devised this 200 acre tract to him? In an attempt to establish the identity of John Warden, we will first present the "gift deed" referenced in the above patent record:

15. 16May1687: Lower Norfolk Deed Book 5, Vol. 1, Page 25 (Film No. 52): To all Christian people to whom these presents shall come, greeting, know ye that I, **Alice Newman** of Elizabeth River Parish, County of Lower Norfolk, spinster, for the natural love and affection I bear unto my kinsmen, **John Warden** and **James Warden**, and for the good service they have done me, I give unto the said John Warden and James Warden the plantation whereon I now live after my decease with all rights and privileges thereunto belonging to be equally divided between them, only that part where my house and orchard now is I give in particular to John Warden, the residue to be equally divided between them... Signed Alice Newman in presence of **John Knott**, **Lawrence Lenoir** and **Jane Lenoir**. [Deeds and Wills Book 5, Part 2, 1686-1695, Norfolk County, Virginia: Norfolk County. Deeds 1686-1695, Will Books 1686-1695 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#) *Note the two witnesses: Lawrence Lenior and Jane Lenior. We had already established the probability that Sarah Ellett had married Daniel Lenior. This record would seem to suggest that Sarah's sister, Jane Ellett, may have married Sarah's brother-in-law, Lawrence Lenior.*

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In the foregoing gift deed Alice Newman conveyed her plantation to John Warden and James Warden to be equally divided between these two men, excepting the plantation house and orchard, which was to go to John Warden. Alice Newman identified John Warden and James Warden as her kinsmen, but did not identify the nature of that kinship connection, nor did she stipulate the size or location of the land being conveyed. We know that Alice had inherited her husband's (Abraham Ellett's) land (excepting 100 acres bequeathed to daughter, Sarah Ellett, which was later purchased by Dr. William and Alice Ellett-Newman), and we presume that she may also have inherited the property of her 2nd husband, Dr. William Newman. No evidence was found to suggest that Dr. William Newman died testate. However, we do have several records pertaining directly to Dr. Newman abstracted as follows:

16. Cavaliers and Pioneers, Volume 2, Page 168: 9Oct1675: **William Newman**, 184 acres in **Lower Norfolk County** in **Tanner's Creek** Precinct, adjacent **Abraham Ellett**, **Richard Jones**, John Williamson, for transport of four persons: William Palmer, Thomas Draper, William Cordridge and Thomas Hewes. *This was the first record found for William Newman in Virginia. He received a grant of 184 acres in Lower Norfolk County in Oct1675 abutting the land of Abraham Ellett and Richard Jones. Abraham Ellett wrote his LWT five months later in Feb1675/6.*
17. 14Feb1676/7: Lower Norfolk Deed Book 4, Page 10: **William Newman** of Elizabeth River Parish, Lower Norfolk County, surgeon, conveyed to **William Thomas Sparks**, well beloved kinsman, one-half of tract of land lying and being on eastern side of Elizabeth River, abutting land of **Abraham Ellett** and **Richard Jones**... Signed: **William Newman** and **Mary Newman**. [Deeds Book 4, 1675-1686, Norfolk County, Virginia: Norfolk County. Deeds 1675-1686 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#) *In this deed of conveyance William Newman granted ½ of his land on the east side of Elizabeth River. By virtue of this land abutting the lands of Abraham Ellett and Richard Jones, it was of certainty the 184 acres patented in Item No. 16, herein above. By his granting half of his patent land to his kinsman, William Thomas Sparks, Dr. Newman would have retained possession of 92 acres. Note that his wife, Mary Newman relinquished her interest. Efforts to identify William Thomas Sparks were unsuccessful. He could be found nowhere in the records of Lower Norfolk County, even though he was identified in this deed as being of Lower Norfolk. It seems possible that he was related to Dr. Newman by marriage, possibly his brother-in-law, or perhaps his wife's father.*
18. 12May1681: Lower Norfolk Deed Book 4, Page 100: Know all men by these presents that I, **William Newman** for several good causes ____, but more expressly for the tender love and kindness have to my well beloved wife, Alice Newman, I give and grant unto my said wife, **Alice Newman**, ____ following of my personal to her and her heirs forever, (viz) a heifer, one sow, two sheep and their increase, which I acknowledge already to have delivered unto her possession and custody, **and also all the plantation and housing whereon I now live for and during the natural life of my said wife**, in witness whereof I have hereby set my hand and seal this 12Jan1681. Signed: William Newman. Witsnessed: Francis Saylor and Richard Connor. *Although no LWT was found for Dr. William Newman, this record suggests that he granted his land, as it existed in May1681, to his wife, Alice Forde-Ellett-Newman. Prior to this date no records were found wherein William Newman acquired any land other than his patent filing for 184 acres of which he disposed half to a kinsman, William Thomas Sparks. So, presumably the land conveyed to Alice Newman consisted of the 92 acre remainder of the original patent. Alice's 1st husband, Abraham Ellett, had died in early 1675/6, from whom she presumably received 150 acres (the residual of the original 250 acre patent). William Newman was recorded in Feb1676/7 with a wife named Mary. Presumably Mary died, and William married Alice Forde-Ellett sometime between Feb1677 and May1681.*
19. 18Oct1681: Lower Norfolk Deed Book 4, Page 108: **William Newman** entered into contract with Molson Caswell for the construction of a sloop, in which Newman would share one-half ownership and profits, Newman's equity in the sloop was secured by and in consideration of ½ title to tract of land called Indian Neck, plus earnings from Newman's practice as doctor and surgeon... [Deeds Book 4, 1675-1686, Norfolk County, Virginia: Norfolk County. Deeds 1675-1686 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#) *Having conveyed half of his patent land to his wife, Alice, just five months earlier, it is difficult to state what land William Newman still had in his possession that he used as collateral in this ship-building contract. It would seem that he had somehow acquired additional land (Indian Neck) not of record.*

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20. 15Jun1682: Lower Norfolk Deed Book 4, Page 120: I underwritten **William Newman** do hereby acknowledge to have most unjustly abused Mrs. Margaret Taylor at her own house, in most scandalous and slanderous words, and not only that, but also in a most inhuman manner have assaulted her body and person with blows at the same time, I abused her in words, for all which ____ inhuman behaviour of me, this subscriber, towards her, the said Mrs. Margaret Taylor, I humbly and ____ beg the said Mrs. Margaret Taylor's pardon, and do desire that this my acknowledgement may be recorded for Mrs. Margaret Taylor's future ~~satisfaction~~ justification, hereby obliging myself, my heirs and executors to pay all cost and charge whatsoever that hath been expended by Mrs. Margaret Taylor on order in the suit or action now depending in your worshipful Court of Lower Norfolk. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 15Jun1682. Signed: William Newman. [Deeds Book 4, 1675-1686, Norfolk County, Virginia: Norfolk County, Deeds 1675-1686 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#) *There is no way from this record to ascertain the cause of William Newman's verbal and physical assault upon Mrs. Margaret Taylor, but it was sufficiently egregious and indefensible, that he was compelled to admit his wrong-doing in the official record and place himself and his heirs at her mercy.*
21. 15Feb1682/3: Lower Norfolk Deed Book 4, Page 136: George Newton sold mill and appurtenances in Lower Norfolk County to **William Newman**, lying on Pressell Point Creek... *Dr. Newman was still acquiring property, this time purchasing a mill from George Newton.*
22. Cavaliers and Pioneers, Volume 2, Page 265: 20Sep1683: **Mr. William Newman**, 234 acres in Lower Norfolk County, adjacent **Abraham Ellett**, **Richard Jones**, and John Williamson, 184 acres granted him 9Oct1675, 50 acres for transport of Richard Peacock. *This is a most puzzling and confusing patent filing. It appears to consist of the original 184 acres patented in Oct1675 plus an additional 50 acres. From Item No. 17, above it appeared that he had conveyed ½ of the 184 acre patent lands to a kinsman, but this filing suggests that somehow he was still in possession of the entire tract. Perhaps his kinsman had sold the land back to Dr. Newman, or perhaps it reverted through some mechanism of Law. This was the final record found directly involving Dr. William Newman.*

Nothing in the records of Dr. William Newman shed any light on the identity of John Warden. Perhaps we can ascertain John Warden's identity from the LWT of Alice Forde-Ellett-Newman transcribed as follows:

23. 14Mar1688: Lower Norfolk Deed Book 5, Page 99: LWT of **Alice Newman**: In the name of God, Amen, I, Alice Newman, being weak in body, but in good and perfect memory, do make my last will and testament in form as followeth:
Imprimis: I bequeath my soul into the hands of God who gave it... and for my worldly goods I dispose in manner and form as follows, viz.:
Item: I give to **William Adams** one cow, two ewes, and two sows and the increase of them, except the sows, and two plates, and a dish and an iron pot, and a ring, to be delivered by **John Warden** [when] he to come to age;
Item: I give unto **Alice Warden** a feather bed and all furniture [thereto] belonging, and a heifer, and all my wearing clothes, and two ewes;
Item: [I give] to **James Warden** one heifer and two ewes;
Item: to **John Warden** I give what he hath in his own possession, I give to **John Warden** my plantation and half the land belonging to it, with the other half to **James Warden**;
Item: And the rest of my movables to be equally divided to **John Warden**, **James Warden** and **Alice Warden**;
Item: I give unto **my daughter, Alice Brent** two ____;
Item: I give unto **James Warden** 50 acres of the land that was the Doctor's [William Newman, Surgeon], and the rest to **William Adams**;
Item: I desire that **William Adams** may live with **John Warden** till he comes of age, and if that **Thomas Brent** will have him, that the said Brent pay for his keeping ever since **Alice Newman** has had him;
And hereunto I have set my hand and seal this 14Mar1688: Alice Newman, her mark.
In presence of: William Cooper Sr., John Cooper and John Porter.

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This is a puzzling Will, which appears to incorporate kinfolk of Abraham Elliott, who died in 1675, but without specific reference to kinship, with the exception of a daughter, Alice Brent. The identity of the testator, Alice Newman, almost certainly was the widow of Abraham Elliott, who had married Dr. William Newman, a near neighbor of the Ellett's. The daughter of Abraham Elliott and Alice Forde-Elliott, Alice Elliott, is believed to have married John Adams at Elizabeth River, Lower Norfolk County sometime around 1674. Alice Elliott was identified in her father's LWT in 1675 as Alice Adams. John Adams died testate sometime before Oct1683, when he left a will dated 7Nov1679, proved 15Oct1683. Alice Elliott-Adams is believed to have married Thomas Brent at Lower Norfolk County sometime after John Adams' death, probably around 1780 to 83. That being the case, we have still yet to identify Alice Warden, John Warden and James Warden.

Alice Newman failed to identify the kinship of any of these Wardens in either the deed of conveyance (Item No. 15, above) or her LWT. We are in hopes that the next deed of conveyance will finally shed some light on this puzzle:

24. 15Sep1691: Norfolk County Deed and Will Book No. 5, Page 161: To all to whom these presents shall come, I, **Thomas Brent**, of Elizabeth River Parish, in County of Lower Norfolk, turner, who married **Alice**, the relic of **John Adams**, deceased, and daughter of **Abraham Elliott** of the County and Parish aforesaid, **shipwright**, deceased, and **Alice**, his wife, the relic of **William Newman**, deceased, send greeting in our lord God everlasting, whereas the said Alice Newman, late deceased did by Will dispose of all the land belonging to the said Abraham to **John Warden Jr., grandson**, and whereas many ambiguities and doubts may arise ___ as to the said Abraham's Will, whereby he bequeathed the same to the said Alice, his relic, and in the last will and testament of the said Alice, wherein she bequeathed the said land as aforesaid which may occasion great suits, controversies between me, the said Brent, and John Warden as to our titles to the said land; Know ye therefore that I, the said Thomas Brent, with the free and voluntary consent of Alice, my wife, for and in consideration of the sum of 8,000 lbt to me in hand paid by specialty taken for the same, do hereby relinquish my right, title or interest or demand that I myself may have professions by virtue of my intermarriage to the said Alice as aforesaid can present or hereafter rights, claims or intend to claim of in or to all or any part or parcel of the said land or appurtenances or any other personal effects, either belonging to the said Abraham Elliott or the said Alice Newman, deceased, therefore hereby warrant him, the said John Warden... Signed: **Thomas Brent** and **Alice Brent**, in presence of Lemuel Mason Jr., James Williams and Philis Williams. Recorded 15Sep1691.

This deed of conveyance does appear to confirm several of the assumed kinship connections heretofore inferred:

- Thomas Brent did marry Alice Ellett, daughter of Abraham Ellett and Alice Forde, his wife, and relic of John Adams.
- Alice Forde-Ellett, relic of Abraham Ellett, did marry Dr. William Newman, all now deceased.
- Alice Newman gift deeded and devised her plantation inherited from her deceased husband, Abraham Ellett, to **her grandson, John Warden Jr.**
- Alice Ellett-Adams-Brent may have been able to set up a legal claim to her deceased father's land as perhaps his sole surviving heir at law, so this deed relinquished (sold) whatever interest Thomas and Alice Brent may have been able to claim against Abraham Ellett's estate lands to John Warden Jr.

From this deed it is established that John Warden was actually John Warden Jr., and that he was a grandson of Alice Newman. From Alice Newman's LWT we have three Warden legatees named: Alice Warden, James Warden and John Warden. We also had a young boy named William Adams. Heretofore, these Wardens and William Adams have yet to be identified. Let's

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see if we have enough facts to sort out this puzzle. First, the identity of William Adams seems very likely to have been the youngest child of John Adams and Alice Ellett. John Adams wrote his LWT in 1679, but it was not proven until 1683. In his will John Adams named three sons as legatees, whom we have concluded were named John Jr., *Abraham* and Richard. It now seems likely that John and Alice had a fourth son named William, possibly born after 1679 and before 1683. It is likely for this reason that the grandmother, Alice Newman, had become William's guardian when his mother married Thomas Brent. It is also likely the reason that Alice Newman suggested that Thomas Brent might want to assume William's guardianship after her death.

NEWS FLASH: A power of attorney dated 14Feb1709/10 (presented hereinafter) from **John Adams Jr.** of Bath County, Pamlico Precinct to **Lemuel Newman** and Willis Wilson of Norfolk County states that John Adams Jr. had two brothers named **William Adams** and **Richard Adams**. So, Abraham Adams Sr., who wrote his LWT in Bath County on 23Oct1733, was not identified as a son of John Adams Sr., or at least he was not named as a legatee in John Adams Sr.s' LWT. However, there are other later records which would appear to link Abraham Adams Sr. of Bath County with allied parties associated with John Adams of Norfolk County. (more to follow)

25. 20Feb1709: Lower Norfolk County Deed Book 8, Page 142-3 (Fiche No. 148-9): Know all men by these presents that I, **John Adams**, of Bath County, Pamlico Precinct in North Carolina, and formerly and inhabitant of Norfolk County in Virginia do for my self and my heirs do constitute and have already appointed **Mr. Lemuel Newton** and **Mr. Willis Wilson** of Norfolk County to be my true and lawful attorneys, them or either of them to acknowledge unto George Newton of Norfolk County and to his heirs for ever all the right, title and interest I have to a small tract of land or sell my right that I or any heir may hereafter have to the said land which said land was taken up and patented by **my father, John Adams the patent bearing date of 9Oct1675**, and by my father's last will and testament given to my mother during her natural life and after her decease to be equally divided between me and **my two brothers, William and Richard Adams**, which said patent was for **170 acres** of land, one-third part thereof being **56 acres** and a little more, being formerly sold by me to the said Newton, but do now again appoint my said attorneys or either of them for my self, my heirs and to make and give any further assurance of the said land by any lawful writing whatsoever unto the said Newton for and to his heirs, and which the said land is by my attorneys, Mr. Lemuel Newton and Willis Wilson to be acknowledged in Norfolk County Court anytime at the request of the said Newton hereby for my self my heirs ratifying, confirming and holding good all that my said attorneys or either of them shall do confirming the same as without my hand and seal this 14Feb1709/10, Signed John Adams. In presence of Daniel Porter, James Loftis, Richard Sayer and William Bastin.

Also:

26. 20Feb1709: Lower Norfolk County Deed Book 8, Page 142 (Fiche No. 148): To all Christian people to whom these presents shall come, know ye that I, **John Adams** of the County of Bath in Pamlico, formerly an inhabitant of the County of Norfolk in Virginia of the one part, and **George Newton** of Norfolk County of the other part, Witnesseth that the said John Adams for and in consideration of three good hats hath and for in consideration of a more valuable consideration of 2,500 lbt formerly received of **Maj. James Wilson** on account of said George Newton as by my deed from ___ my hand dated 15Mar1699, may plainly appear and now being willing and desirous to make the said deed good and authentic and as firm as the law requires, I, the said John Adams do for myself, my heirs and executors do hereby sell, grant, alien, and confirm all the estate that ever I or my heirs hereafter might or could have with all my interest, trust, property reversion or reversions and demand whatsoever, unto 56 acres of land and a little more, which said land in mentioned in a Will from my father, John Adams, deceased dated 7Sep1679, and proved in Court 15Oct1683 unto the said George Newman... Signed: John Adams. In presence of James Wilson, William Wilson and James Cummings. Proved in Court on 15Mar1709 by power of attorney to **Lemuel Newton**. [Deed Book 8, 1708-1710, Norfolk County, Virginia: Norfolk County. Deed Books 1708-1710 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)

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From the two foregoing records we have a linkage between John Adams of Bath County with John Adams Jr., son of John Adams of Lower Norfolk County Virginia. We also have the inference that Alice Ellett-Adams-Brent was deceased before Feb1709/10, given that she was bequeathed the plantation land of her husband, John Adams, for the rest of her natural life. Unless she had released her interest in this 170 acre tract to her sons, John Jr. would not have held legal title to his 56 acre 1/3 part conveyed to George Newton. Most importantly, John Adams Jr. stated in the power of attorney that this tract had been bequeathed to himself and his two brothers: William and Richard Adams, after their mother's decease.

