

THE GRAVES

One line of Graves who migrated from Spotsylvania County, Virginia, to Caswell County, North Carolina, and on to Georgia.

John Graves, Sr. (est.1665-aft.1737)
of King & Queen County, Virginia

Thomas Graves (1691-1768)
of Spotsylvania County, Virginia

John Graves (c.1719-1792)
of Caswell County, North Carolina

Gen. Azariah Graves (1768-1850)
of Caswell County, North Carolina

John Williams Graves (1792-1847)
of Clarke (Oconee) County & Newton County, Georgia

John Hinton Graves (1825-1868)
of Floyd County, Georgia

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Chapter 1

John Graves, Sr. (est.1665-aft.1737) of King & Queen County

Introduction

John Card Graves¹, Mrs. P. W. Hidden,² and Louise Graves³ laid the foundation for this family's genealogy. During their time, however, it was thought that we descended from Captain Thomas Graves, who arrived in Virginia in 1608. Thanks to a DNA project by the Graves Family Association,⁴ we now know that that is not true. Our Graves have been found to be related to the Greaves of Northamptonshire/Buckinghamshire, England, and are not related to the other Graves families in colonial Virginia.⁵ Regardless, we are deeply indebted to these three and their contribution to the Graves of Spotsylvania County, VA, Caswell County, NC, and Georgia. Recently, Robert L. Atteberry and Carmen J. Rosado have suggested that John Sr. was the son of the William and Ann Graves, used as headrights in 1658, when "Peter Foard" and "Edward Racle" patented land in what is now King & Queen County; their lengthy analysis is well worth reading.⁶ The following narrative, however, presents John Graves, Sr. as the immigrant, based on two family traditions mentioned below. With the loss of so many Virginia records, we may never know for sure.

John Sr., if indeed the immigrant, arrived in Virginia almost a century after the colony was founded. He settled in King & Queen County where he operated the ferry across the upper York River. The few surviving records show him associated with known mariners and important men in his area. He lived a long life, spending his last years with his sons in Spotsylvania County.

John was probably born in the 1660s. According to modern DNA, his place of birth was likely Northamptonshire or Buckinghamshire, in south central England. He married and immigrated with his family around 1700, based on two family traditions: 1.) the bible record of Solomon Graves (1784-1861), the great-grandson of John's son Thomas Graves (b.1691), through his son John Graves of Caswell County, North Carolina, which states: "It seems that about the year 1700 Joseph and Thomas Graves immigrated to America from England, being brothers. They both settled in the state of Virginia in the County of Spotsylvania, each of them married in that State, and from them a

¹ John Card Graves, *Captain Thomas Graves: the Graves family of eastern Virginia, 1608-2005, generations 1 through 14*, 1905.

² Mrs. P. W. Hiden, *The Graves Family of Spotsylvania County*, Tyler's Quarterly, Vol. 19 (1938) 176-185, 242-251; Vol.20 54-55.

³ Louise Graves, *Graves - Twelve Generations (Some Descendants and Kin (1608-1977))*, 1977.

⁴ Graves Family Association [Gravesfa.org] Gen. 270, John Graves (1).

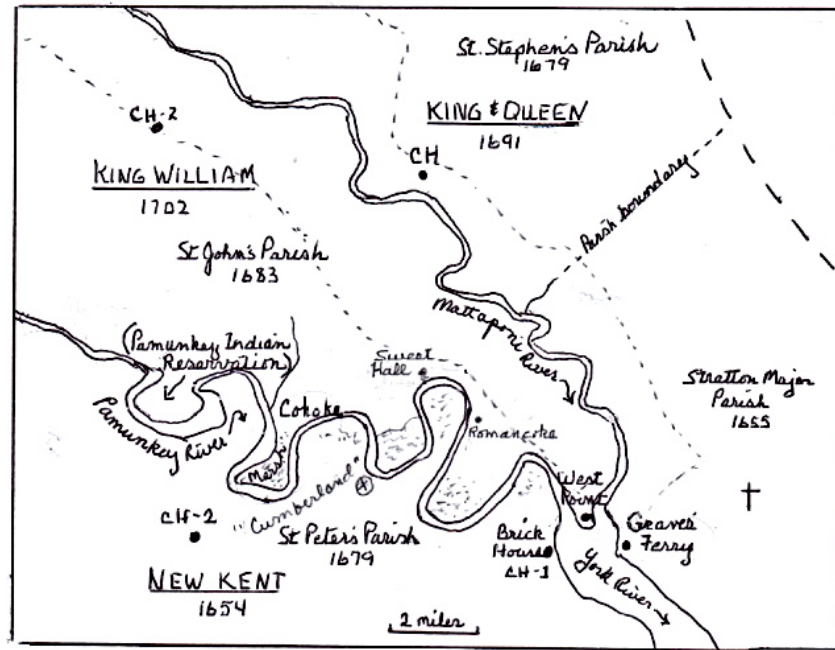
⁵ Graves.org. Gen. 47. <http://www.gravesfa.org/gen047.htm> The Shalstone/Padbury area.

⁶ Robert L. Atteberry and Carmen J. Rosado, *John Graves of Northamptonshire, Revisited*, 2011. <http://www.gravesfa.org/gen270-Atteberry.htm>

numerous connection has descended,”⁷ and 2.) the records of descendants of Edmund Graves (b.c. 1762), a grandson of Thomas Graves (b.1691) through his son David of Shelby County, Kentucky, which says: “According to family legend he was a descendant of one of three Graves brothers who came to Virginia from England in the 1600's.”⁸ John Jr. and Thomas are proven brothers,⁹ adding Joseph makes three. The father, logically, would be a John Graves, Sr.

John settled up the York River in Stratton Major, the lower parish of King & Queen County,¹⁰ where he operated the ferry across the river. Edward Guthrie was running the business in 1702, when the General Assembly, recently moved from Jamestown to Williamsburg, enacted a bill to regulate the ferries. The price was one shilling for a man and eighteen pence for a man and a horse for each of the three routes: 1.) from the Brick House in New Kent County to Guthrie’s in King & Queen County; 2.) from Guthrie’s to West Point in King William County; and 3.) from West Point to the Brick House. The next regulations were in 1705. By then the name “Guthrie” had been replaced with “Graves.”¹¹

The records for King & Queen County have not survived, so we have no record of his purchasing his land. We know he did not patent land, for his name does not show up



in the fairly complete land patent records. That he didn’t go through the process of finding, surveying and petitioning for land supports the theory that he arrived in the colony as an adult and purchased his home. An order book and a deed book, covering the years 1702-1706, have survived in neighboring King William County. From these books we learn that John was at the King William courthouse on December 20, 1703, witnessing a power of attorney between two mariners, Francis Wells of London to Well’s “beloved friend” Capt. George Braxton of Virginia. The document allowed Braxton to collect Well’s debts. Also there as witnesses were two of the counties most prominent men, John West and Henry Fox.^{12 13}

Five months later, on May 6, 1704, John “of Stratton Major Parish, King & Queen County” was back in King William County acquiring from John Claiborne, for 3,500 lbs of tobacco, 100 acres on the Pamunkey River, part of a huge tract of land granted to William Claiborne (1587-1676) some forty years earlier. Edward Guthrie, Francis Griggs, and Henry Collison were there as witnesses. The property line ran up the Pamunkey to a place called White Oak Landing, inland northeast to a

⁷ Solomon Graves Bible, North Carolina State Archives, Graves Family Bible 400.1.1.957. Gravesfa.org, Gen. 270, Appendix.

⁸ Gravesfa.org, Gen. 270: Edmund Graves (166).

⁹ In his will Thomas refers to John Jr’s son Joseph as ‘nephew.’

¹⁰ King William Deed Book 1:195: “John Graves of Stratton Major Parish, King and Queen County”

¹¹ William Waller Hening, *The Statutes at Large; being a collection of all the Laws of Virginia from the first session of the legislature in the year 1619*, Vol.3:219-221, 471,2. The transcribed records spelled Guthrie’s “Gutteryes”.

¹² King William Book 1 (1702-07):150.

¹³ Henry Fox’s line by DNA said to link back to Missenden, Buckinghamshire.

corner hickory near Robert Cocks's plantation, then back to the beginning.¹⁴ With the meanders of the river shifting over the 300 years, finding the exact site is difficult. On today's map there is a White Oak Landing on the south (New Kent) side of the river (the x on the map) near the former large Cumberland Plantation owned by the Littlepage family; however, the land on the north side is now marsh land, a large estuarine reserve. There is a White's Landing Road upstream from Cohoke, toward the Pamunkey Indian Reservation, but, more likely the landing was somewhere in between, possibly the landing John Claiborne used for his plantation, "Cohoke." Claiborne was in process of selling off his land.¹⁵ Since 100 acres is only around a quarter of a mile square, this was not a tobacco plantation. Most likely it had commercial value related to the landing. There is no record of a ferry operating here at this time.

We also find John in the 1704 Virginia quit rent rolls. The list gives two John Graves in King & Queen County and one with a quarter in King William County. A quarter means that the person had land there but did not live there, which fits our John and his purchased of 100 acres in King William in 1704. The other John Graves is listed next to a Robert Graves so is undoubtedly a son of Thomas Graves (est.1630s-by1691) of Timberneck Creek, Abington Parish, Gloucester County, on the lower York River, who is known to have had a son John (b.1670s) and Robert (b.1682/3). A DNA study by the Graves Family Association confirms that the Timberneck Graves are not related to our line, nor is the line of Ralph Graves of York County. Thus, the other John Graves in King & Queen County was our John, with a 'quarter' in King William.

On January 23, 1705/6, John "of Stratton Major Parish, King & Queen County" was once more in King William County, this time purchasing from John Claiborne 400 acres of marsh land known as "Cohoke Sunken Ground."¹⁶ This land was of limited value, for it was priced at only 1000 lbs of tobacco (2.5 lbs/acre), versus the 3500 lbs of tobacco (35 lbs/acre) for the land at the landing. There is a triangular neck called "Cohoke Marsh" on today's map, but more likely, if the land was suited to grazing livestock or other uses, it was probably closer to the landing. The deed mentions that the tract adjoined land Richard Littlepage had recently bought from Claiborne. There to witness the purchase were (son) John Graves, Jr., John Holloway¹⁷ and Robert Napier.

A few months later, on March 20, 1706, John assigned the 100 acres at White Oak Landing to his son John Graves, Jr.¹⁸ Here the King William County books, that began in 1702, ends. There are no more records in either King William or King & Queen counties. Twenty-three years later, in 1729, a John Graves, Jr., of St. Stephens Parish, King & Queen County, swapped 100 (no land description given) in King William for land in Spotsylvania County. (We know this because the Spotsylvania records have survived.) The 100 acres is assumed to be the land at White Oak landing. Assumptions are not facts, so this is a major weakness in this genealogy. However, since nothing has been found to disqualify the theory and other facts, as they play out, appear to support it, we continue with the theory that John was the father of the Graves brother of Spotsylvania County.

According to county historians, John's home at the ferry was called "Brookshire." At the ferry site on a map they created, they put: "Brookshire estate of the Graves and Dudleys. From here ran

¹⁴ King William Deed Book 1:195.

¹⁵ Paul Phelps, *Mary Claiborne and John Whitworth*, 2011. Genealogy.com:Whitworth.

¹⁶ King William Deed Book 1:296.

¹⁷ Lyon Gardiner Tyler, *Encyclopedia of Virginia Biography*, 2: John Holloway (1665-1734) was a lawyer who had come to Virginia around the same time as our John, and had also settled in King & Queen County. A few years later he was elected to represent King & Queen County in the House of Burgess and later moved to Williamsburg where he quickly rose in prominence, served as colonial treasurer and speaker of the Assembly and major of Williamsburg. He married Elizabeth the widow of Secretary of State Dr. William Cocks.

¹⁸ King William Deed Book 1:342.

a ferry across the York River.”¹⁹ They also mention that it was the site of one of the famous race courses in the colonial period.²⁰

Ferry owners were appointed and licensed by the county. They had to put up a surety of £20 to assure that the boats were kept up. The job brought several perks. They were free of county levies and public services, such as the muster, maintaining highways, etc., and were allowed to keep an ordinary, without paying any fees, and no other person was allowed to keep an ordinary within five miles.²¹ Thus it is likely that John was also an innkeeper.

John was obviously not wealthy, for his sons were not formally educated; John Jr. and Thomas signed documents with a mark. The sons did have good business sense, for they both prospered.

His wife’s name may have been Eleanor, for an Ellinor Graves was used in 1702 as a headright by John Buckner (Jr.), when Buckner patented 3,080 acres on Herring Creek on Pamunkey Neck, the land between the Pamunkey and Mattaponi rivers.²² Son Thomas chose the name Eleanor for his eldest daughter.

We know he operated the ferry for many years, because his name became attached to it, as seen below. Thus, he could still have been alive in 1729, when a John Graves, Jr., of St Stephens Parish, King & Queen County, acquired land in Spotsylvania County, and this John Jr. could have been his son. We next find an elderly John Graves in Spotsylvania in 1737 petitioning the county court to be free from paying taxes “being very ancient and unable to get his living by his labor.”²³ There are no other John Graves of that age in that area at that time, to complicate things.

The date of John’s death is not known. He left no will, so he had apparently distributed his estate before his death.

Robert Willis²⁴ took over the ferry, followed by John Waller,²⁵ who advertised in the *Virginia Gazette*, March 30, 1739, page 4:

“The Ferry commonly called Graves’s Ferry, over York River, near West-Point, formerly kept by Robert Willis, is now kept by the subscriber: Any Gentlemen that have occasion to cross the same, may depend on a speedy passage, with 4 able Hands and a good Boat: Where likewise may be had good Entertainment for Man and Horse. John Waller.”²⁶

In 1745 the ferry was being operated by the Dudleys.²⁷

Son **John Graves, Jr.** appears to have married prior to 1713 a daughter of **William Smith**. The only wife mentioned in the records is **Frances**, whose name first appears in a deed in 1745. According to the records of the House of Burgess, William Smith of King William County petitioned for a bill to make good the title on entailed land he sold to John Graves, Jr. on November 16, 1713.²⁸ Entailed land was to pass down only to lineal descendants. Was this the land in St.

¹⁹ *A True Relation of the History of King and Queen County in Virginia 1607-1790*, p.11 #13. Published by the County Committee in Connection with the Celebration of Virginia’s 350th Anniversary at Jamestown, 1957.

²⁰ *A True Relation...*, 6.

²¹ Hening, 221, 473.

²² Nell Marion Nugent, *Cavaliers and Pioneers*, Volume 3, 58.

²³ Spotsylvania County Order Book (1730-38):501.

²⁴ Willis, Byrd Charles & Richard Henry Willis, *A Sketch of the Willis Family of Virginia*. [The Willis family came from Oxfordshire, England, which borders Buckinghamshire to the south. They arrived in Virginia around 1690 when a nephew Thomas Willis inherited his uncle Thomas Willis’ land in Gloucester County just south east of King & Queen County. This Thomas Willis had two known sons about the ages of John’s sons: Francis Willis (1690-) who settled in Gloucester Co. and Henry Willis (c.1691/2-1740) who founded Fredericksburg in Spotsylvania County.]

²⁵ Andrew Lewis Riffe, *The Wallers of Endfield, King William County, Virginia*. [The Wallers came in the 1690s from Newport Pagnell, Buckinghamshire. John Waller (1673-1754) settled on the Mattaponi side of Pamunkey Neck in what became King William County, from which he served in the House of Burgess. In the early 1720s he moved to Spotsylvania County and established a plantation about six miles from son Thomas Graves. John Waller, Jr. (c.1701-1776) married in 1730 Agnes Carr. He appears to be the John who ran the ferry. He later settled in Spotsylvania County.]

²⁶ <http://research.history.org/DigitalLibrary/VirginiaGazette/VGImagePopup.cfm?ID=539&Res=HI>

²⁷ Hening, Vol.6, 16. <https://archive.org/stream/statutesatlargeb06virg#page/n5/mode/2up>

²⁸ Gravesfa.org: Journal of the House of Burgess, 1717-1726, 56.

Stephen's Parish, King & Queen County, on which John Jr. was living in 1729? St. Stephen's Parish is on the north side of the Mattaponi River between Harquake Creek (about four miles south of the courthouse) west to present Highway 360. In 1729, in his mid-40s, John Jr. acquired from Thomas Gambrill 200 acres in Spotsylvania County, adjoining John Downer's land, in exchange for 100 acres John owned in King William County,²⁹ presumably the land at White Oak landing. He then moved to Spotsylvania. He increased his land holdings in 1737 by buying 400 acres in Orange (Culpeper) County in the Great Fork of the Rappahannock River³⁰ and in 1745 he gave 200 acres to his son Thomas.³¹ Years later, in 1760, he enlarged his homestead by buying 338 adjoining acres on Gun Stock Branch;³² he deeded 238 acres to his son John Jr. and 100 acres to son Joseph.³³ His son John Jr. married Mary McGehee and lived first on the north branch of Great Rocky Creek in Louisa County; he returned to Spotsylvania when his father deeded him the land.³⁴ ³⁵ Son Joseph married Franky Coleman³⁶ and in 1764 received the 200-acre homestead.³⁷ In 1772 John gifted Negroes and chattel to him.³⁸ There is no will on record for John; apparently there was no need for one. His children were Elizabeth (m. Wm Sandidge), Thomas, James, Joseph, John, Ann (m. John McGehee), and Frances (m. Joseph Bush).

Son **Thomas Graves** married c.1715 **Mary Perkins**, possibly the daughter of John Perkins of New Kent (Hanover) County, and may have settled first at Cohoke or up the Pamunkey in the vicinity of Littlepage's ferry, relatively near the Davenport family. Tradition says he married second c.1720 **Ann Davenport**. By 1726, he had moved up the North Anna branch of the Pamunkey to John Downer's plantation, in recently created Spotsylvania County. He purchased the land from Downer in 1731. [See his section.]

Son **Joseph Graves**, apparently the youngest son, per the Graves Family Association web-site, was of Orange County, Virginia, just north of Spotsylvania County, in 1746, when he bought land. In August of 1756 his daughter Mary was old enough to testify for him. Before 1771 he migrated to North Carolina setting on Roaring Creek in Rowan (Surry/Wilkes) County. He died in 1774 leaving a widow named **Sarah** and daughter Mary 'Cleaveland.'³⁹ Per Wikipedia,⁴⁰ his wife was Sarah Bunyard.⁴¹ His daughter Mary Graves, b.c. 1738, married around 1758-60 Benjamin Cleveland of Orange County, Virginia. This helps explain why brother Thomas' great-grandson Solomon Graves (1784-1861) recorded in his bible that Joseph and Thomas Graves were brothers. These families knew each other. Solomon married Mary Cleveland Franklin b.1794, daughter of Jesse Franklin (1760-1824) & Meeky Perkins (1765-1834) of Orange County, Virginia, who migrated to Surry County, North Carolina, around the time of the Revolution. Joseph's brother Thomas Graves' married first Mary Perkins. Benjamin Cleveland (1738-1806), per Wikipedia, moved from Orange County, Virginia, to North Carolina in 1769, his home, Roundabout, was near present-day Ronda in eastern Wilkes County; he was a hunter, trapper, farmer, carpenter and surveyor, and a colonel in the

²⁹ Spotsylvania County Deed Book A:405.

³⁰ Orange County Deed Book 1-2:173-177.

³¹ Orange County Deed Book 10: 12.

³² Spotsylvania County Deed Book E:710.

³³ Crozier, William Armstrong, *Virginia County Records*, Volume 1, Spotsylvania County 1721-1800, 227.

³⁴ Louisa County Deed Book E:219: 1786 father-in-law Samuel McGehee.

³⁵ Louisa County Deed Book A:277,8: in 1747 bot 200a in Louisa; C: 73: in 1671 sold 200a in Louisa. Crozier, 250: 1766 was 'of Spots.' when father deeded to him some slaves.

³⁶ Crozier, 242: "said Joseph Graves's wife Franky, daughter of John Coleman, deceased."

³⁷ Spotsylvania County Deed Book F:563. Crozier, p.242.

³⁸ Crozier, 296.

³⁹ Gravesfa.org. Gen.270: Mr. Louis F. McDonald, 4250 Lansdowne Dr. NW, Atlanta, GA and Mr. Brice M. Claggett, Holly Hill, P.O. Box 86, Friendship, MD.

⁴⁰ Wikipedia: Benjamin Cleveland.

⁴¹ Wikipedia: Joseph Martin (general). No source given. Not mentioned in Benjamin Cleveland site.

Revolutionary War. Another Wikipedia site,⁴² say that Mary's second cousin, was Susannah Graves the second wife of Gen. Joseph Martin of Henry County, Virginia, and the daughter of William & Mary (unk) Graves, son of Thomas Graves and Anna Davenport.

John most likely had daughters as well, who married into the surrounding plantations. If so, their identities are now lost to us.

Children:

1. John Graves, Jr (est.1685-aft.1772) m. Frances _____
2. Thomas Graves (1691-1769) m.1 Mary Perkins, m.2 Ann (Davenport?). [See his section.]
3. Joseph Graves (est.1700-1774) m. Sarah (Bunyard?)

Daughters?

⁴² Wikipedia: Joseph Martin (general): footnote: Colyer Meriwether, *Publications of the Southern History Association*, Vol.7, 198. John Redd, *General Joseph Martin*, in (books.google) [Refers to Susannah's father but not by name. Does name brother John Graves and Spotsylvania County.]

Chapter 2

Thomas Graves (1691-1768)

of Spotsylvania County, Virginia
[with an addendum on the Perkins family]

Thomas, our first proven Graves ancestor, signed documents with his “T” mark, so did not receive a formal education; however, he did well and was later referred to as “Mr.” and “Gentleman.” He was part of the migration from the tidewater up the North Anna branch of the Pamunkey River to Spotsylvania County on Virginia’s frontier. Partnering with prominent men, he acquired a tract of land at a ford/ferry in present Albemarle County, but sold, choosing to remain on his Spotsylvania plantation. He purchased additional land across the North Anna River in Louisa County and up upstream in Orange County. He lived a long, prosperous life and bore sixteen children who lived to adulthood. John Card Graves,¹ Mrs. P. W. Hidden,² and Louise Graves³ laid the foundation for the family genealogy; their material is now embedding in the Graves Family Association website.⁴ A recent study by Robert L. Atteberry and Carmen J. Rosado has revealed that Mary was the other daughter by his first wife.⁵ Thomas’ second wife is believed to be Ann Davenport. John Scott Davenport has compiled a helpful collection of deeds and documents on the Davenports and related families, which includes the Graves family.^{6 7}

Thomas Graves was born in 1691. We know this, because on November 10, 1752, he stated that he was 61, when he gave a deposition in the Caroline County Court on behalf of his deceased neighbor James Taylor.⁸ His place of birth appears to have been in Buckinghamshire, England, or neighboring Northamptonshire, based on modern DNA which links this line with the Greaves family of that region.⁹ Per the bible record of his great-grandson, Solomon Graves (b.1784), he came to America from England about the year 1700,¹⁰ thus when he was a young boy.

¹ John Card Graves, *Captain Thomas Graves: the Graves family of eastern Virginia, 1608-2005, generations 1 through 14*, 1905.

² Mrs. P. W. Hiden, *The Graves Family of Spotsylvania County*, Tyler’s Quarterly, Vol. 19 (1938) 176-185, 242-251; Vol.20 54-55.

³ Louis Graves, *Graves - Twelve Generations (Some Descendants and Kin (1608-1977))*, 1977.

⁴ Graves Family Association [Gravesfa.org]. Gen. 270, Thomas Graves (3): as of April 2016 still lists the 2nd daughter as Louisa.

⁵ Robert L. Atteberry and Carmen J. Rosado, *John Graves of Northamptonshire, Revisited*, 2011. <http://www.gravesfa.org/gen270-Atteberry.htm>

⁶ John Scott Davenport & Judy G. Russell, *Five Generations Identified from the Pamunkey Family Patriarch Davis Davenport of King William County Virginia*. 2005.

⁷ John Scott Davenport, compiler, *The Pamunkey Davenport Papers*, 2009, on CD. [Davenport CD] (This is a valuable contribution. I independently explored the Spotsylvania records, but not the Louisa and Orange records, so am grateful for their work. For the convenience of the reader, all references will identify the page number in the Davenport CD.)

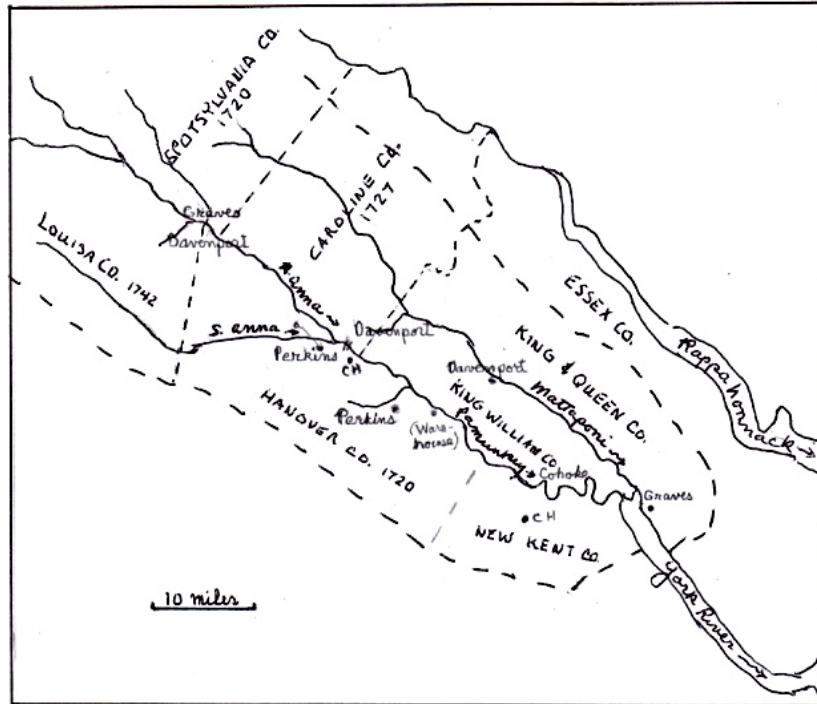
⁸ Caroline County Order Book 1746-54, 362.

⁹ Gravesfa.org, Gen. 270: *John Graves/Greaves Northamptonshire, England & Virginia*.

