

***[The following report was begun by Joan Horsley prior to September 2012.
It was completed using Joan's research notes by Pam Lasher. You can contact her at LPAM216@gmail.com.]***

JOHN DAVIS

(c1728 - 1808)

Master Joiner & Carpenter

Research Report by

Joan Horsley

as of September 2012

Website: www.JoanHorsley.org

©2012 Joan Horsley - This document may not be used in part or whole for commercial purposes or paid subscriber services. All personal use must reference the document and author. Cite as:

Joan Horsley. *John Davis (c1728-1808), From Virginia to Kentucky*, (Raleigh, NC: J. Horsley, 2012). Available online at: www.JoanHorsley.org

TABLE OF CONTENTS

OVERVIEW – p. 3

INTRODUCTION TO THE LIFE OF JOHN DAVIS – p. 4

RECORDS AND NOTES FOR JOHN DAVIS – p. 7

WILL OF JOHN DAVIS – p. 21

NOTES ON JOHN DAVIS' WILL AND PROBATE – p. 23

APPENDIX I: CENSUS SEARCH FOR DESCENDANTS OF JOHN DAVIS (d. 1808) – p. 30

APPENDIX II: KING WILLIAM DEED WORKSHEET – p. 33

BIBLIOGRAPHY – p. 35

=====

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

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

John Davis

(c1728-1808)

OVERVIEW

JOHN DAVIS

Born abt. 1728, King William County, Virginia

Master Joiner & Carpenter [proof seen in October 1765 orders]

Married Lucy ____ (maiden name unknown; b. unk, d. abt. 1778 in Culpeper Co. Virginia) abt. 1765; and
(2) Frances ____ (maiden name unknown; b. abt 1750, d. bef. 15 March 1821) bef. 17 May 1779 in
Culpeper County, Virginia

Died bet. 27 February 1807-19 September 1808, Pittsylvania County, Virginia

Children of John Davis and Lucy ____:

1. Frederick Davis, b. abt 1768 in Culpeper Co., VA; d. bet 1806-29 Sept 1809 in Pittsylvania Co., VA.
2. William Davis, b. abt 1773 in Culpeper Co., VA; d. bet 1830-1840 in Pittsylvania Co., VA.
3. Catherine "Catereen" Davis, b. 15 Mar 1775 in Culpeper Co., VA; d. 20 Jan 1864 in Meigs Co., TN; m. John Chatten on 19 Apr 1803 in Pittsylvania Co., VA. He was b. abt 1777 in VA; d. aft 1860 in Meigs Co., TN.
4. John Davis, b. abt 1788 in Culpeper Co., VA; d. May 1856 in Pigg River, Pittsylvania Co., VA.

Children of John Davis and Frances ____:

5. Sally Davis, b. abt 1780 in Culpeper or Pittsylvania Co., VA; m. Robert Powell on 02 Apr 1807 in Pittsylvania Co., VA. He was b. prob. Culpeper Co., VA.
6. Rosean "Rosa" Davis, b. abt 1785 in Culpeper or Pittsylvania Co., VA; d. bet 1860-1870 in Pittsylvania Co., VA; m. John Myers on 08 Nov 1808 in Pittsylvania Co., VA. He was b. bef 1775 in Culpeper Co., VA; d. 04 Dec 1858 in Pittsylvania Co., VA.
7. Efferella "Effy" Davis, b. abt 1791 in Pittsylvania Co., VA; d. bet 1860-1870 in Dallas Co., TX; m. Jerome Rosson on 19 Dec 1808 in Pittsylvania Co., VA. He was b. 1783 in Culpeper or Pittsylvania Co., VA; d. bet 1850-1860 in Osage Co., MO or Dallas Co., TX.
8. Lucy Davis, b. abt 1793 in Pittsylvania Co., VA; d. 03 May 1862 in Pittsylvania Co., VA; m. Henry Atkinson/Adkins on 20 Oct 1815 in Pittsylvania Co., VA. He was b. bef 1775 in VA; d. 1826 in Pittsylvania Co., VA.

INTRODUCTION TO THE LIFE OF JOHN DAVIS

John Davis was probably born about 1728 in King William County, Virginia. Indirect evidence from primary records gives strong indications that John was the son of Benjamin Davis (I), born about 1690. By equally strong indirect evidence, Benjamin was the likely son of William Davis and Mary White of York and King William County whose wills, if they ever existed, did not survive the major King William Courthouse fire in the late 1700's.

John's likely father Benjamin Davis (I) was a master carpenter and builder of some note in Spotsylvania County (formed from King William) and the surrounding counties from at least 1742 to 1757 when he removed to Culpeper County. Benjamin lived near the original Culpeper Courthouse, which he probably built some time before, on a street known at the time as "Davis's Street." Today Davis Street is still the heart of historic downtown Culpeper, Virginia. Benjamin Davis (I) died in Culpeper in late summer of 1763. Except for the year 1763 to 1764, Culpeper Court Records did not survive, having been burned with other papers by Patriot soldiers during the Revolution in order to keep warm. Without a will or even records of probate, once again it is strong indirect evidence that shows his children to be this John Davis (b. c1728), William (b. c1730), James (b. c1732), Benjamin II (b. c1736), Sarah (b. c1738 who married Thomas Terry), and Mary (b. c1742 who married Daniel Jarrell).

John Davis was also a carpenter and joiner, as was his father and his youngest brother Benjamin Davis (II). Both sons probably worked with their father in his active and thriving carpentry business. The first deed of record for John was his purchase of land in Spotsylvania County not far from his father's last Spotsylvania residence. The year after Benjamin I moved permanently to Culpeper, John bought land on 2 October 1758 near the Spotsylvania border with Orange County, and in the vicinity of Terrys Run where his brother James Davis bought his first land of record two months later. Witnesses of the 1758 deed from James and Alice Stevens to John Davis were Joseph Brock (Jr), Ed Herndon Junr, Joseph Herndon, and John Goodloe. John's father Benjamin Davis was on earlier records with Joseph Brock Sr, as well as with the parents and an uncle of Ed Jr. and Joseph Herndon. (Associations between Benjamin's family and descendants and the Herndon's were strong for a number of generations, including John's granddaughter Amanda Davis marriage to William Herndon, another uncle of Ed Jr. and Joseph Herndon who witnessed John's 1758 deed.) Witness John Goodloe was also a carpenter. He was commissioned to build a church in St. George's Parish, Spotsylvania County, at the same Vestry meeting that commissioned John Davis' father Benjamin to build the first addition to the St. George's Parish Church in Fredericksburg.

By 1765, John was living in Culpeper County, Virginia where his father had died two years before. He was living in Culpeper County by at least 1765, when he acquired two apprentices in his crafts. According to the death registry record of John Jr., John Sr. seems to have married about 1765-1770 a woman named Lucy who was mother of his three sons and one daughter. By May of 1779 John was married to Frances, mother of his four daughters. A number of factors indicate Frances may be related to the William Duncan family in Culpeper with whom John had close associations.

John and Frances Davis and their family moved from Culpeper to Pittsylvania County, Virginia about 1784. Some of the families into which John's daughters married also seem to have moved from Culpeper to Pittsylvania between the beginning of the Revolution and when John moved. They, namely the Myer's, Rosson's, and Powell's, all of whose families had earlier connections with John's father and family. His brother William had already left Culpeper for Kentucky with Elijah Craig's Traveling Church in late 1781. John's four other siblings, James Davis and Benjamin Davis (II), Sarah Terry, and Mary Jarrell were living in the part of Culpeper that became Madison County in 1793. John's son Frederick lived near John's siblings in Culpeper/Madison at least from 1789 until 1806. In 1798 John's nephew Robert Davis, son of

his brother James, witnessed a Madison County deed to Frederick from Daniel Triplett who witnessed the sale of his father John Davis' Culpeper land in 1794 ten years after John's move to Pittsylvania.

John Davis wrote his will in Pittsylvania County in 1807, naming wife Frances and children William, John, Frederick, Catereen, Rosean, Effy, Sally, and Lucy. The probate of John's and Frances' estates were not completed until 1831-1832 when a grandson Frederick Davis and son-in-law Jerome Rosson, husband of Effy, got administration and settled both estate accounts before they moved to Missouri.

Frederick died before September 1809, when the remaining heirs and Frances deeded property for which John had been paid but a formal deed never completed. John's widow Frances Davis died in Pittsylvania County in 1821. Frederick, who died before September 1809, may have been the main source of contact between John's family in Pittsylvania and his Madison siblings, because when James Davis wrote his will with a bequest to his brother John Davis, John had been dead for 9 years.

I believe there is good evidence that John was the son of master carpenter Benjamin Davis Sr., also written Benjamin Davis (I), who was born about 1690 of Welsh descent probably in King William County, and died 1763 in Culpeper County. Since at least 1745 Benjamin's primary residence was in Spotsylvania County. But records show he did work and had business from the Louisa County line in the southwest, to Fredericksburg across the Rappahannock from Stafford County in the northeast, to Wilderness Run at what became the Culpeper County line in the northwest, and probably well into Culpeper territory long before his move there in 1757. In this, Benjamin followed a migration pattern from the York River at King William County, up the "Pamunkey Neck," and on into the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains that was typical of many of his early neighbors and friends.

There were only two John Davis's on the Culpeper County tax lists from 1782 until the elder left about 1784 for Pittsylvania and the younger left about 1790 for Georgia. John "the younger" has a Revolutionary War pension application, and from it we know he was born in King William County in 1754, entered the Revolution in Culpeper in 1777, and moved to Elbert County, Georgia 1790-91. (It is possible, but far from certain, that he may be the executor of the Elbert County will of Benjamin Davis (II), who moved from Culpeper to Elbert about the time John did). However, this John "the younger" is almost certainly not the son of Benjamin Davis (I). Not only is he on average 20 years younger than Benjamin Sr's other children, but he was born in King William County, Virginia in 1754. Benjamin had left King William by early 1742/3 for Spotsylvania County where numerous records show he lived consistently until his move to Culpeper in 1757. Additional assurance that this is not Benjamin's son comes from the manuscript begun in the 1870's by a grandson of this John Davis (Revolutionary Soldier), with the stated help of John's son. They wrote that the father of John Davis (R. S.) was also named John Davis, and that he "disappeared" on a trip South and presumed dead when John was about 10 years old. So, while John Davis (R. S.) may have been a relative, given his King William origins, he would not be Benjamin Davis (I)'s son John.

Because of Culpeper and Pittsylvania records, deeds, and property tax lists, there is no doubt that the elder John Davis in Culpeper records moved to Pittsylvania County about 1784 and from there sold his Culpeper land in 1794. Although there were others named John Davis in Pittsylvania, the similarities between the rather unusual names of his daughters in John's Pittsylvania will and the names in the Duncan family of John's Culpeper deeds give further evidence he is the John Davis formerly of Culpeper County. Also, the families of his sons-in-law John Myers, Robert Powell, and Jerome Rosson were also of Culpeper roots and with Benjamin Davis connections.

