

***[The following report was begun by Joan Horsley prior to April 2012.
It was completed using Joan's research notes by Pam Lasher. You can contact her at LPam216@gmail.com.]***

WILLIAM DAVIS

From Virginia to Kentucky

(c1730 - 1823)

Research Report by

Joan Horsley

Based on her research as of April 2012

Website: www.JoanHorsley.org

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Acknowledgements

There are individuals that collaborated and/or shared with Joan along the way. It is impossible to name them and not leave someone out. Joan appreciated everyone who joined the research journey with her. And I believe I can speak for us when I say, “Joan was the most excellent researcher with the grit to endure the tediousness and preciseness needed to get it right. We miss her still.” ~Pam

To make reading the report easier, Joan abbreviated sources. For instance, SDBH is Spotsylvania County Deed Book H. The first letter will be obvious when considering the county mentioned in the paragraph. Following the first letter is either Deed Book, Will Book, Order Book, Road Orders, or Marriage License; and then the number/letter of the book. The page number follows.

Note to researchers: questions that Joan left and need further research are contained inside a box.

OVERVIEW OF THE WILLIAM DAVIS FAMILY

WILLIAM DAVIS

Born c1733, King William or Spotsylvania County, Virginia

Probable son of Benjamin Davis (I) and Elizabeth ___ (maiden name unknown)

Married Sarah ___ (maiden name unknown) before 1762

Died shortly bef. 23 September 1823 in Fayette County, Kentucky

Descendants of William Davis

William Davis was born abt. 1733 in King William or Caroline Co., VA. He died before 23 Sept 1823 in Fayette Co., Kentucky. He had moved to Kentucky in late 1781. He married Sarah ___.

William and Sarah ___ Davis had the following children:

- i. MARY "POLLY" DAVIS born abt. 1767 in Culpeper Co., VA. She married Vincent Cusenberry on 31 May 1791 in Bourbon Co., KY.
- ii. JAMES DAVIS was born on 11 Nov 1774 in Culpeper Co., VA. He died on 27 Dec 1826 in Fayette Co., OH. [Ohio is correct.] He married Mildred "Milly" Radcliff on 22 Jul 1797 in Bourbon Co., KY.
- iii. NANCY DAVIS was born abt. 1790 in Fayette Co., KY. She married William Stuart on 12 Aug 1809 in Fayette Co., KY.
- iv. BENJAMIN ROBINSON DAVIS was born on 08 Oct 1794 in Fayette Co., KY. He married Frances Adams on 06 Jun 1813 in Fayette Co., KY.
- v. FANNY DAVIS was born abt. 1795 in Fayette Co., KY. She married Absolom Adams on 14 Dec 1816 in Fayette Co., KY.
- vi. JOHN DAVIS. He married Fanny Collins on 22 Jul 1797 in Bourbon Co., KY.
- vii. WILLIAM DAVIS.
- viii. SARAH DAVIS. She married Daniel Cusenberry in Bourbon Co., KY (probably).

These seven children are all listed in the 1823 deed as heirs of William Davis to his wife, Sarah Davis.

TIMELINE OF RECORDS FOR WILLIAM DAVIS

20 February 1719

Land Patent to JOHN DAVIS [probable brother of Benjamin Davis I]
King William County, 325 acres on the north side of Pomonkey [Pamunkey] River including a neck of land called Elk Neck.

[Land Office Patents No. 11, 1719-1724, p. 1, Reel 10, Library of Virginia online image]

2 December 1734

JOHN x DAVIS of St. John's Parish, King William County, to William SANDIGE of St. Margaret's Parish, Caroline County. 150 acres on Northanna [North Anna] River, in Spotsylvania County. Joseph THOMAS, Robert TURNER, Wm. WALLER. December 3, 1734.

[Source: Spotsylvania Deed Book C, p. 109, Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia]

29 Nov 1734 – Spotsylvania deed of Benjamin's brother John Davis of King William to William Sandige; lease for 5 shillings, release L35 current money; 150 acres on North side of Northanna River in Spotsylvania County. Vague metes & bounds—"Part of a great tract." It was witnessed by Robert Turner, William Waller (John Waller's son), and Joseph Roberts. The connections between Benjamin Davis and Joseph Brock and John Waller are discussed elsewhere at length.

[Source: Spotsylvania County Circuit Clerk's Office, Spotsylvania Court House, Virginia; abstracted by Craig Kilby.]

29 August 1751

Ordered that James Edwards, William SANDAGE, WILLIAM DAVIS and Thomas Hill or any two of them Procession all the Lands From the County line up as high as the Ridge Plantation late of Col^p. Moore's Between Parmunkey River and the Ridge Between that and Mattapony.

[Source: St. George's Parish Spotsylvania Vestry Books 1726-1817, by John Frederick Dorman (Fredericksburg, Virginia, 1998; private printing), p. 86]

1 September 1755

Joseph MARTIN and Anne his wife, late wife of William SANDIGE, deceased, late of Spotsylvania, [Joseph & Ann] of Louisa County to Francis MERRIWETHER, Gent. and heirs and assigns of Spotsylvania – Quit claim for Anne's dower interest as widow of William Sandige, deceased, to 150 acres in Spotsylvania County called ELK NECK, which said William SANDIGE purchased of JOHN DAVIS, late of King William, and said William SANDIGE devised to his son William SANDIGE [Jr], and by William SANDIGE [Jr] the son sold to Francis MERIWETHER "so that ether too" (two) the said Joseph MARTIN and ANN his wife or either of us nor any other. have claim [ie getting clear title] Rec'd 2 Sep 1755

Signed Joseph MARTIN, Anne MARTIN

Witnesses: Benjamin HOLLODAY, James PULLIAM, Joseph RASH

[Spotsylvania Deed Book E, Part I, p. 281, Circuit Clerk's Office, Spotsylvania, Virginia]

1755 - June

3 June 1755 Spotsylvania Road Orders - James Edwards is appointed overseer of the road from E.N.E. BRIDGE on Mr. Hill's land to the old Chapple Road above Moor's qtr., & his gang is Viz. his own; Wm. DAVENPORT, where Philips lived; Thos. GRAVES; John GRAVES; Wm. SANDIGE [transcribed as "Sandigo?"]; WM. DAVIS; Mr. Seaton(?); & Mr. Hill's qtr. on the SO. WEST SIDE OF E.N.E. [CREEK] tithes.

[Spotsylvania Court Minute Book, p. 9, transcribed by Vern Stinson for VAGenWeb Spotsylvania Archives]

1755 - September

William Davis processioned with William Sandige Jr. his land adjacent to Francis Meriwether:

In Obedience to an order of Vestry of St. George's Parish Baring Date the 8th day [of] Septemr. 1755.

Wee the Subscribers proceed's to procession the several Line[s] as followeth Viz'

The Line Between Francis MERIWETHER and Edmund WALLER, The Line Between Francis MERIWETHER and Zachary LEWIS present Robert Huddleston...The line Between Edmund WALLER and Samuel Brown, Present Samuel Brown; The line Between Thomas MOORE and WILLIAM DAVIS, Present WILLIAM DAVIS and William SANDIGE; The line Between Fr[ancis] MERIWETHER and William DAVIS, Present William SANDIGE and WM. DAVIS; The line Between Thomas Moore and M^r. Seaton, Present Thos. Burros and John Brassfield; The line Between Mrs, Seaton and Humphrey Hill, [page 139 (142) (1)]

[Source: *St. George's Parish Spotsylvania Vestry Books 1726-1817*, by John Frederick Dorman (Fredericksburg, Virginia, 1998; private printing), p 189-190]

Note:

William's father Benjamin DAVIS and Edmund WALLER witnessed a deed of Jeremiah White to William WALLER 17 November 1747. (The third witness was George Wythe, a young lawyer working for Zachary LEWIS, and later a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

[SDBD, Crozier, p. 176]

William's brother JAMES DAVIS and William Sandige's brother John Sandige processioned nearby land same time:

In Obedience to an order of Vestry St. George's Parish baring date the 8th day of Sepr 1755. Wee the Subscribers proceeds to procession the several Lines as followeth Viz'.

The line Between Joseph Peterson and Joseph HOLLoday present David Sandage [SANDIGE] and Anthony GHOLSON. The Line Between Col^o. Thos. MOORE and Mrs. Seaton The Line Between Col^o. Moore and James Rollins [RAWLINS]. The Line Between Thomas Pullium [PULLIAM] and James Rollins Junr. The Line Between Thomas Pullium and Thomas Rollins. The Line Between Danniell MUSICK and John Trusty. The Line Between John Sanddage [SANDIGE] and Charles SMITH. Given under our hands Octobr. 1755.

/s/ John SANDAGE, JAMES DAVIS

[Source: *St. George's Parish Vestry Book*, (p. 28/31-insert), *St. George's Parish Spotsylvania Vestry Books 1726-1817*, by John Frederick Dorman (Fredericksburg, Virginia, 1998; private printing), p. 93]

22 September 1760

Thomas MOORE Gent and Joanna his wife of King William County to John GRAVES [Jr] his heirs and assigns of Spotsylvania, for £90, 338 acres bounded by said John GRAVES, Col. Humphrey Hill, Thomas GRAVES, *Gunstock* Branch. Rec 3 November 1760

Signed: Thomas Moore, Joanna (x) Moore

Witnesses: William WEBB, WILLIAM (crossed "I") DAVIS, Joseph GRAVES

[Source: *Spotsylvania Deed Book E, Part II*, p. 710, *Circuit Clerk's Office, Spotsylvania, Virginia*]

Not our William Davis (this is the senior William Davis of Louisa County):

3 November 1760

Francis Merewether of Spotsylvania County and Mary, his wife, to James Crawford of same County, for £28 current money of Virginia, 69 acres in Spotsylvania "all that tract or parcel of land and Plantation whereon the said Francis Meriwether did formerly dwell" adjoining Edmund Waller's line standing on the Main Road...south side Pumunkey Road...James Shackelford's line by the Main Road...

/s/ Francis Merewether, Mary Merewether

Witnesses: Samuel Ragland, Wm. McGehee, WILLIAM DAVIS [all by signature] Rec. 3 November 1760.

[Source: *Spotsylvania Deed Book E, Part II, p. 703-704, Circuit Clerk's Office, Spotsylvania, Virginia*]

17 August 1761

Sarah [CARR] MINOR, widow and relict of John MINOR [Sr], Gent., of Spotsylvania County, and John Minor [Jr], acting Executor of said John Minor, of Spotsylvania County, to WILLIAM DAVIS, planter of Spotsylvania County, for £150, 850 acres of land on both sides of the North Rush River in Culpeper County which John Minor [Sr] purchased of Francis and John STROTHER of the said county of Culpeper. In Minor's will, dated 28 October MDCCLIV (1754) it was devised to his son William Minor all that part of the tract below the North Rush River adjacent to Capt. Compton. William Minor died under age 21 and unmarried with no issue, and per the terms of the father's will in such a case it was to be sold and the proceeds added to his personal estate.