¹⁰ Gravesfa.org, <http://www.gravesfa.org/gen169app6.htm> Solomon Graves bible: “It seems that about the year 1700 Joseph and Thomas Graves migrated to America from England, being brothers they both settled into the state of Virginia in the County of Spotsylvania....Thomas intermarried with one Mary Perkins and had by this marriage only three children, two daughters and a son and his wife died. He then married a second time and by this marriage had many sons.” Solomon < Barzillai < John of Caswell Co., NC < Thomas Graves of Spotsylvania, Co. VA.

Thomas' name first appears in the Virginia records in 1728. He was then 37, married to his second wife, and living in Spotsylvania County, whose records have survived. His early years were in King William and King & Queen counties, whose records are lost. Consequently that part of his story can only be surmised.

If the son of John Sr., Thomas spent his teenage years in King & Queen County, at his father's home at the ferry on the York River near the mouth of the Mattaponi River. He may have been put in charge of his father's 400 acres at "Cohoke Sunken Ground" in neighboring King William County, especially if the land was good for grazing livestock. His older brother John, Jr., lived nearby on 100 acres at White Oak Landing.¹¹ The two tracts were originally purchased by their father from John Claiborne, who was selling off his the large "Cohoke" plantation. Across the Pamunkey River, in New Kent County, was the large Littlepage plantation, "Cumberland."



According to the bible record of Solomon Graves (b. 1784), Thomas married **Mary Perkins** and had two daughters and a son. The couple most likely married around 1715, when Thomas was 24. Mary may have been the granddaughter of **John Perkins, Sr.** (est.1640-1708/11) of New Kent (Hanover) County, but no documents survive to prove the theory. We find two Perkins families listed on the 1704 rent rolls in the York River watershed area, John Perkins and William Perkins, both in New Kent.¹² William Perkins and wife Elizabeth had children baptized in St. Peter's Parish between 1699 and 1711.¹³ He is not found in the St. Paul's register, so they lived in present New Kent County, across from the Cohoke area. The more likely candidate is John Perkins. His name is not found in the St. Peter's parish records. We find him in the St. Paul's Parish records, living "below Crump's Creek," thus a few miles up stream from Page's Warehouse (Hanover town) in that portion of New Kent which was set off in 1704 as St. Paul's Parish and what became Hanover County in 1720. John's only known son, **John Perkins, Jr.** (est.1670-aft.1763?), was the right age to be Mary's father. Jr. relocated up the Pamunkey in the vicinity of present-day Ashland, near the Kimbroughs, not far from Littlepage's ferry. [See Perkins section below.]

Richard Littlepage of Cumberland, had received a large patent of 4,000 acres at the confluence of the North and South Anna and established a ferry where a major Indian path crossed the Pamunkey. Since there is no mention of Thomas in the New Kent road records, which have

¹¹ King William Deed Book 1:195, 296.

¹² The other Perkins on the 1704 rent rolls were Henry Perkins in Essex Co., Charles Perkins in James City Co., and William Perkins in Norfolk Co.

¹³ *The Parish Register of Saint Peter's, New Kent County, VA, 1680-1787*, 1904, 30, 31: to William Perkins: Ann, bapt. 12 Mar. 1699/0 (by wife Eliz); Anne bapt. 4 May 1701; William bapt. 25 Aug 1706; Anne born Jan 26 1708/9; Judith born Dec 15, 1711, bapt. Jan 27, 1711/12.

survived, he did not settle on the south side of the river. Thus, he lived on the King William side, where the records are lost. Although people could still patent land, Thomas did not, so, unless he stayed in the Cohoke area, he may have moved up the Pamunkey, purchasing a small plantation, or was somehow involved with Littlepage's ferry. With the loss of the records, we will never know. Living inland from Littlepage's ferry were the Davenport brothers, mentioned below.

In 1720, the western portion of New Kent was set off as Hanover County and a court house was built a mile south of Littlepage's ferry, where the trail (US301) crossed Mechumps Creek (the site of the present courthouse). Mary's (presumed) father, John Perkins, was appointed the county's first sheriff. At the time, Perkins was acquiring land further up the river in the fork of the South and North Anna.

Around 1720 Mary died, leaving Thomas with two daughters and a son, Eleanor, Mary and John.

He married next Ann, his widow and the mother of the remaining children. Per Solomon Graves (b.1784)'s bible: "Thomas married a second time and by this marriage had many sons." Ann is thought by both Davenport and Graves researchers to be **Ann Davenport**, daughter of **Davis Davenport** (c.1660-<1735), although no official document has been found to prove this theory. Her name, Ann, first appears in the records in 1755, when she and Thomas begin selling property.¹⁴ In 1772 she deeded a slave to "her granddaughter" Barbara Pettus, implying a blood relationship going back to the birth of daughter Susannah in the 1730s.¹⁵

Ann Davenport, per John Scott Davenport, was born on her father's plantation at Davenport Landing (Horse Landing), about 20 miles up the Mattaponi River, on the south side, a mile or so from the future site of the King William County courthouse. He acquired the land before 1696. Ann's older brother **Martin Davenport** (c.1682-1735) referred to his father Davis Davenport in his will. Martin is listed on the 1704 King William quit rents with 100 acres. His property was about twenty miles inland to the west, up what was then known as Davenport's Path. The property was near the present Caroline County line on Upper Herring Creek, which flows east into the Mattaponi. Nearby was Littlepage's ferry on the Pamunkey. [This area became St. Margaret's Parish in 1721, when Spotsylvania County was set off, and later, in 1744, St. David's Parish, Caroline County.] According to a few surviving records, Martin owned part of the 1704 patent of 400 acres to Samuel Williams and William Lea. Martin sold 50 acres of that patent in 1721 to Thomas Johnson, Gent., of St. John's Parish, King William County. The Samuel Williams/William Lea patent was described as being on Upper Herring Creek, on the north side of Machacomico Swamp, by Perry's Swamp, a little below Davenport's Path. [Samuel had a son Rice Williams.]¹⁶ ¹⁷ Brothers **Thomas Davenport** (c.1688-1775) and **Richard Davenport** (c.1694-1776) settled nearby in what became Caroline County. The Hickmans and Abneys, who later become Thomas Graves' neighbors in Spotsylvania County, originally lived in this area. Prior to 1725, Ann's brother Martin moved up the North Anna branch of the Pamunkey to 400 acres on the south side at an important river crossing in newly created Hanover County (near where the Louisa County line would be drawn twenty years later.)¹⁸ Thomas and Ann appear to have moved up the North Anna around this time, settling on John Downer's land in Spotsylvania County, on the north bank of the river, about a mile upstream from

¹⁴ Orange County Deed Book12: 110 (1760).

¹⁵ Crozier, William Armstrong, *Virginia County Records, Spotsylvania County 1721-1800*, 1978, 296.

¹⁶ Caroline County Order Book 1732-1740: 27, 10 August 1732 Action of detinue (the wrongful taking of property). Rice Williams administrator of Samuel Williams agt. John Downer, Jr. Jury found for the defendant. William Pickett, foreman.

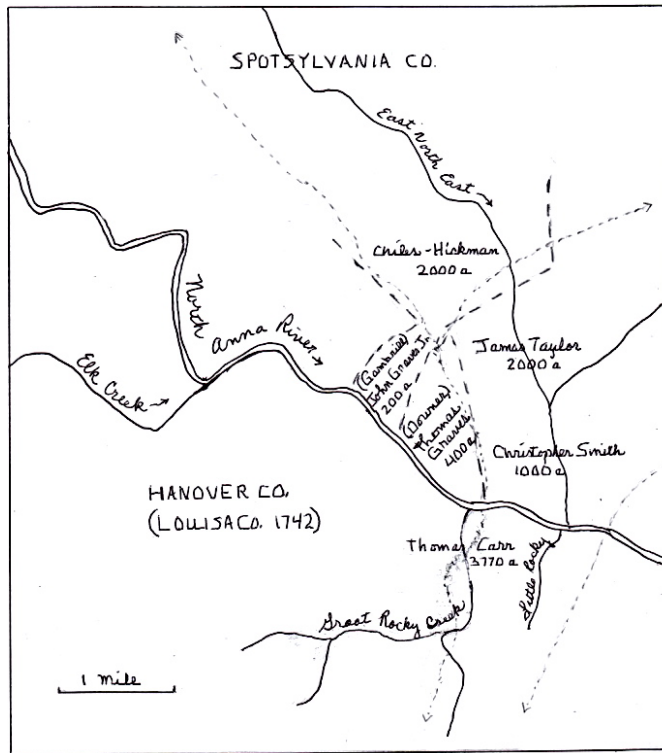
¹⁷ William Lea may be the grandfather of son John's wife Isabell Lea, daughter of James Lea.

¹⁸ In 1714 Thomas Davenport (c.1688-1775) received a patent to 311 acres inland adjoining Col. Edward Hill, Samuel Williams and Mr. Thomas Jones, Mr. David Anderson. The land was near his father-in-law Capt. Thomas Terry, whose land was at Devil's Woodyard Swamp and Wolfpit branch. [Woodyard Swamp is the network of tributaries of Mill Creek which enters the Pamunkey about one mile northeast of Littlepages Bridge where US301 crosses the Pamunkey.

Martin Davenport's crossing.¹⁹ The river there is now covered by Lake Anna. In Thomas' era the river was referred to as the Pamunkey. For clarity, it will be referred to here as the North Anna.

Thomas is first mentioned in the records on June 4, 1728, when, as "Mr. Thomas Graves," he was appointed overseer of the road "from East North East bridge to John Key's mill path."²⁰ [Caution: another Thomas Graves of Spotsylvania County purchased 170 acres on Paines Branch near present Thornburg in 1726, but he was still living there, married to a wife named Eleanor, when he sold in 1758, so is clearly not our Thomas.²¹]

Spotsylvania County, named in honor of then-governor Alexander Spotswood, was created in 1720, the same year Hanover County was set off from New Kent, mentioned above. The area was then Virginia's frontier. The county included the westernmost portions of three counties, King William, King & Queen, and Essex, and extended west to the Shenandoah Valley. It was intended as a defense against the Indians. The court house and the St. George Parish church were located, at first, at Fort Germana, the home of the Governor. Caroline County, named for the wife of King George II, was set off east of Spotsylvania, seven years later, in 1727, from the western parts of the same three counties. Most of Caroline County's records are lost.



John Downer lived in St. Margaret's Parish, Caroline County; he apparently had Thomas overseeing this frontier property. The land had been surveyed as early as 1723, because his line is mentioned in a patent issued to neighbor Henry Webber (Chiles/Hickman),²² but Downer did not received his official patent until June 16, 1727.²³ There appears to be no close family connection. Downer (1683-1733) was too young to be Ann's father and his wife is said to have been Ann Williams, so was not a sister of either Ann or Thomas.

Thomas purchased Downer's 400 acres "now in said Graves' possession" on March 2, 1730/1, for £20.²⁴

Two years earlier, in 1729, his brother John Graves, Jr., while still living in St. Stephen's Parish, King & Queen County, acquired the adjoining upstream plantation. On May 24, 1729, he negotiated with Thomas Gambrell of St. Margaret's Parish, Caroline County, for Gambrell's 200-acres on the North Anna in exchange for 100 acres in King William County (location not given, but presumed to be the land at White Oak landing).²⁵ Gambrell's 200 acres bordered Gun Stock Swamp and John

¹⁹ Davenport, John Scott, *The Pamunkey Davenports*. A well documented family history, but provides no solid evidence that Ann married Thomas.

²⁰ Nathaniel Mason Pawlett, *Spotsylvania County Road Order Book 1722-1734*, 1985, revised 2004 (on line): 4 June 1728 O.S., page 233.

²¹ Spotsylvania County Deed Book: E:422: (Both this Thomas and ours signed deeds with a similar looking T mark).

²² Davenport CD, 134: Virginia Patents 11:291: mentioned in patent of 2,000 acres to Henry Webber.

²³ Davenport CD, 150: Virginia Patents 13:93.

²⁴ Spotsylvania County Deed Book B:141,2. Crozier, p.116.

²⁵ Spotsylvania County Deed Book A:405 Crozier, p.108. This is the one weak link this theory. With the loss of records, there is no way we can confirm that these 100 acres were at White Oak Landing.

Davis' land on the west and John Downer's tract on the east. The deed was witnessed by John Gambrill and Thomas "Crimbo." Kimbrough would soon marry Thomas' eldest daughter Eleanor.

The boundary of Thomas' plantation ran from Capt. Christopher Smith's upper corner on the north side of the North Anna, then north along Smith's and James Taylor's line to a small hickory in a valley, then to Thomas Gambrill's corner oak on a level, then along his line down to the river, then down the river to the beginning.²⁶ The boundary description appears to be from the original survey, taken before Henry Webber's 1723 patent (Chiles-Hickman land) was issued. A later survey may have indicated the existence of the road through the property. In 1724 Thomas Carr of King William (Caroline) County, who owned the land across the river in Hanover (Louisa) County, petitioned the Spotsylvania Court for a road starting at a place somewhere upstream from the mouth of East North East Creek; it was to head to the Po River then north to Germanna (the county seat). The 1887 U. S. Geological Survey map, drawn before the dam was built, shows a road in that location.²⁷ Thomas' plantation, thus, was in a strategic location. Later deeds mention a grist mill and canoe landing.

The map gives the general location of Thomas' plantation; the hilly terrain makes plotting the boundaries difficult. The course of the river is taken from the 1887 survey map.

Thomas' home was probably on the high ground near the road. Here they raised their sixteen children: Eleanor, Mary, John, Thomas, Elizabeth, Solomon, Louisa, William, Rice, Nancy, Susannah, Richard, Jonathan, Rosanna, David, and Robert.

In November of 1731, as "Mr. Thomas Graves," he was paid for repairing the East North East Bridge. A year later, he requested to be discharged from road duty and on February 6, 1732/3 (neighbor) Henry Chiles was appointed in his place, "he to use all male tithables from the bridge to the path to keep said road in good repair." Thomas was once again appointed to be an overseer in 1734.²⁸

The settlers in the southern portion of the county tried, but failed, to find a more central location for their courthouse. Instead, in 1732, the seat of government was moved from Fort Germanna to Fredericksburg, founded in 1728 at the head of navigation of the Rappahannock River. [The town was named for King George II's eldest son Frederick, Prince of Wales. Frederick died before his father and the throne went to Frederick's son, George III.]

Planters living on the south side of the county had to ford the branches of the upper Mattaponi (the Matta, Po and Ni) to attend court. For their tobacco, they preferred to roll their hogshead forty or so miles to Aylett, King William County, the port at the head of navigation of the Mattaponi River. The route followed the high ground between the Pamunkey and the Mattaponi, thus probably followed present day routes 738, 658, 652, 30 and 608. Many of the settlers on the North Anna had originally lived in that area.

At the warehouse, the tobacco was graded and weighed, and the planter receive a stamped receipt called a certificate, which served as cash. By the 1730s, Scottish merchants had stores at these ports, along the fall line, and the smaller planter could sell his crop and purchase farm tools, clothing, and other item. Ocean-going ships were able to travel this far up the rivers. Upstream, bateaux or canoes were used.

²⁶ Spotsylvania County Deed Book B:141,2 beg: at Capt Christopher Smiths upper corner red oak by a great parcel stones on the north side of the Northanna, thence north along the said Smiths and James Taylor's 400 poles to small hickory in James Taylor's line in a valley thence 77W122 to Thomas Gambrill corner black oak on a level thence along his line S20W376 to sd Gambrill's 2 corner red oaks south north side the North Anna & lastly down the northanna several courses to beg. Granted unto sd John Downer by patented Jun 16 1727, with all houses, buildings, barnes, etc."

²⁷ <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/topo/virginia/txu-pclmaps-topo-va-spotsylvania-1887.jpg> (The location of Arnolds Creek off the ENE shown on the 1887 differs from the terrain view on present-day Google. maps.)

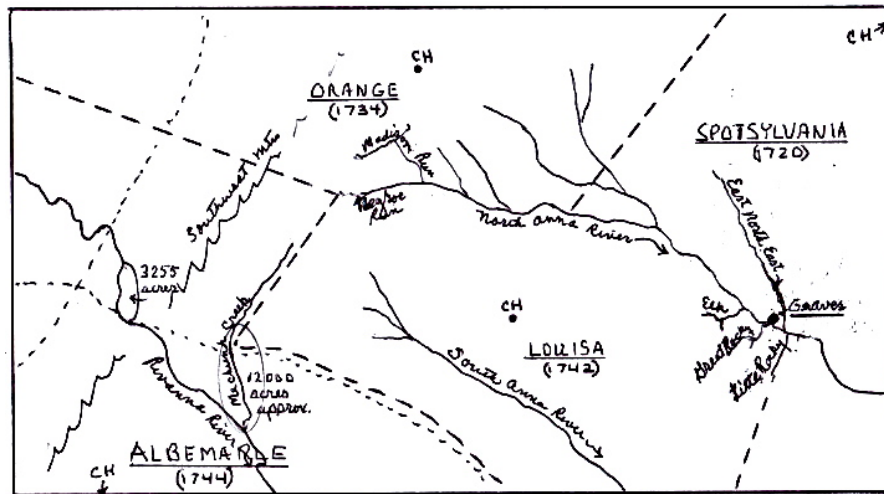
²⁸ Pawlett, *Road Order Book 1722-1734*, 59 (OS:92), 74 (OS:182), 87 (OS:320).

Thomas also did business in Hanover Courthouse. His name appears in a surviving account book (1742) of Francis Jerdone, an agent for the London merchants Buchanan and Hamilton.²⁹ Jerdone's home plantation was a present Bumpass, Louisa County; his partner, George Pottie, is mentioned in Thomas' estate papers.

Thomas served on the jury several times and the parish records show that he was paid 300 pounds of tobacco for burying a poor woman, but he never served on the vestry. He may not have fully supported the church. Years later, when his widow died, the preacher at her funeral was a Baptist.

The first to marry was eldest daughter, **Eleanor Graves** who, while still in her teens, sometime in the early 1730s, married **Thomas Kimbrough**, son of John and Sarah (Bradley) Kimbrough of Hanover County.³⁰ The couple settled across the river from the Grave's plantation in the area of Hanover which became Louisa County in 1742. From 1745 to 1746 Kimbrough was in charge of the highway from Harris' Branch to the North Fork of Elk Creek.³¹ The Elk enters the North Anna about a mile upstream from Great Rocky Creek. They later relocated up the river in the Negro Run and Mountain Run area of Orange County.³²

Daughter **Mary Graves**, around age 20, married c.1739 **Valentine Bostick** of Hanover County, thanks to research by Robert Atteberry and Carmen



Rosado in 2011.³³ By 1744 the Bosticks were living up the river in Orange County where he was allowed to keep an ordinary at his house.³⁴

Thomas, originally, had other plans. Prior to 1729, before he purchased the Downer property, he partnered up with Richard and Edwin Hickman, Dannet and Abraham Abney, and John Key. They found 12,000 acres in Goochland County (Albemarle/Fluvanna) County about ten miles east of present Charlottesville, had it surveyed and applied for a patent. The property, roughly two by eight miles, was on the Rivanna, a branch of the James River, at the mouth of Mechunk Creek at what is today Union Mills, north of Palmyra. They received the patent to the land in 1729.³⁵ This was still wilderness. The property appears to have extended north up the old Indian trail from the tidewater to the Shenandoah Valley (roughly US 250 and I-64). A few years later, in 1733 the trail was surveyed by Peter Jefferson (father of the future president) and in the 1740s became known as the 'Three Notch'd' or 'Three Chopt' Road. The trail crossed the Mechunk, probably through the

²⁹ Davenport CD, 209: Edgar MacDonald, *A Merchants Account Book 1743-1744*, *Magazine of Virginia Genealogy* V34 3:187-202. (Debts owing on purchased from ship's cargo.)

³⁰ Gravesfa.org. Gen 270, Eleanor Graves (12).

³¹ Louisa Road Orders 1742-48:155,232.

³² Orange County Deed Book 13:32.

³³ Robert L. Atteberry and Carmen J. Rosado, *John Graves of Northamptonshire, Revisited*, 2011. <http://www.gravesfa.org/gen270-Atteberry.htm>

³⁴ Jane Bostick Horn, *Valentine Bostick: Orange County Road Order 1734-1749*, 105.

³⁵ Hiden178: Exec Journals of Council 4:402.

northern portion of their property. To the west were the Southwest Mountains, a low range, the highest point being only 1,500 ft. This patent, however, apparently did not hold up. There is no further record of it and in 1731 we find Thomas purchasing the Downer property.

Thomas, however, continued to plan. In 1734 with Capt. Edwin Hickman, Capt. Joseph Smith and Jonathan Clark, he received a patent for 3,255 acres further up the Rivanna, in a gap in the Southwest Mountains where Charlottesville is today.^{36 37} A major north-south Indian path (US29) crossed the Rivanna nearby. The four men had the land divided up and mapped. Their tract started below where present I-64 crosses the Rivanna and extended up the river about 4 miles north and inland to the east about a mile. Hickman's portion was at the southern end, then Clark's at Pantops, then Graves' at Lynches ford (across from present Pen Park), and Smith's at the north end. Capt. Edwin Hickman moved up around 1740, around the time his wife's sons divided up their 2000 acres inheritance on the East North East; he died around 1769 leaving his 820-acre plantation to his sons William and Thomas Hickman. Jonathan Clark's 820 acres, where Rte 20 joins US250, was officially confirmed by Edwin Hickman and Thomas Graves in a 1748 deed to his sons John and Benjamin Clark, of Drysdale Parish, Caroline County;³⁸ their land was acquired by Peter Jefferson.³⁹ Joseph Smith sold his land to John Key, whose family settled the area still called Key West today. Thomas' portion was strategically located at Charles Lynch's ford, which county historians believe may have been a ferry site as well.⁴⁰ Thomas, however, decided to sell the property and stay in Spotsylvania.

In 1738, Thomas, described as "Thomas Graves, Gent., of St. George's Parish, Spotsylvania County," sold his 819 acres of the 3255-acre patent to Nicholas Meriwether of Goochland (Albemarle) County for £80.⁴¹ John Key witnessed the document. Meriwether, then in his 70s, had moved up to the area in 1735, being one of the first men to do so. In his will, written in 1743, he left to his grandson Nicholas Lewis, son of Mr. Robert Lewis, his 1020-acre plantation on Moores Creek and 119 acres, part of a great tract bought of Thomas Graves. He left the remaining 700 acres bought of Thomas Graves to grandson Richard Meriwether, son of William Meriwether.⁴² [Years later Thomas ask Francis Meriwether, apparently Nicholas' grandson through his son David, who lived in Louisa County, to witness his will.]

Thomas, in the meantime, increased his landholding on the North Anna River. Thomas Carr, Gent., of St. Margaret's Parish, Caroline County,⁴³ was selling off his large tract of 3,770 acres across the river, and Thomas, on September 3, 1734, purchased 493 acres from him for £45.⁴⁴ It was a long narrow tract that ran from the river up the east side of Great Rocky Creek several miles. The land was possibly used for grazing cattle and horses and growing grain for his mill. Most of the property is now under Lake Anna.

Nine years later, on January 17, 1742/3, he purchased for £75 a grist mill and 300 acres on the headwaters of the North Anna in Orange County from John Cook of Orange. The tract, part of a larger tract originally patented to Richard Phillips, lay on both sides of the river, thus probably on Negro Run which borders both Orange and Louisa counties; the mill was on the north side.⁴⁵ Most likely he put his eldest son, John, age c.23, in charge.

At some point (date unknown) he bought 400 acres in Orange County (location unknown) from John Clark and Joseph Fisher and conveyed it to son William, as seen below.

³⁶ Goochland County Deed Book 3:161.

³⁷ Edgar Woods, *Albemarle County in Virginia*, 1901, 4.

³⁸ Albemarle County Deed Book 1:25 patent of May 25 1734, 480.

³⁹ <https://www.monticello.org/site/research-and-collections/pantops>

⁴⁰ Woods, 258.

⁴¹ Goochland Deed Book 3:183.

⁴² Woods, 271: erroneously says that Richard Meriwether, who is buried on the property, purchased the land from Thomas Graves.

⁴³ Thomas Carr lived about 12 miles or so down the North Anna on his plantation, Topping Castle (where Rt 601 crosses river). He died a few years later. Two of his daughters were wives of our Thomas' neighbors John Waller and John Minor.

⁴⁴ Davenport CD, 177: Hanover County Small Book, 327-320. Hiden: Hanover Rec. 1730-35, p.317.

⁴⁵ Davenport CD, 208: Orange County Deed Book 7:23, 82: on branches of Pamunkey. The 1755 sale says mill on the north side.

On September 21, 1745, he purchased two 100-acre tracts in the Arnolds Creek area, near his plantation, from George Woodroof, Jr., a planter, and wife Ann, who lived in St. Margaret's Parish, Caroline County.⁴⁶ Thomas may have intended to set up two of his younger sons there and may have. Fifteen years later, however, Thomas and Ann, in January of 1760, sold the 200 acres to John Lewis.⁴⁷

In the meantime, western Hanover County, beginning at the mouth of Little Rocky Creek, was set off in 1742 as Louisa County, named for King George II's youngest daughter, Princess Louisa. The courthouse was built inland to the west at the headwaters of Beaver Creek (about a mile south of the present courthouse). Thomas now had to go there for issues pertaining to his Great Rocky Creek land.

