

Notes and documents from Mary Frances Eggleston, descendant of William Neely of Pittsylvania, VA

Mary Frances made contact with me in May 2020 asking if I had additional information on this William Neely. She is descended from Mary Neely, daughter of William, who married Hugh Reynolds on December 30, 1756. They were married by a Scot Presbyterian circuit rider named John Cuthbertson at William Neely's home in Muddy Run, Lancaster Co, PA. The excerpt below is from a transcript of his diary.

1756 Feb. 5 "Rode 6 miles to Mud. Meeting, preached psalm 93: preached psalm 55: 22 and baptized John son to Robert Duncan and Thomas and Charles adopted sons to Jo Paterson and Wm. Smith; and James son to Elizabeth Ayers, then rode to J. D. and John Robies." (From John Brownlie's.)

Dec. 30 "Rode 6 miles to and from Wm. Neilie's; married Hew Reynolds and Mary K." (From John Duncan's.)

1757 Jan. 3 "Rode 9 miles to J. Brownlies, married John Gebie and Janet Brown."

In September 1769, a Robert Neally in Pittsylvania Co, VA purchased 189A of land from John Neally of Augusta Co for 100 pounds as shown below. Pittsylvania Co was formed from Halifax Co in 1766. We know Robert Neelly b. 1741 and son of James Sr. of Botetourt sold land in 1767 while living in Halifax Co that he had purchased from his father in 1761 based on two records from Chalkley's Chronicals. It seems likely that it may have been Robert b. 1741 who made this purchase two years later. We also know that John Neally could have been living in Botetourt which was formed from Augusta Co in 1769. This possibility is bolstered by having William McCleneehan as a witness. John Neally bought the land from wealthy landowner [John Chiswell](#) prior to his death in 1766 and the 189A sold to Robert was part of the Tract John Neally purchased from John Chiswell.

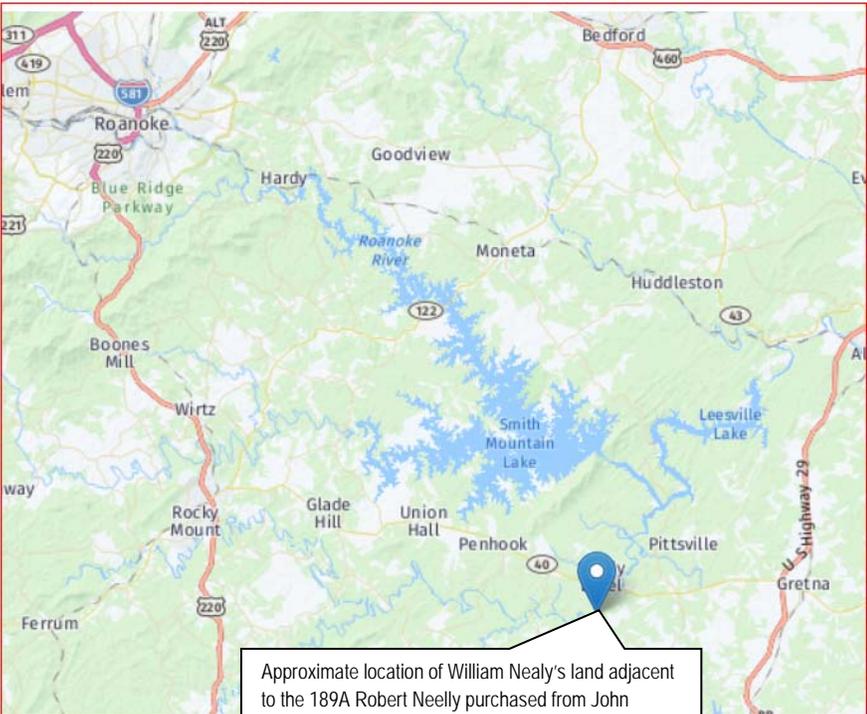
DB 1, p.504 - NEALEY from NEALEY DEED, 5 Sep 1769
John NEALLY of County of Augusta in Colony of Virginia of one part and Robert NEALLY of County of Pittsylvania in aforesaid Colony of other part...for £100...189 acres on South side Tomehawk Creek...corner of William NEALLYS Land, up said Creek by Lands of William NEALLYS...is part of a Tract the said John NEALLY purchased of Col^o. Jn^o. CHISWELL.
Wit: William MC CLENEEHAN, William NEELLEY, William NEULLEY
Rec: 23 Mar 1770 and further
Prv.: 30 Aug 1770 John NEILLEY L.S.