So, if Abraham Adams Sr. was not named as a legatee of John Adams Sr., then who was he? There are records that can be reliably linked to Abraham Adams Sr., which contain strong associations with the John Adams Sr. family of Norfolk County abstracted and analyzed as follows:

27. 14Jul1718: Cavaliers and Pioneers, Volume III, Page 207: **Abraham Adams**, granted **152 acres** in **Norfolk County, Elizabeth River Parish** on head of **Hooppole Point Creek, Northwest River**, joining the **Cypress Branch**, adjacent **Henry Slade's** line. *Even though this tract was described as having been in Elizabeth River Parish, the same district in which John Adams Sr. and his allies were recorded, this tract was actually situated at the extreme southern end of Norfolk County, near its border with Currituck County North Carolina, as evidenced by Figure 40 which contains a map of Norfolk County dated 1887. The Northwest River is a stream that flows into Currituck Sound at its northern end. It is roughly 25 miles overland from the town of Norfolk on the East Branch of Elizabeth River, to the Indian Creek (aka Cypress Branch) area of Norfolk County. This was the first record found of Abraham Adams Sr. His adjacent neighbor, Henry Slade filed his patent in the area abstracted as follows:*
 - a. 3Oct1671: Cavaliers and Pioneers, Volume II, Page 100: William Hancock patent for 700 acres in Lower Norfolk County, on the north side of the easternmost branch of Elizabeth River on Hoskins Creek, parting this land and land of Mr. William Moseley, 100 acres granted to George Fowler, 6Nov1663, who sold to said Hancock, and 600 acres for transport of 12 persons: **Mary and Henry Slade**, etal.
 - b. 20Apr1693: Cavaliers and Pioneers, Volume III, Page 385: **Henry Slade Sr.** patent for **1078 acres**, being his seated plantation, Norfolk County, in Currituck Precinct, upon the lower **Indian Creek**, of the **Northwest River**, beginning near Black Water Road, along southeast side of said creek to the mouth, to Mossy Point, by Hector's dams to mouth of **Cypress Branch** for transport of 22 persons (named). *This almost certainly was the patent of the tract that abutted Abraham Adams' patent. Two waterways in common were named in both the Slade and the Adams patents, viz.: Northwest River and Cypress Branch. The reference to Indian Creek allows these patents to be more precisely located on present day maps as being near the intersection of Cedarville Road and Indian Creek Road.*
28. 4Feb1725: Lower Norfolk County Deed Book G, Page 25 (Fiche No. 33-4): Indenture between **Abraham Adams of Bath County North Carolina** of one part and **John Northern** of **Norfolk County Virginia** of other part, witnesseth that the said Abraham Adams for and in consideration of £12 10s current money of Virginia and £15 current bills of the Province of North Carolina to him in hand paid by said John Northern before the ensealing and delivery of these presents the receipt whereof I do acknowledge discharge the said Northern from the ____ by these presents have given, granted, bargained, aliened and firmly sold unto said Northern to his heirs and assigns forever, along with right, title and interest in and to a lot of land bounding **west side on my son, Abraham Adams Jr.s', his plantation** _____ mouth of the **Cypress Branch**, and up the said Branch by line of marked trees to a beech corner, according to the courses of the patent and from that beech by a line of marked trees, easterly to a black corner gum, and from that gum by a line of marked trees to the pine at the first station, being a tract of land containing **152 acres**, taken up by me and surveyed by **Lemuel Newton**, Surveyor, and now in my actual and lawful possession... Signed: Abraham Adams. In presence of **James W. Warden**, **Margaret Warden** and William Burke. [Deeds and Wills Book G, 1725-1730, Norfolk County, Virginia: Norfolk County. Wills 1725-1730, Deed Books 1725-1730 —](#)

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[Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#) This deed of conveyance provides a direct linkage between the Abraham Adams, who filed a patent for 152 acres on Cypress Branch of Northwest River in Norfolk County in Jul1718 and Abraham Adams Sr. of Bath County. From this deed we learn that Abraham Adams had relocated from Norfolk County to Bath County shortly before Feb1725. We also learn that Abraham Adams Jr., presumably the son of Abraham Adams Sr., had acquired land which abutted his father's patent on Cypress Branch. This is a strong suggestion that Abraham Adams Jr. had reached his majority sometime before Feb1725, suggesting that he was born before about 1703. Assuming that to be the case, then Abraham Adams Sr. very likely was born before about 1681/2.

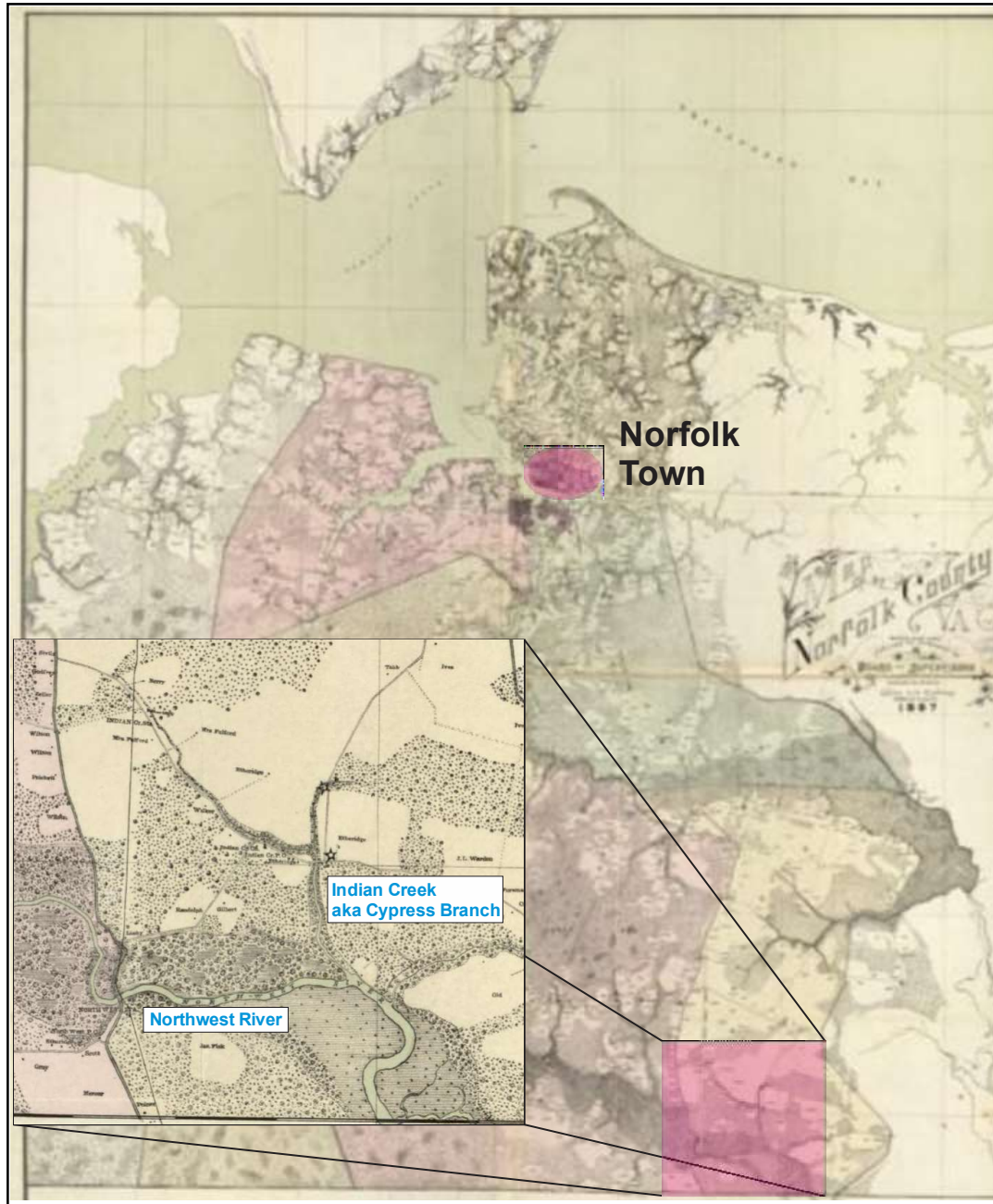


Figure 40
Norfolk County Map, Circa 1887

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29. 15Feb1725: Lower Norfolk County Deed Book G, Page 27 (Fiche No. 38-9): Indenture between **Abraham Adams [Jr.]** of **North Carolina** of one part, and **John Northern** of **Albemarle County North Carolina** of other part, witnesseth that the said Abraham Adams for and in consideration of the sum of 5s current money of Virginia to him in hand paid by the said John Northern before the ensealing and delivery of these presents the receipt whereof I do acknowledge have given, granted, bargained, aliened and firmly sold unto the said Northern and to his heirs and assigns forever a piece or parcel of land lying and being on the north side of **Northwest River** in **Norfolk County Virginia**, and commonly called by the name of **Hooppole Point Creek**, containing **60 acres** more or less beginning at a gum standing at the mouth of the western branch, then up the said branch to a red oak, then easterly along a line of marked trees to the **Cypress Branch** to a maple, being Johnson Gregor's corner tree, then up the said branch to Thomas Prescott's line, from thence by a line of marked trees to a red oak standing in the line of the former patent, and from thence down by a line recording to the courses of the patent to the mouth of the Cypress Branch, from thence by ___ to the first station... Signed: Abraham Adams. Presence of: **James W. Warden**, **Margarett Warden** and William Burke.

Given that Abraham Adams Sr. was found to have acquired only one tract of land in Norfolk County, that being the 152 acre patent which he sold to John Northern on 4Feb1725, it seems possible that this deed of conveyance was actually for Abraham Adams Jr., who had acquired land abutting his father's patent. From these two deeds of conveyance, it seems quite clear that Abraham Adams Sr. and Abraham Adams Jr. were disposing of their land holdings in Norfolk County as a consequence of their having relocated into Bath County. It should be noted that James Warden and Margaret Warden (presumably James' wife) witnessed the two foregoing documents. This James Warden is believed to have been the grandson and legatee of Alice Forde-Ellett-Newman, and brother of John Warden Jr.

Perhaps the most remarkable and suggestive element of these deed records associated with person(s) named Abraham Adams in Norfolk County is the fact that both records were witnessed by **James Warden and Margaret Warden**. Given the rarity of the surname of "Warden" in Norfolk County during this time period, it seems a virtual certainty that this James Warden was the same James Warden identified as a legatee of Alice Newton. Through our further analysis of this Warden family it was concluded to a fairly high level of certainty that James Warden was a son of John Warden Sr. and Alice Newman, daughter of Dr. William Newman and his 1st wife, Mary (mnu). Assuming this identification of James Warden to be correct, it seems highly probable that Abraham Adams Sr. was a close kinsman of John Adams Sr. of Norfolk, most likely his youngest son, born after Oct1679.

If that assumption is correct then it begs the question what the kinship connection might have been between John Adams Sr. and Abraham Adams Sr.? A fairly thorough search of Norfolk County records prior to 1700 has disclosed the presence of only one family named Adams, that being the family headed by John Adams Sr. and his offspring. We have reliably established that the three sons identified in John Adams Srs.' LWT were named John Adams Jr., Richard Adams and William Adams. There does not appear to have been an opportunity for any other Adams branch to exist, except that they were descended from John Adams Sr., or that they were newly arrived in Norfolk County. No record could be located in the Virginia patent records for an Abraham Adams, other than in the 152 acre patent on Cypress Branch in Jul1718. Typically, a new immigrant would have been claimed as a headright. No headright claim could be located for Abraham Adams. Moreover, Abraham Adams did not claim any headrights associated with his patent filing rather he paid a standard fee of 15 shillings (5 shillings per 50 acres) for his patent. This implies that Abraham Adams was born in Virginia and was not entitled to claim a headright, either for himself or anyone else.

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Using the foregoing deed of conveyance from Abraham Adams Sr. to John Northern dated 4Feb1725, we deduced that Abraham Adams Sr. very likely was born about 1680. Such birth date would fit very well with a son of John Adams Sr. However, if Abraham Adams was a son of John Adams Sr., then we must ponder the reason that he was not identified by John Adams Jr. as a brother. John Adams Jr. was identifying only his siblings, who had been named in their father's LWT as co-legatees. Earlier, we had assumed that Abraham Adams was the third son, who was unnamed in John Adams Sr.s' LWT, and that William Adams was the youngest son, born after his father wrote his LWT. Now that we know with some certainty that William Adams was actually that unnamed son, then it should be considered that Abraham Adams may have been born to John and Alice Adams between the writing of the LWT in Oct1679 and its recording in 1683. If that were the case, then we must also ponder the reason that Alice Newton had not made any provision for Abraham Adams in her LWT in 1688. It seems possible that Abraham Adams, being the youngest child, could have still been living with his biological mother, Alice Ellett-Adams-Brent, in 1688, but that William Adams had been placed in the guardianship of his grandmother.

We may never be able to verify with certainty that Abraham Adams Sr. was a son of John Adams Sr. and Alice Ellett, but, all things considered, it seems highly probable that that was the case.

Now, having presented all the known records for Abraham Adams Sr. in Norfolk County, we will close out this discussion of the John Adams family of Norfolk Virginia with a presentation of the few remaining related records not yet introduced:

30. 18Feb1689/0: Lower Norfolk Deed Book 5, Vol. 2, Fiche No. 218: Know all men by these presents that I, the within mentioned **John Warden** for good and valuable considerations to me in hand paid by **John Pearse** of Elizabeth River Parish in the County of Lower Norfolk, do hereby for myself, my heirs, executors, administrators and assigns all my right, title and interest of, in or to the within patent land therein contained with all and singular the privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging, to him, the said John Pearse, his heirs, executors and assigns from the day of the date hereafter forever. In witness whereof I have hereto set my hand and seal this 18Feb1689/0: signed: John Warden. In presence of William Porter, Lemuel Mason and Thomas Cokes. *Although the land involved in this conveyance is not specifically identified, it seems probable that it was his legacy from the estate of his grandmother, Alice Newman.*
31. 28Feb1690/1: Lower Norfolk Deed Book 5, Vol. 2, Fiche No. 218: Know all men by these presents that I, the above named **John Pearse** for good and valuable consideration to me in hand paid and with the free and voluntary good liking and consent of Susan, my wife, by **Bryan Cahill** of the County of Lower Norfolk, do hereby for my self, my heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, all my right, title and interest of, in or to the within patent of land therein contained and all and singular the _____ and appurtenances thereunto belonging to him, the said Bryan Cahill, his heirs, executors and assigns from the day of the date hereof forever. In witness whereof I, the said John Pearse and Susan, my wife, have hereunto set our hands and seals this 28Feb1690/1: signed: John Pearse and Susan Pearse. In presence of WWilliam Porter and Edward Wood. Proven in Court 16May1693. *John Pearse held this patent land for only about a year before selling it to Bryan Cahill.*

Now, as for the identity of John Warden Jr., he has been identified as a grandson of Alice Newman. By his having been given the title of "Jr." it can reasonably be inferred that his father probably was named John Warden [Sr.]. Also, given that Alice Newman devised her plantation equally between John Warden [Jr.] and James Warden (except for house and orchard), it can reasonably be inferred that John Warden Jr. and James Warden likely were brothers. Given the fact that James Warden does not appear in any later records associated with this land, it seems

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reasonable to infer that he probably had conveyed his interest in his landed legacy to his brother, John Warden Jr. And, lastly, it seems highly probable that their mother was named Alice Newman (daughter of Dr. William Newman), and that she had married John Warden Sr.

If Alice Ellett-Adams-Brent was the only surviving heir at law of Abraham Ellett, then about the only way that John Warden Jr. could have been a grandson of Alice Newman would be if her husband, Dr. William Newman, had had a daughter named Alice Newman. Alice Newman-Warden likely was the only heir at law of Dr. William Newman, after the decease of Alice Forde-Ellett-Newman. It appears that Alice Forde-Ellett-Newman was devising the principal part of her estate to her grandchildren (including step-grandchildren).

32. 20Mar1704/5: Lower Norfolk County Deed Book 7, Page 83 (Image No. 145): Know all men by these presents that we, **William Adams** and **Blandina Adams**, my wife, do for valuable consideration ____ in hand and otherwise secured with a free and voluntary consent assigned my right, title and interest with the appurtenances thereunto belonging of this deed of sale unto **James Warden** of Norfolk County, as witness our hands and affixed our seals this 20Mar1704/5. Signed: William Adams and Blandina Adams. In presence of: Robert Laine, John Wormington. [Deed Book 7, 1703-1706, Norfolk County, Virginia: Norfolk County. Deed Books 1703-1706 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#) *This William Adams is believed to have been a son of John Adams Sr. and Alice Ellett, and the legatee named in the LWT of his grandmother, Alice Newman. By the LWT of John Adams Sr., William Adams would have been entitled to 1/3 of the 170 acre plantation tract devised to the widow, Alice Ellett-Adams Brent, for the remainder of her natural life, devolving to the three sons. William Adams was also devised a residual of a tract formerly owned by Dr. William Newton by his grandmother, Alice Forde-Ellett-Newman, after reduction by 50 acres bequeathed to James Warden. It is uncertain just what land was being conveyed by this deed to James Warden, but may have been the residual of Dr. Newton's old land. From this deed record we can establish that William Adams was married by 20Mar1704/5 to a woman named Blandina (mnu).*
33. 20Mar1704/5: Lower Norfolk County Deed Book 7, Page 83 (Image No. 145-6): To all Christian people to whom these presents shall come, now know that we, **William Adams** and **Blandina Adams**, my wife do desire and request our trusty and beloved friend, **Col. James Wilson** to be our attorney and acknowledge a deed of sale unto **James Warden** of said County, with and by virtue of these presents we the above said William Adams and Blandina, my wife, do authorize, constitute, ordain and empower the above said Col. James Wilson to acknowledge this said tract of land, and sell as lawful and in full force of law as if we were in person, he being our lawful attorney in this case. In witness whereof we have hereunto set our hand and seal this 20Mar1705/6. Signed: **William Adams and Blandina Adams**. In presence of: Robert Laine and John Wormington. *The fact that William Adams and his wife, Blandina Adams appointed an attorney to act for them suggests that they had left the jurisdiction of Norfolk County sometime before 20Mar1704/5. Neither of the foregoing records provided any indication of their place of relocation, nor could any subsequent records be found of their existence.*

We have now presented all the records that could be located for John Adams Sr., William Adams and Abraham Adams in Norfolk County. Aside from his mention as a legatee in his father's LWT, and by John Adams Jr. in the POA dated 20Feb1709/10, no further record was found for Richard Adams. Following are records believed to have related to John Adams Jr. in Lower Norfolk:

34. 15May1695: Lower Norfolk Deed Book 5, Vol. 2, Fiche No. 181: **Malachy Thruston** having obtained an order last Court again **John Adams** for **6,000 lbt in cask** due by bond under the hand and seal of the said Adams dated 25Nov1693, as in case of Michal Divett, he having had reference the Court before, and not now appearing the last Court order is confirmed and ordered the said Adams do pay to the said Thruston the said sum of 6,000 of lbt in cask... [Deeds and Wills Book 5, Part 1, 1686-1695, Norfolk County, Virginia: Norfolk County. Deeds 1686-1695, Will Books 1686-1695 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)

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35. 18Nov1695: Lower Norfolk Deed Book 6, Vol. 1, Page 4: Whereas Mr. William Hislett sued **John Adams** to the last Court for that he, the said **Adams had beaten, abused the said Hislett's negro woman slave**, in her masters absence, and that by sufficient evidence it appears to the Court, but the said Adams pretending somewhat in his defense ____ but the Court then saw sufficient cause, and ordered he should give bond... [Deed Book 6, 1695-1703, Norfolk County, Virginia: Norfolk County. Deed Books 1695-1703 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)
36. 19Nov1695: Lower Norfolk Deed Book 6, Vol. 1, Page 5: The difference betwixt **Maj. Francis Saylor** and **John Adams** being duly examined, it appears that the said Adams indebted unto the said Saylor £43, 2s of good, it is therefore ordered that he, the said Adams pay the same to the said Saylor plus cost and expenses... [Deed Book 6, Part 1, 1695-1703, Norfolk County, Virginia: Norfolk County. Deed Books 1695-1703 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)
37. 19Nov1695: Lower Norfolk Deed Book 6, Vol. 1, Page 5: Judgment is confessed by **John Adams** to Mary Sizmore, administratrix of Samuel Sizmore for 350 lbt...
38. 14Mar1696/7: Lower Norfolk Deed Book 6, Vol. 1, Page 27: Order granted last Court to Cornelius Tully against **John Adams** for 552 lbt and cask due upon balance of a bill, referred to this Court for liberty to discount... [Deed Book 6, Part 1, 1695-1703, Norfolk County, Virginia: Norfolk County. Deed Books 1695-1703 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)
39. 11May1696: Norfolk Deed Book 6, Vol. 1, Page 34-6: List of debtors from account book of William Porter, deceased: **Thomas Brent**: 158 lbt, **John Adams**: 1077 lbt, Henry Newman Sr.: 373 lbt, Adam Thorogood: 458 lbt, Argyle Thorogood: 2,165 lbt, Thomas Mason: 310 lbt, Richard Jones, Miller: 328 lbt, Capt. Malachy Thruston: 600 lbt, Thomas Mason, planter: 267 lbt, Mrs. George Newton: 500 lbt, Mrs. George Newton: 154 lbt...
40. 17Nov1696: Norfolk Deed Book 6, Vol. 1, Page 65: Whereas order in May Court, last, at the suit of Mrs. Hannah Arthur, administratrix of Capt. William Arthur, deceased, against **John Adams** for payment of 980 lbt... [Deed Book 6, Part 1, 1695-1703, Norfolk County, Virginia: Norfolk County. Deed Books 1695-1703 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)
41. 18Nov1696: Norfolk Deed Book 6, Vol. 1, Page 64: County Account Payments: To John Adams in full for his work on the Courthouse: 400 lbt... [Deed Book 6, Part 1, 1695-1703, Norfolk County, Virginia: Norfolk County. Deed Books 1695-1703 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)
42. 18Nov1696: Norfolk Deed Book 6, Vol. 1, Page 66: Hugh Campbell against **John Adams** for 22 lbt...
43. 27Mar1696/7: Norfolk Deed Book 6, Vol. 1, Page 67: Francis Saylor against **John Adams** for 1127 lbt...
44. 29Mar1696/7: Norfolk Deed Book 6, Vol. 1, Page 80: To all Christian people to whom these presents shall come, I, **John Adams**, of Norfolk County is seized ____ ; Whereas I, the said John Adams have formerly sold unto Peter Hobson of the Town of Norfolk, formerly aforesaid formerly by deed under my hand and seal dated 15Jul1695 and exhibited in the records of the said County, thee quantity of **230 acres** of land, situated and lying in Elizabeth River according to the most recent survey bounding therein expressed as by the said deed record; being thereunto had may at every appeared, it being ____ of 400 acres of land granted to me by ____ from Sarah Shinn, late of the said County, deceased; and there still remaining to me, the said John Adams **170 acres** or thereabout, be it more or less; now know you that I, the said John Adams for diverse good causes and considerations me thereunto **£50 sterling current money**, and the one-half ____ of a good suit of apparel to me by the said Peter Hobson in hand paid, before the ensembling and delivery of these presents the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge, and do therewith hold myself to be fully paid, satisfied and contented, and the said Peter Hobson, his heirs, executors and administrators... bounded northerly on the line of the above mentioned 230 acres, formerly sold to said Peter Hobson, westerly on the River, southerly joining upon a branch called **Muddy Branch**, dividing this land from the land of **Malachy Thruston**, lately given him by the last will and testament of **Richard Jones**, mariner, late deceased dated 18Sep1691, proven and recorded January, following; and easterly into the woods, including all the land appertaining unto me, the said John Adams... Signed: John Adams. Witnessed: Malachy Thruston and Sarah Gwinn. [Deed Book 6, Part 1, 1695-1703, Norfolk County, Virginia: Norfolk County. Deed Books 1695-1703 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#) *John Adams had been in possession of 400 acres situated on Muddy Branch, and abutting the 100 acre tract bequeathed by Richard Jones to Malachy Thruston. He had previously sold 230 acres of that 400 acre tract, and by this deed sold the remaining 170 acres. No record was found whereby John Adams Jr. had acquired the original 400 acres. It seems possible that it may have been part of the legacy devised to his wife, Hester Jones by her father, Richard Jones. However, there was no mention of the chain of title of the 400 acres, nor did Hester Jones-Adams relinquish her interest in the land. Does this suggest that Hester Jones-Adams was deceased by Mar1696/7?*