Signed (both by signature): Sarah MINOR, John MINOR

Witnessed:

On behalf of Sarah Minor:

John WALLER, William DAVENPORT, Jno. ARNOLD and Thomas MINOR

On behalf of John Minor:

J. [John?] LEWIS, Thomas MINOR, Francis Merriweather [MERIWETHER] and Joseph GRAVES

On margin: Minors to Davis, DD [deed delivered] to James Graves

[Source: *Culpeper Deed Book C p. 605, Reel 2, Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia, abstract by Craig Kilby, caps, underlining, brackets added by Joan Horsley.*]

Will of JOHN MINOR d. October 28, 1754, p. September 2, 1755, Spotsylvania County [SWB B, p. 257]

Witnesses: John GOODLOE, David DAVENPORT, Joseph Venable; Executors: Wife (Sarah), son John (Jr)

Legatees: wife; son John, son, William, tract of land that I bought of Francis and John STROTHER, adjoining the lands of Capt. Compton, in Culpeper County, son, Thomas; son, Garrett, land lately bought of Henry GAMBELL, in Culpeper; son, James, land whereon my plantations now are on James River, in Louisa County; son, Dabney, land lately bought of Charles KAVANAUGH, in Culpeper County: son Vivian, land whereon my plantation now is in Orange Co; son Peter, land whereon I now live, after my wife's death; daughter, Mary; daughter, Elizabeth; friends, John Carr, John Waller, Rice Curtis and William Cart; to all my children, but John, a gold ring each. [Crozier, p. 10]

David Davenport was son of Martin and grandson of Davis Davenport whose land in King William was across Waller's land from William Davis, likely father of Benjamin Davis, father of this William Davis of Spotsylvania and Culpeper.

John Goodloe was a carpenter who was commissioned by the St. George's Parish Vestry of Spotsylvania to build an addition to the Mattaponi church the same session William's father Benjamin Davis I was commissioned to build an addition to the St. George's Parish Church in Fredericksburg. John Goodloe also witnessed the 1758 purchase of Spotsylvania land by William's brother John Davis.

Henry Gambell was the son of Thomas Gambrell/Gambill and husband of Martin Davenport's daughter Mary (David's sister). Thomas Gambrell of King William patented land in Spotsylvania in 1726 adjacent to the then-King William 1719 patent to John Davis, Benjamin Davis I's likely brother. Thomas Gambrell then traded that land to John Graves Jr., whose sons and sons-in-law are on records with this William Davis, Benjamin's son.

27 August 1761

Charles Kavanaugh of Culpeper and Anne his wife to Burkitt Davenport of the town of Fairfax, merchant. Mortgage to secure £72.10.4½ current money to be paid 3 September 1762. 488 acres and plantation where Charles Kavanaugh now lives on Jones's Swamp...part of a larger tract devised to Charles Kavanaugh by the will of his father Philemon Kavanaugh bounded BY LAND OF JOHN MINOR OF SPOTSYLVANIA COUNTY, William Roane of Essex County and John Williams of Culpeper County. Signed: Chas. Kavanaugh, Ann Kavanaugh. Wit: BENJA. DAVIS, JAMES DAVIS, Proved 17 September 1761 by BENJAMIN DAVIS, JAMES DAVIS

[Source: Culpeper County Deed Book B, p. 595, "Culpeper County Deed Book B, Vol Two", abstracted and compiled by John Frederick Dorman, (Wash. DC, 1972), p. 71]

In King William County in 21 September 1702 a deed from John Pettiver to Hugh Owen was witnessed by Benjamin DAVIS' father William DAVIS and Benjamin ARNOLD. A descendant of Benjamin ARNOLD of the same name later lived on Arnolds Run (now Creek) in southwestern Spotsylvania County not far from where William DAVIS' son John DAVIS patented land 1719, and where William's son Benjamin DAVIS' son William DAVIS had land he sold in 1764. Also owning land on Arnolds Run with Benjamin Arnold were Ambrose Arnold, John Minor and John Davenport. William Davenport, John Arnold, Thomas Minor, and William Davenport witnessed the 1761 sale of Culpeper land from John Minor's widow and son John Jr. to William DAVIS, son of Benjamin DAVIS. William and John DAVENPORT were descendants of Davis DAVENPORT whose King William land was across the Waller property from WILLIAM DAVIS (Benjamin's father). The MINOR's were descendants of Thomas MINOR Sr. whose King William land was adjacent to James TERRY, grandfather of Thomas TERRY who married Benjamin Davis' daughter Sarah. In 1788, Benjamin ARNOLD's children became wards of John WALLER, descendant of John WALLER whose land was also adjacent to William DAVIS in King William

Not our William Davis:

31 October 1761

John GRAVES, Senr. and Frances his wife of St. George's Parish, Spotsylvania County, to John GRAVES Junr. of St. Martin's Parish, Louisa County, for £50 current money of Virginia, 238 acres in St. George's Parish, Spotsylvania County, bounded by Col. Hill, John Graves Senr, James Edwards in Mr. Cason's line...near the head of Gunstock Branch. Rec. 7 June 1762.

/s/ John (mark) Graves, Frances (x) Graves

[John Graves' mark the same crossed "l" as our William Davis]

Witnesses:

J. Lewis, Frans. Meriwether, Jos. Graves, Wm. (x) Davis, Wm. Davis, James Mackgehee

[McGehee]

Note: John Graves Jr. m. Mary McGehee, sister of witness James McGehee. Joseph Graves was another son of John Graves Sr.

23 January 1764

WILLIAM DAVIS of Culpeper County and SARAH, his wife, to Francis MERIWETHER of Spotsylvania County, £148 10s. 6d, 114 ¼ acres in Spotsylvania County on Gunstock Branch of the Pamunkey [Northanna] River, corner to John GRAVES, William KIMBRO, William WRIGHT, the said Meriwether, banks of the Pamunkey River.

Wit: John GRAVES junr, Joseph GRAVES, William Mackgehee junr [McGEHEE], William Mackgehee
Recorded 7 June 1764. Signed: WILLIAM DAVIS, SARAH DAVIS both by mark (his a crossed "I")
[Source: Spotsylvania Deed Book F, p. 36, Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia]

Note: This is located on the Northanna River about half-way between today's Lewiston and Levy, Virginia.

Not our William Davis:

19 April 1765

Prisley [Presley] THORNTON, Esq, of Northumberland County, Virginia, to WILLIAM DAVIS, planter of Culpeper County, lease for 127 acres for the term of 99 years and annual payment of "Inspector's Notes for 530 pounds of tobacco, plus payment of taxes and quit rents due", and if more than 4 tithables are working there, then 100 more pounds of tobacco per year, due on the 7th of December, not to be over 30 days in arrears or else it would be foreclosed upon. Further restrictions were to plant 64 "good apple trees within 30 feet asunder", 100 peach trees 15 foot asunder, to keep the property in good condition, the orchards trimmed, etc. This lease refers to the property as the "messenger where he [WILLIAM DAVIS] now dwells. This land was also called "part of the said Presley THORNTON's tract of land called the (Raked/Naked) Mountain Tract on the south side of Burgess River."

Signed by Presley THORNTON by signature, WILLIAM DAVIS by mark

Wit: Thomas SLAUGHTER, John GREEN, William JOHNSTON, Samuel TAYLOR, John FIELD.
[Source: Culpeper County Deed Book D, p. 707, Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia, abstracted by Craig Kilby]

WILLIAM DAVIS & PARKS, STROTHER, GAMBILL/GAMBRILL

16 April 1771

DEED: James Genn, of Fauquier County, to Martin DAVENPORT, of Culpeper County, for 3,000 pounds of good and lawful Tobacco, 280 acres in Brumfield Parish, Culpeper County, on the north side of the South Fork of RUSH RIVER, a branch of the Rappahannock, adjoining John STROTHER – being the same tract granted to James Genn, father of said James, by Lord Fairfax on 21 July 1748... /s/ James Genn. Wit: None. Acknowledged by said Genn in Culpeper Court the same day.

[Culpeper County Deeds, F:253]

Note: This was Martin, eldest son of the eldest son of Martin Davenport, Sr.

19 August 1771

DEED: William GAMBILL, wife Mary, to Richard PARKS, all of Brumfield Parish, Culpeper County, for £25 Virginia, 100 acres in Brumfield Parish, Culpeper County, on Little Fork of Rappahannock River, being part of a 10,000-acre grant by Lord Fairfax to James Compton, Esq., who conveyed to Thomas BAKER on 16 December 1764, adjoining WILLIAM DAVIS, Payton, and the Long Mountain... /s/ William Gambill, [No wife signs.] Wit: None. Ack. by Gambill same day in Culpeper Court. [*Culpeper County Deeds, F:283*]

15 May 1772

DEED OF GIFT: Thomas BAKER, wife Dorothy [DAVENPORT], to son Henry BAKER, both of Brumfield Parish, for natural love and affection, 100 acres in Brumfield Parish, Culpeper County, in the Little fork of Rappahannock River on branches of BATTLE RUN, adjoining Richard PARKS, WILLIAM DAVIS... /s/ Thomas Baker, [no wife signs]. Wit: William GAMBILL, Richard PARKS, Martin DAVENPORT [*Culpeper County Deeds, F:460*]

Note: Dorothy Baker was the daughter of Martin Davenport, Sr., of Hanover. Martin Davenport, the witness here, was the only son of Dorothy's brother Thomas. Witness William Gambill was the oldest son of Dorothy's sister Mary Davenport, wife of Henry Gambill, Sr.

William Mallory was married to Thomas and Dorothy Davenport Baker's oldest daughter, Mary.

15 May 1772

DEED: Thomas BAKER, wife Dorothy, to William MALLORY, all of Brumfield Parish, Culpeper County, for £25, 200 acres in Brumfield Parish, Culpeper County, in the Little Fork of Rappahannock, on branches of BATTLE RUN, adjoining Jacoby--part of a 1,000-acre tract granted by Lord Fairfax... /s/ Thos Baker, [no wife signs]. Wit: Wm GAMBILL, Richard PARKS, Martin DAVENPORT. [*Culpeper County Deeds, F:476*]

7 February 1775

DEED: William GAMBILL to John and George STROTHER, all of Culpeper County, for consideration of George STROTHER, Dec'd., did in his lifetime purchase a certain parcel of land in Culpeper County, being part of a 232-acre survey made for William GAMBILL, including 76 acres granted to said Gambill by Lord Fairfax, Quit Claim Deed, 76 acres in Culpeper County, adjoining Kennerly and Thomas BAKER... /s/ William Gambill. Wit: John STROTHER, Charles BROWNING, Joseph STROTHER. [*Culpeper County Deeds, H:284*]

Note: William Gambill, eldest son and heir-at-law to Henry Gambill, Sr., and Mary Davenport, his wife, daughter of Martin Davenport, Sr., This (above) is the next to the last land transaction of Thomas and Dorothy Baker in Culpeper County. All indications are they were selling out and preparing to move south.

See: <http://pamunkeybakers.com/paper/09.pdf>

At this website is *The Baker Family of Virginia, From Colonial Virginia to the North Carolina Mountains (A Family History Working Paper)*.