Benjamin Davis (I) did not leave a will, nor did most of the other Culpeper area Davis's before the Revolution. We are hindered further in definitively proving parent/child relationships by the misfortune that

numerous Culpeper records were destroyed during the Revolution, including most Court Orders (which would include probate records and routine debt suits), Road Orders (which tell us property owners and their physical proximity to each other), and marriage records. The remaining records are one set of Court Minutes for the year 1763-64, including the same year of Road Orders, a very partial Rent Roll for 1764 and 1779, and a transcription of the St. Mark's Parish Vestry Book 1730-1785. While deed records do exist, many including our Davis's are missing; e.g., we have a purchase with no sale recorded or vice versa, or no deed record at all even though the person was charged with land tax so did indeed own property. Other deeds that do exist list no witnesses or descriptive bounds or adjacent landowners that would provide the important clues to family, friends and neighbors.

In order to learn more about the Culpeper area Davis's and if/how they might be related. I have used names and places on deeds and other primary documents to find interlinking associations. This "indirect evidence" to show relationship is an alternative accepted by professional genealogical societies when no "direct proof" is available. I have also investigated other Davis's in the pertinent areas to be as sure as possible there are not other alternative children for Benjamin, or other alternative parents or siblings for his apparent children.

Because the elder John Davis has a larger number of Culpeper records than any of the others, we can follow his associations more clearly. They in fact lead significantly towards Benjamin Davis (d. 1763) being John's father, and to William Davis as a brother or close relative. Other siblings were James the elder (the only one on deed records with the elder Benjamin); Benjamin (II) the younger, also a carpenter, named as brother in James' 1817 will; sisters Mary Jarrell and Sarah Terry, also in James' will, and probably Robert. James' will also names his "brother John." Since John the elder had died in 1808, this must be referring to John "the younger" who in all likelihood was a foster brother, but one who had lived with or near James (and Benjamin) to age 37.

I have placed the actual records for John Davis "the elder" below in bold for easier reference, with notes following each record to identify names and significant relationships.

As with most genealogy work, this process is ongoing and open to revision as new information comes to light. Corrections and additions are welcomed. -JH

RECORDS AND NOTES FOR JOHN DAVIS

1782-1792 Culpeper County Land Tax List

John DAVIS 200 acres 3/ value 30...0...0

[Source: Culpeper County, Virginia Land Tax Records 1782-1813, Reel 78, Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.]

Notes:

John Davis is on Culpeper County land tax lists from 1782 (first recorded) through 1792. The book for 1793 is missing, and John's land is gone from the list in 1794. This coincides with deed record 18 October 1794 where John Davis and Frances his wife sell their 200 acres in Culpeper County as residents of Pittsylvania County. However, after 1783 John is no longer on the Culpeper personal property lists, indicating his residence is elsewhere. He and at least some of his family moved to Pittsylvania County around 1784, as indicated by a deed around 1785 registered in King William for John Davis and wife Frances of Pittsylvania County.

John Davis (whom I identify as 'the elder') was on the same land tax district lists as James Davis (also 'the elder'), whose residence by 1775 was in Culpeper just to the west. There are strong reasons and numerous associations to think they were brothers, both sons of Benjamin Davis Sr.

The Henry Davis on the same list does not seem to be related to John and James Davis in any way. He is likely the son of James Davis from Ireland who immigrated in 1740 to the part of Orange County that became Augusta County with sons Henry, William, Samuel and wife Mary Davis. *[Orange County Order Book 2, 24 July 1740]* Henry, William, and Samuel are named as James' sons in an Augusta County deed dated 15 March 1758. *[Augusta County Deed Book 8:4]*

1783 Culpeper County Personal Property Tax List

List of Henry Hill

John DAVIS, 1 white tithe over 21, none under 21, no slaves, 2 horses, 3 cattle, tax £0.10.01.

[Source: Culpeper County Personal Property Tax Lists 1782-1802, Reel 89, Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia (not paginated).]

Notes:

Although John's 200-acre property stays on land tax lists until sold in 1794, this John does not seem to appear on any further personal property tax list in Culpeper after 1783. Since he has deed records from his Pittsylvania residence beginning about 1785, he probably moved about 1784.

However, there is a John Davis 1790-1793 in the corresponding personal property tax lists as this John's property who might be his son John: in 1790 with 1 male, 2 slaves, 1 horse; in 1791 with 1 male, 1 horse; and in 1793 with 1 male, 1 horse.

John's son Frederick is in the part of Culpeper that became Madison Co. by at least 1798. Since we do not know how old Frederick was, it is not clear if he or his brother John stayed in Culpeper or moved back there from Pittsylvania.

28 November 1751 – James Herndon 300a. of land to John Haley....adj, Philip Water's, James Michael, Philip Singleton and Thomas Browning.

Wit: Benj. Porter, Benjamin DAVIS, John Grigsby

[Source: Orange County Virginia Deed Book 12 – e-mail from Nancy Moyers Dodge 28 November 1751 Orange Co., Virginia. D.B.#12sss]

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 assignees of Spotsylvania for £40 current money, 400 acres in the County of Spotsylvania....the Old Quarter Swamp...in [JOHN] ROBINSONs line. Recorded 3 October 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 November 1758 just over the Orange County line that had recently been owned by William Stevens, a cousin of James Stevens here selling to John. James Davis bought land from Thomas Burgess, also a carpenter as was witness John Goodloe and John Davis and his father Benjamin Davis.

A James Stevens (possibly cousin) of the seller James Stevens was named an overseer of the will of Owen Thomas dated 8 November 1759 and witnessed by Joseph Brock, William Waller, and John Hawkins, all of whom are on records with John's father Benjamin Davis. Another overseer was Thomas Minor, who may be related to John Minor whose widow sold land to John Davis' brother William Davis in 1761, and whose sister Diana Minor was the mother of deed witness John Goodloe.

Owen Thomas was on 13 April 1753 Spotsylvania Road Orders with John's father Benjamin Davis. With Benjamin Davis and Owen Thomas on that 1753 road order was "Col. Corbin" from whom James Stevens bought the land he sold to John Davis. Thus, it appears that at least part of Corbin's land on road orders with Benjamin Davis in 1753 was the same land that Benjamin's son John Davis bought five years later, near where his father owned land.

James Stevens bought this land from Gawin Corbin of Westmoreland County (and owner of thousands of acres in a number of counties), on 2 May 1758. That deed was witnessed by Anthony Foster, John Herndon, Joseph Brock, again all connected with Benjamin Davis' records. Joseph Brock and John Herndon's brothers Edward Herndon and Joseph Herndon also witnessed this deed to John Davis.

James Stevens and his wife Alice (recent widow of Ambrose Grayson or Gresham) leased her deceased husband's land on 3 June 1752 to Thomas Turner, who witnessed the 1734 Spotsylvania deed of Benjamin Davis' brother John Davis' to William Sandige. (William Sandige's sons William Jr., John, and David are on processioners reports in 1755 with Benjamin's sons William and James.) This Thomas Turner may be the same or related to the Thomas Turner on deed records in the 1780's with Thomas Terry, husband of Sarah Davis, Benjamin's daughter and John Davis' sister.

John Goodloe was the son of George Goodloe and Diana Minor. John Goodloe was a carpenter as was John Davis and his father Benjamin. The same vestry session I 1754 commissioned both John Goodloe and Benjamin Davis to build additions to St. George's Parish churches:

*"At a Vestry held for St. George's Parish at Mattapony Church the 21st day of May 1754..."
BENJAMIN DAVIS was commissioned to build an addition to the St. George's Parish Church in Fredericksburg. The same Vestry meeting commissioned John GOODLOE to build an addition to the Parish church at Mattapony.*

[Source: St. George's Parish Spotsylvania Vestry Books 1726-1817, by John Frederick Dorman (Fredericksburg, Virginia 1998; private printing), p 99.]

John Goodloe married Susannah Martin, said to be the daughter of Joseph Martin and his first wife Susannah Chiles.

Joseph Martin's second wife was Ann Pulliam whose family is closely connected with John Davis' father and brothers in Spotsylvania and for several generations earlier. Ann Pulliam married first William Sandige who in 1734 bought land from Benjamin Davis' brother (John Davis' uncle) John Davis of King William County.

In Spotsylvania County Road Orders, **13 April 1753, Benjamin Davis is with "Col. Corbin's quarter"** (or farm run by his overseer, as Corbin was of Westmoreland County).

3 June 1752 – James Stevens of St. George's Parish, Spotsylvania Co., planter, and Alice, his wife, late relict and legatee of Ambrose Gresham (Grayson?), late of Par. and county afsd., Planter, Dec'd., to Thomas Turner of same Par. and county, Gentl. £35 curr. Deed of lease. The plantation whereon the sd. Ambrose dwelt and 200 a. in the par. and county afsd. Witnesses, Thomas Macredie, John Dent, George James, Richard x Turnley. August 4, 1752.

[Source: Spotsylvania County Deed Book E, Crozier, p. 191.]

James Stevens married Alice Grayson 26 August 1744.

[Source: Spotsylvania County Will Book F, Crozier, p. 85.]

2 May 1758 – Gawin Corbin of Westmoreland Co., Esqr., and Hannah, his wife, to James Stevens of Spotsylvania Co. £40 curr. 400 a. in Spotsylvania Co., A. Foster, John Herndon, Jos. Brock. May 2, 1758.

[Source: Spotsylvania County Deed Book E, Crozier, p. 207.]

Note: This is the land sold to John Davis several months later.

Gawin Corbin Patent – 28 September 1728 – Spotsylvania County

19,900 acres on the branches of Mattapony River, adjoining the land of Colonel John Robinson, Colonel Corbins patent of 13900 acres. Colonel Spotswood, James Bridgforth, Ralph Bowker and extending.

[Source: Land Office Patents No. 13, 1725-1730 (v.1 & 2 p.1-540), p. 306 (Reel 12).]

THOMAS, OWEN, Spotsylvania Co., d. November 8, 1759, p. May 6, 1760 Wit. Joseph Brock, William Waller, John Hawkins. Ex. wife, Mildred son Owen Thomas; William Smith; Thomas Minor and James

Stevens to oversee my executors. Leg. wife, Mildred Thomas; son, Owen; sons James and Robert; daughter Agatha Thomas. Mentions land bought of James Jackson.

James Stevens bought these 400 acres he sells to John from (Col.) Gawin Corbin on 2 May 1758. That deed was witnessed by Anthony Foster, John Herndon, Joseph Brock [compare to witnesses on deed to John]. Corbin owned thousands of acres in northern Spotsylvania County along the Orange County line, some of which was near Harrison's grant where John's brother James Davis bought seven weeks after John, which former owner had been William Stevens, cousin to James. James Stevens owned land adjacent to Joseph Brock, who was a bound on John Collins' grant with a corner to Benjamin Davis. James Stevens grant of ___ was adjacent to John Talbert/Talbot, whose father (?) had land in King William adjacent to Benjamin's father William.

2 November 1731 O.S., Page 90 - Spotsylvania Road Orders

Ordered that John Grayson [grandfather?? of Alice Steven's previous husband Ambrose Grayson] & Richard Blanton With their gangs Do forth With Put the bridge over the RIVER NY in the MINE ROAD in repair.