Five years later in November 1774, William sold 57A of his land to his son-in-law, Hugh Reynolds for 50 pounds. The Indenture mentions that the 57A was part of the tract that John Nealey had originally purchased from John Chiswell and sold to William Nealey. See excerpt from the Indenture on the next page. Since William already owned his property when John sold land to Robert in 1769 and the 1774 indenture states that John sold the land purchased from Chiswell to William, it would appear that John Nealey sold his land to William prior to 1769 except for a 189A tract he held out which was later sold to Robert in 1769. We don't yet have the transaction where John bought the land from John Chiswell nor the transaction where John sold the land to William, but both should be in the Deed books.

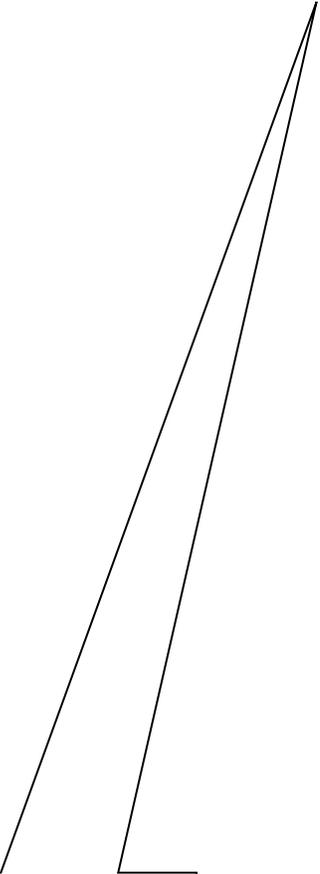
Copied
from
Deed
Reynolds
Neely

This Indenture made the twenty fourth day of November in the year
of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy four Between William Neelley
of Pittsylvania County and Colony of Virginia of the one part and Hugh Randles
of the said County and Colony of the other part Witnesseth that the said W^m. Neelley
for and in consideration of the sum of fifty pounds to him in hand paid by the said
Hugh Randles the Receipt whereof he the said William Neelley doth hereby acknow-
ledge he the said William Neelley hath granted bargained sold aliened and
confermed and by these presents doth grant bargain sold alien and confer
unto the said Hugh Randles his heirs Executors administrators or assigns
for ever all that Mesuage piece parcel or tract of land containing fifty seven
Acres siting apart of a greater piece parcel of or tract of land which Col. John
Coliswell sold to John Neelley and the said John Neelley sold his right
and title of said Land to the said William Neelley as by Indenture being
had doth more fully appear said Land being situate lying and being in the
County of Pittsylvania on the south side of Tomahawk Creek and bounded as follows

Nov. 4 1774 HUGH REYNOLDS
BUYS LAND FROM WM. NEELY
(HIS FATHER-IN-LAW)



Approximate location of William Neely's land adjacent to the 189A Robert Neely purchased from John Neely on Tomahawk Creek. JRN June 2020



Approximate location of William Nealy's land adjacent to the 189A Robert Neely purchased from John Nealy on Tomahawk Creek. JRN June 2020