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45. 27May1697: Norfolk Deed Book 6, Vol. 1, Page 91: Whereas Adam Mason hath by his petition complained to this Court that he hath had a young child of John Adams who hath kept it a considerable time and have had no satisfaction for keeping the said child, the father being run away, and the said Mason being a poor man desires some care may be taken for the further keeping the said child, it is therefore ordered that the church wardens of this parish, take care to protect the said child to same and that may carefully maintain it, and the said Masey is left taken remedy against the estate of the said Adams, where he can find it. *This is a very suggestive record. Aside from several records involving suits against John Adams Jr. in the latter part of 1696 and early 1697, this was the last record found for John Adams Jr. in the Lower Norfolk County records. It suggests that John Adams had abandoned a child, which fell under the maintenance of Adam Mason, and that John Adams had "run away". This implies that John Adams was significantly indebted, that he was disposing of his real property, and that he had probably removed outside Lower Norfolk County to parts unknown.*
46. 20Feb1709: Lower Norfolk County Deed Book 8, Page 142 (Fiche No. 148): To all Christian people to whom these presents shall come, know ye that I, John Adams of the County of Bath in Pamlico, formerly an inhabitant of the County of Norfolk in Virginia of the one part, and George Newton of Norfolk County of the other part, Witnesseth that the said John Adams for and in consideration of three good hats hath and for in consideration of a more valuable consideration of 2,500 lbt formerly received of Maj. James Wilson on account of said George Newton as by my deed from my hand dated 15Mar1699, may plainly appear and now being willing and desirous to make the said deed good and authentic and as firm as the law requires, I, the said John Adams do for myself, my heirs and executors do hereby sell, grant, alien, and confirm all the estate that ever I or my heirs hereafter might or could have with all my interest, trust, property reversion or reversions and demand whatsoever, unto 56 acres of land and a little more, which said land in mentioned in a Will from my father, John Adams, deceased dated 7Sep1679, and proved in Court 15Oct1683 unto the said George Newman... Signed: John Adams. In presence of James Wilson, William Wilson and James Cummings. Proved in Court on 15Mar1709 by power of attorney to Lemuel Newton. [Deed Book 8, 1708-1710, Norfolk County, Virginia: Norfolk County. Deed Books 1708-1710 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)
47. 20Feb1709: Lower Norfolk County Deed Book 8, Page 142-3 (Fiche No. 148-9): Know all men by these presents that I, John Adams, of Bath County, Pamlico Precinct in North Carolina, and formerly and inhabitant of Norfolk County in Virginia do for my self and my heirs do constitute and have already appointed Mr. Lemuel Newton and Mr. Willis Wilson of Norfolk County to be my true and lawful attorneys, them or either of them to acknowledge unto George Newton of Norfolk County and to his heirs for ever all the right, title and interest I have to a small tract of land or sell my right that I or any heir may hereafter have to the said land which said land was taken up and patented by my father, John Adams the patent bearing date of 9Oct1675, and by my father's last will and testament given to my mother during her natural life and after her decease to be equally divided between me and my two brothers, William and Richard Adams, which said patent was for 170 acres of land, one-third part thereof being 56 acres and a little more, being formerly sold by me to the said Newton, but do now again appoint my said attorneys or either of them for my self, my heirs and to make and give any further assurance of the said land by any lawful writing whatsoever unto the said Newton for and to his heirs, and which the said land is by my attorneys, Mr. Lemuel Newton and Willis Wilson to be acknowledged in Norfolk County Court anytime at the request of the said Newton hereby for my self my heirs ratifying, confirming and holding good all that my said attorneys or either of them shall do confirming the same as without my hand and seal this 14Feb1709/10, Signed John Adams. In presence of Daniel Porter, James Loftis, Richard Sayer and William Bastin. *In this Power of Attorney John Adams of Bath County NC identified himself as having been formerly of Norfolk County, and as a co-heir of his father, John Adams, along with his brothers: Richard Adams and William Adams.*

And, finally we present a couple of records pertaining to Thomas Brent and Alice Ellett-Adams-Brent:

48. 16Mar1697/8: Norfolk County Deed Book 6, Part 1, Page 117 (Fiche No. 150): Know all men by these presents that I, Henry Slade of Carrituck in the Province of Carolina do assign hereby all my right, title and interest of the within mentioned patent unto Thomas Brent from me and my heirs unto him and his heirs and assigns forever, excepting two bills of sale out of the within mentioned patent and one deed of gift

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conferring 578 acres for the full performance hereof I ____ my self my heirs and executors to make good the title and defend the same from all person or persons whatsoever thereunto laying claim and in witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal this 16Mar1697/8. Signed: Henry Slade. In presence of George Newton, John Moseley and James Wilson. [Deed Book 6, Part 1, 1695-1703, Norfolk County, Virginia: Norfolk County. Deed Books 1695-1703 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#) *This and the succeeding deed records are torn down the middle with missing information. The foregoing represents the best effort at transcription, given the poor condition of these records. This deed appears to be a purchase by Thomas Brent of part of a patent filed by Henry Slade (patent record abstracted hereinabove) which originally contained 1078 acres, situated on Cypress Branch, of Northwest River in the area of the inset on the map contained in Figure 39.*

49. 15Jun1703: Norfolk County Deed Book 6, Part 3, Page 178-9 (Fiche No. 169-70): To all whom these presents shall come, Know ye that I, **Thomas Brent** of Norfolk County, yeoman, together with the free and voluntary consent of **Alice**, my wife, for and in consideration of the sum of £40 sterling to me in hand paid or ____ to be paid by **James Warden** of the aforesaid County before the ensembling and delivery of these presents, the receipt whereof I acknowledge ... confirm unto the said Warden **400 acres** of land, together with ... situated in Norfolk County ... part of a patent granted to **Henry Slade** containing 1078 acres, bearing date 20Apr1693 ... lying and being on south side of **Indian Creek** ... Signed: **Thomas Brent and Alice Brent**, in presence of Joseph Conte, **William Adams and Blandina Adams**. [Deed Book 6, Part 3, 1695-1703, Norfolk County, Virginia: Norfolk County. Deed Books 1695-1703 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#) *Ditto, Item No. 49, above. Thomas Brent and his wife, Alice Ellett-Adams-Brent, sold the 400 acre tract, part of the larger patent taken out by Henry Slade, to James Warden. This tract is believed to have been situated on the waters of Indian Creek and in near proximity to the patent later filed by Abraham Adams in Jul1718. That being the case, then the Brents sold this tract just five years after its purchase. The date of the sale of this tract coincides closely with the date that John Adams Jr. began appearing in records of Bath County NC.*

We do not know with certainty where Thomas Brent and Alice Ellett-Adams-Brent may have settled after selling their 400 acre tract on Indian Creek to James Warden. Many researchers suggest that they moved southerly into Currituck County North Carolina, where Thomas Brent purportedly died testate in 1712/3. Abstracts of his LWT are widely circulated, but the original record has not been located. From those abstracted estate records it would appear that Thomas and Alice Brent had several children, suggesting that John Adams Jr. and Abraham Adams Sr. had half-siblings surnamed Brent. It is interesting that William and Blandina Adams were witnesses to the deed conveyance to James Warden, since James Warden and William Adams shared in the legacy of Dr. William Newton's land.

Wrap-up of Bath County Adams:

We digressed from our wrap-up of Bath County NC Adams in order to present the probable background on the origins of those Adams. Many researchers suggest that John Adams, and possibly Abraham Adams, of Bath County originated from John Adams of Lower Norfolk. Having fairly thoroughly investigated John Adams of Lower Norfolk, it can be stated with some confidence that John Adams of Lower Norfolk was the father of John Adams Jr., Richard Adams, William Adams and Abraham Adams Sr., and that John Adams Jr. and Abraham Adams Sr. both settled in Bath County NC, albeit almost 25 years apart.

Following is a deed abstract which conveyed a tract of land in Bath County in 1726 from William Jones to Abraham Adams containing 228 acres. This is believed to have been the tract from which Abraham Adams Sr. bequeathed 76 acres each to his sons: Abraham Adams Jr. and Richard Adams (228 acres / 3 = 76 acres).

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50. 17Jan1726/7: Bath County Deed Book 1, Page 538: Indenture between William Jones, Planter and **Abraham Adams, Carpenter**, both of Bath County, sold for £130 a certain tract of land in Bath County, Beaufort Precinct containing **228 acres** (patent to John Sullivan bearing date 6Mar1704/5) (excepting 30-foot square burying ground), and situated and lying on north side of **Pamlico River**, on east side and near mouth of **Bath Town Creek**, beginning at Barris' line, adjoining John Sullivan and Buntin, Capt. Gutridge... witnessed by William Sparry, Thomas Smith and Patrick Maule.

Abraham Adams Sr. acquired this 228 acre tract on Bath Town Creek just one year after he sold his 152 acre patent land on Cypress Branch of Northwest River, Norfolk County. Aside from those connections already discussed between John Adams Jr. and Abraham Adams Sr. from Norfolk County, there are further striking connection between them in Bath County. First, they were both described as having been carpenters. This suggests that they may have been placed in apprenticeships after the decease of their father. Next, they both acquired tracts on the east side of Bath Town Creek. Abraham's tract was situated near the mouth of Bath Creek on the north bank of Pamlico River.

Next we present another LWT, this also of an Abraham Adams:

"18Dec1734: In the name of God, I, **Abraham Adams**, of **Bath County** in the province of North Carolina, being sick in body, but of sound mind and memory, do make and ordain this my last will and testament, and I hereby dispose of my personal estate and effects in manner and form following, vitz.:

Imprimis: I give and bequeath to my son, James Adams all that tract of land and plantation whereon I now live, containing by estimation 420 acres to him and his heirs of his body lawfully begotten forever;

Item: I give to my said son, **James Adams 100 acres** of land lying on and adjoining to **Kengor's [Kenyon's?] Mill Dam Swamp** to him and the heirs of his body lawfully begotten forever;

Item: I give to my son, **Joseph Adams**, that tract or parcel of land containing **265 acres** lying on and adjoining to **Old Town Creek** to him and the heirs of his body lawfully begotten forever;

Item: I give to my said son, **Joseph Adams 185 acres** to the last mentioned tract of land adjoining to him and the heirs of his body lawfully begotten forever;

Item: I give to my said son **James Adams** a negro man called Jack, and to my said son Joseph Adams a negro man called Caesar;

Item: I give to my beloved wife, **Anne Adams**, two negro wenches named Phyllis and Dinah during her natural life and after her decease to my children herein named to be equally divided between them share and share alike;

Item: I give to my daughter, **Sarah Adams** a negro girl named Maria, and to my daughter, Elizabeth Adams, a negro girl named Rose;

And, as to the rest and residue of my personal estate I give and bequeath one-third part thereof to my said beloved wife, **Anne Adams**, and the other two-thirds part I give and bequeath to my said children, herein named to be equally divided between them share and share alike;

And, it is my will and desire, and I do hereby order that my personal estate by this my will bequeathed to my said wife and children be equally divided between them on or before the month of May next according to the true intent and purport of this my last will and testament and that the hire and profits of the said several and respective legacies, herein before given and bequeathed to my said children be applied to the maintenance and education of my said children until they respectively arrive and attain to the age of 18 years;

When the several and respective legacies, herein bequeathed to them shall be respectively paid;

And I do hereby constitute and appoint my beloved wife, Anne Adams, sole executrix of this my last will and testament;

And I do also hereby appoint and it is my will and desire that my friend, John Hodgson of Burke Precinct in the Province aforesaid be guardian and trustee to my said children herein named for the due performance of this my last will and testament;

And I do hereby give and bequeath to my said wife, Anne Adams, a negro man named Tom, and that my wife shall have the use of and live on the said plantation whereon I now live during her widowhood;

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In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 18Dec1734: Signed Abraham Adams.
Signed, sealed, published and declared (after the above interlining) in the presence of: **John Collison**,
James Adams and Peter Cailas.”¹²
[Ancestry.com](https://ancestry.com) - North Carolina, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1665-1998

This LWT for good reason is believed to have been that of the son of John Adams Jr. The reason for this identification is that Abraham Adams Jr., son of Abraham Adams Sr. is not known to have accumulated anywhere near the amount of lands bequeathed by this LWT, which tabulated to a total of 970 acres, none of which appears to match with the 76 acres bequeathed by Abraham Adams Sr. to his son, Abraham Adams Jr. just one year earlier. For ease of comparison, we reiterate the LWTs of John Adams Jr. and Abraham Adams Sr. hereinafter for the reader's convenience:

Last Will and Testament of **John Adams**:

17Apr1733: Bath County Will Book

“In the name of God, Amen, I, **John Adams** of Bath County in the **Precinct of Hyde**, being of sound mind and perfect memory, praised be God for the same: I hereby ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form following, that is to say:

First and principally I commend my soul unto the ____ of almighty God, hoping through the merits ____ of Saviour, Jesus Christ compassion and forgiveness of all my sins and to inherit everlasting life and my body committed to the earth to be buried at the discretion of my Executors hereafter named and ____ and disposition of all such temporal estate as it hath pleased Almighty God to bestow upon me:

I give and bequeath as followeth:

Item: I will that all my just debts and funeral charges be payed and discharged:

Item I give and bequeath unto my loving son, **Abraham Adams** my Negro man named Packe, and the plantation the said Abraham now lives upon and all the land thereunto belonging to him and his heirs forever lawfully begotten of his body;

Item: I give and bequeath to my loving son, **James Adams**, my Negro man named Damon, and the plantation that I now live upon, with all the improvements thereunto belonging and one good bed, and all the furniture thereunto belonging, and two _____ to him and his heirs forever, lawfully begotten of his body;

Item: I give and bequeath unto my loving son, **Emanuel Adams**, one half of a tract of land lying on the west side of **Blounts Creek** containing **320 acres** with ½ of the stock of cattle and hogs that belong upon said land, and one Negro woman named Dinah, one good bed and all the furniture thereunto belonging, and _____ to him and his heirs forever, lawfully begotten of his body;

Item: I give and bequeath into my loving son, **John Adams**, my Negro boy named Loney Call and ½ of tract of land lying on the west side of **Blounts Creek** containing **320 acres** (line unreadable) _____ one good bed and all the furniture thereunto belonging, and ?two pools? to him and his heirs forever, lawfully begotten of his body;

Item: I give and bequeath to my loving son, **Thomas Adams**, a tract of land lying on the head of the Creek and joining upon the plantation whereon I now live, the tract containing **240 acres**, and ¼ part of the stock that is upon the plantation whereon I now live, with the first child that my aged Menor brings, a good bed with all the furniture belonging thereunto, and “two stools?” To him and his heirs forever, lawfully begotten of his body;

Item: I give and bequeath unto my loving daughter, **Martha Adams**, one (Negro) child and _____ and ¼ part of the stock that is upon the plantation whereon I now live, with a good breeding mare, and one good bed and all the furniture thereunto belonging, with ?two pools?;

Item: I give and bequeath unto my loving daughter, **Rachel Adams**, a Negro woman named Minor, and all the cattle that was named to her formerly, with the ¼ part of the stock on the plantation whereon I now live, and two stools and one good bed with all the furniture thereunto belonging;

¹² Transcribed by Robert Atteberry on 11Jul2024.

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Item: I give and bequeath unto my loving daughter, **Mary Adams**, the 2nd child that Rachel Adams' Negro, Manor, brings with the ¼ part of the cattle that is upon the plantation whereon I now live, one good bed and all the furniture thereunto belonging, and ?two stools?;

Item: I give and bequeath all the rest and reserve on my estate, both within doors and without to be equally divided between **Emanuel Adams, John Adams, Thomas Adams, Martha Adams, Rachel Adams, (and) Mary Adams**;

I do hereby constitute and appoint my sons, **Abraham Adams and James Adams** to be my Executors of this my last will and testament, and I do hereby revoke, disannul and make void all wills and testaments heretofore by me made. In witness whereof, I, the said John Adams, to this my last will and testament have hereunto set my hand and seal this 17Apr1733. John Adams (his mark)

Witnesses: Oliver Blackburn, John Aldershire and Robert Sharples."

[North Carolina, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1665-1998 - Ancestry.com](#)

"23Oct1733: In the name of God, Amen: The last will and testament of **Abraham Adams Sr.**, being very sick and weak in body, but of sound and perfect memory, and calling to mind the uncertainty of this transitory life, hoping through the merits and the death and passion of my saviour Jesus Christ to inherit eternal life do for avoiding controversies after my decease make, publish and declare this to be my last will and testament, revoking and denying any other former will by me made and recommending my soul to the hands of Almighty God who gave it and my body I commit to the earth to be decently buried at the discretion of my Executors hereafter mentioned after all my debts and personal charges are paid and discharged;

Item: I give and bequeath unto my son, **Abraham Adams** part of my land lying on **Pamlico River**, beginning at the fork of the branch up the gut that parts me from **Mr. Thomas Jewel's** and running up **North Gut** to a place called the **Gum Going Over** and up along the branch to the back line, then beginning again at the aforesaid, for and running up the easternmost branch to a branch called the **Island Branch**, thence up the branch till it leaves the island, and so still up the branch to the **Going Over** to make my tar kiln, thence across a ridge to the savannah to the back line, **containing by estimation 76 acres of land**, which said land I give to my son Abraham Adams and to the male heirs lawfully begotten of his own body, which said land I **will not have to be sold, let or mortgaged, but from one brother to the other**;

Item: I give unto my son, **Richard Adams**, a part of the land I live on in **Pamlico River**, joining upon my son, Abraham Adams, and Mr. Thomas Jewel, being the upper part of my land being **76 acres** more or less to him and his male heirs lawfully begotten of his own body, which said land is not to be sold, let or mortgaged but from brother to brother;

Item: I give unto my son, **William**, all my tools, horse, gun and new coat;

Item: I give unto my son, **Willoughby** a certain cow yearling of a red, brown and white face and all her increase;

Item: I give to my daughter, **Abia**, a certain two-year old heifer, black pied and all her increase, one trundle bedstead and bed and furniture belonging to it;

Item: I give unto my loving wife, **Bathia**, the use of my plantation whereon I now live with all the rest of my goods and chattels and estate during her widowhood and in case of death or marriage then my plantation I give to my son, Willoughby and his male heirs lawfully begotten of his body, not to be sold, let or mortgaged, but from brother to brother;

And my moveable goods and chattels to be equally divided between my sons, William and Willoughby, and Abia, my daughter;

And I do hereby nominate and appoint my loving wife to my whole and sole executrix of this my last will and testament, revoking all other wills by me heretofore made;

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and fixed my seal this 23Oct1733. Signed: Abraham Adams, his mark.

