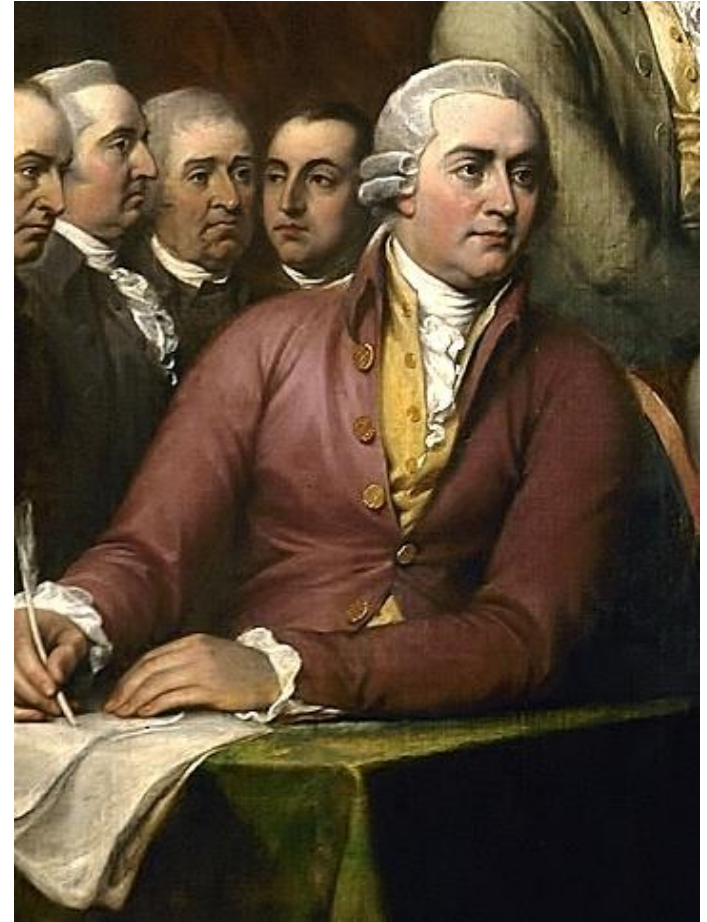


A Wagonload of Wigginses...and some of their kin



Abraham Wiggins
(1762-1850)

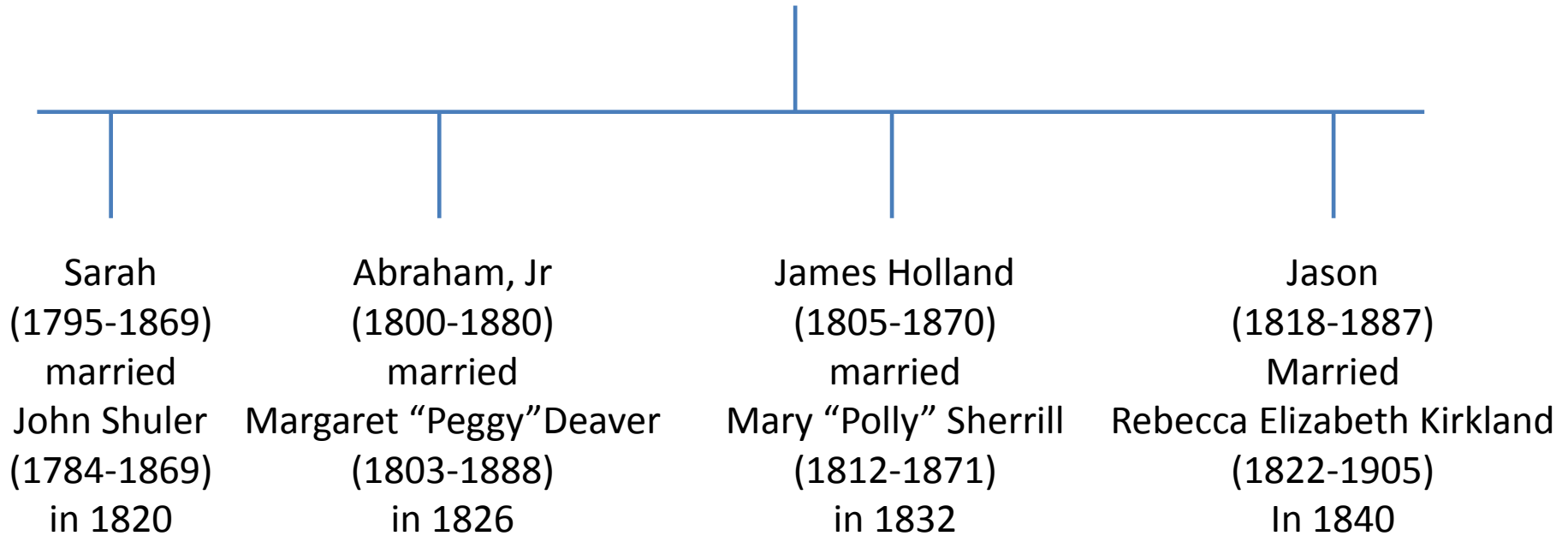


Guess who?
(1726-1791)

November, 2018
Don Casada

Note: this painting has been ascribed to both this Abraham and his son, Abraham, Jr.

Abraham Wiggins (1761/62-1850) Nancy Colvard* (1767-1867)



Note: there were other children born to Abraham and Nancy, but our look will be limited to these four.

