

# THOMAS WATKINS \* (called "Jr.") & Sarah "Sally" WALTON

## and their children (65 pages)

(further descendants not included in this paper – see website [www.oursoutherncousins.com](http://www.oursoutherncousins.com) )

### First Generation

1. **THOMAS \* (called "Jr.") WATKINS** was born about 1738/1741 in Powhatan Co, VA. He died 1778 in Henrico County, Virginia.

Notes of Eugenia Richards: Thomas Watkins, Jr.

Assuming that Thomas Watkins, Jr. was around 21 when he married Sarah "Sally" Walton on February 6, 1762, he can be given a reasonable birth date of about 1740-41. According to information in "The Watkins Catalogue", Thomas was the fourth son of Thomas Watkins, Sr. (called "of Chickahominy") and his wife Frances Anderson, the daughter of Henry Anderson and Prudence Stratton. He had three brothers, Henry who lived in Prince Edward Co., VA, Francis who married Agnes Woodson and lived in Prince Edward Co., VA, and Joel who married Agnes Morton and lived in Charlotte Co., VA. Besides these brothers, Thomas had seven sisters, so he grew up in a large family. And they must have been a close family because when he died in 1778, Thomas called on two of his sisters' husbands, his father and his brother Francis to execute his will.

F.N. Watkins, author of "The Catalogue of the Descendants of Thomas Watkins of Chickahominy" wrote that this Thomas Watkins, Jr., grandson of Thomas Watkins of Swift Creek and son of Thomas Watkins of Chickahominy, lived on Swift Creek in Cumberland Co., VA in the part that in 1777 became Powhatan Co. As a consequence, he was at one time given the nickname "of Powhatan" although he apparently lived there only a short time and left the area long before the county name was changed. Thomas Jr. assuredly was born in Henrico Co., since his father, Thomas of Chickahominy, never lived anywhere else. Thomas Jr. died in Henrico Co. in 1778, leaving a will.

Henry Watkins, Thomas Jr.'s brother, married Temperance Hughes, Sally Walton's aunt, in the Hughes' home county of Cumberland on-----1760 and the couple moved to the Bush River area of Prince Edward Co to live. Sally and her guardian Uncle George Walton and his wife Martha Hughes Walton also lived in Prince Edward Co. Could it have been during a 1760 or '61 visit with his brother Henry in Prince Edward Co. that Thomas Watkins Jr. met young Miss Sally Walton, niece of Henry's wife Temperance? However the acquaintance came about, Sally and Thomas were married on February 6, 1762 in Prince Edward Co., VA with the consent of Sally's guardian, her uncle George Walton.

Apparently, Thomas and Sally did live in Cumberland Co. for a time after their marriage because there is a deed on page 921 in Henrico Co. Deed Book 1750-1774 dated May 6, 1765 whereby Waldegrave Clopton and Unity his wife of New Kent Co. sold to Thomas Watkins of Cumberland Co., 30 acres on the south side of Bottom's Bridge Road, adjacent to land formerly belonging to Thomas Bottom on the main run of Chickahominy Swamp and Richard Whitlock. The Thomas Watkins of Cumberland in this deed is confirmed as the Thomas Watkins who married Sally Walton because in the terms of his will, Thomas left land in the area to one of his sons saying it included land known as Clopton's. Thomas Bottoms was one of the witnesses of the will. There is a patent in Virginia Patent Book 36: 776: 1 for 134 acres in Henrico Co. on the south side of Chickahominy Swamp dated July 26, 1765, that date being just a few months after the Clopton purchase, making it likely that Thomas and Sally moved their family into Henrico around that time. A move to Henrico from Cumberland Co. in 1765, three years after their marriage, would make it likely that the first two of Thomas and Sally Watkins' children, Robert and Thomas, were born in Cumberland and that all the rest, Claiborne, George, Anderson, Mary Hughes and Isaac, were born in Henrico Co.

Examination of the Joshua Fry/Peter Jefferson 1751 map of Virginia reveals a bridge called Bottom's Bridge over the Chickahominy River just above White Oak Swamp. Today, there is no longer an actual Bottom's Bridge but the location was where Highway 60 crosses the Chickahominy River from Henrico Co. into New Kent Co. The bridge was used and named in military operation reports in the Revolution and in the Civil War. Douglas Southall Freeman's work on R.E. Lee contains very interesting sketches of Henrico Co., VA battlegrounds including Chickahominy Swamp (River), White Oak Swamp (a stream) and Bottom's Bridge as well as other landmarks. One researcher has commented that the term "swamp" in those times did not mean what it does today. It meant a kind of grassy land with streams, which made good pasture for cattle. It is said that this area of Henrico Co. where three streams - Cornelius Creek, Four Mile Creek and White Oak Swamp- have their sources not far from one another came to be known as the "South Side of Chickahominy Swamp".

In the description of the land to go to son Anderson in Thomas Watkins' will, not only is found the name "Clopton's" but

also a mention of a boundary line called "Ann Gathright's line near the deep bottom" (creek). The Gathright family were neighbors of Sally and Thomas Watkins; in fact, widow Ann Gathright's son William Gathright signed as a witness to Thomas' will. The same William Gathright ran an advertisement in the Virginia Gazette, Williamsburg in April 19, 1770 in which he said he lived near Bottom's Bridge, 15 miles below Richmond Town. Deep Bottom Creek today runs into the James River at a place called Deep Bottom Park but the head of the creek lies further to the north in the county. In the attempt to locate Thomas and Sally Watkins' land in Henrico Co., VA, hints from deed records found on the Internet have been of value. In 1779, a year after Thomas' death, there was a sale of two different pieces of land in the area of the Watkins' home and the described boundary lines in the deed include the Watkins name: "One acre of land on Boar Swamp adjoining the head of the mill pond of the late Thomas Watkins, Jr." and "Five acres of land on Boar Swamp next to the estate of Thomas Watkins."

Boar Swamp (creek) does not appear on any available map but a church named for the swamp was located on the extension of "Nine Mile Road" which ran from Richmond towards the Chickahominy following the route of the Williamsburg Road just north of it. Since the Williamsburg Road is Highway 60, which crosses the Chickahominy at the old location of Bottom's Bridge, Boar Swamp must be in the same general area as the Watkins' land bought in 1765. The man who bought the land adjoining the Thomas Watkins' estate was Joshua Morris who married Sally Watkins as her second husband.

Thomas Watkins Jr. must have been a farmer but he also had a mill, according to the information in the deed record of 1779. When he died, he left land in Hanover to his three oldest sons Robert, Thomas and Claiborne, land in Charlotte to his fourth son George, and the home farm to be divided between the two younger sons Anderson and Isaac, with his wife having life estate on that part which was to go to the youngest who was no more than one or two years old. He left no land to his daughter Mary Hughes. Instead, he left her money, which was to be raised from the sale of stock and cattle and invested for her until she came of age or married. Each of the children and wife Sally were left slaves by the terms of the will.

In the Watkins "Catalogue", Thomas is said, and correctly so, to have died during the Revolution. That is all that is proven about his death except for the fact that he died in Henrico Co. and left a will dated April 7, 1778 with an added codicil dated April ?, 1778 (day unreadable because of damage to the will book). The will was presented, proved and ordered to be recorded at the Henrico Co. July Court of 1778 so Thomas died between April and July of 1778. The Inventory was not made until November of 1781 and recorded in December. Thomas Watkins, Jr.'s will was re-recorded on Jun 4th, 1787 with this note "At a Court held for Henrico County at the Courthouse on Monday the fourth of June 1787. This attested Copy of the last Will and Testament of Thomas Watkins Junior dec'd (the Record and original of which having been destroyed by the enemy) was presented unto Court and together with the Certificate thereon endorsed, are ordered to be recorded." The "enemy" meant the British forces during the Revolution, a good many of whom, by the way, marched over the Chickahominy on Bottom's Bridge as did a good many of the American troops! The prime reason for re-presenting and re-recording Thomas' will was an 1787 case in Chancery Court brought by Sally Walton Watkins Morris and her second husband Joshua Morris and the six younger Watkins children versus the oldest son, Robert Watkins, asking him to agree to divide the lands in Hanover and to agree to sell some lots in Richmond City, all of which was agreed to. The disposition of the Thomas Watkins Jr. land in the Bottom's Bridge, Boar Swamp, Deep Bottom area of Henrico Co. is not known at this time nor is that of any land of his in Cumberland Co. (later Powhatan).

Quote: "Thomas Watkins was born ABT 1738 in Powhatan County, Virginia, and died 1778 in Revolutionary War killed by Indians who were allies of the British.. He was the son of Thomas "Chickahominy" Watkins and Frances Anderson. He married Sally Walton, 8 FEB 1762, in Prince Edward County, Virginia, daughter of Robert Walton II and Mary Hughes. She was born 8 OCT 1745 in Swift Creek, Powhatan Co, Virginia, and died 20 NOV 1805."

Note from VSM: I have seen other references that he was killed in a "mill accident".

"Historical Collections of the Georgia D.A.R." "Thomas Watkins, Jr. of Powhatan Co., VA removed to Georgia and married Sally WALTON, sister of George (the Signer)."

Actually, Thomas never removed to Georgia. After his death, Sallie married Mr. Morris in Virginia.

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"A CATALOGUE of the Descendants of THOMAS WATKINS of Chickahominy, VA. Who was the Common Ancestor of Many of the Families of the Name in Prince Edward, Charlotte, and Chesterfield Counties, VA.", by Francis N. Watkins, (Written 1852) Prince Edward County, VA." 1899 Atlas Printing Company, Henderson, SC.

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"IV. THOMAS WATKINS, JR. was the youngest son of Thomas of Chickahominy, and may have been younger than

some of his sisters. None of his descendants reside in Virginia, and I have but a few scraps of his history. He married previous to 1763, and died before his father, who died in 1783. I have not been able to gratify my curiosity in ascertaining who he married, except that her Christian name was "SALLY" and that she married again to a Mr. MORRIS, and removed to Kentucky; from this second marriage sprang Mr. John MORRIS, Mrs. Betsy Craig, and perhaps others. Thomas Watkins, Jr. lived on Swift Creek, in Powhatan, then Cumberland. I infer, from facts exhibited by old papers that he met with misfortune and left little or no patrimony to his children. Their father's family, and particularly their uncle Francis, were kind to them, in aiding them in obtaining an education; and I find among the papers filed by my grandfather, letters from several of the gentlemen of this family (all of whom emigrated to the South and West) very creditable to the hearts and heads of the writers, full of expressions of their grateful remembrance of him. Some of these letters show that they were men of undoubted genius and well cultivated minds, and the public and private history of the numerous descendants of Thomas Watkins, Jr., give evidence of great energy, industry, integrity and talents. As a legislator of Georgia, ROBERT WATKINS (a son) was distinguished for an act of representative fidelity and integrity, which made his name honored wherever it was known. GEORGE C. WATKINS, a grandson of Thomas, has filled or now occupies the office of Attorney General of Arkansas, and is regarded as one of the most learned and able lawyers of the State. Those of the name, who in my opinion, feel a laudable curiosity with regard to their kindred and connection, and we give not undue credence to the doctrine of the descent of moral, intellectual, and physical qualities, will regret with me that we know so little of the wife of Thomas, and the mother of his children. The tradition is "that she was a remarkable woman." Her descendants inherited possibly from her, that energy and marked character which has crowned their efforts with no little success in life."

P.S. Her second husband's name was Joshua MORRIS of Kentucky. The children of the last marriage were John MORRIS, of Illinois, and Mrs. Betsey CRAIG, of Kentucky."

From Steven Wright:

"I found the following in a biographical sketch of General Lachlen McIntosh, concerning the Revolutionary War. It may help in understanding at least part of the circumstances in the death of Thomas Watkins in Georgia, in 1778.

"Late in 1778, the British sent an expedition from New York to the south in order to capture Savannah and destroy the American cause in Georgia. Two days before Christmas, the British appeared before Savannah. The American forces were composed of Continental soldiers and untrained militia under General Robert Howe. When the British attacked, the militia fled and the Continentals were forced to retreat. Savannah was captured."

The following year Savannah was retaken which Gen. McIntosh played a part."

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Thomas received the following in his grandfather Thomas Watkins' will (1760)

Item: I give unto my grandson Thomas Watkins, son of my aforesaid son Thomas Watkins one Negro girl called Sarah to him and his heirs forever.