On the home front, Thomas was having domestic problems. Daughter **Elizabeth Graves**, most likely still in her teens, was charged on May 2, 1738, for murdering her bastard child. The baby's father is not named. Her case was heard in the county court in Fredericksburg. Neighbors Mrs. Elizabeth Smith and her son-in-law Richard Phillips testified against her and Anne Graves (most likely her mother) gave a deposition. Justices John Minor and John Waller, Jr. heard the case and found the girl guilty. She was sent to public jail in Williamsburg for further trial. Nothing further is known. The Williamsburg court records no longer exist.⁴⁸ She was not listed among the heirs. A child could be brought to court at the age of 14 or even as young as 8, if the child knew the difference between right or wrong for a serious offense.⁴⁹

In 1747 son **Rice Graves**, in his late teens, got one of his fathers' servants, Mary Evans, pregnant. The case was heard by the church wardens on June 7, 1748. Under oath she said that Rice was the father. Not able to pay the fine she was ordered to the whipping post for 25 lashes on the back. Rice was summoned to the next court and an attachment was ordered on his estate.⁵⁰

In 1754 Thomas' servant Darby Lacey ran away for nine days. He was caught, tried and sentenced to work off the runaway time and the £200 pounds of tobacco reward money for his capture, which totaled about three and a half months additional labor.⁵¹

Meanwhile, neighbor James Taylor in the winter of 1743 became sick and died soon after, leaving a wife Betty and daughter Milly. Five years later, (brother) John Taylor, took William Johnson to court in Caroline County and our Thomas was there on March 19, 1749/50, to give a deposition:

“Thomas Graves [the deponent], aged 60 years or thereabouts, says he was at the house where James Taylor lay sick when Captain William Johnston took a paper out of his pocket and told this deponent that [it] was James Taylor's will. Johnston asked the deponent to witness the same but he denied, saying he did not know whether it was his will, upon which Johnston carried the paper to James Taylor and asked him if that was his will. After some time Taylor said he believed so, but this deponent says he did not see James Taylor sign nor seal the paper.”⁵²

⁴⁶ Davenport CD, 224: Spotsylvania County Deed Book E:209. Crozier, 197.

⁴⁷ Davenport CD, 302: Spotsylvania County Deed Book E:668. Crozier, 216.

⁴⁸ Davenport CD, 194: Spotsylvania County Court Order 4:7.

⁴⁹ Colonial Punishment: “When children committed minor crimes, their punishment was left to their parents or guardians. At age fourteen, young people had to appear in court. But if the court thought a child knew the difference between right and wrong, he/she could be tried in court for a serious offense as early as eight-years-old.” http://score.rims.k12.ca.us/score_lessons/colonial_court/html/colonial.html

⁵⁰ Davenport CD:241, 245: Spotsylvania County Court Orders, 4:466, 495.

⁵¹ Davenport CD:279: Spotsylvania County Court Orders, 5:500: Ordered that Darby Lacey, a servant man belonging to Thomas Graves, do serve the said Graves for 9 days of Runaway Time and for the 200 pounds of Tobacco, the reward for his apprehension. That is to say, 18 days of service for the Runaway Time and one calendar month and half of service for every 100 pounds of Nett Tobacco of the reward, and the said Lacey to pay costs of this Order in like manner.

⁵² Caroline County Order Book 1746-54:362. Crozier, 7.

Thomas gave another deposition on November 10, 1752, stating he was 61. James Taylor was the son of Edmund Taylor of King William (Caroline) County who had died in 1726 leaving his sons John and James property on Arnold's Run.

By now the children were beginning to move away.

The first child to move appears to be son **Solomon Graves** who married in his early 20s, c.1746, **Sarah Winfield** and moved south to Surry (Sussex) County, Virginia.⁵³ Daughter **Mary (Graves) Bostick**, before 1750, in her early 30s, moved even further south to Onslow County, on North Carolina's coastal plain.⁵⁴

In the 1750s, Nancy and John and later Eleanor, moved to the Granville District (Orange/Caswell County), North Carolina, a few miles south of the Virginia line. Daughter **Nancy Graves**, probably while in her teens, married c.1749 **William Lea**, son of James Lea of Spotsylvania County, and settled on the south side of Negro Run in Louisa County, near Graves' mill in Orange County. In 1749, with Thomas Graves, Jr., William witnessed a deed in Louisa regarding land on the south side of Negro Run. In 1751 he sold his land to Thomas Graves, Jr. and joined his father, who moved around that time to North Carolina.⁵⁵ Eldest son **John Graves**, age c.27, believed to be working his father's Orange County mill, married around 1746 **Isabel Lea**, William's sister, and c. 1754/5, in his mid-30s, joined the Leas in North Carolina;⁵⁶ his father sold the Orange County mill and property on May 27, 1755, to Zachary Lewis.⁵⁷ Daughter **Eleanor (Graves) Kimbrough**, moved a little later. They were of Orange County, Virginia, when they sold their land on Wolf Trap Branch and Madison's Mill Run in 1764 but were "of North Carolina" when they sold their 100 acres on Negro Run in 1766.

Prior to 1762, son **David Graves**, in his early 20s, recently married to **Agnes Holloway**, moved south to Rowan (Surry) County, on North Carolina's frontier and was living there when the Revolutionary War broke out. He later moved to what became Shelby County, Kentucky.

They all moved south because the west was blocked by the Appalachian Mountains and by royal decree. After the war with the French and Indians (1754-63), the King issued a proclamation forbidding settlement there.

The other children remained in the area, at least while their father was still alive.

Son **Thomas Graves, Jr.**, age c.31, married **Isabella Bartlett**, daughter of William Bartlett. Per the deeds he settled first in Orange County. In May of 1751 he purchased William Lea's land on Negro Run, and sold it a few months later to William Warren.

Son **William Graves**, at some point, married **Mary** _____ and may have settled first in Orange County on 400 acres (location no known) which his father bought (date not known) from John Clark and Joseph Fisher, but he eventually settled in Hanover County. In 1760 Thomas & Ann and William & Mary, of Hanover County, sold the land to John Robins of Orange County.⁵⁸

Son **Rice Graves**, age c.23, married around 1751-2 **Jane Young**.⁵⁹ In 1751, described as "planter of Spotsylvania County," he purchased from George and Jane Woodroof 100 acres in the Arnolds Creek area for £10.⁶⁰ In October of 1754 he sold the 100 acres to his father, for 5 shillings, by court order.⁶¹ This was probably a consequence of his getting a servant pregnant in 1748,

⁵³ Gravesfa.org: Gen 270, Solomon (16).

⁵⁴ Kimberly J. Mullins: Charles Bostock. genealogy.com

⁵⁵ Gravesfa.org: Gen 270 William (17). Louisa County Deed Book A:346.

⁵⁶ Davenport CD, 207, 208: Orange County Deed Book 7:23; John Cook of Orange County, 7:72; John Cook of Louisa County

⁵⁷ Davenport CD, 283: Orange County Deed Book 112:288 (1755) John Graves, Sr. and John Graves, Jr. witnessed.

⁵⁸ Hiden, Tyler's Quarterly, Vol. 19 (1938), 250: Orange County Deed Book 12:110.

⁵⁹ Gravesfa.org: Gen 270: Rice Graves (20).

⁶⁰ Davenport CD, 265: Spotsylvania County Deed Book D:239.

⁶¹ Davenport CD, 278: Spotsylvania County Deed Book E:209. Crozier, 171.

mentioned above. In 1760, still of Spotsylvania County, he purchased 190 acres in Louisa County from William and Mary Macon of New Kent County⁶² and moved to Louisa.

Daughter **Susannah Graves**, age c.22, married around 1759 **William Pettus** and settled in Louisa County. On August 6, 1759, Thomas gifted her a Negro girl Judy, to fulfill a promise made when they married.⁶³ It was this couple who would end up with Thomas' plantation and mill.

Louisa, Richard, Jonathan, Rosannah, and Robert also married.

Thomas did well. On June 10, 1766, he was in a position to serve as security for his neighbor John Waller, Gent., the county clerk. The following shows how complicated financial matters were in those days.

“Jno Mitchell, Hugh Lenox & Wm Scott, Merchts & partners of Fredksby became bound to Thos. Graves of Spts Co. in sum of £357 as security for John Waller, Clerk of Spots Co., Gent, for which sd Graves has entered suit agst sd Waller and Scott and his partners, the sd Scott & Co. being liable and whereas sd Waller is indebted to the sd Scot & Co. £310 and for advancing sd Waller £200 at or before the sealing of these presents to meet debts, vizt, John Stewart of Fredericksburg Merct, £120 ; to the executors of Wm Marshall's estate, £50 & the remaining £30 to John Semple, surviving partner of Robert Baylor Gent. dec'd in consequence of the preceding the sd Waller deeds to sd Scott & Co. every fee and benefit to be gained by him, the sd Waller as Clerk of Spots Co., etc. for space of five years, if not exceeding £200 with interest from date etc. balance to be applied to debt due the sd. Michael, etc. by the sd Waller, et., etc. Wtn: O Towles Jr, Richard Johnson, Jn Bevy, Roy, W. Wood. Sep 1 1766.”⁶⁴

Thomas died few years later. “Weak in body,” he had a will drawn up on October 17, 1767. He asked Francis Meriwether, James Smith, John Graves, Jr., James Smith Dr. and William Mackgehee to witness. He died the following spring, around age 77.

The will was proved in court on June 7, 1768. In his will he lent to his wife Ann, during her lifetime, two Negros, Daniel and Margery, all the land on which he lived in Spotsylvania County; 1/3 of the profits from the mill, she to pay 1/3 of the cost to repair it; 1/3 of his stocks of cattle, horses, hogs, etc.; and all household furniture. After which, it was to be equally divided among the surviving children or their heirs. He noted that he had already given part of his estate to some and nothing to others, and that it was his will that those that have not received any be made equal with those who have received.⁶⁵ He appointed his son Thomas Graves, his son-in-law William Pettus and his nephew Joseph Graves to be executors. Joseph lived next door; he had been given his father's 200-acre plantation in 1764⁶⁶ and was probably carrying for his aging father at the time.

Thomas was most likely buried in a family cemetery. In 1772 the executors paid William Gunnel “for fencing in the graveyard.” Mourning clothes were purchased for “Mrs. Graves” and Martin Davenport made the coffin. Son Richard was paid “for two years of crops during their father's lifetime” and son David was paid “for his crop of tobacco and corn,” implying the brothers had been working their father's land in his illness. John Lewis (an attorney, the son of Zachary & Mary (Waller) Lewis) was paid £1/10/10 for his advise & writing and Mr. Patrick Henry was paid £7/12/0 for his fees. (Patrick Henry, then 33, had grown up in neighboring Hanover County; not suited to farming and having failed in business he had gone into law and in 1764 had settled in Louisa County. He was then serving from Louisa in the House of Burgesses and already known as a

⁶² Gravesfa.org, Gen 270: Rice Graves (20): Louisa County Deed Book D:31.

⁶³ Davenport CD, 301: Louisa County Deed Book B:323.

⁶⁴ Crozier, 250: Spotsylvania County Deed Book F. Davenport CD, 354/5.

⁶⁵ Spotsylvania County Will Book D:318.

⁶⁶ Spotsylvania County Deed Book F:563. Crozier, p.242.

radical.) That the Graves hired Patrick Henry may give us an insight into the family's view on political matters.

As was customary, there was a public sale of the estate. The advertisements cost £2/8/0, James Edwards was paid £1/12/6 for brandy, and George Lumsden was paid £2/10/0 for crying the Sale. From the estate papers we learn that 22 slaves were sold for a total of £1081. In an initial distribution, in 1768, each of the 15 legatees received £119, and in 1770 each received and additional £45. The total estate valued £4079; the executors received 5% to 6% for their trouble.⁶⁷

Eldest son, John Graves, made the journey from North Carolina to handle the transfer of land. Thomas Kimbrough and William Lea may or may not have accompanied him. He arrived by fall and on November 13, 1768, had a deed drawn up selling all of 'Thomas' land in Louisa County; the proceeds went to the executors. The 493 acres were purchased by (son-in-law and executor) William Pettus for £479. The deed included an acre in Spotsylvania County "whereon the Mill House is located."⁶⁸ Interestingly, the following May 27, Pettus, for £261, sold to fellow-executor, Joseph Graves, 93 of the 493 acres on the south side of the river and the acre with the mill and pond at the canoe landing on the north side. Six year later, in 1774, Joseph Graves sold back to Pettus for £257 the 93 acres and the mill, this time described as a water grist mill, and one acre annexed.⁶⁹ Thus, William Pettus acquired Thomas Graves entire tract in Louisa and the grist mill in Spotsylvania.

Per the court records, on September 7, 1768, "the matter of Thomas Graves vs. John Mitchell & Company in Debt abated by death of Plaintiff."⁷⁰

Ann continued to live on the home plantation. In 1772 she deeded a Negro girl to her granddaughter Barbra Pettus and in 1776 a slave to granddaughter Susannah Spencer, then living in Albemarle County.⁷¹

Several more sons moved away. Per the Graves Family Association website, **Robert Graves**, probably the youngest son, in his early 30s, moved his family south to Carven County (Chesterfield), South Carolina, where in 1771 he was granted 250 acres on north side of Great Pee Dee in 1771 and 150 on Thompson Creek branch of the Pee Dee. Son **William Graves**, age c.50, moved by 1777 to Henry County, Virginia, settling on the Pigg River branch of the Roanoke River in what became Franklin County, in the general vicinity of Rocky Mt.

By late spring of 1776 news arrived from Massachusetts of the skirmishes at Lexington and Concord. The Revolutionary War had started. By November, Virginia Governor Dunsmore had fled the Royal Palace at Williamsburg to a ship at Yorktown.

In 1779, as the war shifted from the North to Savannah, a distribution was made of Thomas' estate. A notice was placed in The Virginia Gazette, March 5, 1779, page 4:

"The legatees of Mr. Thomas Graves (late of Spotsylvania County) deceased, are desired to apply for the balance of their respective legacies, any time after the first of June next, as we expect by that time to be ready to close our executorship. Signed: Thomas Graves, Wm Pettus, Joseph Graves exec."⁷²

In May of 1780 the British took Charleston, South Carolina. As a protective move, Virginia governor, Thomas Jefferson, moved their capital from Williamsburg inland to Richmond (founded 1737 at the falls of the James River), but by 1781 was forced to retreat with the government to his home in Charlottesville, Albemarle County, as the British under Cornwallis moved into Virginia. It was a scary time. But the tide turned and on October 19, 1781, Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown. The war was over.

Ann lived to witness all of this.

⁶⁷ Davenport CD, 437,438: Spotsylvania County Will Book E:323-327.

⁶⁸ Davenport CD, 360: Louisa County Deed Book D½:133.

⁶⁹ Davenport CD, 405: Louisa County Deed Book E:1.

⁷⁰ Davenport CD, 359: Spotsylvania County Court Orders 1768-1770, p.23.

⁷¹ Crozier, p.296, 324.

⁷² <http://research.history.org/DigitalLibrary/VirginiaGazette/VGImagePopup.cfm?ID=6401&Res=HI>

She died in 1782, most likely in midsummer, probably in her 80s. Son **Rice Graves**, in his mid-50s, was appointed the administrator of her estate on August 15.⁷³ She was undoubtedly buried along side her husband. Absalom Waller (a Baptist) preached at the funeral.⁷⁴ George Lumsden was paid £1 for crying the sale. Per the final settlement of the estate, we know that Rice, grandson William (son of deceased son Jonathan) and Rosanna Graves Spencer (living in Albemarle County), used some or all of their legacy on purchases at the public sale of the estate, so we know that many of the possessions remained in the family.⁷⁵

The 399 acres plantation in Spotsylvania on which Ann lived was sold to son-in-law William Pettus for £451 in gold and silver, to be paid to the executors. Pettus already owned the acre on the river with the mill house, thus now owned the total 400 acres plantation. John Graves, the eldest son now in his mid-60s, made another trip from North Carolina to handle the transaction, dated November 22, 1782.⁷⁶ Ann's eight Negroes sold for a total of £980 [twice the value of the plantation]. The stock, household goods & furniture, etc. valued £186.⁷⁷

Daughter **Susannah**, age c.51, and husband **Col. William Pettus** now owned all of Thomas' land on both side of the North Anna, so in essence it "stayed in the family." In 1784 sons Rice, Richard and Thomas and grandson William (son of Jonathan), per the tax rolls, were living in Louisa. Son **Richard Graves**, in his mid-40s, moved soon after to Fayette County in Virginia's Kentucky District, settling eight miles south of soon-to-be Cincinnati.⁷⁸

The estate was still not settled. One of the executors, nephew Joseph Graves, died in 1786, leaving a pregnant wife,⁷⁹ and the next year son **Thomas Graves**, in his late 60s, gave a power of attorney to (his son) William Graves and moved to the Kentucky area, settling 5 miles north of Lexington.⁸⁰ That left Col. William Pettus, the last of original executors.

Two cases reveal why the estate took so long to settle. In 1787 the executors had to take John Wiley to court in Louisa County over a debt. The legal interest on the debt went back to November 21, 1782, thus was part of the sale after Ann's death. The sheriff was ordered to collect from the defendant but was not successful, reporting "No effects found in my bailiwick."⁸¹ On August 6, 1788, the executors sued Nicholas Payne for a debt with interest going back to Oct 15 1768!⁸²

From the deed of sale to William Pettus, we learn that over the years the neighbors had changed. James Edwards now owned the land on the upstream side and Robert Hill the property inland. Nicholas Lewis owned the property on the downstream side; it extended down to the mouth of the East North East Creek and included a mill and mill pond. In 1783 Lewis sold the property, 500 acres, to William Blaydes for £1500!⁸³

Col. William Pettus died in 1798⁸⁴ and a year later his son William Jr, the executor, sold 376 acres of the homestead to John C. Blyades,⁸⁵ son of William Blaydes, now deceased. John was in process of buying up the Blaydes plantation from his sibling and was apparently simply increasing the size of the plantation. The remainder 24 acres of the Graves plantation, probably the portion with the family home, was not sold, so may have remained in the Pettus family.

⁷³ Davenport CD, 454: Spotsylvania County Minute Book 1774-1782, npn

⁷⁴ Hiden:TylersQ.Volxix243:LouiWB5:572. [Settlement of Rice Graves' estate]

⁷⁵ Davenport CD, 670: Spotsylvania County Will Book F:289-299.

⁷⁶ Crozier, 372:DB.K Davenport CD:457: Spotsylvania County Deed Book K:155.

⁷⁷ Davenport CD, 457: Spotsylvania County Will Book E:547.

⁷⁸ Gravesfa.org: Gen 270 Richard (18).

⁷⁹ Crozier, 43: Spotsylvania County Will Book E:798.

⁸⁰ Davenport CD, 513: Louisa County Deed Book F:27. Gravesfa.org. Gen.270: Thomas (15).

⁸¹ Davenport CD, 515: Louisa County Executions 1785-1788, 235.

⁸² Davenport CD, 530: Spotsylvania County Court Orders 1787-1792, 148.

⁸³ Davenport CD, 457: Spotsylvania County Deed Book K:115.

⁸⁴ Crozier, 53:WBF37.

⁸⁵ Davenport CD:638: Spotsylvania County Deed Book P:182. Crozier, 509.

The final settlement of Thomas' estate was recorded in July 7, 1802. The fifteen legatees were the following: Thomas Graves, John Graves, Rice Graves, William Graves, William Graves (son of Jonathan), Robert Graves, Solomon Graves, William Lea, John Spencer, Thomas Kimbrough, Thomas Pulliam, Mary Campbell and Col. William Pettus.⁸⁶ Most had died by then. Missing is Elizabeth whose fate is not known.

For more on the children see the Graves Family website. This account continues with the eldest son John Graves of Caswell, North Carolina.

Children by Mary Perkins:

1. Eleanor Graves (est.1715-aft1777) m. est.1730s Thomas Kimbrough. Moved to present Caswell Co. NC.
2. Mary Graves (est. 1717-) m.c.1739 Valentine Bostick, m.2 by 1786 Mr. Campbell? Moved to Onslow Co. NC.
3. John Graves (est. 1719-1792) m. c.1746 Isabella Lea. Moved to present Caswell Co. NC.

Children by Ann [Davenport]: (Not necessarily in this order.)

4. Thomas Graves, Jr. (est.1720-1801) m. by1751 Isabella Bartlett. Moved to the Fayette County, KY.
5. Elizabeth Graves (est. 1721-) Sent to prison in 1738, nfr.
6. Solomon Graves (est. 1723-c.1785) m. c.1746 Sarah Winfield. Moved to Sussex Co. VA.
7. Louisa Graves (est. 1725 -) m. Thomas Pulliam
8. William Graves (est.1726-) m. Mary _____. Moved to Henry County, VA.
9. Rice Graves (est.1728-1814) m. c.1754 Jane Young.
10. Nancy Graves (est.1730-) m. est.1748 William Lea (est.1730-). Moved to present Caswell Co. NC, then to Wilkes Co. GA.
11. Susannah Graves (est.1731-) m c.1759 William Pettus. Acquired the Graves' plantation.
12. Richard Graves (est.1733-c1731-aft1802?) m. est.1756 Lucy Davenport. Moved to KY.
13. Jonathan Graves (est.1735-by1768) m. c.1755 _____[Davenport?]
14. Rosanna Graves (est.1737 -) m. by 1756 John Spencer. Moved to Albemarle Co. VA.
15. David Graves (est.1738-1808) m. est.1760 Agnes Holloway. Moved to Shelby Co. KY.
16. Robert Graves (est.1739-) m c.1759 Jean _____. Moved to Pee Dee River NC/SC

John Perkins, Sr. (est.1640-1708/11)

of New Kent (Hanover) County, Virginia

John Perkins, Sr. (est.1650-c.1711), the presumed grandfather of Mary Perkins, apparently arrived in Virginia around 1700 as an older man with a family, settling in New Kent (Hanover) County, up the Pamunkey River. The county records have not survived and there is no mention of him in the St. Peter's parish baptism records.^{87 88} We first find him in the records of St. Paul's Parish, which was set off from St. Peter's Parish in 1704. The St. Paul's Parish records, including the baptismal records, have not survived, but the Vestry Book, which includes the road orders and processions, have, and provide what little we know.^{89 90} From the Vestry book we learn the in 1706 he and his son John Jr. were taxed for 120 acres "below Crump's Creek." This tells us that his plantation was about four miles up the River Road from Page's Warehouse, which became Hanover town. The town was then at the head of navigation, the

⁸⁶ Davenport CD, 669, 670: Spotsylvania County Will Book F::289-299. The CD has all ten pages of the accounting made as part of the final settlement. This is very helpful for anyone interested learning more about this large family.

⁸⁷ The National Society of the Colonial Dames of America, *The Parish Register of Saint Peter's, Ne Kent County, Virginia*, 1904. <https://archive.org/stream/parishregisterof00stpe#page/2/mode/2up>

⁸⁸ The National Society of the Colonial Dames of America, *The Vestry Book of Saint Peter's Parish New Kent County, VA, from 1682-1758*. 1905. <https://archive.org/stream/vestrybooksaint00vagoog#page/n0/mode/2up>

⁸⁹ C. G. Chamberlayne, *The Vestry Book of St. Paul's Parish, Hanover County, Virginia 1706-1786*, 1940. [dhttps://dems.lds.org/delivery/DeliveryManagerServlet?dps_pid=IE95374](https://dems.lds.org/delivery/DeliveryManagerServlet?dps_pid=IE95374)

⁹⁰ Ann Brush Miller, *New Kent County and Hanover County Road Orders 1706-1743, Transcribed from the Vestry Book of St. Paul's Parish, 2004* http://www.virginiadot.org/vtrc/main/online_reports/pdf/04-r17.pdf

farthest point upstream that ocean-going vessels could travel. Today the Pamunkey is silted in and Hanover town no longer exists. It formerly stood two miles north of where US 360 now crosses the river.

There are no land patents in John Perkins' name, so we can assume that he purchased his land. Unfortunately the deed books are among the county records that were lost.⁹¹ From the Road Orders we know that his neighbors were Edward Chambers, John Tyler, Joseph Gentry, Richard Corley, Jr. and John Tinsley. In 1708 they helped to clear and repair the road through their area.⁹²

John appears to have died by 1711, probably in his 60s. From that date on, neither 'Sr.' nor a 'Jr.' was found attached to the name John. John Perkins, Jr. is the only known child.

John Perkins, Jr. (est.1670-aft.1763?)
of Hanover County, VA

John Perkins, Jr., Mary's presumed father, was probably born around 1670 and apparently came to Virginia with his parents after he married. If indeed he is the father of our Mary Perkins, he would have married before 1695, Mary's estimated year of birth. We first find him in the records in 1706 living with or near his father "below Crump's Creek," in St. Paul's Parish, New Kent (Hanover) County.

Soon after, John moved about 15 miles west, up stream, to the area where the North Anna and South Anna branches of the Pamunkey River meet, near present Ashland. Per historian Norine Campbell Gregory, the home tract of John Perkins from 1708 on was at "Blenheim next below Manheim," thus was south of the South Anna.⁹³ In the 1711 road records we find a John Perkins with land in that vicinity. Other landholders in the area were George Vaughan, Robert Bumpass, Andrew Spradling, Thomas Kimbrough, Robert Jennings, Barbara Levermor, John Sladding, Thomas Jackson, Cornelius Tinsley and Widow Watson.

In 1715 John still owned the original home south of Crump's Creek near Page's Warehouse, for that year as "Mr. Jno Perkins" he is listed in the same precinct as the Tylers, Tinsley and Chambers, and now Paul Haroldson. [A Paul Haroldson acquired land next to Martin Davenport at the ford on the North Anna and serves as security for the widow in 1734.]

John's (presumed) daughter **Mary Perkins** married, around 1715, **Thomas Graves**, age c.24, who had possibly moved up the Pamunkey to the vicinity of Littlepage's ferry. He is not found in the St. Paul Vestry book, so lived on the King William County side of the Pamunkey. She and Thomas had three children: Eleanor, Mary and John, before she died around 1720, probably in her mid-twenties.

By 1720 St. Paul's Parish in upper New Kent County, where John Perkins lived, was set off as Hanover County. A court house was built at Mechumps Creek, just down the road (US301) from Littlepage's ferry. John was appointed the county's first sheriff. The new county was now the westernmost, extending inland all the way to the mountains (and included what is now Louisa and parts of Albemarle counties).

At some point, he acquired land on the ridge between the North Anna and Little River; he is shown as having land in that area in 1722 when Abraham Cook, Jr. received a patent to 400 acres on the ridge listing his neighbors as John Harris, Edward Garland, John Perkins and James Suter. The fork was set off from St. Paul's Parish in 1727 as St. Martin's Parish. St. Martin's Parish records have not survived. We can assume he moved there, for his name no longer appeared in St. Paul's parish records. Meanwhile, John's (presumed) son-in-law Thomas Graves married next Ann, believed to be Ann Davenport, and by 1726 had moved up the river to recently created Spotsylvania County, where he is found on the north side of the river, on the Downer plantation, which he later purchased. Thomas' oldest daughters appear to have kept in touch with their Perkins grandparents. Around 1730, daughter Eleanor Graves married Thomas Kimbrough of Hanover County and later daughter Mary Graves, married Valentine Bostick, son of Charles Bostick of Hanover.⁹⁴

John is believed to be the John Perkins listed on the Hanover tax list in 1763 with 80 acres; if so, he lived a long life. Garland A. Perkins with land at Doswell was most likely a descendant, since the Garland family lived near the Perkins.