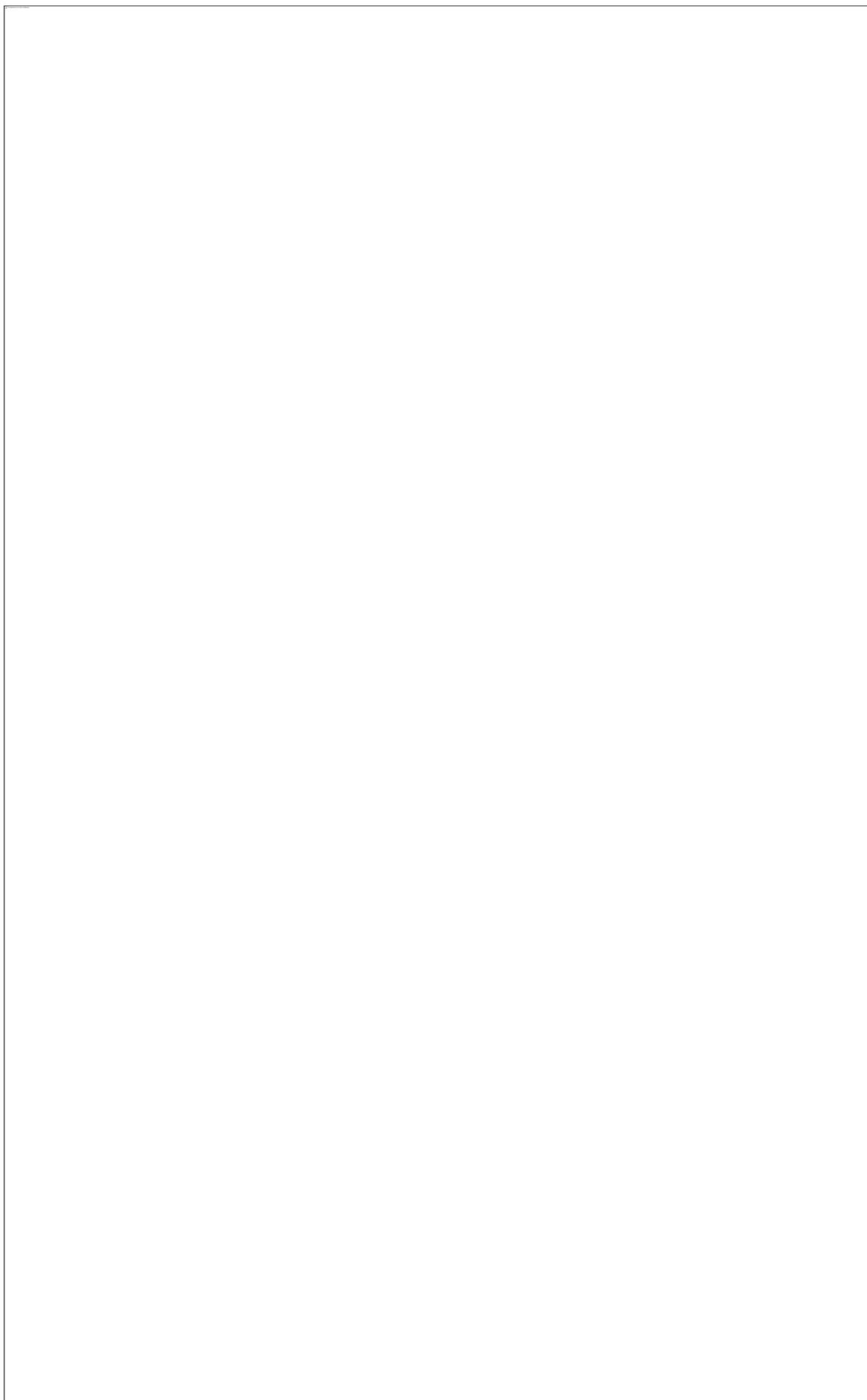
We don't know if these Neelys, John, William and Robert, were related. While it seems likely that Robert might have been the son of James Sr. of Botetourt who was living in Halifax Co in 1767, William died in Pittsylvania Co in February, 1789 and could not have been William, son of James Sr., who was the only William living in Botetourt then who died in Franklin, TN in 1826. Mary Frances sent a copy of William's will and probate records, shown on following pages, which show that his wife was no longer living, his daughter Mary was living, but her husband Hugh Reynolds was not. William left his land and belongings to Mary and his two grandsons, William and Joseph Reynolds since he evidently had no sons. An estimate of William's age might be made based on the marriage of Mary, his only known child. Assuming she was 21 when she married Hugh Reynolds in 1757, she would have been born about 1736. Assuming William was about 26 when Mary was born, he would have been born around 1710.

So who was the John who bought the land from John Chiswell prior to 1766? The most likely possibility would seem to be "old John" b. ~1702 who showed up in Botetourt about 1750 with young adult children. How might he be related to William? Based on the age estimates it appears William might have been a younger brother of "old John" who we know was buying land in Botetourt in the 1760's and would have known James Sr's son, Robert b. ~1741 who sold land in Botetourt while living in Halifax Co in 1767 that he had acquired from his father in 1761, presumably when he turned 21.

So here is my speculation and hypothesis. While there is no proof, circumstantial evidence discussed above leads me to think it is likely that "old John" of Botetourt probably arrived in Philadelphia with his younger brother William and perhaps other siblings around 1730 when William would have been about 20. They settled in Lancaster Co, PA and William lived in Muddy Run around Martic Township where his daughter, Mary, married Hugh Reynolds in 1757. "old John" had moved with his wife Elizabeth and 4 young adult children to the Botetourt settlement close to Roanoke VA in the early 1750's, probably because he knew and was possibly related to James and John Neely who had settled there. All the Neelys there acquired large amounts of land. William and his wife were probably contacted by "old John" in the early to mid 1760's after purchasing the land in what became Pittsylvania Co and offered the land at an attractive price. William died there in February 1789 leaving land to his daughter and two grandsons, William and Joseph Reynolds.

Future research efforts to evaluate this hypothesis should concentrate on land purchases and taxes in Lancaster Co, PA and Pittsylvania Co, VA. Specifically, those of William and "old John".