#### THOMAS WATKINS' WILL:

A Chancery Bill says about Thos. Watkins' will (notes of E. Richards):

"He made and duly published his last Will and Testament in writing, bearing date the seventh day of April in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy-eight, after which without having altered or revoked the same, he departed this life, and the said will was after his decease proved and recorded in the Court of Henrico county, by which will by an attested office copy thereof hereunto annexed and referred to as part of this Bill, he devised the said Tract of Land ".....etc. But, what a shame, no will is annexed.

Thomas Watkins Will was destroyed during Rev, e-recorded 1787. Henrico CO, VA. Bottom of will burned away. In it Thomas named wife Sarah, sons Robert Watkins, Thomas Watkins, Claiborne Watkins, George Watkins, (this name was burned away....)\_\_\_\_, Isaac Watkins, dau Mary Hughes Watkins. His father Thomas Watkins, brother Francis Watkins and his friends Smith Blakey and Stephen Pankey were ex. Wit: Wm. Garthright, Thomas Bottoms, Susannah Truman, Reuben Sneed, Jacob Carter, Jacob Childress.

(Smith Blakey is husband of his sister Nancy Watkins; Stephen Pankey is husband of sister Mary.)  
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Notes of E. Richards: There is a piece of paper telling that Henry Watkins, Prince Edward Co. was appointed guardian for Anderson Watkins and also a piece of paper telling that Joel Watkins, Charlotte Co., was appointed guardian of George Watkins and Claiborne Watkins in 1779 are also included in the packet. I really don't know what that means - whether it means the boys actually lived with these uncles or not. I know the papers must have been included in the packet because these heirs were still underage at the time of the case and had to have a guardian to represent them. Isaac and Mary Hughes must have had their mother for their guardian, I guess. My figuring is that Robert, being the eldest child, was born about one year after Thos. and Sally's marriage which would make his bd 1763 and he would be 24 about at the time of the case. There is no guardian paper for Thomas and since he was the second child, I would put his bd at 1865 so he would be 22 at the time of the case. It may have been Thomas, by the way, who was so anxious to have the Hanover property divided so he could sell his share and have something to go on in GA!! My speculation continues with a bd for Claiborne in 1767 which would make him 20 and underage at the time of the case and so on down the line. The bill says that most of the Watkins heirs (the children) were underage.

THOMAS married **Sarah "Sally" (sister of signer) \* WALTON**, daughter of Robert (II) \* WALTON and Mary HUGHES \*, on 8 Feb 1762 in Prince Edward County, Virginia. Sarah was born 1746 in Swift Creek, Goochland/Cumberland County, VA. She died 20 Nov 1805 in Kentucky.

Notes of Eugenia Richards:

Sarah "Sally" Walton, wife of Thomas Watkins Jr.

Sarah "Sally" was the daughter of Robert Walton (son of Robert Walton and Frances Sherwood) and Mary Hughes (daughter of Robert Hughes and his wife Martha Morton). The couple lived south of the James River in what was then Goochland until 1748-49 when it became Cumberland. Robert was a surveyor and, apparently, an investor in land. He made his will on February 27, 1746 but was still alive on Sept. 5, 1749 when he wrote a codicil. In the Feb. 1746 will, he named two sons, John and Robert in that order, and spoke of another child his wife was expecting. In the September, 1749 codicil, he named his children John, Robert and Sarah and again spoke of a child his wife was expecting. From these two documents, it is known that Sarah, called Sally, was born in 1746 and that the last child, who was named George, was born late in 1749 or early in 1750. So, fortunately, we can have a fairly certain birth year for Sarah "Sally" Walton of 1746 and a birth place of Goochland Co., VA although that area became a part of Cumberland Co. before Sally was three years old.

Sally was about four years old when her new baby brother George was born and when her father died. There has been no written proof found as to the exact date of the Walton children's births nor of their father's death but he was dead by June of 1750 when his will was proved and recorded. The four children apparently continued in the care of their mother on the home place, even after she married her second husband John Winfrey on April 37, 1752. However, in 1757, entries in Cumberland Co. Order Book # 2 record the appointment of Tucker Woodson (the children's uncle) as guardian to John Walton, orphan of Robert Walton dec'd, of Robert Hughes (the children's uncle) as guardian to Robert Walton, orphan of Robert Walton dec'd, and of George Walton (the children's uncle) as guardian to Sally Walton and George Walton, orphans of Robert Walton, dec'd.

It is fairly obvious that the children's mother had died by May of 1757 when these appointments were made. From that date through several years, lengthy Guardianship Reports can be read in Cumberland Co. Will Book 1. From these reports, one can see that the children were well clothed, educated and well cared for.

Sally and her younger brother George apparently moved from Cumberland Co. to live with their Uncle George and Aunt Martha Walton when their mother died. There are deed records which show Uncle George as living in Lunenburg Co., in Charlotte Co., and in Prince Edward Co. at various times. When Sarah "Sally" Walton was married to Thomas Watkins Jr. on Feb. 6, 1762 in Prince Edward Co., her uncle George Walton gave his permission as guardian to the marriage since she was minor.

When Robert Walton, Sally's father, wrote his original will, he left land and slaves to both of his sons named in the will stipulating that if the child his wife was then expecting should live, that the son Robert was to share his slaves with the new child.

When the codicil was written, that stipulation was not changed and a further grant of slaves (my two new slaves) and a sum of L 200 current money was left to be shared between Sally and the expected new child (little George) when they married or came of age. Besides these specific bequests, Sally was to share with her brothers in whatever lands were left in the hands of the executors. In June of 1764, Sally and her husband Thomas Watkins, Jr. filed suit in Chancery Court, Cumberland Co. against Uncle George Walton and Tucker Woodson, the two executors of the estate of Robert Walton, dec'd. The Bill of Complaint and the Answer made by George Walton make it plain that Sally and Thomas wanted the estate to turn over Sally's share of the money and her share of the slaves while executor George Walton wanted to wait, seemingly until the youngest child was older. The case was continued over and over again until finally, in Feb. of 1769, it was dismissed by consent of the parties. No explanation of what kind of arrangements were made to achieve the consent is included in the suit.

As written in the Thomas Watkins, Jr. portion of the narrative above, Sally and Thomas appear to have lived in Cumberland (Powhatan area) for a few years after they married and then moved into the Bottom's Bridge, south side of

the Chickahominy River area of Henrico Co. Their first two children Robert the oldest son and Thomas were probably born in Cumberland while the other children were born in Henrico. Sally was a young 15 or 16 year old when she and Thomas married and when he died, she was only 31 or 32. Thirty-two years old, a widow with seven children, the oldest no more than 15 and Isaac, the youngest, was a one year old. In 1772, Sally's brothers began a process to divide the lands still left in the hands of the executors and to settle up their father's estate. Sally was named in each of the brother's documents as a party to share the estate. It is to be hoped that the monies accrued from the settlement gave the Watkins family something to fall back on when Thomas' tragic death occurred.

Sometime around 1779, Sally married her second husband, Joshua Morris, the pastor of the Boar Swamp Church. The narrative on Thomas above details land purchases made by Joshua Morris of land adjoining the Watkins estate. The deeds were dated 1779 but whether Joshua had married Sally before or after the land purchases is not known. Joshua Morris and his wife Sally had four children, the two youngest dying as babies. The two children who lived to adulthood were John H. Morris b 1780 who married Delia Hogland and Elizabeth Morris b 1782 who married Benjamin Craig, Jr. (from the Morris family's own research)

In March of 1787, a suit was brought in the Chancery Court of Henrico Co., VA by Joshua Morris and his wife Sarah and Thomas, Claiborne, George, Anderson, Mary Hughes and Isaac Watkins against the Watkins children's oldest brother Robert to have the property in Hanover Co., VA that was bequeathed to Robert, Thomas and Claiborne in their father's will, be divided between the three sons and, secondly, to have three lots in Richmond City that were in the estate be divided between all the children and their mother. The terms of the will stated that the Hanover property was to be divided when Robert came of age. Since Sarah and Thomas Watkins were married in February of 1762, the oldest child Robert can be given a birth date of 1763-4. Using that date, Robert was between 23 and 24 at the time, so the division in 1787 would be permissible. The will also allowed for all property not allotted elsewhere to be divided equally between all the children and the widow. The answer to the bill by the plaintiff agreed to the division of both pieces of property. The Chancery Suit papers contain drawings of the way the both parcels of property were divided.

The Thomas Watkins Jr. will is different from some wills written in VA in the time period in that his wife was given property for her lifetime and after her death, it was to be given to a certain child. Often, wills were written saying the wife was loaned the property for her natural life or widowhood, meaning that if she married again, the property would go at the time of her marriage to the child or children designated. Since this was not true in Thomas' will, Sally had full possession of her part of the land as long as she lived despite her second marriage. According to some excellent research by the Morris Family available on the Internet and historical information on Richmond's First Baptist Church, Joshua Morris met with a group of Christian believers in Richmond City, VA in June of 1780 and the group organized the Richmond Baptist Church with Rev. Morris as their pastor. He bought a one-half acre of land in Richmond in 1783 and appeared on the Tax Rolls in 1786. The Morris family must have been living in Richmond City but just what happened to the Bottom's Bridge property out in the country is unknown at this point. Joshua Morris continued as pastor of the Richmond church until about 1786 according to the church history. The Chancery Court suit brought by the Rev. Morris, his wife and her Watkins children against the oldest Watkins son Robert was begun in Feb. of 1787 and concluded in June of 1787 at which time Thomas Watkins Jr.'s will was re-recorded, clearing the way for property to be sold. The Morris research has found that Joshua Morris sold some land on Shockoe Hill in Sept. of 1787 and the property bequeathed to his present wife by her first husband in Dec. of 1787.

The Morris research also has established that Joshua Morris and his wife moved to Kentucky in 1788. Their two children, John H. and Elizabeth Morris moved with them as did the two youngest Watkins children, Mary Hughes and Isaac Watkins. Mary Hughes Watkins married Lewis Nuckols on March 11, 1790 in Jefferson Co., KY and Isaac Watkins married Paulina Thurston on Aug. 10, 1803. Paulina died in 1805 and Isaac married second Maria Toncray. Joshua Morris lived in Franklin, Jefferson and Shelby Counties in KY and in 1798, moved to Carroll Co., which was then part of Gallatin Co. In about 1801 he moved to Nelson Co., KY. He preached and helped to organize churches in all these areas. Sally Walton Watkins Morris died on Nov. 20, 1805 according to several researchers and was buried at her son-in-law Benjamin Craig Jr's farm in Carroll Co., KY that had been originally the Joshua Morris farm. All the graves in the cemetery were moved to another location and only her footstone with the initials SM remains.

Sally was born after her fathers first will was written. Record of Will in a will book, page 13, states that the will was dated February 1746, with a "?". The will was probated 26 June 1750. Sarah was mentioned in the Codicil proved by oath of witnesses 23 May 1757. If the 1746 date is correct, then Sarah was born October 1746.

Cumberland County Court Order Book (No. 2) 1752-58

469 George Walton appointed guardian to Sally Walton and George Walton, infants/orphans of Robert Walton, deceased.

The actual marriage license for Sally Walton and Thomas Watkins is in Prince Edward Co., VA, Feb. 8, 1762

"1762 6 Feb Watkins, Thomas to Walton, Sally"; George Walton (consents), G(uardian) of the Bride

"Historical Collection of the Georgia D.A.R." page 330

"SALLY WALTON, born A.D. 1745. Married (1st) to Thomas Watkins of Powhatan, VA and after his death, which occurred during the Revolution, he being killed by Indian Allies of the British\*, she married Joshua Morris of Kentucky; having children by both marriages. The two children by (2) marriage: John Morris who settled in Illinois; and Elizabeth who married Benjamin Craig of Kentucky."

\*(this fact has never been proven, and is not accepted by the DAR).

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Source: "Georgia's Signers And The Declaration of Independence" by Dr. Edwin C. Bridges (GA Dept of Archives & History); Dr. Harvey H. Jackson (Asso Prof of History & Chairman Div. Social Sciences, Clayton Junior College); Kenneth H. Thomas (Historian for Historic Preservation Sec GA Dept of Natural Resources); and Dr. James H. Young (C. Howard Candler Prof of Am. Social History-Emory Univ.).