Hopefully, other records will surface to help to better prove this theory.

⁹¹ An Edmond and William Crump patented 3000 acres in this area in 1665 when the area was just beginning to be settled.

⁹² Chamberlayne, 32,33.

⁹³ Norine Campbell Gregory, *Some Ancient Landowners in Saint Martin's Parish, Hanover County, Virginia*, 2001, 111.

⁹⁴ Atteberry and Rosado, above.

Chapter 3

John Graves (c.1719-1792) of Caswell County, North Carolina

John grew up in Spotsylvania County, Virginia. He married and moved his family south to the colony of North Carolina, settling in present Caswell County, where he prospered as a mill and plantation owner. In old age he witnessed, at his front door, the fight for independence. In 1977, Louise Graves published her extensive findings on this family,^{1 2} which incorporates the work of John Card Graves³ and Mrs. P. W. Hiden.⁴ John can be found on the Caswell County Historical Association's Family Tree⁵ and on the Graves Family Association website.⁶ An excellent history of Caswell County was published in 1977 by William S. Powell.⁷

John Graves, eldest son of Thomas and Mary (Perkins) Graves, is believed to have been born around 1719, just prior to his mother's death. At the time of his birth, his parents were living in King William County, possibly in the Cohoke area or across the Pamunkey River from present Ashland, the area where his mother's presumed family lived, as discussed in his father's section. His father remarried and moved up the North Anna branch of the Pamunkey River to newly created Spotsylvania County, where John grew to manhood with his two sisters and thirteen half-siblings.

We know John received some formal education, for he was able to sign documents, rather than just put his mark. In early adulthood he appears to have been put in charge of his father's grist mill and 300 acres in Orange County. The property lay on both sides of the river, thus on Negro Run east of present Gordonsville; Negro Run forms the boundary between Orange and Louisa Counties. His father acquired the property from John Cook on January 17, 1742/3, when John was c.23, and sold it to Zachary Lewis on May 27, 1755, presumably shortly after John moved away.⁸

John married in his mid-20s, around 1746, **Isabell Lea**, the eldest daughter of James and Anne (Herndon) Lea, of Spotsylvania County,^{9 10} who was probably still in her teens. The date is based on the birth date of eldest son John Herndon Graves who died in October of 1829 in his 83rd year. Isabell is mentioned in the estate papers of her deceased father, mentioned below. According to her grandson, Solomon, her father was "James Lea of Virginia who had married a Herndon."

¹ Louise Graves, *Graves - Twelve Generations (Some Descendants and Kin (1608-1977))*, 1977, 57-70: John Graves (1715-1792). <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nccha/biographies/johng Graves/johng Graves.html>

² Louise Graves, *Treatise on John Graves (died 1792) of Caswell County, North Carolina*, 1968, copy in Yanceyville Public Library.

³ John Card Graves, *Captain Thomas Graves : the Graves family of eastern Virginia, 1608-2005, generations 1 through 14*, 1905. Gravesfa.org Gen. 270 [R915]

⁴ Mrs. P.W. Hiden, *The Graves Family of Spotsylvania County*, Tyler's Quarterly, Vol. 19 (1938) 176-185, 242-251; Vol.20 54-55.

⁵ Caswell County Historical Association [CCHA], Caswell County Family Tree, Reference No. 1402.

⁶ Graves Family Association, [Gravesfa.org] Gen. 270, John Graves (13): as of April 2016 has various anomalies, such as he was from James Co, VA and that a first wife was Catherine Herndon.

⁷ William S. Powell, *When the Past Refused to Die, a History of Caswell County North Carolina 1777-1977*, 1977.

⁸ Orange County Deed Book 7:23, 82.

⁹ Her brother Major Lea's Rev. War pension says he was born in Spotsylvania County, VA, in 1742. File No. 1549.

¹⁰ I disagree with the Caswell County Historical Society's currently belief that he had a first marriage, that Isabell was too young to be the mother of possibly four of his children.

Solomon's bible goes on to say that "from the marriage of John Graves and his wife sprung an extensive family..." so Isabell appears to be the mother of all of his children.

As mentioned above, the couple most likely settled up the river at his father's mill in Orange County. Thus, it was in Orange County that their first children were born: John H., James, Thomas and possibly Ann.

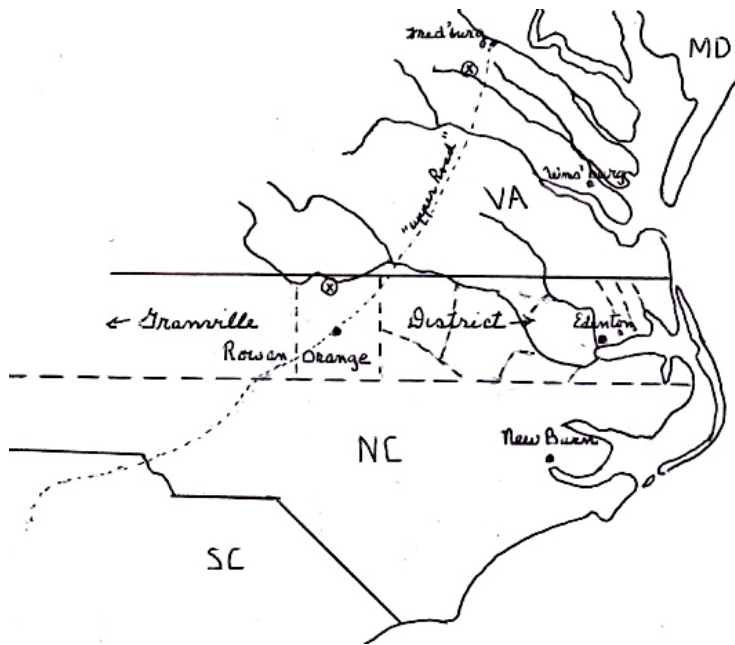
Living nearby where his sister Eleanor and Thomas Kimbrough who had land on Wolf Trap, Madison's Mill Run, and Negro Run in Orange County; his sister Mary and Valentine Bostick who lived in Orange County where they operated an ordinary; and his younger half-sister Nancy and William Lea (Isabel's brother) who lived across Negro Run in Louisa County;¹¹

In the fall of 1751, John's father-in-law, James Lea, moved south to new land opening up in North Carolina's Granville District. His son William Lea and wife Nancy, sold their land on Negro Run in May of 1751 to Thomas Graves, Jr. and most likely moved south with James at that time. After finding land to his liking, James Lea petitioned for and received from Lord Granville's agents on March 3, 1752, a grant for 600 acres on Country Line Creek in the Dan River watershed a few miles south of the Virginia line. That area of the Granville District was set off around that time as Orange County.¹² This was North Carolina's frontier. Neighboring Rowan County, established in 1753, extended into the mountains with no defined border.

John and Isabell moved south around 1754 or 1755. Per grandson Solomon Graves' bible, John arrived "about the year AD 1755." The obituary of their son John H., written in 1829, states they moved when he was seven, thus c.1754. According to a report written by their grandson Bartlett Yancey, Jr. for *The Star* in 1810: "The Lea's, Graves', Peterson's & Kimbro's came to this County about 1753, 54 and 55; they came from Orange and Culpeper in Virginia."¹³

Their route was undoubtedly the old Indian trail, the "Upper Road," also called the "Piedmont Road," which cut off from the King's Highway at Fredericksburg, Spotsylvania County, and headed south through the piedmont region past the Goochland County courthouse, the Amelia County courthouse, to present Clarksville on the Roanoke, then through the Granville District and on to Georgia. The northern portion beginning to be used around 1740 and by 1748 had been improved for wagons.⁶

A quick review: The northern portion of North Carolina belonged at the time to John Carteret, 2nd Earl Granville. Unlike Virginia, North Carolina was governed by a group of proprietors. Sir George Carteret and seven others in 1663 had been given the Province of Carolina (what is now North and South Carolina) by King Charles II as a proprietorship. Several decades later, around



¹¹ See father's section.

¹² Orange County in Virginia, established in 1734, was named for George II's eldest daughter Princess Anne who married in 1734 William IV of Orange. He died in 1751. Orange County in North Carolina, established a year later, in 1752, was named for the infant son of Anne, now the dowager princess of the Dutch Republic.

¹³ Powell, 559.

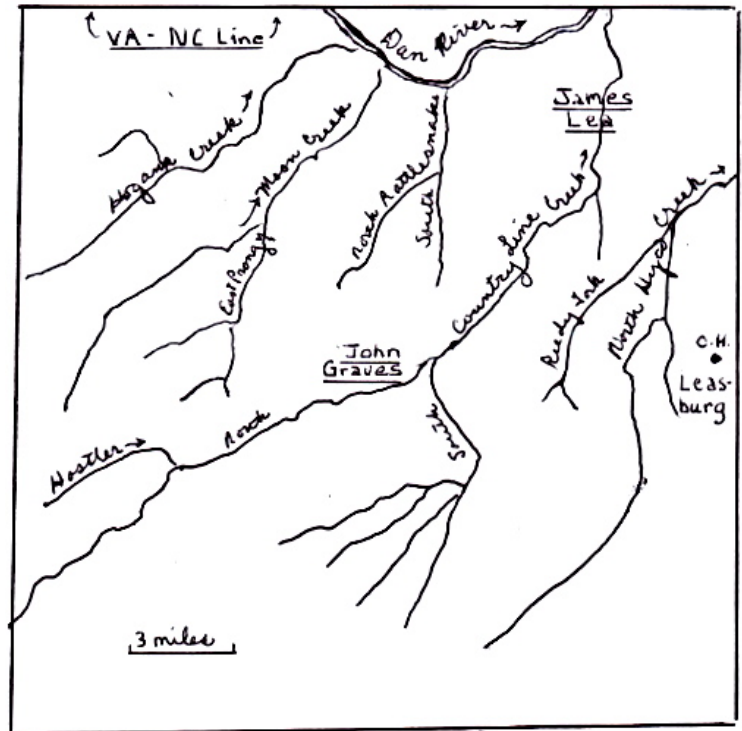
1689, the center of government shifted from the Albemarle Sound south to Charles Town. Not liking this development, the northern area split off as North Carolina. Few of the Lords Proprietors ever came to the colony and it was never profitable, so in 1729 King George II, wanting the naval stores (tar, etc.), bought out the heirs, all except John Carteret, who agreed to give up all rights to govern in exchange for the rights to the unoccupied land along the Virginia border. It was an immense area of land 60 miles in width. Distracted with other duties, it was not until 1742 that his agents began to grant land, collect rents and conduct business. In 1744, on the death of his mother, he was officially given the title Earl of Granville and the land then became the Granville District. The Granville land office opened at Edenton, Chowan County¹⁴ in 1748. It was there that his father-in-law would have gone in 1751 to establish his claim to land on Country Line Creek. This area was set off as Orange County in 1752. A county seat, Hillsborough, was established about thirty miles to the south.

The Graves most likely lived first with the Leas, for only James Lea is listed on the 1755 Orange County tax list. In June of 1757, John purchased 640 acres upstream from Hugh Dobbins, whose plantation was at the forks of the North and South branches of Country Line Creek.¹⁵ John's property was a few miles up the north branch and is now partially covered by Farmers Lake, built in 1986. Here John constructed his home and one of the first grist mills in the area.¹⁶ The house, at the time of the Revolution, as mentioned below, was described as being "on the eminence quite near the public road leading from Greensboro to Milton" (roughly present Highway 158). Rural Rte 1166 probably runs through the property.

According to historian Powell, the terrain was hilly and forested with oaks, hickory, and ash. The streams were swift and shallow ideal for mills, and the soil was a sandy loam. There were masses of wild grape vines and wolves, panther, deer, bears, noisy cranes, wild turkeys, and wild geese. The Native Indians by this time had quietly moved away to the west.¹⁷

Through grants and purchases John acquired well over 2000 acres. (For perspective, 640 acres equals one square mile.) Sons John and Thomas served as chain bearers for the surveyor. In 1761 John received a grant

to 457 acres on the South Fork of Country Line Creek, in 1762 a grant to 394 acres on the "main fork" adjoining his own land (increasing the size of his plantation), and a grant to 210 acres on Reedy Fork which he sold to Robert Kilgore in 1769.¹⁸ In 1771 he purchased 350 acres "on the



¹⁴ www.ncgenweb.us/guilford/GranvilleDistrict.html

¹⁵ Powell, 3: G. P. Stout map 1977 'Caswell County NC 1777'.

¹⁶ Jerry L. Cross, *A brief History of Graves Mill, an Archaeological site on Country Line Creek, Caswell County, North Carolina*, February 24, 1982. <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ncccha/pdf/gravesmill/gravesmillhistory.pdf>

¹⁷ Powell, Chapter 1: Lay of the Land.

¹⁸ Secretary of State's Office, Book 14: 403, 404, 407.

north side of the North and South Forks of Country Line Creek in and about the said forks” from Nathaniel Runnells, witnessed by Robert Yancey; the land adjoined that of Joseph Henderson who had married Isabell’s sister Delphia. In 1772, he purchased 260 acres on Moon Creek (north of Country Line) including the plantation “whereon Patrick Porter now lives” from John Walker.¹⁹

Meanwhile, trouble was brewing with the small farmers. Granville’s agents were corrupt, the county sheriff who collected the taxes embezzling half of the money, and both the clerks who register deeds and the lawyers were overcharging. The settlers didn’t like this and wanted to ‘regulate’ their own affairs and began to speak out. A big complaint was the burdensome poll taxes, especially those going toward the building the elaborate governor’s mansion in New Bern on the coast. The Regulators resisted. The conflict lasted from 1765 to 1771. They took their plea to the legislature but the governor disbanded the body before they could act. In March of 1771 the governor and his militiamen (mostly from eastern North Carolina) marched to Hillsborough. When the people refused to disband, the governor’s troops fired. Most of the Regulators were later pardoned, but six were hung.

As a result of the Regulator Movement, Orange County was the split up. The southern portion became Chatham County and the western portion became Guilford County. People in the northern portion, where the Graves lived, also wanted to split off, but their request was ignored. Among the 300 residents signing the petition were John’s eldest sons, John Graves, Jr. and James Graves. Historian Powell noted that “The hand of some Virginia-born residents is suspiciously clear in the petition, since the document is addressed to the House of Burgesses, the term used in that colony for the lower house of the assembly.”

In 1768, during the unrest, John's father died in Virginia and John, in his 50s, made the long trip, roughly 200 miles, back to his childhood home. There, as “John Graves of North Carolina, eldest son and heir at law of Thomas Graves of Spotsylvania County,” he confirmed the sale of a tract of land on the east side of Great Rocky Creek in Louisa County and the mill and acre in Spotsylvania to William Pettus, his brother-in-law. He made another trip in 1782, after his mother died, but the estate would not be finalized until 1802, after his death; his son Solomon acted on his behalf.

The older children began to marry and start their families. Son **John Herndon Graves**, age c. 23, married in 1770 **Nancy Slade**, daughter of Thomas and Anne (Talbot) Slade. **Thomas Graves**, age c.19, married around 1770 **Ms Miles**, daughter of Jacob Miles, later to **Hannah Simmons**. Daughter **Ann Graves** married **Bartlett Yancey**, son of James and Ann (Thornton) Yancey, and **Mary Graves** married **John Kerr**, son of Alexander and Elizabeth (Rice) Kerr. Son **James Graves** remained single.

Lord Granville died in 1763. His son considered selling back to the crown but didn’t. He died young in 1776 at the beginning of the Revolution.

In 1773, colonists upset over the English Parliament’s despised stamp act, etc., formed Committees of Correspondence, in some counties Committees of Safety. In August of 1774 the first North Carolina Provincial Congress met at New Bern, the capital, and chose delegates to attend the First Continental Congress where the ‘United Colonies’ made a list of grievances and set up an economic boycott. In April of 1775 shots range out at Lexington and Concord in Massachusetts. News arrived in North Carolina a month later and by June the Colonial Governor had dissolved the legislature and moved onto a ship in the harbor, for safety. In August the Provincial Congress met at Hillsborough, Orange County. In April of 1776 they met at Halifax, Halifax County, where they authorized its North Carolina delegates to “concur in independency.” This was the first action of this kind by any state. The July 4th declaration of Independence was signed by the North Carolina delegates on August 2 and on December 18 the Provincial Congress at Halifax adopted the States Bill of Rights and Constitution and elected Richard Caswell from Orange

¹⁹ Orange County Deed Book 3: 259, 595.

County acting governor. Caswell was inaugurated in 1777 as the first governor of the independent state of North Carolina.

Richard Caswell was born in Maryland in 1729 and moved with his family to North Carolina in 1746 while in his teens. He was appointed surveyor of the colony in 1750 and served as clerk of the Orange County Court from 1752 to 1754. In 1754 he was admitted to the bar and was practicing at Hillsborough when John arrived from Virginia. He then served many years as a member of the colonial house of delegates and represented North Carolina in the Continental Congress.

In 1777 at the first session of the first legislature of the new State of North Carolina, the northern part of Orange County was formally set off as it's own county, named 'Caswell' in honor of the Governor. The new county included what is now present Caswell and Person counties. The county seat was selected in a central location, right where Isabell's 'cousin' William Lea lived, so consequently named Leasburg. The people wasted no time. "Mr. John Lea was appointed to open the Court." A clerk and sheriff were elected and overseers of segments of various roads were appointed. John Graves, his sons John Jr. and Thomas and others were to lay out a road from the county seat to Hart's Hillsborough road. Son John Jr., then about 30, was appointed a captain and Major Lea (Isabell's younger brother) a lieutenant in the county militia.²⁰

The early stages of the Revolutionary War were up North. John's neighbor Henry (Hal) Dixon, owner of over 3000 acres on the headwaters of Moon Creek, enlisted in the North Carolina Continental Army and as Capt. Dixon fought in the northern battles of Brandywine, Germantown and Monmouth before being promoted to Major. He returned to North Carolina, probably in late 1779, to organize the North Carolina militia, rising to the rank of lieutenant colonel.

North Carolina was divided into six military districts one of which was Hillsborough, which included Caswell County. Each county was to have a regiment composed of various companies of around 50 men each, further divided into divisions. Tours of service rotated among the divisions. Among those serving was John's eldest son Capt. John Graves.

The British moved their center of operation to the South and in May of 1780 they took Charleston, South Carolina. The American General, Horatio Gates, unsuccessfully challenged them at Camden, South Carolina, on August 16, 1780. Capt. John Graves was there. Gen. Gates had a brigade from Maryland, a regiment from Delaware, the North Carolina state troops under General Caswell, and the state Militia under Lt. Col. Dixon and Brig. Gen, John Butler. Pension records, written years later by some who volunteered in Caswell, state that they marched south with Capt. John Graves. They also tell of the panic and disorder that occurred and that afterwards some simply went home to Caswell, not having any place appointed for rendezvous. According to Powell, John was capture and held on board the British prison ship *Forbay* in Charleston Harbor.²¹

After the disgraceful defeat at Camden, Gates was replaced by General Nathaniel Greene. On October 7, 1780, the North Carolina militia surrounded a force of Tories at King's Mountain, South Carolina, and successfully defeated them, and on January 17, 1781, General Daniel Morgan defeated the British at Cowpens, South Carolina, capturing the entire British force. Knowing that Cornwallis would want revenge, Gen. Greene lured him north by moving into North Carolina. He stopped first at Guilford County Court House (Greensboro), North Carolina, for a council of war, then with over 2000 troops moved directly across Caswell County to Virginia.

On February 13, 1781, Greene's main force crossed the Dan River at Irwin's Ferry (3 to 4 miles east of present South Boston) where boats had been collected from Dix's Ferry (Danville) some 20 miles upstream and from Boyd's Ferry (South Boston). Cornwallis thought Greene would cross at Dix's ferry (Danville) so headed there. Dix' ferry was only 15 miles north of John's plantation.

²⁰ Powell, 63, 64, etc.

²¹ Powell, 76.

In his history of Caswell County, Powell recorded the testimony that son Thomas Graves gave in 1788.²²

“In the month of February, 1781, Thomas [Graves] saw a party of British and Tory soldiers at a store house of Col. John Williams on the plantation of John Graves, Senr. in which was contained a large quantity of corn belonging to him; that the said Thomas Graves was the first person there on the ensuing day, and found the quantity diminished, and he supposed it to have been done by the aforesaid soldiers, who at the same time committed many acts of violation upon his father's property, and he further deposed that he saw the Soldiers conveying the corn from the Store house of the Mill.

“Col. Williams reported that ... the British under command of Lord Cornwallis ‘encamped near a public store called Williamson old store (formerly Harts)’ which he owned. From it the British destroyed about 20 bushels of wheat, 17 of rye, and about 13 or 14 of corn.”

Many years later, Margaret Rockwell Lea Graves (Mrs. Charles Iverson Graves), the stepdaughter of Calvin Graves, the well-known state senator from Caswell, recorded:²³

“John Graves' home was on the eminence quite near the public road leading from Greensboro to Milton, NC. During the Revolutionary War, Cornwallis camped at a spring not far away (until later years, in possession of the family). In passing the home of John Graves the old gentleman, very feeble with streaming white hair, walked down to his gate to see the ‘Britishes pass by.’ Gen. Tarleton halted and called out. ‘Old Man, are you for your King or your Country?’ The old gentleman with eagle eye looked him over and replied, striking his cane upon the ground, ‘For my Country, Sir, and make the most of it.’”

Cornwallis eventually abandoned the pursuit and retired to Hillsborough hoping to recruit Tories. He arrived there on February 20. Around the 22nd General Greene recrossed the Dan to positioned himself at Guilford Court House. On the 24th Cornwall heard about the recrossing, sent for Tarleton, and headed west to Guilford, where on March 15, 1781, at the now famous Battle of Guilford Court House, Cornwallis won, but his ranks were depleted and supplies exhausted; he withdrew to Wilmington, North Carolina, on the coast. Not sure what action Cornwallis would take, the militia of Orange and Caswell counties remained at Boyd's ferry and established a camp near Red House. Cornwallis did not return. Instead, disobeying instructions, he left Wilmington and marched north to Virginia where he was defeated at Yorktown on October 19, 1781.

Son Capt. John Graves, per the county historical society, is said to have been badly wounded at the Guilford Court House battle and left for dead, and that, according to family tradition, a fellow soldier heard him moan, put him on a horse and brought him home. Lt. Col. Henry Dixon died at his home on July 17, 1782, from his wounds.

At the close of the Revolution, the court house was incorporate as the town of Leasburg and the county divided into eight districts, arranged as follows. John lived in St. David's District.

Caswell	Richmond	St. Lawrence	Nash
St. David	Gloucester	St. Luke	St. James

John continued to increase his land holdings, applying for land even during the Revolution. The grants, however, were not issued until 1783, after the war. He received 700 acres between the north

²² Powell, 86, 87.

²³ Margaret Rockwell Lea of Caswell County, step-daughter of Calvin Graves. She married Charles I. Graves of Floyd County, Georgia, son of John W. Graves < Gen. Azariah Graves, < John Graves of Caswell Co.

and south forks of Country Line, adjoining his own land and 440 acres on both side of the South Fork.²⁴ His sons were also acquiring land: John H. received grants for more than 1700 acres, son James over 1100 acres, son Thomas over 900 acres, and son Barzillai for 340 acres. John and his sons eventually applied for and received patents to over 5,000 acres.

Daughter **Isabell Graves**, possibly in her mid-20s, married in 1782 **Thomas Slade**, son of Thomas & Hannah (Miles) Slade, and settled in the Richmond District. **Barzillai Graves**, age 23, married in 1783 **Ursula Wright**, daughter of William & Margaret (Johnston) Wright, and settled in the Gloucester District.

In 1784, per the tax list, John was living in St. David's District with 1690 acres, one of the larger plantation owners in the district. Living in the Gloucester District were sons Thomas with 954 acres, Barzillai with 400 acres, and "John Jr." with 2000 acres, one of, if not, the largest land owner in his district. Also in the Gloucester District were daughters Mary Kerr and Ann Yancey and widowed sister Eleanor Kimbrough. Daughter Isabell Slade was living in the Richmond District, as were wife Isabell's family, the Leas. Solomon and Azariah, teenagers, were still at home. Not listed on the tax list was son James, single and in his mid-30s. He was most likely living with his parents, for on April 9, 1781, he wrote a will, "being very weak in body;" he lived another ten years.

The last to wed were **Solomon Graves**, who married possibly around 1790 **Frances Lewis**, daughter to Iverson & Frances (Byrd) Lewis, and **Azariah Graves**, who in his early 20s married in 1790 **Elizabeth Williams**, daughter of Col. John and Elizabeth (Williamson) Williams.

In 1790 John is not listed as a head of household in the census, but his eldest son, Capt. John, is now listed in the St. David District, implying that Capt. John was then living in the family home with his aging parents.

Isabell's elderly father, James Lea, died in March of 1791. He had written his will twenty years earlier in 1771. The final accounting of the estate, made in 1796, named Luke Lea, Joseph Henderson, Will Lea, Joseph Peterson, Isabella Graves, Paul Haralson, John Lea, and Major Lea.²⁵

John died less than a year later, in the winter of 1791/92, in his early 70s. He did not leave a will. On January 18, 1792, his youngest sons Solomon and Azariah were appointed executors, with John Williams, Esq. and Jesse Carter as their bondsmen. Three months later, on March 30, sons John and Thomas were also appointed executors. An inventory was taken on March 20 "at the late dwelling house of said dec'd," and a division was agreed upon and signed by all: Isabell Graves, Azariah Graves, Thomas Graves, Barzillai Graves, John Kerr, Ann Yancey, John Graves, Thomas Slade, and Solomon Graves.²⁶

John was most likely buried in a family graveyard on the plantation, probably near his son James who had died single a year or so earlier after a long illness.²⁷ Isabell was alive in April of 1796 when she received her portion of her father's estate. The date of her death is not known.