JRN June, 2020



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357. 11973. 359. 01. 2. 2000. 24

(91)

Daniel Shelton, Richard Tawling, ~~Thomas Shelton~~ & Spencer Shelton
Memorandum The day and year within Written livery of Seign of the within
 granted Land was delivered to the within named Christian Shelton
 In presence of
 Daniel Shelton Richard Tawling Abna Shelton
 Will. Todd Edm. Taylor Spencer Shelton
 Henry Es. Pruvett
 mark

Received the day and year within written the sum of one hundred pounds
 Court Money the consideration within mentioned
 Witness
 Daniel Shelton Rich^d Tawling Abna Shelton
 Will. Todd Edm. Taylor Spencer Shelton
 Henry Es. Pruvett
 mark

at a Court held for a Pennsylvania County the 25th Day of November 1774
 John Dred with the Memorandum of livery and seisin and Receipt thereon indented
 from Henry Pruvett to Christian Shelton was acknowledged by the said Henry
 and the sworn examination of Rebecca wife of the said Henry being had who
 acknowledging her right of Dower in and to the said Land & premises was together
 with the said Deed ordered to be Recorded
 Wm. Todd
 Clerk

Exam^d
 Reynold's
 from
 Wm. Neely

This Indenture made the twenty fourth day of November in the year
 of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy four Between William Neelley
 of Pennsylvania County and Colony of Virginia of the one part and Hugh Ponder
 of the said County and Colony of the other part Witnesseth that the said W^m. Neelley
 for and in consideration of the sum of fifty pounds to him in hand paid by the said
 Hugh Ponder the Receipt whereof he the said William Neelley doth hereby acknow-
 ledge he the said William Neelley hath granted bargained sold aliened and
 confirmed and by these presents doth grant bargain sell alien Release and confirm
 unto the said Hugh Ponder his heirs Executors administrators or assigns
 for ever all that Messuage piece parcel or tract of land containing fifty seven
 Acres siting apart of a greater piece parcel of or tract of Land which Col. John
 Chiswell sold to John Neelley and the said John Neelley sold his right
 and title of said Land to the said William Neelley as by Indenture being
 had doth more fully appear said Land being situate lying and being in the
 County of Pennsylvania on the south side of Torchawke Creek and bounded as follows

Nov. 4 1774 HUGH REYNOLDS
 BUYS LAND FROM Wm. NEELY
 (HIS FATHER-IN-LAW)

Beginning at a Spanish Lake by the said Creek in the said Healds line thence run-
 ning line south twenty degrees West eighty five poles to a Gum by a branch in the line
 of the original Patent thence south sixty four degrees West fifty six poles crossing said
 Branch to a point corner mentioned by the Patent thence North thirty Degrees West one
 hundred and twenty four poles crossing a branch to a white Lake by the said Creek
 in the line of the Patent thence down the said Creek as it meanders to the first beginning
 Spanish Lake containing fifty seven acres to the same more or less and also all trees Woods
 under Woods commons of pasture profits commodities advantages Hereditaments ways
 Waters Water courses and appurtenances whatsoever to the said fifty seven acres of Land
 above mentioned belonging or in any wise appurtenant and also the Reversions Remainders
 and Remainders Parts and Jewels of the said premises and every part and
 parcel thereof and all the estate right title ~~interest~~ and whatsoever
 of them the said William Neelley his Heirs or Assigns of in and to the said fifty seven acres
 of Land and premises and every part thereof To have and to hold the said fifty seven acres of Land &
 all and singular the premises above mentioned and every part and parcel thereof with the appur-
 tenances thereof unto the said Hugh Bantles his Heirs Executors Administrators and Assigns
 to the only proper use and behoof of the said Hugh Bantles his Heirs Executors Administrators and
 Assigns forever and the said William Neelley for himself his Heirs and Assigns doth covenant promise
 grant and agree to and with the said Hugh Bantles his Heirs and Assigns by these presents in
 manner and form following (that is to say the said William Neelley doth hereby releasing
 and delivery of these presents is seized of and in the said fifty seven acres of Land and all &
 singular other the premises granted bargained and sold with all and every these Rights and
 Appurtenances of good pure perfect and absolute Title of Inheritance in fee simple without
 any condition Reversion Remainder of Limitation of any use or uses estate or estates in or to
 any person or persons whatsoever and the said Hugh Bantles his Heirs and Assigns shall &
 may by free and virtue of these presents at all times hereafter lawfully peaceably and quietly
 have hold use occupy and possess the said fifty seven acres of Land and have Receive the
 Issues and profits thereof to his and there own proper use and behoof forever without any
 lawful let suit trouble denial Interruption or disturbance of the said William Neelley
 his Heirs or Assigns and the said Hugh Bantles his Heirs and Assigns from time to time
 shall and sufficiently be saved warranted defended and kept harmless by the said Wm
 Neelley his Heirs and Assigns from all manner of forms and other gifts grants
 Bargains sales Leases Mortgages Injuncts Dower Titles of Dower statute Merchants and of the
 Staple Recognizances estates Judgments Executions Uses entails Rents Annuities of Rents
 Profits fines Issues and of and from all and singular other titles Incumbances and
 demands whatsoever had made suffered committed or done by the said William Neelley
 his Heirs or Assigns or by any other person or persons whatsoever lawfully claiming by

