

Chapter 8 – Neelys in Virginia

Virginia - One of the 13 original colonies and the first part of the country permanently settled by the English, who established Jamestown on the banks of the James River in 1607. The home state of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and other founding fathers, Virginia played an important role in the American Revolution (1775-83).

On October 19, 1781, following three weeks of continuous bombardment, British General Lord Charles Cornwallis surrendered to General George Washington in the Battle of Yorktown in Virginia, essentially bringing the American Revolution to an end. Virginia attained statehood June 25, 1788.

Virginia's borders expanded and contracted numerous times since its inception as the first of the 13 original colonies. **In 1792, nine counties known as the Kentucky District of Virginia entered the union as the state of Kentucky, and in 1863, western counties of Virginia were approved to enter the union as the state of West Virginia.**

It is important to understand which Virginia counties were in existence during the various time periods you are interested in. The following link to [Virginia interactive county formation map and historical information](#) is a quick and complete resource you will find easy to use for this purpose.

West Virginia - is one of two American states formed during the American Civil War (1861–1865), along with Nevada, and is the only state to form by seceding from a Confederate state. It was originally part of the British [Virginia Colony](#) (1607–1776) and the western part of the state of [Virginia](#) (1776–1863), whose population became sharply divided over the issue of secession from the Union and in the separation from Virginia, formalized by admittance to the Union as a new state in 1863. West Virginia was one of the Civil War Border states.

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Migration of Immigrants down the Shenandoah Valley

Many Scotch-Irish settlers and soon after, the German Palatines primarily from PA, began to cross the Blue Ridge mountains by 1750 in search of new lands, though they were hindered by Native American resistance. The 1744 Treaty of Lancaster had left ambiguous whether the Iroquois had sold only as far as the Alleghenies, or all their claim south of the Ohio, including the rest of modern West Virginia. At the 1752 convening of the Treaty of [Logstown](#), they acknowledged the right of English settlements south of the Ohio, but the Cherokee and Shawnee claims still remained. During the [French and Indian War](#) (1754–1763), the scattered settlements were almost destroyed. The [Proclamation of 1763](#) again confirmed all land beyond the Alleghenies as Indian Territory, but the Iroquois finally relinquished their claims south of the Ohio to Britain at the Treaty of Fort Stanwix in 1768.

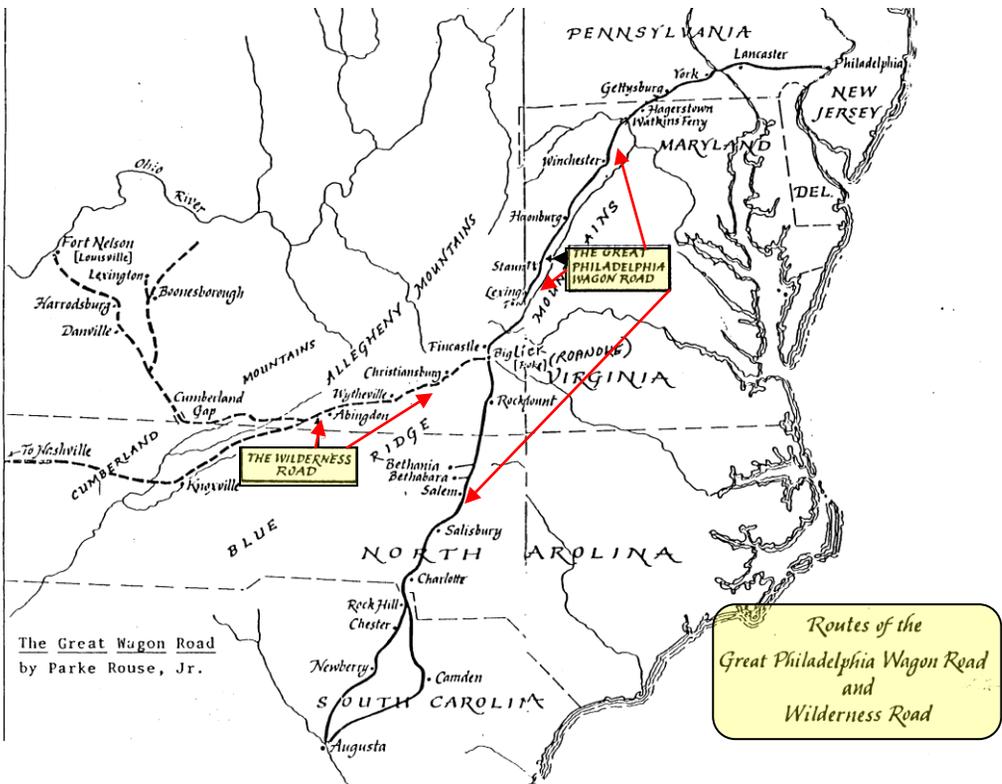
Most of the Cherokee claim within West Virginia, the southwestern part of the state, was sold to Virginia in 1770 by the Treaty of Lochaber. In 1774, the Crown Governor of Virginia, John Murray, 4th Earl of Dunmore, led a force over the mountains, and a body of militia under Colonel Andrew Lewis dealt the Shawnee under Cornstalk a crushing blow at the junction of the Kanawha and Ohio rivers, in the [Battle of Point Pleasant](#) in 1774. Four Neelys from Botetourt Co were in this battle: James Neely Sr. and his son, James Jr. were in Captain Philip Love's Company and James and William Neely, sons of "old John" Neely, were in John Murray's Company. See the [Soldiers at the Battle of Point Pleasant](#) document in this book's Addendum for details. Following this conflict, known as [Dunmore's War](#), the Shawnee and Mingo ceded their rights south of the Ohio, that is, to West Virginia and Kentucky. But renegade Cherokee chief Dragging Canoe continued to dispute the settlers' advance, fighting the [Cherokee–American wars](#) (1776–1794) until after the American Revolutionary War. During the war, the settlers in Western Virginia were generally active Whigs and many served in the Continental Army.

Neelys began moving with the Scotch-Irish from PA and some of the other colonies, such as MD and NJ, into the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia by 1740, which continued until the Revolutionary War. Their records showed up in several locations as they travelled south on the [Great Philadelphia Wagon Road](#) down the [Shenandoah Valley](#)

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bounded on the east by the Blue Ridge mountains and on the west by the Appalachians. Some stayed for two or three generations, including the 'Botetourt Neelys', while others soon passed through on their way to the land grants becoming available in the Carolinas. At the end of the Revolutionary War, pioneers took the Wilderness Road west across the Appalachian Mountains into what is now WVA, KY and TN.

The primary focus of this chapter is on the '**Botetourt Neelys**' who joined the Scotch-Irish settlement that was started about 1740 located between Roanoke and Fincastle, VA in what became [Botetourt Co](#) some 30 years later. Almost all were gone by 1800, several moving to middle TN. Sorting out these Neelys using available records has proven complicated. While I feel we have made real progress, I believe unfound information remains that will improve our knowledge. I will also touch on other locations in VA and WVA where Neelys settled.



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Primary Sources for Information on Neellys in Virginia

I used eight sources for record searches and information on the Neelys in Virginia in addition to Ancestry.com and Family Search.org:

1. [Chalkley's Chronicle's of the Scotch-Irish Settlements in VA](#), excerpts extracted from original court records of Augusta Co, VA 1745-1800 and published in 1912. Each of the three volume set is viewable on the Hathi Trust website link above and is useful for finding leads from the 1745-1800 court records in Augusta and surrounding counties. However, it contains some errors and omissions and should be used with caution according to a review by the [Library of Virginia](#).
2. [Kegley's Virginia Frontier](#): The Beginning of the Southwest, the Roanoke of Colonial Days, 1740-1783. This is the essential reference book for SW Virginia published in 1938 and I owe a big debt of gratitude to Charles J Neelly for giving me his copy. It is more comprehensive and accurate than just the court records in Chalkley's. Genealogy libraries often have a copy or if you want your own, you can order from Amazon.com or others for about \$75. ABE Books in the link above is reliable and sells a completely searchable CD for \$34 which is most useful for the record searches of people. They also sell paperback and hard cover copies.
3. [Neely Narrative by Grace Renshaw](#), published 1976. This excellent document and its meticulous research focus on James Neelly Sr. who married Jane Grimes in 1740 and settled in what is now Botetourt Co by 1742, his children who later settled in TN and the descendants of his son William. There is a fortunate and unusual circumstance in the sense that Rev. T.J. Neely, the grandson of son William, lived in his grandfather's house and was 23 years old when William died, thus becoming a critical link of information between the early generations and the later generations of Neelley's that Grace recorded. **This document is a PDF file in the Appendix of this Book.**

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4. A History of the Neellys by Charles J. Neelly, published 1985. Charles researched his ancestor who was John Neely Sr. (“old John” Neely) in Botetourt Co. and a relative to James Sr. and his brother Dr. John who married the Grimes sisters. This publication covers John Neely’s children and grandchildren. **This document is a PDF file in the Appendix of this Book.**
5. Descendants of James Neely Sr. of Botetourt Co, VA by John W. Neelley, published in 1990’s. This document, like Renshaw’s Neely Narrative, focuses primarily on the descendants of James Sr. and Jane Grimes, but provides much more details of their sons who moved to TN and their descendants, including many of those up to recent times. **This document is a PDF file in the Appendix of this Book.**
6. Records of Neellys in Botetourt Co, VA by James R. Neely, published 2014. This document is a large spreadsheet where I posted the Botetourt Neely records found during my visit to the Roanoke Library in 2012. These are grouped by identified persons as much as the information allows. In addition, I also included every source record for Neelys contained in Kegley’s with page number. Attached to this is a two page listing of the Neely land transactions. I don’t remember if I found these at the Roanoke Library or somewhere else, but they will amplify many of the references in the records compilation **This document is a PDF file in the Appendix of this Book.**
7. Family Group Sheets While not records themselves, the 140 Neely Family Group Sheets I bought from Yates Publishing were completed by Neely researchers using records (with assumptions) and contained several for the Botetourt Neely families. I have put these in **a PDF file in the Appendix of this book.**
8. YDNA Results. We have matching Y111 DNA results from a limited number of descendants of James Neelly Sr. and “old John Neelly” that show they are likely to be from the same family, whether brothers, cousins or uncle/nephew. We can possibly use these results in the future to prove or disprove relationships to other Neelys who settled in VA or WVA. This is an ongoing effort still in progress, **but the results and conclusions will be posted in the Appendix of this Book.**

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The “Botetourt Neelys”

We will begin with what appears to be the three major founders of the Neelys who settled in what became Botetourt Co, VA; **James Neely Sr.** who married Jane Grimes, **Dr. John**, the brother of James Sr. who married Jane’s sister Sarah Grimes and **John Neely Sr (“old John”)**, a relative who arrived about 1750 with his wife Elizabeth and children who were approaching adulthood. The question is where they came from. All YDNA tested Botetourt descendants are Group 2 Neelys.

Both Grace Renshaw and Charles J. Neely accepted old research and assumptions about three Neely brothers who immigrated to NY from Ulster and their relationships to the Botetourt Neely founders that was disproved in our 2016 research of Neelytown, NY, so it is important that we spend time to understand this. Read Chapter 5 for details.

This old research predates the ‘Neely Narrative’ written by Grace Renshaw in 1976. I am uncertain where it came from, but I found the document (only pg 1 as shown below) about the 3 brothers in NY in the Myrtle Edwards Collection (MEC) of the Orange Co, NY Historical Society. Myrtle Edwards and Elizabeth Horton were evidently Orange Co genealogists in the 1930’s or so who spent research effort on the NY Neelys.

The Neely Family
THREE ORIGINAL BROTHERS - JOHN, ROBERT, & WILLIAM

JOHN NEELY — arrived, 1716 with load of political prisoners from Preston, England, age 19. Such prisoners were indentured 5 yrs.

ROBERT NEELY — arrived, 1719 as indentured servant for 3 yrs. A Robert Neely died in Neelytown, Ulster County, N.Y. in 1756, named wife Isabel, children: William, Adam, David, Matthew, and Mary. Mentioned brothers William Neely and John Neely Sr.

WILLIAM NEELY — arrived prior to 1725 with four sons, William, Matthew, John, and _____ (not named). A William died in Ulster County, N.Y. in 1769, and named daughters Sarah and Martha. Will executed by son William and witnessed by Thomas Neely.

Robert Neely's Will dated, 17 Sept. 1756, proves these three original Neelys were brothers. See Will below.

Will dated 17, Sept. 1756
In the name of God, Amen, I, ROBERT NEELY, of Neelytown, in Ulster County, being of perfect mind, "All my real and personal estate is to be sold at the first favorable opportunity," and the proceeds are to be paid to my wife ISABEL and my 5 children, ADAM WILLIAM, DAVID, MATTHEW, and MARY, when of age. In order to bring up, educate and maintain my younger children, Executors shall put money out at interest. Wife and my brothers, WILLIAM NEELY and JOHN NEELY SR. both of Neelytown, appointed executors. Witnessed by ISAAC HODGE, JOHN THOMPSON, JOHN MORRELL. Proved December 10, 1756 upon oath of ISAAC HODGE, of New York, shopkeeper.

Robert Neely's Will tells us the three brothers were all living in Neelytown in 1756, the little town that took it's name from these Neely brothers. Robert's Will also tells us John Sr. had a son John Jr.. Robert appears to be the eldest of these Neely brothers, and advanced in age in 1756. (Will explain this later). Robert's Will demands the proceeds from the sale of his estate be paid to his wife Isabel and 5 younger children, "when of age." Indicating these children were under age in 1756. Also indicating Isabel was necessarily a much younger, and a second wife (Will give explanation later). Robert says my younger children, indicating he also had older children not mentioned in his Will.

The Following Militia Co. lists of Ulster County, N.Y., will help us analyze these three Neely families.

(continued)

There were ships that brought prisoners from the battle of Preston to Annapolis & Baltimore in 1716, but John Neely was a buyer of indentures, not a prisoner. There is no trace of records for John, brother of Robert and William in NY

Robert’s handwritten will of 1756 does not refer to brothers as does the transcription at left, only brother William. John Sr. was a respected early founder of Neelytown, NY

There are no Neelytown, NY records of James Sr. and Dr. John who married the Grimes sisters. Their first records are marriage records in Philadelphia area.

YDNA of James Sr. and “old John Neely” of Botetourt is identical at Y37 indicating they were from the same family; brothers, cousins, uncle, etc.

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Records of James Neelly Sr. and Dr. John Neelly

They were first recorded in marriage records in the Philadelphia area. James Sr. was married on May 21, 1740 to Jane Grimes (Grymes) in Christ Episcopal Church in Philadelphia. We don't know whether or not they actually lived in Philadelphia. His brother, John Neelly married Sarah Grimes, the sister of Jane, on August 19, 1742 in Burlington Co, NJ. Most researchers state that James was born around 1715 and John was born around 1717. This seems reasonable since that would make both of them around 25 years old when they married.

There were no records found of these brothers James and John in our NY research of 2016 as claimed by Roy H. Neely and others who evidently confused them with James Sr. of the 1738 New Windsor militia and John and John Jr. in the 1775 Ulster Co militia, 2nd Regiment. Therefore, we have to presume these brothers, James and John, most likely immigrated to Philadelphia from Ulster as young men in the late 1730's or they possibly were born in one of the other nearby colonies and moved there for opportunity. (There was a John Neely b.~1695 who immigrated from Ireland to Salem Co, NJ close to Philadelphia, who had a son Joseph b.~ 1717. This could be the John Nelly who bought the indenture of Preston prisoner, George Hodgson in 1716 and could also possibly be "old John Neelly" who moved to the Botetourt settlement. If true, he could be an uncle or cousin to James and Dr. John because of the ages and latest YDNA results.

James Sr. and Jane apparently moved to the new Scotch Irish settlement close to Roanoke by 1742 (see pgs 2 & 3 in Neely Narrative for reasons the settlement was established in VA) where he was a Justice of the Augusta Co Court (Pat. BK 30, p. 243). John and Sarah evidently stayed in Philadelphia for several more years for his medical training, since he was listed as Dr. John Neelly when they arrived at the settlement about 1750. John and Sarah had no children, so we will start with the children and grandchildren of James Sr. Grace Renshaw lists his 6 children on page 5 of 'Neely Narrative' which I have reproduced on the next page along with her caveat:

"I have no documentary record of the birth dates of the children of James and Jane Grimes Neelly, but the following are believed by other Neelys to be correct:"

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Children of James Neely Sr. and Jane Grimes from ‘Neely Narrative’ by Grace Renshaw.

1. **James Jr.** b. 1741. Married Catherine Evans, daughter of Daniel and Rhoda Griffith Evans and granddaughter of Mark Evans, one of the earliest settlers.
2. **John** b. 1743. Married Susanna Evans, sister of Catherine Evans
3. **Robert** b. 1745. He succeeded his father as Capt of their Militia Regiment in 1784. His family not well documented since John (1) [JRN note: referring to other founder and relative “old John Neely”] also had a son Robert (identical names already beginning to be confusing), but T. J. Neely, who remembered his gr-unc, said, “He went to Maury County (Tenn.), died there and was buried in Mt. Pleasant”
4. **Jane** b. 1747. Married Phillip Love, who died in Box Co, VA 1790
5. **William** b. 1749. “Married 1st Mary Friend, partly of Welch descent, on the eastern coast of Maryland” quote from T.J. Neely his grandson. Mary Friend was the mother of his children. Married 2nd Mary Nash. (Not documented but believed to be correct).
6. **Sarah** b. 1751. Married William McClanahan 7 Mar 1789. They remained in VA where they reared a large family and were prominent and influential citizens. He died 1824.

The 2 records below from Chalkley’s bring into question the age of Robert Neely, son of James Sr. who sold land to son Robert in 1761 (who would have been only 16 based on a 1745 birth date) and which was later sold by Robert to William Christian in 1767. It also says **Robert and wife Anna were living in Halifax County at the time of the sale in 1767**. If Robert’s and James Jr’s birth positions were reversed it would correct this problem and also several other problems with records of Robert and not create any with James Jr. A Family Group Sheet by Roy H. Neely does exactly that, plus including position changes of John and Jane. **I show this ‘revised’ list of the children of James Neely Sr. on the next page and have decided to use it** since it appears more accurate than Grace Renshaw’s listing in ‘Neely Narrative’, but am not claiming it is factual.

Acquisition of Land in Virginia: Page 525.--18th August, 1761. James Neilly to Robert Neilly, for £50, 350 acres on a branch of Roanoke; cor. Archabald Graham. Sent to Israel Christian, January, 1767. (Note: Robert Neely received this land from his father, James Neelly).

Disposition of Land from Chalkley's: Page 287.--6th January, 1767. Robert Neelley (Neally, Neilly, Nealy) (and Anna), of Halifax County, to William Christian for £78, 350 acres on a branch of Roan Oak, adjoining Robert Breckenridge and Archibald Graham.

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Children of James Neelly Sr. and Jane Grimes from ‘Family Group Sheet by Roy H. Neely’ in 1988

1. **Robert** b. abt. 1741 at Neely’s Creek Augusta Co. Married Susannah (Ann) Griffith about 1761. Robert died after 1830.
2. **Jane** b. abt 1743 at Neely’s Creek. Married Captain Phillip Love abt 1764. Jane died abt 1790.
3. **James Jr.** b. abt 1745 at Neely’s Creek. Married Catherine Evans abt 1770. Died 21 Feb 1821 in Franklin Co, AL.
4. **John** b. abt 1748 at Neely’s Creek. Married Susanna Evans. Died 1818 in Williamson Co, TN (death date from John W. Neelley)
5. **William** b. abt 1749 at Neely’s Creek. Married 1st Mary Friend and 2nd Mary Nash. Died 2 Feb 1827 in Franklin, TN
6. **Sarah** b. abt 1751 at Neely’s Creek. Married Col. William McClanahan 7 Mar 1769. Died 1824.

There are also 2 notes on this Family Group Sheet; 1) James Neely Sr lived near where Mason’s Creek flows into the river west of the V.A. Hospital, between Salem and Roanoke.” 2) “James Neely Sr, his sons James Jr and William, and son-in-law, Capt. Phillip Love were at the Battle of Point Pleasant, (Oct 1774)”.

James Sr. acquired much land over the next several years and was a respected figure in the community. There are many references to his land transactions, road overseer duties, appraiser of estates, Captain of a Militia unit, etc. that you can find in the eight Primary Source references, numbers 2, 3, 5 and 6 listed several pages ago.

On page 6 of ‘Neely Narrative’, Grace Renshaw says “There is evidence that Jane Grimes Neelly died in 1776. At this time James (1) gave most of his land to Jane and Philip Love and a 49 acre portion of the home place to William. I have been told of a letter of emotional character written by James at that time to daughter Jane (the letter said to be extant), the inference being that James' wife had died and in his sorrow he had divested himself of most of their property.”