"SALLY WALTON, sister of the signer, born in 1745, married 1) c. 1763 Thomas WATKINS, Jr., of Powhatan, Virginia, who was killed in the Revolution \* and 2) Joshua MORRIS of Kentucky, children by both. Her descendants have included sons Robert and George WATKINS, who edited the laws of Georgia in Watkins Digest (1800), which was the first such compilation of Georgia law; Miss Nell Harper, Mr. John C. Harper; J. Walker Harper, attorney, Ann Harper (Mrs. Thomas) Blanchard, all of Augusta; Mary Harper (Mrs. Andrew B.) Speed of Columbus, Georgia; and Marie C. Robertson (Mrs. Albert) Speiss of Opelousas, Louisiana. The last named is currently researching this line."

"The late R. C. Ballard Thruston (d. 1946) of Louisville, Kentucky, researched the Walton family in the 1920's and his papers are with the Filson Club of Louisville. Miss Nell Harper of Augusta has much of his correspondence with her family.

"Caldwell Delaney of the City of Mobile Museum Department is continuing research on Madame Octavia LeVert, who lived in that city for over thirty years.

"Edwin C. Bridges of Atlanta wrote his dissertation in history for the University of Chicago entitled "George Walton: A Political Biography." The first definitive biography of the signer, it is the basis for the abbreviated version that appears in this volume.

"Mary W. Meadows has compiled "From Virginia, New England, Saint Dominique, West Indies...the Genealogy of the Families Formon-Boisclair, Walker, Beers, Lacy (1980), which includes the Walker and Walton families."

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From the research of Eugenia Richards:

#### WATKINS VS WALTON'S EXECUTORS - Suit in Chancery - The Subpoena

George the Third, by the Grace of God, of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, etc. To the Sheriff of Cumberland County, Greeting. We command you to summon GEORGE WALTON and TUCKER WOODSON executors of ROBERT WALTON, dec. to appear before our Justices of our said County, at the Court-House, on the fourth Monday in September next to answer a bill in chancery exhibited against them by THOMAS WATKINS and SARAH, his wife; and this they shall in no wise omit under the penalty of 100 (pounds) each. Witness Thompson Swann, clerk of said Court at the said Court House the "any" day of Augusta in the third year of our Reign. (signed) Thompson Swann.

(The following statement written on the subpoena above)

Watkins vs. Walton's. Executed the 22nd day of August 1763 upon George Walton, and the within named Tucker Woodson and Rbt. Walton are not inhabitants within my bailiwick. September 15th 1763, Jos. Carrington. Sept 17 1763, March 1764:

Watkins vs Walton executors - BILL in Chancery Court

To the worshipful court of Cumberland County sitting in chancery:

Humbly complaining show unto your worships your Orator & Oratrix THOMAS WATKINS and SARAH his wife, which said Sarah is daughter and one of the devisees under the will of ROBERT WALTON late of the said county of Cumberland, dec'd. That the said Robt. Walton the father being seized and possessed of a considerable real and personal estate duly made \_\_\_\_\_ his last will and testament in writing bearing date the 27th day of February in the year of our lord 1747, thereby he bequeathed to his son Robert, your oratrix brother, three negroes to wit Charles, Phillis, and Peter, the said Phillis's child and her future increase with this proviso, that if his wife MARY your oratrix mother should be then with child, that the said Negroes should be equally divided between his said son Robert and such child when the youngest (your oratrix) should come of age, that his said wife was then with child with your oratrix who was born on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_ next \_\_\_\_\_. The said 27th day of February, and the said testator further declares that his wife should have the work and labour of the said Negroes for and towards maintaining and schooling his children til they should come of age, and the said testator willed all the rest of his goods and chattels not before disposed of to be divided between his said wife, his son Robert and your oratrix and your orators further shew that some time after the birth of your oratrix (her mother being again with child) the said testator on or about the 5th day of September in the year of our lord 1749 made a codicil or appendage to his said will and thereby bequeathed to your oratrix and her brother GEORGE WALTON with whom their mother was then pregnant, his two new Negroes, then lately purchased, to be equally divided between them when they should come of age, also the sum of two hundred pounds current money to be equally divided between them when they should come of age or be married and after appointing Tucker Woodson and George Walton executors of his said will he gives to his two executors above named power and authority to sell and convey any of his lands not before (torn area) towards raising money to pay his debts and legacies and towards (torn area) the rest, and lastly he directed that all his lands which his executors should think proper to keep should be equally divided amongst all his children as by the said will with the codicil annexed remaining of record in his worshipful court reference thereto being had may more at large appear. That soon after the making and publishing the said codicil, to wit on or about the day of \_\_\_\_\_ in the year of our lord \_\_\_\_ the said Robert Walton died, and soon after, to wit on or about the day of \_\_\_\_ in the year of our lord \_\_\_\_ the said Tucker Woodson and George Walton (the executors named in the said will, duly proved the same in this worshipful court, and took upon themselves the burthen and executor on thereof and by virtue thereof so possessed themselves of all the said testators real and personal estate of the amount of \_\_\_\_\_ and upwards. That the Negroes to be divided between your oratrix and her brother Robert Walton have increased to the number of \_\_\_\_\_ and those to be divided between her and her brother through George Walton have increased to the number of \_\_\_\_\_. That your oratrix's mother departed this life on or about the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ after whose death your oratrix was entitled to her proportionable part of the hire of the said slaves, also to one third part of the residue of the testators personal estate amount to the sum of \_\_\_\_\_ and that about the month of \_\_\_\_\_ and 176\_ your oratrix chose the said George Walton he(r) guardian. That sometime in month of \_\_\_\_ in the year of our lord 176\_ your oratrix intermarried with your orator, who makes upon such intermarriage became entitled in right of his wife to all the Slaves and personal estate bequeathed as to her by the said testator. Also to her proportional part of the land directed by the said testator to be divided amongst all his children, and your orators further show unto your worships that they have often applied to the said executors in a friendly manner and requested them to pay to your orators the legacy of one hundred pounds directed by the said testator to be raised from the sale of his land also their proportional share of the hire of the Negroes and residue of personal estate, well hoping they would be complied with such reasonable request, seeing it is now upwards of fourteen years since the decease of the said testator. BUT NOW SO IT IS may it please your worships, that the said executors combining and confederating with divers other persons to your orators at present unknown whose names when discovered they pray may be made parties hereto with apt words to charge them contriving how to defraud your orator and oratrix to defeat your oratrix of the benefit intended her by the said bequest and devise in the said will, the said executors refuse to render them any account of the hire of the said Negroes and residue of the personal estate, or to pay them any part of the legacy of one hundred pounds, sometimes pretending and giving out speeches that they have advanced large sums of money for the said testators estate, which is not yet paid them, and at other times pretending it is a matter of great difficulty to dispose of back lands for money. All which actings and doings of the said executors and their confederates are contrary to equity and good conscience, and tend greatly to the injury and oppression of your orators. In tender consideration thereof, and for as much as matters of this sort are more properly cognizable before your worships in a court of equity where frauds and impositions are set aside and justice duly attained...TO THE END therefore that the said executors and their confederates when discovered may upon their several and respective corporal oaths full true and perfect answers make according to the best of their knowledge information and belief to all and singular the premises herein before set forth as fully as if the same were here again repeated and particularly interrogated to be answered unto and more especially that the said executors may as forth and discover whether or not the said ROBT. WALTON your oratrix's father did make and publish such last will before mentioned bearing the date the 27th day of February 1747? was not your oratrix's mother then with child with your oratrix and was not she born on or about the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_ next enquiry or at what time was she born? Did not the said testator, your oratrix father make and publish such or any other and what codicil or appendage and annex the same to his said will, and did not the said ROBERT WALTON the testator soon after and at what time, depart this life, and

was not the said codicil together with the said will admitted to records in this worshipful court and probate thereof granted to the said GEROGE WALTON and TUCKER WOODSON? Did not they take upon themselves the burthen and execution thereof, and by virtue thereof possess themselves of the testator's real and personal estate; what was the amount of the same, and of what did it consist? Have not the Negroes directed by the said will and codicil to be divided between your oratrix and her brothers Robert and George Walton increased to the number of \_\_\_\_ or how many of such Negroes are now alive? Did not your oratrix's mother on or about the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ depart this life, and did not your oratrix on the \_\_\_\_ day of 176\_ choose the said George Walton to be her guardian? Did not your own and oratrix about the \_ day of 176\_ intermarry or at what other time? Have not your orator and oratrix applied to the said executors in a friendly manner requested them to render to your orator and oratrix a just and true account of the residue of the said personal estate, and the hire of the said Negroes, and to pay them their part of the same together with the legacy of one hundred pounds? Did not the said executors refuse said request, and for what reason? Did not the said testator empower his said executors to sell as much of his lands not specifically devised, and should be sufficient to pay his debts and legacies, and (torn area) remainder of his lands to be equally divided amongst all his children, are any and what part of the lands sold for the purposes above mentioned; to whom and for how much money were the same sold and how much land remains to be divided amongst the testators said children, and where does the same lie? And that the said executors may account with your orators for your oratrix' legacy aforesaid, and her part of her dec'd father's personal estate & pay your orators the sum due on such account with in interest either by sale of lands or otherwise, that your oratrix's part of the slaves above mentioned and their increase be set apart and delivered to your orators and that they may have an account of the profits by the labour of the said slaves since the death of your oratrix's said mother, and be paid the same with interest, and that your orators may have all such further and other relief as their case may require etc agreeable to the rules of equity. May it please your worships to grant to your orators and it please your worships to grant to your orators his majesty's most gracious writ or writs of subpoena to be directed to the said executors and also to the said ROBT. And GEORGE WALTON your oratrix's brothers commanding etc.

(The following statements are written on the back of the Bill above.)

WATKINS et ux (wife) vs. WALTON'S exors. etc. Bill

Copy Bill; June 1764 time to answer, July cont; Sept first time; Oct cont; February 1765 Walton's answer filed, time; Oct. (unreadable) ; July 1766 cont.; Aug cont; Sept cont; 1767 Feb cont; March cont; May cont; June cont; Aug set for hearing; 1768 March cont; Aug cont; 1769 Feb dismissed.

Answer to Bill - in three parts

The defendant GEORGE WALTON for himself, so far as appears to him he is obliged to answer saith that he believes so far as to the publishing and declaring of the said will and codicil together with the Estate etc as also the said Sarah mentioned in the plaintiff's Bill to be the person mentioned or intended and that this deponent was guardian to her both by appointment and choice and that the said marriage was entered into and that they the said plaintiffs have a right to claim under the said will etc. To which the deponent refers to the judgment of your worshipful court. As to the personal estate mentioned in the Plaintiff's Bill, it was in care of Mr. Woodson, the other executor, appraised and left in care of Mary the mother of the said Sarah during her life agreeable to the said will, after which it was in the hands of Mr. JOHN WYNFRY who had intermarried with the said Mary which personal estate was at her death so worn and gone to decay that it was agreed upon to settle the same with said Wynfry according to the amount of the said appraisement which was as the deponent believes to the amount of L 29.13.3 and no more; 1/3 of which appeared to be the property of the said Wynfry, the residue of which property of the said Sarah and her brother Robert which this deponent believes was L.9.17.9 each, except a parcel of cattle at the Mayo River which this deponent sold to he highest bidder for the sum of L 13.3.1 and no more; which in said settlement with said WNYFRY, the said Wynfry acquitted his right and the same then this deponent did believe was to be equally divided between the said Robert and Sarah amounting to L 6.11. 6 ½ each and no more; all which money was applied to the Settlement, partly in the hands of the said Wynfry for money he had advanced etc. for the said Robert's debts etc and partly on this deponents own lands was applied the same way which has been settled in the several accounts current, so far as relates to this deponent as the records of this Worshipful court will show and this deponent saith that any time before this suit was brought, he never had money sufficient in his hands to remit the said L 9.17.9. and L 6.11.6 ½ over and above his other engagements for and in behalf of the said estate or any part thereof but that this deponent many times has offered the Plaintiff Thomas bonds for money for which lands were sold sufficient to satisfy the sums which the said Thomas did absolutely refuse and as to the hire of the said slaves mentioned in the plaintiffs bill \*\*\* this deponent refers first to the several orphans accounts rendered by this deponent for the said Sarah to your worshipful Court as also sundrys had and advanced for the benefit of the said Sarah towards her clothing etc and the one moiety of which has been expended in raising young Negroes and this deponent denies that at the time of bringing this suit he was any ways indebted to her on that account for anything he had received the said Sarah was in his debt, that at this time there is a balance as by the account recorded with this answer will show, as also certain bonds etc now in this deponent's possession of the said hire, Viz: John Fulton, George Anderson for W..? L 5