2 December 1778

From WILLIAM DAVIS and SARAH his wife of Culpeper to John STROTHER, Jr. for £2000 "current money of Virginia" ..."a parcel of land containing Eight hundred and fifty acres (be the same more or less) being the tract of land purchased by the said William Davis of Sarah Minor and John Minor Executrix and Executor of the last will and testament of John Minor Gent. of Spotsylvania County deceased [deceased] and the said tract of land is situate and lying in Culpeper County and Bromfield Parish in the Little Fork of the Rappahannock River joining the Rush River on the East side thereof and bounded" [1]

Beginning on the Rush River at a corner of a tract of land lately belonging to Robert STROTHER and runs with the line of that land to [2] Line of a tract of land lately the property of John Hasteley thence with the lines of that line to [3] A line of a tract of land lately belonging to Henry Backer [BAKER] thence with the line of that land to [4] The line of a tract of land lately belong to Henry Backer [Baker] thence with the line of that line to [5] A tract of land lately the property John PARKS, Jr. and now sold to the said John Strother thence with lines of that land to [6] The aforesaid Rush River thence up the several courses of the said river to [7] the beginning.

Signed: WILLIAM (X) DAVIS, SARAH (X) DAVIS.

Witnessed by John STROTHER, John SLAUGHTER, JOHN DAVIS (all signing). Executed 2 December 1778. Recorded 17 March 1779.

[Source: *Culpeper Deed Book I*, p. 287-293; Reel 5, Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia, abstract by Craig Kilby]

From original deed: both marks entered only as "x", but sale of Spotsylvania land from Culpeper is with crosshatch I.

NOTE:

When William Davis and wife Sarah sell their 850 acres in Culpeper, as residents of Culpeper, 2 December 1778, both of their signatures are entered only as "x". However, this is specified as the same 850 acres that "the said William Davis" purchased 17 August 1761 as a resident of Spotsylvania County. On 23 January 1764, William Davis & wife Sarah, then residents of Culpeper, sell their Spotsylvania land, and William's signature is recorded as the cross-hatched I. The 1764 deed was witnessed by John Graves Jr. and Joseph Graves, and the 1761 deed where William purchased the Culpeper land from Spotsylvania was delivered to James Graves (brother of John Jr. and Jos. Graves). William Davis witnessed several Spotsylvania deeds with Graves with the same cross-hatched mark (likely his wife Sarah was a Graves). James Graves lived near the land William Davis bought in Culpeper, and the Spotsylvania land William and Sarah sell from Culpeper was near the Graves family in Spotsylvania. At each of these dates, there is no other William Davis in Spotsylvania who could be confused with this one who moved from Spotsylvania to Culpeper bet. 1761-1764. So, it is obvious that the seller William Davis and wife Sarah in 1778 are the same as the William Davis with wife Sarah who signed his mark in 1764 with the crosshatched "I".

Lake Anna is where John Waller, with strong connections to Benjamin DAVIS, also lived. Nearby were the Holloday's on deeds with Benjamin DAVIS and also most likely related through Benjamin's sister Sarah's husband William Holloday. Also near today's Lake Anna (a man-made lake on the North Anna River) was the area of Elk Neck, where John DAVIS of King William (Benjamin's brother) sold part of his land grant to William Sandige Sr. The land was inherited by William Sandige Jr, whose widow Anne Pulliam (by then married to Joseph Martin) sold it to Francis Meriwether in 1755. Francis Meriwether was married to Mary Lewis Waller, granddaughter of John Waller whose land in King William was adjacent to Benjamin DAVIS' father William DAVIS.

I don't know what Joan was referring to here—who died?

William Davis and his wife Sarah and family moved to Fayette County, Kentucky with Lewis Craig's "Traveling Church" in 1781. MAYBE – BUT IT WOULD HAVE TO BE HIS SON WHO DIED WITH THE CHILDREN IN _____. That one by his children's ages and marriage dates is a generation later.

1782

The first appearance of William Davis is in a deposition quoted on page 294 of History of Garrard County, Kentucky by Forest Calico (1947) in which John Bryant states that he visited Lewis Craig's Station on Gilbert Creek, and he states that living there in 1782 were the Craig family, John Price, Benjamin Robinson, William Davis, and others. He stated that only 12 or 15 families were living there at the time." [Calico, Forest. "History of Garrard County and Its Churches", Hobson Book Press, 1947. From Bill Davis' rootsweb.com files]

DISCUSSION OF RECORDS FOR WILLIAM DAVIS

PART 1: SPOTSYLVANIA COUNTY, VIRGINIA

William Davis witnessed three Spotsylvania deeds in 1760 and 1761 that all involved members of the John Graves Sr. family. When he bought Culpeper land in 1761 and again when he sold his Spotsylvania property from Culpeper in 1762, the witnesses were also of this Graves family. It seems logical to think that William's wife Sarah might somehow be related to these Graves.

William Davis was related through his father to the Graves of New Kent, King and Queen, and King William County, Virginia. Benjamin's aunt Unity White married Ralph Graves Jr, and his great-aunt Rachel Croshaw married Ralph Graves Sr. Ralph Graves Sr.'s brother Thomas was the ancestor of the John Graves Sr family line. John Graves Sr and his father (also John) owned land in King William and came from adjacent King and Queen County to Spotsylvania County by 1729. Theirs seems to be the only Graves family to migrate through Spotsylvania, although many others were close to the Spotsylvania border in adjacent counties of Louisa, Caroline and Hanover.

The same-named Graves and the relationships among spouses involved in William Davis' deeds are confusing. So, I begin with a kind of "shorthand" outline of the John Graves Sr family, which I explain in more detail in the comments that follow. William Davis' Culpeper deeds and his move to Kentucky are discussed in Part 2.

Joan noted to be sure that this doesn't say anything about the Graves of Spotsylvania/Culpeper being related to Ralph Graves (or to Benjamin Davis) as recent DNA proves it wrong.

NOTES ON SPOTSYLVANIA DEEDS

John Graves⁴ - fm King and Queen/King William to Spotsylvania by 1729, there in 1737, d. 1747 K&Q -- s/o Thomas³

John Graves⁵ "Sr"- b. c1685, King William land fm father 1706, Spotsylvania by 1729; d.1772 Spotsylvania w will

land grant 1744 adj John Collins, adj to Benjamin DAVIS

brother Thomas⁵ Graves m Ann Davenport? [5 indicates generation]

Children of John Graves⁵ Sr. & Frances

1. James Graves m Sarah (wit Price will) b. c1722, Jael m Wm Jones, Mary m. Richard Parks
2. Joseph Graves m. Frankie Coleman (niece of Robert Coleman of Benjamin Davis lease)
3. John Graves Jr m. Mary McGehee (d/o Wm McGehee & Mary Carr; John of Louisa & Spots)

4. Ann Graves m. John McGehee (s/o Wm McGehee & Mary Carr, b/o Jas McGehee in Hanover)
5. Elizabeth Graves m. William Sandige III (s/o Wm Jr. & Ann Pulliam, b/o David-bought land of Wm Webb)
6. Thomas Graves m. Eliz Ann ____
7. Frances Graves m. Joseph Bush (possibly? related to Mary Bush, w/o Benjamin Davis II)

John GRAVES Sr's brother Thomas GRAVES appears to be a carpenter, as was WILLIAM DAVIS' father Benjamin, his brother Benjamin Jr, and his brother John DAVIS. [*Spotsylvania Orders, 2 November 1731: County Levy To Mr Thomas GRAVES for repairing East North East bridge.*] The same order paid Thomas Turner for timber to build the Mine Bridge. WILLIAM DAVIS' father Benjamin DAVIS, also a bridge builder, is on 1753 Orders for the road from Mattaponi River to the Mine Road. A Thomas Turner was a witness to the 1734 deed of Benjamin Davis' probable brother John Davis to William Sandige. There are a number of Turner connections, even to Benjamin's sons-in-law Thomas Terry and Daniel Jarrell.

The "East North East River" on early deeds seems to be today's Northeast Creek that flows south along the east side of today's Lake Anna on the Northanna River (the northern part of the Pamunkey). Northeast Creek meets the Northanna/Pamunkey at the southwest corner of Spotsylvania at its boundaries with Louisa, Caroline and Hanover counties. It was in this area where Benjamin DAVIS built a bridge in 1748 over the North Anna between Spotsylvania and Louisa.

The following Spotsylvania County Road Orders indicate the people around Thomas GRAVES, all connected in some way with the Benjamin DAVIS family:

4 June 1728 O.S., Page 233

Mr. Thomas GRAVES is appointed overseer of the road from East North East bridge to John Keys mill path & Ordered that all the male tithables that did Serve under Anthony Goldson [Gholson] that live between the Said bridge and Keys mill path do help him cleare the Same --

4 June 1728 O.S., Page 233

Anthony Goldson [Gholson] is appointed and continued overseer of the road from John Keys path that goes to Holidays mill [this would be the John Holloday family], & So upwards to the road that Jerimiah Clowder is overseer of and ordered that all the male tithables that live between ye said Mill path & Capt: Jerimia Clowders road, (Andrew Harrison's & John Bush's plantation excluded) that did belong to him before, do help him clear the Same --

[Source: *Spotsylvania County Road Orders 1722-1734 by Nathaniel Mason Pawlett-online*]

Mary Carr, wife of William McGehee, was sister of Sarah Carr Minor who with son John Minor Jr sold the Culpeper land to WILLIAM DAVIS in 1761. Thomas McGehee is on then-Orange County Road Orders with Andrew Harrison 1747-48, where William's brother James DAVIS lived and became overseer of the road by 1758.

William Sandige Sr., husband of Ann Pulliam was born 1698 New Kent, died Spotsylvania 1746. She was the daughter of William Pulliam (and Ann Patterson) of New Kent. Ann Pulliam Sandige had a brother Thomas Pulliam married to Winifred Holloday, daughter of John Holloday. Winifred's brother John Holloday Jr. witnessed the Spotsylvania deed of Benjamin DAVIS in 1754. They are surely related to Benjamin's brother-in-law William Holloday of King William. Thomas Pulliam (brother of Ann and brother-in-law of John Holloday Jr) is on Spotsylvania County Road Orders in 1729/30 with Jeremiah Clowder

and Anthony Gholson, both adjacent to Andrew Harrison's land on Terrys Run in what became Orange County in 1734, where WILLIAM DAVIS' brother James DAVIS lived by at least 1758. Siblings Winifred and John Holloday Jr. had a sister Susannah who some believe was Susannah, wife of John Graves, the father of _____ of this Graves family.

I don't know what Joan wanted here; I found info on a Susannah Dicken who married John Graves, but not Susannah Holloday (in Joan's Thomas Graves of Graves Mill).

Title Martin, Joseph. [married Ann Pulliam widow of William Sandidge, William Davis on Martin-Ann Sand. deed]

Publication 20 March 1745.

Other Format Available on microfilm. Virginia State Land Office. Patents 1-42, reels 1-41.

Note Location: Louisa County.

Description: 1420 acres on the north side the North Branch of the north fork of James River and on both sides of Pritties Creek adjoining Thomas Collins.

[Source: Land Office Patents No. 24, 1745-1746, p. 184, Reel 22, Library of Virginia online image.]

Ann Pulliam Sandige Martin's brother Thomas Pulliam and his wife Winifred Holloday had a son Thomas Pulliam Jr. Some researchers believe he married Frances Boswell about 1760. In 1755, Benjamin DAVIS became Frances Boswell's guardian. Her two brothers George and James had become apprentices of Benjamin DAVIS in 1752 after the death of their father John Boswell in 1740/41. (Other researchers say Thomas Pulliam Jr. married Louisa Graves, daughter of Thomas Graves the carpenter discussed above. It is probably a case of two related Thomas Pulliam's, so for our purposes the connection still has value, regardless which Thomas Pulliam.)