5 August 1748 – Deed to heirs of GEORGE GOODLOE, son Henry Goodloe, 800 acres in Caroline and Spots. counties, devised to sons Henry, George and Robert. Witnessed by Edmund WALLER, John Fox, NICHOLAS HAWKINS, Robert Jackson, THOMAS TURNER, Jr., and Benjamin Woodward.

[Source: Spotsylvania County Deed Book D, Crozier, p. 177.]

Benjamin Davis witnessed a deed 17 Nov 1747 with Edmund Waller from Jeremiah White to Edmund's brother William Waller, against whom Benjamin Davis brought debt suits in the 1740's. Nicholas Hawkins previously owned the land adjacent to Benjamin Davis' 1754 land purchase, then sold to his son Nathan Hawkins. Nicholas Hawkins' son Alexander Hawkins was Benjamin Davis' lawyer in Culpeper Court in 1763.

1765 Apprenticeship Records

18 October 1765 – William Green, Gent., first Justice of Culpeper County, to JOHN DAVIS. William Green binds and places out George Davis, son of William Davis, deceased, to John Davis to be an apprentice to learn the joyner's [joiner's] trade until George Davis shall arrive to the age of twenty-one years. John Davis "do oblige himself to teach him the joyner's trade and find good and sufficient meat, drink, washing and apparel."

Signed by signature by Wm Green and John Davis, not witnessed, recorded same day.

[Source: Culpeper County Deed Book E, p. 135.] [possibly p. 114—check]

Notes:

George Davis was son of William Davis and Elizabeth (possibly White, daughter of Nancy Ann Wisdom & John White of Orange Co., Virginia). Elizabeth married 2nd Benjamin Hoomes/Hume. William died in 1763 in Culpeper County. From later family records and name associations William may have been the son named in the will of John Davis (d 1734, St. Mark's Parish, then in Spotsylvania). My research indicates that Benjamin Davis Sr and William, George's father, may have been related, but probably not brothers. The elder William's children seem to be Thomas, George, and eldest son John, who are all on a 1794 deed with mother Elizabeth.

George Davis' brother John was living in Stafford Co., Virginia by 1773. In a deed of 1792, that John was married to Milon (or Million), so he is not the John married to Frances in records both before (1779) and after (1794) John with Milon. There was another John Davis, the Revolutionary soldier, married to a Frances (Ham). But their marriage is in Culpeper County marriage records as taking place in 1787, and the John of these deeds was already married to his wife Frances by 1779.

May 21, 1782 -- Wm. Bledsoe of Lincoln Co., Virginia and Elizabeth, his wife, to Wm. Williams of Spots. Co. 100 curr. 260 a. near Fredksbrg, Spots. Co., formerly property of Capt. William Miller, dec'd. Witness, Moses Bledsoe, Jno. Floyd, Antho. Gholson, Lawrence Long, Wm. Ellis. June 20, 1782.
[Source: Spotsylvania Co. Records Deed book K 1782-1785.]

Another apprentice—same month and circumstances as above:

17 October 1765 – “Lawrence Long of St. Mark’s Parish, Culpeper County, doth bind himself as an apprentice to John Davis, joiner and carpenter, until Long doth attain to the full age of twenty-one years. He shall do no harm to his master nor see it done by others, not commit fornication or contract matrimony, at cards, dice or any other unlawful gaimes [sic] he shall not play, shall not absent himself day or night from his master’s service. John Davis shall instruct his apprentice in all things belonging to a joiner and carpenter’s business, provide sufficient meat, drink, washing, loging [sic] and cloaths [sic].”

Signatures: John Davis and Lawrance Long

Note from Joan’s writing in another file:

Lawrence Long went to Kentucky with the **John's** brother **William Davis** in the Traveling Church. Six months later Lawrence is on a deed in Kentucky with relatives of Benjamin Robinson, close friend in Kentucky of **William Davis**, after whom William names a son Benjamin Robinson Davis (perhaps after his father Benjamin as well?). Benjamin Robinson's family lived in Spotsylvania close to where **John Davis** bought his land in 1758.

1777-1778 - Northern Neck Grant to JOHN DAVIS and William Duncan, Jr. for 240 ac. Culpeper Co.

10 March 1777 - Warrant to Survey

Whereas William Duncan the younger & John Davis both of Culpeper County have informed that there are about Four hundred Acres of waste & ungranted Land adjoining Land formerly belonging to Col'o William Green dec'd & [left blank] Coons's Land in the Great Fork of the Rappahannock River & in the said County. And desiring a Warrant to survey the same in order to obtain a Deed being ready to pay the Composition and Office Fees. These are therefore to improver you to survey the said Waste and ungranted Land for the said Duncan & Davis paying due regard to your Instructions. ...The 10th Day of March 1777.” (thus empowering George Hume to survey).

Signed: B. Martin

4 June 1777 – Survey

The chain carriers: Benj'n DUNCAN and Will. DAVIS.

Pilot: Will'm Purvis

Surveyor: George HUME

[Source: Northern Neck surveys, 1697, 1722-1781. Reel 4, Library of Virginia.]

7 December 1778 - Grant to William Duncan the Younger and JOHN DAVIS, both of Culpeper Co. -- 240 acres in the Great Fork of Rappahannock River in the said county, bounded as by a survey by George Hume beginning 3 pines corner to William Coon, thence with his line N 59 [39?] W 110 poles to 3 red oak saplings by a branch in the Widow GREEN's line, thence with her lines S25W 372 poles to a white oak by a branch N65W 96 poles to a white oak by the said branch marked WG, thence S30W 200 poles to two blazed red oak saplings N85E 102 (105?) poles to 2 pines corner to George William Fairfax Esqr [ie, ungranted land] and to the said Green and Coon thence with the said Coon's line N40E 298 poles to an imaginary corner thence N20W 40 poles to a pine thence N47E 222 poles to the Beginning.

[Source: Northern Neck Grants R, 1778-1780, p. 48 (Reel 297), Library of Virginia online image.]

7 December 1778 - Grant to William Duncan the Younger and John Davis, both of Culpeper Co. -- 240 acres in the Great Fork of Rappahannock River in the said county, adjacent to WILLIAM COON and the Widow Green (probably William Green, as a marked tree was carved WG).

[Source: Northern Neck Grants R, 1778-1780, p. 48.]

The land was sold by William Duncan and wife Lucy, and John Davis and wife Francis on 17 May 1779 to Phillip WEVER. Witnesses: John Strother, Joseph Early, Mordicai Redd. Recorded same day. On the margin is "DD Wm. TRIPLETT 1817"

[Source: Culpeper County Deed Book 1, p. 268.]

17 May 1779 – Deed from William DUNCAN and LUCY his wife, and JOHN DAVISS and FRANCES his wife of Culpeper County to Philip WEVER of same for £200, 240 acres in Culpeper County, Brumfield Parish, granted to said William Duncan and John Daviss 7 December 1778, registered in Proprietors Office Book R folio 48 bounded by corner of William COON, widow GREEN's line, a white oak marked WG, George Williams Lord Fairfax [same metes and bounds as in grant]

**Signed: William DUNCAN Yr. [Younger], Lucy DUNCAN, JOHN DAVISS, FRANCIS DAVISS
Witnesses: John STROTHER, Joseph EARLY, Mordicai Redd**

Memorandum that on the 17th day of May 1779 Possession of the land was delivered unto within Philip Weaver...

Signed: Wm. DUNCAN Yr., Lucy DUNCAN, JOHN DAVISS, FRANKEY DAVISS

Recorded with Lucy's and Frances' release of dower noted at Culpeper Court 17 May 1779

On margin: DD [Deed Delivered] Wm. TRIPLETT 1817

[Source: Culpeper County Deed Book 1, p. 268, Culpeper Courthouse, Culpeper, Virginia.]

6 December 1784 - Burned fragment of a Court Order requesting the release of dower by FRANCES DAVIS, wife of JOHN DAVIS, both of Pittsylvania County, for land lying in ST. JOHN'S PARISH, KING WILLIAM COUNTY sold by John Davis and Frances his wife of Pittsylvania County to Fendal SOUTHERLAND of King William County.

**Dower Release of Frances Davis obtained and witnessed by
Pittsylvania County Justices Daniel HANKINS, Jeremiah WHITE, and William SHORT
17 January 1785**

Recorded in King William Court 17 June 1785 Teste: Edmund Berkeley, Clerk of Court

[Source: King William Record Book 2, Part 3, 1886-1795, p. 10-11, Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.]

Using the common format of such a Court request to fill in the burned parts of the dower release, this is a reconstruction, with the words inside brackets missing from the Dower Release of Frances Davis:

The Commonwealth of Virginia [to Daniel Hankins, Jeremiah White, and William Short, Gentlemen Justices of Pittsylvania County. Greet]ing. Whereas John Davis & Frances [his wife of the Parish of ____ and County of] Pittsylvania by their certain [Indenture of bargain and sale bearing] date the 13th day of October 17[84(?) have sold and conveyed unto] Fendal Southerland the fee [simple estate ____] a certain tract or parcel of land [situate lying] & being in the Parish of Saint John [and County of King] William containing by Estim[ation ____] acres be the same more or less [And whereas the said] Frances cannot conveniently [travel to our County] Court of King William to make [acknowledge]ment of conveyance afsd [We do therefore give] unto you or any of you [power to receive the] acknowledgement which the said Frances shall be willing to make to you of the conveyance afsd [] We do command you that you personally go to the said Frances & receive her acknowledgement of the [] & examine her privately & apart from her said [hus]band whether she doth the same freely & volun[ta]rily without the persuasions or threats of her sd [hus]band & whether she be willing that the same [sh]ould be recorded in the said County Court of King [W]illiam and when you have received her acknowledg[em]ent & examined her aforesaid that you distinctly & [o]penly certify us thereof in our said Court under our Hands & Seals sending also this writ witnessed [by Ed]mund Berkeley Clk of our said Court at the Court [held] the 6th day of December 1784 In the 9th year [of our Commo]nwealth

/s/ Edmund Berkeley Clk

[Pittsylvani]a County

Pursuant to the within commis[sion to us] directed we did personally go to the [within named] Frances wife of John Davis & we did [examine her separat]ely & apart from her said Husband & ct. [Ackn]owledgement of the said Frances ____ did the same freely & voluntarily [without the pursu]asions or threats of her said Husband [----]ng the same Should be recorded [---] of King Wm Given under our [hands & seals this] seventeenth day of Jany 1785.

Signed: Daniel Hankins, Jere. White, Wm. Short [written to the side: VII-108]

King Wm County the 17th June

[Comm]ission for the privey Exam. Frances Da[vis]

A deed to Fendal Southerland was []ution thereof & ordered to be recorded [King William C]ourt

/s/ Ed. Berkeley Clk

Although the only part to be rescued from the ashes of the King William Courthouse fire is just a fragment of a release of dower, the record and the deed to which it refers is of high significance. It links John Davis

of Pittsylvania (and formerly of Culpeper) with King William County where his father Benjamin DAVIS was born, apparent son of William DAVIS and Mary White, and grandson of Henry White and Mary Croshaw.