disputable, Edward Self etc. L 4.10, John Pamplet L 0..13 due Dec. next, Robert Henry L.13.10, Henry Watkins L 4..0..8, William Brown L 20..0..4, Theod. Carter L21..12, John Brown L 28.18, William Jeter L ? and the plaintiff Thomas L 6..0 all due Dec next come two years, the one half of each bond this deponent hath understood to be the property of the said Sarah the determination of which by the said Will this deponent desires to leave to better Judges seeing she is raised and schooled agreeable to the said Will, that this deponent believes one of the said new Negroes mentioned in said Will and Plaintiff's Bill did die at or about the time of the death of the Testator and that the other New Negro has increased to the number of 4: Viz. 1 boy and three girls and that the wench Philis has increased to the number of 4: Viz. 3 boys and 1 girl, all which this deponent believes is now alive, all which said slaves (then born) this deponent saith he desired the Plaintiff Thomas to take into his possession and care soon after his marriage with the said Sarah and to account for the moiety of their profits for the said Robert and the said Sarah's brother George which the said Thomas refused and further the deponent saith that he always has been ready and willing to surrender up any money or bonds as far as appeared to be the said Sarah's part of the hire of said slaves which the said Thomas always refused to take; that this deponent is now ready and willing to do the same after a reasonable allowance, as reasonable men shall adjudge for the Board of the said Sarah for about 4 years and nine months, and for his own trouble as her Guardian in raising young Negroes, hiring, collecting, attending Orphan Courts etc for about 7 years and 7 months, as also all further charges and trouble this deponent shall be at with said slaves supposing the said slaves shall live till the bonds become due provided the lawful heirs of Mary the mother of the said Sarah don't come in for the balance of the said hire, so that this deponent shall and may be safe in paying the same; and as to the matter of the lands, debts, legacys etc this deponent purely for the benefit of the said orphans of the said Robert has advanced large sums of money to pay the debts of the Testator & securing what of the lands he could had not at the time of bringing this suit received money sufficient to save himself harmless for his said money advanced and to answer his other engagements for said Estate as also to prosecute and defend Certain suits in behalf of the said estate. Neither did it ever appear to this deponent that it ever lay in his power to sell the lands mentioned in the said Will at an equitable advantage for the said estate, occasioned this deponent believes by the Indian War and as it appears to this deponent the said lands were left at the sole discretion of the said executors, that he never looked upon it that they could be compelled to sell the said lands so unjust a manner for the other children, at least not till they both to whom the legacys were given should come of age, then the Money was to be equally divided & this deponent always understood by the said Will that a decree could not pass to sell the said land for ready money till then to pay the same but this deponent in order to give a satisfaction he would at sundry times did offer the Plaintiff Thomas before the bringing of this suit, bonds for money for which lands were sold sufficient to satisfy not only the said L 100 but also the sums of L 9.17.9 and L 6.11.6 ½ which appears to be the whole of the said Sarah's legacy and personal estate which the said Thomas did refuse to take or that he\*\*\*\*\* till the said money could be collected and further this deponent saith he offered the said Thomas as good Bargains in said land sufficient to satisfy the same which he likewise rejected. This deponent denies that there ever appeared to be any Friendly application made to him by the Plaintiffs concerning the same but said that all that ever was said to him on that head by the Plaintiffs since their intermarriage seemed to be in a very insulting manner which behaviour and obstinacy this deponent believes was purely to vex this deponent with his litigious suit so far from home or greatly to the prejudice of the other children, and as to the lands that is Plots and Surveys now in the deposition of the deponent and unsold, they are as follows: Viz. 300 acres Peeping Creek, 304 acres John Creek (had of Cloud), 300 acres Pitman's creek, 384 acres Cane Creek, 300 acres Respass Creek, 100 acres Slate River, 330 acres Lynnvills Creek, 400 acres on the branches of Dan River, 370 acres Indian Creek, 390 acres Polecatt Creek, and no more except 200 acres on Pigg River recovered by Richard Witton by what means this deponent knows not, and between 8 and 900 acres, part of 3300 acres in Mayo River which there is a petition for by Jeremiah Hatcher in the General Court, all the other surveys that has been in his possession are sold and the money arising therefrom as far as this deponent has received has been applied for the benefit of the said estate which this deponent refers to the several accounts current in your court together with the accounts sent with this answer for the several sums as also certain suits and judgments in the county court of Halifax which this deponent never has received, the exact sums of which he does not remember which he refers to the records of the said court for more perfect intelligence as also certain Bonds whereon there is money due from several persons, now on the hands of this deponent: Viz. James Stone L 4.10, Weakley & Woods L 36..16..9 ½, John Starky L 20, Dudley Roundtree L 12, Jacob Pyborn L 7, John Stovale L 34, John German L 22, amounting to L 136..6..9 ½ in Bonds, as to any other land or bonds etc due for lands sold, this deponent knows of none. Except part of a survey on Little Otter River not made out, part of another on Stoney Fork and part of another on the branches of Sandy River neither of which has ever come to his hands or does this deponent know of any more. For a further satisfaction to the plaintiffs, this deponent refers them to the several surveyors offices where they shall suspect such lands should lie, as also to the other Executors, this deponent knows of none or is he privy to any Fraud intended to hurt the said Thomas and Sarah by any person, whatsoever, and further this deponent believes it would be greatly to the prejudice of the other children to be compelled by a decree of your Worshipful Court to sell the residue of the said lands for ready money before George the person mentioned in the Plaintiff's Bill shall come to age which this deponent would be quite contrary to the meaning of the said Will. As for the balance now in his hands, he refers to the account rendered with this answer as the Balance after securing enough on his hands to pay John and Robert Walton L 23.15.7 ½ for their part of the personal estate and to Present and Defend certain suits as also to pay the expenses in securing the lands already sold or that he shall thereafter sell together with any other engagements or lawful

claims that shall come against him on account of the said estate the \*\*\*\*\* he is willing to pay to the said Thomas towards the sums of L 9.17.9 and L 6.11.6 ½ for the said Sarah's part of her father's Personal Estate and the remainder as it shall come to his hands the one half towards the payment of L 100 in such a manner as not to lay himself liable to the heirs at law of the said Robert and Mary deceased or the lawful demand of any other person, which he has always has been ready and willing to do and was always ready and willing to render any account at the plaintiffs required. Wherefore the deponent thinks it will be inequitable anyotherwise to be compelled than is set forth in this his answer. Therefore this deponent prays this Worshipful Court will dismiss the said Thomas and Sarah's Bill, at least so far as relates to him with Costs and that they be taxed with whatever damage this Court shall think equitable for this deponent's trouble and expense in defending the same as duty bound. Shall pray etc. Geo. Walton

Prince Edward County

This day George Walton came before me made oath that the above answer is just and true to the best of his knowledge and understanding given under my hand the 1st day of November, 1764. James Scott.

(George Walton, the defendant, submitted to the court two pages of expenses incurred for travel and legal fees for a total of 91 pounds 13.6 ½ , the 21st day of November, 1764. )

(George Walton, the defendant, also submitted a list of orphan Sarah Walton's expenses from July 1761 through 1764, as well as the amount of several slave's hired earnings and expenses..... amounting to a balance due of 41 pounds 11.2. This was submitted to the court in November, 1764.)

No decree, case dismissed by agreement of parties.

#### MORRIS VS WATKINS - Suit in Chancery

Guardian Papers

Prince Edward December Court 1780

Henry Watkins is appointed guardian to Anderson Watkins, orphan of Thomas Watkins junior deceased, thereupon the said Henry Watkins with Francis Watkins his security entered into and acknowledged bond according to law.

Copy Teste T. Watkins, clerk.

At a court held for Charlotte County the sixth day of December in the year of our Lord God 1779. On the motion of Joel Watkins Gentleman he is appointed Guardian to Claiborne Watkins and George Watkins orphans of Thomas Watkins deceased, he giving security, whereupon he with Josiah Morton and Thomas Read his securities entered into and acknowledged their bond for that purpose. Copy Thomas Read, C. C. (Co. Clk)

(It is assumed that the two youngest children, Sarah Hughes Watkins and Isaac Watkins, were represented in Court by their mother.)

#### The Subpoena

The commonwealth of Virginia, to the Sheriff of Henrico county greeting. You are hereby commanded to summon Robert Watkins to appear before the Justices of said county court, at the courthouse of the said county, on the first Monday in March next to answer a Bill in Chancery exhibited against him by Joshua Morris and Sarah his wife, Thomas Watkins, Claiborne Watkins, George Watkins, Anderson Watkins, Mary Hughes Watkins and Isaac Watkins, devisees of Thomas Watkins Jr deceased by their respective guardians.

And this he shall in no wise omit, under penalty of L 100. And have then there this writ. Witness Adam Craig, clerk of our said county court at the courthouse aforesaid, the first day of February 1787, in the 11th year of the Commonwealth.

Adam Craig

(The following is written on the back of the subpoena)

MORRIS et al vs. WATKINS, In Chancery

I acknowledge the service of this subpoena in Chancery February 1, 1787.

Francis Watkins, attorney in fact for Robert Watkins the defendant.

"The Bill of Complaint of Joshua Morris and Sarah his wife, who was widow of Thomas Watkins junior deceased, and Thomas Watkins, Claiborne Watkins, George Watkins, Anderson Watkins, Mary Hughes Watkins and Isaac Watkins, devisees of the said Thomas Watkins junior deceased, by their respective guardians

Humbly Sheweth

Unto your Worships, that the said Thomas Watkins junior deceased, was in his lifetime and at the time of his death among other real estate, secured and possessed of a track of land and plantation in the county of Hanover, containing about \_\_\_\_\_ acres and three lots of land in the City of Richmond and County of Henrico, distinguished by the numbers 572, 553, and 513, in fee simple, and being so thereof seized and possessed, he made and duly published his last Will and Testament in writing, bearing date the seventh day of April in the year of one thousand seven hundred and seventy eight, after which without having altered or revoked the same, he departed this life, and the said will was after his decease, proved and recorded in the Court of Henrico County, by which will by an attested office copy thereof hereunto annexed and referred to as part of this Bill, he devised the said tract of land in the County of Hanover to his three sons Robert, Thomas and Claiborne to be equally divided among them, & the said Robert to have the plantation and houses in his part, and made no particular devise of the three before mentioned lots of land in the City of Richmond by name or description, But by his said last Will directs that when his son Robert comes of age, that the rest of estate which was not given away before, should be equally divided between his wife and children, so that each of them should have an equal part, meaning as well the said Robert his eldest son, as your oratrix Sarah, and your other complainants, Thomas, Claiborne, George, Anderson, Mary Hughes and Isaac Watkins, as by the said will (reference being thereunto had) will appear. Sometime after the death of the said Testator, your said Oratrix Sarah intermarried with your Orator Joshua Morris, without ever having renounced the said Will of her former Husband, in consequence whereof, they are with the other complainants, now justly entitled to the full benefit of an equal part of the said three lots of land with said Robert, and your complainants in general cannot but suppose, that it was the Testator's intention that the lands in Hanover County should be as speedily disposable after the said Robert came of age, divided between him and your complainants, Thomas and Claiborne Watkins, agreeable to the devise as aforesaid, and that the Lotts of Land in the City of Richmond as aforesaid, should be converted into such a Channel as might but promote the interest of your orators and the said Robert, some of whom having little else to depend upon, and deriving no advantage from the said bequest under its present circumstances, have been advised and are very desirous, that the lands in Hanover County as aforesaid should be equally divided between the said complainants Thomas and Claiborne Watkins, and the said Robert Watkins, as directed by the said Will of the deceased Father, and the three lots of land in the City of Richmond as aforesaid equally divided between the said Robert Watkins and your Complainants, that they may have it in their power, by selling or improving their several portions, to derive some Emolument therefrom towards their maintenance and education. But so it is, that the said Robert Watkins eldest son and heir at law of the said Testator and whom your Complainants pray may be made Defendant and Respondent to this Bill, has heretofore for reasons best known to himself but which is easy to guess at, refused to concur in the repeated proposals which have been made for a partition of this property between himself and your Complainants, most of whom being under age, and therefore as he urges, not bound by any division, which might be made, unless made under a decree of a Court of Chancery, and thereby in order to evade, what they conceive a mere pretext, to justify his own refusal under the necessity of thus appealing to your Worships for that redress which his own lucrative and interested views alone has hitherto retarded. In tender consideration whereof and for as much as your Complainants are entitled under the Act of Assembly to apply to this Worshipful Court for relief, and for a Decree of Partition, of the said devised lands and lots as aforesaid, and to the end that the said Robert the Defendant may true and explicit answer make to all and singular the allegations in this Bill contained, on oath either by himself or by Francis Watkins, his attorney in fact, or whom (the said Robert being out of the state) your Complainants pray that service of process to appear and answer hereto, may be deemed and adjudged as service on the said Robert himself, and more especially that the said Defendant may answer and say, whether the aforesaid Testator was not at the time of his last Will and Testament, seized in fee simple of the lands and lots, in the Bill already mentioned? Did he not die so seized and possessed, having devised the same as herein has been stated, ought not the same to be divided in manner herein before directed, what reason has he why such division should not be made, and that the same may be divided as the said Will directs, and that your Complainants Thomas and Claiborne as well as the said Robert may by a decree of this Worshipful Court have their respective shares of the land in Hanover County, and the lots in the City of Richmond allotted and confirmed to your Complainants and the said Robert in severalty, and that such other relief in the principles may be administered to your Complainants, as the nature of the case, and wisdom and justice of this Worshipful Court shall point out.