from or under him them or any of them and lastly the said William Nalley his Heirs or Assigns do promise and agree that and with the said Hugh Parades his Heirs and Assigns that he shall and will be ready at all times hereafter to make any further Deed or Deeds conveyance or conveyances in the Law for the better securing the Right and Title of the said Fifty Seven Acres of Land unto the said Hugh Parades his Heirs & Assigns as he the said Hugh Parades his Heirs and Assigns shall reasonably demand In Witness whereof the said William Nalley hath hereunto set his hand and seal the Day and year first above written

Made & delivered in the presence of

his
William W Nalley
mark

Memorandum that the day and year within mentioned full peaceable & quiet possession and delivery of the within mentioned Land and premises was made and Delivered by the within mentioned William Nalley unto the said within mentioned Hugh Parades to hold to him his Heirs and Assigns forever according to the true intent and meaning of the within mentioned Indenture

Test

his
William X Nalley
mark

Received this day of one thousand seven hundred and twenty four of Hugh Parades the just and full sum of fifty pound Current money of Virginia in full of the within mentioned premises Day Received by me

his
William X Nalley
mark

At a Court held for Pittsylvania County the 22nd Day of November 1774. This Indenture from William Nalley to Hugh Parades was acknowledged by the said William and ordered to be Recorded

Test

Oaken
from
Pain } Dec

This Indenture made this sixteenth day of July in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy four between David Pain of Pittsylvania and James Oaks of the said County in the Province of Virginia Witnesses that the said David Pain for and in Consideration of the sum of fifteen Pounds to him in hand paid by the said James Oaks before the unsealing and Delivery of these presents the Receipt whereof he doth hereby acknowledge and him self there with fully satisfied contented and paid hath

pg 162

Robert Devin, James Robinson

At a Court held for Pittsylvania County the 13 day of February 1788 -
 The within last Will and Testament of John Tutton deceased was
 Exhibited into Court by James Tutton and William Shields the Executors
 therein named and proved by the Oaths of the witnesses therein and
 Ordered to be recorded, and on the Motion of the said Exors. who made
 Oath, according to Law certificate is granted them for obtaining a
 Probate thereof in due form of Law on giving Security Whereupon they
 together with Joseph Morton their security entered into bond as the
 Law directs and acknowledged the same

Teste Will Tunstall C. J.

Wm
 his Will

In the Name of God Amen the sixth day of December in the Year of
 our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty seven I William Taylor
 of Pittsylvania County and State of Virginia being very sick and weak
 in body but of perfect mind and memory, thanks be given to God
 therefore calling unto mind the mortality of my body and knowing that
 it is appointed for all Men once to die do make and Declare this my
 last Will and Testament, that is to say Principally and first of all
 I give and recommend my Soul into the hands that gave it and for
 my body I recommend it to the Earth to be buried in a Christian
 like and decent manner at the discretion of my Executors, and as
 touching such worldly Estate wherewith it pleased God to bless
 me with in this life I give, devise and dispose of the same in the
 following manner and form First it is my Will and Desire that all
 my just debts and funeral Charges be paid and satisfied. Secondly I
 give and bequeath to my beloved daughter Mary Reynolds one half
 Dollars give and bequeath to my beloved Grandson William Reynolds
 all and singular my Lands, Messuages and Tenements to him his
 heirs and assigns for ever, and thirdly I give and bequeath to my
 beloved Grandson Joseph Reynolds all and every other part of my
 Estate to him and his heirs for ever And I do hereby constitute

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make and Ordain Joseph Reynolds my only sole Executor
of this my last Will and Testament and I do hereby utterly disavow, revoke and
disannul all and every other Will, Testament, Will, Legacies and Executors by
me in any wise before this last Will and Testament made, Witness and bequeathed purporting
and confirming this and no other to be my last Will and Testament for which
unless I have hereunto set my hand and seal this day and Year first above
written.

William Nealey, Sr.

Witnessed
Signed, Sealed, published and declared
by the said William Nealey as his
last Will and Testament in the
presence of us the subscribers.