* Or Calvert

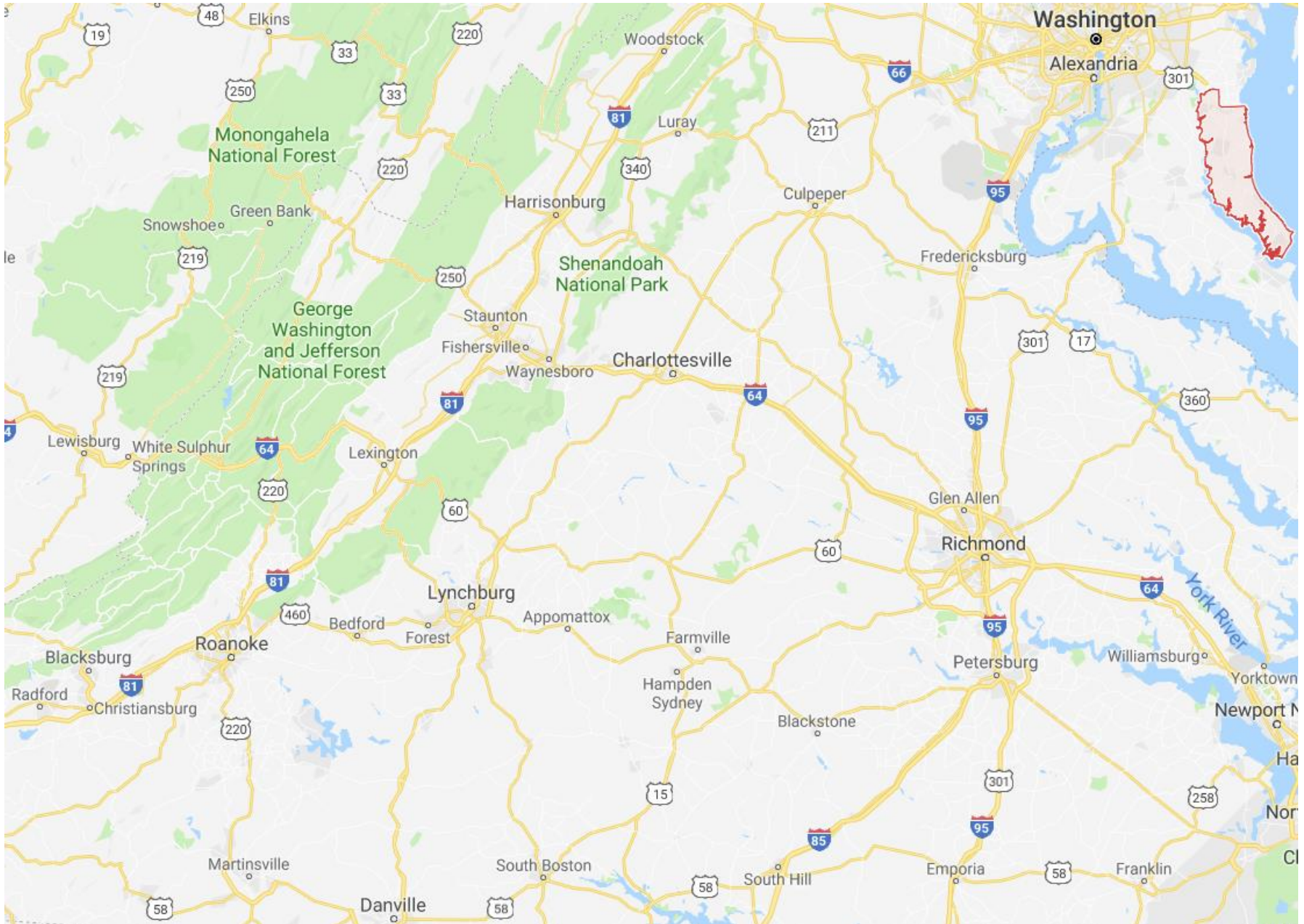
A bit about Abraham

- Abraham was born in 1761 or 1762 in Monmouth County, NJ (shore of New Jersey, about 25 miles south of Manhattan)
- He claimed to have served in the Revolutionary War, entering service in Wilkes County in March, 1780, first serving under Captain James Henderson.
- Re-enlisted for 3 month stints several times, remaining until the end of the war.
- Cited Mark Coleman, Andrew Welch, William H Thomas, John McDowell and Samuel Sherrill as character references. McDowell (a clergyman) and Ebenezer Newton signed an affidavit as to his character. This was before Joseph Welch, Esq. in the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, held in Franklin in September 1845.
- His application for a pension was rejected in 1873 – almost a quarter century after his death.

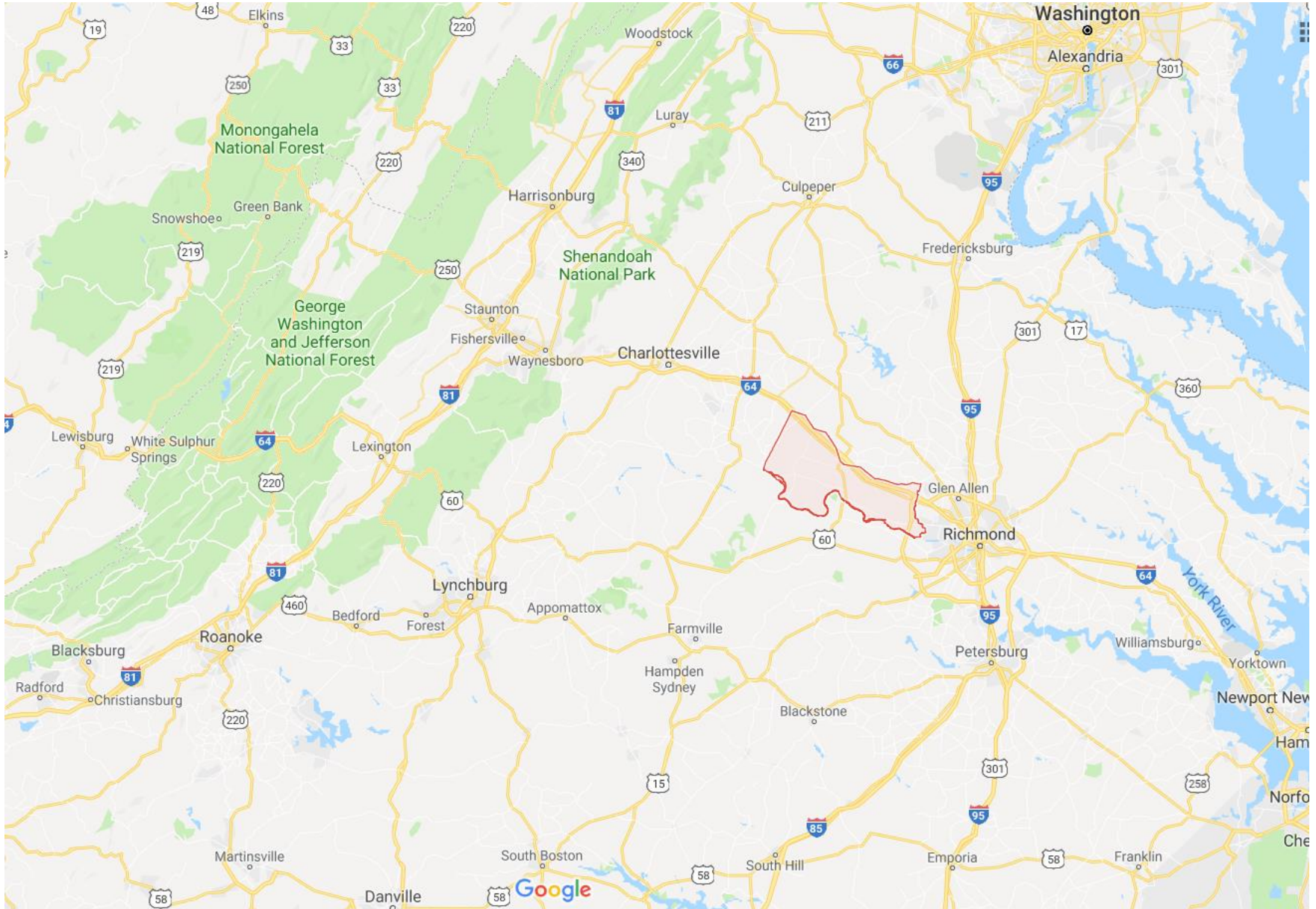
A bit about Nancy Colvard/Calvert

- Nancy was born in Goochland County, Virginia, daughter of William Colvard and Mercy Holland
- The family name “Colvard” is a variant of Calvert, the family of Leonard Calvert, first governor of the Maryland Colony, and Cecil Calvert, Lord Baltimore
- The Calverts included blue bloods; there’s a much more intriguing connection as we’ll see in a bit.