May it please your Worships to grant to your Complainants .....(unreadable)

A. Ronald (signature of clerk)

Watkins vs Morris et al  
ANSWER - Chancery

The answer of Robert Watkins, oldest Son and heir at law of Thomas Watkins Junior deceased by Francis Watkins his Attorney in fact, to the Bill of Complaint against him in the County Court of Henrico exhibited by Joshua Morris and Sarah his wife, and Thomas, Claiborne, George, Anderson, Mary Hughes and Isaac WATKINS, infants under the age of twenty one years, and children and devisees of the said Thomas Watkins, deceased, by their respective guardians.

The said defendant Robert, now and at all times reserving to himself the benefit of exceptions to the Complainant's Bill, for answer thereunto says, that he cannot deny, but admits to be true, all, and every the allegations in the said bill, respecting his late Father's Last Will and Testament, the tract of land in Hanover, and the lots in Richmond; and can have no objection to a partition of the same, as directed by the said Will, and prayed for by the Complainants, but such as arises from the nonage of his brothers and sister, which being removed, and the rights of each party sanctioned and confirmed by the decree of this Worshipful Court, he will most cheerfully acquiesce in the proposed partition. And therefore, this defendant being in no default, prays to be hence dismissed with his lawful costs. Without that that etc.

(The following is written on the back of the above answer.)

Prince Edward County

This day Francis Watkins, attorney in fact for Robert Watkins, came before me a Justice of the Peace for the said County, and made oath that the within Answer as far as it relates to him is true, and so far as it relates to the actings and doings of others, he believes to be true. Given under my hand this Fifth day of March, 1787.

Charles Allen

Morris et al vs Watkins - Decree

MORRIS et al vs. WATKINS decree.

Henrico County

Quarterly Court, March 1787

Joshua Morris and Sarah his wife, and Thomas Watkins, Claiborne Watkins, George Watkins, Anderson Watkins, Mary Hughes Watkins and Isaac Watkins, devisees of Thomas Watkins Junior, deceased, by their respective guardians,  
Complainants

against

IN CHANCERY

Robert Watkins, eldest son & Heir at law of the said Thomas Watkins, deceased, Defendant:

This cause was this day heard on the Bill and Answer. Whereupon by consent of the parties by their counsel, It is ordered and decreed that Charles Dabney, William Dandridge, William Morris and George Dabney, gentlemen, or any three of them be appointed to make partition and division of the land lying and being in the County of Hanover in the Bill mentioned, between the Complainants Thomas and Claiborne Watkins and the Defendant Robert Watkins, agreeable to the Will of the Testator and the prayer of the applicants said Bill. And that John Pryor, Dabney Minor, William Hay and William Claiborne, Gentlemen or any three of them be appointed to make partition and division of the three half acre lots in the City of Richmond in the Bill also mentioned, as well among the Complainants as the Defendant, agreeable to the prayer thereof, and that they make report to this Court in order to a final decree. A copy teste....Adam Craig, C.C.

(The following is written on the back of the above Answer)

Morris et al

Vs Bill and Answer

Watkins

Re P.W. & Deft.

Mar. 1787. Heard on bill & answer filed by Counsel & by Consent Decreed that Charles Dabney, William Dandridge, William Morris & George Dabney or any 3 do make partition of the Estate in the Bill mentioned & lying in County of Hanover and that John Pryor, Dabney Minor, William Hay and William Claiborne of this County or any three of them do make partition of the Estate in the Bill mentioned and which lies in this County and make report.

May 11th Continued for report

August 10th Report returned, by Consent decree agreeable thereto & ordered that the parties bear their own costs.

Morris et al vs Watkins - Report

(Apportioning the lots in the City of Richmond)

Pursuant to a decree of the Worshipful Court of Chancery and of the county of Henrico hereunto annexed we have made partition and division of the three half acre lots agreeable to a plan thereof added below\* to wit, Lot No. 513 divided into three parts of which No 1 to Mrs. Sarah Morris, No 2 to Mary Hughes Watkins and No 3 to George Watkins, and lots No 553 and 572 divided into five parts, of which No 4 to Robert Watkins, No 5 to Isaac Watkins, No 6 to Anderson Watkins, No 7 to Claiborne Watkins, and No 8 to Thomas Watkins; In consideration, that the parts of Lots No. 572 and 553, allotted to Robert, Isaac, Anderson, Claiborne, and Thomas Watkins are larger than the proportions of Lot No 513 allowed to Mrs. Sarah Morris, Mary Hughes Watkins and George Watkins, we award that the said Robert, Isaac, Anderson, Claiborne and Thomas Watkins (unreadable) specie, making the sum of Fifteen Pounds, to be equally divided between Mrs. Sarah Morris, Mary Hughes Watkins, and George Watkins, that is to say, five pounds each. Given in our hands this 1st day of June 1787. (signed) Wm. Hay, Dabney Minor, Wm. Claiborne.

NB. In apportioning the Lots, we supposed the line upon which the Division is made to be forty-four yards long (\*Hand drawn map of the lots. Lots 572 and 553 fronted on Main St; Lot 513 fronted on Capitol St.)

(Apportioning the land in Hanover County, VA)

In obedience to the order above annexed, we have divided the lands of Thomas Watkins, deceased, in Hanover County containing Six hundred and eighty two acres into three equal lots in manner following: That is, we have allotted to Claiborne Watkins one third of the same by a line of marked trees beginning at a corner Red Oak on the lands of (blank) Dandridge, and on the east side of the Mirey (or Mercy) Branch thence North Eighty degrees West to the back line adjoining Thomas Bowles thence on his line and the line of Wm. Harden, Richard Anderson and the said Dandridge's line to the beginning. We allot one other third of the above lands to Robert Watkins beginning at pointers on Henry Atkinson's line thence due North two hundred and twenty four poles to Claiborne Watkins' line pointers near the head of a branch of Turkey Creek thence on Claiborne Watkins line and the lines of John Dandridge and Henry Atkinson to the beginning including the plantation and houses - and the residue of said tract of land we have allotted to Thomas Watkins - this 26th day of May 1787.

Wm Dandridge, Wm Morris, Geo Dabney.

(Hand drawn map of the Hanover land included.)

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The Walton Line

Sally Walton Morris was the daughter of:

Robert Walton (7/1/1717 Prince Edward Co-25/1/1750 Cumberland Co.) and Mary Hughes (11/3/1724 Cumberland Co-18/12/1821) They married in 1740. She was the daughter of Jesse Hughes, French Huguenot, and Sallie Tarleton of England (lived on Hughes Creek on James River above Richmond VA).

Children:

George (VA 1741-), Signer of the Declaration of Independence who settled in Savannah GA., marrying Dorothy Camber (his granddaughter was Octavia Walton LaVert, a prominent and well-known woman to whom Edgar Allan Poe wrote "To Octavia")

John (1743-), m. Elizabeth Claiborne, settled in Savannah, GA

Sally (1745-), m.1 Thomas Watkins of Powhatan Co, VA, who was killed in Revolutionary War by Indian allies of British: Robert Watkins, m. Elizabeth Walton (Robert Jr's daughter); m. 2 Joshua Morris of KY 9 see above)

Robert, Jr. (1748-), m. Frances Carter  
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Notes from Eugenia Richards (2004)

"On Sept. 6, 1779, Mr. Morris was acquiring an acre of land on Boar Swamp adjoining the head of the mill pond of the late Thomas Watkins, Jr. and on Oct. 4, same year, he bought another five acres. The timeline estimates the death of his first wife at around 1778 and the marriage to Sally Watkins around the same time. In 1780, he established and became pastor of the First Baptist Church of Richmond. Between 1780 and 1786, he and Sally had four children. In Dec 1787, he was selling the land bequeathed to his present wife by her last husband and in 1788, they moved to KY!"  
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"Sarah, Wife of Elder Joshua Morris," had her grave in the cemetery on the Joshua Morris farm, later the farm of Benjamin Craig, Jr., then the farm of Cornelius DeWees. The quarry purchased the farm, and in the 1960's or 70's; moved the old cemetery --which turned out to have some 40 graves-- to an enclosed chain fence back along the hills. Sarah's marker was destroyed, but there remains a grave there marked with a footstone, "S.M."

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They had the following children:

- 2 M i. **Col. ROBERT WATKINS** \* was born 1763/1764 in Cumberland County, Virginia. He died<sup>1</sup> 17 Aug 1805 in Bath, SC and was buried in Rosney Plantation, GA.

Married his cousin, Elizabeth Walton, daughter of John Walton.

"Historical Collections of the Georgia D.A.R." page 339

"ROBERT WATKINS, who married his cousin Elizabeth WALTON, resided at Rosney, Richmond Co., GA. Their son THOMAS married ELIZABETH ARRINGTON, who was a niece of Mrs. Edward Rowell. Martha WATKINS, daughter of THOMAS and Elizabeth Arrington married Charles DELAIGLE of Richmond Co., GA."

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"Descendants of William Claiborne" page 300

"[Robert Watkins] moved to Augusta, GA after his marriage. On 19 June 1789 he was commissioned captain of a troop or horse in Richmond Co., GA militia. On 19 Nov. 1791 Robert Watkins of Rosney, attorney at law, heir at law by intermarriage with Elizabeth Martha Walton, only surviving issue of the honorable John Walton, Esquire, of New Savannah, who was assignee, representative and heir at law of Leonard Claiborne, late of the state of Virginia, attorney at law, deceased, gave a power of attorney to Thomas Woodlief of Virginia to recover land in Virginia. His plantation, "Rosney", was located on the Savannah River where Bush Field, the Augusta, GA airport is now located. He represented Richmond County in the Georgia House of Representatives, 1796-98, 1799, 1801-04.

"Issue: (WATKINS), Thomas, died 7 March 1824. He married 22 Feb 1809 in Richmond Co., GA, Eliza. Henry Arrington, daughter of Henry and Mary (Robertson) (note: should be Robison) Bugg Arrington. He inherited "Rosney" but became financially involved, and 2,000 acres, saw and grist mills, thirty-three slaves and the manor house were sold to pay thirty-eight separate judgments against him. Subsequently, however, the plantation was repurchased for \$3000 on 24 July 1817 and put in the names of his children: Mary E. M., Robert A., Isaac T., and Walker W. WATKINS."