Signed, sealed, published and declared in the presence of: **Phillip Shute, Mary Shute** and John Collisson."

[Ancestry.com - North Carolina, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1665-1998](#)

By following the land acquisitions of Abraham Adams Sr. we reliably established that he first appeared in records when he filed a patent for 152 acres on Cypress Branch [aka Indian Creek] in Norfolk County in Jul 1718 adjacent to a patent filed by Henry Slade. We later showed that Abraham Adams Sr. (of Bath County NC) sold that 152 acres tract of land, which abutted the

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land of Abraham Adams Jr., his son, in Feb1725/6 to John Northern, the deed of conveyance being witnessed by James Warden and Margaret Warden. Eleven days later on 15Feb1725/6 we had Abraham Adams [Jr.?] of North Carolina selling a 60 acre tract of land on Cypress Branch (presumably the tract that had abutted his father's patent land) to John Northern, deed witnessed by James Warden and Margaret Warden. Then, approximately one year later on 17Jan1726/7 we have a deed of conveyance wherein Abraham Adams [Sr.], carpenter, of Bath County purchased a tract of land containing 228 acres from William Jones, said tract being situated and lying on the east side and near the mouth of Bath Town Creek, north side of the Pamlico River. And then, finally, we have the LWT of Abraham Adams Sr. dated 23Oct1733 in which he devised two tracts of land to his sons: Abraham Adams Jr. and Richard Adams consisting of 76 acres each, being described as abutting the land of Mr. Thomas Jewel. As a final confirmation of these records having pertained to Abraham Adams Sr., the tracts containing 76 acres just happen to coincide with a one-third division of the 228 acre tract purchased by Abraham Adams Sr. from William Jones.

From the foregoing assessment of land acquired and devised by Abraham Adams Sr., there is no suggestion that he acquired any other land in Bath County beyond the 228 acre tract purchased from William Jones. Yet, in the LWT of Abraham Adams dated 18Dec1734 we have bequests of land to his son, James Adams, two separate tracts, one of 420 acres, being the plantation whereon Abraham Adams lived, plus a 100 acre tract adjoining Kenyon's Mill Dam Swamp. Additionally, he bequeathed a 265 acre tract to his son, Joseph Adams, situated on Old Town Creek, plus an adjoining tract containing 185 acres. From the LWT of John Adams Jr. we have a bequest to his son, Abraham Adams, "the plantation the said Abraham now lives upon and all the land thereunto belonging".

A further measure for delineating between these Abraham Adams may be found through the neighbors and witnesses to the LWT of Abraham Adams Sr., namely Phillip Shute and his wife, Mary Shute. The following deed and estate records will provide a better identification of Phillip Shute:

51. 7Aug1717: LWT of John Drinkwater, Bath County: Devisees: Phillip Shute, son of Gyles Shute and Charity Shute (plantation containing 820 acres, lying between Mallard Creek and Goose Creek; 320 acres on South Dividing Creek (south side of Pamlico River); house in Bath Town; money and plate on hand), Gyles Shute (wearing apparel), Charity Shute (all lands in event of death of Phillip. Executors: Gyles and Charity Shute. Witnesses: Patrick Cavan and Elizabeth Ellenbar. Proved 30May1718.

In the foregoing estate record we have John Drinkwater devising a substantial part of his estate to Phillip Shute, son of Gyles Shute and his wife, Charity Shute, including two large tracts of land and a lot in Bath Town. This LWT was written about eight years before Abraham Adams Sr. purchased a 228 acre tract near the mouth of Bath Town Creek. Charity Shute, the reversionary devisee on the estate of John Drinkwater is of good reason believed to have been a daughter (and possibly his sole surviving heir) of John Drinkwater.

52. 11Feb1728/9: LWT of Gyles Shute: Wife, Charity; Children: Philip Shute (wearing apparel), Samuel Shute (plantation whereon he (testator) lives at mouth of Town Creek, after mother's decease, next to son, Joseph Shute (both under 21 years), daughter, Ponston Shute, gold ring, Penelope Shute, (another child missed by microfilm); Charity Shute sole Executrix. Witnesses: John Hancocke, John Lawson and Joseph Howell? <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/9061> (Film Page 563 of 1482) [North Carolina, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1665-1998 - Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/9061)

Gyles Shute wrote his LWT on 11Feb1728/9 in which he named his wife, Charity Drinkwater-Shute, sons: Philip, Samuel and Joseph Shute, and daughters: Ponston and Penelope Shute. Both daughters were

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minors. Philip Shute, probably the eldest son, received only his father's wearing apparel, probably because Phillip had already received a substantial estate from his grandfather, John Drinkwater. Samuel received his father's plantation, which was situated near the mouth of Town Creek, in the same neighborhood as Abraham Adams Sr.s' 228 acre tract. So, in Feb1729 Gyles Shute would have been a near neighbor of Abraham Adams Sr.

Name **Gyles Shute**

Residence Date 1703

Residence Place **St. Stephen's Parish, Cecil, Maryland**

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This may have been a record of Gyles Shute, in which case he appears to have migrated from Cecil County Maryland to Bath County NC sometime after 1703.

53. 11Aug1737: Beaufort Precinct, Province of North Carolina: Deed Book 2, Page 254: **Richard Adams**, planter exchanged with **Philip Shute**, planter, both of Beaufort Precinct, a tract of land called **Ragged Point**, situated on north side of **Pamlico River**, beginning at point on bank of River, about half-way from **Mallard Creek**, place where Shute built, up the head line to include part of thoroughfare, to head of said creek, then down meanders of creek to mouth, then down River to begin, being part of a 600 acre tract granted to Capt. Drinkwater, 9Nov1719, then sold to said Shute, and part of another tract containing **220 acres**, sold by Thomas Sellers to said Shute by deed dated 5Jan1719, sold by Shute to **Edmund Elliot**, who by LWT ordered to be sold by Executors, who sold the same to **Richard Adams**, in exchange for a tract of land containing **76 acres** and bounded on said River and on land of said **Richard Adams**, and on the plantation of **Thomas Jewell**, deceased... Recorded 29Aug1737. Witnesses: Mary Traves, William Ormond and Wryriott Ormond. [Beaufort. Deeds 1729-1748, Deeds 1695-1729 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#) *By this deed of conveyance, Richard Adams, son of Abraham Adams Sr., exchanged the 76 acre tract inherited from his father, for a tract of land of unspecified size owned by Philip Shute, situated at Ragged Point, north side of Pamlico River, about midway between Mallard Creek and Goose Creek. The land which Philip Shute swapped to Richard Adams probably included part of the land he inherited from his grandfather, John Drinkwater.*
64. 7Mar1740: Deed Book 2, Page 375: Indenture between **Richard Adams** and John Chillely both of Beaufort County, for £32 sold **55 acres** of land lying and being at **Ragged Point**, north side of **Pamlico River**, being a parcel of land I lately bought of Philip Shute, adjoining on John Forbes', running down river, inland... Witnesses: Samuel Lucas and John Mainer. [Beaufort. Deeds 1729-1748, Deeds 1695-1729 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#) *Richard Adams appears to have sold a part (55 acres) of the tract he swapped with Philip Shute for his 76 acres inherited from his father.*
65. 13Apr1741: Deed Book 2, Page 413: Indenture between **Richard Adams**, planter, of Beaufort County and Daniel Blinn, merchant of Bath Town, for £29 sold a tract of land lying at **Ragged Point** on north side of **Pamlico River** containing **100 acres**, bordering upon 55 acres sold to John Chillely, comprehending all the land I bought of Philip Shute conveyed to Richard Adams by deed dated 11Aug1737... Witnesses: James Calf, William Martin and Roy Jones. [Beaufort. Deeds 1729-1748, Deeds 1695-1729 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#) *Richard Adams sold an additional 100 acres from the tract he swapped for from Philip Shute. This deed suggests that this 100 acre tract, when combined with the 55 acres, previously conveyed to John Chilly, comprised the entire lands he had acquired from Philip Shute (155 acres).*
66. 6Sep1742: Deed Book 2, Page 447: Indenture between **Philip Shute and Mary**, his wife, of Beaufort County and **James Adams** of same, for £96 sold a certain tract of land lying and being situate on the north side of **Pamlico River**, joining and bounding on the plantation of **Abraham Adams**, deceased, and on the plantation of **Thomas Jewell**, deceased, containing by estimate **76 acres**, being part of a tract of land containing **228 acres**... by Abraham Adams devised to his son, Richard Adams, and by said Richard conveyed to Philip Shute in exchange... Witnesses: William Leslie and Joseph Barrow. [Beaufort. Deeds 1729-1748, Deeds 1695-1729 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#) *This deed conveyed the 76 acre tract swapped by Richard Adams to Philip Shute, which tract Richard had inherited from his father, Abraham*

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Adams Sr. The identity of the grantee, James Adams, is unclear. Thus far we have presented estate records which identified two different legatees named James Adams:

- a. *John Adams Jr. devised to a son named James Adams on 17Apr1733 as follows: "Item: I give and bequeath to my loving son, James Adams, my Negro man named Damon, and the plantation that I now live upon, with all the improvements thereunto belonging and one good bed, and all the furniture thereunto belonging, and two _____ to him and his heirs forever, lawfully begotten of his body..."*, and
- b. *Abraham Adams, presumed son of John Adams Jr. devised to a minor son named James Adams on 18Dec1734 as follows: "Imprimis: I give and bequeath to my son, James Adams all that tract of land and plantation whereon I now live, containing by estimation 420 acres to him and his heirs of his body lawfully begotten forever; Item: I give to my said son, James Adams 100 acres of land lying on and adjoining to Kengor's Mill Dam Swamp to him and the heirs of his body lawfully begotten forever;"*

So, the only two James Adams known to have reached adulthood and presumably still residing in Beaufort County in Sep1742 were both descended from John Adams Jr., one being a son, and the other being a grandson. James Adams, son of John Adams Jr. is believed to have been an adult in Apr1733, and received the plantation on which his father lived, whereas his brother, Abraham Adams, father of the other James Adams, received the land upon which he (Abraham) was already residing. No further description of these legacies was provided, so we do not know the size or location of these devised plantations. Presumably, they were both situated on the north side of Pamlico River, since the 640 acre tract patented by John Adams Jr. was situated on the south side of Pamlico River on Blounts Creek, and devised to two other sons: Emanuel and John III. The only tract known to have been acquired by John Adams Jr. on the north side of Pamlico River was of unspecified size, acquired from James Hogg in Apr1702 on Old Town Creek (Bath Creek). It seems possible that the lands inherited by James Adams and Abraham Adams probably comprised the whole of the tract purchased by John Adams Jr. from James Hogg. It seems highly probable that it was one of these two James Adams who purchased the 76 acre tract from Philip Shute, but just which one is uncertain.

67. 26Jan1744: Deed Book 2, Page 421: Indenture between Willoughby Adams and Elizabeth, his wife, and William King. All of Beaufort County, in consideration of £150 sold a certain tract of land containing 76 acres, situated and lying in Beaufort County, north side of Pamlico River, being 1/3 part of 228 acres by patent to John Sullivan, sold to William Jones, conveyed to Abraham Adams, devised by LWT to Willoughby Adams, his son, bounded by the fork of the said branch, up the gut that parts the same from Frances Jewell's plantation (relic of Thomas Jewell's), running up the northernmost branch to the Going Over Place, thence to the back line, thence down Mattock's line to the River, then down the River to the gut, then up the gut to the aforesaid fork, the first station... Witnesses: James Adams, Sarah Adams, and Wryriott Ormond. [Beaufort. Deeds 1729-1748, Deeds 1695-1729 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#) Willoughby Adams, son of Abraham Adams Sr. conveyed 76 acre tract devised to him be his father's LWT. The fact that Willoughby Adams was in possession of this 76 acre tract suggests that his mother, Bathia Adams [aka Barthia Willoughby-Adams] was deceased. The remainder (76 acres) of Abraham Adams plantation was left to the use of his wife for the remainder of her natural life, then to their son, Willoughby. It is curious that James Adams keeps appearing in conjunction with members of Abraham Adams Sr.' family. First he appeared in connection with Richard Adams, he then purchased 76 acres from Philip Shute, which had been devised to Richard Adams, now he witnesses this conveyance by Willoughby Adams. By this compiler's assessment, James Adams was the eldest son of Abraham Adams, son of John Adams.
68. 13Sep1744: Deed Book 2, Page 420: Indenture between William Adams, planter, and Willoughby Adams, planter, both of Beaufort County, for £50 sold a tract of land containing 25 acres, lying and being on north side of Pamlico River, being part of the plantation whereon my father, Abraham Adams, deceased, lived, beginning at a nut tree on the side of Pamlico, running various courses, Mrs. Frances Jewell's plantation, down the gut to the beginning... Witnesses: John Forbes and John Chester. [Beaufort. Deeds 1729-1748, Deeds 1695-1729 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#) William Adams and Willoughby Adams are believed to have been younger sons of Abraham Adams Sr. In this deed William Adams conveyed a 25 acre tract to Willoughby Adams. This tract is described as having been part of the 228 acre tract on which Abraham Adams Sr. had lived. It is unclear how William Adams would have come into possession of any part of his father's land. He was not devised any land by way of his father's LWT. There are deed records (abstracted hereinbefore) which trace the chain of title of the 1/3 part devised to Richard Adams (swapped

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to Philip Shute, then sold by Shute to James Adams), and 1/3 part devolved to Willoughby Adams (sold by Willoughby to William King). The 1/3 part devised to Abraham Adams (Jr.) does not appear in any deed documents, however, the LWT did stipulate that the land could not be disposed to anyone other than a brother:

“which said land I will not have to be sold, let or mortgaged, but from one brother to the other.”

It seems probable that the foregoing 25 acres was part of the 76 acres devised to Abraham Adams Jr., which somehow devolved to his brother, William Adams.

59. 13Apr1749: Deed Book 3, Page 11: Indenture between **Richard Adams**, planter, and John Martin, both of Beaufort County, for £100 sold a tract of land containing 76 acres, situated on north side of Pamlico River, bounded by a fork of gut, which parts me from **Thomas Jewell**, running upon said branch called **Island Branch**, up said branch to **Going Over Place** to make my tar kiln, thence along back line to Richard Norman's corner, to beginning... Witnesses: Joseph Satchwell, John Alderson and William Campbell. [Beaufort. Deeds 1763–1778, Deeds 1748–1763 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#) *It would appear that Richard Adams had somehow come into possession of another 76 acre tract, part of his father's tract, which originally contained 228 acres. His original tract, inherited from his father, was swapped to Philip Shute for a 220 acre tract at Ragged Point in 1741, which Philip Shute in turn sold to James Adams in 1742. No deed record was found whereby any of the three 76 acre tracts devised by Abraham Adams Sr. were later conveyed to Richard Adams.*
60. 13Mar1753: Deed Book 3, Page 123: Indenture between **James Adams**, planter, and **Mary**, his wife, and **John Dickinson**, both of Beaufort County, for ___ sold a parcel of land lying ___ sold by Jones to Abraham Adams by deed dated ___ 1726 out of which last mentioned tract of land said Abraham Adams devised 76 acres to his son, Richard Adams, by deed dated 11Aug1727 conveyed to Philip Shute... Witnesses: **Joseph Adams** and **James Adams**. [Beaufort. Deeds 1763–1778, Deeds 1748–1763 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#) *This James Adams, grantor, appears to have been a son of John Adams Sr. By this deed he conveyed the 76 acre tract purchased from Philip Shute, which Shute had acquired by way of a land swap with Richard Adams. Clearly, the 76 acre tract conveyed by Richard Adams in the preceding deed was not his original legacy. It is important to note that a Joseph Adams and James Adams were witnesses to this deed. Joseph Adams almost certainly was the son of Abraham Adams, presumed son of John Adams Sr., who wrote his LWT dated 18Dec1734. Assuming that identity to be correct, then the other witness, James Adams, probably was Joseph Adams' brother. They were both bequeathed substantial legacies of land and slaves from their father's estate. But, they were also both under the age of consent in 1734, and would not have received their legacies until reaching the age of 21 years. Joseph Adams and James Adams would have been nephews of the grantor, James Adams.*
61. 11Oct1753: Deed Book 3, Page 152: Indenture between **James Adams** and William Wagoner, both of Beaufort County for £15 sold a tract of land on south side of Pamlico River on head of **Blount's Creek**, on east side of **Newton's Run**, part of a tract of land granted to James Adams by patent, containing 200 acres... Witnesses: **Philip Shute**, **John Slade** and Thomas Simon [Lermon?] *The identity of this James Adams is uncertain. By virtue of LWT's we are aware of at least two persons named James Adams who would have achieved adulthood prior to 1750: (1) presumed eldest son of John Adams Jr., and (2) son of Abraham Adams, son of John Adams Jr. The fact that this tract containing 200 acres was situated on the head of Blounts Creek, east side of Newton's Run would seem to set this James Adams apart from the previously identified James Adams. We do know from the LWT of John Adams Jr. that he owned a tract containing 640 acres on Blounts Creek, which he devised equally to his sons: John Adams Jr. and Emanuel Adams. Given the location of this tract having been on Blounts Creek, it seems probable that this James Adams was descended from either John Adams Jr. or Emanuel Adams, to whom part or all of their inherited 320 acre tracts may have devolved. This record was inserted at this point in our investigation mainly because it was witnessed by Philip Shute.*
62. 23Dec1762: LWT of **Philip Shute**: Wife, **Mary**; Children: Mary Shute, Susan Shute, Elizabeth Shute, Ann Shute, Gyles Shute, Joseph Shute, Samuel Shute, John Shute and Jesse Shute. Executor: John Maull. Witnesses: Thomas Jones, John Robison, Francis Sigruey. [North Carolina, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1665-1998 - Ancestry.com](#) Book Q-Z, 1720-1868 [Film Page 103 of 416] *This appears to have been the LWT of Philip Shute.*

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This concludes our presentation of records pertaining to Abraham Adams Sr. and his descendants. In fact, this pretty much concludes our investigation of the Adams of Bath County North Carolina. There were numerous additional records pertaining to the John Adams Jr. and Abraham Adams Sr. families which are presented hereinafter simply for reference and future analysis by any interested parties:

63. 7Jun1735: Bath County Deed Book 2, Page 185-6: Indenture between John Harvey of Bath County, Hyde Precinct, Planter and William Adams of same, Planter, for and inconsideration of £30, sold a certain tract of land containing 160 acres, and situated in said Precinct and lying on north side of Pamlico River, on head of North Dividing Creeks, and bounded by various courses (metes and bounds)... Witnesses: Jacob Coplan and Mark Weeks. *The identity of this William Adams is uncertain, but possibly a son of Abraham Adams Sr. (see LWT) North Dividing Creek is shown on the Moseley Map on the north side of Pamlico River, the first stream upstream of Pungo River. From the LWT of Abraham Adams Sr. we have four sons identified as Abraham [Jr.], Richard, William and Willoughby. For whatever reason, Abraham Sr. devised his land (228 acres) in three equal parts: 76 acres to Abraham, 76 acres to Richard, and 76 acres to his wife, Bathia, and to Willoughby after her death. The son named William received "all my tools, horse, gun and new coat". It was quite unusual during this time period that a son would be excluded from sharing in his father's real property estate. Perhaps William had already received previous gifts from his father, which Abraham felt sufficient, when combined with the personal property legacy. Anyway, because of the matching name and the near contemporaneous timing, it seems highly likely that this William Adams was the son of Abraham Adams Sr.*
64. 18Sep1736: Deed Book 2, Page 278: Richard Adams and James Adams purchased livestock from estate of Patrick Maule at vendue. *This Richard Adams probably was a son of Abraham Adams Sr. James Adams possibly was a son of John Adams Jr. or of Abraham Adams, son of John Adams Jr. James Adams, son of John Adams Jr. was bequeathed his father's home plantation, which is believed to have been situated along the south side of Adams Creek (aka Back Creek) to the east of Bath Town. This James Adams probably was not the grandson of John Adams Jr., as he was still a minor when his father wrote his LWT on 18Dec1734.*
65. 31Jan1736/7: Deed Book 2, Page 493: William Adams and Thomas Bonner, Executors of Edward Salter... [Beaufort. Deeds 1729-1748, Deeds 1695-1729 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#) Ditto, Item No. 63, above..
66. 15Jun1737: Beaufort Precinct Deed Book 2, Page 253: Indenture between Abraham Pritchett and James Adams, both of Bath County, in consideration of £40 sold a certain tract of land situated on south side of Pamlico River, south side of South Dividing Creek, being at mouth of Long Creek, containing 22 acres... Witnesses: John Boyd and John Collisson. [Beaufort. Deeds 1729-1748, Deeds 1695-1729 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#) *This James Adams almost certainly was a son of John Adams Jr. The reason for this identification is the fact that only other James Adams known during this time period was a son of Abraham Adams, presumed son of John Adams Jr., who probably was too young to have land on the south side of Pamlico River. A James Adams filed a patent for 100 acres on 3Oct1735, probably the son of John Adams Jr.*
 - 3Oct1735: James Adams, 100 acres, Bath County
67. 1Aug1738: Bath County Deed Book 2, Page 289: Power of Attorney from John Boutwell of Caroline County VA to Capt. William Adams of Bath County NC to act in recording Deed of Gift from John Boutwell to Samuel Boutwell, also of Bath County, for conveyance of a tract containing 300 acres and situated at head of Prices Creek of Pamlico River... *This Capt. William Adams may have been a son of Abraham Adams Sr., who wrote his LWT dated 23Oct1733. Other than having been in Bath County and on the drains of Pamlico River, nothing in this deed allowed more definite delineation of its location. The fact that John Boutwell was of Caroline County VA and that William Adams appears to have married Ann Kennedy, whose brother John Kennedy was identified as having been of Shenandoah VA, this almost certainly was the same William Adams as featured in Item Nos. 63 and 65, above.*
68. 28Oct1741: Deed Book 2, Page 385: Indenture between William Adams, gentleman, and George Lewis, merchant, both of Beaufort County, for £410 sold a tract of land containing 436 acres lying and being on north side of Pamlico River on north side of Red Bank Creek, beginning at red oak, various course, to

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Joyner's line, to beginning, granted to said Adams by patent dated 10Mar1740... Witnesses: Thomas Bonner, Peter Caila and Steven Goolde. [Beaufort. Deeds 1729–1748, Deeds 1695–1729 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#) Ditto, Item Nos. 63, 65 and 67, above. This tract was the patent granted to William Adams abstracted below.

- 11Mar1740/1: William Adams, 436 acres, Beaufort County
69. 29Jan1747/8: Deed Book 2, Page 525: Indenture between **William Adams** of Beaufort County for and in consideration of the natural love and affection I have and bear unto the children of **John Kennedy** of Shanondoa [sic] on the head of Potomack [sic] River, and brother to my wife, **Anne P. Adams**, it being he that was lately in these parts, and my said wife allowed to be her ___ and for the preferment and advancement of his the said Kennedy's children, and divers other good causes and considerations me thereunto, moving, have given, granted... to the children of John Kennedy the several negro slaves following: negro girl named Judas about 11 years old, negro girl named Nan about 7 years old, negro boy named Pompey about 9 years old, and negro boy named Prince about 2 years old... Witnesses: Sarah Coughton and Henry Snoad. [Beaufort. Deeds 1729–1748, Deeds 1695–1729 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#) This William Adams may have been a son of Abraham Adams Sr., and previously described as "Capt." and "Gentleman". William Adams identified his wife as Anne P. Adams, sister of John Kennedy of Shenandoah. There was a LWT written by Ann Adams dated 31Jan1760 in which she made bequests to John Kennedy Jr., son of John Kennedy and Elizabeth. One particular researcher believes that he knows the identity of this Ann Adams and of her husband, at least in terms of his name. Robert A. Moore has published a transcription of the "1763 Kennedy Family Bible"¹³ from which we have the very first entry abstracted as follows:

- a. **Ann Adams** departed this life **August 11th 1760**, in the 67 year of her age. (Ann Adams was the wife of **William Adams** and sister of **John Kennedy** b. abt. 1697 d. 1769)

Also, from a history of this Kennedy family, Mr. Moore has identified this John Kennedy as John Kennedy Sr., a Scotsman from Virginia, who reportedly settled on land immediately north of Washington, Beaufort County, North Carolina on which he developed his home plantation called "Creekmere", the manor house pictured in Figure 41.



Figure 41
Creekmere – John Kennedy Sr. Plantation House

70. 5Mar1747/8: Deed Book 2, Page 526: Griffin Floyd to **William Adams** for £10, sold tract of land containing **100 acres** situated on north side of **Pamlico River**, being at mouth of a branch commonly called **Deep Branch**, running into a beaver dam called George May's beaver dam, thence down the said beaver dam to the main of a branch known as **Tar Kiln Branch**, up said branch to back line, along back line to Deep Branch, down Deep Branch to begin... by patent to Griffin Floyd dated 10Mar1743/4... Witnesses: **Henry Snoad**, **Mary Snoad** and William Brown. [Beaufort. Deeds 1729–1748, Deeds 1695–1729 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#) The location of this tract appears to have been on the north side of Pamlico River, above present day Washington. This location is based on the geographic elements identified in the deed (i.e., Deep Branch and Tar Kiln Branch) and the witnesses: Henry and Mary Snoad. The Snoads are known to have had lands along the Pamlico River. John Moseley's map called "New and correct map of the Province of North Carolina" dated 1733 shows an Adams near the mouth of Tranter's Branch in close proximity to Snoad (presumably Henry Snoad). This William Adams could have been the same person identified as the grantor in the preceding deed record. His identity is unknown. The only William Adams thus far identified in association with John Adams of Lower Norfolk was his son, and William Adams, son

¹³ [1763 Kennedy Family Bible--NC \(ncroots.com\)](#), accessed 14Aug2014.

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of Abraham Adams Sr. It seems conceivable that this William Adams could have been the son of Abraham Adams Sr. His wife is believed to have been Ann Kennedy, as evidenced in the preceding record in which she was identified as a sister of John Kennedy of Shenandoah.

71. 16Oct1753: Deed Book 3, Page 157: Indenture between **Richard Adams**, planter, and Edward Piner [Poyner], planter, both of Beaufort County for £3 sold a tract of land beginning in the fork of School House Branch, main road, Store's line, head of the ponds containing 100 acres... Witnesses: John Boyd, Benjamin Hawkins and **Bryant B. Adams**. [Beaufort. Deeds 1763–1778, Deeds 1748–1763 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#) *This Richard Adams could have been the son of Abraham Adams Sr. However, there are other Adams, descendant of John Adams Sr. of Norfolk, who could have had an adult son named Richard in 1753. One possible clue may be found in the witness, Bryant B. Adams.*
72. 11Dec1753: Deed Book 3, Page 145: Indenture between **James Adams** and **William James**, both of Beaufort County, for £6, sold a tract of land lying on Blount Creek, on southwest side of road above Newton's Run, John Adams' corner... Witnesses: James Ellison and John Hardee. [Beaufort. Deeds 1763–1778, Deeds 1748–1763 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)
73. 16Jan1754: Deed Book 3, Page 179: Indenture between **Richard Adams** and Nathaniel Killingsworth, both of Beaufort County for £10 sold a tract of land containing 200 acres situated on north side of Pamlico River on east side of Broad Creek Beaverdam, beginning at marked pine on Beaverdam near mouth of next branch, main road... Witnesses: **William Adams**, Benjamin B. Hawkins and **Mary Adams**. [Beaufort. Deeds 1763–1778, Deeds 1748–1763 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)
74. 30Mar1754: Deed Book 3, Page 184: Indenture between William Wagoner and **William Adams**, planters, of Beaufort County, for £7 6 shillings, sold 100 acres of land lying and being in Beaufort County, part of a tract of land belonging to **James Adams**, beginning at a red oak, Surman's line, small branch... Witnesses: Philip Shield and William Surman. [Beaufort. Deeds 1763–1778, Deeds 1748–1763 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)
75. 29Apr1755: Deed Book 3, Page 219: Indenture between **Richard Adams** and John Woollard Jr., both of Beaufort County for £12 sold a tract of land containing 120 acres situated on north side of Pamlico River, on east side of Broad Creek Beaverdam, beginning at mouth of southernmost branch, running up said branch, Poyners' line, Killingsworth's line, to Beaverdam... Witnesses: John Mackeel, Absolom Woollard, and Benjamin B. Woollard. [Beaufort. Deeds 1763–1778, Deeds 1748–1763 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)
76. 13May1755: Deed Book 3, Page 217: Indenture between **Richard Adams** of Beaufort County and Absolom Willard of Tyrell County for £33 sold a tract of land containing 180 acres beginning at Andrew Simons corner, Stones' line, Poyner's line, Killingsworth's line, Beaverdam... Witnesses: Griffith Arnell, William Worsley and Michael Willard.
77. 8Dec1755: Deed Book 3, Page 344: Indenture between **Joseph Adams**, planter, and Wyriott Ormond, gentleman, both of Beaufort County for £50 sold a female negro slave about 21 years old named Jenny, and oe negro girl about 3 years old named Lucy... Witnesses: James Adams, William Ormond and Wyriott Ormond Jr. [Beaufort. Deeds 1763–1778, Deeds 1748–1763 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)
78. 17Jun1756: Deed Book 3, Page 255: Indenture between **James Adams**, planter, and John Dickinson, both of Beaufort County, for £4 sold a tract of land containing 100 acres situated on the head of Blounts Creek, being part of a 640 acre patent dated 5Apr1749... Witnesses: James Adams Jr. and Dorothy Godard. [Beaufort. Deeds 1763–1778, Deeds 1748–1763 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)
79. 15Mar1756: Deed Book 3, Page 273: Indenture between **James Adams** and **John Slade**, both of Beaufort County, for £30 sold a tract of land situated on the south side of Pamlico River, on west side of Blount's Creek containing 300 acres, part of 640 acres patented to John Adams 29Mar1721... Witnesses: Jonathan Perkins, Lazarus Lewis? And John Woodard. [Beaufort. Deeds 1763–1778, Deeds 1748–1763 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)
80. 13Jun1757: Deed Book 3, Page 325: Indenture between John Floyd and **Ann Adams**, for £10, sold a tract of land situated on north side of Pamlico River, beginning at mouth of Deep Branch, running down May's beaverdam branch to mouth of said branch, thence up said branch to back line, along said back line to Deep Branch, down Deep Branch to begin, containing 100 acres, patented by said Floyd 1Mar1756... Witnesses: Griffin Floyd and **John Kennedy**.
81. 2May1759: Deed Book 3, Page 421: Indenture between Joseph McKeel and **Joseph Adams**, both of Beaufort County, for £60, sold a tract of land containing 100 acres situated on north side of Pamlico River, bounding southerly on said river, easterly on Thomas McKeel, westerly on Wyriott Ormond, and northerly on the savannah, originally patented by John Cooper, sold by him to Anthony McKeel by deed dated

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- 15Oct1706, and devised by LWT to his son, Joseph McKell... Witnesses: Thomas McKeel, Ezekial Dickinson and William Ormond. [Beaufort. Deeds 1763-1778, Deeds 1748-1763 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)
82. 11Jun1759: Deed Book 3, Page 325 & 421: **Mary [Duncan] Adams**, wife of **Joseph Adams**, sold to John Blair, perukemaker, for £40 Lot No. 12 in Bath Town, devolved to said Mary from her former husband, Abraham Duncan, deceased, who purchased from John Brown on 12Dec1741, and conveyed by jointure of marriage to Joseph Adams... Witnesses: Wyriott Ormond and Sarah Adams. [Beaufort. Deeds 1763-1778, Deeds 1748-1763 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)
83. 21Jan1760: Deed Book 3, Page 447: Indenture between **Ann Adams** and James Barfield, both of Beaufort County, for £16 sold a tract of land situated on a branch running into Beaverdam to the mouth of **Tar Kiln Branch**, to back line, **Deep Branch**, to begin... Witnesses: John Kennedy, John Lorain and William Lewis. [Beaufort. Deeds 1763-1778, Deeds 1748-1763 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)
84. 10Mar1760: Deed Book 3, Page 445: Indenture between **Joseph Adams** and **Mary**, his wife, and Joseph Galen, all of Beaufort County, for £40 sold a tract of land situated on north side of Bridge Creek Swamp containing 300 acres, which land was patented by Simon Alderson on 3May17181, bounded as expressed in patent sold by Alderson to Charles Eden, Esq., by him to Roger Kenyon by deed in Mar1720, also a parcel containing 100 acres lying between aforesaid tract and **John Chilley's** plantation, beginning at mouth of a branch on the said Bridge Creek, up said branch to Chilley's back line, and was sold by John Chilley to Roger Kenyon by deed dated 31Jan1728, after death of said Roger Kenyon, fell to said Mary as daughter and heir of said Roger, deceased... Witnesses: John Newman and William Ormond.
85. 29Mar1760: Deed Book 3, Page 477: Patent from Lord Granville to **Ann Adams** of Beaufort County granted a certain tract of land containing 132 acres, situated on north side of Pamlico River, lower side of Tranter's Creek, beginning at a sorrel tree on the side of the old field, on the creek... with Adams old line... Fulford's back line... [Beaufort. Deeds 1763-1778, Deeds 1748-1763 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)
86. 16Sep1760: Deed Book 3, Page 500: Indenture between **James Adams** and Richard Dunstan and John Freeman, both of Beaufort County for £90 sold ½ of saw and grist mill which formerly belonged to Elizabeth Sinclair, lying in Beaufort County, along with all the profits arising therefrom... Witnesses: Francis Wooton and Winefred Freeman. [Beaufort. Deeds 1763-1778, Deeds 1748-1763 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)
87. 4Dec1760: Deed Book 3, Page 489: Indenture between **Joseph Adams** and **Mary**, his wife, and Wyriott Ormond all of Beaufort County, for £300 sold a certain tract of land situated on north side of Pamlico River, east side of Bath Town Creek, containing 500 acres as by patent dated 3Mar1705 unto William Barrow, deceased, and by him conveyed to Lewis Conner, by him to Roger Kenyon, deceased, by him to Joseph Adams... Witnesses: Henry Ormond and John Alderson. [Beaufort. Deeds 1763-1778, Deeds 1748-1763 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)
88. 8Dec1760: Deed Book 3, Page 490: Indenture between Wyriott Ormond and **Joseph Adams**, both of Beaufort County, for £301 sold a tract of land containing 500 acres situated on east side of **Bath Town Creek**, being part of a tract of land granted to William Barrow, deceased, by patent dated 3Mar1705, by said Barrow conveyed to Lewis Conner of Virginia, and by Conner conveyed to Roger Kenyon, deceased, father of said **Mary Adams**, wife of **Joseph Adams**, who with his wife, Mary, sold and conveyed same to Wyriott Ormond... Witnesses: James Dams and Henry Hussey. [Beaufort. Deeds 1763-1778, Deeds 1748-1763 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)
89. 4Jan1760-1: Deed Book 3, Page 489: Indenture between Adams Hyde and **Joseph Adams**, planter, both of Beaufort County, for £24 sold four ½ acre lots in Bath Town identified in town plan as Lot Nos. 66, 67, 68 and 69, originally sold to Roger Kenyon, Esq., deceased, at his death conveyed by Will to Dorothy Hyde and Adams Hyde, son of John and Dorothy Hyde... Witnesses: Elizabeth Parsons and William Ormond. [Beaufort. Deeds 1763-1778, Deeds 1748-1763 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)
90. 10Mar1760/1: Deed Book 3, Page 499: Indenture between Elizabeth Sinclair of Hyde County, Executrix of Col. Samuel Sinclair, deceased, and **James Adams**, **carpenter**, of Beaufort County for £6, 13 shillings sold a parcel of land containing 200 acres situated on west side of Proices Creek, adjoining Thomas McKeel's, along said creek to said Sinclair's land, bought of John McKeel by deed dated 11Oct1737... Witnesses: Charles Read and Richard Donston. [Beaufort. Deeds 1763-1778, Deeds 1748-1763 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)
91. 20Mar1760/1: Deed Book 3, Page 500: Indenture between Elizabeth Sinclair of Hyde County and **James Adams**, **carpenter** of Beaufort County, contracted from earlier date that said Adams would rebuild a grist

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- mill and saw mill belonging to said Sinclair, and put same into good and sufficient repair, then Adams was to have $\frac{1}{2}$ interest in the operation and physical property of said mills... Witnesses: Charles Read and Richard Dunston. [Beaufort. Deeds 1763–1778, Deeds 1748–1763 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)
92. 10Sep1760: Deed Book 3, Page 500: Indenture between **James Adams**, and Richard Dunston and John Freeman, for £90, sold his $\frac{1}{2}$ interest in Sinclair Mills, as above described... Witnesses: Francis Dow and Winifred Freeman. [Beaufort. Deeds 1763–1778, Deeds 1748–1763 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)
93. 8Dec1761: Deed Book 3, Page 513: Indenture between **James Adams** and Samuel Wilson, carpenter, both of Beaufort County, for £30 sold a tract of land situated on south side of Pamlico River, west side of Blount's Creek, adjoining tract of land or a line, belonging to the heirs of John Slade, deceased, containing 300 acres, which land was patented by John Adams in 1721... Witnesses: William Ormond, and George Smith. [Beaufort. Deeds 1763–1778, Deeds 1748–1763 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)
94. 14Jan1762: Deed Book 3, Page 518: Indenture between **Joseph Adams**, planter, and Samuel Visius, both of Beaufort County, for £20 sold a tract of land situated on south side of Pamlico River, beginning at mouth of Sheppard's Creek, containing 300 acres, as by patent dated 7Oct1756... Witnesses: Wyriott and James Adams. [Beaufort. Deeds 1763–1778, Deeds 1748–1763 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)
95. 1Sep1763: Deed Book 4, Page 18: Indenture between Josef Eckols, turner, of Beaufort County, and **William Adams**, planter, of same, for £40 sold a tract of land situated on north side of Pamlico River, near **Romney Marsh**, beginning at **Price's corner**, along side of marsh and dividing line with George Smith, to back line... containing 150 acres... Witnesses: William Moor and **Abraham Price**. [Beaufort. Deeds 1763–1778, Deeds 1748–1763 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)
96. 4Jan1762: Deed Book 4, Page 41: Indenture between Richard Dunston, joiner, Beaufort County, and **Joseph Adams**, planter of same, for £30 sold $\frac{1}{4}$ interest in Sinclair Mills... Witnesses: Lodowick Truchet and **James Adams**. [Beaufort. Deeds 1763–1778, Deeds 1748–1763 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)
97. 30Apr1763: Deed Book 4, Page 6: Indenture between **James Adams Jr.** and Peter Blynn [Blinn], Esq. of Bath Town, both of Beaufort County, for £35, sold Lot No. 22 in Bath Town. Witnessed Andrew Fullerton. [Beaufort. Deeds 1763–1778, Deeds 1748–1763 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)
98. 4Sep1766: Deed Book 4, Page 124: Indenture between **Abraham Adams** and **Joshua Adams**, both of Beaufort County, for £20 sold 100 acres of land on south side of Pamlico River, beginning at red oak on Nutter's Run, Thomas Surman's corner, Alligator Den Branch... Witnesses: Amy Adams, Mark Nobles and Isaac Adams. [Beaufort. Deeds 1763–1778, Deeds 1748–1763 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)
99. 8Dec1767: Deed Book 4, Page 178: Indenture between William James, planter, Beaufort County, and **Abram Adams** of same, for £19, sold 200 acres situated on south side of Pamlico River, being part of **James Adams'** tract, beginning at **John Adams** corner, back line, Dicken's land, Nutor's [aka Nutter's] Run... Witnesses: Henry James and Mark Nobles. [Beaufort. Deeds 1763–1778, Deeds 1748–1763 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)
100. 3Oct1767: Deed Book 4, Page 192: Indenture between Wyriott Ormond and Roger Ormond, gentlemen, of Beaufort County and Joseph Gutter, whereas said Ormonds intended to build a saw and grist water mill near the old mill dam known by name of Kenyon's Mill Dam, across Jackson's Swamp, on land now in possession of said Gutter, for one shilling sold $\frac{1}{2}$ acre lying on north end of said dam... Witnesses: Abraham Price and William Brown. [Beaufort. Deeds 1763–1778, Deeds 1748–1763 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)
101. 10May1768: Deed Book 4, Page 192: Indenture between Roger Ormond, sheriff of Beaufort County and George Barrow of Hyde County, witnesseth the whereas **Joseph Adams** of said County was possessed of a tract of land hereafter mentioned, and Wyriott Ormond, guardian of Henry Ormond in the Superior Court, recovered against said **Joseph Adams**, **James Adams** and Jacob Giddens (a judgment) for £505.3.2 by reason of a certain obligation by said parties... writ of Fieri Facias issued, seized a tract of land in possession of Joseph Adams and sold at public auction to said George Barrow, said tract containing 100 acres and situated on north side of Pamlico River between Price's Creek and Romney Marsh, bounded west by Wyriott Ormond, south by River, north by **James Adams Jr.**... Witness: Henry Ormond. [Beaufort. Deeds 1763–1778, Deeds 1748–1763 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)
102. 19May1762: Deed Book 4, Page 268: Indenture between Roger Ormond, sheriff of Beaufort County and Henry Ormond, Esq. of same, witnesseth that whereas **Joseph Adams** of same County was possessed of a water grist and saw mill with dam and two acres of land adjoining thereto, hereafter mentioned, and whereas Wyriott Ormond, guardian of Henry Ormond in the Superior Court did recover against **Joseph Adams**, also **James Adams** and Jacob Giddens, obtained judgment for £505.3.2 for non-performance, writ of Fieri Facias issued... sold at public auction to Henry Ormond for £4.3 highest bidder said property of