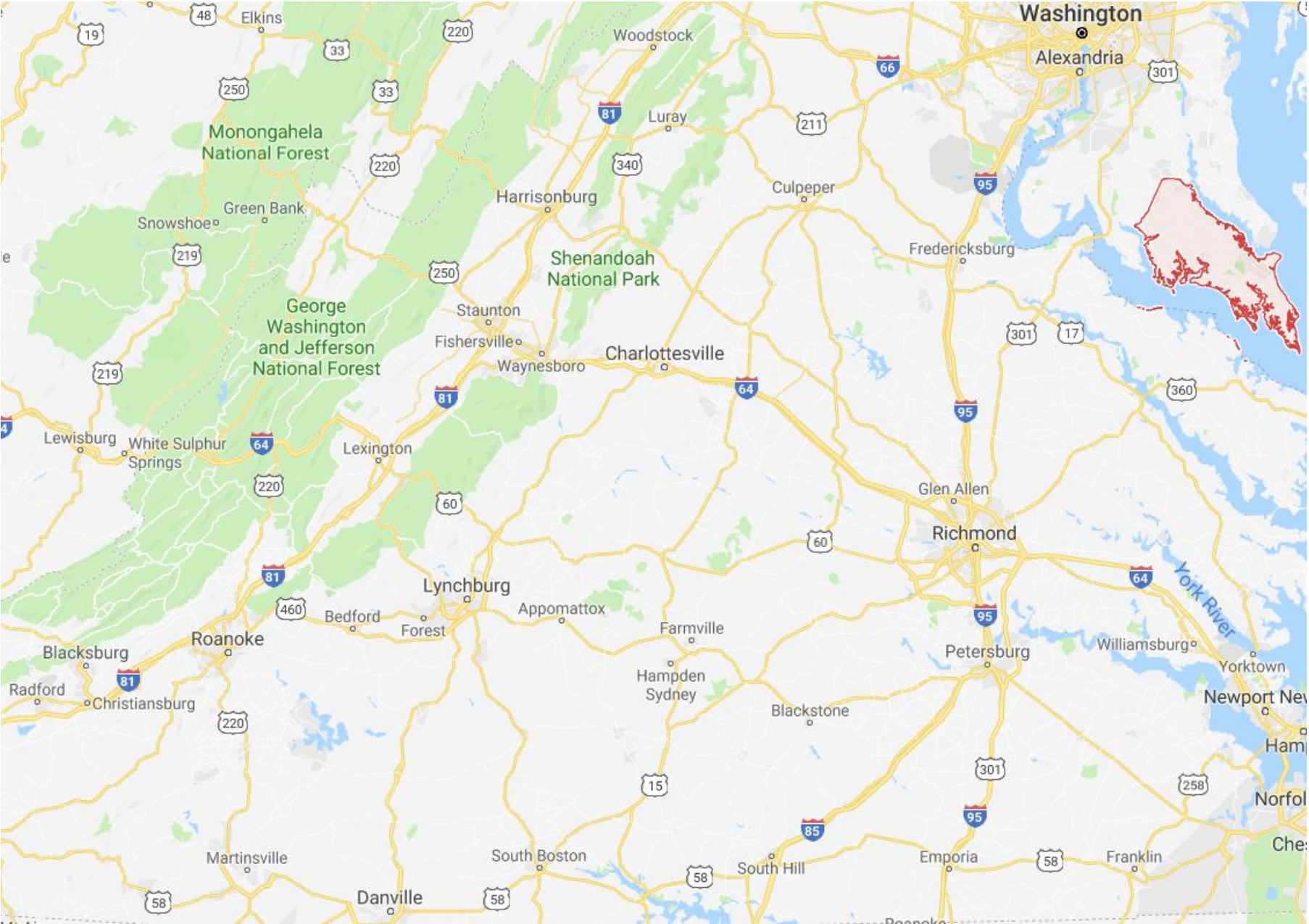
Calvert County, Maryland



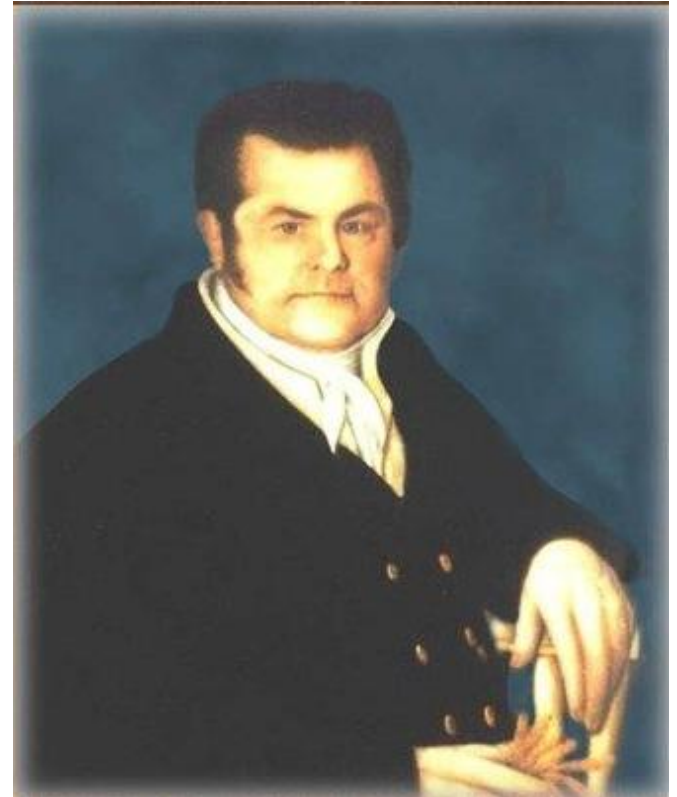
Goochland County, Virginia



St. Mary's County, Maryland



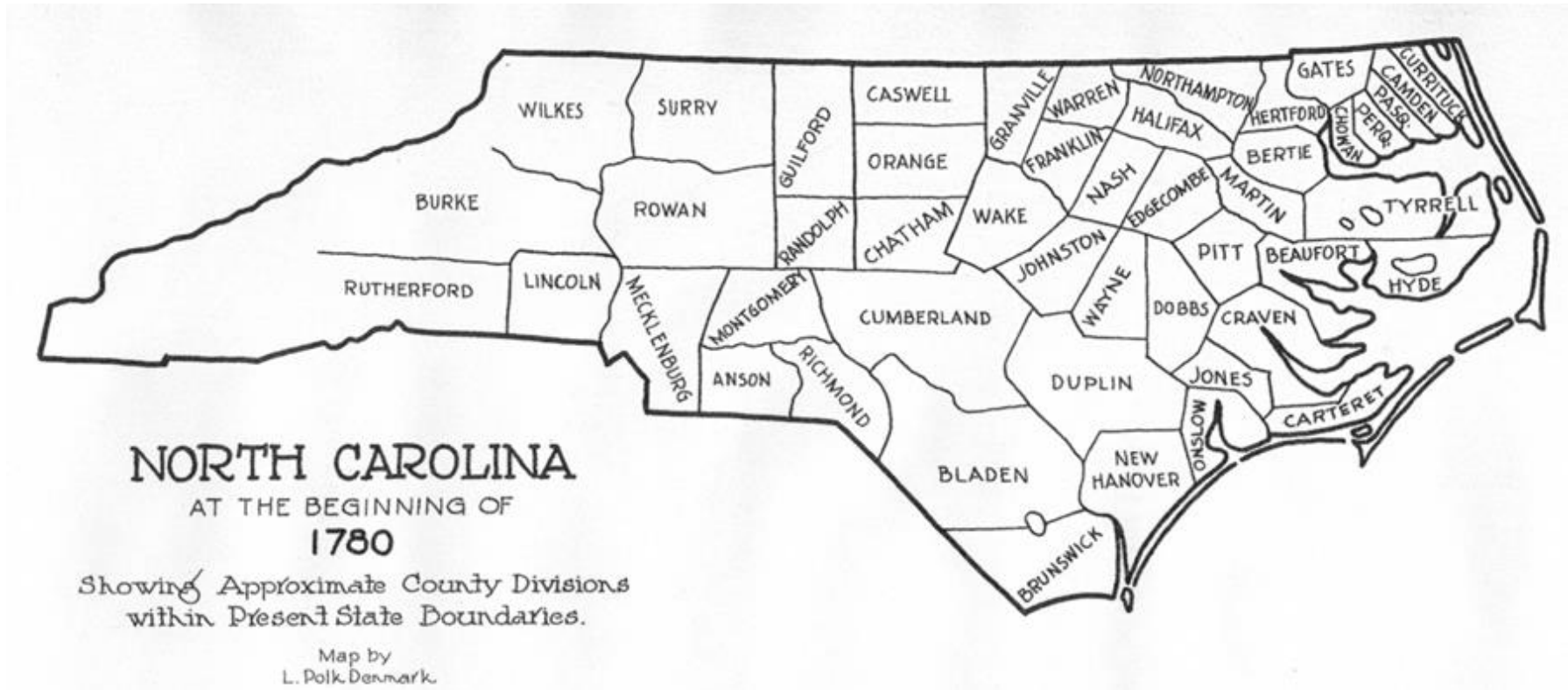
Two patriarchs whose progeny populated our area:
Cecil Calvert (Lord Baltimore) and Garrett Van Sweringen, who lived
in St. Mary's



Descendants of Garrett Van Swe(a)ringen include the early Beck, Conner, Stillwell and Hall families; Kansas Mary Jane Stallcup, who Wendy Meyers covered last month, descended from Swearingen, as did Robert L. Snelson who young Phoebe Carnes talked about last year (Joseph Harrison was his 2-g grandfather)