George Smith, Hingjah Hughes

At a court held for Pittsylvania County the 21st day of July 1788
The within last Will and Testament of William Nealey dec^d was proved
by the Oath of one of the witnesses thereto and Ordered to be Certified and
afterwards, to wit, at a court held for the s^d County the 15th day of September
in the Year afores^d the same was further proved by the Oath of the other witness
thereto and Ordered to be recorded Joseph Reynolds and William Reynolds
the Executors therein named took the Oath agreeable to Law and on the
Petition of the s^d Executors Certificate is granted them for obtaining a Probate
thereof in due form of Law on giving security. Whereupon they together with
Hugh Reynolds their security entered into Bond as the Law directs and
retrospectively the same.

Teste Will Tunstall Clk

In the Name of God Amen I say William of the County of Pitts-
sylvania and State of Virginia living in a weak but of perfect mind and
memory thanks be to Almighty God for the same knowing it is appointed
for all persons to die I do make and ordain this my last Will and Testament
and as touching what worldly Estate it hath please God to bless me with
I do dispose of in manner and form as followeth, my Will and desire is that
all my just Debts and funeral Charges shall be first paid by my Executors
hereafter to be named I Give and bequeath to my beloved Son David
the sum of one Negro Girl named Lettie and her issue to him

Robert Devin, James Robinson

At a Court held for Pittsylvania County the 13 day of February 1788 -
The within last Will and Testament of John Tutton deceased was
Exhibited into Court by James Tutton and William Shields his Executors
their names and proved by the Oaths of the witnesses thereto and
Ordered to be recorded, and on the Motion of the said Executors who made
Oath, according to Law Certificate is granted them for obtaining a
Probate thereof in due form of Law on giving Security whereupon they
together with Joseph Morton their security entered into bond as the
Law directs and acknowledged the same

Teste Will Turnball C. C.

James

Nearly the
his Will

In the Name of God Amen the sixth day of December in the Year of
our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty seven I William Taylor
of Pittsylvania County and State of Virginia being very sick and weak
in body but of perfect mind and memory, thanks be given to God
therefore calling unto mind the mortality of my body and knowing that
it is appointed for all Men once to die, do make and Declare this my
last Will and Testament, that is to say, I have given and first of all
I give and recommend my Soul into the hand that gave it and for
my body I recommend it to the Earth to be buried in a Christian
like and decent manner at the discretion of my Executors, and as
touching such worldly Estate wherewith it pleased God to bless
me with in this life I give, devise and dispose of the same in the
following manner and form To wit it is my Will and Desire that all
my just debts and funeral Charges be paid and satisfied, Secondly I
give and bequeath to my beloved daughter Mary Reynolds one share
To wit one share and bequeath to my beloved Son William Reynolds
all and singular my Lands, Appurtenances and Tenements to him his
Heirs and assigns for ever, and Thirdly I give and bequeath to my
beloved Grandson Joseph Reynolds all and every other part of my
Estate to him and his heirs for ever And I do likewise constitute

make and Ordain Joseph Reynolds and William Reynolds my only sole Executors
of this my last Will and Testament and I do hereby utterly disallow, revoke and
disannul all and every other Will and Testament, Wills, leges and Executors by
me in any wise before this last Will and Testament made, Willed and bequeathed passing
and confirming this and no other to be my last Will and Testament In witness
whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this day and Year first above
written.