More Details of James Sr’s Four Sons

1. Robert b. abt 1741, reportedly married Susannah Ann Griffith about 1761. We know from the Chalkley’s records that he and Anna were living in Halifax County in 1767. We know that Susannah was the daughter of Rhoda, married to Daniel Evans, who mentioned her in his 1755 will as a minor. When her mother remarried, she chose William McClanahan as her guardian. The only logical reason I can

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imagine why Robert would be living there in 1767 about age 26 with wife 'Anna' when his family was in the Botetourt settlement, was that he had met Susannah somewhere and somehow before 1767 who perhaps had moved in with Rhoda who might have moved to Halifax County with her new husband, Richard Doggett. I have not found a marriage record for Robert so far. In 1776, Robert received another 48A on the Roanoke River from his father James Sr. A Robert Neely acquired 300A on Looney Creek from George Clark in 1779 and sold it to William McClellan in 1786, all listed land transactions in the Deed Books. Kegley's on page 567 clearly states that in 1784 Robert succeeded his father James as Captain of the local militia. James Sr would have been about 69, so it is certainly possible, but John W. Neelley felt it was more likely it was Robert's brother, James Jr., instead of his father mostly because of the age. On page 384, Kegley's records appointments of militia officers in Botetourt Co. from 1780-1783, which included James Neely Jr. as Captain and Robert Neely as Second Lieutenant without specifying the various militias. Things to consider are 1) the clear statement of Kegley that "Robert replaced his father" and 2) why would James Jr. resign as Captain after only a couple of years following his appointment? The answer probably lies within Kegley's records of the various militias and who belonged to each of them in the area that contained Neelys.

(JRN note): Because of the relative lack of records on Robert (b. 1741), many early researchers, after seeing the 1767 land sale record of Robert who lived with wife Susannah (Anna) in Halifax Co, assumed it was the same Robert who was listed at the bottom of the first column of the [1785 enumeration tax list of Halifax Co on page 87](#) which listed a Robert Neely as head of household of '5 white souls with no buildings on the property', but this family was not listed there in the [earlier 1782 tax listing](#) starting on page 22.. There are marriage records in Halifax Co. of the 5 children in this family through Ancestry.com as well as a Family Group Sheet Roy H. Neely compiled for this family as follows, indicating this family remained in Halifax Co, VA from 1785 at least through the 1790's.

- David M. Neely, b. abt. 1763 Augusta Co, m. Peggy Hancock 1 Nov 1791, died after 1860 which would have made him 97.
- Nancy, b. abt. 1765 Halifax Co, m. John Bowman 28 Sept 1795
- Robert Jr., b. abt. 1767 Halifax Co, m. Margaret Chisum 28 Sept 1790
- William, b. abt. 1770 Halifax Co, m. Elizabeth Lawson 10 Oct 1799, died abt. 1845 after moving to Smith Co, TN.
- Mary Ann, b. abt. 1780 Halifax Co, m. Warner Brown 9 Apr 1807

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Three of our Neely YDNA participants have good paper trails to David M. Neely Sr through his son William Elijah Neely. However, their YDNA is drastically different than Robert, son of James Sr. and they are not genetically related to our other Neelys. Either this is a separate Neely family who immigrated to Halifax Co between 1782 & 1785 or a NPE, perhaps from David M. Neely Sr's son, William Elijah. We refer to these 3 descendants as 'Wise Co Neelys' because the male children moved there after first leaving Halifax Co for Scott Co, VA and lived there several years before moving to Wise Co. I believe this family is most likely a separate Neely family who arrived between 1782 and 1785 because of Robert (b.~1741) apparently succeeding his father as Captain of a Botetourt Co militia in 1784 and had Botetourt Co land transactions in the 1780's and 1790's there which seem to be in conflict by putting him in two places in the same time period. However, if true, this creates the question of why we can find no records of Robert and Anna's children. This question needs future research. Roy H. Neely's Family Group sheet states Robert moved to Burke Co, NC after 1810, but I have not been able to verify this. 'Neely Narrative' says that Robert moved to middle TN with his 3 brothers and he died in Maury Co, TN. This claim is bolstered because it was confirmed by T. J. Neely, grandson of William Neely as stated below. Robert Neely Jr, grandson of "old John Neely", also apparently moved to middle TN, making sorting out the records for two Robert Neelys there extremely difficult. Grace Renshaw states on pg 9 of 'Neely Narrative' that *"Robert Neelly was in Maury Co, TN in 1806. In the Maury Co taxables, 1811, he had 1 poll, 1 slave. Robert Neelly bought several plots of land in the Cathey's Creek vicinity. In 1825 when he testified in a lawsuit between neighbors (Harris vs. Groves) he was living on land he had bought from William Bradford in 1822. The 1830 Census showed Robert's family consisting of 1M +80 yrs; 1F <20 yrs; and 1F +70 yrs. Robert must have died after this census, leaving his widow and perhaps a granddaughter in the household. There is some conjecture here, Neelys were coming in from NC and since historians as well as court recorders spelled phonetically with no regard for accuracy, most of the spelling was Neely, the situation which caused the fourth generation to drop one 'L' from their name as we shall see. The Rev. T. J. Neely who remembered these relatives from childhood, said 'Robert settled in Maury Co, died there and was buried near Mt. Pleasant.'"*

I cannot find Grace Renshaw's 1830 census record she quotes for Robert Neely (b. 1741), son of James Sr. He would have been 89. I will discuss in more detail when reviewing Robert Jr., grandson of "old John Neelly" who also was supposedly in Maury Co, TN.

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2. James Jr. b. abt 1745, married Catherine Evans in 1770. He died in Franklin Co, AL according to ‘Neely Narrative’ pg 20. (The US Census for 1820 shows no Neelys there, but the AL [State Census](#) lists his sons, Palis, Samuel and Charles. He might have lived with Charles based on the 9 males over 21.) It also lists 11 children for them on pages 8 and 9 as follows:

1. Sarah b. abt 1771
2. *Andrew b. abt 1773, died Feb. 1839. Married Jane b. 1774 and died 7 Oct 1844. Both buried Ebenezer Cem, Maury Co, TN*
3. Sophia b. 1776.
4. Samuel b. 1778 married his cousin Sarah Neelly, daughter of William in Williamson Co, TN
5. George W. b. 1780, drowned in MS river in route to AR 1821
6. James b. 1782. When his uncle William died 2 Feb 1827, James was co-executor with William’s son James Neely who had married Eleanor Phillips of Davidson Co, TN and was then living in Henderson Co, TN and Thomas J. Hardeman, William’s grandson of Williamson Co, TN.
7. Pallas b. abt 1785
8. Charles Rufus b. 1787, died 1820 Tuscumbia, AL
9. Rhoda b. 1789. This was Catherine’s mother’s name
10. Jane Love Neelly b. 1789. Were Rhoda and Jane twins?
11. Catherine b. 1791. The youngest of these children were born in Burke Co, NC where James, John and Robert sojourned with their families for several years while making the transition from Botetourt Co, VA to TN and AL. A James and John and their families are listed in the Burke Co, NC 1790 census; James with 5 males with 1 over 16 and 6 females. John listed with 2 males, 1 over 16 and one female. Robert in Halifax Co 1785 tax list. His marriage to Margaret Chissum (2nd wife?) 30 Sep 1790 Halifax Co (signed her own consent).

(JRN notes) #2 – The Andrew Neelly buried in Maury Co, TN is the ancestor of John W. Neelley and was born in 1763, not 1773 which is 7 years before James and Catherine were married. I will make the case later that Andrew was not the son of James and Catherine, but the son of Robert Sr., son of “old John Neelly”.

#11 - I can find no records of Robert in Burke Co, NC and stating that this Robert was in Halifax Co in 1785 seems impossible as previously discussed based on YDNA and other circumstantial evidence. Also, the assumption that Robert had married Margaret Chissum as his second wife in Halifax Co has no proof even for a different Robert head of the family since Robert Jr. b. 1767, brother of David M. Neely, married Margaret Chissum in 1790 in Halifax Co.

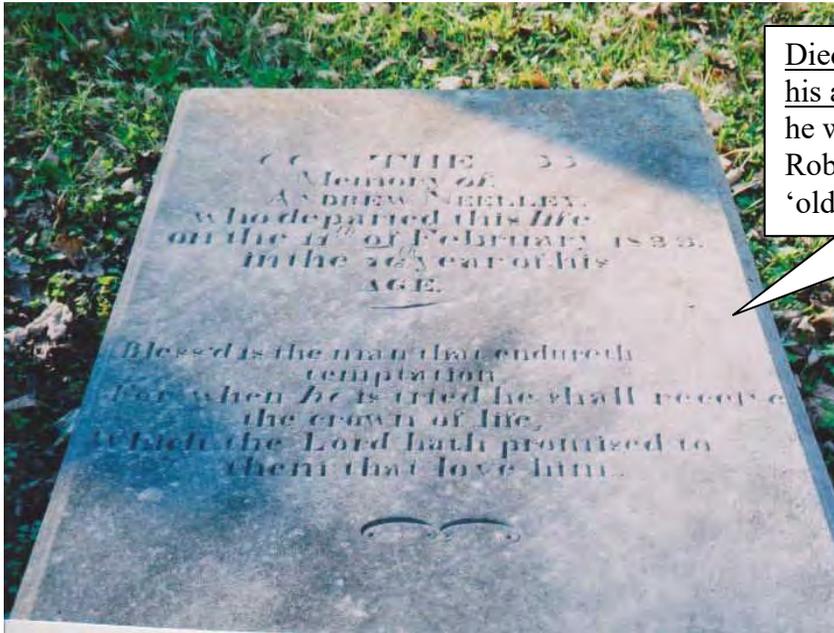
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I believe Andrew, listed 2nd child of James Jr. and Catherine was not a child of theirs, but was mistakenly included because Renshaw apparently did not pay attention to the inscription and used 1773 for the birth to fit ages of their other children. Andrew was grandson of “old John and son of Robert Sr who died in 1780.

Historic Ebenezer (Reese's Chapel) Presbyterian Church and Cemetery [sic], Maury County, Columbia, Tennessee



	Andrew Neelley unknown – 11 Feb 1839
	Eliza A. R. Neelley ✨ unknown – 20 Nov 1843
	J H Neelley unknown – 28 Oct 1844
	Jane Neelley 1774 – 7 Oct 1844
	Martha E Neelley unknown – 20 Aug 1841
	Wesley G Neelley 25 Feb 1802 – 31 Jul 1838
	William L Neelley unknown – 15 Aug 1840



Died 1839 in the 76th year of his age. 1839 minus 76 means he was born in **1763**, son of Robert Sr and grandson of ‘old John’. Wife was Jane.

In addition, Andrew was a family name in “old John Neelly’s” family since “old John” had named one of his 3 sons Andrew.

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Miscellaneous Records of 3 sons of James Sr

On page 31 of 'Neely Narrative', Grace Renshaw lists this record:

"Susan Neely b ca 1805 in Williamson or possibly Davidson Co. (Deed conveying from James Neely to His uncle, Robert Neely, 114A part of 640 A tract originally granted to Hugh Leiper and lying in Williamson Co., Tn. on Murfrees Fork of West Harpeth R. dated 1806, being signed by James Neely of Davidson Co. Tn, his signature proved by William Neely and Nicholas P. Hardeman. This Deed shows James Neely living in Davidson Co. in 1806, and I believe James and Eleanor remained in Davidson Co. for several years, possibly because of illness and/or death of Susannah Phillips."

The James Neely who sold the land to his uncle Robert apparently was Major James Neely (b. 24 Dec 1773), son of William. It seems to verify that Robert (b. 1741), son of James Sr., was in Williamson Co, TN in 1806. This [Major James Neely was the Federal Chicksaw Indian agent appointed in 1809 who accompanied Meriwether Lewis from Memphis up the Natchez Trace later in 1809. Read pages 20-30 of the above link.](#) Major James Neely was the son of William Neely who died 1826 in Williamson Co, TN detailed 3 pages later.

Another record in addition to the 1790 Census indicates that James Jr. was in Burke Co, NC as late as 1798 when he sold 100A of land there.

This indenture, made the first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety-eight, between James Neely, of the county of Burke, and State of North Carolina, of the one part, and James Greenlee, of said county, and State aforesaid, of the other part, Witnesseth, that the said James Neely, for and in consideration of the sum of one hundred pounds, lawful money of said State, to him in hand paid by the said James Greenlee at and before the sealing and signing of these presents, the receipt and payment whereof is hereby acknowledged, the said James Neely, for himself and his heirs, doth hereby bargain, sell, alien, enfeoff and confirm unto him, the said James Greenlee, his heirs, executors, administrators and assigns forever, a certain piece or parcel of land in the county of Burke, situate, lying and being as follows: On the north side of the Catawba river and on both sides of Douglas Branch, bounded by lands of John Davidson and Joseph Brown, now the property of James Greenlee, as by the original grants will more fully appear: Beginning at a white oak on the east side of said branch, and runs west thirteen chains to said Brown's corner, on a white oak; thence south two and one-half chains to said Davidson's northeast corner, on a spanish oak; thence with his line west twenty chains to a sourwood; thence north thirty-one and a half chains to a pine; thence east thirty chains, crossing said branch to a stake; thence south to the beginning, containing one hundred acres, which said piece or parcel of land, together with all ways, woods, waters, water courses, and every appurtenance thereto belonging or appertaining, the said James Neely, for himself, his heirs, executors, administrators, hath hereby sold, set over, conveyed, released and confirmed in open market sold.

Said James Greenlee, his heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, and he, the said James Neely, for himself, his heirs, executors and administrators, doth hereby covenant and promise to and with the said James Greenlee, his heirs, executors and administrators or assigns, that (115) he, the said James Neely, his heirs, executors and administrators, shall and will covenant and forever defend the said piece or parcel of *of* land, with every of its members and appurtenances, free from all lawful claim of any person or persons whatsoever, unto the said James Greenlee, his heirs, executors, administrators and assigns forever.

In witness whereof, the said James Neely hath hereunto set his hand and seal the day and year above written.

JAMES NEELLY, [Seal.]

Signed, sealed and delivered }
in the presence of {

JAMES COMDON,
J. M. GREENLEE, Jurat.,
WM. GREENLEE.

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3. John b. 1748, died 13 Nov, 1818 in Williamson Co, TN. He first married Susannah Evans, sister of Catherine. [Buried in Thompson Station Neelly-Drake cemetery along with 1st wife Susannah](#) according to John W. Neelley's 'Descendants of James Neelly Sr. of Botetourt Co, VA' (Ref 5). The history of John and his life in TN that follows comes from John W. Neelley's document.

John owned 1883A of land in Botetourt Co by 3 Sep 1791 on the north side of Roanoke. After selling the VA property, he and his family and some relatives and neighbors settled in TN after passing through NC in 1790's. He arrived in Williamson Co, TN in 1806 and bought, then sold two lots in Franklin, TN to son-in-law Zachariah Drake 28 Jul 1807. He also purchased land from James Robertson of Davidson Co 5 Apr 1810 and sold land on 1 Mar 1818 on edge of Columbia Rd, signed in presence of John and Robert Limon and son Charles L. Neeley.

John also bought land south of Franklin, TN in 1808 and constructed this [two story brick house \(Hilltop Manor - still standing\)](#) by 1810, in which he lived until his death in November, 1818. He and his wife are believed to be buried in Drake-Neeley Cemetery at Casey Springs.



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John supposedly had 8 children, but only named 7 children in his will plus his wife Jane, according to John W. Neelley. I have not seen a copy of John's 1818 will. Recent evidence (Aug 2019) strongly indicates that he also fathered a John Ellis born in 1772 out of wedlock. **See Addendum 1 at the end of this chapter for details.** There is no information on Susannah's date of death in Williamson Co, TN, but it is safe to assume Susannah was the mother of all the listed children and that she died after arriving in 1806. Sometime after Susannah died, John evidently married Jane. John died in 1818 and his estate settled in 1821. John's will called for division of land to each of his living children. He would have been 22 in 1770 when he presumably married.

1. **John H.** b. 13 Mar, 1771, died 1845. Married 1st Jennet Dobbins, 2nd Susie Woldridge 18 Jun 1832 Williamson Co.
2. **Rhoda** b. 1775 VA, died Oct 1839 TN. Wife of Z. Drake, married 18 Jan 1804 Botetourt Co. She would have been 29

Rhodia Neelly mentioned in the record of Zachariah Drake and Rhodia Neelly	
Name	Zachariah Drake
Spouse's Name	Rhodia Neelly
Event Date	18 Jan 1804
Event Place	Botetourt Co., Virginia
Spouse's Father's Name	John Neelly

This record from
LDS,
Familysearch.org

3. **Eliza** – guessing her birth position. Not alive when will written.
4. **Jane** b. 1783, died 11 Feb 1840 Williamson Co. Married James Neeley, 2 Nov 1802 Williamson Co. (twin of brother James?)
5. **James** b. 27 Dec 1783, died 6 Sep 1833, Williamson Co.
6. **Sophia** b. 1785, died 1831, buried in Drake Cemetery, Casey Springs. Never married.
7. **William** b. 1793. Married 1st Eliz. Reid 15 Jan 1818, 2nd Eliz. Priest
8. **Charles Lynch** b. 22 Jul 1795 Botetourt VA, died 9 Oct 1853. Buried Marin-Critz Cem. Married Sarah Elizabeth Wells.

They apparently were all born in Botetourt Co, VA, including the last, Charles Lynch Neelly, born there in 1795.

John's will listed son James as the executor. He listed names of 7 slaves, Mareable, Milly, Betsy, Anna, Nelly, Nance & Patience. John's will is in Will Book 1812-1819, Franklin TN. Settlement was completed July, 1821

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4. **William b. 1749** died in 1826 in Franklin TN and is buried there. Starting on page 11 of ‘Neely Narrative’, Grace Renshaw dedicated an entire chapter to William, who was the grandfather of “grandpa” Rev. T. J. Neely whose firsthand knowledge of William and of course his son Major James who was Rev. T. J’s father was significant. Because William is covered in such detail in ‘Neely Narrative’, I only show some of the highlights of his life here.

William married Mary Friend from the eastern shore of MD about 1770.

William and his brother James Jr. served in the Revolutionary War in Capt. John Murray’s company. Ordered to join Mar. de Lafayette who led the Virginia troops in pursuit of Gen. Cornwallis all the way from Southwest Virginia to Yorktown, located in the southeast, where Washington and his forces, coming from the other direction, forced Cornwallis to surrender, which ended the Revolution in victory.

Around 1780, according to ‘Neely Narrative’, William began accumulating land in Washington and Wythe Co, VA as they were established. Washington Co, was formed in 1776 from Fincastle Co, that had been formed from Botetourt Co in 1772, but was abolished in 1777 after the establishment of Washington Co. Abingdon is the county seat of Washington Co. Wythe Co was formed in 1790 from Montgomery Co and the county seat is Wytheville. Several other non-Botetourt Neelys lived in Washington Co and will be discussed later.

In 1783, a tax list in Botetourt Co showed William Neely with 8 horses, 20 head of cattle and 12 slaves in addition to the sizable land holdings he had accumulated there. His father, Captain James Neely, who had apparently divested himself of much of his land holdings with gifts to his children after the death of his wife, had 6 horses, 20 head of cattle and 9 slaves. This date backs up Kegley’s statement that Captain James Neely Sr. retired from the militia and was succeeded by his son Robert in 1784. In addition, it shows that James Sr. died after 1784 and likely before 1790 when James and John had moved to NC before later moving to TN.

Sometime, not long before 1790, the 4 sons of James Sr. left Botetourt Co. William moved for awhile to Washington Co and sold his land

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holdings there. James and John apparently went to Burke Co, NC and show up in the 1790 census. James sold 100A of land there to a James Greenlee in 1798. We don't know about Robert and have not found records in NC, but perhaps he came later. The underlying causes for their move was explained by Grace Renshaw in the chapter on William, but I suspect there was some event that finalized the timing of their decision and I would not be surprised if it was the death of their father, James Sr. He would have been about 74 years old in 1789 and I don't think all of them would have left an aging father.



William is recorded as having 3 children on page 17 of 'Neely Narrative'

1. **James** b. 24 Dec 1773 was known as Major James and was the father of T. J. Neely. He married Eleanor Phillips 27 Apr 1797 and was the Chicksaw Indian agent who accompanied M. Lewis.
2. **Ann** b. abt 1775 married Nicholas Perkins (N.P.) Hardeman. N. P. Hardeman was Sheriff of Davidson Co 1794-1798
3. **Sarah** b. 10 Feb 1784. Married her cousin Samuel Neely son of James Jr. and Catherine, on 12 Feb 1806. The nine year gap between her birth and Ann could mean Mary Friend had died and William married Mary Nash, but there is no evidence.

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William may have been the first of the brothers to arrive in TN. On page 14 of 'Neely Narrative' it lists several parcels of land that he sold in 1796 in Washington Co that total approximately 1,500A. Then on page 16, it states that the 1798 tax list of Davidson Co, TN shows William Neely on a 618A farm on the Cumberland River, with a dwelling and 9 slaves. His son, Major James, has married and is living with his father.