Ann also had brothers James Pulliam and Benjamin Pulliam. the latter married to Ann Ragland, daughter of Samuel Ragland of New Kent and Louisa. Samuel Ragland witnessed the 1760 Spotsylvania deed of Francis Meriwether with co-witnesses William McGehee and WILLIAM DAVIS. William McGehee was the father-in-law of John GRAVES Jr. and of his sister Ann GRAVES, both of whom married children of William McGehee.

William Webb witnessed the 1772 Spotsylvania will of John GRAVES Sr. He sold land in 1780 to David Sandige, another son of William and Ann Pulliam Sandige, and brother-in-law of John GRAVES' daughter Elizabeth GRAVES Sandige.

October 1755 - JAMES DAVIS with John SANDIGE file processioners report:

In Obedience to an order of Vestry St. George Parish baring date the 8th day of Sepr 1755. Wee the Subscribers proceeds to procession the several Lines as followeth Viz'.

The line Between Joseph Peterson and Joseph HOLLODAY present David Sandage [SANDIGE] and Anthony GHOLSON. The Line Between Col^o. Thos. Moore and Mrs. Seaton The Line Between Col^o. Moore and James Rollins. The Line Between Thomas Pullium [PULLIAM] and James Rollins Junr. The Line Between Thomas Pullium and Thomas Rollins. The Line Between Dannel MUSICK and John Trusty. The Line Between John Sanddage [SANDIGE] and Charles SMITH. Given under our hands Octobr. 1755.

/s/ John SANDAGE, JAMES DAVIS

[Source: St. George's Parish Vestry Book, (p. 28/31-insert), St. George's Parish Spotsylvania Vestry Books 1726-1817, by John Frederick Dorman (Fredericksburg, Virginia, 1998; private printing), p. 93.]

In the same 1755 processioning reports, William Davis owned nearby land was processioned with John's brother William Sandige (Jr):

WILLIAM DAVIS' land processioned with William SANDIGE (Jr)

In Obedience to an order of Vestry of St. George Parish Baring Date the 8th day [of] Septemr. 1755. Wee the Subscribers proceed's to procession the several Line[s] as followeth Viz'

The Line Between Francis MERIWETHER and Edmund WALLER, The Line Between Francis MERIWETHER and Zachary LEWIS present Robert Huddleston...The line Between Edmund WALLER and Samuel Brown, Present Samuel Brown; The line Between Thomas Moore and WILLIAM DAVIS, Present WILLIAM DAVIS and William SANDIGE; The line Between Fr[ancis] MERIWETHER and William DAVIS, Present William SANDIGE and WM. DAVIS; The line Between Thomas Moore and M^r. Seaton, Present Thos. Burros and John Brassfield; The line Between Mrs, Seaton and Humphrey Hill, [Page 139 (142) (1)]

[Source: *St. George's Parish Spotsylvania Vestry Books 1726-1817*, by John Frederick Dorman (Fredericksburg, Virginia, 1998; private printing), p 189-190.]

John GRAVES Sr's son James GRAVES and his wife Sarah witnessed the 1758 Culpeper County Will of Kalem Price whose daughter Mary married WILLIAM DAVIS' brother JAMES DAVIS (his second wife) between 1766 and 1777 [NNQ:153]

A Chain Carrier for the 1752 Eastham survey of the grant that adjoined Andrew Bourne was James Graves, who witnessed Kalem Price's will. George Dillard, Thomas Dillard, Robert Eastham, John Latham, all bounds of Kalem Price's 1749 grant. (see deed with Benjamin and James with these names)

A bound on the Gunstock Branch Spotsylvania land William Davis sold in 1764 was William Wright, probably related to John Wright who witnessed Kalem Price's Culpeper will in 1758, along with witness James Graves, whose brother John Graves was also a bound of that property.

John GRAVES Sr's daughter Frances is said to have married Joseph Bush, son of Philip and grandson of John Bush whose land was near and possibly adjacent to the land Benjamin DAVIS later bought in 1754.

Joan had these X's. It is probably because the Bush name is in question:

XXXXXXXXXXXXFamily information says that Benjamin DAVIS' son Benjamin Jr married Mary Bush, a probable granddaughter of John Bush. It does seem that this Joseph Bush and Mary Bush are related, based in part on the family connection with the GRAVES and the proximity of the residences. Joseph Bush's will proved 1809 in Caswell County, North Carolina, names as an executor his friend Barzillai Graves. Barzillai was a grandson of Thomas Graves (and Ann, maybe Davenport) who was the carpenter who built a bridge near the Louisa County line (where Benjamin DAVIS built a bridge in 1748) and with Gholson near the John Bush and Harrison plantations on Road Orders in 1728. By 1758, Mary Bush's brother-in-law (and WILLIAM DAVIS' brother) James DAVIS was living on former Harrison land. (An interesting note—Rev. Barzillai Graves in North Carolina married Ursula Wright, daughter of "Rev. William Wright." Could this be the same William Wright who witnessed the 1762 Spotsylvania deed from John Graves Sr to Joseph Graves, and who lived adjacent to William Davis and Thomas Kimbrow/Kimbrough, another witness to the Graves-to-Graves deed?)

In these ways, the Graves family not only helps to locate William, but adds further connections between him and his father Benjamin and brothers James and Benjamin II. His brother John was probably living and working with his father in Spotsylvania, but is connected with William in Culpeper as we discuss later.

Joan made a note that in discussing the Spotsylvania land of William, add info on patents to Holloday and James Terry—same area.

Part 2: ADDITIONAL SPOTSYLVANIA DEEDS OF INTEREST

9 February 1749

Benjamin MARTIN of St. George's Parish, Spotsylvania County, to Edmund WALLER of sd. Par. and county. Deed of Lease. 150 a., part of the tract whereon Henry Martin, Dec'd., did live, joining Revd. James MARYE and John THORNTON, son of Collo. Francis THORNTON, Dec'd., on Hazel Run, in the par. and county afsd., etc., etc. Witnesses, Charles Snead, James WIGLESWORTH, Richd. Phillips, Junr. Rec'd: 6 March 1749. [SDBD, Crozier p 181]

Notes:

This land near Fredericksburg is from Benjamin MARTIN, who sold another part of his father's land to Benjamin DAVIS in 1754. This deed is to Edmund WALLER, son of John Waller whose King William land was adjacent to WILLIAM DAVIS, probable father of Benjamin DAVIS. Benjamin DAVIS is also on a number of Spotsylvania deeds with WALLER family members. The land in this deed adjoins Rev. MARYE whose son Peter bought in 1766 the Orange County land of Benjamin DAVIS' son James DAVIS. Benjamin's son William DAVIS leased Culpeper land from Presley THORNTON in 1765. Presley was the nephew of Col. Francis THORNTON and cousin of John THORNTON of this deed. (Witness James WIGLESWORTH was a carpenter, as was Benjamin DAVIS and his sons Benjamin and John, brothers of WILLIAM DAVIS.)

1762/1764 – William Davis and wife Sarah sell land in Spotsylvania County

23 January 1762 – WM. x DAVIS of Culpeper Co. and SARAH, his wife, to Francis Meriwether of Spotsylvania Co. £148 10s. 6d. curr. 114 1/4 acres in Spotsylvania Co. John Graves, junr.; Jos. Graves, Wm. Mackgehee, junr.; Wm. Mackgehee. June 7, 1762.

[Spotsylvania Deed Book F 1761-1766, Crozier page 227 -- also page 236 with year as 1764]

Check further for which year is correct here.

9 November 1767

Nathan Hawkins, Catherine Hawkins, Frances Colson, Sarah Buckner, Thomas Megee [McGehee], Sr., and Thomas Megee, Jr [Thomas McGehee Jr]., all witnesses to a deed of gift from Doctor William Waller to Ann Waller, daughter of Jno. Waller, Clerk of Spotsylvania County, brother to said William Waller, of slaves "that will be his at the death of Ann Waller, his mother." If said William Waller marries, null and void. [SCBG, Crozier, p. 261, from Craig Kilby]

[Further Notes to be added for this Waller to Waller deed: William Waller is listed on a bound on land near or next to William's father Benjamin Davis, and Benjamin's land adjacent to Nathan Hawkins. Benjamin had several recorded involvements with William Waller.]

1761 – WILLIAM DAVIS Purchase of Culpeper County Land from Sarah and John Minor Jr.

17 August 1761

Sarah Minor, widow and relict of John Minor [Sr], Gent., of Spotsylvania County, and John Minor [Jr], acting Executor of said John Minor, of Spotsylvania County, to WILLIAM DAVIS, planter of Spotsylvania County, for £150, 850 acres of land on both sides of the North Rush River in Culpeper County which John Minor [Sr] purchased of Francis and John Strother of the said county of Culpeper. In Minor's will, dated 28 October MDCCLIV (1754) it was devised to his son William Minor all that part of the tract below the North Rush River adjacent to Capt. Complow. William Minor died under age 21 and unmarried with no issue, and per the terms of the father's will in such a case it was to be sold and the proceeds added to his personal estate.

Signed (both by signature): Sarah Minor, John Minor

Witnessed:

On behalf of Sarah Minor:

John Waller, William Davenport, Jno. Arnold and Thomas Minor

On behalf of John Minor:

J. [John?] Lewis, Thomas Minor, Francis Merriweather [Meriwether] and Joseph Graves

On margin: Minors to Davis, DD [deed delivered] to James Graves

[Source: Culpeper Deed Book C p. 605, Reel 2, Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia]

John Minor and wife Sarah Carr had a daughter Mary Minor who married Joseph Herndon, whose 1753 deed from his father Edward Herndon was witnessed by Benjamin Davis.

2 October 1758 - Deed to JOHN DAVIS from JAMES STEVENS - Spotsylvania

JAMES STEVENS of Culpeper and ALICE his wife to JOHN DAVIS his heirs and assigns of Spotsylvania for £40 current money, 400 acres in the County of Spotsylvania...the Old Quarter Swamp...in [JOHN] ROBINSONS line. Recorded 3 Oct 1758

*Signed: JAMES STEVENS, ALICE STEVENS (both by signature)**Witnesses: JOSEPH BROCK, ED HERNDON junr, JOSEPH HERNDON, JOHN GOODLOE**[Source: Spotsylvania Deed Book E, p. 106, Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.]*

Less than two months after John bought this land his brother James Davis bought land 23 Nov 1758 just over the Orange County line that had recently been owned by William Stevens, a cousin of James Stevens here selling to John. William's brother, James Davis bought land from Thomas Burgess, also a carpenter as was witness John Goodloe and John Davis and his father Benjamin Davis.

The Herndon's have a number of deed and related family connections with Benjamin in Spotsylvania. Our Davis-Herndon relationships extend to John Davis in Pittsylvania, Frederick Davis in Madison, and John Jackson, whose wife was a Herndon, in Culpeper/Madison living adjacent to James, Benjamin II, and Thomas Terry, h/o Sarah Davis, all children of Benjamin Davis I. The Carr's and Dabney's go back into King William, where Benjamin Davis was born and where Sarah and John Minor were married. John and Sarah Minor later lived in the Pamunkey Neck of Caroline County, where Benjamin Davis did work for their neighbor Rice Williams in 1743.