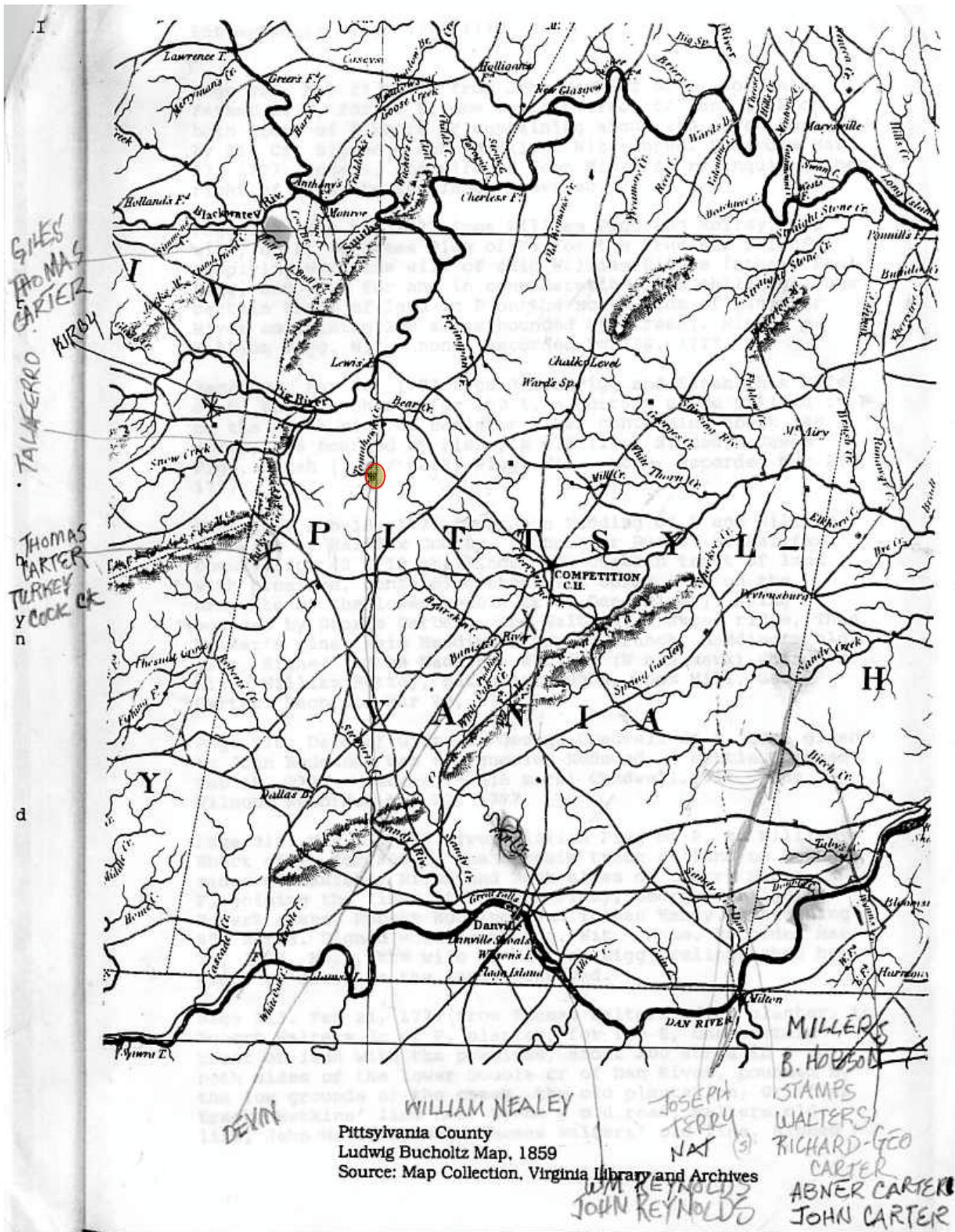
William Naley, Sr.

Signed, Sealed, published, pronounced
by the said William Naley as his
last Will and Testament in the
presence of us the subscribers.
George Smith, Micajah Hughes

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The within last Will and Testament of William Naley dec^d was proved
by the Oath of one of the witnesses thereto and Ordered to be Certified and
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in the Year afores^d the same was further proved by the Oath of the other witness
thereto and Ordered to be recorded Joseph Reynolds and William Reynolds
the Executors therein named took the Oath agreeable to Law and on the
Petition of the s^d Executors Certificate is granted them for obtaining a Probate
thereof in due form of Law on giving security. Whereupon they together with
Micajah Hughes their security entered into Bond as the Law directs and
acknowledged the same.

Teste Will Turnball Clk

In the Name of God Amen I Survey Williams of the County of Pittsylvania
and State of Virginia being in a weak low condition but of perfect mind and
memory thanks be to Almighty God for the same knowing it is appointed
for all persons to die I do make and ordain this my last Will and Testament
and as touching what worldly Estate it hath pleased God to bless me with
I do dispose of in manner and form as followeth, my Will and desire is that
all my just Debts and funeral Charges shall be first paid by my Executors
hereafter to be named I then give and bequeath to my beloved Son David
the sum of one Negro Girl named Lottie and her issue to him



1859 map of Pittsylvania County, VA

DB 1, p.504 - NEALEY from NEALEY

DEED, 5 Sep 1769

John NEALLY of County of Augusta in Colony of Virginia of one part and Robert NEALLY of County of Pittsylvania in aforesaid Colony of other part...for £100...189 acres on South side Tomehawk Creek...corner of William NEALLYS Land, up said Creek by Lands of William NEALLYS...is part of a Tract the said John NEALLY purchased of Col^o. Jn^o. CHISWELL.