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[Joseph Adams](#), lying in Hyde County on Price's Creek or Sinclair's Creek... Witness: George Barrow. [Beaufort. Deeds 1763–1778, Deeds 1748–1763 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)

103.2Mar1770: Deed Book 4, Page 360: Indenture between [James Adams](#), and [Joseph Adams](#), William Brown and Peter Caila all of Beaufort County, for £80 sold a tract of land on eastern branch of Town Creek containing 250 acres, where [James Adams](#) now lives, to have and to hold the aforesaid 250 acres of land, in the whole now amounts to 400 acres, where the said Joseph now lives... to have and to hold the said two pieces of land amounting in the whole to 470 acres... Witnesses: Nathaniel Blison? And Joseph Crosby. [Beaufort. Deeds 1763–1778, Deeds 1748–1763 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)

104.20Jun1774: Deed Book 4, Page 436: Indenture between [Abraham Adams](#) and [Isaac Adams](#), both planters of Beaufort County, for £25, sold 100 acres of land lying on south side of Pamlico River, part of a tract formerly belonging to [James Adams](#), beginning at a pine on corner of [John Adams](#), running along said Adams line to the back line, Newton's Run... Witnesses: Thomas Jones and Sweeting Bond. [Beaufort. Deeds 1763–1778, Deeds 1748–1763 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)

The 1723 General Assembly provided a list of Freeholders in Beaufort and Hyde Counties, who were eligible for jury duty. Unfortunately, this list does not state who lived in which county, as the seat of government for both was Bath Town, at that time. (N. C. State Records, Vol. XXV, p 189, 190.). Following is an extract of names of persons who appeared in records with the Adams:

[Adams, John](#)
[Adams, John, Jr.](#)
Alderson, Simon
Barrow, Wm.
Blount, Thomas
[Bright, James](#)
[Bright, Henry](#)
[Bright, Simon](#)
[Cording, Wm.](#)
[Jackson, Thomas](#)

Grants:

- 3Oct1735: James Adams, 100 acres, Bath County
- 3Oct1735: Joseph Adams, 185 acres, Bath County
- 11Mar1740/1: William Adams, 436 acres, Beaufort County
- 11Nov1743: William Adams, 320 acres, Beaufort County
- 20Nov1744: Villaby [sic, Willoughby] Adams, 4 headrights, Beaufort County
- 22Nov1744: Willoughby Adams, 200 acres, Hyde County
- 10Mar1745: James Adams, 200 acres, Beaufort County
- 21Mar1747: James Adams, 600 acres, Beaufort County
- 5Apr1749: James Adams, 600 acres, Beaufort County
- 29Sep1749: Richard Adams, 100 acres, Beaufort County
- 29Sep1749: James Adams, 100 acres, Beaufort County
- 29Sep1749: Jane Adams, 300 acres, Beaufort County

CONCLUSION

Most of the foregoing deed and patent records are believed to have involved various members of the Bath County Adams families descended from John Adams Jr. and Abraham Adams Sr. It is not the objective of this investigation to tract down every strand of those descendant families.

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Rather, our primary focus has been to establish to the greatest degree possible the direct lineage ancestry of William and John Adams of Bourbon County KY. To the extent that we have been able to accomplish that goal, we must now consider our primary mission to have been accomplished.

In closing out this investigation into the family of John Raymond Adams, we end this endeavor with the caveat that the linkage between William and John Adams of Bourbon County KY and William and John Adams of Hyde County NC must still be considered tenuous and unproven. Although we have compiled an enormous volume of data related to the Bath County Adams family, it still remains uncertain whether they have any direct association or connection with William and John Adams of Bourbon County. It is entirely possible that there may be other potential ancestors who have not been discovered by this investigation. That being said, it is hoped that, if William and John Adams of Bourbon County are found to have descended from elsewhere, and not from Bath County NC, the work that has been compiled on the Bath County Adams families will be of some use to other researchers in the future.

APPENDIX

Miscellaneous Wills:

LWT of John Bright Sr.

“9Jan1720: Hyde Precinct, Bath County: In the name of God, Amen, I, **John Bright** of **Hyde Precinct**, Bath County, planter, being in good health of body, and of sound mind and perfect memory, praised be therefore given unto Almighty God, do make and ordain this my present last will and testament in manner and form following, that is to say:

First: and principally I commend my soul unto the hands of Almighty God, hoping through the merits, death and passion of my Saviour Jesus Christ, to have full and free pardon and forgiveness of all my sins, and to inherit everlasting life, and my body I admit to the earth to be decently interred at the discretion of my Executors, hereinafter named, and as touching such temporal estate as it hath pleased Almighty God to bestow upon me, I give and dispose thereof as followeth:

First: I will that all my debts and funeral expenses shall be paid and discharged;

Item: I give and bequeath unto my son, **Henry**, 342 acres of land lying near the mouth of **Matchapungo Creek**, next adjoining to the land of **Mr. William Cording**, to him my said son Henry and his heirs forever;

Item: I give and bequeath unto my son, **Richard**, and his heirs forever, 250 acres of land lying on **Slades Creek** on east side **Matchapungo River**, being the land whereon my son, Richard now dwells’

Item: I give and bequeath to my son, **Simon** and his heirs forever, after the decease of my loving wife, Elizabeth, 1/4th part of the tract of land whereon I now dwell on Matchapungo River to be laid off so as to contain the plantation whereon I now dwell;

Item: I give and bequeath unto my son, **James**, and his heirs forever, 1/4th part of the aforesaid tract of land to be laid off next adjoining to the land above given to my son, Simon;

Item: I give and bequeath unto my son, **William**, and his heirs forever, 1/4th part of the aforesaid tract of land to be laid off next adjoining to the land above given unto my son, James;

Item: I give and bequeath unto my son, **John**, the other full 1/4th part of the said tract lying between the land above given to my sons, James, William, and Simon, the back line of the said tract, to him, my said son, John, and his heirs forever;

Item: I give unto my daughter, **Mary**, wife of **William Wynn**, one cow and calf;

Item: I give unto my daughter, Lydia one cow and calf;

All the rest and residue of my estate, goods and chattels, whatsoever, I do give and bequeath unto my ever loving wife, Elizabeth, whom I do hereby appoint full and sole Executrix of this my last will and testament, and I do hereby revoke, disannul and make void all former wills and testaments by me heretofore made.

I witness whereof I, the said John Bright, have set my hand and seal to this my last will and testament the 9Jan1720: John Bright (his mark).

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Signed, sealed, published and declared in presence of: William Webster, Edward Stafford and A. White.”
[North Carolina, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1665-1998 - Ancestry.com](#)

Name John Bright
State North Carolina
County Bath
Year 1706

[North Carolina, U.S., Compiled Census and Census Substitutes Index, 1790-1890 - Ancestry.com](#)

LWT of James Bright:

“27Mar1735: Hyde Precinct, Bath County: In the name of God, Amen, I, **James Bright**, being sick of body and yet of perfect sense and memory, thanks be to God for same; I desire to bestow my worldly estate as followeth, viz.:

Item: I give and bequeath unto my well beloved wife, **Ann Bright**, the plantation whereon I now dwell, and all my land, and also one Negro man named Toney, and all my stock of cattle and sheep, Also I give unto my beloved wife all the rest of my goods and creatures within dower and without dower, as also making her my whole and sole Executrix of this my last will and testament, to pay all my just debts and so nominating this my last will and testament, as witness my hand: James Bright.

Witnesses: Giles Williams, **Hannah Adams** and Richard William Silvester.”

[Ancestry.com - North Carolina, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1665-1998](#)

17Oct1758: Page 58-60: **James Adams, son of John Adams Sr. and Rachael Jackson**: In the name of God Amen, I, **James Adams** of the County of Beaufort, Province of north Carolina, Gentleman, being very sick and weak of body, but of perfect sense and memory, thanks be to God for the same, and knowing the certainty of death that it is appointed for all men once to die do make this my last will and testament in manner and form following;

First and principally, I commend my soul into the hands of God who gave it, and my body to the earth from whence it was taken to be buried in a decent and Christian like manner at the discretion of my Executor's hereinafter named nothing doubting but hoping that I shall receive full pardon of all my sins through the merits and intercession of my blessed savior, Jesus Christ, and as to my worldly estate wherewith it hath pleased God to endow me with, I lend, give... following my just and lawful debts being first paid;

Item: I lend to my beloved wife, **Mary Adams** the use of the third part of my manor plantation and all houses thereon, and utensils thereunto belonging, with the third part of my household furniture, one-third part of my cattle, sheep, hogs, horses running at the said plantation, also, I lend unto my said wife the entire use of my negro wench called Rosannah for the term of five years, my negro man called Dincond, and negro woman called Bell, one white breeding mare, my riding horse, the remaining part of my land not given below, and the third part of what is belonging to Mary mentioned in this will during her natural life, and after her decease to be equally divided between my son, **James Adams** and my daughter **Dorothy Adams** and my daughter **Winifred Adams**;

Item: I give and bequeath unto my beloved son, James and to his heirs forever my manor plantation with all houses and improvements whatsoever reserving the use of one-third to my beloved wife as before directed, also I give and bequeath unto my beloved son, James **100 acres** of land laying upon the head of **Old Town Creek**, also one lot of land lying in Bath Town, also **100 acres** of land on the head of **Newton's Run up Blount's Creek**, also one negro man named Fancy, one negro boy called Isaac, one chest of drawers, one desk, one looking glass, six chairs, one new bed and furniture, one-third part of my cattle, sheep and hogs running at my manor plantation, also one stallion, one dozen plates, one bason, two dishes, one iron pot, one-third part of all such things that are not disposed of by this Will, with six silver spoons;

Item: I give and bequeath unto my daughter, **Dorothy Goodard**, and to her heirs forever, **100 acres** of land lying one the head of **Shepard's Run**, up **Blount's Creek** together with the plantation stock thereunto belonging, one tract of land containing **640 acres** thereunto joining, also on bed and furniture, six chairs, one iron pot, one dozen plates, two dishes, two basons, one negro girl named Rose, and one breeding mare and colt;

Item: I lend unto my daughter, **Ann Dunston** the use of **200 acres** of land laying up **South Dividing Creek**, beginning upon **Long Creek**, and also the use of my negro man called Titus, and all the cattle she hath now

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of mine in her care, also the use of one dozen plates, two dishes, one basin, one pot, one breeding mare, one black horse Cock to be delivered to her three months after my decease for my granddaughter;

Item: I give and bequeath unto my granddaughter, **Mary Dunston** and to her heirs forever, al the above land, negro Titus, and household furniture and household furniture lent to her mother, Ann Dunston as above, all which shall be delivered to said Mary at the age of 18 or day of marriage, whichever shall happen first;

Item: I give and bequeath unto my daughter, **Winifred**, and to the heirs forever my plantation laying at the mouth of **North Dividing Creek** with a 1/3 part of all my cattle and hogs running at my manor plantation, and above said plantation, also one negro woman called Rosannah, and the first child she share bare to be delivered to her five years after my decease, also one bed and furniture, six chairs, one dozen plates, two dishes, one basin, one pot and one breeding mare and colt;

I do declare this to be my last will and testament, and do appoint my beloved wife, **Mary Adams**, Executrix, and my beloved son, **James Adams**, Executor, of this my last will and testament, the **Tar Kill [Kiln?]**, I have now on hand I leave for the use of my family. In witness hereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 17Oct1758, signed James Adams.

In presence of **Michael Coutanicke**, Mourning Bliss and Margaret Foreman.

Proved in Beaufort County Court, March Term, 1759. Mary Adams and James Adams qualified as Executrix and Executor. *This is believed to have been the LWT of James Adams, son of John Adams Jr. and possibly Hester Jones, born about 1690-95 at Norfolk, VA. James was devised his father's home plantation in 1733, which very likely was a part of a larger tract situated on the east side of Old Town Creek and probably containing about 500 acres. James Adams is believed to have married Mary Jewell, a daughter of Thomas Jewell and his wife, Frances. The witness, Michael Coutaniche, was the Port Commissioner at Bath.*

31Jan1760, Pages 75-6: In the name of God, Amen, I, **Ann Adams** of Beaufort County in the Province of North Carolina, widow, being praise be to God of sound mind and memory and being sensible of that more especially through the present weakness and infirmity of my body, the uncertainty of this transitory life and being well assured as it is appointed for all women to die that at some hour to me unknown I must depart the same, do therefore make this my last will and testament;

Imprimis: I resign and recommend which shall please God to call my soul unto the hands of the Almighty God my creator, hoping to attain to everlasting bliss through the merits and mediation of my blessed saviour Jesus Christ, as to my body, I desire that some conveyances, after my death according to the discretion of my Executors hereafter named it may be committed with Christian burial to the earth and as to my worldly estate, goods and riches with which it has pleased God to bless me, I bequeath and dispose of them in manner following, viz:

Item: I give and bequeath unto **Mary Cooper**, the daughter of Mather Cooper, £30 proclamation money to be paid by my Executors at the day of marriage;

Item: I give and bequeath unto **John Kennedy**, the son of **John Kennedy** and Elizabeth, his wife £15 proclamation money, likewise I lend to the said John Kennedy all my lands that I hold by possession or deed during his life, and after to his heirs forever;

Item: I give and bequeath unto **Sarah Lemon**, wife of **John Lemon** all my made up clothes for her daughter;

Item: I do further desire, confer and appoint my trusty and well beloved friends John Kennedy Jr., John Floyd and Peter Floyd my whole and sole Executors of this my last will and testament, disannulling all others.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 31Jan1760: Ann Adams, her mark.

In presence of: Sarah Williams, Margaret Williams and Thomas Williams.

8Dec1763, Page 92: In the name of God, Amen, I, **John Adams**, planter of **Durham's Creek** in the Parish of St. Thomas, province of North Carolina, being sick and weak in body, but of sound mind and memory, thanks be to God, do make, constitute and appoint this my last will and testament in manner and form following, to wit:

Imprimis, I give and bequeath to my beloved wife, **Ann Adams** all the worldly estate both real and personal to her and her heirs forever, except two pewter dishes, one iron pot, one iron skillet, my will and desire is that my daughter, **Dina Dixon** shall have these above mentioned particulars, which is at this time in her possession;

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And, I do hereby revoke every other will that I have hitherto made, and appoint my beloved wife, Ann Adams to be my whole and sole Executrix of this my last will and testament;
In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 8Dec1763, signed John Adams, his mark.
In presence of: John Roe and John Pardue.

14May1774: [Hyde County](#) Will Book, Page 44: In the name of God, Amen, I, [Phillip Jolly](#), Planter, of County and Province aforesaid, being sick and weak of body, but of perfect mind and memory, praised be God for it, do make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form following, that is:
First and principally I commend my soul to God that gave it me, hoping through the merits and intercession of Jesus Christ, my Saviour to have full and free pardon and forgiveness of all my sins and to inherit everlasting life, and my body I commit to the earth to be decently buried at the discretion of my Executors hereafter named, and as touching my worldly estate that God hath been pleased to bless me with, I dispose of in manner and form following, viz.:

First: I give and bequeath [Eleanor Jackson](#) one two-year old mare to be delivered to him [sic?] at my decease;

Item: I give to [Phillip Adams](#) one three-year old cow and calf to be put to his use at my deceased, ;

As for the rest of my estate is it my will and desire that [Thomas Adams](#) should have it all and;

Lastly: I do make and constitute and desire my trusty and beloved friend, [Isaac Jackson](#), to be my Executor of this my last will and testament, hereby revoking and making void and null all former and other wills by me heretofore made or declared, either by word or writing and that only and no other to be taken as my last will and testament, in testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal this 14May1774: signed: Phillip Jolly.

In presence of: William Conner, Eleanor Jackson and Lazarus Homan.

[Hyde. Wills 1764–1907 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)

25Jul1775: [Hyde County](#) Will Book, Page 99: In the name of God, Amen, I, [William Moore](#) of Hyde County, planter, being weak in body but of sound and disposing mind and memory do make, publish and declare this my last will and testament in form and manner following, that is to say;

First and principally I recommend my soul to Almighty God who gave it and my body to the earth to be decently buried at the discretion of my Executors hereafter named;

Item: I will, ordain and direct that all my just debts and funeral expenses be paid by my Executor and Executrix hereafter named, and as touching such worldly estate as it hath pleased God to bless me with, I give and bequeath the same in manner and form following;

Item: I will and bequeath to my loving wife, [Mary Moore](#) the use of all that house and plantation whereon I now live for and during the term of her natural life or widowhood, with the use of all the stock of hogs, cattle, horses or mares, or whatever else that is not otherwise disposed of by this will, with the beds and furniture of the said house and by her to be divided at her death as she thinks proper;

Item: I give and bequeath to my son, [John Moore](#) all my plantation whereon I now live with all my coopers tools, axes, saws, one black horse, three-years old, one cow and calf;

Item: I give and bequeath to my three daughters: [Sarah Cording](#), Catherine Abrams and [Ann Adams](#), each a cow and calf, as my stock increases;

Item: I give and bequeath to my grandson, William Moore my bay horse colt one-year old;

Item: I hereby nominate, constitute and appoint my loving wife, Mary Moore, Executrix, and my son, John Moore and my good friend Benjamin Steadman, Executors of this my last will and testament hereby revoking and declaring null and void all former wills by me at any time made and declaring this to be and contain my last will and testament. In witness whereof I have hereto set my hand and seal this 25Jul1775. Signed: William T. Moore.

In presence of: Benjamin Steadman, Mary Foreman and Ann Moore.