Tax Lists of Williamson Co for 1801 show that William had moved into the newly established county only a few miles south of Nashville. He bought 619A on Murphrees Fork of Harpeth River, land originally owned by Hugh Leiper. He had deeded 239A of the tract to his son, James. In 1806 James sold 114A of his land to his uncle Robert Neelly who had joined his brothers, James and John Neelly who were listed as heads of households in the US Census of 1790 for Burke Co NC before they moved to TN. It seems likely that the other three brothers may have arrived together by 1806, Robert finally settling in Maury Co where he died after 1830. "Mary Friend Neelly is hardly so much as a shadow in his story, yet the L.D.S. Society's genealogist accepted "Grandpa" T. J. Neely's statement regarding her identity, since he was born in her home and he knew her well."

Grace Renshaw writes on pages 19 and 20 that "the City Cemetery in Franklin, TN where T. J. N. said "William and his consorts" were buried was damaged irreparably by destruction during the Battle of Franklin of the Civil War. A stone reading, 'Mary E. Neely', with dates unreadable is all I can find. William's gift to daughter, Sarah, is unusual. In 1815 He deeded practically all his movable goods, including nine slaves, to his daughter Sarah and Samuel. I can only rationalize: Did Mary Friend, his first wife, die in 1814 and did William react to his loss by divesting himself of all his goods? I believe he gave his land to the other two children, but have no proof. This seems to be the same thing his father did when his mother died. His son, James, was never a provident man. He lived always on land belonging to William or the Phillips. A gift to him would soon be dissipated (read chapter on Major James pg. 26). Ann's husband was a very wealthy man already, but William may have given them the land on Murphree's Fork. I believe that William went to Maury Co soon after, if not before he gave his property away. He was on the 1818 Maury Co Tax List. (1 poll, no land). The Nash family was numerous

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there. Did he marry Mary Nash and take her back to Franklin and live there the rest of his days? He d there 2 Feb 1827, leaving little property as his 2 pg WILL and inventory indicate.” (Can zoom)

Photo Copy of Original

Neely, William

I William Neely of the County of Willard in the State of Tennessee having come to an advanced age and feeling much debility from disease and infirmity being of sound & disposing mind & memory, and being desirous to make a distribution of my property in such manner as to be most conducive to the happiness & welfare of the Family I have behind me therefore while in the full enjoyment of the faculties of my mind make and publish these presents as my last will & testament that I wish my Executors to pay and satisfy all my just debts and funeral expenses punctually out of the money due me & the sale of such part of my perishable estate as they may deem most advisable for that purpose.

Secondly I give to the freeborn boy of colour Dick who lives with me my brown or black filly.

Thirdly I give to my son James Neely my watch the chain key he belonging to the same and all my books pamphlets &c

Fourthly I give to my daughter Ann Hardeman my clock and its case and two gold crowns & calves.

Fifthly I give the remainder of my estate of whatever kind or description the same may be to my affectionate and beloved wife Mary during her natural life and at her decease I bequeath such part of

Photo Copy
of Original

the same as may remain unexpended by him to my son James Neely, and my daughter Ann Hardeman to be equally divided between them, by the wise discreet counsel of Williamson County or by themselves as they or either of them may wish.

Lastly I nominate and appoint my son James Neely of Henderson County my nephew James Neely of Williamson County and my grandson Thomas Hardeman of Franklin Executors of this my last will and testament and request that no security be required of them or either of them for the discharge of the trust herein imposed.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed my seal this 21st day of February A.D. 1824.

Legals hereunto published & declared by the above named William Neely as William Neely
his last will & testament in our presence & we have subscribed our names as witnesses to the same in his presence at his request & in the presence of each other.

Will Hardeman

James Neely Jurat
Andrew Craig Jurat.

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Records of “old John Neelly” of Botetourt Co, VA

The age of John Neely Sr. is not known, but he arrived in what became Botetourt Co, VA about 1750 with his wife Elizabeth and four close to adult children; Robert Sr., Andrew, John Jr. and Elizabeth.

The first record we have for John Neely Sr is a land acquisition of “400A on branches of the James River from Jeremiah Chamberlain of York Co, PA on 22 Nov 1751”. Charles J. Neelly’s “A History of the Neellys” provides the most research on this family, and I used it as a primary source along with other source records. Charles said that daughter Elizabeth was the only child with a known birth date, which was 1735. Using the order of his children in the 1778 will of John Sr and the birth date of daughter Elizabeth, the following dates of birth were estimated:

1. **Robert** b. abt 1729
2. **Andrew** b. abt1731
3. **John Jr.** b. abt 1733
4. **Elizabeth** b. 1735

Assuming these estimates are reasonably accurate, this would mean John Sr. was born around 1700. Charles made the same assumption as Grace Renshaw and other Neely researchers I described in the section on James Sr. of his NY origin that was proven incorrect in 2016 research of the NY Neelys (Chapter 5). That and the appropriate age for John, the non-existent younger brother of Robert in Neelytown who was supposedly an indentured servant from the prisoners of the Battle of Preston caused Charles to make what seemed at the time a reasonable assumption that John Sr. (“old John”) was probably a brother of Robert in NY.

New information on the possible origins of John Sr. in America described in the following **Record of an Early Neely family in NJ** section might have helped clarify some of the previous assumptions, but I was not able to make a link. Most researchers have assumed that John Sr. (“old John”) and James Sr. and his brother Dr. John, were related. YDNA results of a known descendant of James Sr. show that John Sr and James Sr. had an exact Y37 match indicating they are indeed related. Because of the approximate 15 year difference in ages,

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it would seem likely that they might have been uncle/nephew or cousins.

John Neely Sr. apparently served as a juror for quite a number of years. The jurors in those days were older members of the community who were responsible and reliable persons.

John and Elizabeth received grants of land along the various creeks totaling 556 acres. They also added other tracts, such as the 400 acres from J. Chamberlain until they owned well over a 1,000 acres when John died. Records indicate that their home was on the ‘Bryan Cuff-Joseph Love land, west of Edward MacDonald.’”

When John died in 1778, his will named four children, Robert, Andrew, John Jr., and Elizabeth. The only birth date that is known for sure is Elizabeth’s, who was born in 1735. John’s will also mentions a granddaughter Betsy and grandson Samuel, which were children of Andrew and John Jr. Judging from the 125 acre grant of land he made to his grandson Robert Jr., who was Robert’s youngest son, he also gave land to Robert’s other four boys at earlier dates, since they were all old enough to be married when John died. This would account for them not being mentioned in the will.

- There is no record of John selling land, so evidently he had given much of the 1000 acres plus to his children and grandchildren prior to his death.
- The will also stated that Elizabeth, his wife, was to be cared for until her death, and live on the home place.

The 1778 will reads basically:

- Robert Neely-To have forty pounds out of Andrew’s part for clearing Andrew’s land.
- John Neely Jr.-To have the 150 acres where he lived and 15 acres at the foot of his father’s land, adjoining William Breckenridge’s land, and 150 pounds in cash.
- Andrew Neely-To have the rest of the land, a clock, and two work horses.
- Elizabeth Cloyd, wife of Michael Cloyd-To have the Negro girl, Sarah.

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- Granddaughter Betsy Neelly-A colt.
- Grandson Samuel-A horse.

Read pages 21, 22 and 23 of ‘A Neelly History’ for limited information records of John Jr. and Andrew, including “John Jr. acquired a great deal of land in Virginia.” Records indicate he moved to Tennessee around 1795 or 1796. He had sold all of his land in Virginia by 1807. No research was completed on him after he moved to Tennessee. Very little is known about Andrew. He was listed on the Botetourt County tax rolls in 1783, but not after that. Evidently he owned no land, moved, or died. However, the 1820 census of Tennessee lists an Andrew Neelly in Maury County. It is fairly certain this Andrew was the son of Robert Neelly, Sr.”

Record of an Early Neely family in NJ

This extraneous piece of information is included only because Pittsgrove NJ is about 12 miles south of Philadelphia and Dr. John married Sarah Grimes about 12 miles north of Philadelphia and was about the same age as this Joseph Neely. I also tried to find a possible link between the referenced John Neely, to “old John” who moved to Botetourt or the John Neely who bought the 1716 indenture of a prisoner from Battle of Preston, but without success. I left what I found here as a possible clue for future Neely researchers.

I received an email from 'Turid M. Skårdal' of Norway in November 2018 ‘out of the blue’ who claims he has a Neely branch in his ancestry, I believe on his mother’s side. Here was my response to his email. He never responded to my email.

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RE: The Neely/nealyname.

Jim Neely [jcneely123@charter.net]

Sent: Thu 11/8/2018 5:47 PM

To: 'Turid M. Skårdal'

Thank you for the listing of your Neely ancestry. I have started going through it. Here is what I have found so far:

1. John Neely b. 1570 in Scotland. I have no information on this man and am curious where this came from.
2. William Neely (1596-1666) with sword. I have a record on this man. It is the 1631 muster rolls of Co Donegal. William Neely is listed there “with sword only” on the Chichester estate.
3. John Neely of Cumber. This man is listed in LDS (Mormon) records. He was born about 1625. We think he and “William of Burt” born about 1621 were sons of the first William and were in the Laggan Army from which John was granted about 600A in Co Tyrone around 1660 for that service.
4. William Rufus Neely, b. 1660 Co Tyrone. The register of the Derry Cathedral shows that John Neely was born 15 June 1657 to John of Cumber, the only child listed born to John of Cumber. It is certainly possible that William was born in Co Tyrone in 1660 after they moved from Co Donegal around Londonderry to the granted 600A which was named Glencull, but I have no record. Do you know where this information on William Rufus Neely came from? I would really like the record if it exists.
5. John Neely b. 1697 and descendants who lived and died in Salem Co, NJ. I have already found several records showing that they were there and I assume John b. 1697 may have immigrated there from Ulster. It is relatively close to Philadelphia where most of the Scots Irish entered early colonial America. I am still exploring this potential source of records. Do you have any documentation on John b. 1697 being the son of William Rufus Neely?

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I have only found the wills of Joseph Neely there and that of his wife. Notice their son's name is John.

1788, Sept. 16. Neely, Joseph, of Pittsgrove, Salem Co., yeoman; will of. Son, John Nealy, 174 acres that join William Garrison, Samuel Swing and others. Wife, Elizabeth, the 180 acres where I live. Personal estate to said Elizabeth and John. Executrix—wife, Elizabeth. Witnesses—Abraham DuBois, David DuBois, Jr., Thomas DuBois. Proved June 5, 1789.

1802, Jan. 24. Neeley, Elizabeth, of Pittsgrove, Salem Co.; will of. Tombstones to be erected for myself and son, John Neeley. Great grandson, John Holme Lambert, \$150, when 21. To William Hunt (son of James Booth Hunt), \$140. Niece, Elizabeth Johnston, \$100. To Rheuben Fithian (son of Seeley Fithian and Ester his wife), \$100. To the Presbyterian Congregation at Pittsgrove, \$140. Granddaughter, Elizabeth Vanmeter, \$267 and clothes. Grandson, Benjamin Holme, \$267, the plantation I live on and residue. Should said grandson die without issue, then my aforesaid plantation to my great grandson, Joseph Neeley Vanmeter (son of John Vanmeter and Elizabeth, his wife. Executor—Jerediah Dubois. Witnesses—Anna Powell, Elkanah Powell, Jane Russell. Proved Mar. 5, 1804.

1804, Jan. 2. Inventory, \$1,853.61; made by Benjamin Vanmeter and Jeremiah Dubois.

(Recorded, Surrogate's Office, Salem Co.)

File 2728 Q.

Name: Joseph Nealy

Gender: Male

Marriage Date: 16 Aug 1744

Marriage Place: Salem, New Jersey, USA

Spouse: [Elizabeth Booth](#)

Joseph Nealy

in the New Jersey, Marriage Records, 1670-1965



Joseph Nealy

BIRTH unknown
DEATH 22 Mar 1789
BURIAL [Old Pittsgrove Presbyterian Church Cemetery](#)
Daretown, Salem County, New Jersey, USA
MEMORIAL ID [11761131](#) · [View Source](#)

Photo added by [Mary Ann Missimer-Moore](#)

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Inscription

Joseph Nealy, d. 3-22-1789, age circa 72 yrs.

Flowers



Left by on 12 Oct 2017

Note that Joseph was born ~ 1717 as was James Sr & Dr. John. Both families lived in the Philadelphia area. There were also other Neelys living there in that time period, but no record of John Neely, b. abt 1697. Could this John Neely possibly be the John Nelly who bought the indenture of George Hodgson in 1716, but was only 19? His birth date appears close to that of John who came to Botetourt Co with wife Elizabeth and 4 children.

There is no evidence that could be found at this time, but at least it is another alternative to James Sr. and Dr. John immigrating directly from Ulster. Hope some researcher will be able to find out more. JRN

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More Details of “old John’s Three Sons & Grandsons

Robert Neely Sr. b.~1729. Robert Sr., the eldest son of John Sr. and Elizabeth died with a will in 1780, 2 years after his father and approximately 30 years after arriving in Botetourt at age 21 or so with his father and family. He was not much more than 50 or 51 years old when he died. As best as we can tell from his children’s ages, he married Anne about 1755-1756. Other than some land transactions, there is not much information on Robert Sr. which sometimes makes the records confusing versus Robert, son of James Sr. who is also lacking information.

Charles J. Neelly states that “Robert Sr. is not mentioned very often in early Botetourt County records. He did own over a thousand acres of land at his death. There are entries in which Robert Neelly viewed land, but it is not known whether the Robert mentioned was the son of James or John. Robert did buy 300 acres on a branch of Looney’s Mill Creek in 1779 from George and Margaret Clark”.

Robert and Anne had five sons, John, James, Andrew, William, and Robert Jr. He must have been in poor health for some time, for his will was written in April of 1780, and he died in September of the same year. Anne lived until 1795.”

One record of 1775 from Kegley’s states “125A on James River. Grant to Robert Jr. from Robert Neely Sr”

The following is Robert Sr.’s 1780 will in its entirety from “A Neelly History” by Charles J. Neelly. It is typical of the wills written at that time.

“In the name of God, Amen. Twenty day of April Anno Domine one thousand seven hundred and eighty. I, Robert Neelly of the county of Botetourt and State of Virginia, being sick in body but of good and perfect memory, thanks be to the Almighty God and calling to remembrance the uncertain state of this transitory life, and that all flesh must yield unto death when it shall please God to call, do make and declare this to be my last will and testament in manner and form following, first being penitent and sorry for all my sins most humbly desiring forgiveness for the same, I commend my soul unto the Almighty God My Savior and Redeemer, in whom and by whose morals trust and believe assuredly to be saved and have full remission and forgiveness for all my sins and inherit the Kingdom of Heaven, and my body I commit to the earth to be decently buried at the discretion of my executors hereafter named and for the settling of my temporal estate and such goods, chattles, and debts as it pleased God to bestow upon me, I

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do order and give and dispose of the same and manner and form following, that is to say, I first order my just debts and funeral expenses to be paid. Imprimis, I give and bequeath to my loving wife Anne Neelly one full third part of all my real and personal estate during her natural life and to keep the mansion house and have the profits of the place until my children all arrive to the age of twenty-one for the maintenance of the children, and then all my lands, goods, and chattles to be sold, only one young breeding mare and not to exceed five years old or the value thereof, which I bequeath to my son Andrew, and all the remainder of my estate to be sold and the money arising there from to be equally divided between my five children, namely, John, James, Andrew, William, and Robert. But if my wife should depart this life or marry during the nonage of my children that after her death or marriage I order my real and personal estate to be sold and such of my children as that is arrived at the age of twenty-one to have their equal part given to them and the remainder to be kept at interest for such of my children as is not come to age. It is my will that if any of my children should abscond themselves from the plantation and not endeavoring to improve the estate in any other manner than by marriage they shall be allowed no part and hereby make and appoint my trusty friends William Neelly and John Drake full and sole executors of this my last will and testament hereby revoking and denulling and making void all former wills and requests by me and declaring this only to be my last will and testament in witness thereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this twenty third day of April and year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty. (signed) Robert Neelly”

“Later land records show that Anne received 300 acres of land as her share, and she paid taxes on it until 1795. Andrew, James, and John each received 170 acres. There is no record of William receiving any land, so it is very possible that he received cash, John sold his 170 acres to his uncle, John Jr. two years after the estate was settled in 1782. If the provisions of the will were carried out, Robert Jr., the youngest, must have been 21 in 1782. This would also coincide with a Tennessee census of 1830 which showed Robert Jr. to be in his seventies. Evidently he was born in 1761. Records do not show that Robert Jr. received 170 acres as did the others, but he did inherit the 300 acres that belonged to his mother, plus another 116 acres. He paid taxes on this land until 1806. This 300 acres was the only means of establishing our line of Neellys, for records indicate that this 300A was a part of the 400A that ‘old John’ Neelly bought from John Chamberlain. It was given to Robert Sr. who gave it to Anne, who in turn gave it to Robert Jr.”

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I will now address Charles' interpretation of the age of Robert Jr. based on the settlement of the will in 1782 and his assumption that Robert Jr. was 21, born in 1761. I believe he was born a few years later based on the burial of Robert Sr's son, Andrew in Maury Co, TN in 1839 in his 76th year according to the tombstone, making him born about 1763. As Charles points out, Andrew, James and John each received 170A of land at the 1782 settlement while the younger William and Robert Jr. received none. I see no evidence that would mean Robert Jr. was 21 in 1782. What if it was Andrew who was 21 in 1782 instead, making him born in 1761 or 1762 depending on the month and only one year different from the tombstone inscription stating he died in his 76th year? People being mistaken on their exact age in those times was not uncommon as all of us have seen with variable ages reported to census takers and in other records. Therefore, I have adjusted the approximate ages of Robert Sr's 5 sons as follows:

1. **John**, b. abt 1757
2. **James** b. abt 1759
3. **Andrew** b. abt 1761/1762
4. **William** b. abt 1764
5. **Robert Jr.** b. abt 1766

At this point, Charles J. Neelly's 'A Neelly History' follows the descendancy of his & Oric's line from Robert Jr. through his son Thomas L. Neelly. Robert Neelly Jr. and Andrew remained in Maury Co, TN while their brothers, John, James and William evidently moved to AR (read pages 31-33 of 'A Neelly History') See **Addendum #2 at end of Chapter proving that it was Robert b. ~1741 to James Neely Sr instead of Robert Jr. who was father to Thomas L. Neely and his brothers. At this time it is unknown if Robert Jr. and his brothers, other than Andrew, moved to AR, but should be pursued in the future.**

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Maj. Robert Neely and his wife Nancy Anne are both presumed to be buried in the Hunter family cemetery in Mt. Pleasant TN, which is SW of Columbia in Maury Co. However, only Anne's gravestone is still standing. Robert Neely and John Hunter were involved in several common land transactions.



Anne Neely

BIRTH unknown

DEATH 21 Mar 1833

BURIAL [Hunter Cemetery](#)
Mount Pleasant, Maury County, Tennessee, USA

MEMORIAL ID 8679852 · [View Source](#)

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SUGGEST EDITS

MEMORIAL
PHOTOS 1
FLOWERS 1

"Consort of Maj. Robert Neely."
Aged 63 yrs, 2mos, and 3 days. This grave is located in section 5.

Name:	Robert M Neeley
Home in 1830 (City, County, State):	Maury, Tennessee
Free White Persons - Males - 30 thru 39:	1
Free White Persons - Males - 70 thru 79:	1
Free White Persons - Females - 15 thru 19:	1
Free White Persons - Females - 60 thru 69:	1
Slaves - Males - Under 10:	1
Slaves - Males - 10 thru 23:	1
Slaves - Females - Under 10:	2
Slaves - Females - 10 thru 23:	1
Free White Persons - Under 20:	1
Free White Persons - 20 thru 49:	1
Total Free White Persons:	4
Total Slaves:	5

It appears Anne Neely (b. 1770) died first based on Charles J. Neely's estimate that Major Robert Neely died 1835-1838. He is also presumed to be buried in John Hunter cemetery, but no tombstone for him still standing.