A new era was beginning. In 1788 a site for a new state capital was chosen and the city of Raleigh was founded in 1792, named for Sir Walter Raleigh. Also in 1792, the county of Caswell was divided. The western half where the Graves lived kept the name Caswell; the eastern half became Person County, named for Revolutionary War General, Thomas Person. A new county seat was established at the fork of Country Line Creek. Son Capt. John bought up most of the surrounding land and in 1796 was given permission to keep an ordinary in town, his brother Thomas acting as security. Per an account by Bartlett Yancey in 1810 "Caswell Court House is not an incorporated town, the whole of the possessions there belonging to Capt. John Graves and his sons: it has 2 taverns, a store, a hatter's shop and about 15 houses."²⁸

²⁴ Caswell County Deed Book B:231 (#421); 233 (#444), 234 (#590).

²⁵ Caswell County Will Book B:454.

²⁶ Caswell County Will Book B:459.

²⁷ James had a will drawn up in 1781 'being very weak of body,' but lived another nine years.

²⁸ Powell, 559.

According to J. L. Cross, John's plantation and grist mill passed to son Rev. Barzillai, who died in 1827 (age 68) leaving the plantation to his wife then daughters Peggy and Mary. It was then sold to Capt. John Graves who kept his own plantation; according to his will, he was living on the mill plantation when he died in 1829 (age 82). The property went to daughter Polly who married James Mebane. The mill site passed out of the Graves family in 1900.²⁹

All the sons became large landowners and prominent members of the community. Only Solomon moved away. The daughters married well, all remained in the area. They gave John and Isabell around 50 grandchildren.

Children: The list is based on Isabell being the mother of all the children.³⁰

1. John Herndon Graves, Capt. (c.1747-October 28, 1829) m. February 5, 1770 Nancy Slade; mb. November 28, 1808 Elizabeth Burton Coleman
2. James Graves (est.1749-1789/90). Single.
3. Thomas Graves (est.1751-1799) m. est.1770 ____ Miles, m2 Hannah Simmons
4. Ann Graves (est.1754-1818) m. est.1777 Bartlett Yancey
5. Mary Graves (April 3, 1756-February 22, 1831) m. est.1777 John Kerr
6. Barzillai Graves, Rev. (December 12, 1759-July 14, 1827) m. April 10, 1783 Ursula Wright
7. Isabella Graves (est.1764-after 1830) m. December 12, 1782 Thomas Slade
8. Solomon Graves (April 29, 1766-October 1830) m.1 est. 1790 Frances Lewis; m.2 Joanne ____.
9. Azariah Graves, Gen. (October 29, 1768-March 1, 1850) m. 1790 Elizabeth Williams. [See his section]

²⁹ Cross. (There may be some confusion as to whom the daughter's married.)

³⁰ CCHA, Graves.org, Louise Graves, Mrs. P. W. Hiden and others give conflicting dates for these children.

Chapter 4

Gen. Azariah Graves (1768-1850) of Caswell County, North Carolina

Azariah lived his entire life in Caswell County, North Carolina, where he owned a large plantation. He served in the state senate and rose to the rank a general in the state militia. Louise Graves contributed greatly to his family history and genealogy.¹ He can be found on Caswell County Family Tree² and on the Graves Family Association website.³

Azariah, the youngest son of John and Isabell (Lea) Graves, was born on October 29, 1768, according to his gravestone, and raised on his father's plantation on the North Branch of Country Line Creek in that section of old Orange County, North Carolina, which became Caswell County in 1777. His childhood home was on the public road leading from Greensboro to Milton (Highway 150) in the county's St. David's District. He was seven, when the colonist declared their independence on July 4, 1776.

He grew up fast. In 1785, at age 16, his name appears on the tax list of the Gloucester District, which includes the South Fork of Country Line Creek and North Hyco Creek area. His land was undoubtedly a portion of his father's large holding. His older brothers, John Jr. Thomas, and Barzillai, lived in the same district. Azariah is also listed there on the 1790 tax list. The exact location of this home is unclear.

He received an excellent education, including law, possibly studying under his future father-in-law, Col. John Williams, a lawyer, who served as a state representative (1778 and 1780), a state senator (1782, 1793-1796), and a Council of State in 1796.⁴

Caswell County was divided in 1792, when Azariah was 24. The eastern half was named Person, for Revolutionary War General Thomas Person; the western half, where the Graves lived, retained the name Caswell. A new court house was built near the confluence of the north and south branches of Country Line Creek, and named simply, Caswell Court House (Yanceyville). According to his nephew Bartlett Yancey, Jr., Azariah's oldest brother, John Herndon Graves, bought up most of the land in the area. By 1810, it had two taverns, a store, a hatter's shop, and 15 houses. The only 'real' towns in the county were Leasburg on the eastern side, the former courthouse town, and Milton to the north, founded in 1796 as a place for warehouses and tobacco inspection stations on the Dan River where Country Line Creek enters.⁵

Azariah married, at age 22, on June 3, 1790, **Elizabeth "Betsey" Williams**, the sixteen-year-old daughter of Col. John and Elizabeth (Williamson) Williams. The Williams, per the 1777 census, owned 1291 acres in St. David's District. An 1800 Caswell County map places their home near

¹ Louise Graves, *Graves - Twelve Generations (Some Descendants and Kin (1608-1977))*, 1977, 71+.

² Caswell County Historical Association [CCHA], Caswell County Family Tree, Reference Number 1912.

³ Graves Family Association, [Gravesfa.org] Gen. 270, Gen. Azariah Graves (104).

⁴ William S. Powell, *When the Past Refused to Die, a History of Caswell County North Carolina 1777-1977*, 1977, 549, 550, 553.

⁵ Powell, 560: Bartlett Yancey's report on Caswell County.

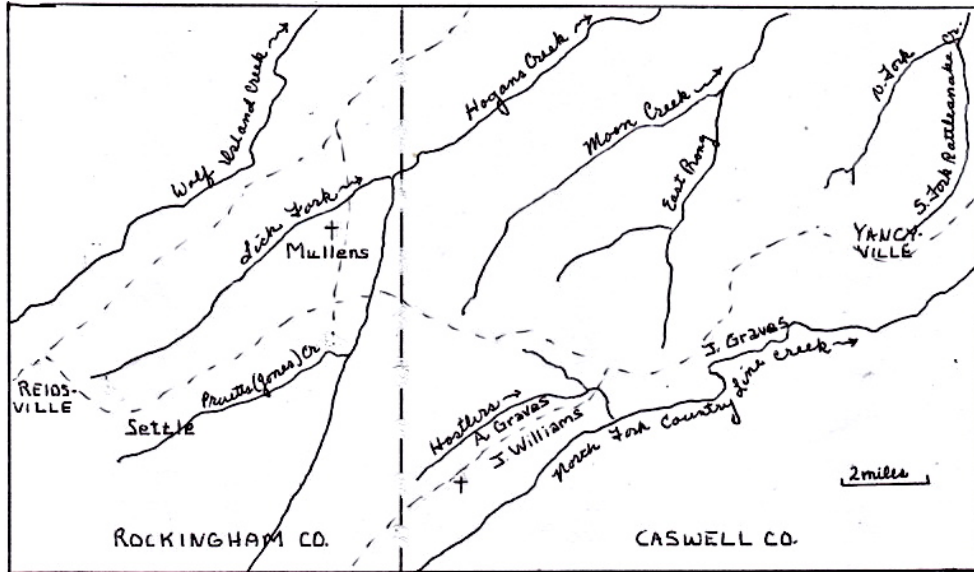
“Brown’s” close to where Hostler Branch enters Country Line Creek,⁶ thus on present Route 150 about three miles down the road from Azariah’s childhood home.

The couple settled first in Azariah’s home in the Gloucester District. Here little John W., Nancy L. and Elizabeth W. were apparently born. Azariah served, in 1792, age 24, as one of the first justices of the new county court, in 1792-1793 as the tax collector for the Gloucester District,⁷ and from 1795 to 1796 as county sheriff.⁸ During this time his elderly father died.

Around 1797, they moved to what is now know as Locust Hill near Betsey’s parents. The 1800 census lists Azariah in the St. David’s District next to Robert Brown, Henry Dunlap and John Williams. [In 1804

a post office was established in Jethro Brown’s store and the area officially became known as Brown’s Store; in 1846 the post office name was changed to Locust Hill.⁹]

Betsey was given land by her father on Hostler Creek at the mouth of Dill Branch per his will written in 1798;¹⁰



on February 6, 1797 Azariah purchased 231 acres on Hostler Creek from Hall Williamson of Rockingham County (Betsy’s maternal uncle);¹¹ and in 1799 he purchased from his father-in-law 243 acres on Country Line and Hostler creeks adjacent Goodows and Robert Brown.¹²

His home, “Oak Grove,” described as palatial and hospitable, was surrounded by lovely grounds of flowers and ornamental shrubs. Boxwoods were planted in the shape of a large heart with the name “Azariah Graves” through the apex. The house no longer stands; it burned in 1899. The Milton News in June 8, 1916, mentioned that “a mammoth oak tree, 35 feet around at the ground, marked the site of the ante-bellum home of Azariah Graves.”¹³ Here the rest of the children, Henrietta, Martha, Calvin, Frances, Mary, Rebecca, and Azariah Jr., were undoubtedly born.

In 1798, age 30, Azariah served a year as state senator, then again from 1805 to 1811.¹⁴ [Caution: He can be easily confused with his nephew Azariah Graves, Esq. (1776-1836), son of John

⁶ Powell, 109.

⁷ Katherine Kerr Kendall, Caswell County minutes.

⁸ Powell, 544, 545: Sheriffs were elected by the county justices and generally held the position for a two to three year term; several men paid a fine of £50 rather than serve as sheriff.

⁹ Powell, 322,555.

¹⁰ Per the will, the property began on Horsley's Creek at the Mouth of Dill Branch, up the branch to the head, thence SW till it intersects Tubbs Branch, thence W until it intersects son Duke's Branch crossing the same and running so as to include improvement made by Thomas Nance, there on until it intersects Browns line near Simpson's on Foot's road, thence N with said Browns and Goodloes line to Horsleys Creek, thence down the Creek to the beginning

¹¹ Caswell County Deed Book K:44.

¹² Caswell County Deed Book I:129.

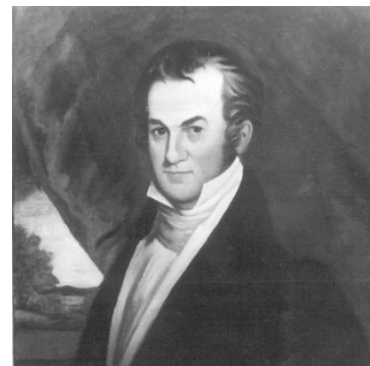
¹³ Powell, 424,425.

¹⁴ Powell, 549.

Herndon Graves, eight years his junior, who lived at the county seat. This Azariah is said to have been a merchant, teacher, and justice of the peace; some seem to think that he was the senator from 1805 to 1811.^{15]}

The portrait of Azariah, to the right, comes from the Caswell County Historical Association website.¹⁶

Azariah accumulated over 2,000 acres. In January of 1792, shortly after the death of his father, he purchased from his brother Thomas 204 acres on both sides of the South Fork of Country Line Creek, land Thomas had originally purchased from his father.¹⁷ On February 25, 1797, he sold 192 acres on the South Fork to Thomas Kimbrough.¹⁸ In 1799 he purchased 930 acres adjoining his land on South Fork from his brother John.¹⁹ On July 20, 1803, he bought 304 acres on Moon Creek from his brother Barzillai.²⁰ He also acquired two tracts from the Harts adjacent to his brother-in-law Duke Williams' land and "near the Cotton Machine:" 184 acres from John Hart in October 5, 1804, and 368 acres from Nathaniel Hart on November 16, 1805.²¹ He is also said to have owned land near the Pleasant Grove Church.²² All this, plus his land on Hostler Creek.



Betsey's father, John Williams, died in the winter of 1804. The Raleigh Register on December 10, 1804, reported:

"Died lately in Caswell Co. in his 65th year, Col. John Williams who commanded the 9th regiment of N.C. Regulars during the revolutionary struggle for independence. This Gentleman was a firm patriot and an inflexible advocate in the cause of Republicanism. In private life and at the bar, he merited and received the character of a good man and a useful citizen."

John Williams had prepared a will six years earlier, on May 31, 1798, stating that he had been for some time past in a declining state of health. This is confirmed by his signing with a mark. In the will he left his wife the plantation; daughter Betsey, wife of Azariah Graves, the tract of land on Hostler Creek at the mouth of Dill Branch; daughter Henrietta wife of Richard Simpson land purchased of Lewis Pike and a small tract with a mill; and son Duke the plantation on the death of his wife.²³ He was buried in the family graveyard, which is now the Trinity Baptist Church cemetery, a mile north of Ashland Road. His gravestone did not survive. The currant stone incorrectly gives the year of his death as 1799. The graveyard was later used by other families and has been variously known as the Slade Cemetery and the Neal Cemetery.²⁴

Azariah advanced quickly in the military. On December 17, 1806, age 38, he was appointed Lt. Col. of the Caswell County militia and on December 21, 1810, at age 42, was promoted to Brigadier-Gen. of the 16th Brigade of the 3rd Division of the North Carolina Militia.²⁵

Meanwhile, he had his hands full running the large plantation. According to the 1810 census he owned 41 slaves, an exceptionally large number, and a cotton gin, so he grew cotton as well as tobacco.²⁶ In 1817 the court allowed him and eldest son John W. to retail spirits in his storehouse.

¹⁵ Gravesfa.org Gen 270, Azariah Graves (509).

¹⁶ CCHA web-site, Feb. 11, 2006: Azariah Graves or Giles Mebane. http://ncccha.blogspot.com/2006_02_01_ncccha_archive.html

¹⁷ Caswell County Deed Book H:39.

¹⁸ Caswell County Deed Book K:121.

¹⁹ Caswell County Deed Book L:140.

²⁰ Caswell County Deed Book N:196.

²¹ Caswell County Deed Book O:153,178.

²² Graves, 97: near the church.

²³ Caswell County Will Book E:168, 172 (inventory) See CCHA: John Williams, for the complete transcription of the will.

²⁴ CCHA website, Trinity Baptist Church (Old).

²⁵ L. Graves, 98.

²⁶ 1810 Census p. 517: cotton gin.

By 1820, per the census, he owned 56 slaves; 15 people were working in agriculture, 2 people in commerce and 3 people in manufacturing.

The first of the children to wed was eldest son **John Williams Graves** who married at age 22 in 1814 **Martha Hinton** from a plantation near Raleigh, North Carolina; he brought her back to Caswell. A year later daughter, **Nancy Graves**, age 21, married her cousin widower **Capt. William Graves**, son of John H. Graves; they lived in Yanceyville. In 1818 daughter **Elizabeth Graves**, age 21, married her cousin **Dr. John Lewis Graves**, son of Solomon Graves, and in 1822 daughter **Martha Graves**, age 21, married **Dr. John W. Dick**.

With the close of the War of 1812 (1812-1814), the Indian lands on the upper Ocmulgee and Oconee rivers in northern Georgia began to open up for settlement. Brother Solomon move c.1818 to the area which became Newton County in 1821. His son Dr. John L. Graves and wife Elizabeth (Azariah's daughter) settled nearby in Morgan County, Georgia. Elizabeth died a few years later and Dr. John returned to Caswell, married her widowed sister, Martha Graves Dick, and returned to Georgia. Azariah's eldest son, John W. Graves, moved around 1820, settling first in Clarke (Oconee) County, then in Newton County. The remainder of Azariah's family stayed nearby.

Daughter **Henrietta Graves**, at age 21, married in 1820 **Thomas Settle**, age 31, son of David and Rhoda (Mullins) Settle of neighboring Rockingham County; a decade later he would be appointed a justice of the state's Supreme Court. The Settle plantation was on Pruett's (Jones) Fork of Hogans Creek, southeast of Rte 158, east of Reidsville, on land settled by their grandfather, Josiah Settle, who came there from northern Virginia.²⁷ Thomas was the grandson of Rev. Thomas Mullins (1737-1816) pastor of the Lick Fork Baptist Church, located in the fork of Lick Fork and Hogans creeks, near present Ruffin, roughly eight miles northwest of the Graves' home.²⁸

Possibly influenced by his son-in-law, in May of 1824 Azariah (and family) joined the Lick Fork church.²⁹ The Graves were already Baptists; his wife, according to her obituary, had been a Baptist over 50 years when she died and his brother Barzillai served as pastor of the Bush Arbor Baptist Church and the Country Line Primitive Baptist Church.³⁰

In 1826, daughter **Frances Graves**, at age 18, married **Josiah Settle**, age 27, Thomas' brother and moved to Rockingham County; she died young in 1829 giving birth to her second daughter.

Meanwhile, in the mid-1820s, Azariah allowed a Miss Ballantine to open a school on his plantation, a seminary for young ladies to teach them "Scientific and Ornamental Branches necessary to complete the Female Education" as well as moral and manners.³¹ His youngest daughters Mary and Rebecca most likely attended.

Betsy's elderly mother, Elizabeth (Williamson) Williams, died in 1831 and was buried next to her husband in the Williams' family graveyard. She was 87.

Caswell Court House continued to grow and in 1833-34 was incorporated as a town, named Yanceyville, in honor of Azariah's nephew, Bartlett Yancey, Jr. (1785-1828), a prominent politician and speaker in the state senate, who died of fever in the prime of life.³² The town extended one-half mile from the courthouse in all directions, making it a circular city. Sons of John Herndon Graves and others donated land and a new brick courthouse was built. This was a politically powerful area and in the 1830s their native son, Bedford Brown, represented North Carolina in the U.S. senate. Per historian Powell, the decade of the 1830s witnessed the beginning of a period of prosperity that would continue unabated until the Civil War

²⁷ William Emmett Reese, *The Settle-Suttle Family*, 1974.

²⁸ Rev. Thomas Mullins (b.c.1737-1816) migrated here in his teens with his father Patrick Mullins, in the mid-1750s, probably via the Great Wagon Road. They settled first up the Dan River in present Stokes County.

²⁹ CCHA website, Trinity Baptist Church (Old).

³⁰ CCHA website: Country Line Primitive Baptist Church.

³¹ Powell, 365. "at Gen. A. Graves in the upper end of Caswell County."

³² Powell 341: Others say it was named for Bartlett's brother James Yancey or simply to honor the family, 343fn.

Son **Calvin Graves** married at age 26 in 1830 **Elizabeth Lea**, daughter of John C. Lea, and purchased the Jethro Brown house, which still stands on Rte 150 at Wagon Wheel Road. Educated as a lawyer, he served in the state House of Commons, serving as speaker, and in the state Senate where, as speaker, he made the tie-breaking vote for an east-west railroad, which was contrary to the wishes of Caswell County, who wanted a north-south route. Although applauded by many, it was the end of his political career.³³ Elizabeth died in 1858 and he married next **Mary (Wilson) Lea**, widow of William Lea of Petersburg, with a young daughter Margaret R. Lea.

Daughter **Rebecca Graves** married at age 23 in 1836 her cousin **Dr. Henry L. Graves** and moved to Georgia.

Betsey died on August 21, 1841, at age 67, and was buried in the Williams family graveyard near her parents. Her death was recored in the Biblical Recorder, Wake Forest University on September 11, 1841:

"On Saturday 21st Ult. at the residence of her husband in Caswell Co., Mrs. Elizabeth Graves (consort of General Azariah Graves) in her 68th year, youngest daughter of late Col. John Williams, an officer and patriot of the Revolutionary War - for over 50 years a member of the Baptist Church. She left an aged husband and 8 children"

A year earlier, in 1840, Azariah, an advocate for the Baptist's missionary effort, transferred his membership from the Lick Fork Baptist Church to the Trinity Missionary Baptist Church, a newly created branch of the Country Line Baptist Church, located at the old Williams' graveyard site on present Rte 150. Gen. Azariah Graves, Alexis Howard and William Slade were elected trustees on January 1, 1842, and in 1845 Azariah served as one of the trustees of the church school. Son-in-law Judge Thomas Settle joined in 1843.³⁴

The last two children married. **Mary Graves**, at age 32, married in 1842 widower **Alexis Howard** and moved to Tuskegee, Alabama. **Azariah Graves, Jr.** married in his late 20s, in 1844, **Meekey Harden Slade** who died less than a year later; he married next in 1846 **Elizabeth "Lizzie" Neal** and lastly in 1858 **Isabel Howard**, age 23, daughter of Alexis Howard; she had remained in Caswell when her father moved to Alabama.

Gen. Azariah died at age 81, on March 1, 1850, and was buried near his wife. Six years earlier, when he drew up a will on August 5, 1843, he was "in the enjoyment of good health" and per the 1850 census mortality schedule he died simply from "old age." The will, proved in court in April of 1850, named his children: John W. Graves, Ann L. Graves wife of William Graves, Henrietta wife of Judge Settle, Martha W. wife of Dr. John L. Graves, Calvin Graves, Mary wife of Alexis Howard, Rebecca W. wife of Henry L. Graves, Azariah Graves, son-in-law Josiah Settle & dec'd daughter Frances, grandson Calvin L. Graves, son of dec'd daughter Elizabeth W. Graves, and appointed Calvin and Azariah executors.

He gave his daughters the Negroes he had given them "with their future increase," specifically naming the Negroes given to daughter Mary. To grandson Calvin he gave Negro Woman Cena "theretofore advanced to his mother." He gave to his son Azariah the "tract of land and plantation whereon I now live including the Country Line land containing Eight hundred and Twenty five acres more or less" and the following Negroes with their increase: Peter and Melinda, his wife, Isaac, little Harry, Iverson, Rufus, Leannah, Lewis, Julia, and Sam; two mules, his watch, his buggy and harness, half of the crop and stock, all his household and kitchen furniture. He stated that it was his desire that "my faithful servant Big Harry shall have the privilege of choosing which of my children shall own him and his wife Dolly." The rest of the Negroes and property were to be equally divided between all the children then living and the legal representatives of those deceased.

³³ Powell, 149-151. For more on this remarkable man.

³⁴ Caswell County Historical Association web-site: Trinity Baptist Church (Old) Others transferred from the Yanceyville, Wolf Island, Pleasant Grover Baptist Churches.

Youngest son Azariah Jr., in his mid-30s, inherited the family home. He sold the home, two years later, in 1852, hoping to find better land. In December he wrote a letter to his nephew John Hinton Graves, the son of his older brother John W.³⁵

(Return address: Locust Hill, NC)

(Address to Mr. Jon. H. Graves, Augusta, GA.

17th Decr 1852

Dear Hinton,

I received a letter from you some week or so ago and should have answered it immediately had I not been right in the midst of my moving and arranging my affects for another year... You mentioned you had heard of the sale of my land and wish me to come out and join you for Texas next fall. My calculation at this time is to leave old Caswell in April (next) for a new home where I shall find it I am unable to say though I rather expect to settle near Bro Howard if I like the country. My family will remain with Mrs. Neal until next fall. Our relations in this country blame me, say much for selling my land and say I will resent it at some day but I am not disposed to think so myself. My little brats (& I have three of the finest little fellows you ever saw) will want more elbow room when they grow up than I shall be able to give them in the Old North State at the present price of land...

I sold my land to a man by the name of Ware, Ansel Ware, Fannie is acquainted with him I expect. He lived near Yanceyville when Fannie left this country. He give me \$8000 for the tract and pays just when I call for the money, Pays me interest on \$4000 from the 1st Nov and interest on the balance commencing 25 Decr. Where will you be next April: I should like to see you when I come out. I expect to be at Bro Howards by the middle or last of April if nothing happens. Lizzie joins me in love to Fannie and yourself, yr mother & family.

Yr affectionate Uncle,

Azariah G.

Azariah did not find land to his liking and returned to 'old Caswell.' In 1860 we find him, age 44, with his third wife Isabel and four young children, living in Locust Hill next door to Lizzie's brother Stephen Neal, merchant, age 47.

Children:

1. John Williams Graves (March 4, 1792-February 9, 1847) m. October 26, 1814 Martha Elizabeth Hinton. [See his section.]
2. Nancy "Ann" Lea Graves (January 5, 1794-October 1857) m. May 1815 cousin Capt. William Graves
3. Elizabeth Williams Graves (February 2, 1797-August 27, 1821) m. November 12, 1818 cousin Dr. John Lewis Graves.
4. Henrietta Williams Graves (April 7, 1799-after 1841) m. September 21, 1820 Thomas Settle
5. Martha Graves (June 2, 1801-June 1868) m. 1822 Dr. John W. Dick, m.2 1824 cousin widower Dr. John Lewis Graves
6. Calvin Graves (January 3, 1804-1877) m. June 9, 1830 Elizabeth S. Lea, m.2 Mary (Wilson) Lea.
7. Frances Lea Graves (September 2, 1807-October 7, 1829) m. June 3, 1826 Josiah Settle
8. Mary Kerr Graves (April 15, 1810-) m. December 7, 1842 Alexis Howard
9. Rebecca W. Graves (October 8, 1812-November 1865) m. February 1836 cousin Dr. Henry L. Graves
10. Azariah Graves, Jr. (August 10, 1815-July 9, 1898) m.1 June 26, 1844 Meekey Harden Slade, m.2 July 1, 1846 Elizabeth "Lizzie" Neal, m.3 March 17, 1858 Isabel Howard

³⁵ The Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Charles I. Graves Papers #2606.

Chapter 5:

John Williams Graves (1792-1847)

Clarke (Oconee) County and Newton County, Georgia

John W. was born in Caswell County, North Carolina. He married and moved to Georgia where he prospered, until losing his health and failing in a railroad venture. His family genealogy was documented in 1905 by John Card Graves¹ and in the 1970s by Louise Graves.² He is included on the Caswell County Family Tree³ and on the Graves Family Association website.⁴ The family letters are housed in the University of North Carolina Southern Historical Collection.⁵

John Williams Graves, eldest child of Gen. Azariah and Elizabeth (Williams) Graves, was born on March 4, 1792, in Caswell County, North Carolina, and named for his maternal grandfather, Col. John Williams. He knew the Colonel, for he died when John W. was twelve, but he never knew his paternal grandfather.

John W. grew up in the family's home, Oak Grove, in what is now Locust Hill, Caswell County, and learned from his father not only the skills of running a plantation but also statesmanship. He was considerably older than his brothers: Calvin was 12 years younger and Azariah Jr. was 23 years younger, born after John married.