Wit: William MC CLENEEHAN, William NEELLEY, William NEULLEY

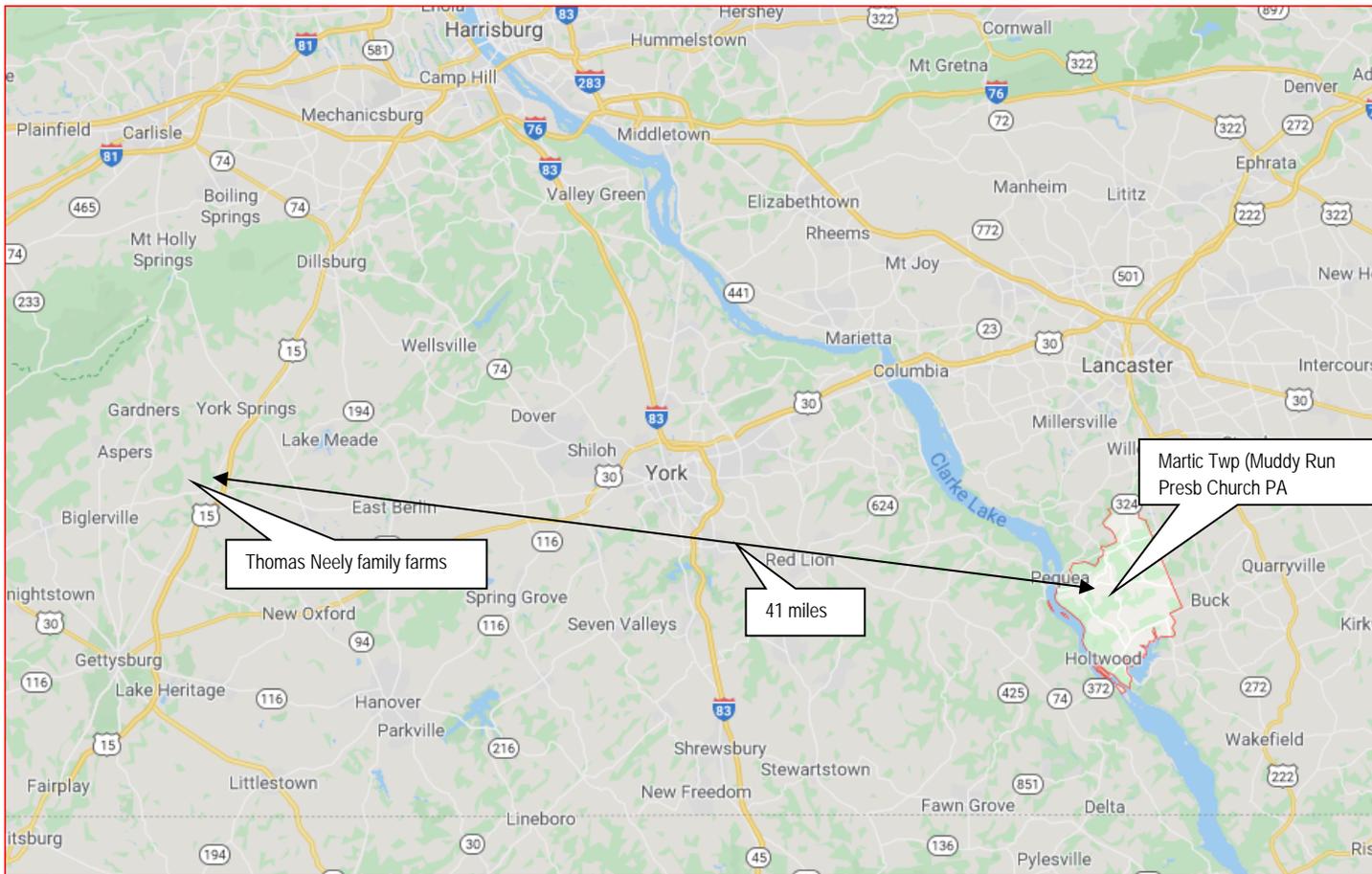
Rec: 23 Mar 1770 and further

Prv.: 30 Aug 1770

John NEILLEY L.S.

- JOHN NEILLEY'S
- 1756 Feb. 5 "Rode 6 miles to Mud. Meeting, preached psalm 93: preached psalm 55: 22 and baptized John son to Robert Duncan and Thomas and Charles adopted sons to Jo Paterson and Wm. Smith; and James son to Elizabeth Ayers, then rode to J. D. and John Robies." (From John Brownlie's.)
- Dec. 30 "Rode 6 miles to and from Wm. Neilie's; married Hew Reynolds and Mary K." (From John Duncan's.)
- 1757 Jan. 3 "Rode 9 miles to J. Brownlies, married John Gebie and Janet Brown."

William Neelys daughter, Mary, was married to Hugh Reynolds on December 30 1756



Thomas Neely family farms

41 miles

Martic Twp (Muddy Run Presb Church PA)