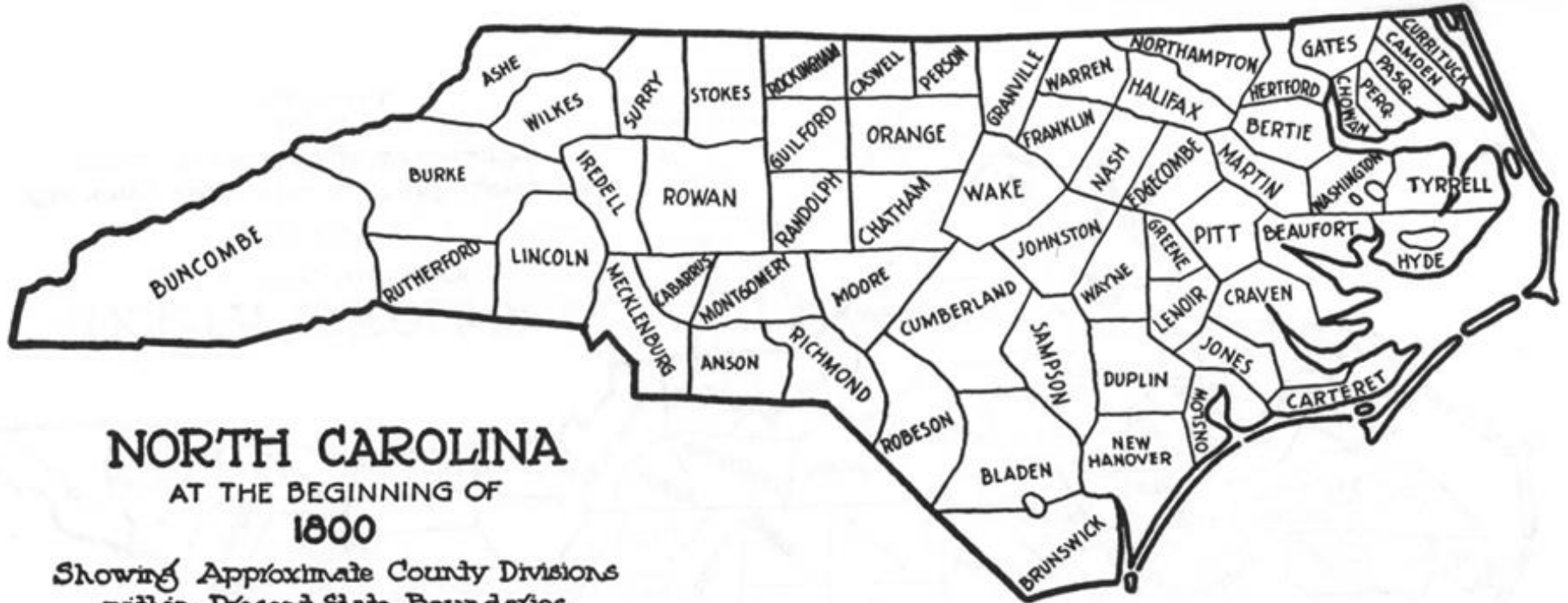
Travels

- Abraham and Nancy were married in Wilkes County in 1785. At that time, Wilkes County included what is now Ashe County



The Colvards apparently moved from Virginia to NC in 1784 - 1785. Union Baptist Church of Wilbar is on 262 acres they owned; it's about a third of the way from North Wilkesboro to Jefferson. (Source: Descendants of Virginia Calverts, Book XVII.)

In the 1800 census, they were listed in Burke County



NORTH CAROLINA
AT THE BEGINNING OF
1800

*Showing Approximate County Divisions
within Present State Boundaries.*

Map by
L. Polk Denmark

Early land purchases

In 1803, Felix Walker, then of Rutherford County, sold a 174 acre tract on both sides of the Oconaluftee to Abram Wiggins “of Buncombe County” for \$250 . Based on the description, I suspect that it was in the area around the museum down to the old school grounds. One of its boundaries was “the Indian line” – i.e., Meigs Line. That line remained the boundary until 1819.

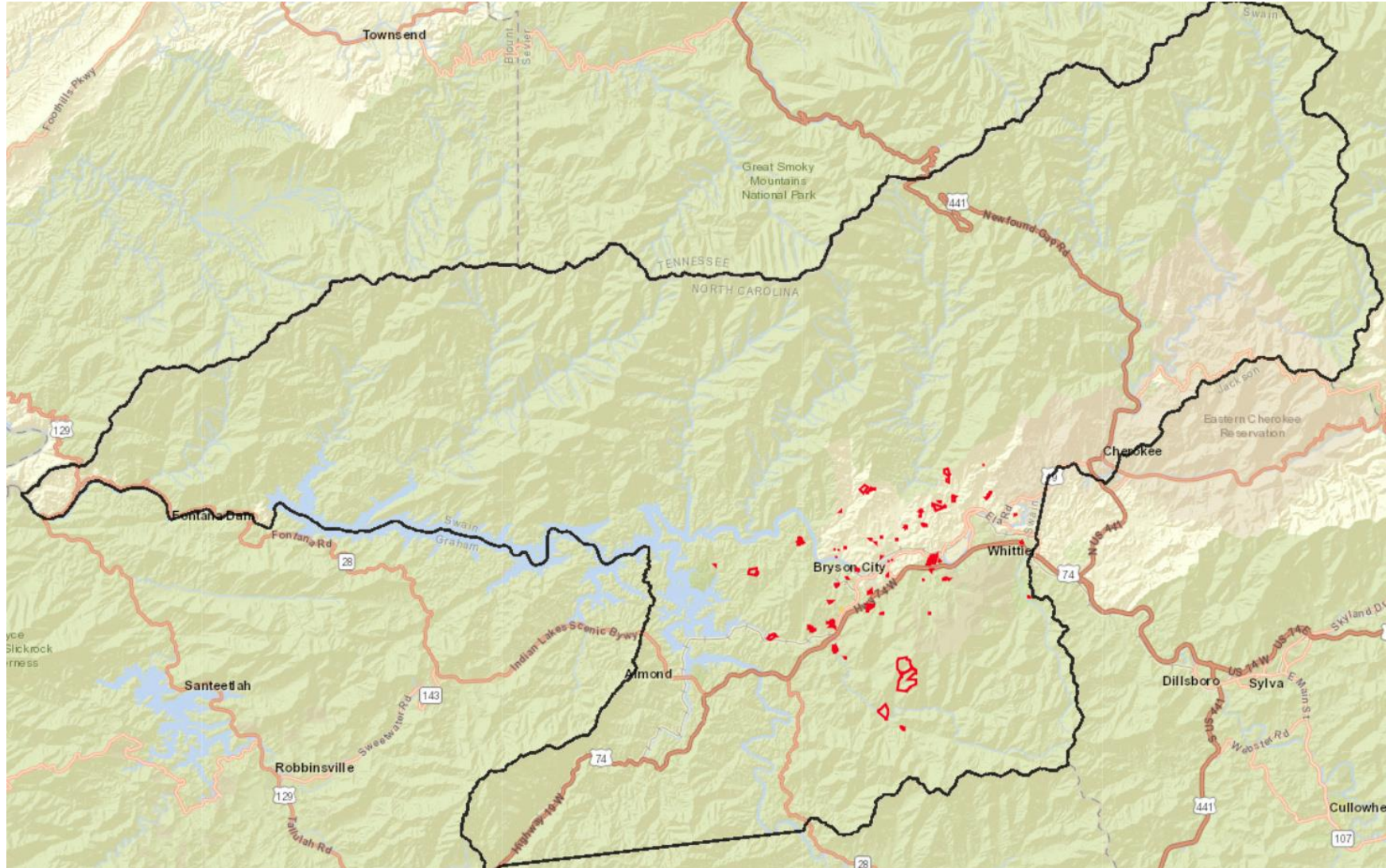
He sold the property to Thomas Love in 1809 for \$600.

Note that Haywood County was formed in 1808, so they may very well have already been living in the area when he originally purchased the land. If so, they’d have been among the first white settlers.

The family acquired property over an extended area

- Land grants:
 - Deep Creek
 - Betts Branch
 - Coopers Creek
 - Shepherds Creek
 - Alarka Creek
 - Tulula Creek in Graham County; Abraham, Jr acquired over 1250 acres there. His son, William Burton acquired over 1000 acres in Graham. A map of the area will be shown later.

There are 84 parcels of land in Swain County which are now under the name of Wiggins