Proved by the oath of Ann Moore at May Court 1781.

[Hyde. Wills 1764–1907 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)

Ann Moore-Adams may have been the wife of William Adams, who wrote his LWT

3Nov1783: [Hyde County](#) Will Book, Page 109: In the name of God, Amen, I, [James Wilkinson](#), being sick and weak in body, but in sound mind and perfect memory praised by God for it, calling to mind the mortality of my body and knowing that it is appointed for all men once to die do make and ordain my last will and testament in manner as follows;

Genealogical History of John Raymond Adams

First: I recommend my soul to God who gave it and my body to the earth in such a decent manner to be buried as my Executors hereafter mentioned shall think proper as touching such worldly estate as the lord hath been pleased to lend me I give and dispose of the same in manner as follows:

Imprimis: it is my will that all my just debts be first paid out of my estate;

Item: I give and bequeath to my son James Wilkinson a parcel of land lying and being on Dips Creek containing by estimation 480 acres to him and his heirs forever;

Item: I lend to my well beloved wife, Charity Wilkinson 1/3 of the plantation I now live on during her natural life and no longer;

Item: I give and bequeath unto my son, Frederick Wilkinson my plantation I now live on excepting my wife's 1/3 during his natural life and no longer, beginning at the River against an island of marsh in the River, then running an easterly course as far as my land goes, along the side of Puntigo Creek, and down to the mouth of Woodstock Creek and with the water courses to the first station to hold the said heirs and assigns forever;

Item: I give and bequeath to my son, Jesse a place of land beginning at the mouth of Tar Kill and running up the creek as far as my land goes or along the line of Frederick's back corner, then along Frederick's line on westerly course to the River, again the above said island of marsh in the River, and then along the River to the first station, I give to him and his heirs forever;

Item: I lend to my son Joseph Wilkinson one negro man named Sam one year and after the year is up I give the above said Sam to my two sons: John and Robert Wilkinson;

Item: I give and bequeath unto my two daughters: Rebecah Wilkinson and Mary Adams one negro woman named Easter to them and their heirs forever;

Item: I give and bequeath unto my two daughters, Anna and Martha Wilkinson one negro girl named Judah to have and to hold forever;

Item: I give to my daughter Elizabeth Barrow one five year old steer;

Item: I give to my son Odin Wilkinson and my daughter Sarah Wilkinson one negro girl named Rose;

Item: I give unto my son Richard Wilkinson and my daughter Lydia Wilkinson one negro girl named Sari to them and their heirs forever;

Item: I give to my well beloved wife, I give and bequeath to Charity Wilkinson my wife one negro woman named Hannah And one negro boy named Botak;

Item: I give to my daughter Anna Wilkinson one feather bed and furniture;

Item: I give unto my daughter Rebecah Wilkinson one bed and blanket;

Item: I give unto my daughter Martha Wilkinson one feather bed, blanket and bolster;

Item: I give and bequeath unto my son Joseph one gun;

Item: I give to my son Frederick one gun;

Item: I give to my son Odin Wilkinson one gun;

Item: I give to my son Richard Wilkinson one gun;

Item: I lend to my wife Charity Wilkinson all my beds and furniture that is not already given during her life to bring up my children, on and after my wife's death to be equally divided between my children as follows: Odin Wilkinson, Sarah Wilkinson, Richard Wilkinson and Lydia Wilkinson;

Item: I will that if either Jesse or Frederick should die without heirs the surviving brother of them two should have the deceased ones land;

Item: I will that my horse should remain on the land I now live on for the use of my wife that lives on the plantation;

Item: I give and bequeath to my wife 1/3 part of my estate that is not already given, both within doors and without, I give to my wife Charity Wilkinson and her heirs forever;

Item: I give and bequeath to my daughter Anna two cows and calves;

Item: I give to my two sons Frederick and Jesse Wilkinson four two-year old heifers;

Item: I give to my daughters Rebecah Wilkinson and Mary Adams four head of two-year old cattle;

Item: I will that the rest of my estate should be at the discretion of my Executors to sell at public or private sale to pay charges and school my six children, namely Robert, Martha, Odin, Sarah, Richard and Lydia;

Item: the remainder to be equally divided between the above mentioned children.

Lastly, I nominate, constitute and appoint Richard Jordan and Frederick Wilkinson and Jesse Wilkinson Executors of this my last will and testament, as witness my hand this 3Nov1783. Signed: James Wilkinson. In presence of: William Satterthwaite, John Davis and Richard Jordan. Proven at November Term 1783.

[Hyde. Wills 1764-1907 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)

Genealogical History of John Raymond Adams

4Nov1785: [Hyde Bounty](#) Will Book, Page 157: In the name of God, Amen, I, [Jesse Wilkinson](#), planter, of Hyde County in the Province of North Carolina being sick tho in sound memory and good sense thanks be to God for same do make, constitute and ordain this to be my last will and testament, calling to mind the mortality of my body knowing that it is appointed for all men once to die that is to say;
First: of all I give and bequeath my soul into the hands of God that gave it me, and my body to be buried at the discretion of my Executors hereafter mentioned, nothing doubting but at the general resurrection at the last day to receive the same again by the almighty power of God through Jesus Christ, our Lord, and as to my worldly goods it pleased God to endow me with, all my lawful debts and funeral charges be paid;
I give and bequeath in manner and form following;
I give and bequeath unto my brother, Frederick Wilkinson all my land and nothing else;
I give and bequeath to my brother James Wilkinson one English shilling;
I give and bequeath unto my brother Oden Wilkinson one English shilling;
I give and bequeath to my brother, Richard Wilkinson
I give and bequeath unto my sister, Sarah Wilkinson one English shilling;
I give and bequeath unto my sister, Martha Wilkinson one English shilling;
I give and bequeath all the remaining part of my estate to be equally divided amongst my brothers and sisters naming them: Elizabeth Barrow, Richard Wilkinson, [Mary Adams](#), Ann Wilkinson, John Wilkinson and Robert Wilkinson;
I do constitute and appoint and ordain Frederick Wilkinson and William Satterthwaite [Executors to] this my last will and testament. Signed and sealed: Jesse Wilkinson.
In presence of: William Satterthwaite, Elizabeth Satterthwaite and Frederick Wilkinson. Proven November Term 1786.

[Hyde. Wills 1764-1907 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)

1Jan1791: Pages 255-6: In the name of God, Amen, I, [Abraham Adams](#) of Beaufort County, being very weak and sick in body, but of perfect sound mind and memory do make, constitute and ordain this my last will and testament this 1Jan1791;
Item: I give and bequeath to my well beloved son, [Ephriam Adams](#) 100 acres of land adjoining John Maule's line and [James Adams](#) line, I also give him 100 acres on the head of [Newton's Run](#) on the Pispon Branch, and cow that is known by her top horn, and her two heifers;
Item: I give and bequeath unto my well beloved daughter: [Celia Cox](#) 100 acres of land lying on the head of [Newton's Run](#) and the west side, I also give her a cow and calf by the name of Madon;
Item: I give and bequeath to my son, [William Adams](#) the plantation and land whereon I live containing 250 acres and the bed that is called his;
Item: I lend to my loving wife two cows and calves, one by the name of the Great Cow and the other by Crowney, I also lend her my negro man, Landon, I also lend her my riding mare and two beds, all the rest of my household goods and the plantation tools during her natural life or widowhood, and I also lend her all my hogs and sheep, and after her decease or widowhood, I do give and bequeath the negro man, Landon, unto my son, William Adams, and all the rest that she leaves behind to be equally divided between my [two youngest sons, Levi Adams and Isaac Adams](#);
Item: I also give and bequeath to my son, [George Adams](#) 100 acres of land lying at the head of [Newton's Run](#) and on the west side, I also give him the cow and calf that was called his;
Item: I give and bequeath unto my son, [Isaac Adams](#) one plantation land containing 125 acres, I also give him one three-year-old heifer, my will and desire is that he shall have [three years schooling](#) beginning at 12 years old and is to be paid by my son, William Adams;
Item: I also give and bequeath unto my son, Isaac Adams my young horse and gun and all the smith work that wants doing to the lock, my son William shall mend upon his own cost;
Item: I also give and bequeath unto my son, William Adams, my young mare;
Item: also I lend unto my loving wife the old horse and the bull and stock of bees;
I also constitute and ordain James Dunbar Executor, and my brother, [Joshua Adams](#) Executor to this my last will and testament the day and year above written.
Signed, acknowledged and sealed: [Abraham Adams](#).
In the presence of: Beckham Caffey and Jeremiah Satterwaith.
This James Adams made bequests to an unnamed wife and several children. Including sons named Ephriam Adams, William Adams, George Adams and Isaac Adams. It seems probable that the son, Isaac Adams,

Genealogical History of John Raymond Adams

who was still a minor when this Will was written, was the same person who wrote his own LWT dated 25Jun1796, presented herein below.

6Sep1792: Pages 275-6: In the name of God, Amen, I, **James Adams** of Beaufort County being weak in body, but of perfect sound mind and memory, bless God for this, but calling to mind the mortality of my body, knowing that it is ordained for man once to die, I do hereby recommend my soul to God who gave it me and my body to be decently buried at the discretion of my Executors hereafter mentioned, and in testimony hereof, I do this 6Sep1792 make this my last will and testament in manner and form following, viz., that after my just debts and funeral charges be satisfied and paid;

Item: I give and bequeath to my well beloved wife, **Sarah Adams**, the 1/3 of my house and plantation whereon I now live during her natural life and after to be directed as hereafter mentioned;

Item: I give to my loving wife one negro wench called Judah, be it to her and her heirs forever;

Item: I give the loan of all my household furniture and horses, hogs and cattle to be at my said loving wife, Sarah Adams disposal during her natural life and after to be given as I shall hereafter mention;

Item: I give and bequeath to my loving son, **Henry Adams**, the land and plantation whereon he now lives containing **250 acres, also 200 acres** of land adjoining the same called **Ward's Old Field**, also one negro wench called Sealla, the ½ of my joiners and carpenters tools, six head of sheep, that is to say five ewes and a ram, one canoe, be it to him and his heirs forever;

Item: I give and bequeath to my loving daughter, **Sarah Adams**, one negro girl called Hannah, one bed and the furniture to it belonging, be it to her and her heirs forever;

Item: I give to my loving son, **Abraham Adams**, 2/3 of my dwelling plantation, and after the death of his mother, Sarah Adams, the **whole of my land and plantation**, also **200 acres** of land joining the same called the **Long Point Tract**, also one negro man called Moses, and by excepting the assistance of said negro to his mother in making her crop in summertime, the ½ of my joining and carpenters tools, one bed and furniture to it belonging, one canoe, I also give the plantation tools to be kept between him and his mother during her natural life, and after her death to him forever, and also I give the remains of my sheep not before given to be between him and his mother during her life, and after her death, the whole I give to him and his heirs forever;

Item: I give and bequeath to my **grandson, John Adams**, 180 acres lying on the south side of the creek known by the plantation whereon John Kennedy formerly lived be it to him and his heirs forever;

Item: I give and bequeath to my loving sons: Henry and Abraham Adams, after the death of my loving wife, Sarah Adams, two dozen of silver spoons be it to them and their heirs forever;

Item: I give to my sone, Henry Adams, one fine grindstone be it to him and his heirs forever, also I give to my loving son, Abraham Adams, my large grindstone, be it to him and his heirs forever, also to my loving son, Abraham Adams, my hunting gun be it to him and his heirs forever;

Item: I give and bequeath to my friend, William Fiew, my gun which is to say a musket be it to him and his heirs forever;

I nominate and appoint my loving wife, Sarah Adams, Executrix and Henry Adams and Abraham Adams Executors to this, my last will and testament, and I do hereby revoke all other will or wills by me made and acknowledge this to be my last will and testament, as witness my hand the day and year above written: Signed James Adams.

In presence of: William Fiew and William Boyd.

This James Adams is believed to have been a son of James Adams and Mary Jewell. The ancestry of his father, James Adams, is somewhat muddled by genealogies posted in public trees on Ancestry. There are a total of 50 such public trees, most of which suggest that this family descended through four successive generations of James Adams all the way back to a James Adams, purportedly born in New Kent County VA in 1665. This genealogical history seems highly improbable. By following the chain of title for land clearly associated with this family, it seems far more probable that this James Adams descended from either John Adams Sr. or Abraham Adams Sr.

25Jun1796: Page 323: In the name of God, Amen, the 25Jun1796, I, **Isaac Adams**, of Beaufort County, North Carolina, being sick of body, but of sound mind and memory, thanks be to God for the same, and therefore calling to mind the mortality of my body and knowing that it is appointed for all men once to die, do make and ordain this my last will and testament, that is to say, and first of all I do recommend my soul unto almighty God who gave it, and my body I do recommend to be decently buried at discretion of my

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Executors, and as touching such worldly estate as it hath pleased God to bless me with, I do give and dispose of as follows:

Item: I do give to my nephew, **Thomas Miles Adams**, all my land and plantation and every part and parcel thereunto belonging, to him and his heirs forever, and I also give to same Thomas Miles Adams my horse and all my cattle, and all my hogs, and all my moveable property that I possess, to him and his heirs forever; And also I do constitute and ordain my friends William Orrell and Thomas Miles Adams my Executors of this my last will and testament, and I do hereby disannul and revoke all other former will and bequests by me made, and confirming this to be my last will and testament, in witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the day and year above mentioned, signed: Isaac Adams (his mark).

In presence of: Giles Shute, Benjamin Gainer and Stephen Orrell.

The identity of Isaac Adams is uncertain, but the LWT of his primary benefactor, Thomas Miles Adams, nephew, referenced land situated on Newton's Run, so Isaac was almost certainly descended from the sons' of John Adams Sr., who received legacies of 320 acres each on Blount's Creek. It seems probable, since this Isaac Adams appears to have been unmarried and without heirs of his own body, was the son of James Adams, a legatee named in the LWT of James Adams dated 1Jan1791 herein above.

Date Not Given NOTE: The preceding record in Will Book was dated 16Feb1795, a trailing record was dated 1755??. Some researchers claim this Will was dated sometime in 1828. The date of 1828 seems possible, given that the land devised by this Will was divided in 1834. <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/9061>, Film No. 65 of 22783.), Pages 558-9: In the name of God, Amen, I, **John Adams** of Beaufort County, North Carolina, now being sick, but of sound disposing mind and memory,

thanks be to Almighty God for it, calling to mind the uncertainty of this life and that it is appointed for all once to die and do make this my last will and testament in writing and manner and form following;

First, I lend unto my beloved wife, **Sally Adams**, Charles, Christopher and Isaac [slaves], also four feather beds and furniture and steads, first choice, also one bay mare called the Payt Mare, and double chair, and harness, all my crockery ware, and kitchen furniture and four cows and calves, also, I leave it in the power of my Executors, that if they think she can't make out with what I give her, that they may give her what they think may be sufficient for her support out of my negro or any other property, also two tables, all my chairs, also I lend her my plantation whereon I now live and swamp field, all of which property to my wife, Sally Adams during her natural life or widowhood;

2nd: I lend to my six children, **Nelly, Bryant, Henry, William, Herridos and John Quincy Adams** 21 negros until my youngest child shall arrive to be at the age of 21 years old, should I die during the winter or spring, I authorize my Executors to give my said wife a sufficient part of the crop, stock and provisions, for her and children's support for one year;

In the case of my negroes, all sizes of them, that my Executors should bid them off. If any person should bid upon them, that they think would not treat them well, and lease them out at their own discretion.

I do hereby nominate my Executors the guardian to my six children, also I nominate Major John Clark and James Latham my Executors to this my last will and testament, and that it is my wish that my Executors would let my children remain with their mother when they are not at school;

Also the residue of my perishable estate that is not mentioned, I leave to be sold;

Also, I give all the land that I now possess to my five boys: Bryant, Henry, William, Herridos and John Quincy Adams.

In witness whereof I have set my hand and seal to this my last will and testament. Signed: John Adams.

In presence of: Thomas Barrow, Henry Winfield and Israel Wilkinson Sr.

This John Adams is believed to have been the son of Elizabeth Barrow-Adams-Routhac (see Wills herein below). He is believed to have married Sally Winfield, daughter of Bryan Winfield (see LWT below).

6Jan1813: Hyde County Will Book, Page 470: In the name of Good, Amen, I, **Bryan Winfield** now being in a low state of health, but of sound mind and memory, and calling to mind that it is appointed for all men to die, do make and declare this to be my last will and testament in writing in manner and form following;

First: I give unto my beloved wife one-years provisions to be laid out of my stock crop and provisions for the support of her and family for one year and that Samuel Clark and John Adams is appointed to allot and set off the said years provisions unto my said wife;

Item: it is my will and desire that one-half of all my cattle, sheep, hogs, bees, two head of horses, viz. the young bay mare and the young black mare to be sold at the best advantage by Executors hereafter named;

Genealogical History of John Raymond Adams

Item: I give unto my beloved wife my riding chair and harness, one gray mare called “the old one”, I also lend to my beloved wife the use of all the residue of my estate both real and personal during her natural life and then to be disposed of as hereafter mentioned, I also give unto my said wife 100 bushels of wheat out of the crop of wheat that is now sewed, and the balance if any to be sold;

Item: It is my will and desire that my land shall be allotted and set and valued so as for each of my sons to pay and receive agreeable to respective lots, that is to say that the plantation and the land belonging to it shall be divided into three lots and valued, and the land lying on the main road and joining the land of Mr. Garganus shall be divided into two lots, and the land that I bought of my brother, Robert Winfield shall contain one other lot, and to be valued as before and the land that I bought of Manly Daniels and wife shall contain one other lot [total of six lots], and be valued as before, and that each of my said sons shall pay and receive agreeable to their respective lots that they may be entitled to have set to them, all of which said lots of land give to them and their heirs;

Item: It is also my will and desire that if my son **John Wilkinson** should want to improve his lot of land before division of the lots of the said land takes place [giving John 1st choice] then in that case that my said son John Winfield shall be entitled to the lot of land which he shall improve;

Item: It is also my will and desire that my daughter, **Sally Adams [presumed wife of John Adams]** shall be entitled to receive as much out of the amount of my perishable property as will make her equal in value with each of my sons in the respective lots in the land;

Item: My will is that my son John Winfield shall have my young gray mare now called his;

Item: My will and desire is that all my estate not already given away shall be equally divided between all my children after the death of my wife, namely: **John Winfield, Sally Adams, Thomas Winfield, Henry Winfield, Bryan Winfield, Jordan Winfield, Samuel Winfield and James Winfield;**

Item: It is my will and desire that my son Thomas Winfield shall have for his lot of land that land that I bought of Manly Daniels and wife, and;

Lastly: I do hereby nominate and appoint **John Adams [son-in-law]** and **John Winfield** Executors to this my last will and testament. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 6Jan1813. Signed Bryan Winfield. In presence of Maurice Jones and James Satchwell. Proven February Term, 1813.

[Hyde. Wills 1764–1907 — Image Details — FamilySearch.org](#)

Although this Will is dated more than 20 years after William and John Adams, sons of William and Ann Adams of Hyde County, disappeared from Hyde County records, it has been included because of its mention of a John Adams. It is important to our analysis to assure that neither of our targeted William or John Adams was still living in Hyde County after about 1790. The ancestry of the John Adams mentioned in the LWT of Bryan Winfield is not known with certainty at this juncture. However, it seems highly probable given his prominent role in Bryan's Will that he was well-known to and trusted by this Winfield family. Moreover, it seems highly probable that this John Adams was the husband of Bryan's only known daughter, Sally Winfield-Adams.

A fairly thorough review of Hyde County records disclose the existence of only one person named John Adams during this approximate time period.