The 1754 Spotsylvania County will of John Minor Sr. names friend John Waller. John Waller (Sr) owned land in King William County adjacent to William Davis, who I believe is Benjamin's father. Among other

reasons and connections, Spotsylvania records show Benjamin was very involved with the Waller family and the families of their spouses. Of interest here is that the Spotsylvania land Benjamin bought in 1754 shared a third common bound with John Waller Jr. whose wife was Agnes Carr, sister of Sarah Carr Minor of this deed.

John Minor received land in 1733 in Spotsylvania from his father-in-law Thomas Carr, part of Carr's 7 June 1726 land grant. The land was located on the north side of the North Anna River, and was near present-day Lake Anna. This is near where John Waller moved and the area where Benjamin, too, lived and worked in Spotsylvania between at least 1743 and 1757.

Joel Parish appointed overseer of the road from E.N.E. bridge to ye county line, his gang Vis. his own; Jno. Woolfolk; Thos. Hill; Wm. Davenport; Fra. Arnold; Mr. Temple's qtr.; Geo. Woodroof; Benj. Woodroof; David Woodroof; John Minor; John Waller; John Sutton; John Lewis, ordinary keeper, tithes. [*Spotsylvania County Minute Book, 1755-1765, p. 9, transcribed by Vern Stinson 8 February 2001; found on <http://www.rootsweb.com/~vaspotsy/1755road.htm>*]

That area is also where in 1748 Benjamin was engaged by the Commissioners of Spotsylvania and Louisa counties to build a bridge over the North Anna that separates the two counties. One of the Commissioners on the committee that recommended Benjamin was John Carr, Thomas Carr's son and Sarah Carr Minor's brother.

The Caroline County estate of Thomas Carr was appraised in 1738. One of the appraisers was Capt. James Terry, who had lived not far from Benjamin Davis' family in New Kent/King and Queen/King William. Capt. James Terry is the probable grandfather of Thomas Terry who married Benjamin Davis' daughter Sarah (Sallie).

In King William, on the opposite side of John Waller's land from Benjamin's father William Davis was the land of Davis Davenport, a witness to John Minor's will and the grandfather of William Davenport who witnesses this deed above. (Early King William County records were almost completely destroyed by fire and Davenport researchers cannot find an obvious marriage relationship but believe the name "Davis" was for a Davis in King William.) Davenport and Captains James and Thomas Terry, whose families intermarried, explored the Pamunkey/North Anna Rivers together. A branch north of current-day Lake Anna called Terrys Run is where Benjamin's son James Davis bought land before 1758.

Thomas Carr's brother William Carr had a grandson Thomas Carr who removed to Georgia. When back in Virginia selling land in 1784, one of his deeds was witnessed by Thomas Terry, husband of Sarah Davis, Benjamin's daughter.

Thomas Carr's son-in-law of this deed, John Minor (deceased), wrote in his 1754 Spotsylvania will mention of land bought from Charles Kavanaugh. Kavanaugh had a 1761 Culpeper deed witnessed by Benjamin Davis and his son James Davis. The Kavanaugh's and their relatives the Connor's had a number of interconnections with Benjamin Davis and family (discussed elsewhere in detail).

John Minor, whose widow Sarah is selling this land to William Davis, had a sister Diana Minor married to George Goodloe. Their son John Goodloe witnessed the 1758 Spotsylvania deed of William's brother John Davis. John Goodloe was a carpenter/builder, as was John Davis and his father and brother Benjamin Davis I and II. In 1754 John Goodloe was contracted by the St. George's Vestry to build an

addition to the Mattaponi church the same time that Benjamin Davis I was contracted to build the addition to the Fredericksburg church.

John Minor Jr. of this deed married Elizabeth Cosby, whose father David Cosby was in a court case with John Wansley in Louisa County in 1760. John Wansley lived among many of our Davis family associates who moved to Louisa and Albemarle and would almost certainly have known the Davis family by that time. John Wansley's daughter Martha ("Patsy") married Benjamin's grandson Benjamin Davis III in Elbert County, Georgia in 1810, an area where many friends and relatives of all these associated families moved around and shortly after the Revolution. David Cosby's mother was a Meriwether, and a number of the Cosby's and Minor's intermarried with Meriwether's.

Francis Meriwether was a witness to this deed. He was born in Louisa County, just on the opposite side of the Northanna River from where the Waller's lived and where Benjamin's probable brother John Davis patented land in 1719. Francis Meriwether's wife was Mary Waller Lewis was another of the Waller family, a granddaughter of the senior John Waller of King William and Spotsylvania. Her father was Zachary Lewis, a prominent Spotsylvania lawyer and King's Attorney, who had a young lawyer assisting him named George Wythe. Benjamin Davis was co-witness with Wythe on a 17 November 1747 Spotsylvania deed from Jeremiah White to William Waller (the other witness was Edmund Waller). George Wythe later became a Signer of the Declaration of Independence and taught law to John Marshall and Thomas Jefferson.

Francis Meriwether's family has connections back into New Kent and King William County with our Davis's as well. Then in 1755 Francis Meriwether bought land from William Sandige Jr. that Sandige's father had bought from John Davis of King William, Benjamin Davis' probable brother. The land was on Elk Neck, close to where Benjamin I and later son James lived, as well as the Minor's, Waller's, and Holloday's. The Davis-to-Sandige deed was witnessed by Benjamin Holloday, surely related to William Holloday whom Benjamin Davis' sister Sarah married. Benjamin Davis is also on a Spotsylvania deed with Benjamin Holloday's brother John and deeds of Holloday spouses' families, as well as being closely connected with Hawkins who intermarried with Holladays. The Meriwethers were also connected with the Terry's of King William, Louisa, and Caroline counties Virginia, related to Benjamin Davis' daughter Sarah's husband Thomas Terry.

When William Davis and wife Sarah sold their Spotsylvania County property from Culpeper in 1764, they sold it to Francis Meriwether. Although I have not yet gotten its metes and bounds, this land is probably in the Elk Neck area as well. In 1750 Francis Meriwether bought land from Edward Jones apparently near the Louisa/Spotsylvania border (thus, near Elk Neck). Jones bought this land from James Shackelford. Edward Jones seems to be related to John Jones Sr., married to Ann Shackelford, and one of the executors named in Benjamin Davis II's will in 1797 in Elbert County, Georgia, and Jones' wife Ann is thought to be a Shackelford. When his son Benjamin Davis III sold land in Elbert County in 1804, he sold to Edmund Shackelford, related to James Shackelford.

The Graves were relatives by marriage of Benjamin Davis, whose aunt Unity White married Ralph Graves Jr. in what became King William County, and Benjamin's great-aunt Rachel Croshaw married Ralph Graves Sr. John Arnold on this deed was the husband of Barbara Pettus, daughter of William Pettus and Susannah Graves, Susannah being the daughter of Thomas and Ann Davenport Graves. John Arnold's uncle William Arnold was the son-in-law of William Bell on Spotsylvania road orders with Benjamin Davis in 1753. Thomas Graves' brother John Graves got a Spotsylvania land grant one removed from Benjamin Davis in 1744.

Joseph Graves on this deed was the son of that John Graves and a great-grandson of Ralph Graves I's brother. Joseph Graves' brother James Graves and wife Sarah Graves witnessed the 1758 Culpeper will of Kalem Price, father of Mary Price, Benjamin's son James Davis' second wife. When Benjamin's son Benjamin II left for Georgia in 1791 he sold his land to Joel Graves whose father Thomas owned nearby Graves Mill just north of Wolfstown in then Culpeper County (now Madison). Benjamin II, his brother James, his sister Sarah with husband Thomas Terry, and James' son Robert Davis all lived near Graves Mill and Wolfstown from the time of the Revolution. Later also living there with them was their brother John Davis' son Frederick.

William Davis and wife Sarah sold the land of this deed in 1778 to John Strother Jr., whose family also had connections with Benjamin Davis (discussed elsewhere). John Strother is also on a deed with William's brother John Davis, who himself witnessed the 1778 sale of William's land (see separate notes for John).

In the 1778 deed of sale, the land is identified as adjacent to land of John Strother, but "lately the property of John Parks, Jr." John Parks Jr was the son of John Parks and Margaret True, and grandson of John True and Sarah Martin of Spotsylvania. Benjamin Davis had close associations with both the True and Martin families. Additionally, John Parks Jr's brother Richard Parks was on the Culpeper Class List (indicating probable close proximity) with Michael Wilhoit and Thomas Barnhysle. Michael Wilhoit was related to George Wilhoit who in 1784 sold Culpeper land to William's brother James Davis "for natural affection," indicating a familial relationship. Thomas Barnhysle was the son of John Barnhysle whose land was adjacent to Kalem Price. Kalem Price was the father of Mary Price, James Davis' second wife whose inherited land James Davis held located near brother John Davis. (Thomas' brother Leonard Barnhysle was on the same Culpeper List as a John Jones, but unknown is he is related to the executor of Benjamin II's will.) When their brother John Davis, who witnessed this deed of sale, sold his Culpeper land from Pittsylvania County, in 1794, a witness was Gabriel Parks, son of Richard Parks and nephew of John Parks, Jr.

Joan noted to add this, but not sure why she wanted this info here:

Note: Thomas Tutt married Sarah Parks, daughter of Richard and Mary Graves Parks. Sarah Parks' sister Ann/Annis married John Pulliam, son of Thomas Pulliam & Frances Boswell.

William Davis' daughter Sarah married Daniel Cusenberry in Bourbon Co., KY (probably).

5 August 1729

ELIAS DOWNS, SR. of King and Queen County, planter, and ELIAS DOWNS JUNR of St. George's Parish, Spotsylvania County, planter, to JOHN PARKS of St. George's Parish, Spotsylvania County, Blacksmith. 1600 lbs. tobacco, 200 a. in St. George's Parish, Spotsylvania County, on head branches of Massaponnax Swamps. Witnesses: Robt. Spotswood, G. Home [George Hume]. Rec. August 5, 1729. [SDBA, Crozier, p. 107]

Elias Downs Sr's sister Mary married Thomas Baker of King William County and gave land to Thomas Baker that was adjacent to William Davis, Benjamin's father. This is spelled out in at King William deed dated 12 January 1701 where Robert Carew (or Carey) of St. Peter's Parish New Kent is selling the land he purchased from Thomas Baker to John Isbell.

ADD: John Green – witness – brother of William Green.

This land William Davis owned is identified in the deed as being on the North Rush River. The Rush River is now over the Culpeper border into Rappahannock County, formed from Culpeper in 1833. The Rush River runs south from about Washington, Virginia into the Thornton River. The purchaser from William, John Strother Jr, is said to have died 1814 in nearby Sperryville.

Francis, William and John Strother all got adjacent land grants 1748-1749 in the Fork of the Rush River, bounded on north and south forks, making it just NW of Rock Mills which is about 2 miles from Laurel Mills.