Places in the Park

Sherrill Wiggins – head of Georges Branch of Indian Creek

Moses Wiggins – head of Hammer Branch of Deep Creek

Lee Wiggins – Juney Whank Branch

Wes Wiggins – Toms Branch

Mollie Shuler married Thad Beard of Indian Creek

Eva Viola Shuler Beck was born at the uppermost home on Indian Creek

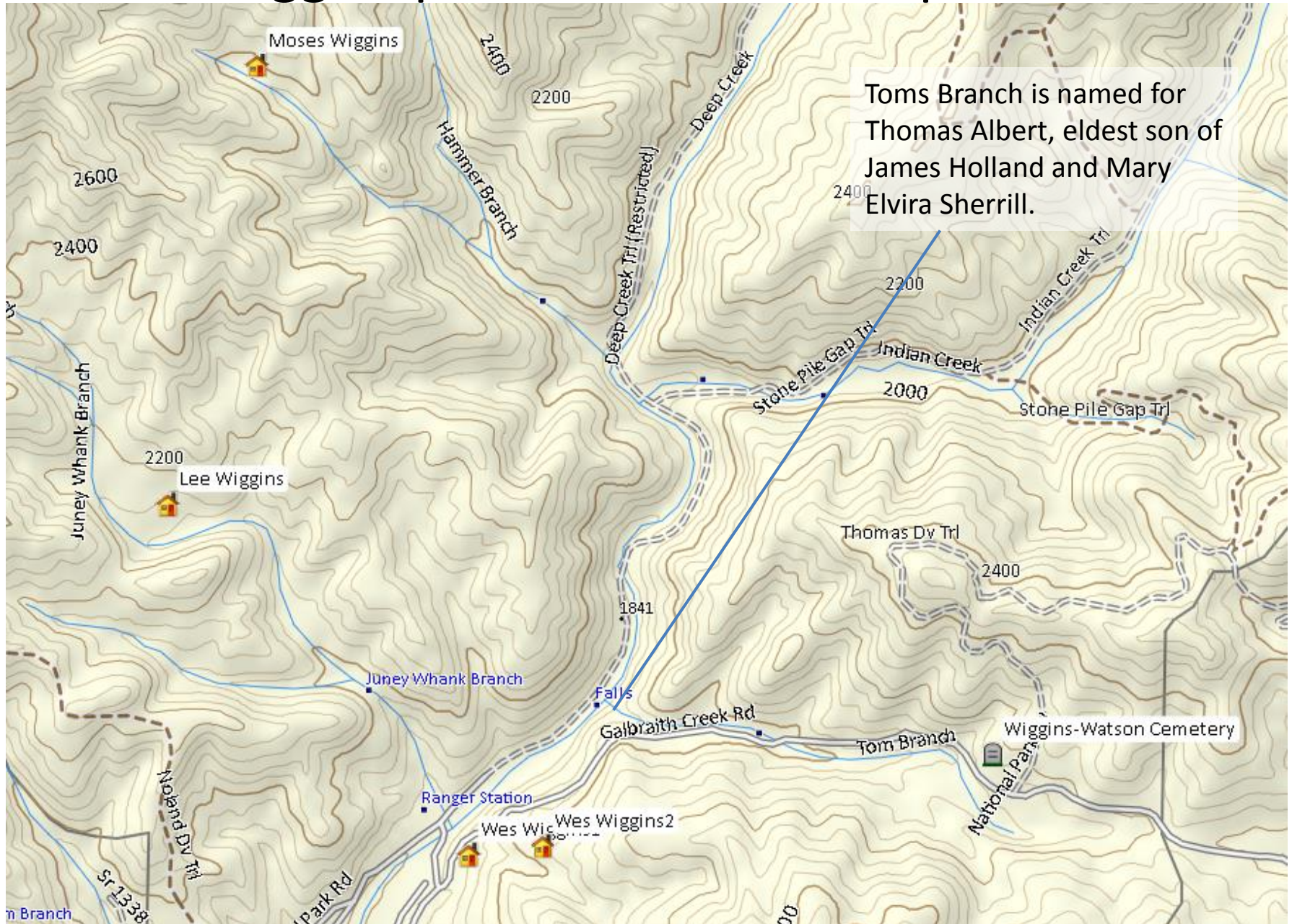
Jim Ute Wiggins places on Noland Creek and Mill Creek

Tiny Wiggins Kirkland on Chambers Creek (several of her children also had homes there)

David Emanuel Nichols (son of Nancy Shuler) was born on Goldmine Branch

Jack and Bland Wiggins Coburn owned over 10,000 acres of land in the Park; they lived at the mouth of Bone Valley Creek

Wiggins places on lower Deep Creek



Toms Branch is named for Thomas Albert, eldest son of James Holland and Mary Elvira Sherrill.

Over 40 descendants and spouses are buried in the Bryson City Cemetery



Abraham and Nancy's children 1: Sarah Wiggins (1795-1850) m. John Shuler (1784-1869)

34 or 35 Descendants and spouses in the BC Cemetery (those listed in red below)

- Son William Payton Shuler (1842-1926) m. Narcissus Enloe (1841-1897)
 - Mary “Mollie” Shuler (1867-1932) m. Thaddeus G. Beard (1868-1949).
 - Their children: Nancy Tella Beard Randall (1903-1960) and Richard P. Beard (1894-1924)
 - James F Shuler (1878-1957) m. Nora Laney (1887-1959)
 - Their daughter Eva Viola Shuler (1903-1991) m. Ralph Beck (1896-1959)
- Son John Franklin Shuler (1824-1908) m. Sophronia Shope (1828-1900)
 - Eliza Shuler (1858-1917) m. William H. Murphy (1854-1944)
 - Their daughter Eudora Murphy m. William D. Martin (1869-1931)
 - Their daughter Margaret S. Murphy (1882-1953) m. George A. Morris (1871-1956)
 - Their children Dora May Morris (1908-1910), Fannie Morris (1910-1918), and George R. Morris (1923-1960)

(continued) Abraham and Nancy's children 1: Sarah Wiggins (1795-1850) m. John Shuler (1784-1869)

- Daughter Nancy Shuler (1830-1922) m. Billy Nichols (1820-1907)
 - Their son David Emanuel Nichols (1874-1938) m. 1) Sarah Cansada Painter (1872-1926) and 2) Rosa Cole (1897-1937)
 - Their children: Nancy Nichols (1897-1925), William D. Nichols (1900-1968) m. Grace Millsaps (1904-1982)
 - Their grandson Roy B Keith (1921)
- Son Thomas J Shuler (1840-1928) m. Francis Caroline Sherrill (1844-1931)
 - Their son William T. Shuler (1877-1947)* m. Nancy Pallie Wilson (1882-1964)
- Daughter Elizabeth Ann Shuler (1827-1918) m. Jacob Shope (1830-1907)
 - Their daughter Martha Cordelia Shope (1872-1932) m. John Westley Almond (1869-1938)
 - Their children: Maude Almond (1905-1926)
 - Lura Mae Almond (1913-2006) m. Everett Thomas (1905-1955)
 - Lillie Almond (1892-1985) m. Vernon Quiett (1894-1944)
 - Their children Harry Edward Quiett (1920-1983), Thelma Quiett (1916-1917)
 - Their great-granddaughter Genna Gabriela Womick (2004)

* There is no grave marker for William T. Shuler, but his death certificate indicates burial in Bryson City. There is a marker for his wife, Pallie.

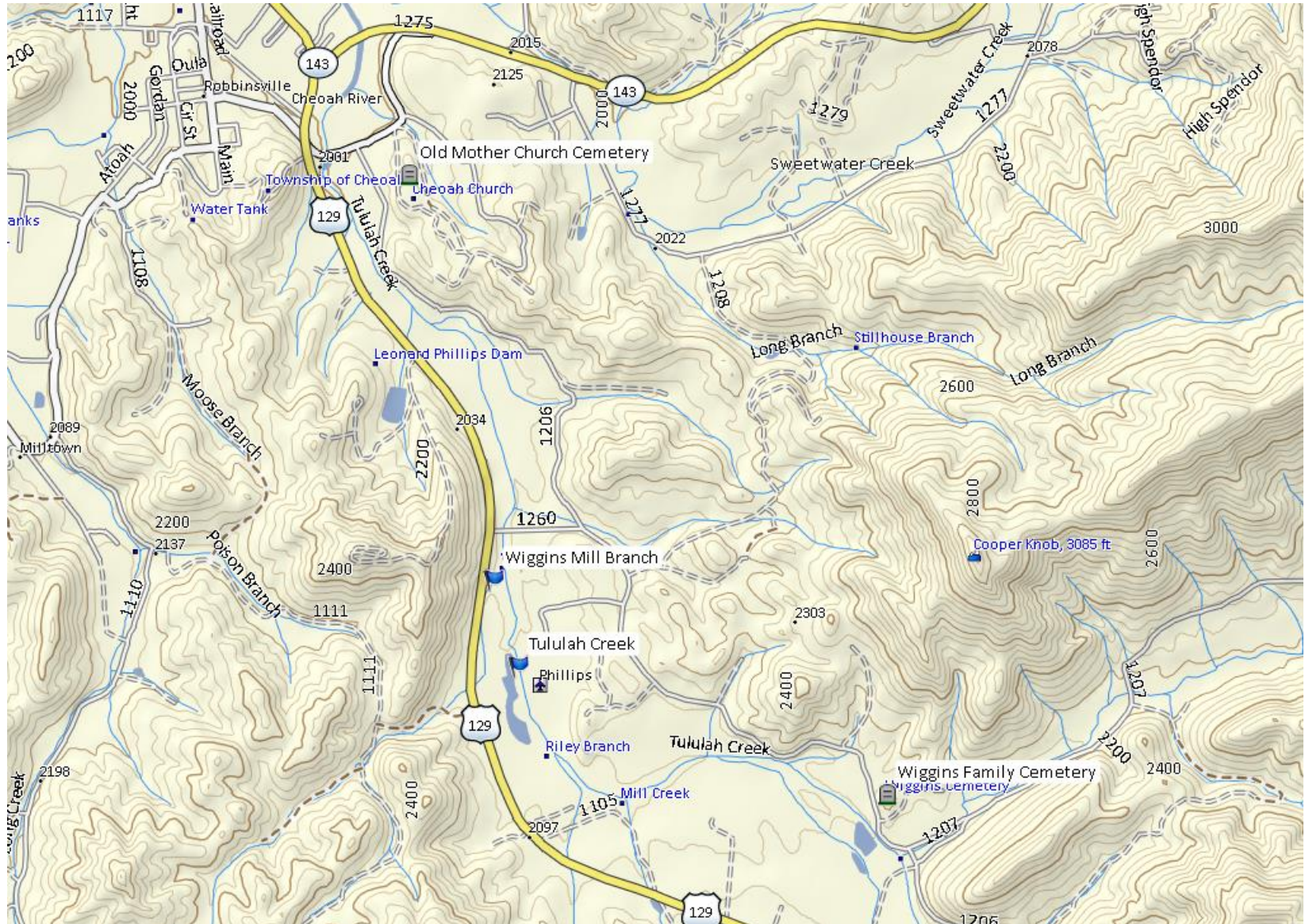
Abraham and Nancy's children 2: Abraham Wiggins, Jr (1800-1880) m. Margaret Deaver (1803-1888)