Probably NOT this John Davis - JH

JOHN DAVIS - 25 June 1785 - Pittsylvania County - 269 acres on Beaver Creek. Assignee of David Walker

[Source: Land Office Grants Q, 1785, p. 179 (Reel 57), Library of Virginia Online Image]

Note:

I have found no Pittsylvania County deed record that indicates where John Davis' residence land was located or when it was purchased. We do know that John bequeathed a total of 300 acres in his will, and the vague description of the land could mean the three equal tracts were contiguous. John's heirs completed a sale for another 200 acres after his death located on Green Rock Creek near Cherrystone Creek and Chatham. John had actually sold this land before his death, and from what little information we have found so far, it does not seem to have been part of the land he lived on or included in his will. (Research is continuing.)

The only land record that I can find which may be for this John Davis' Pittsylvania land is this grant to David Walker assigned to John Davis in the year after John seems to have left Culpeper County to move to Pittsylvania. Unfortunately, the grant gives no place or adjacent owner names other than "Beaver Creek" which no longer exists under such a name. Usually we can find a previous connection between buyers and sellers, especially when a buyer is new to the area. While John's possible connection with David Walker is a little circuitous, a connection definitely exists. (John's siblings in Culpeper/Madison had strong and numerous connections with the William Walker family there; however, what little--and all unverified--online information there is for David Walker does not show a relationship to the Walkers of Orange and Culpeper/Madison.)

David Walker is said (with no documentation) to have married Lydia Russell, a granddaughter to William Russell who had a land patent for 1000 acres on German Run in what became Culpeper County. This 1000 acres became the property of William Davis by his death in Culpeper in 1763. William seems a probable brother of Benjamin Davis I (father of John Davis d. 1808, Pitts), and they both died intestate in Culpeper within a few weeks of each other. William Davis' widow Elizabeth married Benjamin Hoomes, who was on a Culpeper record with Benjamin Davis (I) several years before the widow's remarriage to Hoomes.

By deed records we know that William Davis d. 1763 had a son John Davis, married to Milon, of Stafford and King George County. John Davis who died 1808 Pittsylvania was married to Frances during the same time period, so he was not William's son John. Instead, it was this John Davis (d. 1808, Pittsylvania), son of Benjamin Davis, who was carpentry apprentice master of William's son George Davis beginning in Culpeper in 1765.

William Russell's Culpeper land patent was close to land owned by Rosson's into whose family John Davis' daughter Effy later married in Pittsylvania County. When William Davis' son John Davis and wife Milon sold the 1000 acre Culpeper land patent in 1792, the buyer was Michael Wallis/Wallace and it was witnessed by Oliver Wallis, George Wallis, Archelais Rosson, George Davis and Thomas Davis. When John Davis (d. 1808, Pittsylvania) sold his Culpeper land in 1794 as a resident of Pittsylvania, one of the witnesses was this same Oliver Wallis. Oliver Wallis was the brother of William Wallace who married

Mildred Walker, daughter of William Walker who sold land in 1775 to John Davis' brother Benjamin Davis (II).

William Davis d. 1791 in Pittsylvania could not be a son of the William Davis d. 1763 in Culpeper. William has a daughter proved born 1753, and the eldest son of Wm d. 1763 was born 1744-1745. (The 1764 Quit Rent for Culpeper lists the dec'd William's 1000 acres as "William Davis orph", apparently meaning the heir by primogeniture, John, was still under age 21. Son John was 21+ by February 1787 when his mother re-married.)

GOT BIG PROBLEM HERE WITH THIS "JOHN DAVIS" - JH

Pg. 50

DB 1, p. 510 – John Kerby to John Thompson - Deed, 30 August 1770

John Thomson of County of Pittsylvania of one part and John Kerby of same County of other part ... for L 80 Current Money ... 100 acres on South side Owens Creek ... to Mouth of Josiah Kerby Spring branch, up said Spring branch, up said Sp[ring branch to the head ... Line to Andersons back line ... Near the Poolecat fork.

Signed: John (his mark) Kirby L.S. Wit: Jas. Dillard, Jas. Talbot, John Davis Rec: 30 August 1770
Joanah, wife of said John, privily Examined and Relinquished her right of Dower

No problem:

Samuel Davis died 1773 in Pittsylvania, naming a son John in his will. Samuel's will also named daughters Elizabeth Kirby and Sarah Kirby. Samuel's daughter Elizabeth married Francis Kirby and Samuel's daughter Sarah married John Kirby, both sons of John Kirby Sr. When John Kirby purchased Pittsylvania County land 30 August 1770, John Davis was a witness. [*Pittsylvania County Deed Book 1:510*] It is that John Davis who is listed in Pittsylvania PP records beginning in 1782, and probably also that John Davis in early Pittsylvania deed records throughout the 1770's.

1 January 1786 - WILLIAM DAVIS and JOHN DAVIS of Pittsylvania to HOLT RICHARDSON of King William County, Bill of Sale, one negro man named RUBIN.

Signed: William Davis, John Davis

Witnesses: Samuel PARKS, John ROWDEN

Recorded: 20 February 1786

[Source: *Pittsylvania County Deed Book 7, p. 756, cited in Abstracts of Pittsylvania County, Virginia Deeds 1783-1790* by Gayle Austin (Greenville, South Carolina: Southern Historical Press, 2007) p. 120.]

Note: Both sellers signed by signature, so can't be Wm d. 1791 (he signed by a strange mark). Can't be my John—son William too young. Probably brothers John and William with brother George—Wm had a will 1805 naming dec'd brother John's son John Jr. and dec'd brother George's brother William – John and/or Wm had slaves 1783, John apparently in 1785 (lists missing or illegible).

More research is needed.

1788 – Deed - John Chatten Sr. to John Davis – Green Rock Creek

21 July 1788 - JOHN CHATWIN [sic, JOHN CHATTIN SR.] and FANNY his wife to JOHN DAVIS, both of Pittsylvania County. £50. 200 acres on both sides of Green Rock Creek, bounded by John Pigg's line, Patty's line, Washam's [Worsham] line, Robertson's line. No witnesses.

Recorded: 21 July 1788 Dower: Released by Frances Chatwin [sic]

[Source: Pittsylvania County Deed Book 8, p. 270, cited in Abstracts of Pittsylvania County, Virginia Deeds 1783-1790 by Gayle Austin (Greenville, South Carolina: Southern Historical Press, 2007), p. 209, Library of Virginia (Apr 2008).]

Note:

The heirs of John Davis sold this land 29 Sep 1809 to John Giles, brother of Ephraim Giles who married John Chatten Jr's sister Nancy (see deed below). John Chatten Jr. married John Davis' daughter Catherine Davis on 19 April 1803 in Pittsylvania County.

According to online files (which I have not personally verified), John Chatten Sr. was born about 1748 in White Chapel Parish, Lancaster County, Virginia, and died near Chatham, Pittsylvania County. Shortly after his death, John Chatten Sr's heirs sold on 6 October 1815 the Pittsylvania land where he lived, which was described as adjacent to George Myers. *[PDB20:20]* George Myers was the father of John Myers who married John Davis' daughter Roseann Davis, sister to John Chatten Jr's wife Catherine Davis.

1791 Deed Record

13 August 1791 - William Duncan and wife Rose of Culpeper Co. to Eleanor Black, for £100 current money of Virginia; 225 acres in Bromfield Parish, Culpeper Co. adj. "Davis". "Corner to Kelley Price in Covington's old line...to the land that was HILL'S...corner to DAVIS....another corner to DAVIS...to the beginning."

Release of Dower: none

Signatories: William /x/ Duncan, Rose /x/ Duncan

Wit. Thomas /s/ Newby, Chas. /s/ Hill, John /x/ Carder [Carter].

(Note; Newby and Hill are Lancaster Co, Virginia names.)

[Source: Culpeper Co. Deed Book Q, p. 351-353, Library of Virginia, Reel #8, transcribed by Craig Kilby]

[Also in "Deed Abstracts of Culpeper County, Virginia 1790-1791" by Ruth and Sam Sparacio (McLean, Virginia: The Antient Press, 1993).]

Notes:

This deed shows the land owned by William Duncan and wife Rose had a corner at John Davis' lot. They sell to Eleanor (Vaughn) Black, who is listed as an adjacent neighbor when John and Frances sell their property from Pittsylvania Co in 1794 (deed below) "Kelley Price" may be "Kalim/Kelem Price, father of Mary who married James Davis.

This William Duncan was born 29 April 1726, in Spotsylvania County, died 1801 in Culpeper County (will proved 21 September 1801). He was the son of William Duncan and Ruth Rawley/Raleigh. He was married to Rose Norman, named "Rosanna" in his will. John Davis had a daughter named Rosann. John also had a daughter Lucy, the name of the wife of the younger William Duncan, and that Lucy Corley's mother's name was Effarilla, as was John Davis' daughter, nicknamed "Effy. Also, one of the children of William and Rose Duncan was named Frederick, the name of another child of John Davis.

Thus, naming patterns as well as deeds and adjacent Culpeper property indicates a likely family connection between the Duncan families and John's wife Frances.

William Duncan's brother Charles is in the same 1781 Culpeper Class List as John Jones, possibly the executor of John's brother Benjamin Davis (II)'s will in Elbert Co., Georgia. Also, on that Class List is Leonard Barnhysle, whose family lived in 1758 on property belonging to Kalem Price. Kalem Price's daughter Mary was the second wife of James Davis, John's brother. Another person on that Class List was Robert Bywaters, father of Lucy who married William and Rose Duncan's son William (Jr).

William's brother Charles Duncan is thought by some to have married Sarah Kavanaugh, daughter of Philemon. Sarah's family and related Connors are closely involved with John's father Benjamin Davis (I) and his family, including Benjamin's witnessing a Culpeper deed of Sarah's brother Charles Kavanaugh in 1761. This Kavanaugh connection extends to John's brother William Davis who bought Culpeper land that same year from John Minor's heirs that was adjacent to the land Charles Kavanaugh is selling in his deed witnessed by Benjamin Davis, father of John and William. (John Minor's 1755 will also mentions land sold to Charles Kavanaugh.) Another daughter of Philemon, Elizabeth Kavanaugh Connors, is related by marriage to Reuben Daniels who lived near to and witnessed a 1758 deed of James Davis, another brother of John and son of Benjamin Davis (I).

This William Duncan of the deed above had another brother named John Duncan (b: 23 August 1730 in Culpeper Co., Virginia). John was deceased before 1781, as stated in his father's will of that year. In the Culpeper personal property tax list of 1784, there is a "Samuel Duncan, son of John Duncan" age over 21, who may be this John Duncan's son. living with Mary Davis. Mary was the widow of David Davis, Jr. who so far seems to be unrelated to our Culpeper Davis line. His origins, however are not known, and a relationship cannot be ruled out. There was a David Davis, probably this one or his father, appointed a constable of Culpeper in 1763, the same place and year where John's father Benjamin Davis (I) died, as well as William Davis who may be Benjamin's brother. It was this William Davis' son George who became an apprentice in 1765.