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NOTE about the below quoted text: I am not sure how to reconcile the fact that Robert would have been only about 10 years old when this quote claims he was "commissioned ensign in 1776. There is ample evidence, however, that he became a captain of a troop of horse by 1789 (at the age of 23.); and the accounts of him from that point forward are most definitely accurate." [Virginia S. Mylius]

"History of the Georgia Militia, 1783-1861" Volume 3, page 248

"Tradition has it that Watkinsville was named for ROBERT WATKINS (1766-1805), son of Thomas Watkins and his wife Sally (Walton) Watkins of Powhatan, Virginia. Robert Watkins was commissioned ensign in the 5th Regiment Virginia Continental Line on 5 February 1776 and was promoted to lieutenant in the 5th Virginia later that same year. However, he resigned his commission on 12 March 1778. He moved to Savannah, later to Richmond County, Georgia, after the Revolution. He was admitted to the practice of law there. In 1789 he became captain of the Troop of Horse in the Richmond County Regiment. In 1797 Watkins was promoted to

Lieutenant colonel commanding the Richmond County Regiment. As a member of the Georgia Legislature he voted in favor of the Yazoo Acts. In 1800 he and his brother George published their "Digest of the Laws of Georgia", the first compilation of Georgia laws. Robert Watkins fought a series of duels with James Jackson as a result of this compilation's inclusion of the Yazoo Acts as well as the Rescinding Act. The Watkins' argued that both the "obnoxious" acts and the repealing statute were passed by the General Assembly so should be included. General Jackson, however, argued that the Yazoo Acts had usurped authority that did not belong to the General Assembly and refused to draw the warrants on the treasury to pay the editors for compiling the "Digest". After one such fight between Watkins and Jackson, the former with "great civility" offered his carriage to carry the wounded Jackson home, but the latter refused the offer. Watkins served in the Georgia House of Representatives from Richmond County, 1796-1799, 1801-1804. He was, therefore, a member of the Session which created Clarke County with its seat at Watkinsville. Watkins died at Bath, Richmond County, on 24 August, 1805. He was buried in the family cemetery on his plantation Rosney in Richmond County. While living in Savannah, Watkins married his first cousin ELIZABETH MARTHA WALTON, the only daughter of the Hon. John WALTON, on 22 June 1785. His wife died at the age of 37 on 3 May 1809 at Rosney. Francis B. Heitman, "Historical Register of Officers of the Continental Army During The War Of The Revolution, April, 1775, to December, 1783" (Washington, DC 1914), 575; account of the duel between Watkins and James Jackson in "His Last Duel" in SMN, 22 April 1885 (from "Field of Honor"); second account of the Watkins-Jackson duel in "Four Famous Georgia Duels Fought in Closing Years of Eighteenth and Beginning of Nineteenth Centuries" in SMN, 14 February 1915 (Frank Willing Leach in the "Philadelphia North American"); Grace Gillam Davidson, comp, "Historical Collections of the Georgia Chapters NSDAR, II (Athens, GA, 1929), 338-339; Charles Stephen Gurr et al, eds, "Dictionary of Georgia Biography, II" (Athens, GA 1983), 1040-1041.

#### ROBERT WATKINS and the COTTON GIN:

"Story of Augusta" by Edward J. Cashin, 1980. page 42

"The most famous manufacturer in Augusta was the merchant William Longstreet. By 1788 he and Isaac Briggs obtained a patent for exclusive use of their steam engine. Four years later he had a working model of the machine. It could be used for operating saw mills, grist mills or even for propelling a boat. It ran without wheels, cogs or cranks, and was capable of 45 stokes per minute. With a few weeks of tinkering, his little engine could do 155 strokes per minute. If only he could figure a use for it!"....." When he heard about Eli Whitney's cotton gin, Longstreet adapted his engine to a gin of his own design and claimed that it was superior to Whitney's. To vouch for his gin, he appointed a blue ribbon committee consisting of GEORGE WALTON, John Course, ROBERT WATKINS, Thomas Cumming and John Catlett. ROBERT WATKINS, ruthlessly honest, said Longstreet's was no better than other gins. Longstreet's real interest was to put his engine on the water."....."After years of effort, the inventor succeeded in actually propelling a boat on the river [in 1808]."

In the Augusta "Herald" of Nov. 10, 1808, there was the following article:

"We are happy to announce that Mr. Longstreet's experiments with his newly invented steamboat have answered his most sanguine expectations...The different spectators have been extremely gratified by the different essays he has made, and no doubt remains in their minds but his labors will be crowned with success."

An Atlanta newspaper article continues:

"There are many of our older citizens who are positive that as early as 1806 Mr. Longstreet made a trial trip with his invention on the Savannah River' but should Mr. Fulton's trip on the Clermont be the first successful trip made by steam navigation, to Mr. Longstreet should be given the honor of the invention. For he had secured a patent on his engine, presumably designed for steam navigation, in 1788, two years before Mr. Hudson went to Europe to perfect his education...Mr. Longstreet never once relinquished his work towards perfecting the steamboat until his recorded success in 1808."

William Longstreet was a member of the Georgia Legislature in 1794-95 and the following account by Claude G. Bowers in his "Jefferson in Power", p.299, regarding the Yazoo land act, is apropos:

"In the winter of 1794-5, under the leadership of William Longstreet, a member of the Georgia Legislature, was engineered through that body by blatant criminal methods the sale to four land speculations companies of most of what is now the states of Alabama and Mississippi. It was accomplished by the most brazen and defiant bribery, in the open. The little town of Augusta was crowded with speculators wishing to be in at the kill; and not the least of them was James Wilson, Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court having on his person \$25,000 in bank bills.

This notorious Yazoo land scandal finally landed in the United States Supreme Court in "Fletcher vs. Peck", and the Court held that the original sale was valid on the ground that the U.S. Constitution forbids a state to impair the obligation of a contract, which the succeeding Georgia Legislature attempted to do by repealing the act of sale of 1794-95. The deal included about 35,000,000 in land script to satisfy the claimants."

(Note: William Longstreet was the father of the eminent Augustus Baldwin Longstreet, president of the University of Mississippi, of Emory University, and of South Carolina College and also a writer of note, being the author of "Georgia Scenes". He was the grandfather of General James Longstreet, Lee's right-hand man in Virginia. So, in three generations of one Georgia family we have the scientist and inventor, the educator and man of letters, and last, the eminent Southern General in Lee's army.)

Augusta Chronicle, July 16, 1796

"MACHINE FOR CLEANING COTTON BY ROLLERS.

"The subscriber begs leave to inform the cotton planters of Georgia and South Carolina, that he has constructed a machine for cleaning cotton by rollers, which he will lay before the public, in the following manner:

"Six \_\_\_\_\_ or shares will be allowed for each county in this state and South Carolina, at 60 dollars per share; as many persons as \_\_\_\_\_ may be concerned in a share, and the purchasers shall have the privilege of making as many as they think proper; but all the machines belonging to a share, may be kept in one place only, and within the limits of the county for which the share is taken. After the first of September a model of this machine may be seen at Petersburg, and after the 12th of the same month, at Augusta. Three or four disinterested persons of respectability will be appointed, at both places, to view the operation of the machine, and if they adjudge it competent for cleaning cotton in the most expeditious manner without injuring the staple, the purchasers must pay the money before they can see it.

"This machine is easily constructed; any persons knowing how to use common carpenter's tools, is capable of doing the wood work, and almost any smith can, by having patterns, make the iron work with ease-- the whole expense of making one is very trifling; two or three persons are sufficient for attending one of any size. ROBERT WATKINS "

Friday 30 December 1796: Papers of George Washington: Robert Watkins of State of GA for improvement in ginning cotton

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"Story of Augusta" by Edward J. Cashin, 1980. page 44

Regarding George Walton, Robert Watkins, and Thomas Watkins. [see George Walton for complete text from this page]:



"Even before 1788 when he [George Walton] announced that he was officially establishing residence in Augusta, WALTON stayed with his nephew, ROBERT WATKINS at ROSNY, near New Savannah. In January, 1788, WALTON and WATKINS were two of those cited by the road commissioners for not putting slaves to work on the public road from Augusta to Sprit Creek. When he was chosen governor under the new Constitution, he must have decided that he needed a place of his own. By August of that year the "Governor's Plantation" is described as lying above Call's Warehouse in Springfield. WALTON must have rented the property which he called 'Meadow Garden' and in order to keep it in the family he arranged for his nephew THOMAS WATKINS to buy the estate and hold it for George Walton, Jr. This transaction occurred in 1791."

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Subsequent to CPT Robert WATKINS (1789) the following officers commanded the Richmond County Troop of Horse over the next few years: CPT Reuben Coleman (1793) CPT William Dearmond (1798), and CPT Samuel Bugg (commissioned on 1 October 1799).

Georgia Tax Index, 1789-99

"Index to Headrights & Bounty Grants of GA 1756-1909" (1970)

WATKINS, ROBERT RICHMOND 1795 BUGG 17  
WATKINS, ROBERT RICHMOND 1797 STILES 25

Augusta Chronicle, October 11, 1794:

Richmond County:

Senator: Robert WALTON, Esq.

Representatives: Robert WATKINS and William LONGSTREET, Esqrs.

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WATKINS, ROBERT, Richmond county; grant book YYYY; page 278-282; acres granted 5,000; year of grant: 1796

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Augusta Chronicle, May 25, 1793 " To His Excellency, the Governor:

"SIR, Presuming that not only the letter, but the spirit and genius of our militia law contemplate the people at large, the source of military promotion, I have presented myself to this county as a candidate for the appointment of Lieutenant-Colonel Commandant.

In doing this, besides being urged by my own inclination, I can venture to flatter myself, I am backed by the voice of large majority of the people, and consequently, according the most rational calculation, should be the choice of their Captains and Subalterns under the new arrangement of the militia of the county - I must beg leave to contend that no field officers until such arrangement has taken place, without the most burdensome injustice to the candidates, to those officers who will be put under field officers partially appointed, and to the people in general. "Rights are solemn things," and thus situated, your Excellency will pardon the liberty I take in behalf of myself and those officers and men who feel themselves in danger of in being injured by a partial and illegal election, held at Mr. Vollotton's tavern, on the 23rd instant, to address your Excellency on the subject, and lay before you such proofs in support of the grounds of objection to that mock election, as the shortness of the time would permit my procuring, and which, with due difference, I must conceive and are quite sufficient to impress your Excellency with the justice of our application, and to pave the way for rendering that election a nullity.

"While I do not pretend to criminate, or even censure the officers who presided at the election, for in justice to them I fully believe any error in conducting it must have arisen from want of power in them to do their duty under the law, your Excellency will yet find by the statement in nature of protest, signed by them, the orders directed to them and certificate accompanying their return, that

they themselves had but eight days notice of the intended election, and that they did not pretend to communicate the same either to the public, to the candidates, or their fellow officers, that the election was before the company districts were defined and officered; and therefore premature, that some of the officers were absent, and that the time of holding it was not, and could not be duly notified by them - and that Captain Parks and his officers commanding the Light Infantry, a constituent part of the battalion had no voice in those who were to command the.

With due respect, I have the Honor to be, Your Excellency's most Obedient Servant, ROBERT WATKINS, LABAN PARKS, on behalf of himself and his officers.

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Augusta Chronicle - October 12, 1793

"The following Returns of the General Election for Members of the House of Representatives and County Officers, held on Monday Last, are come to hand:

RICHMOND: Representatives, Robert WATKINS, and Samuel JACKS, Esqrs.; Sheriff: James RICHARDS, Esq.; Clerk of the Superior Court: Thomas WATKINS, Esq.; Clerk of the Inferior Court: Philip CLAYTON, Esq.; Register of Probate: John MEAD, Esq.; County Surveyor: James BEALE, Esq.; Coroner: Abimelech HAWKINS, Esq.

COLUMBIA: Representatives: James SIMS, and James McNEIL, Esqrs.; Sheriff: James HAMILTON, Esq.; Clerk of the Superior and Inferior Courts: Peter CRAWFORD, Esq.; County Surveyor: John WALTON, Esq.

WILKES: Representatives: Joel EARLY, George Mathews, Richard Worsham and Arthur FORD, Esqrs.; Clerk of the Superior Court: Benjamin CATCHINGS, Esq.; County Surveyor: Mathew TALBOT, Esq; Sheriff: Nathaniel COATS, Esq.; Register of Probates: David TERRELL, Esq.

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**YAZOO LAND ACT:**

The year 1795 was marked by the passage of the YAZOO LAND ACT. In 1789, the Virginia Yazoo Company (headed by Patrick Henry), the Tennessee Company and the Carolina Company applied for land grants from the state of Georgia. The first Yazoo Land Act becomes law granting 5,000,000 acres of vacant land to three companies

April 28, 1790. (This included land from Georgia to the Mississippi River, in what becomes Alabama and Mississippi; The states of Mississippi and Alabama and were admitted to the Union in 1817 and 1819 respectively). When passed in 1795, act granted or gave to four land speculating companies 50,000,000 acres of land in its western territories for 1 cent per acre (\$500,000).