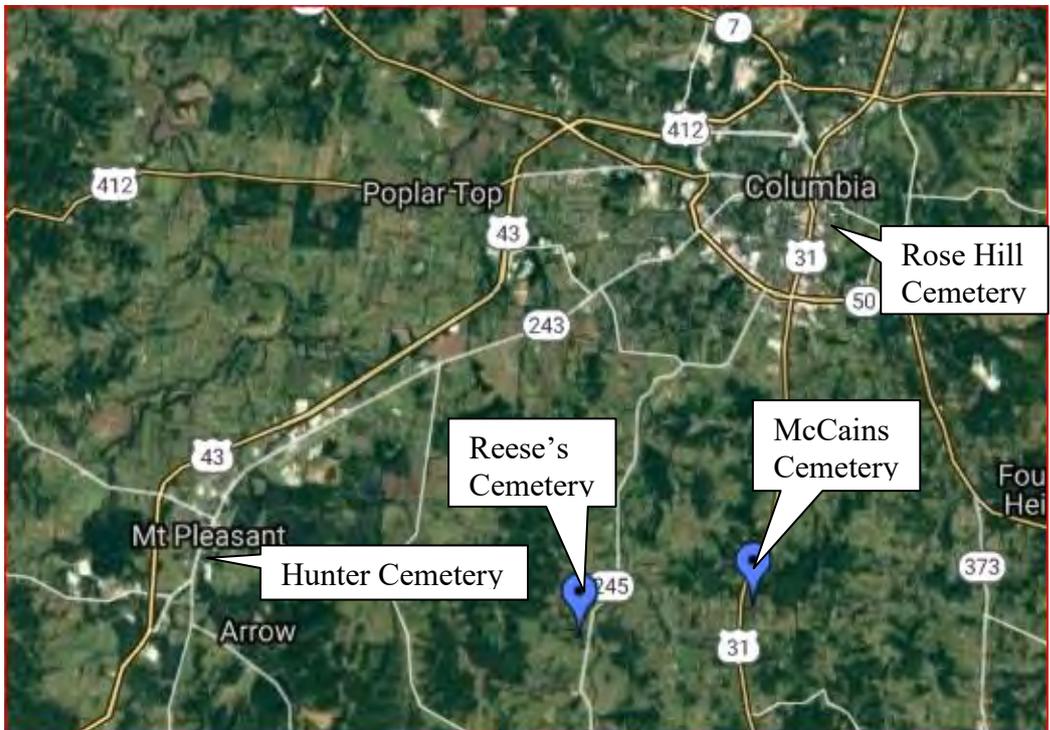
Chapter 8 – Neelys in Virginia

These 2 pages show McCaines Cumberland Presbyterian Church Cemetery where several of John W. Neelys ancestors are buried, including John C. Neelly, son of Andrew, who is buried in nearby Reeses Chapel, descendants of “old John” Neelly of Botetourt. John C’s son is buried in Rose Hill in Columbia.



McCaines Cumberland Presbyterian Church & cemetery, Maury Co, TN

McCains cemetery is close to Reeses Chapel cemetery in Maury Co, TN where Andrew is buried and has 27 Neelley burials and 3 Neelys listed on next page.



Chapter 8 – Neelys in Virginia



Ephraim D Neelley
unknown – 22 Jul 1858



Haynes Arnold Neelley
7 Oct 1941 – 16 Mar 1969



Infant Neelley
1880 – 1880



Jere Arnold Neelley
25 Apr 1912 – 3 Mar 1976



John C Neelley
15 Oct 1796 – 28 Oct 1856



John W Neelley ✨
11 Jul 1835 – 28 Jul 1894



Allie A Neelley
Apr 1862 – 10 Sep 1863

Son of Samuel M. Neelley
(1805-1879) below & Admin of
Samuel's estate



Louisa Bee "Lou" Bryant Neelley
10 Jul 1836 – 21 May 1919



Lula Allison Neelley
2 Nov 1870 – 25 Dec 1956



Martha Alston Neelley
3 Jan 1807 – 23 May 1858



Mary Ann Haynes Neelley
1913 – 1965



Parolee Elizabeth Drake Neelley
29 Jan 1819 – 19 Nov 1889



Sallie E Cliff Neelley
15 Mar 1839 – 11 Aug 1904



Alleene Neelley Carden
4 Dec 1897 – 1 Jun 1966



Andrew Green Neelley ✨
1833 – 1894

Son of Samuel M.
Neelley (1805-1879)
below



Andrew James Neelley
1841 – 15 Mar 1863



Betty Jean Johnson Neelley
10 Mar 1933 – 28 Aug 1971

John Clemens Neelley
father of John Finis
Neelley, grandfather of
John W. Neelley b.1930



Claud Lee Neelley
1 Jan 1898 – 27 Sep 1901



Elizabeth Ann Cecil Neelley
8 Feb 1839 – 8 Apr 1916



Ella D Neelley
5 Dec 1856 – 15 Jan 1927



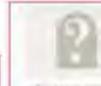
Sallie E Cliff Neely
15 Mar 1835 – 16 Aug 1904



Sarah Hodges Neely
1849 – 1880



William Jasper Neely ✨
3 Mar 1846 – 20 Dec 1917



Samuel M Neelley
30 Nov 1805 – 26 Dec 1879

Samuel is father of Andrew Green
Neelley (1833-1894) & others



Sarah Hodges Neelley
1849 – 1880



Thurston Haven Neelley
3 Dec 1866 – 11 Nov 1959



William Henry Neelley
5 Sep 1846 – 24 Oct 1908



William Samuel Lee Neelley ✨
21 Nov 1836 – 15 Jun 1903

Parolee Elizabeth is wife of
John Clemens Neelley



Mattie E. Neelley Sullivan
24 Nov 1848 – 21 May 1930



Lucile Neelley Upshaw
1904 – 1997

Chapter 8 – Neelys in Virginia

Other Neelys in the Botetourt Settlement

Surprisingly, there do not seem to be a lot of Neely records in Botetourt that cannot be traced to descendants of James Neely Sr. and ‘old John’ Neely. As mentioned previously, James Neely Sr’s brother, Dr. John, had no children. In fact, I have only been able to identify two other Neelys there not associated with them so far. Future researchers may find more. These other two are Samuel and John.

The only record found for Samuel in Botetourt records was in 1746, when he was assigned to work on the South Branch road with others (Kegley’s pg. 95). This was very early in the settlement and we have found no other records on this man or his family who seemed to have moved on not long after this. There was a Samuel from Westchester, NY among the earliest settlers in Neelytown, NY who bought property there about 1721. However, after he was listed as a ‘Freeholder’ in 1728, there were no further records found for him there. There was a Samuel Neely who settled in the Carolinas apparently before 1750, since his young adult children were among the first to settle in the Fishing Creek, SC settlement, south of what is now Rock Hill, SC about 1752. I have often speculated about the possibility that these records of Samuel refer to the same man based on dates and circumstantial evidence, but have found no way prove it.

There is one record of a John Neely, who died in the Botetourt settlement in 1753, leaving an infant daughter who also died (Kegley’s pg. 198). His wife may have died in childbirth. It seems reasonable to assume that John was relatively young since there were no other children. His wife’s father, William Watson of PA, had sold John 300A of land in Botetourt where he died. John did have a brother named William who claimed his land. Could John have come from PA? He might have been born around 1726. The little evidence we have suggests that he, like Samuel, was not directly related to the Neely families there.

Chapter 8 – Neelys in Virginia

Summary of Findings for Neelys in Botetourt

So, let's summarize what we have learned about the Neelys who lived in the Botetourt settlement north of Roanoke, VA.

- James Sr's brother, Dr. John had no children according to Kegley's, but would have the same YDNA as his brother James Sr. except for possible mutations. These three founders probably immigrated to Philadelphia directly from Ireland or could have been associated with a Neely family already here, perhaps NJ. We don't know.
- They apparently moved down the Philadelphia Great Wagon road in search of available land grants they had heard about and stopped at the Scotch Irish settlement north of Roanoke.
- There were 3 Roberts living in the Botetourt settlement whose limited records are not easy to separate. The oldest was Robert Sr. (b.~1729 – d. 1780), son of "old John". His son was Robert Jr. (b. ~1766). The third Robert (b.~1741) was the son of James Sr. Both he and Robert Jr. were assumed to have moved to middle TN in the early 1800's along with their brothers according to Renshaw and Charles J. Neelly. James Jr. evidently then moved to AL with 3 of his sons where he died about 1821.
- Robert (b.~1741), son of James Sr. is a mystery in the sense that records show he lived in Halifax Co in 1767 with wife Susannah (Anna) Griffith, but nothing has been found mentioning her after their marriage or their children in Botetourt. Earlier researchers had assumed that he had remained there and that a family with children who showed up there in 1785 were his. This is in spite of the fact that the enumeration census of 1782 in Halifax Co did not show a Robert Neely family at all and that Robert, son of James Sr. had many transactions going on in Botetourt during the 1770's and 1780's. We have YDNA of David M., son of Robert in Halifax Co. 1785-1799+. [The Haplogroup is EL117. When I looked this up, it appears to be a Jewish group in Spain.](#) This is not related to any haplogroups found in the British Isles and certainly not related to Robert, son of James Sr, who had Group 2 YDNA.

Chapter 8 – Neelys in Virginia

- There seem to be only two Andrews: 1) Son of “old John” and 2) “old John’s” grandson, brother of Robert Jr. Andrew is buried in Maury Co, TN with his wife Jane. His tombstone says he was born in 1763 and died 1839.
 - Almost all the Neelys there accumulated large land holdings in Botetourt Co, VA. See the two pages of land transactions.
 - The second and third generations moved away shortly after 1800 with several initially settling in middle TN. Tracking these later generations by families quickly becomes very complicated.
 - Additional documents relating to the Botetourt Neelys are included in the Appendix of this book.
-

ADDENDUMS

I have had to add two addendums about the Boutetourt Neelys described in this Chapter as new research based on YDNA test results since summer of 2019 have changed our previous conclusions. Both are presented at the end of this chapter.

Addendum #1 written August 2019, presents the documentation that concludes John Ellis born 1772 was an illegitimate son of John Neely (1748-1818). We have known for a long time that John Ellis’ descendants had Neely YDNA, but we could not determine how until we got Y111 test results.

Addendum #2 written April 2020, presents documentation that involved two changes in our previous conclusions based on paper trail research. The first is significant because a particular conclusion reached by Grace Renshaw and Charles J. Neelly that had led us to believe that two of our seven Y111 Botetourt descendants were descended from “old John”, when in fact they turned out to be descendants of James Sr. If we had not had these YDNA results, (which were not available to Renshaw and C. J. Neelly), we would have never known. This took several months to research and prove. A second change is that John Neelly (1748-1823), a son of James Sr, may be a son of Dr. John, brother of James Sr. who reportedly never had children. This is based on recent Y700 results and we are waiting on a Y700 result from Gene Neelly that may not be available until June to confirm or not whether this is probably true.

JRN April 26, 2020

Chapter 8 – Neelys in Virginia

Neely Land Transactions in Botetourt Co, Virginia

BOTETOURT COUNTY, VIRGINIA

MYNOT, RICHARD (was in Montgomery Co. after 1790) 1782 tax on 67 acres
 NAFFE, JOHN
 B DB5-111 12-23-1793, _____, east side Tinker Ck. from William Watts
 B DB5-161 10-13-1794, 172, " " " " from William Watts
 NEAL (or NEEL), John 1782 tax on 90 acres
 B DB2-555 8-9-1780, 52, Dunlap Ck. from Edward McMullen
 NEAL, WILLIAM 1782 tax on 50 acres
 B DB3- 94 6-1-1782, 50, Purgatory Ck. from Peter Kelly
 Monroe Co. DBA-83 5-5-1792, $\frac{1}{2}$ of 400, Potts Ck. from new grant
 NEALANDS, JOHN (of Frederick Co.)
 A DB1-448 10-6-1747, 330, wtrs. Goose Ck. (Rke. R.) to John Hite
 NEELLY, ANDREW 1782 tax on 170 acres
 B WBA- 89 1778, 170, wtrs. Roanoke R. (by will) from John Neelly
 NEELLY, ANNE 1782 tax on 300 acres
 NEELLY, JAMES (Jane) 1782 tax on 240 acres
 B SR(1833-1842)129 7-25-1745, 280, Masons Ck. from new grant
 A DB2-599 3-1-1749, 245, Goose Ck. (Roanoke R.) from Ephraim Vause
 A DB5- 5 11-16-1752, 245, to Alexander Ingram
 A DB6-425 8-22-1754, 350, wtrs. Roanoke R. from James Gatlive
 B DB2-209 9-10-1755, 48, Roanoke R. from new grant
 B DB2-208 3-10-1756, 200, south side Roanoke R. from new grant
 A DB9-525 8-18-1761, 350, Roanoke R. to Robert Neelly
 Rh SR(1761-1791)33 2-14-1762, 400, Roanoke R. (date of survey)
 Rh SR(1761-1791)21 12-30-1762, 116, wtrs. Roanoke R. (date of survey)
 B DB4-251 7-10-1766, 400, wtrs. Roanoke R. from new grant
 A DB15-194 11-16-1768, 150, Goose Ck. (Roanoke R.) from Peter Kinder
 A DB16- 71 9-11-1769, 400, Roanoke R. to William McClanahan
 B DB2-208 3-12-1776, 200, " " " to Jane Love
 B DB2-209 3-12-1776, 48, " " " to son, William Neelly
 B DB3- 41 7-6-1781, 240, Mud Lick Run from Jasper & Josiah Terry
 K-547 , 150, (Kinder Land) to John Neelly
 NEELLY, JAMES, JR. (Catherine)
 $\frac{1}{2}$ of 250, "Evans Mill" from wife, Catherine Evans
 B DB3- 89 8-8-1782, $\frac{1}{2}$ of 250, " " " to William McClanahan
 B DB17-385 , 245, Cravens Ck. from Alexander Ingram
 B DB4-472 11-18-1786, 1380, Mud lick Run from new grant
 B DB5- 17 5-16-1792, 4, wtrs. Roanoke R. from John Harrison
 B DB4-352 5-29-1792, 270, Mud Lick Run to Jacob Short
 B DB4-472 10-15-1792, 100, (part of 1380) to Henry Shovelter
 B DB4-421 12-6-1792, interest in "Evans Land" to Peter Evans
 B DB5- 75 4-5-1794, 172, wtrs. Roanoke R. to Rudolph Kittinger
 B DB5-183 4-17-1794, 480, (part of 1380) to Abraham Stetler
 B DB5-129 5-9-1794, 172, wtrs. Back Ck. of Rke. R. from Robert Montgomery
 B DB5- 94 6-9-1794, 4, wtrs. Roanoke R. to Jacob Short
 B DB5-181 6-17-1794, 90, (part of 1380) to Evan Day
 NEELLY, JOHN (to French Broad by 1786)
 B DB3-395 1762, 25, wtrs. Tinker Ck. from new grant
 B DB3-395 7-20-1786, 25, " " " to John Neelly, Jr.
 NEELLY, JOHN
 B DB1-505 5-12-1773, 104, Back Ck. of Rke. R. from Joseph Lapsley
 B DB4-127 9- -1789, 104, " " " " to William Roberts
 NEELLY, JOHN, JR. 1782 tax on 170 acres
 B DB3-167 7-14-1769, 125, James R. from new grant
 B WBA- 89 1778, 165, wtrs. Tinker Ck. (by will) from John Neelly
 B DB3-167 1783, 125, " " " to John Howard
 B DB3-395 7-20-1786, 25, " " " from John Neelly
 B DB3-503 10-4-1787, 170, " " " to John Drake
 B film by 5-1-1784, $\frac{1}{2}$ of 80, from new grant
 B DB5- 78 4-9-1794, $\frac{1}{2}$ of 80, near mouth Back Ck. from Francis Smith

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EARLY SETTLERS

- NEELLY, JOHN (d.1778) Elizabeth
 A DB10- 34 11-17-1761,171+137,wtrs.Roanoke from Baptist McNabb
 B WBA- 89 1778^{{165} to John Neelly,Jr.
^{{170} to Andrew Neelly
- NEELLY, JOHN (d.by 1785) (m. _____ Watson)
 Note:Proof of some of these Neelly land conveyances,see Mumford's
 Reports 18, 499; suit McClenahan's vs. Hannah.
 by 1761,300+10,(by will)from father-in-law,Wm.Watson
 Note:Watson died in Pennsylvania.
 by 1785,300+10,(by inheritance)to bro.Wm.Neelly
- NEELLY, DR. JOHN (d.1802) (Sarah) 1782 tax on 1146 acres
 A DB4- 41 11-22-1751,400,wtrs.James R. from Jeremiah Chamberlain
 K-547 6- -1752,500,wtrs.Roanoke R. from new grant
 K-466 6-20-1772,900,wtrs.Catawba Ck. from inclusive grant
 B DB2- 29 4-14-1774,125, " James R. to Robert Neelly,Jr.
 B DB2- 40 5-13-1774,900,(including 400) to William McClanahan
 K-547 1779,216,Roanoke R. from new grant
 K-467 12-11-1780,157,wtrs.Catawba Ck.(date of survey)
 K-547 ,185,wtrs.Roanoke(assigned)from Nat. Evans
 B DB4-260 2-12-1791,100,Masons Ck. from William Neelly
 B SR(1774-i808)374 9-3-1791,1083, from Inclusive grant
 B DB4-426 10-2-1792,100,Masons Ck. to Samuel Cole
- NEELLY, JOHN (Susannah)
 $\frac{1}{2}$ of 87+ $\frac{1}{2}$ of 250, from wife, Susannah Evans
 B film by 5-1-1784, 73,near "Evans Mill" from new grant
 B DB2- 89 8-8-1782, $\frac{1}{2}$ of 87+ $\frac{1}{2}$ of 250+73, to William McClanahan
 B film by 1783,500, from new grant
 B DB4-421 12-6-1792,all interest in Evans land, to Peter Evans
- NEELLY, ROBERT (d.1780) (Anna)(of Halifax Co.in 1767)
 A DB9-525 8-18-1761,350,wtrs.Roanoke R. from James Neelly
 A DB13-287 1-6-1767,350, " " " to William Christian
 B DB2-209 4-12-1776, 48,Roanoke R. from father,James Neelly
 B DB2-537 11-11-1779,300,wtrs.Looney Ck. from George Clark
 B DB4- 15 8-9-1786,300, " " " (by Ex.)to Wm. McClellan
- NEELLY, ROBERT, JR.
 B DB2- 29 4-14-1774,135,wtrs.James R. from John Neelly
 K-573 1792,195,adjoining his own from new grant
 B DB5- 67 3-1-1792,190,Masons Ck. from new grant
 B DB5- 67 2-11-1794,190, " " to William McClanahan
 K-573 5-7-1794,450, " " from new grant
 B DB5-219 2-14-1795, 40,adjoining Cole to Samuel Cole
- NEELLY, WILLIAM (Mary) 1782 tax on 1181 acres
 B DB2-209 3-12-1776, 48,Roanoke R. from father,James Neelly
 B DB2-527 8-25-1779,125,Masons Ck. from Patrick Mahan
 K-557 1780,264+356,Bent Mountain, from new grant
 K-557 1781,138,Back Ck.of Roanoke R. from new grant
 B DB3- 50 6-20-1781, 90,Masons Ck. from William Carlton
 B DB3- 52 6-20-1781,158, " " to William Carlton
 B DB3- 97 9-12-1782,138,part of Evans Mill place,to Fra.McElhaney
 B film by 5-1-1783, 74, from new grant
 B DB3-405 6-16-1783,213,wtrs.Little R. from new grant
 B film by 5-13-1786, 81, from new grant
 B DB3-405 8-9-1786,213,wtrs.Little R. to William Terry
 B DB4-260 2-12-1791,100,Masons Ck. to John Neelly
 B DB5- 7 5-21-1793,526, " " to Christian Houtz
- NEELLY, WILLIAM
 (see suit) ,300+10,(inherited)from bro.John Neelly
 " " by 1785,300+10,(by Atty.) to George Hannah