Long Mountain is a bound on the _____

William Davis – Grantor *[This deed is also seen on p. 9 in this report.]*

2 December 1778

From WILLIAM DAVIS and SARAH his wife of Culpeper to John Strother, Jr. for £2000 current money, 850 acres purchased by the said William Davis of Sarah Minor and John Minor Executrix and Executor of the John Minor Gent. of Spotsylvania County deceast and said land is in Culpeper County and Bromfield Parish in the Little Fork of the Rappahannock River joining the Rush River on the East side thereof and bounded [1] Beginning on the Rush River at a corner of a tract of land lately belonging to Robert Strother and runs with the line of that land to [2] Line of a tract of land lately the property of John Hastey thence with the lines of that line to [3] A line of a tract of land lately belonging to Henry Backer [Baker?] thence with the line of that land to [4] The line of a tract of land lately belong to Henry Backer thence with the line of that line to [5] A tract of land lately the property John Parks, Jr. and now sold to the said John Strother thence with lines of that land to [6] The aforesaid Rush River thence up the several courses of the said river to [7] the beginning.

Signed: William (X) Davis, Sarah (X) Davis. Witnessed by John Strother, John Slaughter and JOHN DAVIS (all signing).

Recorded 2 December 1778.

[Source: Culpeper Deed Book I, p. 287; Reel 5, Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia]

This land was originally granted to Francis Strother 19 June 1735. Francis and son John sold it to John Minor Sr. prior to his will written 28 October 1754. John Minor's heirs, his widow and son, sold it to William Davis in 1761. William now sells it back to Francis Strother's grandson John Strother, Jr. with his father John Strother a witness. John Strother is related to Dabney/Minor, and to the Thornton's.

CULPEPER DEED OF LEASE FROM THORNTON

Culpeper - Deed of Lease

Presley Thornton owned land in a number of counties. Although he lived in Northumberland County, his family has numerous connections with our Benjamin Davis family. This following deed is a good example.

Presley Thornton was the nephew of Col. Francis Thornton and cousin of John Thornton named in this deed.

9 February 1749

Benjamin MARTIN of St. George's Parish, Spotsylvania County, to Edmund WALLER of sd. Par. and county. Deed of Lease. 150 a., part of the tract whereon Henry Martin, Dec'd., did live, joining Revd. James MARYE and John THORNTON, son of Collo. Francis THORNTON, Dec'd., on Hazel Run, in the par. and county afsd., etc., etc. Witnesses, Charles Snead, James WIGLESWORTH, Richd. Phillips, Junr. Rec'd: 6 March 1749. [*SDBD, Crozier p. 181*]

This land near Fredericksburg is from Benjamin MARTIN, who sold another part of his father's land to Benjamin DAVIS in 1754. This deed is to Edmund WALLER, son of John WALLER whose King William County land was adjacent to William DAVIS, probable father of Benjamin DAVIS and grandfather of the WILLIAM DAVIS who leased from Presley THORNTON. (Benjamin DAVIS is also on a number of Spotsylvania deeds with WALLER family members.) The land adjoins Rev. MARYE whose son Peter MARYE bought in 1766 the Orange County land of Benjamin DAVIS' son James DAVIS. Through Peter MARYE, there are also connections with William GREEN whose land was adjacent to a grant to William's brother JOHN DAVIS in 1778. The witness James WIGGLESWORTH was a carpenter, as was Benjamin DAVIS and his sons Benjamin and John, brothers of WILLIAM DAVIS. Thus, all the people of this deed for land adjacent to Presley Thornton's cousin are closely associated with all of William DAVIS' family.

Presley's father Anthony (I) of Stafford and Anthony's brother Francis (II), then of Essex, sold Spotsylvania County land in 1723 to Benjamin Morris, related to Thomas Morris to whom Benjamin Davis became guardian in 1751. In 1749 Anthony Thornton owned Orange County land adjacent to Benjamin Porter, and two years later Porter and Benjamin Davis witness two Orange County deeds together. Anthony Thornton in his 1757 Stafford County will gives land to his wife, described as where William Connor then lived. (When William Connor died, Presley's brother Anthony Thornton Jr. became guardian to one of William Connor's sons.) Our Davis's were closely connected to William Connor's family and relations (so much that I've wondered if perhaps Benjamin Davis' son James' first wife Margaret might be a Connor.) Also, William Connor's father-in-law was Rice Williams against whom Benjamin Davis brought successful debt suit in 1743 in Caroline County.

Anthony Thornton's land where William Connor lived was in Caroline County on Long Branch within a few miles of Spotsylvania Court House and Fredericksburg, where the counties of Spotsylvania, Caroline, King George and Stafford come together. The Spotsylvania County land Benjamin Davis bought in 1754 was just to the west of the Thornton/Connor land along the old Massaponax Road at the Spotsylvania border with Orange. A little further to the west on the Orange County side was Terrys Run, where Benjamin's son James lived by 1758 as well as Benjamin's son-in-law Thomas Terry. Just to their south was Elk Neck and now-Lake Anna, where William Davis' Spotsylvania land was near, the area where Benjamin Davis built a bridge in 1748.

Anthony Thornton's brother (and Presley's uncle) Francis Thornton moved to Spotsylvania County and owned the Loyal Land Company with Thomas Meriwether, a relative of Francis Meriwether discussed above.

The wife of William Connor living on Presley Thornton's uncle Anthony's land was Frances Duncan, an acknowledged illegitimate daughter of Rice Williams. She was almost certainly related to the Duncans closely tied to Benjamin's son (and William's brother) John Davis. William Duncan, a close friend of John

Davis and probably a relative by marriage, was granted land in 1755 in this area "opposite the mouth of the Rush River" at today's Laurel Mill, Rappahannock County, Virginia. William Duncan's line appears in a number of land grants to Francis Slaughter, one of which is adjacent to the then-Culpeper land John Davis sells from Pittsylvania County in 1794. Thus, about 10 miles south of the land William Davis purchased in 1761 were the adjacent lands of his brother John Davis, William Duncan, and Francis Slaughter.

Francis Slaughter's son Francis (Jr) married Sarah Coleman, daughter of Robert Coleman, a friend of Benjamin Davis and whose land Benjamin was leasing and had built houses on when it became the Town of Culpeper (first called Fairfax). Francis Slaughter's brother Robert Slaughter had a son Thomas who married Sarah Thornton. Robert Slaughter also witnessed William Davis' 1765 lease from Presley Thornton. John Davis' son John Jr. lived at least by 1782 near Benjamin Davis' other children in the southern part of Culpeper/Madison County, but lived apparently on his father's land in now-Rappahannock the three years before it is sold in 1794. This son seems to be the same John Davis who had then-Culpeper land in 1802-1804 which he sold as a resident of the adjacent county of Shenandoah. That land had a bound with William Thornton, probably the grandson of Francis Thornton, uncle of the Presley Thornton who leased land to William Davis in 1765.

Witnesses:

William Johnston, who witnessed this 1765 lease deed of William Davis, had Orange County land by 1750 adjacent to Benjamin Porter at Terrys Run, where Benjamin's son James lived even before his 1758 land purchase there. William Johnston had a number of close connections with our Davis's, as well as with Daniel Jarrell, Benjamin's daughter Mary's husband, and with the William Kelly family of Benjamin's granddaughter Nancy Terry Kelly.

John Holloday's father is John Holloday, whose will in King William was witnessed by John Waller and John Waller Jr, and his son-in-law was Thomas Pulliam was executor of his will.

 The land that William Davis purchased in 1761 was near Washington, Virginia, now in Rappahannock County. William's leased land where he lived on the Burgess River (which I'm told is now called Bolton Branch) would be about 5 miles to the northeast near Flint Hill, Virginia. This area is near the top of the Blue Ridge Mountains, near the tallest peak of the Shenandoah National Park.

Will Book B p. 271 Order of Culpeper Ct. dated April 20, 1778 divided lands between Peter Presley THORNTON and PRESLEY THORNTON. According to will of honorable PRESLEY THORNTON, upper part of land extending and lying on south side of road leading to CHESTER'S GAPP up to JORDAN 's north line of his lott thence down said line to CARDER 's (CARTER 's ?) Corner... CARDERS line to RIVER being the Division between THORNTON and BEVERLEY the upper part being three thousand four hundred acres by estimation which lott drawn has fallen to Peter Presley THORNTON and remaining approx. 4000 acres to PRESLEY THORNTON.

April 23, 1778. Signed ANTHONY THORNTON, JOHN STROTHER, Thomas Jordan
[Culpeper Will Book B, p. 271, submitted by Judy Wright to VAGenWeb Culpeper County Archives]
<http://ftp.rootsweb.com/pub/usgenweb/va/culpeper/wills/wills002.txt>

Thomas Jordan of Flint Hill, Virginia, whose will is recorded in Will Book E, page 348, Culpeper County, Virginia, 21st August, 1809. The home of Thomas Jordan has been in hands of his descendants since it was purchased by him from Presley Thornton, 19th April, 1765.

Notes which include Thornton's Gap:

Main Entry: Hill Family

Title: Papers, 1787-1945.

Size: ca. 4,375 items (21 manuscript boxes).

Biographical Note: Concern the Hill and related Booton families. Represented are Ambrose Powell Hill (1785-1858) of Culpeper County, Va., planter, local official, president of the Thornton's Gap Turnpike Company; his son, William Alexander Hill (1817-1890), physician and Baptist minister of "Glendalough," Madison County, Va.; his sons Hugh Hodge Hill (1858?-1937), physician, and Francis Irvin Hill (1860-1946), and daughter, Anna Lee (Hill) Major (1847-1935); and grandson, Albert Hudgins Hill (1866-1933). The Booton family is represented by John Booton (1786-1845), who married Ann Powell Hill (1798?-1872), sister of Ambrose Powell Hill above.

Summary: This collection concerns a family locally prominent in social, political, governmental and religious affairs in Culpeper and Madison counties, Va. Physicians, educators, planters, ministers and members of various Baptist congregations, a number of the leading persons in these papers figured in significant events locally and across the state over two centuries. Includes correspondence and other materials representing Ambrose Powell Hill's service as justice of the peace, sheriff, and legislator from Culpeper County, Virginia, his records of the building of the Germanna Bridge over the Rapidan River, and his presidency of the Thornton's Gap Turnpike Company, as well as estate papers; materials of John Booton (1786-1845) of "Chestnut Grove," Madison County, Virginia, planter, deputy sheriff, and politician, whose two runs for the Virginia House of Delegates resulted in contested elections; materials of William Alexander Hill (1817-1890) as a physician and Baptist minister, of "Glendalough," Madison County, Virginia, including letters written during his service in the Confederate Army and records of his pastorates of Liberty Church, Greene County, Virginia, and Antioch Church, Culpeper County, Virginia, an African American congregation.

Also, include materials of John Booton Hill (1841-1913), including letters written during his service in the Confederate Army and reminiscences of his war-time experiences; materials relating to Hugh Hodge Hill (1858?-1937), concerning his service as resident physician at Mountain Lake Hotel, Giles County, Virginia, and his attendance at Locust Dale Academy, Locust Dale, Virginia; and Francis Irvin Hill (1860-1946), including a diary of farm and local events, 1899, kept at "Millwood," Madison County, Virginia.

Provenance: Purchased from John A. Whiting, Richmond, Virginia, in 1983. Accessioned 25, March 1985.
Restrictions: None.