President Washington expressed his disapproval of the actions of Patrick Henry and others in the First Yazoo Act. In December 1794, several men threatened the governor of Georgia to make it unpleasant for him if he does not sign the Yazoo Act. Governor Mathews does not listen, but returns the Yazoo Act to the state legislature questioning the amount of money the state is to receive and encouraging more participation of Georgia citizens. On January 7, 1795, Governor George Mathews signs into law a bill that agrees to sell almost 40 million acres to speculators - the starting the Yazoo Land Fraud. This corrupt deal led to the downfall of many popular politicians of the day. February 23, 1795 The U. S. Congress denounces the Yazoo Land Act. In January, 1796, President George Washington, speaking about the Yazoo Land Act states "...These acts embrace an object of such magnitude and in their consequences may so deeply affect the peace and welfare of the United States..." In January, 1796, Responding to public pressure, almost all legislators who profited from the Yazoo Land Act are removed from office. U.S. Senator James Jackson, now a member of the state legislature, convenes the so-called "Reform Legislature" In February, 1796, Gov. Irwin signs a bill rescinding the Yazoo Land Act.

The state refunded the money paid for the land, but some of the land had been resold to people who refused the money, preferring the land instead. The state did not recognize the claims and the matter ended up in court. The United States accepted the transfer of the Yazoo Land Fraud claims along with the cession of Georgia's western claims in 1802. In 1810 the U.S Supreme Court struck down the reform act as unconstitutional (Fletcher vs. Peck), ruling the state had infringed on a valid contract.

It will take 6 years and a landmark Supreme Court ruling for the state to settle claims resulting from this legislation. Those individuals who bought land under the act argue that they bought the lands in good faith, and had right to their property. In 1798, U. S. Congress authorized three commissioners to negotiate with Georgia for the cession of all or part of the lands encompassed by the Yazoo Land Act of 1795. In 1802, Georgia cedes the land involved in the Yazoo Land Fraud (and the associated legal problems) to the United States. In exchange the state receives 1.25 million dollars and the promise of removal of the Cherokee Indians from the present-day boundaries of the state; (this will lead to the "Trail of Tears"). President Thomas Jefferson announces the cession of Yazoo Act lands to the U. S. government. In 1810, Chief Justice John Marshall in Fletcher vs. Peck renders Peck's (an individual who bought land) title to land purchased during the Yazoo Land Fraud as valid. Settlement for Yazoo Land Fraud claims is complete by 1818, with the government spending almost 4.3 million dollars to pay the claimants.

#### ROBERT WATKINS PUBLIC ARGUMENT WITH HENRY OSBORNE:

Augusta Chronicle, Feb 18, 1795 Robert Watkins responds to "H. Osborne"

Note: According to Henry Osborne's Congressional Biography, he was born in 1751 in Ireland, immigrated to Pennsylvania in 1779. He became a judge there, but was removed from office for being a bigamist. Removed to Camden Co, GA and held various state offices, until he was convicted by the Georgia senate in December 1791 of election fraud in the election of Anthony Wayne to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Published in the Augusta Chronicle February 28, 1795, were the records of impeachment and conviction of Henry Osborne for election tampering. As Robert said: "This man, doomed to perpetual infamy by the just sentence of the laws of his country, is beneath notice. Yet this was the same Mr. Osborne that Edward Telfair, Esq. was so anxious to get interested in the land companies. When Mr. Telfair denies it, it will then be time enough for me to prove the fact, which I am fortunate enough to have in my power to do, by gentlemen of well known respectability.

"Should this man, however, be prompted to attack me in the high way like an assassin, I shall take care to be prepared, and end his wicked career as he has long since deserved; and I have no doubt but my country would do me the justice to decide, that he had brought it upon himself - Four to one was sufficient odds. ROBERT WATKINS, Augusta, Feb 6, 1795."

#### FURTHER PUBLISHED REMARKS OF ROBERT WATKINS about Henry Osborne:

"I thank my God that the tongue of a perjured villain CANNOT slander.

"The following authentic documents without further trouble prove Henry Osborne to be a perjured villain, a dishonor to the human race, and worthy only of the contempt of mankind. (published accounts of Henry Osborne's impeachment and conviction)

"These documents will be an endless and sufficient fire upon HIS back.-----And the Printers are requested to continue publishing them for the information of the people in general, and of the members of the convention in particular, as the final and standing answer until the desperate monster shall grow sick of ink shed, or bring his betters forward, who, I pledge myself, shall meet no difficulty in being noticed.

"I boast of having, at two sessions of the legislature, voted AGAINST the wretch's reinstatement.

ROBERT WATKINS"

"WILKES COURTS, FEB 18, 1795."

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PUBLIC ARGUMENT WITH WILLIAM FEW:

Kiukas, March 31, 1795

To: William Few, Esq.

SIR,

Your address to me, besides a train of unfounded insinuations, and unwarrantable expressions, contains the following, "Should you on reading of this, which is calculated to the nature of your disorder, feel any unpleasant sensations, either mental or corporal, remember it is then operative as intended, and will teach you that you are not permitted to attack characters with impunity." In my reply I pointed out to you when and where I might be found; and gave you this alternative, that if you should prefer it, I should find out your peaceful home in due time.

In conformity to this reciprocation I am now in your neighborhood, and my friend General Glascock waits the moment of your appointment. I now demand of you, at your own door, the satisfaction usual in such cases.

ROBERT WATKINS.

I DO hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the challenge delivered by me to Mr. Few, at his own house, in the afternoon of the 31st, and that the following is a true statement of the answer and progress as came within my knowledge:-On reading the challenge over, Mr. Few observed to me, "I find Mr. Watkins wishes to spill blood; I believe I shall gratify him tomorrow or next day; and as I am the person challenged, I have a right to choose my own weapons--! I shall therefore make choice of a gun and bayonet, and you may tell him so."

I told him it was very well, and desired him to write Mr. W. to that effect -we then went into the house, as I took for granted for that purpose-Instead of which he some time after came in with a sealed letter, which I refused to receive until I saw the contents-When I found the letter to be retracing from the principles before understood between us, that is was not founded on facts and couched in a language not admissible I declined delivering it to Mr. Watkins, as the answer, and tore it up in Mr. Few's presence the next morning, giving him those reasons for so doing.

Having reported Mr. Few's first answer to Mr. Watkins, he gave me the following in charge the next morning, together with Mr. McMillan's paper of the 26th March, both of which I delivered to him in the forenoon of that day.

THOMAS GLASCOCK

Kiukas, April 1, 1795.

S I R, (TO: William Few, Esq.)

In the most unequivocal terms I accept your choice of weapons. As you have chosen the gun and bayonet, nothing now remains but the time and place, which my friend General Glascock will arrange with you.

ROBERT WATKINS.

On delivering the above to Mr. Few, I demanded of him if he had not agreed to what was there stated ?-He acknowledged he had; but that on reflection he had thought better of it, and had declined it; and finally refused to give Mr. Watkins the satisfaction demanded,

Given under my hand, at Augusta, this 2nd of April, 1795.  
THOMAS GLASCOCK.

In the public paper handed him by the General on the second day, besides documents which must forever disgrace him when brought into view with his present conduct; I gave Mr. Few directly the LIE in a matter which all will own he willfully LIED, and asked him this pointed [question]... Do you really mean, Mr. Few, to cover yourself with the sacred shield of cowardice?" with this remark "if you do acknowledge it at once I may perhaps in such case be decided to pass over you as disgracing even the dignity of revenue."

"That Mr. Few has proven himself to be the basest of COWARDS, as well as a LIAR must now be as obvious as the meridian sun in unclouded heaven.

"As to the treaty at New-York I am since told he made some feigned opposition to it-no doubt, merely to blind the researches of the people of this country into his conduct; and perhaps, he had address enough to obtain the thanks of the Legislature of the moment. Still not a trace of this opposition, nor of the proceedings of Senate is to be found on the Journals handed to the public-and his after conduct is a confirmation of his savoring the measure.

"One of the remaining charges goes to the BRIBERY, CORRUPTION and PERJURY of Mr. Few as a Senator in the Congress of the United States. If he wants further documents, since he will not fight for his reputation, he must require me to produce them through the forms of a Court of Justice. Such is this man's hardened assurance and rascality he will not hesitate flatly to deny anything and every thing that can be said against him.\* I therefore take my leave of such a wretch, and shall not trouble myself or the public with further charges or proofs against him, unless he shall require it to be done before a jury of his country.

"Should Mr. Few, however, be \_\_\_\_\_ enough to continue the INK, the printers will oblige me by delivering him this over and over again, until he -take himself to the \_\_\_\_\_ of cowards, or hide himself from the face of day.

"ROBERT WATKINS. Augusta, April 2th, 1795."

Newspaper note:

"James Simms, Esq., of Columbia, some time in the last year charged Mr. Few in the most pointed manner, with corruption of the darkest die, and produced several documents in point which he did not flinch at denying without even a decent investigation."

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"Country Life in Georgia In the Days of My Youth" Felton, Rebecca Latimer, 1835-1930

Regarding the Yazoo scandal: page 12-13

"Augusta was the capital of Georgia, and the record shows that the honor of the state and her greatest public interests were bartered off by traitorous Representatives and the Chief Executive. EXCEPT ONE MAN, ROBERT WATKINS by name, the official record in Washington city shows that every man who voted for the sale was corruptly influenced. The Senate of Georgia consisted of 20 members - ten voted for the sale, 8 against it. In the Lower House there were 34 members - nineteen voted for the sale and nine in the negative. In these volumes, called "American State Papers," the amounts paid to these traitorous representatives are set down. Some received cash, some large grants of land, some had Negroes conveyed to them, etc., but the whole story is blazoned in full in these official records."

pages 13 and 14

"There were only two Superior Court districts in the State, and one of the two judges was William Stith, who accepted \$13,000 in cash and promise of the traitors to elect him the next Governor of Georgia. The contrast was great between Judge Stith and Judge George WALTON, who illustrated

his office and retired from the bench without a spot or blemish on his character."

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Augusta Chronicle, Nov 7, 1795

"Return of the General Elections:

"RICHMOND COUNTY

Senator: Robert Walton, Esq

Representatives: Robert Watkins and Augustus C. G. Elholm, Esqrs"

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Augusta Chronicle, March 27, 1796

"NOTICE... CAPT. John P. Wagnon having appointed and fully constituted the subscriber his Attorney at law and in fact; all persons having demands against him are requested to bring them forward duly attested; and those indebted are desired to make payment within a reasonable time; or other more efficient measures will necessarily be applied. ROBERT WATKINS, March 8, 1796"

-----  
Augusta Chronicle, January 14, 1797

"NOTICE, Georgia, Richmond County.

"AGREEABLY to an order from his Excellency the governor of the 30th, an election will be held at the courthouse in Augusta on Saturday the 14th instant, for a clerk of the inferior court, in the room of Nathaniel Cocke, Esq, dec'd, at which time the electors of this county are required to give their attendance.

"Given under our hands, this 3rd day of January, 1797.

ROBERT WALTON

John Course

Abraham Jones

John Willson"

-----  
Augusta Chronicle, February 11, 1797

The copy for this article is entirely smudged on the left side, but it is possible to determine that it deals with the fact that JOHN CATLETT had seen both "MR. WATKINS" and "MR. LONGSTREET'S" roller machines, and "The two machines as distinct from the other in their principles and operations as it is possible for two roller gins..."

-----  
Augusta Chronicle, October 12, 1799

"Monday the 7th instant, being the day appointed by law for holding the election for a senator and representatives in each county, the following gentlemen were elected:

RICHMOND (COUNTY)

SENATOR: ROBERT WALTON, Esq.

REPRESENTATIVES: ROBERT WATKINS and George Walker, Esqrs."

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Augusta Chronicle, April 1, 1800

"NOTIFICATION, THE undersigned intending to reside principally at ROSNY, a favorite country seat in the neighborhood of Augusta; notifies his clients and others who may have business to transact with him, that he will in future, when unengaged at court, regularly attend at his office in the city of Monday, Wednesday and Friday in every week, from nine o'clock in the morning until the afternoon of each day, for the dispatch of business.

"He will attend the Federal Circuit court at Savannah and Augusta, the meeting of the Judges at Louisville, and no other state courts than in the counties of Richmond, Burke, and Columbia, except on extraordinary occasions. Those who may have claims on his services in unfinished business in other courts, may have other counsel employed for them, or their money returned, or both if required.

"Having lately formed a connection with EDMUND B. JENKINS, Esq. a member of the bar, those concerned are further notified, that he will attend the office every day during the same hours.

"ROBERT WATKINS"  
-----

Augusta Chronicle, December 11, 1800

"To Be Rented or Leased, for a Term of Years,

The brick buildings lately occupied by Mr. Wm. S. Smith, situate on Broad Street, in the upper part of Augusta, being the former place of residence of the subscriber.

"The adjoining stores will be let either with or without the main building.