Chapter 8 – Neelys in Virginia

Other Neely records in Virginia and West Virginia

1810 US Census of Virginia

Hugh & Robert Vally read Neely as does William Haley in original document

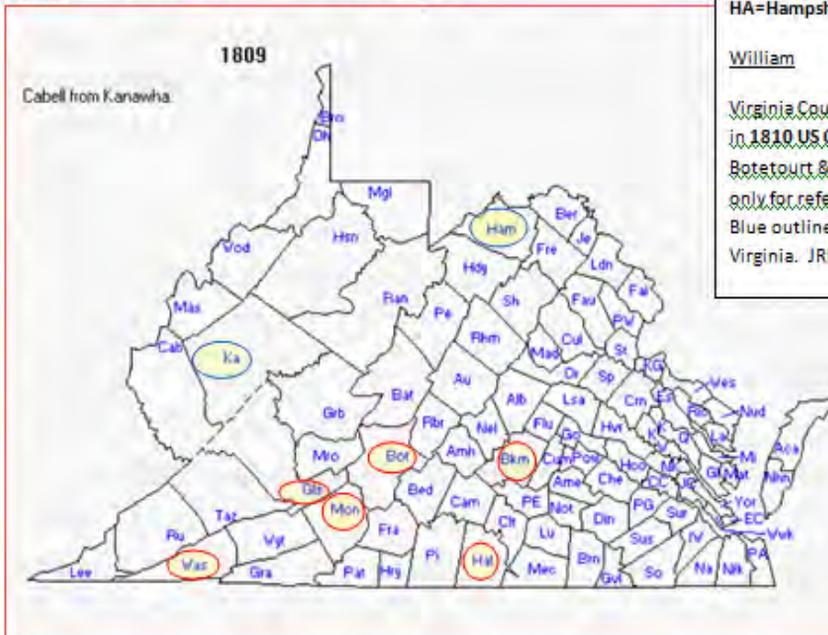
Results 1–12 of 12

View Record	Name	Home in 1810 (City, County, State)	Number of Slaves	Total Number of All Persons - Free White, Free Colored, Slaves	View Census
View Record	Hugh Vally	Washington, Virginia		2	Was=Washington Co.
View Record	John Neely	Giles, Virginia		3	Hugh, Robert, Charles, Jacob
View Record	Jo Nedley	Monongalia, Virginia		3	Monongalia, now WVA, Morgantown Sp. of Pittsburg
View Record	Robert Vally	Washington, Virginia		9	James
View Record	Charles Neely	Washington, Virginia		11	Gls = Giles
View Record	William M Neely	Charleston, Kanawha, Virginia		2	John, John
View Record	William Haley	Hampshire, Virginia	2	6	Bkm=Buckingham Co.
View Record	Rebecca Wasey	Montgomery, Virginia	1	5	John
View Record	Jacob Neeley	Washington, Virginia		5	Mon=Montgomery Co.
View Record	Jno Naley	Buckingham, Richmond, Virginia		3	Rebecca
View Record	John Neeley	Giles, Virginia		4	Ka= Kanawha Co.
View Record	James Nealy	Monongalia, Virginia		13	William M

HA=Hampshire Co

[William](#)

[Virginia Counties with Neelys in 1810 US Census \(except Botetourt & Halifax shown only for reference\). Two with Blue outline now in West Virginia. JRN](#)



Chapter 8 – Neelys in Virginia

1820 US Census of Virginia

View Record	Name	Home in 1820 (City, County, State)	Number of Slaves	Total Number of All Persons - Free White, Free Colored, Slaves	View Census
View Record	John Neely	Washington, Virginia		2	
View Record	John Neely	Pearisburg, Giles, Virginia		8	
View Record	David Neely	Scott, Virginia		7	
View Record	C Hugh Neely	Washington, Virginia		4	
View Record	John Neely	Peterstown, Monroe, Virginia		8	
View Record	John Nealey	Harrison, Virginia		11	
View Record	<u>Robt</u> Neely Junior	Washington, Virginia		6	
View Record	Charles Neely	Washington, Virginia		9	
View Record	William Neely	Morgan, Virginia	3	14	
View Record	<u>Wathew</u> Nealey	Harrison, Virginia		4	
View Record	John Neely	Scott, Virginia		3	
View Record	James Neely	Western Division, Monongalia, Virginia		6	
View Record	William Neely	Scott, Virginia		6	
View Record	Joseph Neely	Western Division, Monongalia, Virginia		9	
View Record	John <u>Neily</u>	Kanawha, Virginia		9	
View Record	John <u>Nieley</u>	Pearisburg, Giles, Virginia		4	
View Record	James <u>Neeley</u> Junior	Western Division, Monongalia, Virginia		3	
View Record	Thomas S <u>Nealy</u>	Tyler, Virginia		2	

David John and William in Scott Co. were sons of a Robert Neely and married in 1790's in Halifax Co.

See locations on next page.

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1820 US Census Virginia locations

Was=Washington Co. John, C. Hugh, Robert Jr., Charles

Monongalia Co, now WVA, Morgantown So, of Pittsburg James, Joseph, James Jr.

Gls= Giles Co. John, John

Sc= Scott Co. David, John, William

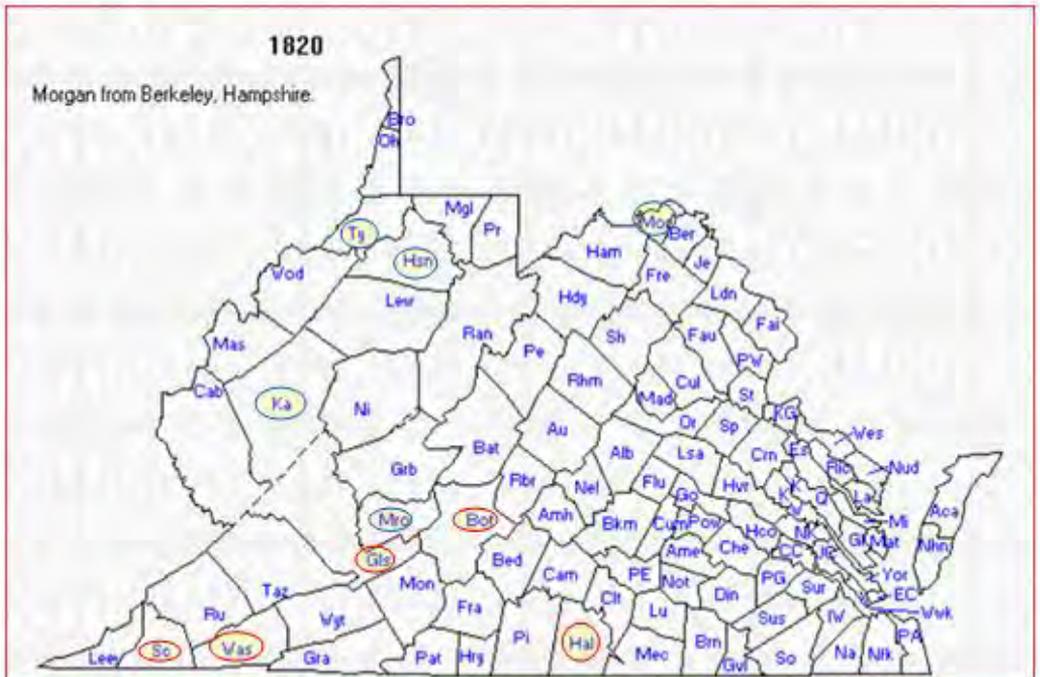
Hsn=Harrison Co. John, Mathew

Ty=Tyler Co. Thomas

Mro=Monroe Co. John

KA=Kanawha Co. John

Mor=Morgan Co. William



Those 5 counties outlined in blue are now in WVA

Chapter 8 – Neelys in Virginia

I have no information about several of the Neely families living in Virginia in 1810 and 1820 (earlier US census records for VA destroyed by fire in War of 1812). Future research might be able to identify them.

We have already discussed the Neelys with the **non British Isles YDNA Haplogroup** who moved to Scott Co from Halifax Co that early researchers had confused with Robert (b.~1741), son of James Neely Sr because both lived in Halifax Co. (at different times)

In addition, we have information on Robert and Hugh Neely who moved to Fishing Creek, SC from PA, and after the Revolutionary War, moved to Washington Co, VA. Their Y37 Group 2 YDNA is an exact match to William (1730-1780) who was killed by Indians in what became Nashville, TN. Thus, it appears that Hugh, born about 1735 could have been a younger brother of the siblings who settled in Fishing Creek, SC, children of Samuel Sr. I have attached what we know of them below.

10/15/18 email excerpts from Jim Neely to Stephen Neely

Stephen, I have been through everything I have and it looks like it is all covered in the emails and these 4 attachments I sent Jeni in 2014. The few records I found on Neelys in Washington Co, VA were added in red in the 'Hugh Neely born abt 1735' attachment.

Observations:

- Henry Culp died in SC in 1783. Interested to see if he was Peter Culp's father mentioned in my last email ('While I was going through my old SC paper files this morning looking for the land record on Hugh I remembered in SC (more in a moment), you will never guess what I found. A record on Peter Culp and Samuel Neely listed as Executors of the Will of David Ferguson, December 22, 1761. I need to check Julius Reece Culp's earliest known ancestor, but here is proof that the Culp's were living in the same vicinity (Fishing Creek) and were friends with Samuel Neely. I also found Peter Culp and his wife Elizabeth in the visitation list of Rev. Simpson of December 1774, shortly after he assumed the ministry of the Fishing Creek Presbyterian Church along with several of the early Fishing Creek Neelys. I think this is a good place to explore how one of the Neelys were adopted by the Culp's. William Charles Neely's (89950) ancestor there was killed by Indians fighting for the British in 1780 I believe, but his children were carried over to relatives in NC'.)
- The rootsweb Ancestry.com attachment (Hugh Neely born abt 1735) along with the exact 37/37 YDNA match provides a very interesting possibility and hypothesis for the relationship of Hugh's family to those in Fishing Creek. Hugh moved son Robert b. abt 1761 to Fishing Creek, SC probably in the mid 1760's

Chapter 8 – Neelys in Virginia

and left his older son Charles in Marsh Creek, PA. His wife, Mary Smith, is not mentioned. Why would he move so far if he didn't know the Fishing Creek Neelys? Could it be that his wife died and he took his younger son to be with relatives? Robert served in the RW. Let us speculate and say he was drafted about 1780 during the British campaign through South Carolina. He would have been 19. The attachment also mentions Samuel Neely the peddler. In my JRN notes in this attachment, I speculate that this was likely the elusive Samuel Sr. who Walter P. Neely and I 'proved' was the father of the group of siblings who settled in Fishing Creek about 1751. If true, this would make Hugh the brother of Samuel Jr.(1726-1803) and William (1730-1780) for whom we have Y37 YDNA results (Donald E.) that are a perfect match to Hugh's descendant, Eddie Neely, husband of Jeni. This hypothesis would explain the YDNA perfect match.

- Now for some speculation, which is unusual for me. One of the early Neelys who bought land in Neelytown, NY around 1721 was Samuel. He was a young adult and would have probably been born around 1695 or so. There were no later records in Neelytown for Samuel as there were for several of the other earliest Neely settlers there leading to the thought that he had moved on. There was a record of a Samuel Neely in the early 1740's who settled for about a year or so in the Botetourt Co, VA settlement and then evidently moved on without leaving any further records there. Could this have been Samuel Neely the Peddler who moved his family to NC and his children (without Hugh and Charles) soon took advantage of the land grants in Fishing Creek, SC in the early 1750's? As I said this is speculation except for the few recorded circumstances, but if ever proved true, would identify the YDNA of some of the early settlers of NY. On the other hand Samuel Sr. could have immigrated to PA instead of NY.

Sent: Wednesday, September 03, 2014 12:41 PM

To: 'Jim Neely'

Cc: 'William Neely'

Subject: RE: Y-DNA

OK, guys. This is the info that I have to date:

- 1) Gordon Walter Neely b. 25 Sep 1914 Damascus, Washington County, VA
d. 21 Jun 1996 Bristol, Sullivan County, TN (Eddie's father)
- 2) Walter Crowe Neely b. 10 Dec 1885 Damascus, Washington County, VA
d. May 1963 Damascus, Washington County, VA (Gordon's father)
- 3) Alexander Doran Smith Neely b. ~ 1851 (no other info)
- 4) Hugh Smith Neely b. ~ 1818 ? VA d. 11 May 1893 ? VA
- 5) Robert Neely b. 1761 – 1770 Marsh Creek, PA d. 23 Oct 1836, Washington County, VA

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Robert is the oldest known ancestor. Most of the info that I have for him was from Fold 3 – the letters and legal documents when he filed for his Revolutionary War pension. He gave quite a detailed description of his war history although he did state that he did not have his discharge papers, that they had been lost. Some of that info: that he was about 74 years old at the time of filing for his pension and was born in Marsh Creek, PA. He moved at an early age to Stoney Fork in Fishing Creek, SC with his parents. He was drafted into service as a private for 3 months under the command of Capt. William Hanna and Col. William Bratton; he also remembered Lt. Joseph Steele. After that discharge, he entered service again as a substitute for his father for 4 months. He was in the company of Capt. Adams and Capt. Lacey. About five years after his discharge, he and his parents moved to Washington County, VA. He applied for his pension in Washington County, VA and stated that to his knowledge, no one in that area could confirm his service except for his brother, Charles.

From: Stephen & Donna Neely [mailto:neelys@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, October 15, 2018 6:53 PM
To: Jim Neely
Subject: Re: FW: Hugh Neely, Ancestor of Eddie Neely

Jim,
Julius (220463) thinks his Culp line doesn't extend beyond his grandfather. His MDKA is James Lawrence Neely (1844-1914). I'll forward his email to us about his ancestry.

I combined what Julius knows about his ancestry with bits from some public trees to create a plausible line of descent from Samuel Neely (1694-1761).

- 1 **Samuel Neely** b: 1694; d: 1761, North Carolina
- 2 Samuel Neely b: 1726, South Carolina; d: 1803, Tennessee
- 3 Thomas Neely b: 1752, South Carolina; d: 1815, South Carolina
- 4 William Neely b: 1792, South Carolina; d: 1852, South Carolina
- 5 John Newton Neely b: 1817, South Carolina; d: 1894, Alabama
- 6 James Lawrence Neely b: 1844, South Carolina; d: 1914, Alabama
- 7 Arthur Cleveland Neely b: 1884, Alabama; d: 1937, Alabama
- 8 Julius Reed Culp b: 1907, Alabama; d: 1954, Florida
- 9 Julius Reed Culp b: 1930, Alabama; d: 2010, Georgia
- 10 **220463** Julius Culp

Thanks for the update (and speculation) regarding Hugh. I'm inclined to agree with you about Hugh being the son of Samuel Neely (1694-1761). A more accurate genetic-distance estimate between Eddie Neely (236220) and Donald E Neely (203903) based on 111 markers could lend support to this hypothesis. Another important reason for upgrading either Eddie or Donald E to 111 markers would be to have a more accurate determination of when the STR mutation 643=11->12 occurred. Knowing whether Samuel Neely (1694-1761) had this mutation would be help us untangle group 2 lines of descent.

Walter P Neely has BigY, but only 37 markers. So he would be another potential candidate for a 111-marker upgrade. Actually, I'd like to see 111 markers for all members of group 2.

-- Stephen

Chapter 8 – Neelys in Virginia

Hugh Neely (born ~ 1735)

<http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=5570hartsook&id=I4710>

- ID: I4710
- Name: **Hugh NEELY** ^{1 2 3 4 5 6 7 1 8 9 10}
- Sex: M
- Birth: BET 1700 AND 1740 in Ireland or Pennsylvania
- Death: BET 1810 AND 1820 in Most likely Washington Co., Virginia
- Census: 1810 Shows Hugh Neely: 1 male 45 + and 1 female 45+, both living in Washington Co., Virginia.
- Note:

*Please Note**** Some have suggested that Samuel Neely, the Peddler, is the father of Hugh Neely. First documentation on Samuel Neely in West Nantmeal Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania was in 1750, when he made Bond and Application for a Peddlers License (Horse Peddler), that was issued in 1751. Note Marsh Creek is located in adjoining Townships, East Nantmeal and Uwchlan. (Hugh's son Robert Neely states he was born on Marsh Creek, in Pennsylvania.) However, Samuel Neely*, the peddler, married Sarah Ferguson. From the Will of Samuel Neely, husband of Sarah Ferguson, living in South Carolina, from Chester Co., S.C. Will Book C, Page 70, Samuel was born in 1726 and died in 1803. There is #1 - no mention of "Hugh Neely" in his Will and #2 Samuel and Hugh are too close in age to have been father and son. This is not to say, there might be some distant family connection.*

The following is from the application for Revolutionary Pension for Robert Neely, son of Hugh Neely.

When Hugh's son, Robert, was of a very early age, Hugh moved his family south, from Marsh Creek in Pennsylvania, to settle a few hundred miles away, on the stony fork of the Fishing Creek in South Carolina. About 80 miles above Camden, within about 8 miles of the Catawba nation.

Robert Neely was living in this place, with his parents, when he first entered in service, in the Revolutionary War, and also when he afterwards entered it as a substitute for his father. He was drafted as a private for 3 months in Capt William Hanna's Company of Militia, which was attached to a Regiment or Party under the command of Col. William Bratton. He received his discharge signed by Capt Hanna, for his 3 months of service, and returned home. About a month after this time, he undertook to serve, and did serve as a substitute for his father, HUGH NEELY, who was drafted as he thinks for 4 months, in Capt. Adams Company, which belonged to a Regiment or Party under the command of Capt. Lacey. He received his discharge, signed by Capt. Adams, for his four months of service.

Robert Neely and his parents moved to Washington Co., Virginia about five years after the last mentioned service, where he has ever since resided.

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In another section of the application, Neely states the following:

From the Revolutionary War Pension Application for Robert Neely, son of Hugh Neely and Mary Smith.

He (Robert) states further in reference to this age, that his father's family bible in which his age was recorded, together with a good deal of other property belonging to his father and his Uncle, ROBERT SMITH, was taken by a party of British during the war of the Revolution, from the house of said Smith, who then lived near Guilford Courthouse, North Carolina, and carried off or discharged. At this time of this occurrence his father with his family was residing temporarily at the house of said Smith with a view to void the depredations of the British. The said Smith afterward moved to Tennessee and has since died. (This statement was given on the 27th day of January 1835)

Washington Co., Virginia Personal Property Tax Lists by Thomas Jack Hockett, lists the following names: Volume I, 1782 - 1786 & 1788 - 1790

1786 - Hugh Neely 1 Wh Male 16-21 other than self; 5 horses/mules; 5 cattle.

1787 - Hugh Neely 1 Wh male 16-21 other than self; 6 horses/mules; 5 cattle.

1788 - Hugh Neely 2 Wh males 16-21 other than self; (possible) 7 cattle.

1789 - Hugh Neely 2 Wh males 16-21 other than self; (possible) 7 cattle.

1790 - Hugh Neely 1 Wh male 16-21 other than self; (possible) 6 cattle.

Volume II, 1791 - 1810 Listed name of person on the personal tax rolls.

1792 - Hugh Neely

1793 - Hugh Neely

1794 - Hugh Neely

1795 - Hugh Neely

1796 - Hugh Neely

1797 - Hugh Neely

1798 - Hugh Neely

1799 - Hugh Neely

1800 - Hugh Neely

1802 - Hugh Neely

1803 - Hugh Neely

1804 - Hugh Neely

1805 - Hugh Neely

1806 - Hugh Neely

1807 - Hugh Neely

1809 - Hugh Neely

1810 - Hugh Neely

This establishes Hugh Neely in Washington Co., Virginia as early as 1786.

*21 May 1793 -- James Gilliland and Hannah his wife to Hugh Neely, 10 pounds.
30 acres. (Washington County Deed Book 1:296)*

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James Gilliland's 200 acre Land Grant was surveyed and recorded in 1782, with settlement proven to 1770. It was sold in three tracts in 1792 -1793. (L74) Carrickfergus -- Hugh Neely purchased 30 acres on the southeast end of the tract. This land extended across the Middle Fork of the Holston River to a 234 acre survey Neely had entered in 1791. On the east side of the river, Neely laid out streets and lots in 1801 for a town he called Carrickfergus, perhaps named for the port city in Northern Ireland from which many Scots-Irish embarked for America. An act establishing the town was passed by the Virginia Assembly in 1802. The town was well planned. Located where the Middle and South Forks of the Holston River joined, space along the banks of both rivers was reserved for public landings for boats and barges that might be used to ship products down river. Streets were named Liberty, Republic, Independence and Freedom, and lots were set aside for a church and school. There was strong interest in the town, and 35 of the first 42 lots were quickly sold to individuals throughout the county. However, the town failed to materialize. Purchasers had been required by the Virginia legislature to build a dwelling house on their lots within 10 years of the date of sale. Other than Neely's own home, there is no record of any other buildings having been built here, and the purchasers therefore forfeited their investments. (Places In Time, Volume III, South from Abingdon to Holston, by Nanci C. King, pages 33 - 34)

*16 Aug 1795 -- George Messenor of the County of Frederick, Maryland, to Robert Neely, \$400. 140 acres on the north side of the South Fork of the Holston River. Bounds: white oak on the bank of the South Fork of the Holston River, Edmondson, Montgomery. (Washington County Deed Book 1: 468 - 469. ** This 140 acre tract bordered Hugh Neely's 234 acre tract.*

23 Apr 1798 -- Hugh Neely -- 234 acre survey -- Bounds: both sides of the South Fork of the Holston River at the conjunction of the South Fork of the Holston River & Middle Fork of the Holston River, Wm. Duff, Neely's 30 acre survey, bank of the Middle Fork of the Holston River, crossing the river, John Steel, Robert Edmondson, crossing the river. Warrant #10053 (Washington County Survey Book 2:67)

21 Nov 1800 -- Hugh Neeley's Land Grant. Bounds: white oak corner to said Neeley's survey of 30 acres, red oak on the bank of the Middle Fork of the Holston River, corner to John Steel, Robert Edmondson, Wm. Duff, sugar tree on the bank of the South Fork of the Holston River, thence North 14 West 20 poles, crossing the river. (Virginia Land Grant Book 46:551 - 552)

1802 -- At different times in 1802 Hugh Neely & Mary, his wife sold various tracts in the town of Carrickfergus to: Archibald McGuninis, Wm. Blackwell, Claiborne Watkins, Cary Ashley, Adam Little, John Keys, Wm. Steel, Daniel Neal, James Keys, James Gilliland, Bartholomew Neel, Welcome Martin, James Caldwell, Robert Neely, Wm. Berry, Charles Neely, James Gilliland (2nd deed), Jonathan Spyster, Thomas Berry

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Junior, Jonathan Eppler, Michael Hoover, John Toneray, Robert Ferril Junior, James Edmondson, Robert Ferril Senior, John Gold, Thomas Berry Junior, (2nd deed), John Jones, James Keys, Michael Sugart [Shugart], and Samuel Glenn Gent. The last deed was witnessed by: David Dryden Junior, Joseph Campbell and Benjamin Spyker. (Washington County Deed Book A:384 - 414) (Washington County, Virginia District Court Deed Book A, 1789 - 1801, by Thomas & Jane Colley, pages 110 - 120)

07 Jun 1803 -- Hugh Neely sold a horse to Wm. Beatie. Ordered to be recorded on 10 Aug 1803. (Washington County Will Book 2:418) Hugh had several of his transactions recorded in a Will Book.