He received his education at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, founded in 1789, the oldest public university in the United States, graduating at age 22 in 1814 with his cousin (and future brother-in-law) John L. Graves in a class of sixteen.⁶ While at college, he became friends with fellow classmate, Charles Hinton, and while on visits to Charles' home near Raleigh, during vacations, he met and fell in love with Charles' cousin Martha Hinton.^{7 8}

John W. and **Martha Elizabeth Hinton** married on Wednesday, October 26, 1814, in an evening wedding; the Raleigh Register reported the event on Friday 28, referring to Martha as Miss Patsey Hinton. Martha was the eldest child of State Senator John "Jack" and Sarah (Bryan) Hinton of Wake County, who owned Stoney Grove Plantation in the Crabtree area west of Raleigh. Her great-grandfather, Col. John Hinton, was one of the earliest settlers in area.⁹

John W. and Martha lived first in Caswell County. Here their first three children, Junius, Robert and Sarah, were born. He worked along side his father, for in 1817, with his father, he received a license to sell 'retail spirits' in his father's storehouse. In 1818 he served as a Justice of the Peace.

¹ John Card Graves, *Captain Thomas Graves : the Graves family of eastern Virginia, generations 1 through 14*, 1905.

² Louise Graves, *Graves - Twelve Generations, some Descendants and kin*, 1977. Louise visited Caswell County, NC, numerous times in the 1960s discovering and pulling together information on the Graves family of Caswell for her treatise on John Graves of Caswell in 1968, laying the foundation for later researchers.

³ Caswell County Historical Association [CCHA], Caswell County Family Tree, Reference Number 1916.

⁴ Graves Family Association [GFA] [Gravesfa.org] Gen. 270: John Williams Graves (#560).

⁵ Southern Historical Collection, Graves Family Letter, #2716; Charles I. Graves #2606.

⁶ University of NC Graduates 1798-1851. <http://ncroots.com/unc.htm>

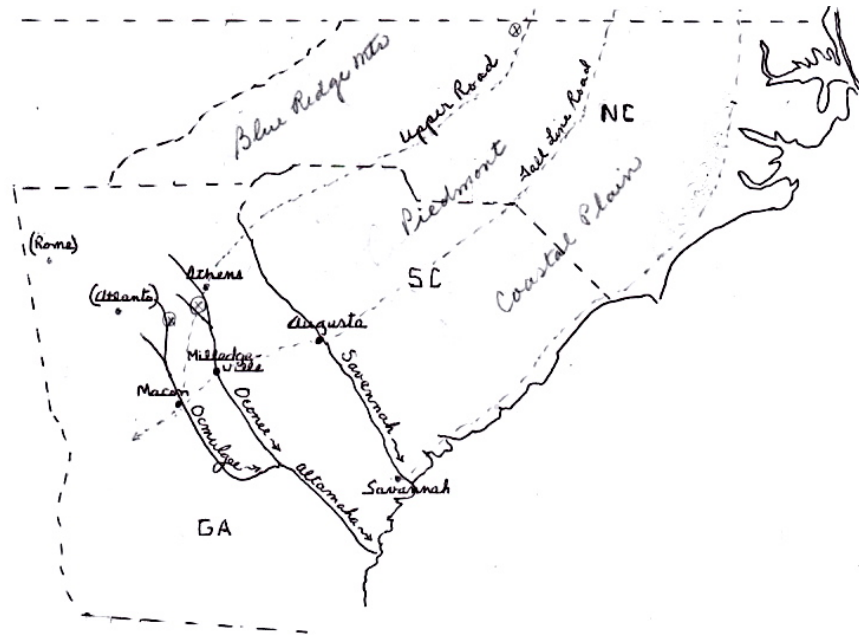
⁷ L. Graves, 103.

⁸ Per Margaret Lea Graves (Mrs. Charles I. Graves).

⁹ Col. John Hinton > Maj. John Hinton > Senator John 'Jack' Hinton > Martha Hinton.

His father owned a cotton gin, so he grew up around cotton and thus was already familiar with that crop when he decided to move south.

With the close of the War of 1812 (1812-14), Indian treaties began opening up large areas of the Georgia piedmont region for settlement. The North Carolina General Assembly in 1818 ordered a road to be surveyed and laid out from the Virginia line at Milton on the Dan River in Caswell County through the piedmont region to a point on the South Carolina line.¹⁰ John W. undoubtedly took this route. The road followed the old colonial route called the Upper Road, roughly present US 29, which continued into Georgia and was the lower portion of the trail his grandfather, John Graves, had taken 65 years earlier when he came from Virginia.¹¹



In 1818, uncle Solomon Graves received a patent to 4000 acres in the Georgia wilderness near the headwaters of the Ocmulgee River, the area that became Newton County in 1821. The land had been ceded by the Indians in 1807.

John W. was not as adventuresome as his uncle. He moved to already-settled Clarke (Oconee) County some twenty miles to the east on the headwaters of the Oconee River, land ceded by the Indians in 1790. The county was formed from Jackson and Greene counties in 1801 with Watkinsville (laid out in 1802) as the county seat. Around that time, the state moved their capital to the falls of the Oconee and named it Milledgeville for the current governor; it would remain the capital for the next 60 years.

When John W. and Martha arrived, there were three towns in Clarke County: Watkinsville in the center, Salem, which no longer exists,¹² to the south, and Athens to the north. Athens, an early trading settlement called Cedar Shoals, became the site for the University of Georgia in 1801 and the settlement was renamed Athens. The school floundered until around 1819. The town, in the meantime, became a textile manufacturing center, supplied by the nearby cotton plantations.

[The area where John W. lived became Oconee County, many years later, in 1875, after the Civil War, because the county moved their seat from Watkinsville to Athens. This perturbed the locals in Watkinsville, so they had the area south of McNutt Creek and west of the Oconee River set off as Oconee County and kept Watkinsville for their county seat.]

The Graves moved to Georgia after the death of their infant baby girl, Sarah, in August of 1819¹³ and arrived by July 17, 1820, when, described as “of Clarke County,” he purchased 580 acres

¹⁰ William S. Powell, *When The Past Refused to Die, A History of Caswell County 1777-1977*, 1977, 491.

¹¹ Rootsweb, *Historic Routes of Virginia, the Carolinas and Georgia*. The Upper Road. There was the Carolina Road, a continuation of the Great Wagon Road, which ran south from Roanoke VA through the back country to Augusta Ga.

¹² Possibly near present Farmington, where we find Salem Road.

¹³ She is buried in what was then the Williams family graveyards and is now the Trinity Baptist Church cemetery.

between Greenbrier and Freeman creeks from James C. Steel, who had moved to Perry County, in the new state of Mississippi.¹⁴

The plantation was somewhere in the vicinity of the x on the following map.

On August 7, 1820, the census taker lists John, his wife and 2 boys (Junius & Robert); 2 males and a female 16-25 (unidentified); 9 slaves; and noted that seven people were engaged in agriculture.

It is unclear if the family moved into the Steel house or built their own. Regardless, their home was undoubtedly a two story frame house, most likely well furnished with Hinton family possessions. This would be their home for the next fifteen years. Here Elizabeth, Ann, John H., Claudia, James O., Azariah, and probably Oscar were born.

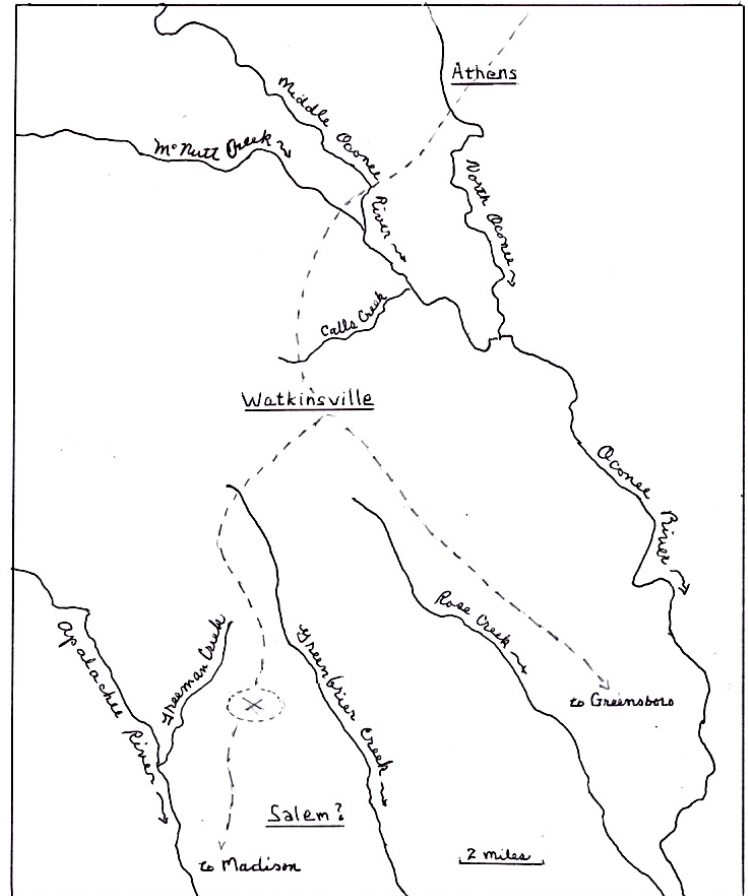
John W. immediately became active in the community, serving as Justice of the Inferior Court (now Probate Judge) from 1821 to 1825, and in 1832 representing the area in the Georgia House of Representatives in Milledgeville.¹⁵ He also served as one of the trustees of Clarke County Academy and was one of the commissioners who set up a lottery to raise money to build Salem Academy (Methodist).¹⁶ The family appears to have been Methodists. John had grown up in the Baptist church, but a Methodist minister was at Martha's bedside in her last days.

Martha's sister, Anne Bryan Hinton, four years younger, joined them and married in 1822 neighbor Thomas E. Williamson, son of James & Ann Williamson of Caswell County.

John W. enlarged his plantation to around 970 acres. In 1823 he purchased 178 adjoining acres on Freeman Creek from Richard Glass and in 1831 he purchased 212 adjoining acres from the William Wright Estate.¹⁷

By 1830, per the census, he owned at least thirty slaves, much higher than average for his area.

John W. had a lot in Watkinsville, so may have operated a store, and owned land on Calls Creek, north of Watsonville.¹⁸ In October of 1836, with Richard Richardson he bought seven lots on the east side of town, possibly land speculation.^{19 20}



¹⁴ Clark County Deed Book L:413.

¹⁵ Georgia State archives index files.

¹⁶ Ernest C. Hynds, *Antebellum Athens and Clarke County*, 1974, 87, 151, 155.

¹⁷ Clark County Deed Book O:211-218. P:383. He also acquired 500 acres on the Apalachee but sold a few years later.

¹⁸ Clark County Deed Book P:298, 352; Q:14,516.

¹⁹ The 1850 census list Richardson in Watkinsville age 54, born in Virginia, tavern keeper, with family.

²⁰ Clark County Deed Book Q:19. Lots 23, 21, 18, 16, 14, 28, 29, 26, 25 and 30 acres.

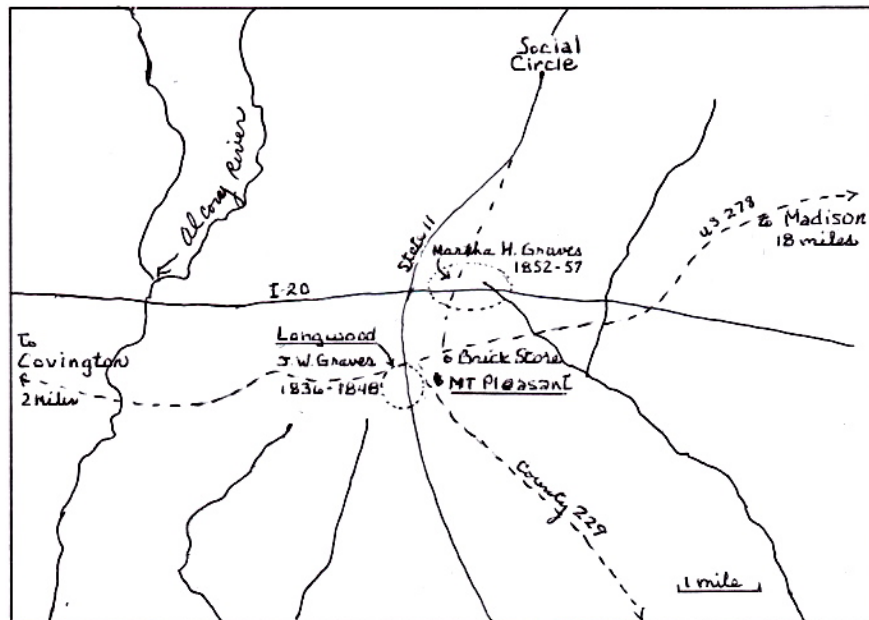
Meanwhile, he kept in touch with his kin in nearby Newton County. He was over there in September of 1830, when he witnessed the will of his aging uncle Solomon Graves who died the following month. Around this time Martha's brother John W. Hinton, thirteen years her junior, joined them from North Carolina.

The following year, their two eldest sons, teenagers, Junius and Robert, died and John H., only six, became the eldest son.

By the mid-1820s Georgia had become the world's leading cotton producer. Clarke County boasted flour, saw, and grist mills, cotton ginning, cotton pressing, furniture making, blacksmithing, tailoring, mantua making, tanning, etc. Watkinsville had 20 houses, 4 stores, an academy, as well as the courthouse and jail. The town was ideally located at the convergence of the roads to Athens from Greensboro and Madison. In good weather, it took the cotton wagons about a week to reach Augusta on the Savannah River, 100 miles to the southeast, the distribution center for the back country. However, times were changing. (See Ernest C. Hynds, *Antebellum Athens and Clarke County*, 1974.)

In 1833, neighboring South Carolina completed its railroad from Charlestown to Hamburg, a town located across the Savannah River from Augusta, Georgia. Fearing that Georgia commerce would be diverted to Charleston, the Georgia state legislature granted three railroad charters, one, the Georgia Railroad, was to run from Augusta west to Madison and north to Athens. Construction, under its chief engineer, John Edgar Thompson (later president of the gigantic Pennsylvania Railroad), began in 1834 and the rails reached Athens in 1842. The next phase was to branch out from Madison west through Covington, in Newton County, to Terminus ("end of the line") where it linked with the other lines. Terminus became Marthasville in 1842, named for the governor's daughter, and in 1845 renamed Atlantic-Pacific, which was shortened to Atlanta. By 1845 tracks were being laid north from Atlanta which would reach Chattanooga in 1851 with a side branch to Rome, in northwest Georgia, by 1849.

Around 1836, John W., in his mid-40s, moved his family and slaves thirty-six miles southwest to Newton County where he purchased "Longwood," across from his cousin Iverson Graves' "Mount Pleasant," near the old Brick Store his uncle Solomon had built. John bought the land (175 acres, lot 175, in the First District) jointly with Lambeth Hopkins, an up-and-coming Newton County merchant in his 30s. Together they acquired the property from Thomas Dacus, sometime prior to Dacus' death in October of 1836. The property was the former home of David Stewart, thus the plantation house may have been originally built by Stewart or Dacus. Present state highway 11 now runs through the property. It is possible that Iverson notified John that the valuable home was for sale and that



inspired the moved. In 1840 Hopkins, who by then had moved to Augusta, transferred his interest in the plantation to John.²¹ Martha's brother John W. Hinton also moved.

From letters, we know John W. and Martha called their home "Longwood." Here their last child, Charles Iverson, was born in 1838.

Newton County had become a collecting pot for Graves "cousins." Living nearby were his sister Martha who had married Iverson's brother Dr. John L. Graves, and his cousin Major L. Graves, son of his uncle Thomas. In 1838 cousin Col. Thomas Graves, son of his oldest uncle John Herndon Graves, moved his family to nearby Social Circle for health reasons. He would be joined by his daughter Leannah Graves Haralson. Thomas' son Henry L. Graves, a Baptist minister, had married John's younger sister Rebecca. After attending a theological institute in New York they settled for a few years to teach in Covington before moving to Texas where he became the first president of Baylor University, a Baptist school.

Covington, the county seat, was about eight miles to the west across the Alcovy River. Just north of Covington was Oxford, the original home of Emory College (University), a Methodist school chartered in December 1836, whose doors opened in September 1838. Augustus B. Longstreet, Emory's president from 1840 to 1848, a native of Augusta, Georgia, and a Yale graduate, became one of John W.'s closest friends.

In January of 1840 John W. purchased an additional 166 acres (2/3 of Lot #221 in the First District)²² and, per the census, he then owned 51 slaves, well above average.

Around 1841, his mother died in Caswell County, North Carolina, and a few years later, in December of 1844, Martha's father died in Raleigh, North Carolina. Most likely trips were made back to their former homes.

Meanwhile, the children were growing up and marrying. In 1841, 18-year-old daughter **Ann Graves** married **John E. Parke**, age 33, from Downingtown, Chester County, Pennsylvania. Parke was a surveyor for the Georgia Railroad which had just completed the line from Augusta to Madison and Athens. They may have met while Parke was surveying the Covington stretch. In 1846 daughter **Claudia H. Graves**, at age 18, married **Oliver H. Lee**, age 26, a merchant from Augusta, Georgia, and moved there to live.

John W. had a blacksmith business as well. His ledger book for 1846, now housed in the Southern Historical Collection at Chapel Hill, NC, lists approximately 30 accounts, including John L. Graves, John W. Hinton and Robert Livingston, for various services such as sharpening and pointing plows, making plough wings, mending yokes, horse shoeing, etc. Often his sons "John H." and "Oscar H." signed for him.

John W., by most accounts, is described as a large man, weighing over 400 pounds. By 1842 he was having difficulties. Per a letter from Leannah Graves Haralson²³ to Paul A. Haralson dated September 14, 1842:

*"...Cousin John W. has moved from Longwood to Mount Pleasant, he is suffering very much from his legs they are worse than they ever have been he cant lie down has to recline for he cant sit up, I should not be surprised to hear of his death at any time. His legs look as though they would mortify. Mr. Park and wife started to the north Saturday..."*²⁴

He had other problems as well; he had invested in the railroad. A financial panic in 1836 and a national depression in the early 1840s caused a number of banks and at least one railroad line (the Monroe line) to go bankrupt. Per son Charles I.'s wife Margaret, writing years later:

"When the Georgia railroad was surveyed by John Edgar Thompson and John E. Parke (his future son-in-law), John became greatly interested in it, and to further the success of building it, took large contracts. In

²¹ Newton County Deed Book F:616.

²² Newton County Deed Book F:694.

²³ Daughter of Col. Thomas & Polly (Burnett) Graves.

²⁴ Caswell County Family Tree: John William Graves ID I1916. (no source given)

this way from a man of large means he jeopardized his fortune and lost heavily. At his death which followed soon after, John's widow had only the money left by her father, Mr. Hinton, and secured to her \$20,000."

John W. died in February of 1847, in his mid-50s. His cousin Iverson L. Graves mentions the death in a letter to his daughter Rebecca.

(Reverse side addressed to: Miss Rebecca F. Graves, Troy Female Seminary, New York.)

At home, Feb 11th 1847

My dear child,

..... We have had a time of excitement with us all at Mt. Pleasant for more than a week. On the first Tuesday in Feby commenced the sale of J. W. Graves property. Continued two days in Covington and two at Longwood. He took it very hard and when his property was all gone there seemed to be nothing longer to stimulate or excite him. When night before last the machinery of life stood still and he breathed his last as if falling into a deep sleep.

I was sent for as soon as it was discovered he was about to die but before I got there the mortal strife was over. We laid him down beside my old father on last nining [?]. Judge Longstreet and family were out, spent the night with us and have just left. Cousin Martha bears the loss of her property as well as her bereavement with a firmness remarkable for one of her temperament. The family were left with property enough to support them comfortably and funds that will stick to them in any and every emergency.

They have already removed to Mt. Pleasant and Gen'l Williamson will in a few days take possession of Longwood.....

Your Father,

Iverson L. Graves

John W. had written a will two years earlier.²⁵ In the will he requested that "as long as my wife and children continue together, my whole estate remains unbroken, and the annual income of it be turned over to my wife for the support of the family and the education of the children." He requested that his wife "take the counsel of my esteemed friends Augustus B. Longstreet and Asbury Hall." At her death the children were to receive an equal portion. J. W. Harris and Wm S. Lunsford(?) witnessed the will and John W. Hinton, John H. Graves, and Martha H. Graves were appointed executors. The estate was settled in 1852. From letters in 1858 between his son-in-law John E. Parke and Iverson Graves of Brick Store, Newton County, we learn that they continued to have difficulties with the estate.

After her father's estate was settled in September of 1847, Martha moved the family to Augusta, Richmond County, Georgia. On October 9, 1847, age 49, she purchased 60 acres west of town at the base of the hills near Summerville. The property was bounded on north by Turknnett Spring Road.²⁶ Daughter Claudia Lee lived nearby in Augusta.

Augusta, at the falls of the Savannah River, was settled a hundred years earlier, in 1739, as a fort and trading post. In the 1780s tobacco planters from Virginia and the Carolinas moved into the area. The town served as the state capital from 1786 to 1795. As settlement moved west, cotton became the preferred crop. Being the terminus of the Georgia Railroad, Augusta became an industrial center with mills, manufacturing, iron works, banks, etc.

This would be her home for the next six years. In 1850 the U.S. census lists the following living with her: Ann (27) and her husband John E. Parke (35), Elizabeth (30), John H. (24/farmer), and Charles I. (12). Missing from the household were Azariah (age 18) and Oscar (age 15), both probably away in boarding school. Youngest son Charles I. is said to have attended Richmond Academy in Augusta.

John W.'s estate was settled in September of 1852 and in December Martha sold the 60-acre farm²⁷ and returned to Newton County, purchasing 380 acres (225a in Lot #149; 85a part of Lot #162; 71a part of Lots #134 & #135) about a mile north of "Mount Pleasant."²⁸ Interstate 20

²⁵ Newton County Will Book 2.

²⁶ Richmond County Deed Book DD:104.

²⁷ Richmond County Deed Book GG:534.

²⁸ Newton County Deed Book W:12.

now crosses through the property just east of the state highway 11 overpass. Per the 1976 county road map, an old road ran from the Brick Store north, through her property, to Social Circle. According to the deed, the property bordered on John L. Graves mill pond. While living there she wrote letters from “Hillside” in 1854 and from “Echo” in 1855. She lived here five years, then moved to Rome, Floyd County, Georgia, near her son John H.

On September 5, 1852, eldest son **John H. Graves** married in Tuskegee, Alabama, his cousin **Frances Lea Settle**, daughter of Josiah and Frances Lea (Graves) Settle of Rockingham County, North Carolina. He brought her back in Augusta and from there he wrote to his Uncle Azariah Graves, Jr. in Caswell County, North Carolina, about joining him in a move to Texas. His uncle was not interested and John H. chose instead to settle in Floyd County, northwest Georgia, probably encouragement to do so by his brother-in-law John E. Parke, who had owned land there. Martha helped him buy a plantation in February 1853, by paying half; she then deeded that half to son Azariah.

Soon, 15-year-old Charles I. also wanted to go to Texas.

Newton County, Thursday morning May 1853

My Dear, very dear Charles,

I have just received your second letter, asking my opinion respecting to your going to Texas. I told Mr. Parke to tell you I could not consent for you to go. It was too far away from me, you are too young, and moreover Mr. Cablot is not the man that I would be willing to put you with if I have been correctly informed he is too quick tempered and too overbearing. You would meet with some hard treatment perhaps more so than you might find pleasant or even for your good. I like to see boys governed and made to know their place and some boys have to be bo..n down to make them do. And dear child it is the very place that would not suit you of all others, you are half your time complaining of your bowels in all probability you would not live six weeks from the moment you started, persons that never had it are frequently attacked with it and dye. It is not for want of confidence. You can do very well where you are, if you will apply yourself, there are already too many of my children discontented, and I have thought you the only one perhaps that might be willing to remain with me, it is by no means the place we live in, or the business we are in, but application and close attention to your business that will make men give us character and money. This changing has upset many persons. Do let Finus??? alone and get or let Azariah get you a place if O H Lee does not want you and go to work, and stay at it, until it is best to quit. Azariah seems to be doing very well and its because he has stayed at the same place and doing the same thing and he is satisfied. Why my child I have been worried about you. I got a letter from E saying you were quite sick with bowel complaint. I have almost looked for you to come home too sick to do any thing. Have you so soon forgotten how I was troubled about the navy and now you want to Texas, do pray say no more about it. I never saw a family of children so restless. Why it is enough to make people think we are all crazy. I have moved to do the best for my children and not more than one or two of them but what want to go some where else. If you don't mind it will injure your standing being so roving. Now look at A. Write when you get this letter. Before you get this you will see what anxiety you all cause me. Just look and think how I must feel. You said sometime ago you had rather stay there, now you want to go to Texas. You must write immediately. The postmasters will think I do nothing but write to my children. This the 8th letter in ten days all to my children.

Farewell

Your Mother.

Not long after, Charles I. entered the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis. This photo of Charles is from the *Rome News-Tribune*, Sunday, November 29, 1970, issue.

In 1854 eldest daughter, Elizabeth (34) and Oscar (19) were living with their mother in Newton County; Ann Parke (31) and Claudia Lee (26) had homes in the Augusta area; son John H. (29) and his family were living on their plantation near Rome; Azariah (21) a bachelor was working (in Augusta?); and Charles I. (16) was in Annapolis, Maryland.



Special photo
AT ANNAPOLIS
Graves at 15

Daughter Ann Parke visited her mother in the fall of 1854. While there she wrote a letter to her brother Charles I., Martha added a note.

Hillside, Newton Co. GA, Sept 14th 54

My dear brother,

We are very glad to hear from you last evening through Oscar's letter of the 7 this month & hope before this time you are safely landed on the American shore. We are all well here & getting on well I believe. I came up the first of July with a sick baby and after being here two weeks we buried our dear letter Mattie. She died of an affection of the brain which we think was caused by teething. She was a very pretty & sprightly child of a very amiable & gentle disposition just beginning to talk & walk around the chairs. Mr. Parke is at the North. I expect him home about the first of October. We had a letter yesterday from Oliver. Claudia was sick with the fever but the Dr. said he thought she would be up in a few days. Oliver is thought to be far gone in consumption, is confined much of his time to the house. Sister E is at John's. They are all well up there except sister F who is a little complaining. Azariah was up here about two weeks ago looking very well. It has been very sickly through the surrounding country and many deaths in some families half have died. The disease was diareah or disentary in the spring & early part of the summer. Now it is typhoid fever. This neighborhood has escaped so far. It has been very dry & the crops are said to be short. Uncle John says Ma's crop is good, her corn crop, her cotton is injured by the dro.. but is as good as her neighbours. I expect to go home in two or three weeks. We live at Kings Station 3 miles from Augusta. When are you coming home. I will stop as I have told you all the news that I can think of that will interest you. Please write soon and often as we are all anxious to hear from you.