1791

Pittsylvania Co., Virginia Deeds (FHL film 33,267)

9-162: 29 August 1791, Emanuel Payne of Lincoln Co. Kentucky, to Benjamin DUNCAN of Culpeper Co., Virginia, for £500, land on Panter? Creek in Pitts. Co., 390 acres. (no wife). Wit. Thos. H. Wooding, JOHN DAVIS, Danl. Bradley. Proved by wit.

1793

18 February 1793 - JOHN DAVIS of Pittsylvania County appoint friend Frederick DUNCAN of Culpeper County attorney to receive [funds due] from persons in King William County.s/ John Davis No witnesses.

[Source: Pittsylvania County Deed Book 9, p. 348, FHL 0,033,267.]

Note:

There is no other information in this record regarding the property involved or the names of the "persons in King William County" from whom John is trying to collect his funds. This seems to refer to the King William County land John Davis sold to Fendal Southerland, recorded 1785. Fendal Southerland Sr. died in KING WILLIAM 1789, and his son Fendal Jr. died by 1791.

Note:

Frederick Duncan was a son of William Duncan and wife Roseanna Norman. He and his brother William (marriage to Lucy Bywaters?) were executors of the estate of their father William Duncan (marriage to Roseanna Norman) who died between 1800-1801?? in Culpeper. John's wife Frances seems somehow related to this family group. Perhaps their daughter Roseanna was named for Frederick's mother. (The Benjamin Duncan who was Frederick's brother supposedly moved to Wilkes Co., North Carolina where he married in 1776.)

1794 Deed Record

18 October 1794 – JOHN DAVIS and FRANCES his wife, of Pittsylvania County, Virginia, to Thomas Oder of Culpeper County, for £52, 200 acres in Culpeper County adjacent to Warner[?] Washington, Francis Slaughter and Eleanor Black.

/s/ John Davis [Frances did not sign; no release of dower]

Witnessed by Oliver Wallis, Thomas Norman, Daniel Triplett, Gabriel Parks [all of Culpeper]

In margin: DD Ester Oder adm of Thos Oder per order Aug't 1796

[Source: Culpeper County Deed Book S, p. 95.]

Notes:

Corner to JD in William Duncan's deed of 1791 to Eleanor Black. William, h/o Rose, as "William Duncan Jr" got a 1754 NN Grant for land south of Cannon's (Thornton's) River

17 November 1756 - 495 acres in the Gourd Vine Fork on the south side of Cannons River (Thornton's River)

[Source: Northern Neck Grants H, p. 739 (Reel 293).]

Culpeper Will Book D/172 does not include a will for Thomas Oder, merely an appraisal of his estate made by Richard Parks, Peter Cooper and William Thomson by order of court dated 16 June 1795 and returned to court 15 February 1796. [post by Craig/Cash Kilby, vaculpep]

The 18 October 1794 deed of sale was for the 200 acres of John's on the Culpeper Land Tax lists 1783 but gone in 1794 when per deed of sale that year John and Frances were residents of Pittsylvania Co., Virginia, where we have records for John beginning in 1784. By tax district and numbers of acres, we can tell this was the John who lived in the same district as William Duncan and as the land James Davis inherited through his wife's father Kalem Price. That his was John Davis who moved to Pittsylvania in 1784 is confirmed by his absence after that year on the corresponding personal property lists which indicate residence.

(Another John Davis lived near Benjamin Jr, Robert, and James in the part of Culpeper that later became Madison Co. He appears to be the John Davis Revolutionary Soldier, born 1754 in King William Co., Virginia. Since Benjamin Davis (I) was also born in King William, this younger John is probably related to the Benjamin Davis family, although could not be his son John by age and place of birth stated in his pension application. Also, the Revolutionary War John Davis' grandson wrote a family history, mostly destroyed by fire, but a surviving part says John's father's name was also John.)

1798 Deed Record – John’s son Frederick Davis

5 February 1798 - Deed from Daniel & Elizabeth TRIPLETT of Madison County to FREDERICK DAVIS of Madison County, one acre lying in said County of Madison and Hap Hazzard by Triplett Meadow. Witnessed by /s/ Thomas Richards, /s/ James Wood, ROBERT (X) DAVIS, /s/ Francis Blunt. Consideration £40.

[Source: Madison County Deed Book 2, p. 183, "Deed Abstracts of Madison County Virginia 1793-1804" by Ruth & Sam Sparacio (McLean, Virginia: Private Printing, 1986), p. 67.]

Note:

John DAVIS' will written 1807 named his son FREDERICK DAVIS. John and at least some of his family moved from Culpeper to Pittsylvania Co., Virginia in 1784. John leaves the Culpeper personal property tax list after 1783, but his 200 acres remain on the Culpeper land tax records until he sells them as a resident of Pittsylvania County in 1794. The sale of John's Culpeper land was witnessed by DANIEL TRIPLETT.

In this 1798 deed above FREDERICK DAVIS buys land from this same Daniel TRIPLETT. The land was in the part of Culpeper County that became Madison County in 1794. The witness, ROBERT DAVIS lived on land near Wolfstown with BENJAMIN DAVIS (II) and JAMES DAVIS (I), who were brothers and sons of BENJAMIN DAVIS (I), as was John. The witness ROBERT DAVIS I believe is James' son, but at the least Robert is a member of this family. FREDERICK DAVIS is on the personal property tax list with BENJAMIN II, JAMES, and ROBERT DAVIS from 1792 through 1805.

1802-1804 Madison County, Virginia Deed Records – son Frederick Davis

12 March 1802 Frederick Davis secured a debt to John B. Nooe, one note for £28 10 shillings, and one note also to Nooe for \$300 "which is for purchase of a road wagon and 2 horses. Security for the debt is Madison County "lands adjoining and belonging to Haphazard Mill Tract conveyed to Davis by deeds from Elliott Herndon and Mahoney for 2 1/2 acres."

23 August 1804. Frederick Davis to George Hamilton and Joshua Willis, all of Madison. Deed of Trust.

[Source: Madison County Deed Book 4, p. 9, from Craig Kilby.]

Notes:

Part of the security on this deed was land purchased from Elliott Herndon. Elliot was the grandson of William Herndon. Benjamin Davis, John's father, witnessed Orange County deeds of William's brother James Herndon in 1751, and a Spotsylvania County deed of their brother Edward to his son Joseph Herndon. Joseph Herndon and his brother Edward Jr. witnessed the purchase of John Davis' Spotsylvania land in 1758. Traditionally, the mother of William, James, and Edward Herndon was Mary Waller. The Waller's had many ties with Benjamin Davis and his family both in Spotsylvania and before then in King William County, where John Waller had land adjacent to Benjamin's father William Davis in the late 1600's.

Elliot Herndon's maternal grandparents were Elliot Bohannon and Ann Walker. Bohannon's and Walker's of Culpeper/Madison County were neighbors of John Davis' brothers James and Benjamin (Jr.). The Bohannon's had connections with Bootens, one of whom (Richard C.) was executor of James Davis' will.

Benjamin Davis (II) bought land in 1775 from William Walker. And Rucker/Vawter relationships run through all these families.

Elliot's grandfather William Herndon was also an ancestor of William Herndon who married John and Frances Davis' granddaughter Amanda, daughter of their son William and wife Lucy Meade.

Will of JOHN DAVIS

Dated 27 February 1807, Proved 19 September 1808 - Pittsylvania County, Virginia

Names wife Frances; sons William, John, Frederick; daughters Catereen, Rosean, Effy, Sally, Lucy

Executors: Sons William Davis and John Davis

Witnesses: John Bobbett, Henry Atkinson, John Muse, Robert Powell

I John Davis being in a laim[?] state of health but in a sound memory, of Almighty God do think it consunant[?] to make this my last Will and Testament, I give my body to the ground and my sole to God who giveth, and after my funeral expenses & all my worldly debts is paid I do bequeath the rest of my Estate in the manner Viz,

Item, I do give and bequeath to my beloved wife FRANCES DAVIS all & singular my rail and persinal Estate during her wydowood--also it is my Dis that my two sons live on the land until until [second "until" is underlined] it is devidid

Item, I doe give & bequearth unto my son WILLIAM DAVIS one hundred acres of land up the branch whereon he lives,

Item, I doe give & bequeath unto my son JOHN DAVIS one hundred acres of land up the river whereon he now lives,

Item, I doe give [inserted above line: and bequeath] unto my son FREDERICK DAVIS one hundred acres of land the place whereon I now live,

Item, I do give & bequeath all my Persenial Estate to be equal devid betw my five daughters, CATEREEN, ROSEAN, EFFY, SALLY, & LUCY.

Also it is my desire that the land should be valued and the rael Estate valued & what is lacking of either side the other party make it up as each child may have an equal part,

Also I doe nominate my two sons WILLIAM and JOHN DAVIS executors to this my Last Will & Testament in witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand & seal this the 27th Day Feby 1807.

Signed: John Davis

Witnessed by: Jno. BOBBETT, Henry ATKINSON, John MUSE, Rob^t POWELL

19 September 1808 - Pittsylvania County

The witnessed Last will and Testament of John Davis Deceased was presented in Court and proved by the oaths of John Bobbett and Henry Atkinson.

18 May 1809 - Pittsylvania County

At a Court held for said County 18 May 1809 the said will was again presented in Court and WILLIAM and JOHN DAVIS the executors within named having been summoned and failing to appear and take upon themselves the burthen of the execution of the same on the motion of FRANCES DAVIS widow and relict of the said Decedent who made oath according to law together with William SWANSAN Jr, Samuel A. MUSE, John CHATTIN Jr, Robert POWELL, John MYERS her Securities entered into and acknowledged their bond in the penalty \$5000 conditioned as the law directs. Certificate is granted her for obtaining letters of administration on the estate of the said John Davis with his will annexed in due form. Test: Will Turnstall, CI

In Margin:

1831, February 21 – “Admin de bonis non with will annexed granted FREDERICK DAVIS and JORAM ROSSON” (This replaces an administrator who is deceased or otherwise unable to serve in order to complete the estate probate—JH)

[Source: Pittsylvania County Will Book 11, p. 106, Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia; transcription by Joan Horsley, paragraphing in will added, most original spelling and punctuation retained.]

Court Orders - Index

18 May 1809, John Davis estate, Francis Davis granted Letters of Administration, 13:499

17 July 1809, John Davis estate, Order to Record Inventory and Appraisement, 13:499, 14:56

Inventory of Estate of John Davis

17 July 1809 - Recorded Pittsylvania County Court
Per court order (date not given). Inventory not dated.

Inventory made by William WITCHER, David VANCE and Henry ATKINSON.
Returned by FRANKY [FRANCES] DAVIS, administratrix.

“In obedience to an order of the County Court of Pittsylvania we the Subscribers being first sworn as the Law directs do appraise the Estate of John Davis Dec’d as followeth to ___.”