18 Descendants and spouses in the BC Cemetery (listed in red below)

- Son Joseph A Wiggins (1832-1920) m. Mary Jane Hayes (1846-1931)
 - Bland Ball Wiggins (1871-1934) m. Jack Coburn (1866-1934)
 - Will W. Wiggins (1877-1948) m. Estelle Roberts (1884-1962)
 - Their children: Mildred Wiggins (1905-1928); Aileen Wiggins (1907-1997) m. Frank Farrell (1901-1978); Eleanor Wiggins (1911-1975) m. William Heyward (1895-1972)
- Daughter Frances Eliza Wiggins (1837-1914) m. 1) John Davis (1835-1865) and 2) William F. Cooper (1845-1928)
 - Daughter Rowena Davis (1862-1952) m. Nathan B. Thompson (1854-1922)
 - Their son: Frank Roy Thompson (1889-1936)
 - Daughter Sanora Jane "Jennie" Cooper (1869-1963) m. William Erastus Angel (1871-1930)
 - Their children Clarence C. Angel (1900-1931) and Helen Angel (1902-1986)
 - Grandson of "Jennie": William Cooper Angel (1934-1974) [son of Paul Angel]

Note: Abraham, Margaret and many of their children and grandchildren are buried in either Old Mother Church Cemetery in Robbinsville or the Wiggins Cemetery just southeast of Robbinsville.

Tulula Creek area, just southeast of Robbinsville; note Wiggins Mill Branch, Wiggins Cemetery, Cooper Knob



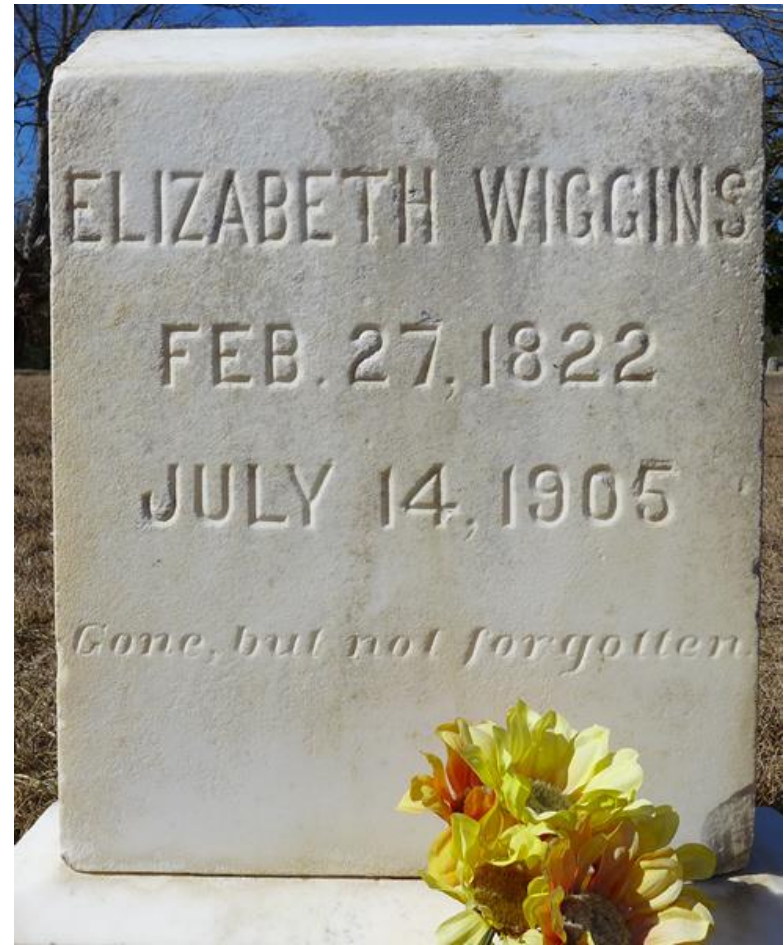
Family of Rev. Joseph Alexander Wiggins, son of Abraham, Jr
Seated: Katherine, Joe, Mary Jane Hayes
Standing: Gertrude, William W., Walter Brown, Elizabeth, Ira, Bland



Photo courtesy of FBCC member and Wiggins descendant Bryan Jackson; likely taken at the Wiggins home on Tulula Creek south of Robbinsville.



Fourth earliest marked birth date
in BC Cemetery



Seventh earliest marked birth date
in BC Cemetery

Abraham and Nancy's children 3: Jason Wiggins* (1818-1887) m. Elizabeth Rebecca Kirkland (1822-1905)

Themselves plus 4 Descendants and spouses in the BC Cemetery

- Jason & Elizabeth Rebecca are among the oldest folks buried in the BC Cemetery
 - Son Felix Hampton Wiggins (1847-1918) m. Margaret Jane Cline (1857-1932)
 - Daughter Ina Pearl Wiggins (1893-1968) m. Roy Oscar Martin (1892-1972)
 - Their daughter Inez Marie Martin (1916-2010) m. Harold DeBord (1922-2009)

* Jason may have been adopted.

Abraham and Nancy's children 4: James Holland Wiggins (1805-1870), Mary Elvira Sherrill (1812-1871)

- I know of no descendants in the BC Cemetery, but this side of the family had some characters, some of which the law took quite an interest in – and maybe you will, too.

Abraham Wiggins (1846-1898), son of James Holland Wiggins

ATTEMPT TO RESCUE STATE PRISONERS.
—On the 7th inst. the Sheriff of Swain county went with a posse of 4 men to arrest John Wiggins, a celebrated violator of the laws both Federal and State, as well as several others who were Wiggins' associates. The Sheriff made the arrest of Wiggins and two of his party, and on the way to confine the parties in Jail, Abe Wiggins rode gallantly up about dusk in the evening and demanded the release of his brother, John. The Sheriff refused, and Polk Gibson, of the Sheriff's posse, fell dead by a ball from a pistol fired by Abe Wiggins. After killing Gibson, Wiggins knocked down Thomas Conally with a pistol. A desperate fight ensued, but the Sheriff's party, being a little too strong for Abe Wiggins, his (Wiggin's) brother was not released from his hand-cuffs. Abe Wiggins fled.—*Asheville Journal*.

Articles from the Charlotte Democrat (July 18, 1879) and Asheville Weekly Citizen (September 4, 1879); Thomas Conally was likely Tom Conley, Methodist Church trustee buried in the BC Cemetery.

“A Proclamation by the Governor.

\$200 REWARD.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
RALEIGH, N. C., Aug. 6th, 1879.