Your sister

A. B. Parke

Dear Dear Charles,

I am so glad to learn you are so far safe. You cannot tell how much your mother thought of her child during the stormy days we had the first of the month. You must come to see us as soon as consistent with the rules of the school. It seems a long time since I saw you. I hope you will continue to be the same studious correct boy you have always been and while you are preparing for usefulness in this world remember you must be ready to die. Ann has given you all the news. Your Uncle Jack will start to Texas the first of November. I shall expect a letter soon. I embrace you my own dear child.

Your Mother.

Martha, the ever-concerned mother, wrote Charles again about four months later.

Echo, January 15th 1855

My Dear Son

I received your letter the first of the month. In my last letter to you I put in a gold dollar from your brother Hinton. You said nothing about it, did you get it? We are all well. Ann has been with me since July but will leave next friday, Elizabeth is still with Claudia and will remain until Ann goes home and will see her and stay a short time with her and then come home. Oscar spent all of December in Floyd. He is now at home. He will write soon. Azariah is most of his time collecting. We see him frequently. He will be here sometime this week on his way to Augusta. He is doing well and seems in good health and spirits. I have just received your circular. You are marked with 7 demerits. I cannot help being sorry no matter from what cause. Still my dear I believe every word you say about them and they are for small offenses and for what you could not avoid but it makes me uneasy for fear you are not as particular as you were at first, do be careful my own dear child in every respect not because you have had marks that it will make no difference. It does with your mother and you know the anxiety my children cause me. I try to pray to god to keep you from sin and protect you in every hour of temptation. and make you a good christian. write to me as often as you have time. Ann sends much love to you. Farewell my own dear child with many loving wishes for your everlasting good.

Your Mother

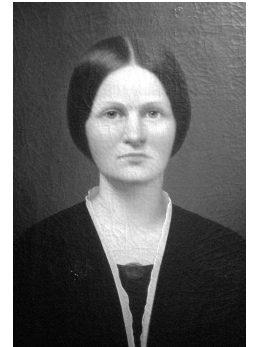
M. H. Graves

In the summer of 1855, Claudia and husband Oliver, sick with consumption, come to stay with Martha. He died there on July 15; he was only 36. Claudia, age 30, never remarried.

The following year, on November 4, 1856, son **Azariah Graves** married **Sallie Porter** of nearby Madison, Morgan County, Georgia. It was a double wedding; Sallie's sister Martha married George

W. Williams of Charleston the same day. A week later he was in Floyd County selling his half of the plantation to his brother John H. They must have honeymooned there. The marriage was tragically short. In a letter from brother John H. to brother Charles I., dated February 2, 1858, John mentions that “brother Dink...is in a very bad health, he has not been well in a long time but has been feeling something better the last few weeks he has been compelled to quit business on account of his health.” Azariah died in Madison, about six months later, on August 24, 1858, at the home of his father-in-law, a farmer, and buried in Madison’s old cemetery. In 1860 widow Sallie, age 24, was living with her parents in Madison; the census showed that she had a sizable personal estate of \$10,300. She never remarried.

Meanwhile, in 1857, son Charles I. graduated from the Naval Academy, fourth in his class. To the disappointment of his mother, he stayed in the Navy, subsequently serving in the Pacific and Mediterranean. It was undoubtedly while in the Mediterranean that he had paintings made of himself at age 21, of his sister Claudia Lee and her young son Hinton Lee, shown here, and doubtless others. A letter from John H. to Charles I. dated February 2, 1858, included a note from his mother saying “the likeness will be coming in a day or two.”

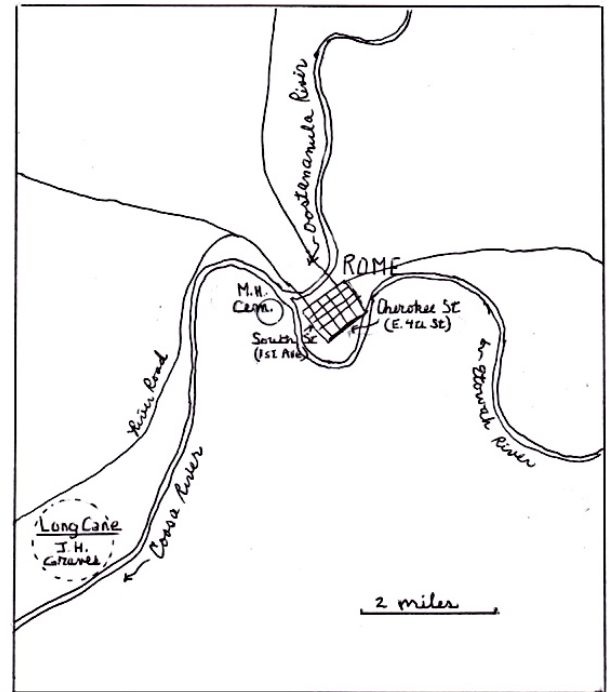


Martha sold her land in Newton County, on June 5, 1857, to her now married brother John W. Hinton²⁹ and moved to Rome, Floyd County, Georgia. Daughter Elizabeth probably moved with her. They may have lived first at “Long Cane,” son John H.’s plantation. Daughter Claudia moved in 1858. A letter from John H. to Charles I. in February says:

“We are expecting sister Claudia this week to live, she has set up some of her things already on the cars.” In the same letter he mentions that Oscar was in Charleston with G. W. Williams & Co. Around this time, Ann and John E. Parke moved north to his home town, Downingtown, Chester County, Pennsylvania. Oscar would join them.

Martha purchased, on January 17, 1860, a 3/4 acre house lot in Rome on Cherokee Street (now East Fourth Street)³⁰ from Fielding Hight, a 42-year-old merchant.³¹ Living with Martha undoubtedly were her daughters Elizabeth and Claudia and her children.

When the Civil War began in 1861, Martha, in her 60s, immediately became involved with the Ladies Benevolent Association, a charity organization to support the war effort, as did her daughter Claudia Lee. The Association was founded in January on the suggestion of James W. Hinton,³² pastor of the First Methodist Church



²⁹ Newton County Deed Book W:12. 'land whereon said Martha H. Graves resides.'

³⁰ George, Magruder Battey, Jr., *A History of Rome and Floyd County, State of Georgia, United States of America*, 1922, Volume 1, 457: (changes made in 1890) <https://books.google.com/books?id=xvbTT88nRmoC&printsec=frontcover#v=onepage&q=St.%20Peters%20Episcopal&f=false>

³¹ Floyd County Deed Book M:278.

³² 1860 census, Athens GA: James W. Hinton, Methodist Minister 34, Susan C 34, Sallie R. 5, Edgar W. 5, James C. 3. All born in GA. 1870 census Macon, Bibb Co. GA James W. Hinton, 43, minister of the Gospel, and family.

(6th Ave at E 2nd St),³³ to make garments and see to needs of soldiers. The Ladies Aid Society was founded in August 23, 1861, possibly replacing the Benevolent Association. Martha was one of the vice presidents. The president was Charles H. Stillwell, pastor of the First Baptist Church and Rev. James W. Hinton served as secretary-treasurer. Two of the many members were her daughters Miss E. W. Graves and Mrs. C. H. Lee.

That winter Martha became seriously ill. On January 10, 1862, she had a will drawn up and died a week later on January 19, 1862. She was probably around 64. In her will she stated that she wished her estate to be divided among her children, Elizabeth W. Graves, Ann B. Parke, John H. Graves, Claudia H. Lee, Oscar H. Graves & Charles I. Graves, equally taking into account advances already made to them, but not to include the following special legacies.³⁴ She wanted her granddaughter Sally H. Lee to have "the bed stead & furniture, ward Robe & other small furniture, consisting of the entire outfit of my room," her daughter Elizabeth W. Graves to have "all the furniture in the room occupied by her consisting of all such article as compose the ____ of said rooms," and her daughter Claudia H. Lee to have "a certain negro man slave by the name of Ned about fifty years old and a female by the name of Caroline about 18 years old." The portion of the estate to go to Ann B. and Oscar H. were to be put in trust of John H. Graves. She requested that her brother John W. Hinton and son John H. Graves serve as executors. T. G. Hight, W. S. Gray, Samuel Johnston, Henry J. Johnson witnessed the will. She added a codicil the next day, with her minister James W. Hinton and doctor Thomas I. Word present to witness, giving "a special legacy to my daughter-in-law Sally Graves, the widow of my deceased son Azariah Graves, two hundred and fifty dollars for the purposes of purchasing for her a good gold watch." We next find son Charles I. writing the following to his soon-to-be wife Margaret Lea.

Acquia Creek, Battery No. 1

Wednesday, Jan 29 1862

Dearest cousin,

You will have heard by the time you get this of the death of my dear mother. I was not at all prepared for the fatal news. It startled and staggered me. I can hardly yet realize the fact that she is no more. It has been my misfortune to have known little of the comforts of a home or of a mother's care for the last 10 years of my life, but always during my cruises in distant quarters of the globe have I looked forward to the end of the cruise to the "return home" and to the happy meeting with that mother with an eager and almost childish joy. That mother is now "gone before" and that home is now broken up and sad as the thought when I think though of her troubles and trials here and that she is now a bright shining angel in Heaven I cannot wish her back.

Devotedly, your cousin,

Chas I. Graves

Claudia and Elizabeth undoubtedly continued to live in their mother's home on Cherokee Street and were there when Sherman's troops occupied Rome from May to November 1864. On November 10 the town was evacuated and Union soldiers burned the mills, factories, and many businesses. Family tradition says the soldiers slashed the oil paintings of Claudia and of her son Hinton.

After the war, Oscar returned from the North and on January 1, 1867, both Ann and Oscar released John H. of his duties.

John H. died on September 16, 1868; he was only 42. His death was apparently sudden, for his wife, Fannie, was pregnant. She was forced to mortgage some of their land, putting up their home as collateral. She passed away three years later. Charles I., the executor, tried to make the payments, but after a few years lost their plantation.³⁵

³³ Beatty, 92.

³⁴ Floyd County Will Book BB:7.

³⁵ Floyd County Deed Book T:437.

Oscar had both physical and mental health problems. In 1873, court papers list Oscar as “lunatic” and brother Charles his guardian. In 1875, at age 40, Oscar filed a petition saying he had been restored to sound health, both of body and mind, and petitioned that brother Charles I. Graves be relieved of guardianship. The 1880 census lists him as age 46, clerk, living in the State Lunatic Asylum in Milledgeville, Georgia.

Charles I. Graves, during the war, on November 10, 1862, married **Margaret Rockwell Lea**, daughter of William and Mary (Wilson) Lea, whose mother had married second Charles’s uncle Calvin Graves of Caswell County, North Carolina. When the war ended, they settled on a farm up the Oostanaula River, north of Rome. In 1875 he was offered and accepted a three-year commission in the Egyptian Army. During this time his wife and children lived in Caswell County, North Carolina, with her mother. When he returned from Egypt in 1878, they returned to Rome and their home, Maury, on the Oostanaula. Maggie’s stepfather, Calvin Graves, had died in 1877, so Maggie’s mother returned with them and is listed in their family in the 1880 census; she died March 20, 1892, at age 75, and was buried in Myrtle Hill Cemetery [BA:31]. For extra income Charles I. served as construction engineer for the railroad. He died of a heart attack on October 31, 1896, at age 58, and was buried in Myrtle Hill Cemetery [BA: 31]. The Rome News-Tribune on November 29, 1970, wrote a lengthy article on this colorful man. Margaret died on August 5, 1919, at her home on 405 First Avenue and was buried in Myrtle Hill beside her husband. Funeral services were at St. Peter’s Church.³⁶

In 1870 Aunt Grizzy Hinton of Raleigh, North Carolina, died, single, leaving her nieces and nephews \$100 each and her brother John W. Hinton \$1000. The bulk of the estate went to her sister Sarah, also single. Aunt Sarah Hinton moved from Raleigh to Rome and lived her last few years with her niece Claudia Lee. She died on February 20, 1880, and was buried in Myrtle Hill Cemetery near Claudia’s daughters [OR:159]. She left legacies to the nieces and nephews.

Claudia Lee was confirmed at St. Peters Episcopal Church in Rome in 1863, the first of the family to do so. Three years later, in 1866, her sister Elizabeth and sister-in-law Margaret were also confirmed. The church at that time was at 5th Avenue and E. 1st Street.³⁷ By 1870, per the census, she had moved to Subdivision 49, thus north of Rome near her brother Charles I. In her household were son Hinton, age 18, at school, sister Elizabeth, age 49, a school teacher, and a cook and house servant. Next door was her recently widowed sister-in-law Fannie Graves and her children. By then Claudia had lost two more children: daughter Helen in June of 1868, age 21, and daughter Sarah in July of 1870, age 16; from the mortality record we know Sarah died at home of kidney disease. Both were buried in Myrtle Hill Cemetery [OR:159].

By 1880 Claudia had moved back to town and was living on South Street (now First Avenue).³⁸ With her were Mattie, Fannie and Howard Graves, who became her wards when their mother died in 1871. Claudia’s son Hinton Lee, age 28, had married by then and was farming in Floyd County’s Flat Woods District (a few miles north of Rome); the 1900 census shows him living in Minneapolis, Minnesota, working in the life insurance business. In the 1880s Claudia’s land was sold to John E. Parke in a sheriff’s sale. She may have lived awhile in Talladega, Alabama, with her niece Mattie (Graves) Clabaugh, for in 1884 she was there witnessing a deed. She died on May 9, 1891, age 66 and was buried in Myrtle Hill Cemetery near her daughters and Aunt Sarah Hinton [OR:159]. The oil portrait of her and of her son Hinton are now in the possession of Mattie’s descendants.

Ann remained up north; she died in Downington, Pennsylvania, in 1887 at age 64. Her husband died three years later.

³⁶ Also see Caswell County Historical Association [CCHA], Caswell County Family Tree, Azariah Graves (b. 1768) Reference # 1912. for more information on Charles I. Graves.

³⁷ Battey, 92.

³⁸ Battey, 457: (changed in 1890).

Elizabeth, the eldest child, lived the longest. In 1870, age 49, she was living with Claudia while working as a school teacher. In 1873 she purchased from Wade S. Cothran a lot at King (later 7th Ave) & North Boundary Street.³⁹ Some ten years later, in 1884, she sold part of this property to J.A. Bale and in 1890 probably the remainder to J. I. Shockley.⁴⁰ The 1888 city directory shows her living on Foundry Street. In her late 70s, she gave her grandniece, Mabel, age 10, a bible, published in 1845, with the inscription “*Given to Mabel H. Clabaugh as an heirloom & with the request to read it (if possible daily). From Aunt Bettie Graves Feb 14 1897.*” Another inscription in a different pen reads: “*Presented to A. Graves by D. Hand, Augusta December 25, 1848, Left to Elizabeth W. Graves 1876.*” ‘A’ was undoubtedly her brother Azariah. The bible was apparently given to Elizabeth on the death of Azariah’s widow Sallie, who died on March 31, 1876. In 1900, at age 80, Elizabeth was living in Allen’s Invalid Home in Baldwin County, Georgia. She died January 9, 1901, age 81, and was buried in Rome’s Myrtle Hill Cemetery.

Children:

- Junius Hinton Graves (1815-1831). Died age around age 16.
- Robert Hinton Graves (1817-1831). Died age around age 14.
- Sarah Bryan Graves (March 21, 1819-August 1819). Died in infancy.
- 1. Elizabeth Williams “Bettie” Graves (August 27, 1820-1901). Single.
- 2. Ann Bryan Graves (April 7, 1823-1887) m. August 22, 1841 John E. Parke (Mar 5, 1808-Apr 10, 1890)
- 3. John Hinton Graves (October 19, 1825-September 16, 1868) m. September 5, 1852 Frances L. Settle.
- 4. Claudia Graves (April 30, 1828-May 9, 1891) m. April 8, 1846 Oliver H. Lee (c.1820-1854)
- James Osgood Andrew Graves (September 23, 1830-by 1840). Died young.
- 5. Azariah “Dink” Graves (September 3, 1832-August 24, 1858) m. November 4, 1856 Sallie P. Porter
(February 13, 1833 -March 31, 1876)
- 6. Oscar Hinton Graves (March 23, 1835-)
- 7. Charles Iverson Graves (July 26, 1838-October 31, 1896) m. November 10, 1862 Margaret Rockwell Lea.

³⁹ Floyd County Deed Book T:439.

⁴⁰ Floyd County Deed Book EE:460, PP:232.

Chapter 6:

John Hinton Graves (1825-1868)

of Floyd County, Georgia

John H. lived his entire life in Georgia. A successful antebellum planter, his happy life was ruined by the strains of the Civil War and its aftermath, which led to his early death at age 42. The genealogical data comes from gravestones in Myrtle Hill Cemetery and from John Card Graves¹ whose material is now embedded in the Graves Family Association website.² The family letters are housed in the Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.³

John Hinton Graves, eldest surviving son of John W. and Martha (Hinton) Graves, was born on October 19, 1825, in Clarke (Oconee) County, Georgia, on his father's large cotton plantation south of Watkinsville near the Apalachee River. When he was five, his two teenage brothers died, and he immediately became the eldest son, undoubtedly doted on by his two older sisters Elizabeth and Ann. He signed his letters "Jn H. Graves" and documents refer to him as "John H. Graves," his mother, however, preferred to call him "Hinton."⁴

When John H. was around eleven, his father moved the family thirty or so miles southwest to Newton County and purchased "Longwood" plantation which adjoined "Mt Pleasant," the plantation of his father's cousin Iverson Graves. Covington, the county seat, was roughly eight miles to the west. John helped his father run both the plantation and his blacksmith business. It is likely that he attended nearby Emory College, a Methodist school, which had its first graduates in 1841.

In 1847, after the death of his father, John H., in his early 20s, moved with his mother and siblings to a small farm outside Augusta, Richmond County, Georgia.⁵ The 1850 US census lists him in his mother's household, a farmer age 24, so he is working his mother's land.

In 1852, we find him, at age 26, in Tuskegee, Macon County, Alabama, courting his first cousin **Frances Lea "Fannie" Settle**, age 22. They married there on September 5, 1852. Fannie was living with her older sister Elizabeth and husband Dr. Henry Allen Howard. Next door, was Henry Howard's father, Alexis Howard, married to John H.'s aunt Mary Kerr Graves, so there may have been some matchmaking going on.

Fannie, daughter of **Josiah and Frances (Graves) Settle** of Rockingham County, North Carolina, had grown up on a plantation on Puetts (Jones) Fork of Hogan Creek east of present Reidsville.⁶ Her mother was one of the daughters of General Azariah Graves, of neighboring Caswell County, so was a younger sister of John H.'s father; she died when Fannie was born.

¹ John Card Graves, *Captain Thomas Graves: the Graves family of eastern Virginia, generations 1 through 14*, 1905.

² Graves Family Association [GFA] [gravesfa.org] Gen. 270: John Hinton Graves #1917: As of April 2016, the site him being born in Atlanta, Fulton Co. GA, or Athens, Clarke Co. GA.

³ Southern Historical Collection: Graves Family Letter, #2716 and Charles I. Graves #2606.

⁴ See section on his father.

⁵ Richmond County Deed Book DD:104: N. by Turknnett Spring Road...by e Road...outside Augusta.

⁶ William Emmett Reese, *The Settle-Suttle Family*, 1974, 686,

Neither Fannie nor her older sister Elizabeth are listed with their father in the 1840 census, so may have been away at boarding school. Their cousins Lucinda and Martha Martin, daughters of Col. Robert & Mary 'Polly' (Settle) Martin, are said to have attended Mrs. Sigvewney's school in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania,⁷ possibly the Settle sisters did as well. Another cousin attended Troy Female Seminary in New York.⁸ Fannie's great-granddaughter, Mabel (Griscom) Harrell (1914-2000) of California, in the 1980s, mentioned hearing stories as a child of a house fire which destroyed a trunk containing family heirlooms including shoes worn at a ball in Saratoga (NY), letters from Stephen Douglas, etc. Mabel was not aware at the time of the Martin-Douglas connection. Cousin Martha Martin, while at school in Pennsylvania, visited their cousin David S. Reid, son of Reuben and Elizabeth 'Betsey' (Settle) Reid, a congressman in Washington, D. C., and through him met Stephen A. Douglas (1813-1861) of Illinois. Martha and Stephen married on April 7, 1847. Martha died five years later on January 19, 1853, after Fannie had moved to Alabama. Possibly Fannie had written Douglas a condolence letter and he had responded. Around the time she moved, David S. Reid (1813-1891), a Democrat, was elected governor of North Carolina; he later served as a U.S. Senator.

Also among the prominent kin of Rockingham, was Fannies' uncle Judge Thomas Settle (1789-1857) who served on the North Carolina Supreme Court.

Soon after the death of her mother, when Fannie was a baby, her father, Josiah Settle, began a relationship with a young domestic slave, Nancy Ann (b. July 30, 1815), who had come from the Graves plantation with her mother, thus was called Nancy Ann Graves.⁹ Her father continued to have children by her.^{10 11}

In 1850, when the census taker made his rounds in Rockingham County on September 2, Fannie, age 20, was living with her father, age 50. Her father moved soon after to Tishomingo (Alcorn) County, Mississippi, with Nancy Ann and their children. They arrived by October, and later that month he bought land on Mays Creek. The plantation was about eight miles southwest of present Corinth, then just a railroad crossing.¹² Already living in the area were his brother-in-law John Dilworth, who had moved there in 1838, and his cousin David Settle, son of Benjamin Settle. A year later, on September 19, 1853, Josiah sold 101 acre on Pruetts Fork to Hugh K. Reid for \$1700.¹³

By 1852 Fannie had joined her sister in Tuskegee and there met John H. Graves. After they decided to marry, she wrote to her father in Mississippi. He responded:

[Address to: Miss Fannie L. Settle, Tuskegee, Alabama]

Mount Pleasant

Tishomingo County, Miss.

August 14, 1852

⁷ Richard R. Saunders Sr, *Open Doors and Closed Windows of the First Baptist Church of Reidsville, North Carolina*, 1849, 249. Reese, 681.

⁸ A 'cousin' on Fannie's mother's side, Rebecca Graves, daughter of Iverson Graves of Newton Co. Georgia, attended Troy Female Seminary (Emma Willard School), New York in 1847. Saratoga was 25+ miles to the north.

⁹ Nancy was described as 'black' in the 1860 census and 'mulatto' in later censuses, thus most likely the daughter of a mulatto slave. Charles D. Rodenbough, in his *Settle: a Family Journey through Slavery*, 2013, makes Gen. Azariah Graves her father, based on unnamed genealogies. In his Editor's Notes, on page 207, he says "I would feel almost certain to say that she was fathered by someone in the Azariah Graves family. It may not have been Azariah himself although I have used that assumption." This is unacceptable. It clearly is not based on fact. Her line probably goes back several generations; the mulatto could have been introduced anywhere along the way. By 1820, per the census he owned 56 slaves and from his will, we know he gave a Negro to each of his daughters. Slaves often took the name of their original owner, especially if that plantation was more prestigious than the one they are going to. It does not imply paternity.

¹⁰ Gravesfa.org: Gen. 270 #566, Gen. #115:Nancy Ann Graves and Josiah Thomas Settle of NC, TN, MS & OH. Children: Washington, Sidney, Robert Pinkney, Henry Clay, William Harrison, Winfield Scott, Matilda, Cornelia, Josiah Thomas, & Josephine.

¹¹ Son Joseph T. Settle (1850-1900) became a well-known attorney and politician in Mississippi and Memphis TN. His story was recorded as early as 1895 by James T. Haley in the Afro-American Encyclopedia and again in the 1948, Sept 5, Chicago Sunday Tribune, Part 3, page 5: The Untold Story, by Roscoe Simmons.

¹² Tishomingo County Deed Book N:454, 530,531; O:15, 17. Section 12 T3, R6E: W 1/2 and NE 1/4.

¹³ Rockingham County Deed Book 21:70.d

My Dear Daughter,

I rec'd your favor of the 2d of August on yesterday and was glad to hear you are well. We have had some sickness in my family and I am not well myself but no deaths. I answered your letter the day I rec'd it but it had not time to reach you before your cash note but I hope it may come to hand before this. The Gentlemen I know not but the family I do. You must take the advise of your Oconee relations you can depend on and if you are pleased with him and think it will do I have nothing to say against it. I rec'd a letter from H K Reid yesterday....

I remain your loving and affectionate father.

Jo Settle.

John H. wrote her father from Tuskegee on August 23, 1852. The letter arrived 15 days later, two days after the wedding. This was her father's response:

[Address to: John H. Graves Esqr, Tuskegee, Alabama]

Mount Pleasant

Tishomingo County, Miss.

Sept 8th 1852

John H. Graves Esqr,

Dear Sir,

Your favor of the 23' ultimo came duly to hand on the 7th and the contents observed and I must say I feel lost what answer to give you. Your family I know and there is none that I think more highly of. But you I know not and I have no data from which to form any judgement. The matter I have referred to Frances and her relations. I can say I have no objections. I know of none. I commit and commend you both in the hands of God and hope and pray you will do well. At a proper time I shall expect you to write me (confidentially) your prospects in life, important information from a child to a parent.

Very respectfully your aft. servant

Jo Settle

The couple returned to Augusta, and from there John H., wrote to his uncle Azariah Graves in Caswell County, North Carolina, suggesting that he move with them to Texas. Uncle Azariah was just 10 years older than John H. He had recently sold his farm in Caswell and was plaining on joining Alexis Howard (his bother-in-law) in Alabama. He wrote John H. on December 17, 1852, that he hoped to be visiting the Howards the next spring, but showed no interest in Texas. The letter was address to John in Augusta. By then, however, John was up in Floyd County, northwest Georgia, looking for land probably on the suggestion of his brother-in-law John E. Parke who had lived there around 1845 while the area was being surveyed for a railroad.