1803/12/12 - Inhabitants of Culpeper, Madison, Orange, & Spotsylvania. Ask for a law to incorporate a company to make a turnpike road from Fredericksburg to Thornton's Gap. (See Culpeper Co.) 118 152 14
Note: This may be the turnpike, or a later one like it, built by Peter Marye, to whom James Davis sold his Orange County land in 1766.

Peter Marye, son Rev. James Marye, was married to Eleanor Coleman Green. Eleanor was the daughter of Col. William Green and Ann Coleman, a cousin of Robert Coleman whose land James' father Benjamin leased in Culpeper that became the town of Culpeper. William and Ann Green lived in Culpeper (now

Rappahannock Co) adjacent to land James' brother John Davis was granted in 1778. Peter Marye later moved to Culpeper about a mile from Slate Mills. He built the first turnpike across the Blue Ridge Mountains from Culpeper Court House through Thornton's Gap, into the Shenandoah Valley, now known as Lee Highway. William Davis lived on land he was leasing from Presley Thornton at Thornton's Gap.

Peter Marye later and his wife Eleanor Coleman Green moved to Culpeper about a mile from Slate Mills. He built the first turnpike across the Blue Ridge Mountains from Culpeper Court House through Thornton's Gap, into the Shenandoah Valley, now known as Lee Highway. James' brother William Davis lived on land he was leasing from Presley Thornton at Thornton's Gap.

He built the first turnpike across the Blue Ridge Mountains from Culpeper Court House through Thornton's Gap, into the Shenandoah Valley, now known as Lee Highway. James' brother William Davis lived on land he was leasing from Presley Thornton at Thornton's Gap.

James Davis' father-in-law Kalem Price lived at Grindstone Mountain several miles north of Slate Mills. ??It was near this land that James' wife inherited land lay. Kalem Price's land adjoined Thomas and George Dillard, and Benjamin Davis and James Davis witnessed the security for the deed of John Dillard from William Kelly, _____.

LEAVING VIRGINIA – TRAVELING CHURCH

William Davis and his wife Sarah and family moved from Culpeper, Virginia to Fayette County, Kentucky by 1782, almost certainly having gone with Baptist minister Rev. Lewis Craig's "Traveling Church," a group of perhaps 600 people, many of whom were Baptists from Spotsylvania, Orange, and Culpeper counties of Virginia.

We know William Davis left Virginia between 1779 when he sold the Culpeper land he owned (but still had his leased land to live on) and the latter part of 1782 when the first tax records were collected. I have seen mention of a "1780 census for Culpeper County" that lists a William Davis, but I have not been able to verify its source. William was not in the Culpeper Class Lists used for military drafts in January of 1781, although those lists are not all-inclusive. (It could also mean William was born by 1731, as he would then have been over 49, the usual cut-off for the draft.)

A deposition given by one John Bryant states that "he visited Lewis Craig's Station on Gilbert Creek, and he states that living there in 1782 were the Craig family, John Price, Benjamin Robinson, William Davis, and others." [*Bill Davis, citing Calico's "History of Garrard County."*] William would have been well and long acquainted in Virginia with the Craig, Price, and Robinson families, judging from his family's residences and associations from King William to Spotsylvania and Orange then to Culpeper.

Lewis Craig's mother was Mary Hawkins (married to Toliver Craig). Some say she was the sister of Nicholas Hawkins whose family Benjamin Davis lived next to in Spotsylvania and with whom he was closely associated, probably from long before Spotsylvania County residence. Others say these Hawkins were not related. But the close associations of William's father Benjamin and his family with both sets of Hawkins could indicate more relationship between these Hawkins families than simple geographical

proximity. (I have found a number of incidences where our Davis's, whose records are more obscure than the others', provide a link between families whose connections have been uncertain.) It at least warrants further investigation.

Add info about Nicholas Hawkins family c Davis and share close acquaintances--also about Thomas Davis, and that he was adjacent to George EVE, etc.

Also about Joseph Hawkins and Ann Pulliam Sandige.

Hawkins researcher Ann Woodlief says, "Mary [Hawkins Craig] seems to have inherited land from her father on Terry's Run in Spotsylvania, 200 acres of which they sold to her brother in 1747." Terrys Run is where Benjamin's son James and son-in-law Thomas Terry lived prior to moving to Culpeper. Terrys Run was apparently named for either Capt. Thomas Terry and/or his brother Capt. James Terry, the latter likely to be our Thomas Terry's grandfather. The Terry's in King William were closely involved with Davis Davenport, who owned land across John Waller's property from Benjamin Davis' father William.

One major migration route from King William was up the "Pamunkey Neck" along part of the Pamunkey River called the North Anna which formed the boundary between Spotsylvania and Orange on the north and Louisa and Hanover counties on the South. Terry's Run was a northern branch of the North Anna River. Our Davis's, their intermarried families and associates spread from current-day Lake Anna on both sides of the river (the part called Elk Neck is where Benjamin's brother John got a patent in 1719), up to Terry's Run (where James Davis and Thomas Terry lived and was Orange County after 1734) then northeast along the Spotsylvania/Orange County line to Glady Run (the area of the grant of John Bush (possibly the grandfather of Benjamin Davis II's wife Mary Bush) on to the Po River (where Benjamin Davis Sr. lived by 1753 adjacent to Nicholas and his son Nathan Hawkins), and then the short distance on to Fredericksburg (where Peter Mayre and Henry Martin and William Lewis lived). Along this path is where the Craig's and their Hawkins relatives lived as well.

Lewis Craig of the Traveling Church and his brother Elijah, also a Baptist minister of note, together with their brother John and father converted to the newly expanding Baptist faith in the early-1760's. Elijah Craig was one of the founders in 1773 of the Rapidan Meeting House (Baptist Church) at present-day Wolfstown, then in Culpeper County, still an active Baptist Church. The church house was just about across the road from the adjacent properties of Benjamin Davis' children (and William's siblings) James, Benjamin II, and Sarah (wife of Thomas Terry), and James' son Robert. Also with adjacent property was Rev. George Eve, co-founder of Rapidan Meeting House with Elijah Craig. Although church roll records no longer exist, there is no doubt that the Davis's were members, as all records of early Virginia marriages that exist for our family are by Rev. Eve or one of his associates. Many of Benjamin Davis' descendants have remained Baptist through the generations to present day.

[Of historical interest, John Madison and Thomas Madison on this Road Order were brothers of Ambrose Madison, grandfather of U. S. President James Madison. James Madison's family home "Montpelier," first begun by Ambrose. Williams' father Benjamin DAVIS was paid "by account," presumably for his carpentry work, by the estate of Ambrose Madison's son-in-law Tavernor Beale who died in Orange in 1756.]

Lewis Craig organized "Craig's Church" (also called Upper Spotsylvania Church) around 1768 at Paytes, Virginia at the Spotsylvania border with Orange. The church as at the tail end of Terry's Run, where

James Davis lived on former Harrison land from at least 1758 to 1766, and where Thomas Terry may have grown up. William Davis seems to have lived just a short way to the southwest of here until 1761 (I am still trying to obtain a complete deed record). The Craigs, as well as other Baptist ministers and laypersons were persecuted by some of the local authorities and jailed for not adhering to the British state Anglican Church. (Some accounts also indicate that Baptists could be "overly enthusiastic" and disturbing to the peace. Supposedly testimony at one trial of Lewis Craig and others said, "These men cannot meet a man on the road but they must ram a text of scripture down his throat." However, James Madison, who lived in the area, though not a Baptist himself was an ardent supporter of separation of Church and State and aided the Baptist cause from early in its struggle for religious tolerance.)

Probably both because of the persecutions and as part of the general exodus from that area of Virginia around the time of the Revolution, Rev. Lewis Craig led a large number of his church who with many others moved to Kentucky in what has become known as the Traveling Church. The group left in October of 1781, and "worshipped for the first time at Gilbert's Creek, Lincoln County, the second Lord's day in December, 1781." [John T. Christian, "History of the Baptists"]. It was this caravan and probably this church of which William Davis was a part.

The Traveling Church expedition was headed by its military leader William Ellis. Indeed, the land they crossed was sparsely settled and dangerous from Indians who by then had become hostile from broken treaties and encroaching white settlement into their traditional territories. Chastain says that the actual guide for the party was Lewis Craig's slave Peter, also a preacher. Peter had been sent ahead by Craig to plant crops but after they were destroyed by Indians, Peter returned to Virginia just before the Traveling Church embarked on their journey.

Captain Ellis was brother of Hezekiah Ellis whose widow became the wife of Benjamin Robinson. Records in Kentucky show Benjamin Robinson was William Davis' good friend whom he had probably known since boyhood. The vast Robinson family land grants stretched almost from Terrys Run to the area of Benjamin Davis' 1754 property. When William Ellis sold his Spotsylvania land 20 August 1782, the deed was witnessed by John Chew Jr whose land was a bound of Benjamin Davis.

Proof needed: William Ellis's mother is said to be Elizabeth Chew, a relative of John Chew Jr.
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Two months earlier on 20 June 1782 William Bledsoe of Lincoln County, Kentucky sold Spotsylvania land. One witness was William Ellis. Another was Lawrence Long who in 1763 had become a carpenter-joiner apprentice of William Davis' brother John Davis. Another co-witness was Anthony Gholson whose family land was adjacent to Andrew Harrison's at Terrys Run on which James Davis had lived. A daughter of James Jarrell Jr. married Anthony's relative William Gholson, James Jarrell Jr. being the brother of Daniel who married William Davis' sister (and Benjamin Davis' daughter) Mary Davis. Bledsoe and Ellis land grants were also near Harrison's.

Benjamin Robinson's wife Mildred Burbridge was married first to Hezekiah Ellis (II). Hezekiah's niece Elizabeth Ellis married first John Hawkins, son of Nicholas I who first owned the land adjacent to Benjamin Davis's land of 1754. Elizabeth Ellis Hawkins married second Robert Collins. The Hawkins and Collins families both had close connections with Benjamin Davis and family. Joseph Collins with John Hawkins witnessed Benjamin Davis' Spotsylvania deed in 1754. This John Hawkins could be either Nicholas I's son John Hawkins (h/o Elizabeth Ellis) or the son of Joseph Hawkins who witnessed two bonds Benjamin Davis posted for building bridges over the Po and the Ni rivers in 1750. Benjamin Davis' grandson William Terry married in Madison County in 1815 Polly Collins, daughter of Frances Collins

[*Madison County Marriages, 1811-1817, Reel 47, Library of Virginia*] and great-granddaughter of Joseph Collins who witnessed Benjamin Davis' 1754 deed. William Davis' good friend Benjamin Robinson (h/o Mildred Burbridge Ellis) had a brother William who married Margaret Collins. Their son Richard Robinson married Sally Collins in Kentucky. Given the Davis-Robinson-Ellis connections, it seems feasible to think that all these Collins are related.