- 7Nov1800: Hyde County Will Book, Page 329: In the names of God, Amen, I, **George Barrow** of **Hyde County** having my present senses and memory do make my last will and testament in writing;

Item: I give, devise and bequeath to my son, **William Barrow**, the plantation whereon I now live and the land adjoining as far down the creek as the branch at the lower end of my plantation that leads to the main road where there is a small arch across said road, from thence a southwest course through my land to the back line in the **Picoson** that parts my land from Benjamin Barrow's land to him and his heirs and assigns forever'

Item: the rest and remainder of my land adjoining the above land and lying on **Pungo Creek** and adjoining my grandfather's patent and back in the **Picoson**, I give, **devise and bequeath to my grandson, John Adams**, to him and his heirs and assigns forever;

Item: I give, **devise and bequeath to my grandson, William Barrow Adams** 250 acres of land lying back of **Edmund Ebron's mill pond** to him and his heirs and assigns forever;

Item: I give, devise and bequeath to my grandson, John Adams 10 acres of land I bought of Roger Jones to him and his heirs and assigns forever;

Item: I give to my son, William Barrows the following negroes: Daisy, Stephen, Realer, Beth and Daniel;

Genealogical History of John Raymond Adams

Item: I give to my daughter, **Elizabeth Routhac**, the following negroes: Dina, and all her increase or children, Isaac and Jim, and I give her my Case of Drawers, and all the things I have before put in her possession;

Item: I give to my grandson, John Adams the following negroes: Peter, Poll and all her increase or children, Little Davy and Harry, and all the articles and things I formerly put him in possession of, I also give the said John Adams one bed and furniture, one new pair of cart wheels, one-half of my plantation tools, viz.: plows, ___, and axes, one large looking glass, my large gun, one-half of my books, and one cross-cut saw;

Item I give to my son, William Barrow, one horse, one mare, his choice, I also give him one-half of my stock of horses, cattle and sheep;

Item: I give to **my daughter, Elizabeth Routhac and her son, John Adams**, to be equally divided between them, my stock of hogs;

Item: I give to my son William Barrow and my grandson, John Adams, to be equally divided between them ___;

Item: I give to my grandson, John Adams, the one-half of all my crops of every kind made on my plantation this present year of 1800;

Item: I lend to my grandson, John Adams, my field and cleared ground that is below the branch at the lower end of my orchard for three years, and then to be delivered up to my (son), William Barrow, in good repair;

Item: The rest and remainder of my estate after my just debts and legacies is paid, I give to my son, William Barrow;

And, lastly I appoint my son, William Barrow and my grandson, John Adams, Executors to this my last will and testament, in testimony, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 7Nov1800. Signed and seal: George Barrow.

In presence of: Church Windley, John Windley and Samuel Willis.

Proved at February Term, 1801.

George Barrow devised his estate to four persons: a son named William Barrow, a daughter named Elizabeth Routhac, her son named John Adams, and another grandson named William Barrow Adams (parentage unknown, presumably a son of an unknown Barrows daughter). George Barrow is believed to have been a son of William Barrow Jr. and Mary Eborne, and husband of Lydia Oden. The main mystery in this will is the identity of William Barrow Adams, parents, and the father of John Adams. Given that the daughter, Elizabeth Barrow was identified with the surname of Routhac, it seems reasonable to assume that she had been at least twice married, once to an unknown Mr. Adams, and then to an unknown Mr. Routhac. Since our purpose in presenting these records is to assist in the identification of the John Adams, apparent son-in-law of Bryan Winfield, herein above cited, let's see whether he could have been John Adams, son of Elizabeth Barrow-Adams-Routhac.

21Nov1807: Hyde County Will Book, Page 432: In the name of God, Amen, I, **Elizabeth Routhack**, being sick of body, but of sound and disposing mind and memory, calling to mind the mortality of this life and that it is appointed for all once to die to make this my last will and testament in manner and form following, viz.:

Imprimis: I give and bequeath unto my beloved grandson [prob. Nephew], **William Barrow Adams** three negroes, viz.: Gen, Test and Ben;

Item: I is my will and desire that my son, **John Adams** shall have the use and profits of the said negroes **until my said grandson shall arrive at the age of 18 years**;

Item: It is also my will and desire that if my aforesaid grandson, **William Barrow Adams**, should die before he is 21 years of age, then I give the aforesaid negroes with their increase, if any, unto my son, John Adams, to him and his heirs forever, but, if my said son, John Adams die before my grandson, William Barrow Adams, and my said grandson should die before he is 21 years of age, then I give the aforesaid negroes unto his brothers or sisters or mother, if any, to them and their heirs forever;

Item: I give and devise unto my loving son, John Adams, all the rest of my negroes, all the remaining part of my estate both real and personal, with all moneys or notes which I myself may be entitled to receive or claim from my husband, P. G. Routhack's estate whatever to him and his heirs forever;

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Lastly: I do hereby nominate and appoint my beloved son, John Adams, Executor to this my last will and testament. In witness whereof I have set my hand and affixed my seal this 21Nov1807. Sign and sealed: Elizabeth Routhack.

In presence of: Mary Archibald and Wyriotte H. Ormond.

Proven August Term 1809.

Elizabeth Routhac was the daughter of George Barrow, and was named as a legatee in her father's LWT, herein above. She appears to have been married at least twice, first to an unknown Mr. Adams, and then to Mr. P. G. Routhac, who was deceased before the foregoing LWT was written. The confusing part of this Will is the reference to William Barrow Adams as a "grandson". William Barrow Adams had also been referred to as a "grandson" in the LWT of George Barrow. It seems most likely that William Barrow Adams was in fact a grandson of George Barrow, and a son of a deceased unidentified daughter, who had married an unknown Mr. Adams. Assuming William Barrow Adams to have truly been a grandson of George Barrow, then he would have been Elizabeth Routhac's nephew rather than her grandchild. Since William Barrow Adams had not yet attained his 18th birthday by Nov1807, then he was younger than Elizabeth's son, John Adams, and born sometime after Nov1789.

[Bath, North Carolina \(carolana.com\)](http://carolana.com)

"European settlement near the Pamlico River in the 1690s led to the creation of Bath, North Carolina's first town, in 1705. The town's location seemed ideal with easy access to the river and the Atlantic Ocean 50 miles away - at Ocracoke Inlet. It was the county seat of Bath County.

The first settlers were French Huguenots from Virginia. Among early English inhabitants were John Lawson, Surveyor General of the colony and author of the first history of Carolina (1709), and Christopher Gale, first Chief Justice of the colony, as well as an often member of the Executive Council.

A library sent to St. Thomas Parish in 1701 became the first public library in the colony. In 1707, a grist mill and the colony's first shipyard were established in the town. By 1708, Bath consisted of twelve houses and about 50 people. Trade in naval stores, furs, and tobacco was important, and Bath became the first port of entry into North Carolina. The parish also established a free school for Indians and slaves.

Early Bath was disturbed by political rivalries, epidemics, Indian wars, and piracy. Cary's Rebellion, in 1711, was an armed struggle over religion and politics in the colony. An epidemic of Yellow Fever and a severe drought also occurred in 1711. Furthermore, the Tuscarora War between the weakened settlers and the powerful Tuscarora Indians followed immediately in the same year and lasted over two years.

Bath became a refuge for the surrounding area until the Indian power was broken in 1715. Bath was also the haunt of Edward Teach, better known as the pirate "Blackbeard." An expedition of the British Navy killed him in a naval battle near Ocracoke in 1718.

Later Bath offered a more peaceful, settled life. The first Beaufort County courthouse was built in the town in 1723. Construction of St. Thomas Church, the oldest existing church in the state, began in 1734. Ferry service was established across the Pamlico River, and the Post Road linked Bath to New Bern and Edenton.

In 1751, Captain Michael Coutanch, a merchant, legislator, and commissioner for Bath and Portsmouth, built the Palmer-Marsh House, Bath's oldest and in the colonial period its largest residence. Col. Robert Palmer, Surveyor General, Customs Collector for the Port of Bath, and member of the Governor's Executive Council, later owned the house.

The General Assembly met in Bath in 1743, 1744, and 1752. In 1746, the town was considered for capital of the colony. Governors Robert Daniell, **Thomas Cary**, Charles Eden, and **Matthew Rowan** made Bath their home for a time, as did Edward Moseley, long-time Speaker of the Assembly.

In 1776, a new town, Washington, was formed 15 miles up the Pamlico River. When Beaufort County government moved there in 1785, Bath lost most of its importance and trade.

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In the early 19th century, the Marsh and Bonner families and Jacob Van Der Veer added to the vitality of the town as merchants, shippers, and active citizens. Van Der Veer manufactured rope outside of town and was a partner with Joseph Bonner in an early steam sawmill. Bonner also operated a turpentine distillery.

During the American Civil War, Bath was spared from Union occupation, common in coastal North Carolina.

By the turn of the century, Bath had improved land transportation. Waterborne activities also increased as several large sawmills were operated nearby.

Yet Bath remains a small village. Restoration efforts in Bath have saved the St. Thomas Church, the Palmer-Marsh House, the c. 1790 Van Der Veer House, and the c. 1830 Bonner House. The original town limits are the boundaries of a National Register historic district.

By the year 1704, planters along the Pamlico River realized that if their community was to achieve commercial and political importance within the province, it should have a town as the center of its activities. There is no record of who first initiated the action to incorporate the town of Bath. The new Deputy Governor, the Landgrave Robert Daniell, fresh from Charles Town, and conscious of the fact the vast area he governed was without an incorporated town, and had no permanent seat of government, was undoubtedly among those who initiated it. John Lawson, Joel Martin, and **Simon Alderson**, who became the first commissioners of the town, were also undoubtedly involved. Major Christopher Gale, Captain William Barrow, Captain Nathaniel Daw, and David Perkins, all land owners in the neighborhood, were probably also involved.

A site was selected on the eastern bank of **Old Town (Bath) Creek**, on the point formed by the confluence of Old Town and **Adams (Back) Creek**. This had been the site of the Indian town referred to as Pamlico's Town in the 1684 Sothel grant. It was also the site of the old Pomouik town of Cotan, from which the creek derived the name "Old Town."

This site was part of a plantation settled earlier by David Perkins. It adjoined the plantation of Captain William Barrow, to the east. At some time during the year 1704, John Lawson, Joel Martin, and Simon Alderson bought about sixty acres of the Perkins Plantation, and laid out streets and lots for a town. There is no direct record of this sale in the present Beaufort County records. However there is a record which confirms this sale. Two years later, when Perkins sold the remainder of his plantation to Governor Thomas Cary, for the use of the Governor's son John, the record of transfer states: "the within mentioned Tract (160 acres and 11 poles) except that Part which we formerly sold to Joel Martin Gent., Simon Alderson Gent., and John Lawson and now laid out for a town."

On 2 March, 1705, the new Deputy Governor Thomas Cary issued a patent to David Perkins, confirming his title to the plantation. At about the same time, Cary issued a patent to Barrow for his plantation, which Cary also later bought.

On 8 March, 1705, the tract of land purchased by Lawson, Martin, and Alderson, was incorporated into the town of Bath, by the General Assembly meeting at the home of Captain John Hecklefield, in Albemarle. It now seems obvious by the timing of Cary's grant to Perkins that this action was to give validity to the title to lots to be sold in the new town.

Apparently the name "Bath" had been selected for the new town prior to its incorporation. On 11 February, 1705, a month before the town was incorporated, Simon Alderson sold to Mr. Nathaniel Wyersdale "a certain Lott in Bath Town formerly called Jacob Conrow's Lott lying about the middle of Town, a front lott and all the background." This is one of two land transactions in Bath Town in which Alderson's name appears as grantor. It also shows that if houses had not yet been built, lots were certainly being sold or optioned prior to the incorporation. More than a year later, Lawson and Martin recorded the sale of about

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two dozen lots in Bath Town, including one lot to Wyersdale, “on which the said Wyersdale now lives.” Again, this appears to be a transaction to validate Wyersdale's title, rather than a new sale.

Between 26 September and 2 October, 1706, Lawson and Martin recorded the sale of about two dozen lots in Bath Town. The vague description of these lots, which were not recorded by number at first, makes it practically impossible to say who bought which lot during these first sales. Most of the lots sold were on “front street with front privelages.” The “front” street referred to was the 100 feet wide main street, running parallel to Old Town Creek for the length of the town, shown above as Water (Bay) Street. These lots were on the east side of the street, and the “front privelage” meant the use of the extension of these lots west of the street to the creek.

Early records in the office of the Register of Deeds for Beaufort County include the following names among the early purchasers of lots in Bath Town: Nathaniel Wyersdale, Christopher Gale, Dr. Maurice Luellyn, Daniel Matthews, **Captain James Beard**, **Levi Truewhite**, Richard Oden Jr., George Birkenhead, Otho Russell, Lionel Reading, Giles Shute, Joel Martin, Captain Nathaniel Daw, **John Lawson**, and the new governor, Thomas Cary. The names of **Thomas Sparrow**, a merchant of Maryland; John Porter and John Worley, merchants of Chowan; and Thomas Peterson, a merchant of Albemarle, were among the out of town purchasers recorded. Sparrow, Porter, and Worley later moved to the Pamlico.

It is now difficult to determine which of the early lot owners actually lived in Bath Town. We know that Wyersdale and Shute did. Their deeds read “the lott on which he now lives.” Christopher Gale and Dr. Luellyn did. The title to Gale's lot reads “the lot on which Dr. Luellyn now lives.” John Lawson owned two lots, “containing an acre and eight poles, within a fence.” In December of 1706, Lawson leased “all his site and Lots of Land whereon he now liveth on front street in Bath Town, also all houses, edifices, buildings etc.” to Hannah Smith for seven years, for an annual rent of “one ear of Indian corn, if demanded.”

In 1709, the Rev. William Gordon, a missionary of the S.P.G., visited Bath Town. In May of that year, he wrote the Secretary of the S.P.G.: “Here is no church, though they have begun to build a town called Bath. It consists of about twelve houses, being the only town in the whole province. They have a small collection of books for a library, which were carried over by the Rev. Dr. Bray, and some land is laid out for a glebe; but no minister would ever stay long in the place, though several have come hither from the West Indies. * * * There is no money * * * everyone buys and pays with commodities—pork, pitch, and corn, which price, though fixed by law, they can seldom reach anywhere else * * * the difference in their money and sterling is one to three. If you buy a plantation for £300 of their pay, they would much rather take £100 in England.”

Among the first inhabitants of Bath Town were at least two lawyers, Christopher Gale and the “young gentleman” who read prayers each Sunday at Gale's home. There was a doctor, Dr. Maurice Luellyn “physician and Chirurgeon”; a blacksmith, Collingswood Ward; a silversmith, Robert Mellyne; and two shipwrights, Thomas Harding and William Powell.

The first recorded ship to be built on the Pamlico was in 1707. In that year Governor Thomas Cary entered into a contract with Thomas Harding for the latter to build “at his landing in Bath Creek one sloop, 46 feet by the keel, 18 feet by the beam, and 8 feet in the hold.” Harding was to do all the ship carpenter work and finish the sloop “workmanlike.” Cary was to furnish all plank, iron, oakum, tar, and pitch. Cary also agreed to “find meat, drink, and lodging” for Harding and his helpers while the sloop was being built.

In 1710, Christopher Gale, who had been in London, apparently in connection with the feud between William Glover and Thomas Cary over who was Governor, and John Lawson who had been in London in connection with the publication of his book, returned to the Pamlico. They brought with them a group of German Palatines, destined for the settlement on the Neuse. After a long and disastrous thirteen-week voyage, during which almost half the settlers died, they reached the entrance to the James River. There the ship carrying the more prosperous of the settlers was stopped and plundered by a French privateer. The Frenchmen took everything the settlers had, including their clothes and personal property.

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During its early days, three governors, Robert Daniell, Thomas Cary, and Charles Eden lived in or near Bath Town. Matthew Rowan, who later became governor, lived in Bath Town for a number of years when he first came to Carolina. It also seems probable that George Burrington resided in Bath Town for a short while after being relieved of his duty as a Proprietary Governor in 1725. Edward Hyde, Gabriel Johnston, and Arthur Dobbs each visited Bath Town and held one or more meetings of their Executive Council there.

The Rev. John Urmston, an S.P.G. missionary who visited Bath Town in 1717, held a very low opinion of Bath Town's First Citizen, and thought even less of Governor Charles Eden than he did Christopher Gale. In a letter to the Secretary of the S.P.G., Rev. Urmston wrote: "He (Gale) is a clergyman's son in Yorkshire, bears the great name Gale—I know not how near kin to the late Dean of York. He has a little smack of school Learning, was sometime Clerk to a country attorney at Lancaster (this) great show of Learning gains him great Esteem. Among the Beasts in the woods (the Pamlico settlers) he has passed long for an Oracle, and being learned in the Law, was made Chief Justice of the whole Province. Being arrived at that High Pitch of supposed grandeur, he grew very impertinent, he hath often opposed me in matters relating to Church discipline. I can't see why I should be borne down by such a Blockhead."

Governor Charles Eden established his first seat of government in Bath Town. In the year 1717, he owned lots number 9, 10, 22, and 23 on Front Street, with front privileges down to the water. He also owned back lots number 67 and 68. Eden also purchased a four hundred acre plantation on the west side of Bath Creek, adjoining the land of the late Deputy Governor and Landgrave Robert Daniell. The remains of the brick foundation of Eden's home may still be seen. The old brick, which according to John Lawson "were made exceptionally well in the province," are strong and firm after two and a half centuries of exposure to the weather. Tobias Knight bought the Daniell Plantation on Archbell Point from Daniell's widow, and became Eden's neighbor. Eden sold this plantation to John Lillington in 1718, and moved to Chowan (Bertie) County.

Bath Town's most notorious citizen was Edward Teach, better known as Blackbeard. When King George I succeeded Queen Anne to the English throne, his Mercy Act provided that pirates who surrendered and threw themselves upon the mercy of the Crown, would be pardoned. Teach accepted this offer and surrendered to Governor Charles Eden. He was tried before the Vice Admiralty Court in Bath Town, which determined he was a privateersman instead of a pirate. Pardoned by Governor Eden, in the King's name, Teach was permitted to keep his ship. Teach then established his home on Plum Point, across Bath Creek from Eden's home.

Legends of Blackbeard are numerous in the Bath Town area. One is that Blackbeard paid unsuccessful court for the hand of Governor Eden's daughter. Being engaged to another man, she rejected him. Angered by her rejection, Blackbeard kidnapped his rival, carried him out to sea, where he cut off the hands of his rival and dumped the man into the sea. He then placed the severed hands in a jewel casket and sent them to Miss Eden. It is alleged she promptly languished and died.

It also provided for a revision of the incorporation of Bath Town and a resurvey of the town. The original Act in 1705 specified each lot was to be one half acre in size. The lots as laid out and sold, contained one half acre and four poles, or about one tenth of an acre more than the law provided. The 1715 Act required the lots to be reduced to the original half acre.

To encourage building within the town, this revised Act provided that if "a good, substantial, habitable house" had not been built on a lot within one year after purchase, the sale would be cancelled, and the lot revert to the commissioners to be sold again. The commissioners ruled that a habitable house, fifteen feet square, or the equivalent thereof in area, constituted a "good substantial house." From this provision came the term "saved lot," meaning a lot on which a minimum standard house had been built, so the owner could retain ownership.

After the resurvey of the town, Bath Town experienced a minor boom. Chart No. 2 shows the seventy-one lots and six streets into which Bath Town was divided by the 1715 survey. This is a copy of a "Plan of Bath Town" which was copied in 1807 from a plan dated 22 February, 1766, now preserved with the John Gray Blount papers in the Department of Archives and History in Raleigh. It will be noted this plan, made the

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same year the Assembly directed the courthouse be removed from Bonner's Field and returned to Bath Town, does not show the courthouse at the end of Craven Street, as shown by the Sauthier Map of Bath Town, made three years later.

Between the dates of 25 March and 20 October 1717, all owners of lots on Water (Bay) Street, initially called Front Street, paid ten shillings per lot to retain ownership of the extension of their lot from the west side of the street to the low water mark of Bath Creek. Chart No. 2 shows the lot owners, as of the dates shown above. These names, taken from the records in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Beaufort County, have been added to the original chart. A footnote on the 1807 chart lists lot "No. 29, Publick School Lotte." This could mean that Mary Clarke, the minor daughter of John Clarke, who paid her ten shillings to retain her "front privileges," did not build the "good and substantial house" on her lot within the required time, and the lot reverted to the commissioners."