Floyd County geographically belongs to Alabama rather than Georgia; the rivers in the area run west and south to Mobile. Historically it was the home of the Cherokees. Even though many of the Cherokees by 1830 had adopted European ways, built roads, schools, and churches, Congress that year passed and President Andrew Jackson signed into law the "Indian Removal Act" and the Indians were forced to leave. The Indians tried to fight back, taking their case to the U. S. Supreme Court, but lost, and in 1838 were forcefully removed to present-day Oklahoma by General Winfield Scott. By 1832 the land were distributed by lottery to white settlers and divided into ten counties, one of which was Floyd County, named after a U. S. Congressman who had fought in the Creek Wars. In 1834 a county seat was established where the Oostanula and the Etowah rivers meet to form the Coosa River. The five founders of the town put names in a hat and "Rome" (for Rome, Italy) was drawn. The town has seven hills, as does Rome. Soon banks, business and churches appeared. Steamships docked at the south end of Broad Street and served the region between Rome and Gadsden, Alabama, about sixty miles to the west. (The shoals in the Coosa at Gadsden prevented their continuing on downstream to the Gulf of Mexico.) In 1839 a railroad was chartered

to connect Rome with the proposed Western and Atlantic Railroad, eighteen mile to the east at Kingston, which was to connect Atlanta with Chattanooga. Thus Rome was already a thriving town.

John H. was in Rome on December 29, 1852, when his brother Azariah wrote to him from Augusta, Georgia.

[Addressed to: Mr. John H. Graves, Rome, Georgia]

Augusta, Dec 29th 1852

Dear Brother,

Yours of the 20th inst with direction to endorse the amount of the two notes on brother Oliver's note is received, which I will do.

Eli has not paid any money to me for you yet, nor do I know when he will do so! His excuse is that he has not drawn his wages yet. Robert H. May (135\$). Anthony will remain with Mr. Moore until you come down, unless bro Oliver hires him to some one. Hope you will find land to suit you.

Your Brother,

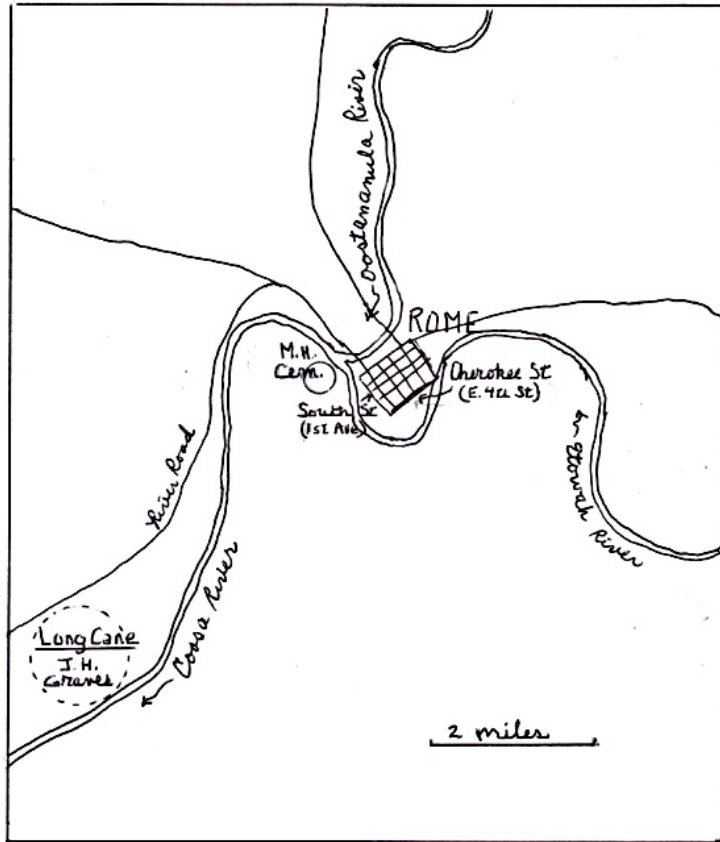
Azariah Graves.

John H. did “find land to suit” him and on February 5, 1853, purchased with his mother over 400 acres on the northwest side of the Coosa River about four miles south of town (Lots #321 and #360 and 10 acres in SE corner north of the river of Lot #270.)¹⁴ Their plantation, “Long Cane,” was in the vicinity of River Road (now Horseleg Creek Road) and present Winding Road. Here their seven children, Josiah S., John W., Charles H., Azariah (died young), Martha, Frances and Howard, were undoubtedly born.

From family letters we know that his sister Elizabeth visited him in the fall of 1854 and brother Oscar that December. On January 11, 1856, his mother, who had moved back to Newton County, sold her half of “Long Cane” to his brother Azariah, who was then living in Augusta. Azariah, sold his half to John H. soon after,¹⁵ and John H. became sole owner.

Around 1857 his mother sold her land in Newton County and moved to Floyd County. She probably lived with John H. until she purchased her home on Cherokee Street (now East Fourth Street) on January 17, 1860. Her daughters Elizabeth Graves and Claudia Lee lived in town with her.

It is unclear which church they attended. Fannie had been raised a Baptist and John H. apparently a Methodist. Fannie years later joined the Episcopal church.



¹⁴ Floyd County Deed Book 4:480.

¹⁵ Floyd County Deed Book K:410: 1/2 interest in lots 321 & 360. K:504: April 10, 1857 1/2 interest in SE Lot 279.

Life at “Long Cane” was pleasant. On a wintry day in early 1858, John H., now 32, wrote a letter to his youngest brother Charles I., age 20, who had recently graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy and was then in China, serving in the Pacific.

Rome, Feby the 2nd 1858

Dear Brother:

I have just perused yours of the 13th Nov 1857 and I do assure you it was read with a great deal of pleasure. I would like to have been with you when in search after the lost men, but would beg to be excused from eating the stewed monkey. I look forward to the time when you will be at home with a great deal of pleasure, and I think we can make you enjoy yourself more at our house now than you have ever done before. We have an addition to our family since you were here, he was born August 26th 1857. We call him Charlie for his Uncle, and he is said to be the best looking of the family and we would be perfectly willing to have him follow in the footsteps of his Uncle Chs I. Graves. I received a letter from our brother, Dink, a few days since and am sorry to say he is in very bad health. He has not been well in a long time, but has been feeling something better the last few weeks. He has been compelled to quit business on account of his health. Oscar is living in Charleston with G.W. Williams & Co. and is doing very well and they like him very much. He is more regular in his habits than he has been for several years, and I think he will do well. We had a fire here on Friday that consumed all of the buildings from Norton's to the Post Office corner. It was one of the most frightful fires I ever saw. We expected at one time the whole town would be on fire. Notwithstanding the short crops, suspensions, tight time &c. &c., I have had lots of hunting his fall and winter, caught a great many foxes. I have increased my stock of dogs to twelve and they are the finest and best trained I have ever had. We are expecting sister Claudia up this week to live. She has sent up some of her things already on the cars. Mr. and Mrs. Hull says you must not write anything in your letters that are very private for they wish to see all of them. They have seen two or three and said they were very interesting indeed to them. Fannie Billechs [?] looks as pretty and sweet as ever. Fannie and the boys join me in a great deal of love to you. Yr bro Jn H. Graves (Chs I Graves Esqr, China.)

[At the top of the letter John H.'s mother added a the following note]

The likeness will be coming in a day or two. M.H.G.

Six months later brother Azariah, “Dink,” died in Morgan County at his father-in-law’s home.

In the fall of 1860 Fannie’s 60-year-old father, Josiah Settle, in Mississippi, made a will giving specific slaves to his two daughters; the residue of the estate was to be equally divided between them. He left land in Ohio to Nancy and their children. Josiah had given his mistress, Nancy, and their children their freedom in 1856, had set them up in a home Butler County, Ohio, and had married Nancy there in 1858. He settled there himself, after writing the will,¹⁶ but kept some houselots in Corinth,¹⁷ as seen below.

In 1860 John H., age 34, according to the census, had real estate valued at \$11,000, his personal estate was \$16,000, and he owned 25 slaves (a male age 68, a female age 48, 3 young adults, 11 teenagers and 9 children under age twelve). The census was taken in July before Fannie received her portion of the Settle slaves, which was roughly 7 adults and 10 children.

Rome was thriving. Agriculture, commerce, and transportation dominated the economy. James Noble and sons from Reading, Pennsylvania, erected a foundry in 1855 and by 1857 had built a locomotive. It was just this kind of success that brought unwanted attention to the city during the Civil War.

After Lincoln’s election in November of 1860, Georgia was among seven states (South Carolina, Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas) who left the Union and formed the Confederate States of America. On March 11, 1861, they signed the Confederate Constitution,

¹⁶ Gravesfa.org: Gen. 270 #566.

¹⁷ Corinth’s records were lost in 1917.

thinking that they were avoiding war. But, on April 12, shots were fired at Fort Sumpter in Charleston harbor and the president called for troops. The president's actions turned Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee and Arkansas against Lincoln and they too left the union. Even then, few thought that the war would last long. John H. continued to expand his land holdings on the Coosa River. He purchased in February of 1861 160 acres in the hills north of his plantation (Lot #199) from Daniel Banks, in November 483 acres on the Coosa River from Ed W. Hull, and in December a lot from William Earp, possibly on the Alabama Road.¹⁸ The last two purchases, however, may have been war related.

On January 19, 1862, John H.'s mother died unexpectedly. She had been very active in the war effort, so her death came as a surprise. John H. and his uncle John W. Hinton were appointed executors, and John H. was appointed trustee of his sister Ann Parke and brother Oscar, who were living up North in Pennsylvania.

Soon after, John H. enlisted as a private in a company of Highland Rangers who mustered in Rome on April 12, 1862;¹⁹ no further record of his service has been found. Life appears to have continued as usual at "Long Cane" confident that the South would win. In the spring of 1863 he wrote his brother Charles and his new wife Maggie.

Long Cane, Mar 22d 1863

My Dear Brother and Sister

... I will leave tomorrow or next day for Raleigh NC. I am going there to buy Nat and Caroline's sister and I will buy five or six more if I can get them right. I got Oscar to take my white woman and children back to Tenn last week. I sold her and she was returned as unsound and as I had a sound bill of sale I will make the parties take her back. I have been offered a profit of (1200\$) twelve hundred dollars on John & Gabe. I do wish this miserable war was at an end and we were settled down together in some kind of business ... Negro men [sell for] from 1500 to 2000\$, fancy girls and women with one or two children at about the same. I have not invested your money in anything yet. Can let you have it at anytime or I will put it in a negro or some land if you wish.... If the conscript officer gets after me can you give me anything to do on Gun Boat Morgan so I can get home occasionally and see my wife and little ones. Uncle Thomas²⁰ has sold his place and 60 negroes for 80,000\$ and will be without a house or home in a few days. Sam ___ has been at home a month or more has a substitute in at 2000\$. Fannie says she had rather give everything that we have than I should leave home now and go into the Army. I tell her that I had better be killed than I do that. What say you! I can get I think (50,000\$) fifty thousand dollars for my place this week. Tell sister Maggie if she was here she could see a perfect model of a baby. Fannie says you must bring sister Maggie up this summer....

Your bro Jno H. G.

On May 1, 1863, a few months after the above letter was written, a man stumbled into Rome to alert the townspeople that Yankee forces from Memphis were headed there way. Fortunately, Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forest arrived in time to save the town. As a result of this raid, the city built a string of forts on the hills around the city.

In September of 1863, John H. sold to Jno P. Hulst the property on the "Alabama Road" (near Shorter College)²¹ and his "steam mill property" (location unclear) to Samuel Noble.²² The Noble foundry was by then making cannons and other war related materials. The reference in the above letter of going into some kind of business with his brother and his owning "steam mill property" implies he was involved in more than the plantation.

¹⁸ Floyd County Deed Book M:461, M:592, N:148.

¹⁹ George Magruder Battey, Jr., *A History of Rome & Floyd County, 1540-1922*, Vol.1, 1922, 385.

²⁰ "Uncle Thomas" was probably Thomas E. Williamson of Clarke (Oconee) Co. married to John's maternal aunt Ann B. Hinton. The later settled in Floyd co. His son Thomas S. Williamson lived near John in 1860. He may have been called Sam.

²¹ Floyd County Deed Book N:451.

²² Floyd County Deed Book N:472.

On March 18, 1864, John H. had a will drawn up: "I John H. Graves ... being of sound mind and designing to connect myself with the service of the Confederate States Army do hereby..." There to witness the will were Jesse Lambert (the probate judge in his 60s), Charles H. Smith (a lawyer in his late 30s), and A.S. Montgomery.²³

On April 4, 1864, General U. S. Grant in Washington D. C. sent orders to General William Tecumseh Sherman to move against Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston's army, "to break it up, and to get into the interior of the enemy's country as far as you can, inflicting all the damage you can against their war resources....I do not propose to lay down for you a plan of campaign, but simply to lay down the work it is desired to have done, and leave you free to execute your own way."²⁴ Sherman moved to Chattanooga and by May was headed toward Atlanta, a vital supply, manufacturing and communications center, slowly pressing back General Johnson. Johnson ordered the Confederate troops manning the forts at Rome to pull out and Sherman's troops under Gen. Davis's took the city on May 17. (Johnston was relieved of command on July 17.) Sherman's troops occupied Rome from May to November 1864. It is said that most of Rome's citizens left the city during this time. When the Yankees left, they burned the Noble Foundry and much of the downtown. Sherman took Atlanta on September 1 and Savannah on December 23. The following spring, Lee surrendered to Grant.

While in Rome, the Union soldiers entered sister Claudia Lee's home and slashed two oil paintings, one of Claudia and one of her young son Hinton Lee. (Both painting have been carefully preserved by descendant of daughter Mattie Clabaugh.) The portraits had been commissioned by their brother Charles I. while in Italy, so undoubtedly there had been portraits of John H. and Fannie and his mother as well.

With the war over, John H., on January 1867, was released from his duties as trustee for his sister Ann Parke and brother Oscar, who were up North during the war.²⁵

He died a year and a half later, on September 16, 1868, and was buried in Myrtle Hill Cemetery [OR:242]. He was only 42. Fannie was two months pregnant with son Howard. In the will, written during the war, he named Fanny and "the children with which God has blest us" and left all his estate to Fannie and appointed her sole executrix; there was to be an equal division of the estate between herself and the children. He also noted that "my son Josiah Settle Graves shall, in addition to his share, have the family of negroes which were given him by his grandfather [Josiah Settle] vis: Frank and his wife June and their children Lizzy, Wash, Liney, Bartow and John Morgan? and their increase." By 1868, of course, slaves were no longer property. The will was proved on October 5.

Fannie, age 39, was left with six children under age 16.

To add to the stress, the following spring, her father died in Ohio. He had given his will to his nephew A.B. Dilworth who lost it, so the sisters in 1869 had to petitioned for a new will.²⁶

The 1870 census shows Fannie living next door to her widowed sister-in-law Claudia Lee in Subdivision 49, north of Rome. On July 14, 1871, she mortgaged 643 acres (#270, #269, part #271) using as collateral the "John H. Graves place 4-1/2 miles from Rome on Coosa River, 4th district 4th section."²⁷



²³ Floyd County Will Book B:578.

²⁴ The War of the Rebellion, Series 1, Vol. XXXII, Part III, 1891. 246. April 4 1864 .

²⁵ Floyd County Deed Book O:435.

²⁶ Gravesfa.org; Frances Lea Graves (566). Credit goes to source R-521. Gives good write-up and the complete will. The 'Thomas L. Graves' is undoubtedly a mistranslation of daughter Frances Settle Graves.

²⁷ Floyd County Deed Book T:437.

Fannie had a will written on July 30, 1871, "I Fannie S. Graves of Long Cane, Floyd County, State of Georgia, being of sound mind and memory though weak in body and therefore desirous of settling my worldly affairs." She requested that Rev. Wm C. Williams, rector of St. Peters Church in Rome, officiate at her funeral.²⁸ Her gravestone says she died August 1, 1871. She was laid to rest beside her husband in Myrtle Hill Cemetery. The grave marker honors both of them.

It is not clear when Fannie began attending St. Peters, the church sister-in-law, Claudia, had joined. Eldest son Josiah was confirmed there just months before she died. The church was then a frame building on Bridge Street (now E. 5th Ave at E. 2nd St.), not the present stone Victorian Gothic-Revival style building built in 1898, standing a block away at corner of 1st St. and 4th Ave. The minister Rev. William C. Williams, a native Virginian, was 49 at the time. In 1880 he was pastor of an Atlanta Church when daughter Mattie Graves asked him to officiate at her wedding at S. Peters to John Clabaugh.

Fannie's original will, on file at the courthouse in Rome, is clearly written in her brother-in-law Charles I. Graves distinctive script. Also present and signing as witnesses were E. A. B. Robertson, J. D. Gailliard (?) and C. H. Lee (her sister-in-law). According to the census, Elizabeth A. Robertson was a young 36-year-old widow with children who lived near Fannie.

Fannie distributed her estate as follows:

Josiah S. Graves: \$400 and the town lots in Corinth, Mississippi, his father's watch.

Mattie H. Graves: \$1000, my bedroom furniture, the marble-top table, the cushion chair, all the silver marked "G", the butter knife, one feather bed, one mattress, my watch, one half the bed clothing, the table ware, etc.

Fannie S. Graves: \$1000, all the silver ware marked "J.F.S.," two salt spoons, one mustard spoon, one feather bed, one mattress and furniture equal in value to that given to Mattie -- such furniture being selected by my sister C. H. Lee.

Howard S. Graves: the punch ladle, the sugar spoon marked "Mother" and the buggy and harness.

Charles H. Graves: a watch to be purchased by the executor to cost \$100.

Jno W. Graves: I do not give any special gift because I have already given him during my life time the full equivalent of the gifts herein bequested to his brothers and sisters.

Brother Chas I. Graves: the side board.

She appointed Jno E. Parke of Pennsylvania to be the guardian of son Josiah "as he has kindly offered to adopt him and to educate him," Chas I. Graves to be the guardian of Jno W. and Chas W., and Claudia H. Lee to be the guardian of Mattie, Fannie and Howard.

The estate was inventoried on September 4, 1871, and valued at \$14,065. The bulk of the estate (\$13,000) was in notes in the possession of "C. I. Graves, Esq." The only land mentioned were the two hill lots #199 & #234 valued at \$500. The inventory listed the livestock (8 fattening hogs, 4 sows & pigs, 8 shoats, 4 cows, 1 calf, 3 heifers, 1 yearling (\$4), 1 mule (\$65)), farm equipment (a wagon \$25, a buggy & harness \$30, a cotton gin with belt \$25, a plantation mill \$10, 50 bushels wheat \$40, 50 bushels corn \$35), Silver \$50, and the usual pieces of furniture.²⁹

Charles I. Graves made the \$6000 annual payment on the mortgage in 1872, but was unable to keep up, most likely hindered by the national economic depression of 1873-78. He paid only \$4000 in 1873 and on July 15, 1876, the mortgage was foreclosed. Thus "Long Cane" appears to have gone to Wm M. Gardner of Richmond County, Georgia, who held the mortgage.

Meanwhile, the city was rebuilt. Led by the Nobles, a grand clock tower was constructed which also served as a municipal water reservoir, which stands today, and in 1873 the Baptists establish what became Shorter College. A monument to the Civil War soldier stands in Myrtle Hill Cemetery.

²⁸ Floyd County Will Book C:10.

²⁹ Miscellaneous papers in the Floyd County probate files.

On March 19, 1880, Josiah S., John W., and Charles H. appeared at the courthouse along with Claudia on behalf of the three youngest children Mattie, Fannie and Howard who lived with her

According to the estate papers, Mattie attended Rome Female College 1874-6, Baptist Female College/Shorter College 1877-80, and St. Peters Parish School in 1880; Fannie probably attended as well. All three children are listed in Claudia's household in the 1880 US census. Living with them was their elderly spinster great aunt Sarah Hinton from North Carolina who died that year. Fannie's children each received 1/6 of 1/10 of her estate.

Eldest son **Josiah Settle Graves** had defective eye sight since childhood. From his obituary in the Talladega newspaper, *The Messenger*, on May 17, 1823, we learn that, originally home schooled, he entered the School for the Blind in Macon Georgia, at age thirteen. From 1870 to 1873 he attended the Pennsylvania School for the Blind in Philadelphia, with the support of his aunt and uncle, John E. and Ann (Graves) Parke of Downington, Chester County, and continued his studies at the University of Pennsylvania graduating in 1877, receiving a diploma from the School of Civil Engineering. He then taught at the Pennsylvania School for the Blind for five years, after which he returned South to teach at the School for the Deaf and Blind in Talladega, Alabama, where in 1888 he was appointed principal. In 1892 when the School for the Negro Deaf and Blind was opened, he was appointed superintendent, a position he held until his death in 1923.³⁰ Josiah apparently knew Helen Keller (1880-1968), possibly quite well, for his niece Mabel (Clabaugh) Griscom (1888-1971) who grew up near Birmingham, Alabama, mentioned to her daughter Mabel (Griscom) Harrell that she had met her. Helen Keller was from Tusculumbia, Alabama. She had lost her ability to see and hear at age 19 months.

Of **John W. Graves** little has been learned. Son **Charles H. Graves** moved to Indiana where he married, then to California. **Mattie Graves** married in November of 1880 **John H. Clabaugh**, whose family had business connections with the Nobles, settled first in Talladega, Alabama and around 1885 moved to Oxmoor, just outside Birmingham, Alabama.³¹ **Fannie Graves** died in November of 1881 at age 18 and was buried near her parents. **Howard Graves**, in 1900, at age 31, was single and living in Birmingham employed as a clerk.

Long Cane appears to have come into the possession of Hugh D. Cothran.

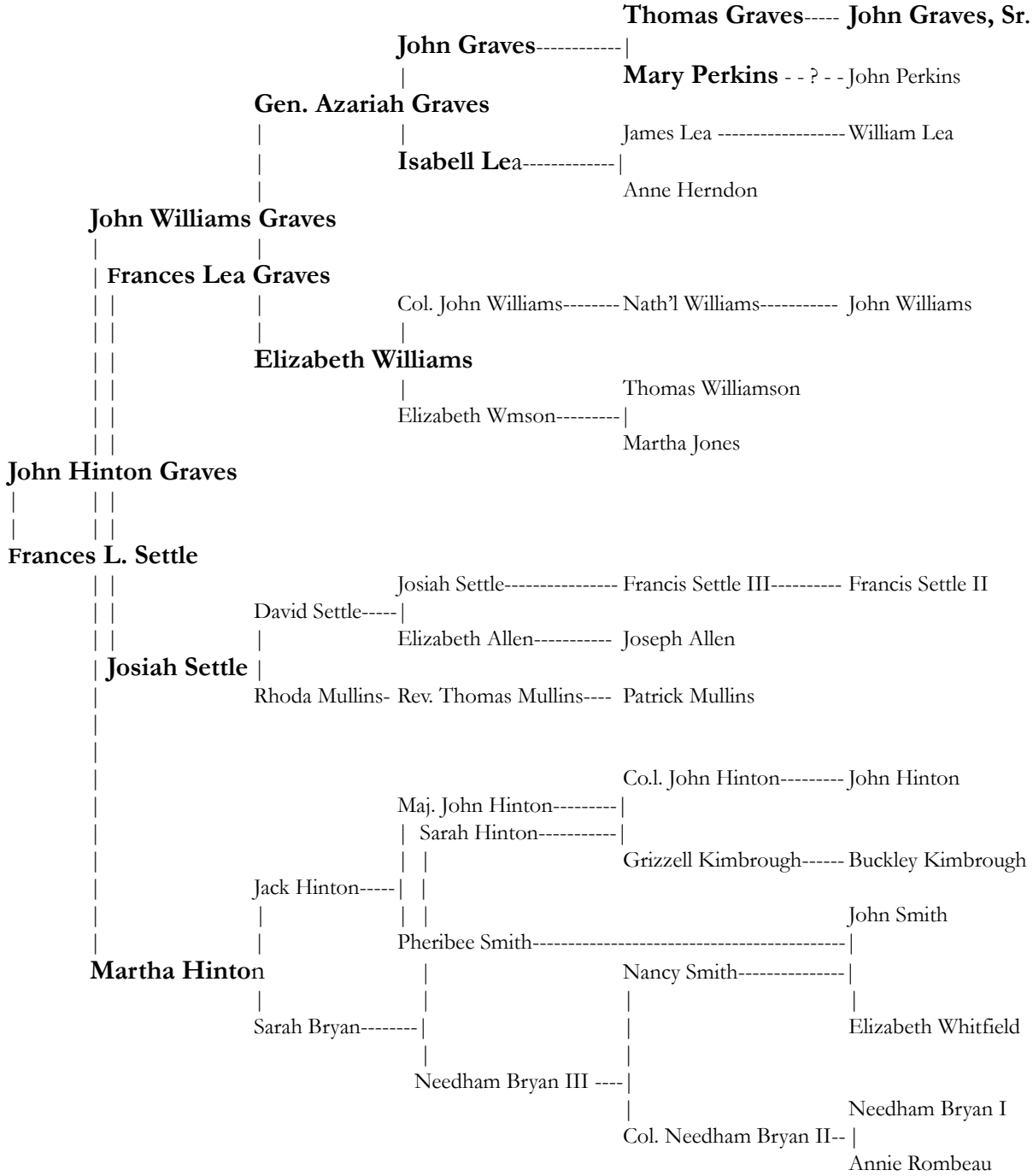
Children:

1. Josiah Settle Graves (August 8, 1853-February 17, 1923) m. September 4, 1884 Ollie Wilson
2. John Williams Graves (July 4, 1855-)
3. Charles Hinton Graves (August 26, 1857-) m. May 31, 1888 Susan Beesley
4. Azariah Graves (1859-by 1870). Died young.
5. Martha Hinton "Mattie" Graves (1860/1-1917) m. November 24, 1880 John Henry Clabaugh
6. Frances Settle 'Fannie' Graves (c.1863-November 23 1881). Died around age 18.
7. Howard Settle Graves (April 1, 1869-after1900). Single in 1900.

³⁰ Mrs. Alexandra G. Baird, of Jacksonville, AL, later Little Rock, AR (gravesfa.org source R-199) has more information on this line.

³¹ Betty Harrell, *The Clabaughs, with a special chapter on Henry Haggard (1746-1843)*, 1982.

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