19 head of hogs, 1 york steer, 3 cows and calves, 6 heifers, 6 head of sheep, 13 head of shoats, 1 sorrel mare, 1 bay mare, 1 sorrel mare colt, 1 sorrel horse, sundries of plantation tools & two pair of chains, 5 axes, To three grubing hoes and 1 mattock, 1 spade ___, 1 cotton wheel, 8 hoes, 1 grindstone ___, ...1 cart, 1 still, 1 bed stead and furnature, 1 sack of salt, 1 parcel of tobacco, 1 wheat sifter, 1 side saddle, 1 bedstead and ___, 2 cotton wheels and one flax wheel, 1 pot & 1 oven and 2 pair of hooks, 1 skillet and 1 gridiron...1 loom ___, 1 ___ saw three augus 1 chisel & coopers adz, 1 rifle gun, 1 shot gun, 1 table and six pewter plates ___, 1 set of knives and forks, 2 dishes and basin, 1 coffy pot, 1 ___ and sithe blade, 2 jugs, 1 steel trap and flat iron.

[Note: ...some words hard to read.]

Slaves: Negro Man Harry, Negro Man Carter, Negro Man Tom

“The foregoing is a true and perfect inventory and appraisement of the personal Estate of John Davis dec’d Except twenty-six pounds fourteen shillings and nine pence cash in hand.”

Franky Davis, adm.

Total estate: £89, 14s, 9d.

[Source: Pittsylvania County Accounts Current Book 4 (1805-1812), p. 216, Library of Virginia Reel 35, Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.]

Note: No further probate of John Davis’ estate was made and/or recorded until 1831.

NOTES ON JOHN DAVIS' WILL AND PROBATE

Nine months after John's will was proved in Court, his widow Frances was granted administration of the estate as her sons John Jr. and William, the executors named in John's will, had not yet assumed the duties of executors.

In 1831, John's will was annexed showing administration was then granted to Jerome Rosson, husband of John's daughter Effy, and to a Frederick Davis. Both by the deed of sales from the heirs of John Davis in 1809 and by the 1830 census, we know this could not be John Sr's son Frederick. It may be the younger male in the household of Frederick Davis in the Pittsylvania 1830 census, as that one matches the age for the Frederick Davis who went to Missouri with Jerome Rosson about 1833.

The term "de bonis non" means that the previous administrator had either died or for some other reason was not able to complete his/her duties, so the replacements were assigned to finish the administration of the residue of the estate and distribute remaining assets.

Probate records show that the Administrator of John Davis' estate, his widow Frances Davis, died in early 1821. She was listed in Pittsylvania in the 1820 census (as "Francis Davis"), and the inventory of her estate was dated 15 March 1821. However, the inventory was not recorded until 10 years later in February 1831, when Jerome Rosson and Frederick Davis got administration of both Frances' and John's estates.

Jerome and Effy Davis Rosson and Frederick Davis moved to Missouri about 1833.

Witnesses to John Davis' Will

HENRY ATKINSON married John's daughter Lucy DAVIS in Pittsylvania Co. 20 October 1815. He died 1824. Lucy appears in subsequent censuses as "Lucy Adkins" (a form of the name used by others of the same family in Pittsylvania Co.). In the 1830 census, Lucy Adkins is living next to her sister Effy Davis and husband Joram (Jerome) Rosson, and three households away from the William Davis who may be her brother William.

ROBERT POWELL married John's daughter Sally DAVIS in Pittsylvania County 02 April 1807.

Security to Administrative Bond of widow Frances Davis

William Swansan Jr, Samuel A. Muse, John Chattin Jr, Robert Powell, John Myers

WILLIAM SWANSEN SR. married Nancy Ann GRAVES; He died 25 May 1827 in Pittsylvania Co., Virginia

Wife Nancy Ann Graves (b. c 1753, d. 25 July 1830, Pittsylvania, Virginia) was d/o William Graves and Dorothy (nee Smith d/o Peyton Smith). William Graves was the son of Francis Graves Jr. & Ann Reynolds, and long thought to be a descendant of Capt. Thomas Graves. However, by 2007, DNA testing has shown that was not the case and that Francis Graves Sr. was of another line of Graves. (John Davis is related by early family marriages to the lines of Ralph Graves Sr. and Jr., proved descendants of Capt. Thomas Graves. His Davis family also had strong connections with the line of John Graves Sr. of King William and Spotsylvania counties, another Graves whose descent from Capt. Thomas Graves has been disproved by DNA.)

JOHN CHATTIN JR. married John's daughter Catereen/Catherine DAVIS in Pittsylvania County on 19 April 1803, and later moved to Rhea County, Tennessee.

On 6 October 1815, the heirs of John CHATTIN SR, including John CHATTIN JR, sell Pittsylvania land to Wesley Shelton [PDB 20:20]. The land is on the north side of Bannister River with a corner to George MYERS, who is the father of John MYERS who married JOHN DAVIS' daughter Rosean "Rose" DAVIS in Pittsylvania County 08 November 1808.

John MYERS, husband of Rosean Davis, also posted security on the 1809 administration bond of John's widow Frances DAVIS.

Another heir of John CHATTIN SR on the 1815 deed is Ephraim GILES, husband of Nancy (Muse) Chattin. (The Muse is given as Nancy's middle name in family files on Ancestry, which seems to link the Chatten's to John MUSE who witnessed JOHN DAVIS' will and to Samuel A. MUSE, another security to the administrative bond 1809.) Ephraim Giles is the brother of John GILES (Jr) to whom heirs of JOHN DAVIS sell Pittsylvania land (including that bequeathed to John's son Frederick DAVIS) in September 1809.

John and Catherine DAVIS CHATTIN moved to Rhea County, Tennessee between 1820-1830. In the 1860 Rhea County census, John CHATTEN is 83 (thus b. c1777), and Catherine is 82. With them in the household is Frederick CHATTEN, age 36, born in Tennessee. Undocumented information on Ancestry.com gives these birth and death dates for Catherine and John Chatten:
Catherine Davis Chatten: Born: 15 March 1775, Pittsylvania Co., Virginia; Died: 20 January 1864, Meigs Co., Tennessee
John Chatten; Born: 9 June 1777, Littleton Parrish, Cumberland Co., Virginia; Died: 23 January 1884, Meigs Co., Tennessee [adjacent to Rhea County]

ROBERT POWELL married John Davis' daughter SALLY DAVIS.
JOHN MYERS married John Davis' daughter ROSEAN DAVIS

(Rosson not there but later—Jerome married Effy)

- - - - -

1809 - John Davis' son Frederick was deceased by 29 September 1809.

On that date, Frances Davis, widow of John, William and John Davis, Jr., sons of John Davis, and John Chattin, Jr., James Robert Powell, John Meyers, Jerom Rossin & Lucy Davis daughter of John Davis, who intermarried with the daughters of said decedent, sold 200 acres of land on both sides of Green Rock Creek to John Giles for £110. Neither Frederick Davis, named a son in John Davis' will written 1807, nor any heirs of Frederick are mentioned in this deed from the heirs, as they would have been by law if still living.

1809 DEED: JOHN DAVIS HEIRS TO JOHN GILES, PITTSYLVANIA CO.

This Indenture made this 29th day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand 800 & nine [29 September 1809] between From FRANCES DAVIS widow of JOHN DAVIS Deceased, WILLIAM DAVIS, JOHN DAVIS JNR, Sons and Heirs of the said Decedent, JOHN CHATTON JUNIOR, ROBERT

POWELL, JOHN MYERS, JORAM ROSSEN, (& LUCY DAVIS Daughter of John Davis D'd [parentheses not closed] who intermarried with the daughters and heirs of the said decedent, all of the County of Pittsylvania and State of Virginia of the one part and JOHN GILES of the said county and state of the other part.

Witnesseth that the said Frances, William, John, John, Robert, Joram for and in the consideration of one hundred and ten pounds [£110] current money of this State V'a which was in hand paid to the Decedent in his lifetime by the hands of JOSEPH DAVIS to our knowledge the receipt whereof the s'd Widow and heirs and Legatees do hereby acknowledge (interlined: and by these presents do grant bargain sell alien release enfeefoo [enfeoff] and Confirm) have granted bargained and sold aliened released and confirmed unto the said John Giles one certain tract of Land situate lying and being in the said County of Pittsylvania on both sides of Green Rock Creek containing by survey two hundred [200] acres and bounded as followeth:" Bounds named are John PIGG, WORSHAM, PETTY, and ROBERTSON; metes included.

Signed: Frances (x) Davis (her mark), John Chatten jr, John Myers, Joram (x) Roson (his mark), Robert (x) Powel (his mark), John Davis, William Davis
Witnesses: Lawson H. CARTER, Benj. DAVIS, Robert S. MABRY
Richard R. HIGH as to Joram Roson, Robert Powell, Frank[y] Davis [Frances went by Franky]
James ADAMS as to Francis [sic] Davis
Thos. B. JONES as to ditto

Recorded 16 July 1810 - Acknowledged in Pittsylvania Court by Frances Davis, Joram Roson, Robert Powel, Jno. Davis, William Davis [John Chatten and John Myers not present]

[Source: Pittsylvania County Deed Book 17, p. 29, Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia. Abstract by J Horsley. Original spelling retained; punctuation, paragraphing, caps, and comments in brackets added]

Pittsylvania County, Virginia Estate Accounts

18 October 1830 - Account of Estate of John Davis.

To settle account between John Davis and Frederick Davis committee [meaning guardian of John Davis, non compos mentis, called "lunatic" in other Accounts Current, and "insane" in 1850 census].

Clothes and boarding expenses for years 1829-1830.

Signed: Hailey S. Ramsey, William Witcher, George W. Young. Recorded 18 October 1830.

[Source: Pittsylvania Accounts Current (1827-1830) Book 9, p. 417, (Reel 37), Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia]

Pittsylvania County Accounts Current Book 10, 1831-1834 (Library of Virginia Reel 37)

Inventory of Frances Davis

Book 10, p. 25 Inventory of Frances Davis, made 15 March 1821 by Francis Simpson [sd be Swanson?], James Gilbert, and George A. Edwards.

Returned February Court, 1831.

Note:

My underlining. The years were carefully checked. Inventory was made in 1821, and not returned until 1831, the same month and year (Feb 1831) as the "admin de bonis non" with will of John Davis annexed assigning administration of John Davis' estate to Joram Rosson and Frederick Davis.

George A. Edwards is the father of Martha Edwards who married Christopher Davis. Christopher Davis was the son of William Davis. William's brother John Davis was in records as "lunatic" or "insane" from 1829 to his death in 1854. The last guardian or "committee" appointed for John Davis "lunatic" from his nephew Christopher Davis.

Sale of Frances Davis Estate – 18 March 1831

Book 10, p. 26 Account of Sales made 18 March 1831 by Joram Rosson and Frederick Davis (administrators with the will annexed of John Davis). Purchasers included Frederick Davis.

Estate of John Davis, Frances Davis (dec'd) Administrator – 14 April 1831

Accounts Current Estate of John Davis deceased in Account with Frances Davis Administrator

Clark paid smith for blacksmith work

Paid John Muse

Paid Squire G. Duncan

Clerk Ticket

Paid Samuel F. Armistead

Total: \$48. 90

In addition to an order of the worshipful court of Pittsylvania County made March Court to us directed, we, George A. Edwards, William Witcher, and George W. Young have settled the account current between the estate of John Davis dec'd and Frances Davis Administrator and find the said estate to be indebted to said Administratrix for \$48.90 and the former appraisement of said decedants to be 617 pounds, 11 shillings, and 6 pence.