[Another interesting tangle that needs much more research is that William and Hezekiah Ellis' sister Agnes married Peter Montague whose grandmother was Susannah Davis Bartlett, daughter of John Davis and Susannah Wyatt of Stafford County. She is said by some to be the sister of Thomas Davis, whose son James Conway Davis was living in Spotsylvania in the mid-1750's. Some files say this John Davis was son of Thomas Davis of Marston Parish, York County. Benjamin Davis' maternal great-grandfather Joseph Croshaw of Marston Parish had a colleague John Davis who could be related to William Davis, husband of Croshaw's granddaughter Mary White, Benjamin Davis' parents. There was a Thomas Davis in Spotsylvania Court records in the 1720's, then in 1727 Nicholas Hawkins (I) sold land to a Thomas Davis of King George, just across the Rappahannock River from Spotsylvania not far from where later Benjamin Davis later lived amidst the Hawkins. So, could the family of John Davis of Stafford and/or Thomas Davis of King George (adjacent to Stafford) be related to Benjamin Davis? Or is the Hawkins and Ellis connection with this other Davis line just a coincidence? Another suggestion of a tie is that Susannah Davis Bartlett's daughter Susannah is said to have married a Thomas Collins in Spotsylvania c1750.]

William Ellis, leader of Craig's Traveling Church and half-brother of William Davis' friend Benjamin Robinson, witnessed the 1760 Spotsylvania County will of William Carr. It was William Carr's sister Sarah Carr Minor from whom William Davis bought his Culpeper County land in 1761.

TO BE CONTINUED [<i>This was Joan's note here.</i>]

WILLIAM DAVIS HEIRS TO SARAH DAVIS

William Davis Heirs to Sarah Davis [his widow], a slave named Reuben.

October 14, 1823

James Davis, William Davis, John Davis, Benjamin Davis, William Stewart [husband of Nancy Davis], Vincent Cushenberry [husband of Mary "Polly" Davis], Daniel Cushenberry, and Absolom Adams, the four latter having married daughters of said William Davis, for \$1.00 to Sarah Davis, a negro man named Reuben aged about 25 years to be her slave during her natural life and to be emancipated upon her death.

Signatures: James P. Davis, William Davis, John Davis, Nancy Stewart, Benjamin Davis, William Stewart, Vincent Cusenberry,

Daniel Cusenberry, Absolom Adams, Fanny Adams.

Signatures acknowledged:

James Davis's signature certified in Fayette County, Ohio. Vincent and Daniel Cusenberry's signatures certified in Allen County, Kentucky. Polly, wife of Vincent mentioned. Absolom Adams and Fanny his wife, and Benjamin Davis's signatures certified in Owen County, Kentucky.

[*Fayette County, Kentucky Deed Book Y, p. 114, heirs of William Davis, cited by Bill Davis, Rootsweb.com*]

DAVIS - QUISENBERRY Connections

Because of the connections in Spotsylvania, Orange and Culpeper County between the family of BENJAMIN DAVIS and family, relatives, and neighbors of AARON QUISENBERRY, I believe there is good reason to think that MOSES CUSSENBURY of Kentucky is probably Aaron's brother. Aaron moved from Caroline County to Spotsylvania about 1756. Moses may have stayed in Caroline County until he moved to Kentucky, and almost all early Caroline records are lost.

"Anderson Chenault Quisenberry, 'Genealogical Memoranda of the Quisenberry Family' (1897): 'Through Thomas Quisenberry (son of Humphrey [of Westmoreland]) are descended most of the Quisenberrys of Kentucky. Whether Thomas Quisenberry died in King George County or moved to Caroline County before his death can not now be ascertained."

[From Jamie Wood's Ancestry.com file "Jamie's line - Maternal" website at <http://falconer.tribalpages.com>]

Sons listed for Thomas Quisenberry are Aaron, Thomas Jr, and Moses Quisenberry. Thomas Quisenberry married about 1725 in King and Queen County, adjacent to King William (formed from King and Queen) where Benjamin Davis was born and lived prior to moving to Spotsylvania in the early 1740's. Thomas Quisenberry's wife (mother of Aaron, Thomas and Moses) was Catherine Rawlins (b. c1702, MD), who must be related to James Rawlins Sr. (b. c1689, MD) of Spotsylvania. James Rollins Sr (d. 1757, Spots), James Rollins Jr, and Thomas Rollins (usual spelling is Rawlins) were on the 1755 Spotsylvania processioners report of James DAVIS, and his brother William DAVIS was processioned in the same sector (meaning their lands were nearby). James Rawlins Jr. married Sarah Holloday, sister of John Holloday on records with Benjamin Davis, and probably the brother of Benjamin Davis' brother-in-law William Holloday of King William. Also on James Davis' processioning report was Thomas Pulliam, married to Sarah's and John's sister Winifred Holloday. Their son Thomas Pulliam Jr. married Frances Boswell who became ward of Benjamin Davis in 1755, and two of her brothers George and James Boswell were Benjamin's carpenter apprentices. Thomas Quisenberry's mother was Elizabeth Mothershead, and there is a Mothershead connection with James DAVIS' family explained later.

The Davis - Quisenberry - Pulliam connections continue later in Kentucky through Benjamin's son William DAVIS and through a James DAVIS of Bourbon County, Kentucky who almost certainly is related to these Davis's and may be the son of William's brother James DAVIS.

These are some of the Virginia records for AARON QUISENBERRY, who I think is probably the brother of MOSES CUSHENBERRY in Kentucky, that show connections with the family of William DAVIS, son of Benjamin DAVIS and brother of James DAVIS:

7 December 1756 - Joseph COLLINS sells to Aaron QUESENBUREY (sic) of Caroline 275 acres in Spotsylvania (which Aaron and wife Joyce then of Spotsylvania sells to John Mitchell in 28 August 1769 *[Crozier p. 203, 270]*)

Joseph COLLINS witnessed the 1754 Spotsylvania deed of Benjamin Davis. Benjamin DAVIS' land in 1742/3 in Spotsylvania is adjacent to a grant to Joseph's son John COLLINS. Joseph's son Lewis COLLINS married Elizabeth DAVIS who I believe is Benjamin DAVIS' daughter.

Aaron QUISENBERRY Sr. died 1795 St. Thomas Parish, Orange County

24 June 1799 Orange County Road Orders - Roger BELL is appointed Overseer of the road in the room of Aaron QUISENBURRY (Jr).

Roger BELL witnessed a 1758 Orange County deed of Benjamin DAVIS' son James DAVIS. Roger BELL was adjacent to Orange County land given 28 August 1746 by Thomas Cook to his daughter Ann COLLINS (wife of John COLLINS) and witnessed by Joseph COLLINS.

"In a discussion of Aaron Quisenberry and his wife Joyce on pages 44 and 45 of "Genealogical Memoranda of the Quisenberry Family" (1897) by Anderson Chenault Quisenberry. It is much like the other books above. It says (p.42): "His (Thomas Quisenberry's) son Aaron, the date of whose birth is unknown, first appears in 1746 in what is left of the records of Caroline county, and was then probably just of age, or thereabouts." That he removed from Caroline county is shown by the records of Spotsylvania county, which give evidence that:

"November 6, 1756, 'Aaron QUISENBERRY, of Spotsylvania county' bought of Richard THOMAS 614 acres of land in St. Thomas Parish, Orange county."

Richard THOMAS is the brother of Joseph THOMAS who witnessed a 1734 deed of William and James DAVIS' uncle John DAVIS of King William to William Sandige (married to Ann PULLIAM, sister of Thomas PULLIAM Sr.).

Richard THOMAS is on Orange County road orders 27 November 1766 with James DAVIS (Benjamin's son & William's brother).

Richard THOMAS witnessed a 4 July 1768 deed to her children from Susanna Collins, wife of Joseph COLLINS on records with Benjamin DAVIS and mother of Lewis COLLINS who married Elizabeth DAVIS, likely Benjamin's daughter. (The other witnesses were Reubin Daniel, Vivion Daniel, Thomas Merry, on Orange County Road Orders with James DAVIS.)

Richard THOMAS, son of Joseph THOMAS, was executor of the 1758 Culpeper will of Kalem Price, father of Mary Price, second wife of James DAVIS, Benjamin's son and William's brother.

Thomas PULLIAM Jr. married Francis BOSWELL, ward of Benjamin DAVIS in 1755, and whose brothers George and James Boswell were Benjamin DAVIS' apprentices.

On 14 February 1824 in Allen County, Kentucky, Benjamin DAVIS' son WILLIAM DAVIS' grandson James CUSHENBERRY married Thomas and Frances Boswell PULLIAM's granddaughter Mary "Polly" PULLIAM.

In Kentucky, Moses CUSSENBERRY's children included Vincent married to Mary DAVIS, Daniel married to Sarah DAVIS, and Rachel married to John F. PULLIAM. Mary and Sarah DAVIS are daughters of William DAVIS, son of Benjamin. John F. PULLIAM, grandson of Thomas PULLIAM (Jr) and Frances BOSWELL, ward of Benjamin DAVIS 1755 Spotsylvania, Virginia; and two of her brothers were Benjamin's apprentices.

Possible son of James DAVIS, son of Benjamin DAVIS:

James Davis – b. 8 July 1761, Culpeper County, Virginia, per Revolutionary War Pension Application filed 4 March 1833 in Bourbon County, Kentucky. He is said to have married Elizabeth Bartlett, granddaughter of William Bartlett and Susannah Davis of Spotsylvania. The Bartlett's children married into families on records with Benjamin Davis – Foster, Montague, Graves, Collins, and their children with Collins, Ashby, Jackson, etc. (Susannah and her brother Thomas Davis, father of James b. 1719, traditionally are thought to have been children of a John Davis and Susannah Matheny, widow of Solomon Day, all of Stafford County with land on the Potomac. I have not found anyone with proof that Susannah Bartlett and Thomas Davis are their children, and I think given the close associations that they are from Thomas Davis, brother of Benjamin's father William Davis of York and Pamunkey Neck/King William.)

This James Davis' pension application has an affidavit by Nathaniel Mothershead saying he knew James Davis from boyhood in Virginia. James DAVIS (the elder) has a number of Mothershead-Bourne-Quisenberry connections, and seems to be the primary Davis prospect in Culpeper in 1761 to be the younger James' father. (William Davis who died Culpeper 1763 seems to have children much older.)

In Kentucky, Moses Cushenberry and wife Ann, the parents of Vincent and Daniel who married William Davis' daughters, were members before 1790 of Rev. Lewis Craig's Bryan's Station Baptist Church, located 8 miles northeast of Lexington, Kentucky. William Davis went with Lewis Craig's Traveling Church to Kentucky in 1781 and was among the 15 or so families first to live at Lewis Craig's Station on Gilbert Creek. A note from the "Bryan's Station Church Minutes 1798-1898, page 20" says Moses and Ann Cushenberry were "dism'd 1790 from BSBC" [Bryan's Station Baptist Church] and "apparently joined CRBC, near Paris, Kentucky."

Paris, Bourbon County, Kentucky is where the younger James Davis lived when he made his pension application in 1833. The minister of the Baptist church, Rev. J. Guerdon Gates, testified to his application.

In Minutes 1798-1898, page 20, says Moses and Ann Cushenberry were "dism'd 1790 from BSBC" [Bryan's Station Baptist Church] and "apparently joined CRBC, near Paris, Kentucky." Paris, Kentucky is where James Davis's son James Jr. lived, and this is the church whose minister Rev. J. Guerdon Gates testified in 1833 to James Davis (Jr?) Revolutionary War pension application, which James' friend "from boyhood" Nathaniel Mothershead also witnessed. [*Bryan's Station Church Minutes 1798-1898* _____] (*also seen as Bryan Station*)

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NNQ:153. (Northern Neck Quarterly???)

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