Whereas, official information has been received at this Department that ABRAHAM WIGGINS, late of the county of Swain, stands charged with the murder of Jas. K. P. Gibson;

And Whereas, It appears that the said ABRAHAM WIGGINS has fled the State, or so conceals himself that the ordinary process of law cannot be served upon him;

Now, therefore, I Thomas J. Jarvis, Governor of the State of North Carolina, by virtue of authority vested in me by law, do issue this my proclamation offering a reward of TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS for the apprehension and delivery of the said Abraham Wiggins to the Sheriff of Swain county, at the courthouse in Charleston, and I do enjoin all officers of the State and all good citizens to assist in bringing said criminal to justice.

Done at our city of Raleigh, the sixth day of

L. S. August, 1879, and in the 104th year of American Independence, by the Governor.

(Signed,) THOS. J. JARVIS.

(Signed,) LEE S. OVERMAN,
Private Secretary.

DESCRIPTION.

Abraham Wiggins is about 30 years of age, 5 feet 10 inches or 11 inches high, weighs about 150 lbs., fair complexion, light hair worn long, light sandy colored moustache, a little beard on his chin, light blue eyes, face marked with scars from small-pox, wears about No 9 shoes, is slow spoken, has a dull, wolfish countenance.”

se 4-6w

This wasn't Abraham's first encounter with the law, as previous Superior Court records demonstrate.

Fall Term 1875

State vs } Bastardy
Elly Ann Burns }
vs }
Abram Wiggins }

The Defendant comes into and files bond with A.C. Wiggins as security in the sum of five hundred dollars to indemnify the County which bond is accepted by the Court. Whereupon it is considered by the Court that the Def^t pay the Costs of this proceeding
J. H. Wiggins Confesses judgment with the Defendant for the Costs to be taken by the Clerk.

State vs } A. & B.
vs }
Abram Wiggins }

The Defendant with J. H. Wiggins as security Confesses judgment for the fine and Costs in this case

Minute Docket Swain Superior Court Spring Term 1876.

State vs
Abraham Wiggins } A. & B. New Bill.
Capias to issue

State &
Elizabeth Hodge
~~Elizabeth Hodge~~
Abraham Wiggins } Bastardy
Capias to issue.

No 22 State and } Bastardy
Lucinda Bumgarner } The defendant Abraham
Abraham Wiggins } Wiggins comes into Court
and exhibits receipt of
the prosecutrix. and admits
the paternity of the Child

It is ordered and adjudged by the Court
that the defendant Abraham Wiggins pay
the Costs of this proceeding to be taxed by
the Clerk. The defendant Abraham Wiggins
with N.P. Hyde as security confesses judgment
for the Costs. and the said security N.P. Hyde
justifies before the Court.

And the defendant Abraham Wiggins
files Bond in the Sum of Five hundred
dollars to indemnify the County with
N.L. Morris and J.C. Cogdill as securities.
which bond is accepted by the Court.

This is likely Abraham's nephew, Lafayette "Fate" Wiggins

338

(1860-1954)

Fall Term 1880

No 9
Criminal
Docket

State
W.
Lafayette Wiggins

3 Larceny
3 Bill amended to forcible Dress pass
3 The defendant pleads Guilty
3 Judgment suspended on payment of the costs

No 13

State
W.
Lafayette Wiggins

3 Affray
3 The defendant comes into court
3 and pleads guilty,
3 Judgment suspended on payment of costs

No 17

State
W
Lafayette Wiggins
John Brendle

3 Disturbing Religious Congregation
3 The Defendant Lafayette Wiggins
3 Comes into court and pleads
3 Guilty Judgment. Suspended
3 on payment of the Costs.

Jim Uriah “Ute” Wiggins and Lily Burns



Jim Ute Wiggins (1850-1930)

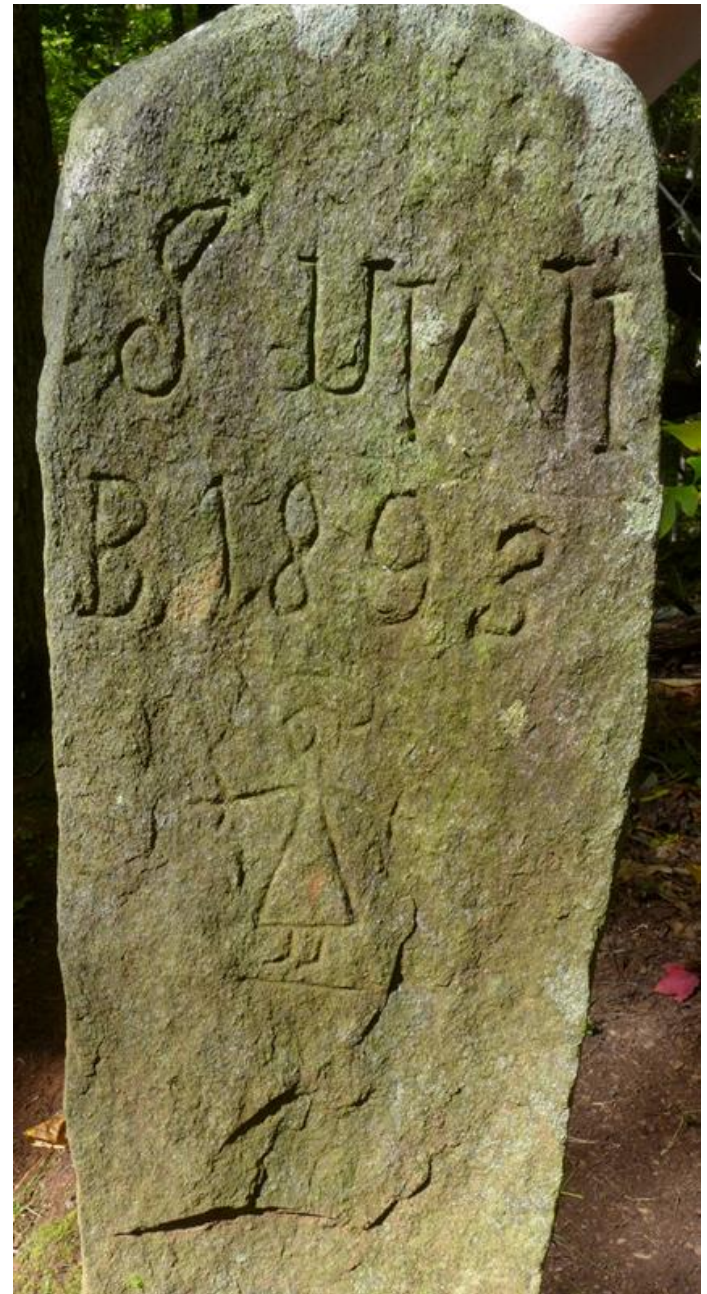


Lily Burns Wiggins (1861-1956)

Jim Ute and Lily Burns Wiggins settled on upper Noland Creek. A branch and ridge take his name.



Jim Ute engraved one of the most poignant stones in the Park



Canning demonstration at the Bill and Roxie McClure home on Chambers Creek



Sarah Palestine "Tiny" Wiggins Kirkland (1880-1974), daughter of Jim Ute and Lily Burns Wiggins

John Kirkland (1874-1959) at the home of John and Tiny, just above the confluence of North and West Chambers Creeks



Source: TVA Kodak Negatives, National Archives at Atlanta

Tiny Kirkland, midwife

Roaming The Mountains

At 88, Midwife Still Catching Babies

By JOHN PARRIS

BRYSON CITY — For 40 years, in rain and snow and dark of night, Sarah Palestine Kirkland has followed the stork wherever it flew.

"I'm eighty-eight years old now and I've been catching babies since I was eighteen," she said a few days ago. "I've delivered two this year. One just after Christmas and the other one just a little while back."

In her life work as a midwife, she has responded a thousand times and more to the beck and call of her sisters in travail.

"Law me," she said, "there's no telling how many babies



PARRIS

I've brought into the world. Why, just since I was licensed as a midwife in 1929 and started keeping records I've

delivered 614 babies. I don't know how many I delivered before then, but I reckon it would be that many more again."

Sarah Palestine Kirkland is a small woman, standing just a little over four feet tall. Her eyes are dark and sharp, and her face is creased with tiny wrinkles. But it's a sensitive, appealing face. Her tiny hands belie their age and their labors, and a gold band on the finger of the left one encompasses a lifetime's fidelity.