Dated 14 April 1831

Signed: George Edwards, William Witcher, George W. Young

We Frederick Davis and Joram Rosson, Administrators of Frances Davis, deceased, do certify that we have produced all the papers relative to the written account that we could find.

Dated: 14 April 1831

Signed: Frederick Davis, Joram Rosson

Recorded: 18 April 1831

Accounts of Estates of John Davis and Frances Davis – 10 September 1832

Book 10, p. 203 - Account of estates of John Davis and Frances Davis by Jorom Rosson and Frederick Davis, administrators with the will annexed of John Davis.

Returned by Francis Swanson, Hailey S. Ramsey and Tarlton Brown on 10 September 1832.

Amount due the estate of John Davis = \$386.03 1/2.

Amount due the estate of Frances Davis = \$430.18 3/4.

Credits for Joram Rosson of \$379.38 3/4.

14 October 1841 - Frederick Davis, grandson of John and Frances Davis, sells the land that his father John Davis Jr. likely inherited by John Sr.'s will

Frederick Davis to Lucy Atkerson[sic], both of Pittsylvania Co.

Dated: 14 October 1831

For: \$600

Description: 141.5 acres, north side of Pigg River, bounded by Rocky Creek, Ramsey's line and line of Henry Atkins' heirs [Lucy and her children]. Metes included.

/s/ Frederick Davis

Witnesses: George W. Young, William Witcher, Peyton W. Nolan

Rec: 17 October 1831

In margin: Deed delivered to [an initial] Reans[?] 26 January 1916

[Source: *Pittsylvania County Deed Book 33, p. 80-81, Pittsylvania County Courthouse, Chatham, Virginia*]

Note:

On 18 October 1830, a year before the above deed, the Account of Estate of John Davis ("Lunatic") made by his "committee"/guardian Frederick Davis (John's son of above deed) was witnessed by George W. Young and William Witcher, witnesses to the above deed, and by Hailey S. Ramsey, probably of "Ramsey's line" above. Peyton W. Nolan, the third deed witness, became the committee/guardian for John Davis when Frederick Davis and his uncle and aunt Jerome and Effy Davis Rosson moved to Missouri shortly after this deed.

Rocky Creek enters the north side of the Pigg River 2 miles northeast of Museville, Virginia (USGS Sandy Level quad N 36.93153, W -79.57503 or N36° 55.86'/W79° 34.56'). Museville is the Post Office listed for "Lucy [Davis] Adkins" her nephew Christopher Davis (son of William) in the 1860 census. (Google Maps places Sandy Level, Virginia near the North Carolina border west of Danville; however, USGS topo maps clearly show a Sandy Level between Museville and Pittsville at the northwest quarter of Pittsylvania County, and Rocky Creek is clearly labeled on DeLorme Topo Maps.)

DAVIS – ROSSON – POWELL CONNECTIONS

John Davis' father was Benjamin DAVIS

John Davis' daughter Effy DAVIS married Jerome ROSSON

John Davis' daughter Sally DAVIS married Robert POWELL

There were no Powell's or Rosson's in Pittsylvania land tax list for 1782. In the 1783 Culpeper tax list there were Jerome, William, Reubin and Joseph Rosson, all in John Waugh's district. And there were at least a half dozen or so Powell's, all apparently related. It is almost certain that the families of Jerome Rosson and Robert Powell in Pittsylvania came from Culpeper, perhaps about the time John Davis did in 1784.

By 1749 Joseph Rosson and John Powell had Culpeper land adjacent or one removed from each other between the Conway and Stanton rivers, located where John Davis' brothers James and Benjamin and other family were living by 1775. John's son Frederick lived in this same area from 1789 through 1805 when it was then in Madison County. A Joseph Rosson, possibly the father of Jerome (who seemed to have a brother Joseph in Pittsylvania), was granted Culpeper land in 1777 adjacent to two people on records with John Davis' father Benjamin DAVIS, namely Leonard Ziglar and Benjamin Martin.

So, it appears that even through John's children there are strong links to connect John as Benjamin DAVIS' son. Some of the Culpeper records for Rosson and Powell are below.

POWELL – ROSSON

JOHN POWELL - 15 June 1749. - Culpeper County - Northern Neck Grant
376 acres between the Stanton and Conway Rivers adjoining Francis Conway, adjacent Capt. John Frogg

[Source: Northern Neck Grants Book G, p. 192, Library of Virginia Online Image]

Note:

On 11 September 1749 land was granted to John Frogg and Michael Wallace [Wallis] in this same location and gives bounds as JOSEPH ROSSON, John POWELL, Conway and John Delany. That Frogg-Wallace grant was a resurvey to include land adjacent to the 400 acres they had purchased from Francis Thornton, land Thornton and Lee were granted 1742 on Garth Run. Garth Run is between the Conway and Stanton (the name for the upper part of the Rapidan) and joins the Stanton/Rapidan between today's Hood and Wolftown, Madison County, Virginia.

This is where John's brothers JAMES DAVIS and BENJAMIN DAVIS (II) lived on adjoining land from at least 1775, with sister SALLY DAVIS with husband Thomas TERRY next to them. James DAVIS' likely son ROBERT DAVIS lived on the other side of Kirtley Road from James' brother Benjamin DAVIS (II).

This was also the same general area where John's son FREDERICK DAVIS lived from at least 1789 through 1805, and Frederick's first deed of record in 1798 was witnessed by his cousin ROBERT DAVIS. Frederick bought that land from Daniel TRIPLETT, who witnessed the sale of his father JOHN DAVIS' Culpeper land in 1794, John then being a resident of Pittsylvania County.

On 6 Sep 1805, Robert DAVIS, bought land adjacent to the Michael WALLACE land that had bounds of POWELL and ROSSON between the Stanton and Conway rivers.

In 1756 James RUCKER sold part of John POWELL's grant. James Rucker was brother of Ephraim RUCKER who sold the land in 1775 to James DAVIS, and father of Augustine RUCKER whose son Larkin married BENJAMIN DAVIS (I)'s granddaughter Lucy TERRY, daughter of JOHN DAVIS' sister SALLY. (The Culpeper will of Richard Gaines in 1807 names a daughter Caty married to a ROSSON and a daughter Sally married to a RUCKER.)

When John POWELL (I presume the land grantee) died 1766, one of his executors was William WALKER who sold the land in 1775 to Benjamin DAVIS (II) next to his brother James. James Davis had been overseer of the Orange County road that included the estate of Thomas MERRY, father of William WALKER's wife Ann MERRY.

JOSEPH ROSSON - 11 November 1777 - Culpeper County - Northern Neck Grant
241 acres, corner to Benjamin MARTIN, crossing Sumerduck Run, line of Leonard ZIGLAR, line of Rev. John Thompson,

[Source: Northern Neck Grants Book Q, p. 229, Library of Virginia Online Image]

Note:

This land of Joseph ROSSON was in a different area of Culpeper from the land in the grant above. Sumerduck Run flows from just southwest of Mount Pony (below Culpeper town) to the Rapidan River near Raccoon Ford at the Orange County line. This was an area where many of the Germanna families and church members lived.

In 1748, John's father BENJAMIN DAVIS was contracted by Orange County to build a bridge over Wilderness Run, at the corner where Culpeper, Orange, and Spotsylvania County meet. Benjamin's bridge was near the old Germanna Bridge, so named for the earliest Germanna settlers there, and located about 10 miles east of Sumerduck Run.

One of the Germanna families involved with our Davis's was Philip Weaver to whom JOHN DAVIS sold land 17 May 1779. Another was George WILHOIT, who sold land in 1784 to John's brother JAMES DAVIS "for natural affection." Another was George MOYER, whose grandson John MYERS married JOHN DAVIS' daughter Rosean in Pittsylvania in 1808.

Yet another of the Germanna community was Leonard ZIGLAR who was named as a bound on this grant to Joseph ROSSON. In 1763 in Culpeper County, JOHN DAVIS' father or brother BENJAMIN DAVIS (both carpenters) was paid from the estate of Leonard ZIGLAR.

The other bound named in Joseph ROSSON's grant was Benjamin MARTIN. In 1754 John's father BENJAMIN DAVIS bought Spotsylvania County land from Benjamin MARTIN Sr. and sold it as a resident of Culpeper County in 1761 to Benjamin MARTIN Jr.

Appendix I

CENSUS SEARCH FOR DESCENDANTS OF JOHN DAVIS (d. 1808, Pittsylvania Co., Virginia)

[Citation needed for the following page numbers.]

By following the censuses, we can locate some of John and Frances' descendants. The censuses for Pittsylvania County do not start until 1820, thirteen years after John wrote his will, so there are people and generations missing. This causes confusions, especially since early census ages are by broad category and name only heads of house.

1820 - Pittsylvania Co., VA

Page 815

WM. DAVIS: 1(>10) 1(10-16), 1(45 and up) Females: 4(>10), 2(10-16), 1(26-45)

Also on page 815:

JERAM [JEROME] ROSSON: Males: 1(>10), 1(10-16), 1(26-45) ; Females: 1(>10), 1(26-45)

JEROME ROSSON (b. 1783) married EFFY DAVIS (b. c1790), daughter of JOHN and FRANCES DAVIS

Also on page 815:

Nelson Davis, John Muse, Joel Muse (a John Muse witnessed JOHN DAVIS' will).

Page 820

Francis Davis: Males: 1(18-26) - 1(45 and older); Females: 1(45 and older)

Also on page 820:

Joseph Powell, Joseph Rosson (Robert Powell married John's daughter Sally; Jerome Rosson married daughter Effy)

1830 - Pittsylvania Co., VA

Page 320

WILLIAM DAVIS b. 1770-1775 (45 or older in 1820)

Males: 1(5-10), 1(10-15),1(20-30),1(50-60) Females: 1(5-10), 2(10-15), 1(15-20),1(20-30), 1(50-60)

Also on page 320:

JORAM [JEROME] ROSSON [b. 1783] - Males: - - 1(10-15), 1((15-20), 1(30-40), 1(40-50); Females: 1(10-15), 1(30-40)

Also on page 320:

Middleton MEADE (sp. here Made] - b. 4 Oct 1794, per ancestry.com

Also on page 320:

Randolph and Jonothan Bobbett - a John Bobbett witnessed John Sr's will

Page 316

FREDERICK DAVIS [b.1780-1790]: Males 1(20-30), 1(40-50); Female: 1(10-15), 1(50-60)

Also on page 316:

Thomas B. Davis (age 40-50), Jordan (K or R?) Davis (30-40) Unknown relationship to other.

1840 - Pittsylvania Co., VA

CHRISTOPHER DAVIS [b. 1808]

Males: 2(>5), 1(5-10), 1(30-40), 1(50-60); Females: 2(>5), 1(20-30)

Male 50-60 is John Davis age 60 in 1850, still living with Christopher.