*1806 Washington County Virginia, Personal Tax List, Lower District -- Hugh Neely - 1 White & 1 Horse.
Annals of Southwest Virginia, 1769-1800 Transcribed by Jeffrey C. Weaver, September 22, 1998*

18 Mar 1806 -- Hugh Neely sells items to Robert Neely. Ordered to be recorded 16 Dec 1806. (Washington County Will Book 3: 24 - 25)

1810 Census of Washington County, page 700:

Line 1 - Hugh Neely

Line 2 - Samuel Tase

Line 3 - Thomas McSpadden

Line 4 - Robert Neely

Line 5 - Matthew Brown

**Note: There is no indication nor records, that Hugh and Mary ever left their home in "Carrickfergus" after 1810. No census record was found for Hugh Neely, or any other spelling, in 1820, which leads me to believe Hugh Neely died between 1810 & 1820, in Washington County, Virginia.*

Neely records JRN found during 2 visits to the Washington Co, VA Historical Society in Abingdon, VA.

- Tax record: James Neely 100A 1796-1800, Jacob Neely 100A 1803
- 1806-1812 – Hugh Neely sold to Robert Neely for \$80 several pieces of land. Also a grey horse for \$50, wagon, etc
- 1806- Hugh Neely and Robert Neely
- 1810 Washington Co Census: Robert Neely and Charles Neely.
- 1820 Washington Co Census: No Neelys listed
- 1830 Washington Co Census: Isaac, Robert Sr, Hugh E. and Robert Jr. listed as head of households
- 1834-1838 Will Book Extracts: Robert Neely (Deceased)

Marriage 1 Mary SMITH b: BET 1700 AND 1740. Married: Possibly in Pennsylvania

Children:

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1. Charles NEELY b: BET 1760 AND 1765 in Marsh Creek, Pennsylvania
2. Robert NEELY b: ABT 1761 in Marsh Creek, Pennsylvania

Sources:

1. Title: Washington County Deed Book A:384 - 414 (Washington County, Virginia District Court Deed Book A, 1789 - 1801, by Thomas & Jane Colley, pgs 110 - 120
2. Title: Revolutionary War Pension Papers for Robert Neely
3. Title: Washington Co., Virginia Personal Property Tax List, by Thomas Jack Hockett
4. Title: Washington County Deed Book 1:296
5. Title: Places In Time, Volume III, South from Abingdon to Holston, by Nanci C. King, pages 33 - 34
6. Title: Washington County Deed Book 1: 468 - 469
7. Title: Virginia Land Grant Book 46:551 - 552
8. Title: Washington County Will Book 2:418
9. Title: Annals of Southwest Virginia, 1769-1800 Transcribed by Jeffrey C. Weaver, September 22, 1998
10. Title: Washington County Will Book 3: 24 - 25

**2014 Note by JRN - I recently was contacted by Jeni Neely, wife of Eddie Neely who has a 37/37 YDNA match to William Neely (1730-1750) of Fishing Creek, SC through his direct descendant, Donald E. Neely. Eddie's oldest known ancestor was Hugh Neely (b. abt. 1735) who moved from the East Nantmeal township of Chester Co (reportedly born on nearby Marsh Creek), PA to Fishing Creek probably in the late 1760's with his wife and family (including Robert), but left around the mid 1780's and moved with his family to Washington Co, VA.*

This write up mentions that Hugh's father was Samuel, a horse peddler in 1751 in Chester Co, PA and goes on to state that he was the Samuel (1726-1803 m. Sarah Ferguson) who settled in Fishing Creek with his young adult siblings about 1752. However, Samuel Jr is too young to have been Hugh's father. I think that Samuel the horse peddler in Chester Co, PA is probably the 'elusive' Samuel Neely Sr, father of the Fishing Creek Neelys born around 1695 in Ireland which would make Samuel (1726-1803) Hugh's brother. If true, why didn't Hugh move with the rest of his siblings to Fishing Creek, SC by March, 1753 based on land records there when he would have been about 18 years old? Is it possible this group of siblings moved to SC when their mother or father died in Chester Co, PA and young Hugh stayed there? Another alternative is that Samuel and William had the early land grants, so maybe the other siblings moved to SC later and an adult Hugh remained and settled in PA until the late latter 1760'ss. Chester Co, PA tax records might provide some clues on this, both with Hugh and his presumed father Samuel in the 1750's and 1760's. JRN September 2014

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2018 update: *It still appears Hugh could have been a son of Samuel Sr., whose young adult children settled in Fishing Creek, SC about 1752. However, Hugh's birth date would have been about 1735, likely making he and Samuel Sr's daughter, Margaret (b.1736) the youngest children. Hugh would have been only 17 in 1752, when his older siblings moved from somewhere in NC to Fishing Creek. Perhaps he and Margaret stayed with their parents and Hugh later moved to Marsh Creek, PA.*

2019 update: *I have been unable over the last year to establish any kind of paper trail that shows the possibility of Hugh being a child of Samuel Sr. I have seen some information indicating that Hugh had more children. Hugh does not show up in the 1774 visitations by Rev. Simpson in Fishing Creek. Even though his YDNA through Eddie Neely matches that of Donald E. Neely, a direct descendant of William (1730-1780) and proven son of Samuel Sr, I am forced to conclude that Hugh is not a son of Samuel Neely Sr. Therefore, the only likely scenario is that they were from the same family in Ireland and Samuel Sr immigrated to America first, whether NY or PA before moving to the Carolina's by the early 1750's. Hugh immigrated from Ireland to PA a generation later and was most likely the nephew of Samuel Sr. This fits both the YDNA and the paper trail we have found thus far.*

Addendum #1 - August, 2019 – John Ellis (b. 1772)

At the beginning of 2009, the Neely YDNA project which was started in 2006 received the Y37 results of Benjamin Franklin Ellis, a descendant of John Ellis (b. 1772). At that time, there were not that many Neelys who had yet joined the project. One of those who did was Oric Neelly that Charles Neelly (“A History of the Neelly’s”) identified as a descendant of John and Elizabeth Neelly (“old John”) of Botetourt, VA and who Benjamin matched 35/37. As more people joined over the years and our different genetic groups became apparent, this Botetourt group as well as descendants of several other Neely Ulster immigrants or their children who settled in SC by the early 1750's were identified as genetic Group 2 which is related to Group 1 as discussed elsewhere in this book. John Edward Ellis joined the Neely project soon after Benjamin in 2009 with Y111 and then James Edward Ellis joined in 2014, also with a Y111 test. Nancy Ellis is the historian for this Ellis family and has worked tirelessly over the last several years to pin down the elusive Neely ancestor of John Ellis (b. 1772).

Nancy had established the following lines of descent for the three descendants of John Ellis (b. 1772) who joined the Neely YDNA

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project for YDNA testing. Their names are shown in bold, but their kit ID's have been covered for privacy reasons since some persons who are not part of the Neely YDNA project are likely to read “Neely Origins”.

..... 3 John Ellis b: 1772, Virginia; d: 1844, Tennessee
..... 4 William Neal Ellis b: 1808, Tennessee; d: 1852, Tennessee
..... 5 **James Knox Polk Ellis** b: 1840, Tennessee d: 1906, Missouri
..... 6 James Franklin Ellis b: 1865, Missouri; d: 1941, Missouri
..... 7 Kerry Lee Ellis b: 1888, Missouri; d: 1955, Missouri
..... 8 James Edward Ellis b: 1916, Missouri; d: 2008, Texas
..... 9 **James Edward Ellis** b: 1942, Texas
..... 6 **George Finis Ellis** b: 1866, Missouri; d: 1932, Missouri
..... 7 John Isaac Ellis b: 1906, Missouri; d: 1986, Missouri
..... 8 **John Edward Ellis** b: 1935, Missouri
..... 7 Benjamin Franklin Ellis b: 1917, Missouri; d: 2007, Missouri
..... 8 **Benjamin Franklin Ellis**

John Ellis was born in Botetourt Co, VA in 1772. He had three brothers; William b. 1777, Peter b. 1778 and Abraham b. 1780. His mother was Sarah Jane who married John Ellis Sr. who died in the early 1780's. She then married a man named Samuel Rhodes when John Ellis was approximately 10 years old and the family relocated to Hawkins Co, TN, probably with a land grant for Samuel Rhodes' service in the Revolutionary War.

John Ellis remained in Hawkins Co, TN and died with a will in 1844. Peter and Abraham Ellis moved to MO in the very early 1800's. It is not known where John's brother William Ellis died, but it does not appear to be in MO or Hawkins Co, TN. It could have been further west in TN. There are 8 William Ellis' listed in middle TN in the 1820 US Census.

[Nancy Ellis](#) has accumulated many records and details on her ancestor John Ellis and his descendants over the years. Nancy had her brother, John Edward Ellis tested with Y111 in 2009. Over the last year, she increasingly was drawn to the thought that the biological father of her ancestor John Ellis (b. 1772) was likely William Neely, son of James Neely Sr. of Botetourt since John Ellis named his first son William Neale Ellis. I confess I was skeptical based on several factors.

In December 2018, we received Y111 results from James Michael (Mike) Neely who we verified was a direct descendant of James Neely Sr. of Botetourt, VA through his son James Jr. Mike's Y111

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results then became the closest match we had to the Ellis members of the Neely YDNA project. However, the FTDNA TiP calculation between Mike and John Edward Ellis showed only a 44% probability that they shared a MRCA in the last 8 generations, which was no closer than several other Group 2 Neelys we knew were not descendants of James Neely Sr. and was one of the reasons for my skepticism. On the other hand, the TiP calculation between Mike and James Ellis showed a 88% probability in 8 generations. This difference might be caused because James and John Edward Ellis are each descended from a different son of James Knox Polk Ellis (b. 1840) as shown in the lines of descent and where different mutations could have occurred.

Last month (July 2019) we received the Y111 results of a new project member, Clarence Gene Neely. We were able to document that Gene was descended from James Neely Sr. of Botetourt through his son John (1748-1818). The Y111 results showed James Ellis vs. Clarence Gene, James Michael, and John Edward Ellis as his 3 closest matches with genetic distances of 3 and respective TiP results of 95%, 88% and 88% probability of a MRCA in 8 generations. However, the most important observation was that Stephen immediately recognized that marker 460, which had mutated from 11 to 12 for the 3 Ellis participants, had also done the same for Gene (460=11->12), but not for Mike. Since both Mike and Gene are descended from James Sr. through two of his sons as seen on the next page, this mutation pattern essentially proves that John Neely (1748-1818) was the father of John Ellis (b. 1772). As Stephen succinctly explained:

- Mike doesn't have the mutation, so it could not have been present in James Sr.
- Gene has the mutation, so it must have occurred first in a descendant of James Sr (along Gene's line of descent) .
- James Ellis has the mutation, so one of his ancestors must have been a descendant of James Sr.

John (1748-1818) married Susannah probably in 1770 and they had a son, John H. Neely on 13 March, 1771. Since John Ellis was born in 1772, John Neely and Sarah Jane would have had a relation a few months after John's first son was born, which had been another reason for my skepticism. Nancy has pointed out the age gap of 5 years between the birth of John Ellis (b. 1772) and his next brother, William (b. 1777). She is not sure when John Ellis' mother, Sarah Jane,

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married John Ellis Sr. but it is possible she was unmarried when John Ellis was born and she later married John Ellis Sr. in spite of already having a young son. It would be nice to have YDNA from a descendant of one of John Ellis' (b. 1772) brothers who would be expected to have non Neely YDNA if this situation is as it appears. John Ellis' Neely ancestor could not have been identified without YDNA, providing another example of 'genetic genealogy'.

Here are the lines of descent from James Sr. of Botetourt to each of the 5 project members discussed above which were created by Stephen, co- administrator of the Neely YDNA project.

- 1 **James Neely** b: 1715, Ireland; d: 1784, Virginia
- 2 James Neely b: 1741, Virginia; d: 1821, Tennessee
- 3 Charles Rufus Neely b: 1787, Virginia; d: 1821, Alabama
- 4 Rufus Polk Neely b: 1808, Tennessee; d: 1901, Tennessee
- 5 James Jackson Neely b: 1847, Tennessee; d: 1926, Tennessee
- 6 Rufus Polk Neely b: 1878, Tennessee; d: 1927, Texas
- 7 James Sauffley Neely b: 1914, Texas; d: 1985, Texas
- 8 James Charles Neely b: 1941, Texas; d: 2006, Texas
- 9 **James Michael Neely** b: 1967, Texas
- 2 **John Neely** b: 1748, Virginia; d: 1818, Tennessee
- 3 James Neely b: 1783, Virginia; d: 1833, Tennessee
- 4 James A. Neely b: 1822, Tennessee; d: 1881, Tennessee
- 5 John Robert Neely b: 1751, Tennessee; d: 1934, Tennessee
- 6 James Ogilvie Neely b: 1884, Tennessee; d: 1959, Tennessee
- 7 James Ogilvie Neely b: 1915, Tennessee; d: 1975, Tennessee
- 8 **Clarence Gene Neely** b: 1945, Tennessee
- 3 John Ellis b: 1772, Virginia; d: 1844, Tennessee
- 4 William Neal Ellis b: 1808, Tennessee; d: 1852, Tennessee
- 5 **James Knox Polk Ellis** b: 1840, Tennessee d: 1906, Missouri
- 6 James Franklin Ellis b: 1865, Missouri; d: 1941, Missouri
- 7 Kerry Lee Ellis b: 1888, Missouri; d: 1955, Missouri
- 8 James Edward Ellis b: 1916, Missouri; d: 2008, Texas
- 9 **James Edward Ellis** b: 1942, Texas
- 6 **George Finis Ellis** b: 1866, Missouri; d: 1932, Missouri
- 7 John Isaac Ellis b: 1906, Missouri; d: 1986, Missouri
- 8 **John Edward Ellis** b: 1935, Missouri
- 7 Benjamin Franklin Ellis b: 1917, Missouri; d: 2007, Missouri
- 8 **Benjamin Franklin Ellis**

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Addendum #2 - January, 2020 – Untangling the Botetourt Neelys who moved to middle TN

- **Background** of YDNA challenge of paper trail for Oric and Mike
- **Circumstantial Evidence**
- **Corrections and Conclusions** for Y111 descendants of Botetourt Neelys

Background: We begin with what appears to be the three major founders of the Neelys who settled in what became Botetourt Co, VA; **James Neely Sr.** who married Jane Grimes, **Dr. John**, the brother of James Sr. who married Jane's sister Sarah Grimes, but had no children and **John Neely Sr ("old John")**, a relative who arrived about 1750 with his wife Elizabeth and young adult children. By the end of this past summer (2019), I felt pretty confident we had a reasonably good understanding of the Botetourt Neely relationships. We had genealogical paper trails established from the two known progenitors of the Botetourt Neelys, James Sr. and "old John". James Michael, Clarence Gene and two descendants of John E. Ellis (out of wedlock son of William Neely) all traced their ancestry back to James Sr. and had upgraded to Y111. All 4 showed the same two mutations of markers DYS645 and DYS693 that reside in the marker range from 68-111. Oric, Michael L. and John W. had traced their ancestry back to "old John", but only John W. had Y111 results which did not have the two mutations. At this point, we decided this was likely a distinction between James Sr and "old John". Also, we failed to notice that John W. and Michael L. who both traced their ancestry back through Andrew to "old John", both showed ancestors named John as sons of Andrew, a very unlikely event. See Lines of Descent for them below & next page.

- 1 **James Neely** b: 1715, Ireland; d: 1784-1789, Virginia
- 2 James Neely b: 1741, Virginia; d: 1821, Tennessee
- 3 Charles Rufus Neely b: 1787, Virginia; d: 1821, Alabama
- 4 Rufus Polk Neely b: 1808, Tennessee; d: 1901, Tennessee
- 5 James Jackson Neely b: 1847, Tennessee; d: 1926, Tennessee
- 6 Rufus Polk Neely b: 1878, Tennessee; d: 1927, Texas
- 7 James Saufley Neely b: 1914, Texas; d: 1985, Texas
- 8 James Charles Neely b: 1941, Texas; d: 2006, Texas
- 9 **754407 James Michael Neely** b: 1967, Texas
- 2 **John Neely** b: 1748, Virginia; d: 1818, Tennessee
- 3 James Neely b: 1783, Virginia; d: 1833, Tennessee
- 4 James A. Neely b: 1822, Tennessee; d: 1881, Tennessee
- 5 John Robert Neelly b: 1751, Tennessee; d: 1934, Tennessee
- 6 James Ogilvie Neelly b: 1884, Tennessee; d: 1959, Tennessee
- 7 James Ogilvie Neelly b: 1915, Tennessee; d: 1975, Tennessee
- 8 **754407 Clarence Gene Neely** b: 1945, Tennessee
- 3 John E Ellis b: 1772, Virginia; d: 1844, Tennessee
- 4 William Neal Ellis b: 1808, Tennessee; d: 1852, Tennessee
- 5 **James Knox Polk Ellis** b: 1840, Tennessee d: 1906, Missouri
- 6 James Franklin Ellis b: 1865, Missouri; d: 1941, Missouri
- 7 Kerry Lee Ellis b: 1888, Missouri; d: 1955, Missouri
- 8 James Edward Ellis b: 1916, Missouri; d: 2008, Texas
- 9 **349410 James Edward Ellis** b: 1942, Texas
- 6 **George Finis Ellis** b: 1866, Missouri; d: 1932, Missouri
- 7 John Isaac Ellis b: 1906, Missouri; d: 1986, Missouri
- 8 **147382 John Edward Ellis** b: 1935, Missouri
- 7 Benjamin Franklin Ellis b: 1917, Missouri; d: 2007, Missouri
- 8 **142000 Benjamin Franklin Ellis** (37YDNA only)

Chapter 8 – Neelys in Virginia

1 **John Neelly b: 1702, Ireland; d: 1778, Virginia**

- 2 **Robert Neelly** b: 1730, Virginia; d: 1780, Virginia
- 3 Robert Neelly **b: ~1766**, Virginia; d: bet. 1833 and 1838, Tennessee
- 4 Thomas Lewis Neelly b: abt. 1795, Virginia; d: bet. 1850 and 1859, Arkansas
- 5 Thomas Lewis Neelly b: 1830, Tennessee; d: 1909, Missouri
- 6 Charles James Neelly b: 1866, Missouri; d: 1952, Kansas
- 7 **147168 Oric Charles Neelly** b: 1919, Kansas; d: 2014, Kansas
- 3 **Andrew Neelly** b: 1763, Virginia; d: 1839, Tennessee
- 4 John Clemens Neelley b: 1798, North Carolina; d: 1858, Tennessee
- 5 John Finis Neelley b: 1854, Tennessee; d: 1932, Tennessee
- 6 James Drake Neelley b: 1889, Pennsylvania; d: 1975, Tennessee
- 7 **208573 John William Neelley** b: 1930, Pennsylvania
- 4 John Henry Neelly b: 1800, Virginia; d: 1851, Mississippi
- 5 Henry Franklin Neelly b: 1838, Mississippi; d: 1884, Mississippi
- 6 Edwin Clyde Neelly b: 1876, Mississippi; d: 1941, Mississippi
- 7 Edwin Clyde Neelly b: 1912, Mississippi; d: 1991, Mississippi
- 8 **N7324 Michael L Neelly**

Assumed to need o
See Corrections &
at end

Appears to be

Assumed to m

In September of 2019 we received Y111 results for Oric, presumed descendant of “old John” who also had the two mutations and in November Y111 results from Michael L’s results also contained the two mutations, which was in conflict with their paper trails and indicated likely descendency from James Sr., leaving only John W. as a likely descendant of “old John”.