She was born over in the Smokies on Deep Creek and her grandmother Sally Burns, who also had a reputation as a

—Turn to Page Two-A

Asheville Citizen, June 15, 1969

Tiny Kirkland, midwife

At 88, Midwife Is Still Catching Babies

—Continued from Page One

granny woman, presided over her coming into the world.

"I got married when I was 16 years old," she said. "And at 32 I had been blessed with eight children, three girls and five boys. All of them except one were delivered by country women."

The years since have brought her 37 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren.

"I brought all of them into the world," she said. "The last

one only last year."

When Mrs. Kirkland was 48 years old she registered in Raleigh as a midwife.

"But I began catching babies just after I had my first little ones," she explained. "I delivered my first baby when I was 18 years old. We were living down on Chambers Creek. There was no doctor to be had, so I went. After that I had to go everywhere.

"It kept me busy. I went everywhere in the lower end of the county to deliver babies.

To Chambers Creek and Pilkey Creek and Cable Cove. I even come up here to Bryson City.

"I went in the snow when it was shoe-mouth deep. I went rain or shine and all kinds of night. There were hills to climb and creeks to cross, but I went. Never did I refuse a call, for I knew what it was when a mother came to her hour. Lives hung in the balance.

"And I thank the Lord that in all my years I never lost a child or a mother.

"In all my traveling to do my work I never rode a mule or a horse. It was walk all the time. Back in the old times I carried a lantern. Then they got flashlights. Many's the time I've walked four or five miles to some woman who was expecting and it would be a-raining or a-snowing.

"There was always somebody who'd come for me that would walk with me the first half of the trip, but seldom did anybody come back home with me after I'd seen to the mother and baby.

"There were plenty of bears back then, and wolves too. But they never bothered me. I wasn't one to be afraid. Besides, bears'll run from you. They're skittish of people.

"Back then we had hogs and sheep and cattle back in the mountains. We had to keep the sheep penned up at night so the wolves wouldn't get them."

She paused a moment, then bent down and picked up a box sitting at her feet.

"I've still got some of the things I had to carry on my missions," she said. "I use to have a little bag I toted them in but it wore out."

From the box she took a tiny set of hand scales used in weighing the baby, some bandage for belly bands, a handbrush and a cake of soap, a bottle of Lysol, a pair of scissors, and a spool of cotton cord tape for tying the umbilical cord.

"No," she said, "I never gave any of them any medicine even though many a woman had a hard time and was in pain. Only thing I ever gave them was some black-gum bark tea. And I gave them a little castor oil after the baby was born."

She recalled that some of the old granny women used to give an expectant mother a pinch of snuff to sniff to bring on labor pains.

"But I never was one for trying that," she said. "I al-

ways put my faith in the Lord that He would see them through And I always had a prayer before I went in to work.

"All the folks down there in the Smokies depended on me. They were young and had little or no money. Then they commenced to pay me \$2. Then they got up to \$3 and \$4. The last ones I delivered I got \$25. That's what the state allowed me to get."

Like many of the old folks, Mrs. Kirkland is convinced that the moon changing has something to do with the time a baby's born.

"I always thought they would go nine full moons," she said. "I never have seen it to fail."

The youngest mother she ever attended was 14 years old.

"And in my time," she said. "I've delivered eleven sets of twins and one set of triplets."

She was silent for a moment, then she shook her head.

"I reckon now," she said. "I've reached the end of my midwifing. Since I delivered my last baby a while back I've found I'm just not able to go any more. Sometimes you have to sit up all night and I just can't take it any more. So I'm retiring."

Tiny Kirkland, chimney builder

Loneliness A Stranger Around Hearthfire

LAUREL COVE — No matter what a mountain man's circumstances, loneliness is a stranger where a hearthfire weaves its magic.

For the companionable whisper of a burning log sets the mind at ease and bars the door against all the fretful things, the worrisome things.

The hearthfire is a sort of home altar.

And the hearth is a corner where sages sit, a place where memories come alive, a spot where dreams are born.

Sitting in its light, feeling its warmth, the family circle somehow seems to grow closer and hearts beat a little faster.

The whisper of burning logs give life to a body's thoughts, however poor they may

They conjure up memories and dreams.

They speak a truth as old as the hills — a hearthfire warms the heart.

Grandpa always said where there is hearthroom there is heartroom.

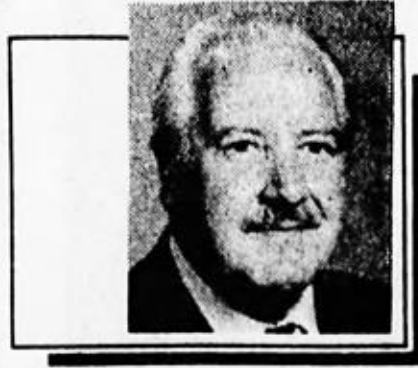
To many a mountain man a home is not a home unless there is a fireplace.

He's got to see his fire alive, blazing right before his eyes.

Besides, there's nothing like an open fire to bring on good talk or revive old tales and old memories.

But for an open fire of a winter night much of our storied past would be lost.

For old-timers somehow just can't seem to get in the mood for spinning



**John Parris
Roaming The Mountains**

tales unless the logs are blazing and talking back.

But before you can have a good fire, you must have a good chimney and a good fireplace.

There's a science to fireplace-and-chimney construction, and there's an adventure in fire-building.

In every mountain community in the old days there were good builders of fireplaces and chimneys, and there were builders who were no builders at all.

One of the best chimney-builders in the Great Smokies was Sarah Kirkland, now dead, who was born in 1880.

She built her first chimney at the age of 18 when she followed her husband into the wilds of Chambers Creek where he felled trees and grooved to-

gether their first home.

In her time she built dozens of chimneys, the last one when she was 68 years old. Some of the chimneys she built are still standing.

There are still good builders of fireplaces and chimneys, but they are few and far between.

The test of a good fireplace and chimney is how well the smoke is drawn away.

"A chimney is no good," my grandfather used to say, "unless it'll draw a hat right out of the room."

The top of the chimney should clear the roof of the house by three feet. It must clear the trees if they are nearby.

In the fireplace, the damper should be opened full width — if the fireplace has a damper — when woods such as pine, balsam, spruce, cedar or hemlock are burned.

For hardwoods like hickory and oak, birch or maple, the damper should be opened only an inch or two. This saves heat.

Every firebuilder has his own method. A method he considers the best for laying a fire.

But all agree that two logs will not keep each other alight after the kindling has been consumed.

Four logs are two many. They smother a young fire and make an old fire too hot.

But three logs are just right.

And as you experiment with various woods, you will really become charmed with a hearthfire.

You will discover that all woods do not burn alike.

Each wood gives forth its own flames and its own sparks.

The best wood of all for a hearthfire, the old ones argue, is hickory. It burns with a steadfast glow and throws off an even heat.

Next comes oak. It burns quietly until the fire strikes the heartwood, then it explodes in red hot, low-flying chunks, which means you should have a firescreen or never leave the fire unattended.

Grandpa always mixed hickory and oak when he kept a hearthfire. So does his grandson.

The elm is a weeping wood. It produces watery tears and sighing steam through its cracks.

Hemlock and spruce and balsam make a hot blaze. They set off a fireworks display of sparks.

Old-timers, or mountain folks who have grown up with a hearthfire, look to the smoke from their chimneys to tell them what the weather will be.

If it comes out of the chimney and pours down and holds to the ground, rain or snow is coming.

If it stands straight up, look for crisp weather.

But no matter how smoke comes out of the chimney, it is always a welcome sight.

For you know that inside there is a hearthfire and warmth.

And where there is a hearthfire weaving its magic, loneliness is a stranger.

John, Tiny Kirkland home place - 2013



Daffodils which lined
the walk persist

Recognize this painting?

Benjamin Harrison V



A bit more about Nancy Colvard/Calvert

- Her paternal grandfather was first cousin of Benjamin Harrison V, signer of the Declaration of Independence. His son, William Henry Harrison and great-grandson, Benjamin Harrison, would become presidents of the United States.
- So all you Wiggins folks are related to blue bloods of the first rank.
- Others in the Harrison family ended up in WNC; Joseph Harrison, who served in the Revolutionary War, is buried at Newfound Baptist Church Cemetery in Leicester. He is my 4-g grandfather and the 6-g grandfather of FBCC member Kelly Carnes.
- William Holland Thomas's mother Temperance was a sister to Nancy Colvard, so all of Abraham's and Nancy's children were first cousins to Will Thomas.