Four entries away is:

WILLIAM HERNDON - Males: 2(>5), 1(20-30); Females: 1(20-30)

Married to AMANDA DAVIS, daughter of William Davis and Lucy Meade and sister of Christopher.

1840 - St. Charles Co., MO

Cuivre, St. Charles Co., MO

FREDERICK DAVIS - Males: 2(>5), 1(30-40); Females: 1(>5), 1(5-10), 1(20-30)

Dardienne, St. Charles Co., MO

JEROME ROSSON - Males: 2(>5), 1(20-30), 1(40-50), 1(50-60); Females: 1(5-10), 1(20-30), 1(40-50)

1850 - Pittsylvania Co., VA

CHRISTOPHER DAVIS - age 42 (b. 1808) - Farmer - \$1350 real prop. - born VA

Wife: Martha [Edwards]

Children: George, Frances, John, Judith, Hedrick [Frederick], James (7), Susy, Christopher (Jr),
Moraision, Abner, James (12)

NOTE: CHRISTOPHER DAVIS is the son WILLIAM DAVIS and wife LUCY MEADE.

Christopher and wife Martha still in Pittsylvania Co in 1860.

Page 469

WILLIAM HERNDON - age 37, b. VA

Wife: AMANDA [DAVIS] - age 30 (b. 1820) - born VA

Children: James (11), George, Mary Bart, William

1850 - Benton, Osage Co., MO

FREDERICK DAVIS - age 48 (b. 1802) - Farmer - \$300 real prop - born VA

Wife Catherine - age 40 (b. 1810) - born MO

Children: Frances (15, b. MO), John (14), Thomas, Catherine, Cynthia, Frederick (Jr), Lucy (2)

JEROME ROSSON - age 67 [b 1783] - Farmer - \$200 pers prop - b. VA
Wife EFFERELLA [DAVIS] - age 60 -- b. VA

Living next to Jerome and Effy in 1850 is apparently their son:

John ROSSON - age 34 - Farmer - b. VA

Wife Martha - age 31 - b. KY

Son - William age 6, b. MO

Appendix II King William Deed Worksheet

2 April 1639

Patent granted to John Davis and John Batts for 750 acres in Charles River County at the head of Queens Creek and joining to the land of Richard Major. For transportation of 15 persons into the colony. Patent renewed in name of John Davis (450 acres) and Stephen Gill (300 acres.) (Queens Creek is a southern tributary of the York River.)

29 October 1647

Patent granted to John Davis for 150 acres in Charles River County on the uppermost side of Queens Creek adjoining Major Jernow, John Hudson and Joseph Croshaw. For transportation of 3 persons into the colony.

On Oct. 28, 1702, Philip and George Southerland were granted 212 acres on Pamunkey Neck in King William County on Souther Creek, Queens Creek and Nicatgwance Creek [southerland-judy.ged]

King William County Deed, no date, near others dated 1785 and 1787.

Fragment of deed of JOHN DAVIS and FRANCES his wife, of Pittsylvania County, to Fendal Southerland, land lying in St. John's Parish, King William County. Mentioned in first part of deed are the names of Jere. White, William S(). Frances Davis' release witnessed by Daniel Hankins, Jere. White, William Short.

[Source: *King William Record Book 2, Part 3, p. 10-11, "King William County Virginia Records 1702-1806" by Beverly R. Conolly, (Athen, GA: New Papyrus Press, 2006), p. 39]*

This is an important deed. First, it links John with King William County where Benjamin DAVIS was born, probable son of William DAVIS and Mary White, and grandson of Henry White and Mary Croshaw. Secondly, Jeremiah White presence is significant. Jeremiah's grandfather Jeremiah White sold land in Spotsylvania County in 1747, and the deed was witnessed by Benjamin DAVIS. In 1804, Benjamin's grandson, Benjamin DAVIS (III), sold land in Elbert County, Georgia, and the witness to that deed was Reuben White, the first Jeremiah's son or his grandson by son John. (I believe from names on available early records and residences that Jeremiah White was probably related to Henry White of King William County, Benjamin DAVIS' likely grandfather.)

The father of the Pittsylvania County Jeremiah White was Jeremiah White Jr, who is said to have married Esther Herndon. She was the daughter of Richard Herndon of Spotsylvania. In 1753, Benjamin DAVIS witnessed a deed from her grandfather (or less likely, brother) Edward Herndon to her uncle Joseph Herndon.

Fendal(l) Southerland was the grandson of George Southerland and Elizabeth Norment, whose orphaned sons George and Phillip became wards of Samuel Norment. Samuel Norment did the appraisal of the King William County estate of Edward Burgess, probable father or grandfather of William Burgess, a carpenter with connections to Benjamin DAVIS and who sold land at Terrys Run (then Orange County) to Benjamin's son James in 1758.

Samuel Norment was a witness to a King William County deed from John Graves to son John, and the Graves family is related by several marriages to Benjamin DAVIS' King William family. Also, John Graves' grandchildren and their in-laws are on deeds with William DAVIS (probable son of Benjamin) in

Spotsylvania. Samuel Norment was also connected in King William with Thomas Terry and lived close to him. Thomas Terry was the ancestor of Thomas Terry, husband of Benjamin DAVIS' daughter Sarah.

I believe there is ample evidence that Benjamin DAVIS was the son of William Davis and Mary White of King William County. Their four children inherited land from their mother's sister Rebecca. So I would not be surprised if this land John DAVIS is selling could be his inheritance, either by lost will or primogeniture, from Benjamin's portion of that land. (Benjamin's brother John stayed in King William, and we have no record of any marriage or children. But but my sense is he was too old to have this John, especially as his first son. If William who died 1763 in Culpeper were another brother, still John is not his son, as he had a son John married to Milon. The fourth and last sibling alive in 1702 was a sister Sarah.

[Source: *King William Records* 1:7, 1:50-51, 1:55-56, 1:342]

Daniel Hankins and William Short were Justices of the Peace for Pittsylvania (other connections with John are unknown).

<http://www.victorianvilla.com/sims-mitchell/local/articles/phsp/039/>

The March Court Records of Pittsylvania County make no mention of a special election during the month of March. The only item of any historical importance whatsoever that month, was the appointment of Abraham Shelton, William Short, Reuben Payne and John Parker to "lett to the lowest bidder an Addition to the Courthouse of this County, also a table and Benches agreeable a plann of said addition to be constructed by them, and that they Report the same here to the Court."

BIBLIOGRAPHY

"Deed Abstracts of Culpeper County, Virginia 1790-1791" by Ruth and Sam Sparacio (McLean, Virginia: The Antient Press, 1993).

Augusta County Deed Book 8, 1758-1760, Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.

Cavaliers & Pioneers, Patent Book 13, (Nugent), Vol. III, 1695 - 1732, Virginia State Library, Richmond, Virginia, 1979.

Crozier, William Armstrong. Spotsylvania County Records, 1721-1800: Being Transcriptions, from the Original Files at the County Court House, of Wills, Deeds, Administrators' and Guardians' Bonds, Marriage Licenses, and Lists of Revolutionary Pensioners.

Culpeper County Deed Book I, Culpeper Courthouse, Culpeper, Virginia.

Culpeper County Deed Book A:1-2, FHL film 30,942

Culpeper County Deed Book E, 1765-1769, Reel 3, Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.

Culpeper County Deed Book Q, 1790-1792, Reel 8, Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.

Culpeper County Deed Book S, 1794-1796, Reel 9, Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.

Culpeper County Land Tax Records 1782-1813, Reel 78, Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.

Culpeper County Personal Property Tax Lists 1782-1802, Reel 89, Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.

King William Record Book 2, Part 3, "King William County Virginia Records 1702-1806" by Beverly R. Connolly, (Athen, Georgia: New Papyrus Press, 2006).

King William Record Book 2, Part 3, 1886-1795, Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.

Land Office Grants Q, 1785, Reel 57, Library of Virginia Online Image.

Madison County Deed Book 2, "Deed Abstracts of Madison County Virginia 1793-1804" by Ruth & Sam Sparacio (McLean, Virginia: Private Printing, 1986).

Madison County Deed Book 4, 1804-1810, Reel 2, Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.

Northern Neck Grants Book H, Reel 293, Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.

Northern Neck Grants Book G, Library of Virginia Online Image.

Northern Neck Grants Book Q, Library of Virginia Online Image.

Northern Neck Grants R, 1778-1780, Reel 297, Library of Virginia Online Image.

Northern Neck Surveys, 1697, 1722-1781, Reel 4, Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.

Orange County Deed Book 12, 1751-1759, Reel 4, Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.

Orange County Order Book 2, 1739-1741, Reel 30, Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.

Pittsylvania County Accounts Current—Administrations, Inventories, Estate Sales, Accounts, Settlements & Divisions, Book 4, 1805-1812, Reel 35, Library of Virginia, Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.

Pittsylvania County Accounts Current—Administrations, Inventories, Estate Sales, Accounts, Settlements & Divisions, Book 9, 1827-1830, Reel 37, Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.

Pittsylvania County Accounts Current—Administrations, Inventories, Estate Sales, Accounts, Settlements & Divisions, Book 10, 1831-1834, Reel 37, Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.

Pittsylvania County Deed Book 1, 1767-1770, Reel 1, Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.

Pittsylvania County Deed Book 7, cited in Abstracts of Pittsylvania County, Virginia Deeds 1783-1790 by Gayle Austin (Greenville, South Carolina: Southern Historical Press, 2007).

Pittsylvania County Deed Book 8, cited in Abstracts of Pittsylvania County, Virginia Deeds 1783-1790 by Gayle Austin (Greenville, South Carolina: Southern Historical Press, 2007).

Pittsylvania County Deed Book 9, 1791-1794, Reel 5, FHL 0,033,267.

Pittsylvania County Deed Book 13, 1802-1804, Reel 7, Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.

Pittsylvania County Deed Book 17, 1810-1812, Reel 9, Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.

Pittsylvania County Deed Book 20, 1816-1847, Reel 10, Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.

Pittsylvania County Deed Book 33, Pittsylvania County Courthouse, Chatham, Virginia.

Pittsylvania County Order Book 27, 1827-1829, Reel 55, Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.

Pittsylvania County Order Book 28, 1829-1831, Reel 56, Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.

Pittsylvania County Will Book 11, 1780-1790, Reel 31, Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.

Pittsylvania County, Virginia - 1856 Death Register, VAGenWeb Archives, Pittsylvania County, Virginia.

Pittsylvania County, Virginia - 1860 Death Register - Part 1, VAGenWeb Archives, Pittsylvania County, Virginia.

Spotsylvania County Deed Book E, 1751-1761, Reel 3, Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.

Spotsylvania County Deed Book K 1782-1785, Reel 6, Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.

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

Virginia County Court Records, Order Book Abstracts, Spotsylvania County, Virginia 1732 - 1734, (Sparacio) 1991.

Virginia County Records, Vol. I, Spotsylvania County, 1721 - 1800, W.A. Crozier, Gen. Pub. Co., Baltimore, Maryland, 1978, Deed Book B, 1729 – 1734.