			YDNA Markers 68-111																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
			DY689	DY688	DY687	DY686	DY685	DY684	DY683	DY682	DY681	DY680	DY679	DY678	DY677	DY676	DY675	DY674	DY673	DY672	DY671	DY670	DY669	DY668	DY667	DY666	DY665	DY664	DY663	DY662	DY661	DY660	DY659	DY658	DY657	DY656	DY655	DY654	DY653	DY652	DY651	DY650	DY649	DY648	DY647	DY646	DY645	DY644	DY643	DY642	DY641	DY640	DY639	DY638	DY637	DY636	DY635	DY634	DY633	DY632	DY631	DY630	DY629	DY628	DY627	DY626	DY625	DY624	DY623	DY622	DY621	DY620	DY619	DY618	DY617	DY616	DY615	DY614	DY613	DY612	DY611	DY610	DY609	DY608	DY607	DY606	DY605	DY604	DY603	DY602	DY601	DY600	DY599	DY598	DY597	DY596	DY595	DY594	DY593	DY592	DY591	DY590	DY589	DY588	DY587	DY586	DY585	DY584	DY583	DY582	DY581	DY580	DY579	DY578	DY577	DY576	DY575	DY574	DY573	DY572	DY571	DY570	DY569	DY568	DY567	DY566	DY565	DY564	DY563	DY562	DY561	DY560	DY559	DY558	DY557	DY556	DY555	DY554	DY553	DY552	DY551	DY550	DY549	DY548	DY547	DY546	DY545	DY544	DY543	DY542	DY541	DY540	DY539	DY538	DY537	DY536	DY535	DY534	DY533	DY532	DY531	DY530	DY529	DY528	DY527	DY526	DY525	DY524	DY523	DY522	DY521	DY520	DY519	DY518	DY517	DY516	DY515	DY514	DY513	DY512	DY511	DY510	DY509	DY508	DY507	DY506	DY505	DY504	DY503	DY502	DY501	DY500	DY499	DY498	DY497	DY496	DY495	DY494	DY493	DY492	DY491	DY490	DY489	DY488	DY487	DY486	DY485	DY484	DY483	DY482	DY481	DY480	DY479	DY478	DY477	DY476	DY475	DY474	DY473	DY472	DY471	DY470	DY469	DY468	DY467	DY466	DY465	DY464	DY463	DY462	DY461	DY460	DY459	DY458	DY457	DY456	DY455	DY454	DY453	DY452	DY451	DY450	DY449	DY448	DY447	DY446	DY445	DY444	DY443	DY442	DY441	DY440	DY439	DY438	DY437	DY436	DY435	DY434	DY433	DY432	DY431	DY430	DY429	DY428	DY427	DY426	DY425	DY424	DY423	DY422	DY421	DY420	DY419	DY418	DY417	DY416	DY415	DY414	DY413	DY412	DY411	DY410	DY409	DY408	DY407	DY406	DY405	DY404	DY403	DY402	DY401	DY400	DY399	DY398	DY397	DY396	DY395	DY394	DY393	DY392	DY391	DY390	DY389	DY388	DY387	DY386	DY385	DY384	DY383	DY382	DY381	DY380	DY379	DY378	DY377	DY376	DY375	DY374	DY373	DY372	DY371	DY370	DY369	DY368	DY367	DY366	DY365	DY364	DY363	DY362	DY361	DY360	DY359	DY358	DY357	DY356	DY355	DY354	DY353	DY352	DY351	DY350	DY349	DY348	DY347	DY346	DY345	DY344	DY343	DY342	DY341	DY340	DY339	DY338	DY337	DY336	DY335	DY334	DY333	DY332	DY331	DY330	DY329	DY328	DY327	DY326	DY325	DY324	DY323	DY322	DY321	DY320	DY319	DY318	DY317	DY316	DY315	DY314	DY313	DY312	DY311	DY310	DY309	DY308	DY307	DY306	DY305	DY304	DY303	DY302	DY301	DY300	DY299	DY298	DY297	DY296	DY295	DY294	DY293	DY292	DY291	DY290	DY289	DY288	DY287	DY286	DY285	DY284	DY283	DY282	DY281	DY280	DY279	DY278	DY277	DY276	DY275	DY274	DY273	DY272	DY271	DY270	DY269	DY268	DY267	DY266	DY265	DY264	DY263	DY262	DY261	DY260	DY259	DY258	DY257	DY256	DY255	DY254	DY253	DY252	DY251	DY250	DY249	DY248	DY247	DY246	DY245	DY244	DY243	DY242	DY241	DY240	DY239	DY238	DY237	DY236	DY235	DY234	DY233	DY232	DY231	DY230	DY229	DY228	DY227	DY226	DY225	DY224	DY223	DY222	DY221	DY220	DY219	DY218	DY217	DY216	DY215	DY214	DY213	DY212	DY211	DY210	DY209	DY208	DY207	DY206	DY205	DY204	DY203	DY202	DY201	DY200	DY199	DY198	DY197	DY196	DY195	DY194	DY193	DY192	DY191	DY190	DY189	DY188	DY187	DY186	DY185	DY184	DY183	DY182	DY181	DY180	DY179	DY178	DY177	DY176	DY175	DY174	DY173	DY172	DY171	DY170	DY169	DY168	DY167	DY166	DY165	DY164	DY163	DY162	DY161	DY160	DY159	DY158	DY157	DY156	DY155	DY154	DY153	DY152	DY151	DY150	DY149	DY148	DY147	DY146	DY145	DY144	DY143	DY142	DY141	DY140	DY139	DY138	DY137	DY136	DY135	DY134	DY133	DY132	DY131	DY130	DY129	DY128	DY127	DY126	DY125	DY124	DY123	DY122	DY121	DY120	DY119	DY118	DY117	DY116	DY115	DY114	DY113	DY112	DY111	DY110	DY109	DY108	DY107	DY106	DY105	DY104	DY103	DY102	DY101	DY100	DY99	DY98	DY97	DY96	DY95	DY94	DY93	DY92	DY91	DY90	DY89	DY88	DY87	DY86	DY85	DY84	DY83	DY82	DY81	DY80	DY79	DY78	DY77	DY76	DY75	DY74	DY73	DY72	DY71	DY70	DY69	DY68	DY67	DY66	DY65	DY64	DY63	DY62	DY61	DY60	DY59	DY58	DY57	DY56	DY55	DY54	DY53	DY52	DY51	DY50	DY49	DY48	DY47	DY46	DY45	DY44	DY43	DY42	DY41	DY40	DY39	DY38	DY37	DY36	DY35	DY34	DY33	DY32	DY31	DY30	DY29	DY28	DY27	DY26	DY25	DY24	DY23	DY22	DY21	DY20	DY19	DY18	DY17	DY16	DY15	DY14	DY13	DY12	DY11	DY10	DY9	DY8	DY7	DY6	DY5	DY4	DY3	DY2	DY1
208573	John W Neelley		R-M269	16	12	26	26	19	12	11	14	12	10	9	12	12	10	11	11	30	12	13	24	13	10	21	15	19	13	24	16	12	15	24	1																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
166683	Walter P. Neely	Henry Neely, b.c. 1690-1695, Ireland or Scotland	R-FGC44555	16	12	25	26	19	12	11	14	12	10	9	12	12	10	11	11	30	12	13	24	13	10	21	15	19	13	24	17	12	15	24	1																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
646531	Robert Perry Neelley		R-FGC44555	16	12	26	26	19	12	11	14	12	10	9	11	12	10	11	11	30	12	13	24	13	10	21	15	19	13	24	16	12	15	24	1																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
867021	Wilton Woodrow Neelley Jr.		R-BY17509	16	12	26	26	19	12	11	14	12	10	9	12	12	10	11	11	30	12	13	24	13	10	21	15	19	13	24	16	12	15	25	1																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
497581	Grady Lee Neely		R-M269																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
B108236	Mitch Neely		R-M269																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
911271	Alan S. Neely		R-M269	16	12	26	26	19	12	11	14	12	10	9	12	12	10	11	11	30	12	13	24	13	10	21	15	19	13	24	16	12	15	24	1																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
913866	Richard Neely		R-M269	16	12	26	26	19	12	11	14	12	10	9	12	12	10	11	11	30	12	13	24	13	10	21	15	19	13	24	16	12	15	24	1																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
137373	Mr Daniel Harrington Neely	Thomas Neely, b. 1835 and d. 1896	R-M269																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
893807	William Neely	Richard Neely, b 1810 and d 1870	R-BY17509	16	12	26	26	19	12	11	14	11	10	9	12	12	10	11	11	30	12	13	24	13	10	21	15	19	13	24	16	12	15	24	1																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
411484	Robert F. Neely	Richard Neely, b abt1810 unk, d 1870, Tipperary	R-BY17509	16	12	26	26	19	12	11	14	12	10	9	12	12	10	11	11	30	12	13	24	13	10	21	15	19	13	24	16	12	15	24	1																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
N7324	Mr Michael Leigh Neely Sr	neely	R-M269	15	12	26	26	19	12	11	14	12	10	9	12	12	10	11	11	30	12	13	24	13	10	21	15	19	13	24	16	12	15	24	1																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
758266	Tom Neely	James Upshur Neely	R-M269	16	12	26	26	19	12	11	14	12	10	9	12	12	10	11	11	30	12	13	24	13	10	20	15	19	13	24	16	12	15	24	1																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
147168	Mr Oric Neelly	John Neelly, d. 1778	R-M269	15	12	26	26	19	12	11	14	12	10	9	12	12	10	11	11	29	12	13	24	13	10	21	15	19	13	24	16	12	15	24	1																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
754407	James Michael Neely		R-M269	15	12	26	26	19	12	11	14	12	10	9	12	12	10	11	11	30	12	13	24	13	10	21	15	19	13	23	16	12	15	24	1																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
529513	RA Neelley	James R. Neely, b. abt. 1812 SC; d. bef. 1870 AL	R-BY17509	16	12	26	26	19	12	11	13	12	10	9	12	12	10	11	11	30	12	13	24	13	10	21	15	19	14	24	16	12	15	24	1																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
142000	Benjamin Franklin Ellis		R-M269																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
349410	Mr. James Ellis	Thomas Neely b 1695-1756	R-M269	15	12	26	26	19	12	11	14	12	10	9	12	12	10	11	11	30	12	13	24	13</																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																											

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(John Ellis in 1772 born out of wedlock to William Neelly), and Clarence Gene. Descendants of “old John” had been traced to John W., Oric and Michael (Mike L). When we received Oric’s Y111 results, Stephen noticed John W. had neither of these mutations while James Michael and the other descendants of James Sr. had both. Since Mike L. had only Y67 results at that time, we did not know whether or not he had these two mutations that seemed to be a marker for descendants of James Sr. Mike L’s Y111 results also has the 495 and 643 mutations even though we had originally traced him back to “old” John. So only John W., a descendant of “old” John does not have these two mutations among those described. The only way this could occur is that Oric and Mike L descended from Robert b. 1741, son of James Sr. instead of Robert b. 1748, son of Robert Sr. and grandson of “old John. The question is “how do you prove it”.

Then for the next couple of months we began researching and assembling records that provide circumstantial evidence to help determine the ancestors of Oric and Mike. The evidence is very strong that both of them are descended from the family of Robert Neelly and Nancy Anne Hayden who married in Botetourt Co, VA on April 4, 1794 and later moved to Maury Co. They had a family of 5 sons. I believe Charles J. Neelly incorrectly assumed this was Robert Jr. (b.~1768) because Robert (b. ~1741) would have been 29 years older than Nancy Ann and originally married to Anna while Robert Jr. would have been only 4 years older. The remainder of this document is a listing of the strong circumstantial evidence that has been found so far. However, it alone is not enough to prove that Robert Neelly who married Nancy Anne Hayden was Robert (b.~1741), son of James Sr. Therefore, Y700 tests were ordered for Michael L. Neelly and James Michael Neely, a known descendant of James Sr. on or about Jan 13, 2020 to confirm the circumstantial evidence that the ancestor of Oric and Mike L. was Robert b. ~1741. John W. ordered a Y700 test later to compare against Y700 results of descendants of James Sr to provide a better understanding of the fairly close Y111 relationship between James Sr. and “old John”

Circumstantial Evidence

1. The two YDNA mutations held by six of the seven Y111 Botetourt descendants is the most compelling piece of evidence we have that Charles J. Neelly made a wrong assumption in his “A Neelly History”. Without the benefit of YDNA comparisons, Charles made the logical assumption that Robert Jr., son of Robert Sr. who died in 1780 and grandson of “old John” who died in 1778 in Botetourt, was the Robert Neelly who married Nancy Anne Haden in 1794 and produced 5 Neelly sons, while the YDNA results strongly suggest instead that it was Robert Neely, son of James Sr. as previously discussed. The only other scientific possibility is that John W. Neelley’s results which do not have these YDNA mutations was caused by a rare back mutation, or a NPE in his line of descent. We investigated, but could find no evidence of this based on reviewing John W’s research showing his

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line of descent from Andrew (grandson of “old John”) who died in Maury Co. Andrew’s graveyard is very close to others nearby containing all of John W.’s ancestors. Even though this is strong evidence, it does not constitute absolute proof. However, if proven true by the upcoming Y700 comparisons it would mean the land transactions Charles J. Neelly listed for Robert and Nancy Ann in Botetourt would be those of Robert, son of James, not Robert Jr. grandson of “old John”.

2. James Michael Neely, descended from James Jr, has a 95.3% TiP probability of a common ancestor with Michael L. Neelly within 8 generations based on Y111 results. Oric also has a 95.6% probability as would be expected since he descends from the same family (Robert and Nancy Anne) as Mike L. James Michael has a 88% TiP probability of a common ancestor with both Gene Neelly and James Ellis descended from John. It is interesting to note that **all the known Y111 descendants of James Sr.** have a high TiP probability with Mike, except John Edwards Ellis, which to me provides more circumstantial evidence that Mike descends from James Sr. through son Robert b.~1741.
3. On page 567 of Kegley in a discussion of James Neely Sr. including his position as captain of his militia company, it states “In 1784 he resigned as captain and was succeeded by his son Robert.”
4. According to Charles J. Neelly, the first son of Robert and Nancy Anne was Thomas L. Neelly born in 1795 in Botetourt and ancestor of Oric Neelly. Even though Charles only listed 2 other sons, James and William, he suggested there may have been others. Jon Robb found records collected by his uncle and aunt, Merlyn and Joanne Johnson in the 1980’s that show Robert Neelly transferred ownership of a young slave to each of his sons, named William, Thomas L. and James Neelly by gift of deeds in October, 1824 in Maury Co, TN. In addition, Robert had land transactions where he sold land to William, John and Eli between 1823 and 1830 witnessed by Thomas L. and James. Included was sale of 114.25A of land by Robert to John and Eli for \$800 on 3 Sept 1828. These transactions are summarized in a document named **Summary of Five Transfers from Robert Neelly to his apparent sons 1824-1831** in the Appendix of ‘Neely Origins’. Since Eli was the brother of John Henry, proven ancestor of Michael L. Neelly buried in Oxford, MS, this is strong evidence that John and Eli are the youngest sons of Robert and Nancy Anne. Jon also found the obituary of Eli in Arkansas which provides information on some probable dates and ages for this family. The above evidence is bolstered by notes believed copied from a family Bible in Mike

Chapter 8 – Neelys in Virginia

L's family that are held by his 2nd cousin Sam Neilson that state John Henry's parents were Major Robert Neelly and Ann Haden.

5. On page 31 of 'Neely Narrative', Grace Renshaw lists this record: "Susan Neelly b ca 1805 in Williamson or possibly Davidson Co. (Deed conveying from James Neelly to His uncle, Robert Neelly, 114A part of 640 A tract originally granted to Hugh Leiper and lying in Williamson Co., Tn. on Murfrees Fork of West Harpeth R. dated 1806, being signed by James Neelly of Davidson Co. Tn, his signature proved by William Neelly and Nicholas P. Hardeman. This Deed shows James Neelly living in Davidson Co. in 1806, and I believe James and Eleanor remained in Davidson Co. for several years, possibly because of illness and/or death of Susannah Phillips." The James Neely who sold the land to his uncle Robert would have to be Major James Neelly (b. 24 Dec 1773), son of William. It seems to verify that Robert (b. 1741), son of James Sr., was in Williamson Co, TN in 1806. Jon will try to locate a copy of this deed and others in middle TN. Included will be the Cathey Creek land mentioned below on pg 9 of Neely Narrative by Renshaw and expected sales of John and Eli's 114.25A bought from Robert. It was probably sold before their departure to Oxford, MS around 1835.
6. No land transactions in Maury Co so far specifically link Robert Jr, (b.~1766) to his father, or brother Andrew while the record shown above links Robert to land sold to him by his nephew, James, in Williamson Co where Robert's brothers, William and John lived (Franklin, TN). Both Renshaw and Charles J. Neelly mentioned that the 4 sons of James Sr. and 5 sons of Robert Sr. (son of "old John") went to Maury Co. The 4 sons of James Sr. are accounted for in our records. But so far, we have been unable to find any records in Maury Co that can be identified as Robert Jr's, only those of his brother Andrew. However we believe more early land or other records of Robert Neelly and his other brothers might be available where such a link might be found.
7. According to Grace Renshaw pg. 9, "Robert Neelly was in Maury Co , Tn. in 1806. In the Maury Co. taxables, 1811, he had 1 poll, 1 slave. Robert Neelly bought several plots of land in the Cathey's Creek vicinity. In 1825 when he testified in a lawsuit between neighbors (Harris vs Groves) he was living on land he had bought from William Bradford in 1822. The 1830 Census showed Robert's family consisting of: 1 M +80 yrs; 1 F -20 yrs; 1 F +70 yrs, indicating that Robert must have died after this Census, leaving his widow and perhaps a granddaughter in the household." However, I have been unable to find this record in spite of searches including state records. Both Renshaw and Charles J. Neelly claim that both Roberts lived in Maury Co, but no evidence

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of this has been found thus far. The only Robert in the 1830 US census of Maury Co was Robert M. Neely who was married to Anne Hayden. The problem with this census is that Robert (b.~1741) would have been about 89 years old and Robert Jr. (b.~1766) would have been about 64 years old, neither of which match the age range 70-79 in the 1830 census shown on the next page. The census also suggests one adult son and a daughter of Robert M. or possible young wife of adult son. Thomas Jefferson (T.J.) Neelly grew up in his grandfather William's house in Williamson Co. TN while his father (James) was often gone on 'adventures'. He personally knew his uncles and was 23 when his grandfather died. Grace Renshaw mentions him on page 9 and quotes him as follows: The Rev. T.J. Neely, who remembered these relatives from his childhood, said, "**Robert settled in Maury County, d there and was bur near Mt. Pleasant**".



Anne Neely

BIRTH unknown
DEATH 21 Mar 1833
BURIAL [Hunter Cemetery](#)
Mount Pleasant, Maury County, Tennessee, USA
MEMORIAL ID 8679852 - [View Source](#)

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MEMORIAL PHOTOS 1 FLOWERS 1

"Consort of Maj. Robert Neely."
Aged 63 yrs, 2mos, and 3 days. This grave is located in section 5.

Name:	Robert M Neeley
Home in 1830 (City, County, State):	Maury, Tennessee
Free White Persons - Males - 30 thru 39:	1
Free White Persons - Males - 70 thru 79:	1
Free White Persons - Females - 15 thru 19:	1
Free White Persons - Females - 60 thru 69:	1
Slaves - Males - Under 10:	1
Slaves - Males - 10 thru 23:	1
Slaves - Females - Under 10:	2
Slaves - Females - 10 thru 23:	1
Free White Persons - Under 20:	1
Free White Persons - 20 thru 49:	1
Total Free White Persons:	4
Total Slaves:	5

- I found records for a Robert Neely b. 1768 in Maury Co who died there in 1807. He was married to Margaret and his children were listed. I thought this was possibly Robert Neelly Jr as did Renshaw, but he turned out to be the son of Samuel Neely Jr. of Fishing Creek, SC which is well documented. He left Fishing Creek earlier in 1807 for whatever reason and travelled with his wife and 7 children to Maury Co where he died in the autumn of that same year.
- Finally, Jon Robb sent information on 3 possible Robert Neelys from "**War of 1812 Maury County Soliders**" in Nov 2019. The listing is shown on the next page and could represent three, two or even one Robert Neelly.

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ROBERT NEELY

Served in Capt. James McMahan's company. No further information. (See below)

ROBERT NEELY

Commissioned captain in 27th Regiment in 1812. No further information. [Anne Neelly, wife of Major Robert Neelly died 21 March 1833, age 63 years, is buried in Hunter's Cemetery in Mt. Pleasant.]

ROBERT NEELY

Maury Democrat, 2 April 1908: Arthur T. Isom, Matthew B. Cathey and Robert Neelcy were in the Battle of New Orleans on the 8th of January 1815. Their Captain Mahon (sic) was killed in the night attack Jackson made on the British during Christmas week.

The question is; who were these Robert Neelys in Maury Co 1812-1815? **Could one of them be Robert Jr b. ~1766?**

I checked my federal records of Neely war veterans obtained from the National Archives by Ancestry.com and found 4 Robert Neely entries for the War of 1812:

View Record	Robert Neely	1 REGT (BRADLEY'S) TENNESSEE VOLS.	DRUMMER	DRUMMER
View Record	Robert Neely	1 REGT MOUNTED GUNMEN (DYER'S), TENNESSEE VOLUNTEERS.	CORNET	CORNET
View Record	Robert Neely	1 REGT MOUNTED GUNMEN (DYER'S), TENNESSEE VOLUNTEERS.	PRIVATE	BLKSMITH
View Record	Robert Neely	1 REGT (HALL'S) TENNESSEE VOLUNTEERS.	DRUMMER	DRUMMER

Cornet was the lowest ranking officer, equivalent to today's 2nd Lt. The two Robert Neelys listed as Drummer may have been the same man serving in Hall's and Bradley's infantry regiment, which appears to be the same regiment at two different time periods. My guess is that 2 different Robert Neelys were the 1st Regiment (Dyers) because of the ranks and job, but there is no indication they were from Maury Co. "Men Mostly From" notations of several other regiments included Maury, Co, but not these, although adjacent Williamson and Rutherford were included.

I tried to correlate the information above from the book "War of 1812 Maury County Soldiers" with those that came from the National Archives. I agree with Jon's observation that Captain Mahon in the Battle of New Orleans may be the same man as Captain McMahan. The 27th Regiment mentioned where Robert was commissioned captain in 1812 was part of the TN militia and not listed in the US regiments formed from TN volunteers from the National Archives as far as I can determine. The [Regimental Histories of Tennessee Units During the War of 1812](#) lists the Colonels of all the TN regiments in alphabetical order. I have listed the information and brief history for the two Regiments that included Robert Neelys. We need to try and identify who these Robert Neelys were. They would have been born before 1800, with the possible exception of the Drummer. Could Major Robert Neelly have left the 27th Regiment of TN Militia after being appointed as Captain in 1812 and joined Dyer's regiment in Williamson Co under Andrew Jackson and fought in the Battle of New Orleans in 1815?

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COLONEL ROBERT DYER

- **DESIGNATION:** Tennessee Volunteer Mounted Gunmen or Cavalry
- **DATES:** September 1813 - May 1814 (some enlisted in January 1814)
- **MEN MOSTLY FROM:** Davidson, Rutherford, Williamson, Dickson, Giles, Overton, Robertson, Stewart, and Sumner Counties
- **CAPTAINS:** (Lt.) James Berry, Samuel Crawford, Nathan Farmer, James Haggard, Charles Kavanaugh, Archibald McKenney, John Miller, William Mitchell, Michael Molton, Edwin G. Moore, David Smith, George Smith, James Terrill

BRIEF HISTORY:

One of two regiments which Dyer commanded at different times of the war, this regiment was part of General John Coffee's cavalry brigade throughout most of the Creek War. The unit participated in most of the battles of the war, including Talladega (9 November 1813), where they formed the reserves, and Horseshoe Bend (27 March 1814). There were several companies of "spies" in the regiment: companies of cavalry that were sent on reconnaissance patrols and usually took the lead in the line of march for Jackson's army.

- **DESIGNATION:** 1st Regiment of West Tennessee Volunteer Mounted Gunmen
- **DATES:** September 1814 - March 1815
- **MEN MOSTLY FROM:** Davidson, Dickson, Williamson, Bedford, Maury, Montgomery, Rutherford, Smith, and Stewart Counties
- **CAPTAINS:** Bethel Allen, Ephraim D. Dickson, Robert Edmonston, Robert Evans, Cuthbert Hudson, Thomas Jones, James McMahon, Glen Owen, Thomas White, Joseph Williams, James Wyatt

BRIEF HISTORY:

Part of Coffee's brigade at New Orleans, most of this regiment took part in the night battle of 23 December 1814. Most of the company muster rolls show casualties from this engagement. Portions of this regiment also participated in the capture of Pensacola from the Spanish in West Florida (7 November 1814). The initial rendezvous point for this unit was Fayetteville, Tennessee. From there they passed through Fort Hampton, to Baton Rouge, and finally to New Orleans.

COLONEL EDWARD BRADLEY

- **DESIGNATION:** 1st Regiment of Tennessee Volunteer Infantry
- **DATES:** September 1813 - December 1813
- **MEN MOSTLY FROM:** Sumner, Giles, Lincoln, Montgomery, Overton, Rutherford, Smith, and Wilson Counties
- **CAPTAINS:** Abraham Bledsoe, Harry Douglass, James Hambleton, John Kennedy, William Lauderdale, Brice Martin, John Moore, Travis Nash, Thomas Haynie, John Wallace

BRIEF HISTORY:

This unit was originally under the command of Colonel William Hall during Jackson's excursion to Natchez. Bradley took over the regiment when Hall was promoted to brigadier general. Bradley's regiment then became part of Hall's brigade, along with Colonel William Pillow's Second Regiment of Tennessee Volunteer Infantry. This brigade participated in Jackson's first campaign into the Creek Nation. Bradley's regiment fought at the Battle of Talladega (9 November 1813) and muster rolls show many casualties from that battle, especially in the companies of Captains Abraham Bledsoe and Brice Smith.

The line of march for this first campaign followed the route from Fayetteville to Huntsville, then to Fort Deposit and Fort Strother. The troops were dismissed in December 1813. The number of men in each captain's company varied from twenty-nine to seventy-two soldiers.

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COLONEL WILLIAM HALL

- **DESIGNATION:** 1st Regiment Tennessee Volunteers
- **DATES:** December 1812 - April 1813
- **MEN MOSTLY FROM:** Sumner, Davidson, Giles, Lincoln, Montgomery, Overton, Rutherford, Smith, and Wilson Counties
- **CAPTAINS:** William Alexander, Abraham Bledsoe, William Carroll, Harry L. Douglass, James Hambleton(Hamilton), John Kennedy, Brice Martin, John Moore, Travis Nash, Henry M. Newlin, John Wallace

BRIEF HISTORY:

Part of Andrew Jackson's expedition to Natchez, this regiment had a complement of about 620 men (the average company having between fifty and seventy soldiers). Each company was assigned a fife and drummer. There were two rifle companies (Captains Bledsoe and Kennedy) which had buglers instead of the fife and drummer. After the abortive mission at Natchez, this unit was dismissed at Columbia, Tennessee (April 1814) but many of men later re-enlisted under Colonel Edward Bradley and joined Jackson in the first campaign of the Creek War.

More research needs to be done to sort out the 1812 records of the Neelys in Maury Co, Tennessee

JRN, January 24, 2020

Corrections and Conclusions

At the end of last summer, we believed that we had 4 descendants of James Sr. of Botetourt Co: James Michael Neely, Gene Neely and James & John E. Ellis. We also believed we had 3 descendants of “old John” of Botetourt who was related to James Sr: Oric (Jon Robb) Neelly, Mike L Neelly and John W. Neelley. Both Oric and Mike L. are descended from Robert and Nancy Anne Hayden according to Charles J. Neelly’s “History of the Neellys”. However, new Y111 results in this past Fall strongly indicated that Oric and Mike L were descended from James Sr. instead of “old John”, leaving only John W. as a descendant of “old John”. By the end of 2019, we determined that the only explanation that would explain this was that Charles J Neelly had incorrectly assumed the Robert who married Nancy Hayden in 1794 in Botetourt Co was Robert b.~1766 grandson of “old John”, when it was actually Robert b. ~1741 son of James Sr. The next few months were spent trying to assemble records and evidence to prove whether or not this was true. A strong case of circumstantial evidence was put together with existing and newly found information, especially some found by Jon Robb that strongly agreed with this theory. Read circumstantial evidence above in this #2 addendum. However, we felt that more proof was needed to be certain and asked J. Mike, Mike L and John W. to upgrade to the Y700 test. They did and we have recently received their results. Comparison of **Y700 results from all three confirmed our circumstantial evidence and theory that it was Robert b. ~1741 who married Nancy Anne Hayden.** However, it also showed that Robert and brother James Jr. b.~1745 were genetically closer than either was to brother John b. 1748. It is not unusual to see mutations in descendants of brothers and the only son of

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John tested for Y700 was John E. Ellis whose Y111 results showed 3 mutations that none of the other 6 Botetourt Neely descendants have. However, Stephen feels that number of mutations here point to John b.1748 having been born to a close relative to James Sr. This prompted me to do a complete review and paper trail audit of all the Y111 Botetourt descendants. I recently completed this after modifying those for Oric and Mike L. being descended from Robert b.~1741 and a couple of minor date changes and concluded that all the lines of descent now appear correct in spite of the question raised by the Y700 tests of J. Mike and Mike L.. In addition, the Y700 results seem to indicate that SNP FT107341 is held only by descendants of James Neely Sr. Stephen has arranged with Yseq.net to test for this individual SNP for \$18 + S&H which will be a cheap way to confirm descendency from James Sr. in the future.

Here is a summary of the reviews of lines of descent of the seven Y111 descendants of the Botetourt Neelys.

- 1. James Michael Neely – James Sr. through son James Jr.** *Records on James Jr and especially his son, Charles, are scarce after leaving Botetourt Co and maybe spending a few years in Burke Co, NC, primarily because after a quick stay in Maury Co, TN they settled in northern AL. They moved to Franklin Co, AL between 1816 and 1820 onto vacated Indian land. The very few records that were maintained during that period were evidently lost in a courthouse fire. While James Jr and sons were not in the 1820 US Census for AL, children of James Jr; Charles, Pallas and Samuel are listed in the AL census substitute of 1820/21 with Charles' household showing 9 males over 21, which might have included a 75 year old James Jr. I found only Pallas and Samuel in the 1830 census. Charles supposedly died about 1820 along with his father, but they are not listed in any of the Tusculumbia cemeteries. I have been unable to find other records normally available such as land, tax and militia records while Charles was there, perhaps because of the courthouse fire in 1890. We do have a record that Charles married Louisa Polk in 1808 in Maury Co, TN. I feel certain there had to be records for individual acquisition of the Indian lands there, but I have been unable to find them. It is possible they may have also been kept in the Bureau of Indian Affairs, but I did not pursue that search because it takes so long. Documentation for the rest of Mike's ancestors including Charles' son Rufus Polk checks out with plenty of documentation and I am convinced that his current line of descent is accurate. The scarcity of documentation from Rufus P. back through Charles and James Jr. is unfortunate, but there is enough circumstantial evidence in my opinion to prove that this is the only logical path back to James Sr. which we know is Mike's oldest known ancestor because he has the FT107341 SNP.*

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2. **Oric and Michael Leigh Neely– James Sr through son Robert b. ~1741**

*According to Charles J. Neely, the first son of Robert and Nancy Anne was Thomas L. Neely born 1795 in Botetourt Co and was the ancestor of Oric Neely. Even though Charles only listed 2 other sons, James and William, he suggested there may have been others. Jon Robb found records collected by his uncle and aunt, Merlyn and Joanne Johnson in the 1980's that show Robert Neely transferred ownership of a young slave to each of his sons, named William, Thomas L. and James Neely by gift of deeds in October, 1824 in Maury Co, TN. In addition, Robert had land transactions where he sold land to William, John and Eli between 1823 and 1830 witnessed by Thomas L. and James. Included was sale of 114.25A of land by Robert to John and Eli for \$800 on 3 Sept 1828. These transactions are summarized in a document named **Summary of Five Transfers from Robert Neely to his apparent sons 1824-1831** in the Appendix of 'Neely Origins' which is attached. Since Eli was the brother of John Henry, proven ancestor of Michael L. Neely buried in Oxford, MS, this is strong evidence that John and Eli are the youngest sons of Robert and Nancy Anne. Jon also found the obituary of Eli in Arkansas which provides information on some probable dates and ages for this family. The above evidence is bolstered by notes believed copied from a family Bible in Mike L's family that are held by his 2nd cousin Sam Neilson that state John Henry's parents were Major Robert Neely and Ann Haden. In addition, I found Henry F. Neely who is Mike L's great grandfather and son of John Henry in the 1850 and 1880 US Census which confirms the line of descent.*

3. **Gene Neely and James & John E. Ellis – James Sr. through son John**

Gene Neely's line of descent from John, son of James Sr was relatively easy to freshly document and I recently sent copies to Gene and Stephen. The line of descent for the descendants of John Ellis was done last year and details are shown in Addendum #1. The key to linking John Ellis b. 1772 to John, son of James Sr, was Stephen's observation that marker 460, which had mutated from 11 to 12 for the 3 Ellis participants, had also done the same for Gene (460=11->12), but not for James Michael (Mike). Since both Mike and Gene are descended from James Sr. through two of his sons, this mutation pattern essentially proves that John Neely (1748-1818) was the father of John Ellis (b. 1772). As Stephen succinctly explained:

- *Mike doesn't have the mutation, so it could not have been present in James Sr.*
- *Gene has the mutation, so it must have occurred first in a descendant of James Sr (along Gene's line of descent) .*
- *James Ellis has the mutation, so one of his ancestors must have been a descendant of James Sr.*

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Also, the TiP calculation between Gene and James Ellis shows the probability that they shared a common ancestor (John b. ~1748) in the last 8 generations at 95%, which would be expected. However, the TiP for a common ancestor between Gene and John E. Ellis is only 60%. James Ellis is one generation closer to John Neelly b.~1748, but I was surprised when reviewing the ‘Ellis DNA Comparisons’ Nancy sent me that showed 3 mutations occurred with an ancestor of John Edward Neely in the generation after James Ellis. These 3 mutations that occurred only apply to John Edward Ellis and make his STR results different and more distant than those of James Ellis or any of the Neelys descended from James Sr.

4. **John W. Neelley – “old John” through son Robert Sr. and grandson Andrew** *We know John W. is not a descendant of James Sr. for several reasons, including not having the FT107341 SNP and the two mutations for DYS 495 and DYS 693 that the descendants of James Sr have. The only other progenitor of the Botetourt Neelys we know of was “old John” and John W’s paper trail clearly goes back through Andrew, grandson of “old John” who is buried in Maury Co, TN.*

Major Conclusions

1. The recent Y700 tests have now proven that the husband of Nancy Anne Hayden was Robert Neelly b.~1741 in Botetourt Co, VA to James Sr. and Jane Grimes. He was apparently married first to Susannah by 1767 and married Nancy Anne Hayden in 1794.
2. We can find no evidence of Robert Jr b.~1766 having lived in Maury Co or other nearby counties in TN as stated by Grace Renshaw in ‘A Neely Narrative’. Also, no other early descendants of “old John” appear to have lived there except for Robert Jr’s brother, Andrew, from whom John W. is descended. What happened to them after they left Botetourt Co by 1806 is unknown and will depend on research by future Neely researchers.
3. Since Robert b. ~1766, grandson of “old John” did not marry Nancy Anne Hayden as supposed by Charles J. Neelly, the land transactions listed for this couple in Botetourt Co after 1794 belonged to Robert b.~1741.
4. We have established corrected documented paper trail lines of descent for all seven Y111 Botetourt descendants. The recent conflict from Y700 results indicating that John (1748-1818) may have been born to a close relation to James Sr. (Dr. John?) will hopefully be determined by Gene Neelly’s upcoming Y700 results.

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5. I thought “old John” b.~1702 may have come from the same family of Neelys living in the area around Glencull as Alan based on the unusually close 99.8% probability Y111 match in 8 generations between John W. and Alan Neely. However, John W’s recent Y700 results show he has a different haplogroup: R-BY17509 vs. Alan’s R-FT195801, so they are not from the same family.
6. John W’s haplogroup is R-BY17509 vs. R-FT107341 for all six tested descendants of James Sr. Therefore, “old John” and James Sr. are not as closely related as we first thought.

Alan S. Neely’s relationship to the Botetourt Neelys

Alan joined our Neely YDNA project in June of 2019. What is unusual is that he has well documented ancestry in Ireland back to John Neely (1755-1823). This is the first time in our project history that we have YDNA results from a known ancestor in Ireland this long ago that ties to Neelys in America. His extremely close Y111 relationship to John W. Neelley indicated to me that the Botetourt Neelys may have descended from this general family group that lived in the Glencull area, although their different haplogroups means they are not from the same family. Based on some of the records I have from Ireland and John Neilly’s 2007 notes, we surmised a possible line of descent several generations back from Alan’s ancestor, John Neely (1755-1823) in January 2020, but with little or no proof. In the last few months we have been fortunate to find several new records that document some of these links. These include land transactions and most recently, new records found in the Clogher Cathedral less than 10 miles from Glencull obtained from the Cathedral historian. This search is still underway, but the records already found there confirm several of our hypotheses that were based on circumstantial evidence. We have started to document our findings which might take a few weeks. This is most exciting and meaningful news that I wanted to let you know about because it also appears to shed light on the origins of the Botetourt Neelys. We will keep you informed.

Jim

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Corrected lines of descent for seven Y111 descendants of Botetourt Neelys

1 James Neely b: ~1715, Ireland; d: **1784-1789**, Virginia

- 2 **James Neely** b: ~1745, Virginia; d: 1821, Tennessee
- 3 Charles Rufus Neely b: 1787, Virginia; d: 1821, Alabama
- 4 Rufus Polk Neely b: 1808, Tennessee; d: 1901, Tennessee
- 5 James Jackson Neely b: 1847, Tennessee; d: 1926, Tennessee
- 6 Rufus Polk Neely b: 1878, Tennessee; d: 1927, Texas
- 7 James Saufley Neely b: 1914, Texas; d: 1985, Texas
- 8 James Charles Neely b: 1941, Texas; d: 2006, Texas
- 9 **754407 James Michael Neely** b: 1967, Texas

..... 2 **Robert Neelly** b~1741, Virginia; d:~1835 Maury Co, Tennessee

- 3 Thomas Lewis Neelly b: abt. 1795, Virginia; d: bet. 1850 and 1859, Arkansas
- 4 Thomas Lewis Neelly b: 1830, Tennessee; d: 1909, Missouri
- 5 Charles James Neelly b: 1866, Missouri; d: 1952, Kansas
- 6 **147168 Oric Charles Neelly** b: 1919, Kansas; d: 2014, Kansas
- 4 John Henry Neelly b: 1800, Virginia; d: 1851, Mississippi
- 5 Henry Franklin Neelly b: 1838, Mississippi; d: 1884, Mississippi
- 6 Edwin Clyde Neelly b: 1876, Mississippi; d: 1941, Mississippi
- 7 Edwin Clyde Neelly b: 1912, Mississippi; d: 1991, Mississippi
- 8 **N7324 Michael L Neelly**

..... 2 **John Neely** b: 1748, Virginia; d: 1818, Tennessee

- 3 James Neely b: 1783, Virginia; d: 1833, Tennessee
- 4 James A. Neely b: 1816, Tennessee; d: 1881, Tennessee
- 5 John Robert Neelly b: 1851, Tennessee; d: 1934, Tennessee
- 6 James Ogilvie Neelly b: 1884, Tennessee; d: 1959, Tennessee
- 7 James Ogilvie Neelly b: 1915, Tennessee; d: 1975, Tennessee
- 8 **754407 Clarence Gene Neelly** b: 1945, Tennessee
- 3 John E Ellis b: 1772, Virginia; d: 1844, Tennessee
- 4 William Neal Ellis b: 1808, Tennessee; d: 1852, Tennessee
- 5 **James Knox Polk Ellis** b: 1840, Tennessee d: 1906, Missouri
- 6 James Franklin Ellis b: 1865, Missouri; d: 1941, Missouri
- 7 Kerry Lee Ellis b: 1888, Missouri; d: 1955, Missouri
- 8 James Edward Ellis b: 1916, Missouri; d: 2008, Texas
- 9 **349410 James Edward Ellis** b: 1942, Texas
- 6 **George Finis Ellis** b: 1866, Missouri; d: 1932, Missouri
- 7 John Isaac Ellis b: 1906, Missouri; d: 1986, Missouri
- 8 **147382 John Edward Ellis** b: 1935, Missouri
- 7 Benjamin Franklin Ellis b: 1917, Missouri; d: 2007, Missouri
- 8 **142000 Benjamin Franklin Ellis** (37YDNA only)

1 John Neelly b. ~1702, Ireland; d:1778, Virginia

-2 Robert Neely Sr. b. ~1729, Ireland or PA?; d. 1780, Virginia
- 3 **Andrew Neelly** b: 1763, Virginia; d: 1839, Tennessee
- 4 John Clemens Neelley b: 1798, North Carolina; d: 1858, Tennessee
- 5 John Finis Neelley b: 1854, Tennessee; d: 1932, Tennessee
- 6 James Drake Neelley b: 1889, Pennsylvania; d: 1975, Tennessee
- 7 **208573 John William Neelley** b: 1930, Pennsylvania