ROBERT WATKINS"  
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Source: "History of Augusta" Chapter: "Bench and Bar" pages 227-228

"ROBERT WATKINS compiled in conjunction with his brother, George, "WATKINS DIGEST", our oldest digest of Georgia laws, and fought a duel in 1802 with Governor James Jackson, growing out of this work. General James Jackson, as the most active opponent of the Yazoo sale and the author of the Rescinding Act, as elected governor in 1798. In this capacity he rejected the digest of Georgia laws prepared by ROBERT and GEORGE WATKINS, on the ground that the compilers had inserted in the volume the Yazoo Act of 1795, in defiance of the Rescinding Act, which declared it never to have been one of the laws of the State. By this means, a costly edition was thrown on the hands of the compilers to the pecuniary loss, and with the result of engendering a bitterness of feeling which developed into a hostile meeting some years afterwards between Governor Jackson and ROBERT WATKINS, which was conducted in the highest style of punctilio. While the seconds were arranging the terms of the combat, the principals conversed "with great elegance and entire politeness" on different matters, so that no one would have imagined they were about presently to cut each other's throats. Then the seconds notified the combatants of the terms agreed on: You are to stand at the distance of ten paces; you are to fire at the word make ready, fire! a snap of a flash is to be counted as a shot, etc, etc. At the first fire both pistols went off into the ground; the second was a blank shot; at the third Governor Jackson fell, shot 'secundem artem', in the right hip. He insisted on another fire, but the surgeons claimed the right to first examine him; and on the report that the ball might have entered the cavity, hostilities ceased. Mr. Watkins's, with great civility, offered his services to bear the wounded man from the field; and, on being carried off, the governor most affably remarked, "D--n it, Watkins, I thought I could give you another shot."

Historic Note: YAZOO ACT: 1795 Gov. George Mathews signed a laudable-sounding piece of legislation that had as its title:

An Act supplementary to an Act entitled 'An Act for appropriating a part of the unallocated territory of this state for the payment of the late state troops, and for other purposes therein mentioned, declaring the right of this State to the unappropriated territory thereof, for the protection and support of the frontiers of this State, and for other purposes.'

This was the formal description of what would become known as the Yazoo Act -- the most controversial single piece of legislation ever enacted by the General Assembly. Four private land companies had bribed state legislators to pass the law, which allowed them to purchase 35 million acres of Georgia's western lands for less than 2 cents per acre. Because many of the legislators who voted for the act owned stock in the land companies, this became known as the Yazoo Land Fraud. Once the people of Georgia learned what had been done, there was immediate reaction, resulting in election of a new legislature which not only repealed the Yazoo Act but demanded that every copy of the law be destroyed. However, attempts to reclaim lands sold by the companies by refunding the purchase price were less successful, with some purchasers refusing to sell the land back. Eventually, the U.S. Supreme Court would rule against Georgia's attempts to reclaim land sold as a result of the Yazoo Act.

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THE DUEL WITH GOV. JAMES JACKSON

Augusta Chronicle, June 29, 1802

(Newspaper account of the duel. I apologize for missing words, but the copy of the article was very smudged/vsm)

STATE or GEORGIA,  
Augusta, June 21, 1802

"Mr. Printer,

As no doubt can be entertained but that public curiosity will be on the search to "obtain 'information, in so interesting a subject as the Duel lately fought by two distinguished characters in this State; and as no man can be better informed of the particular of that transaction than myself; I take the earliest opportunity of requesting you to give publicity to the following statement, which, I pledge myself, is strictly correct, to the best of my recollection and belief. Your speedy compliance will much oblige.

Sir, your obedient servant,  
RALPH SPENCE PHILIPS.

IN consequence of an encounter which took place at Louisville, on the afternoon of Wednesday the 16th instant, between General James Jackson, and Colonel Robert Watkins, when they were separated by the interposition of a crowd, and their pistols wrestled from them, I was commissioned as the friend of the latter to wait on the former and demand satisfaction at a more fit time and place-Having accepted the office I accordingly had an interview with the General, who readily agreed to answer my friend in the manner required. Mr. Collier, the General's friend, called on me in the course of the evening, and early the next morning for the purpose of appointing time and place - privileged in that respect he proposed both, neither of which being satisfactory, and although strictly speaking, I was not entitled to object to either, yet under the peculiar circumstances of this case, I was anxious to change the place, and felt myself warranted in endeavoring to remove the seat of action without the jurisdiction of the State, as well on account of our unwillingness to condemn the laws, as to avoid every kind of interruption. I therefore stated, that I should consider it a favor, if he would appoint any spot beyond Oconee River, which I understood was within about 20 miles, or any other place within the United States; this not being acceded to, I then proposed that the meeting should be on half way ground, between the places of their respective residence; this also being rejected, my last proposal was made, to determine by lot,



in which of their own Counties the affair should be decided. This sharing the same fate with all former propositions, and finding Mr. Collier restricted to the counties of Jefferson and Burke; in conformity to the positive \_\_\_\_\_ in which I had received, arrangements were made to meet the General on his own ground; accordingly the place was fixed in Burke county, on the main road leading from Louisville to Waynesborough, about 24 miles from the former and from the latter, and the time eleven o'clock the next morning, Friday the 18th inst.

Arrived at the ground, Mr. Collier and I had n difficulty in making the necessary arrangements, having in the first instance agreed, that should any difference of opinion arise between us, a toss of a dollar should give the winner his choice. I requested Mr. C. to propose the distance, he mentioned "eight or ten steeps," I replied that he might choose for I was commissioned by my friend to give him that privilege, provided it did not exceed ten steps.

It is worthy of remark, that whilst we were adjusting our affairs, the principals had entered into polite and general conversation; so gentlemanly was the conduct, that any strange, unacquainted with the object of their meeting, have seen them together, he might have imagined that the greatest cordiality subsisted; nothing like irritation on either side, not a word but what the strictest propriety could dictate.

It had been expressly stipulated by Mr. C. and myself, that no person whatever should be on the ground, other than, the General, the Colonel, their seconds and Surgeons, who were Messrs. Powell, White and Pughley.

As it would be rather tedious to enter into the minutae of this business, I shall proceed to state the more essential points.

Mr. Collier having determined on ten yards as the distance, I stepped them off and requested he would do the same, and let me know if he approved of the paces, having done so and being satisfied, we placed our friends on their respective grounds, and there explained to them the etiquette we had agreed on, which appeared to be satisfactory to both.

Article first. When in your places, neither is to speak a word to the other, if any communication should be thought necessary, it must be through your seconds.

Second. You are to fire by the words of command, make read, fire: which your seconds are to give \_\_\_\_\_tion.

Third. You are bound by honor to fire both together, and as \_\_\_\_\_ as \_\_\_\_\_ the instant of received the word, and should either withhold his fire, it should \_\_\_\_\_.

Mr. C. was entitled to give the word for the first discharge, having won it from me, we therefore handed our friends their pistols, and took our positions, when the word being given rather quickly for the gentlemen, both their \_\_\_\_\_ ground between them; at the second discharge I gave the word, which being much slower they both as \_\_\_\_\_; whereupon re retired to load again and the antagonists joined each other in polite conversation \_\_\_\_\_the \_\_\_\_\_ difference of time between Mr. C and myself \_\_\_\_\_ continuing, the same \_\_\_\_\_; we therefore had to propose a third (round) each.

It may truly be said that, during all this time, the General and Colonel dueled with each other, in bravery neither could claim the palm, in coolness and deliberation, neither could obtain the ascendancy; in liberality, politeness, generosity, gentlemanly conduct, they were equal to the end of the chapter, \_\_\_\_\_ was received without a \_\_\_\_\_ concern, their souls seemed to \_\_\_\_\_ to the passions of revenge or \_\_\_\_\_, and appearing in discord all such \_\_\_\_\_, they \_\_\_\_\_their cause of the \_\_\_\_\_ of this very honorable conflict.

The third time did these brave men take their stands, it being Mr. Collier's turn to direct the fire of the fifth \_\_\_\_\_. Colonel Watkins's ball took \_\_\_\_\_, having entered the General a little to the rear and above the right hip, piercing through I suppose almost six or eight inches; the affair was then concluded.

It think it is necessary here to mention, in order so \_\_\_\_\_ the courage of the General, and the \_\_\_\_\_ generosity of the Col, that after the General had received his wound, he called out walking "I believe I can give you another shot", to which the Col replied, "just as you please General, if it is your wish, you can have it now, or at any time hereafter, when you are better able to defend yourself, it would be far from my inclination to take any advantage by firing at you in a state of agony." General Jackson rejoined that he had come there to give him satisfaction, and was determined to do so if he had to stay there any hour, or whilst he was able to stand, but that he should be satisfied with the Col. Was - the business thus placed on its proper footing, the Colonel declared himself satisfied. Whereupon I clarified to Mr. Collier, that as Col. Watkins had called the General to the ground, it was certainly with him to say when he was satisfied, that having done so I hoped the affair was at an end; to which Mr. C. Readily asserted, provided it was to be completed so, and that every thing unpleasant which had passed between them, should be buried in \_\_\_\_\_, under these impressions, the offered hand of the General was cordially received by the Colonel, and I observed to them both, that I hoped their future friendship would exceed their passes enmity; they vocally declared \_\_\_\_\_ be their sincere wish that it should.

Shortly after the General was conveyed from the ground, he \_\_\_\_\_ declared, "D-n it Watkins, I thought I could have given you another shot, but I see I was mistaken," thus evincing that his courage was the same, although unable to support his own frame.

The proffered assistance of the Col. was kindly received by the Gen., who observed that had Watkins been in his position, he would have attended him as a brother. The Col. did not fail to reciprocate similar statements; every act of friendship was therefore cordially offered and thankfully received. After arriving at the quarters prepared for him, the General requested the Col. to call up his brother Abraham, which he did, and when Major Jackson came into the room, he addressed himself to him and his friend Mr. Collier, in presence of several gentlemen to the effect that, "This has been a fair duel; Col Watkins has behaved like a gentleman, and a man of spirit, therefore it is my order to you and my friends, and it shall be my last dying wish should my wound prove mortal, that he is not to be prosecuted, nor any trouble given him on my account."

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 "Georgia's Landmarks, Memorials & Legends" Vol 2 Chapter: "Under The Code Duello" page 10-11

"Perhaps the most inveterate political enemy of the old Governor was ROBERT WATKINS, of Augusta. Watkins was at this time one of the recognized leaders of the Georgia Bar. He was a member of the Yazoo Legislature of 1795 and a supporter of the bill for the sale of Georgia's western lands, regarding this measure purely in the light of a real estate transaction. With his brother, George, he compiled the earliest DIGEST OF GEORGIA LAWS.

"But, most unfortunately, when the volume appeared in 1800, it contained the obnoxious Yazoo Act, rescinded by the Legislature of 1796; and Governor Jackson, who was then occupying the Executive Chair, refused to draw his warrant upon the treasury and in other ways put the seal of his official condemnation upon this earliest Digest of Georgia Laws. In vain WATKINS expostulated. He showed that while his digest carried the obnoxious measure, it also carried the Repealing Act, the one counter-balancing the other. But the old Governor was obdurate. He regarded the Yazoo Act as a usurpation and he did not wish to see it monumentalized upon the statute-books.

"Thus the issue was joined. On both sides there was much bitterness of feeling. At least three separate duels were fought between Gov. Jackson and Robert Watkins. In the last of these encounters, the old Governor was severely wounded in the right hip. He was lifted from the ground, and finding that he could still stand alone, insisted upon another exchange of shots. But the surgeon urged an examination. He pried into the wound and, fearing that the bullet might have entered the cavity, ordered a cessation of hostilities. With great civility, so it is said, Mr. Watkins helped to bear the wounded man from the field; whereupon, the old Governor, who remained perfectly rational throughout and who was not to be outdone in courtesy by his antagonist, was heard to observe:

"Hang it, Watkins, I thought I could give you another shot."

"Though a small appropriation was secured for the Watkins Digest, the book was never authorized. Capt. Horatio MARBURN, then Secretary of State, was two commissioners, was subsequently appointed to make a Digest. William H. CRAWFORD and GEORGE WATKINS were chosen to assist him; but the latter, on account of his aggrieved feelings, declined to serve. Marbury and Crawford prosecuted the task alone and, in due time, completed the undertaking. It is known to this day as Marbury and Crawford's Digest of Georgia Laws.

"Besides the formal encounters which took places between JACKSON and WATKINS, they met somewhat unceremoniously on certain occasions and engaged in fisticuff fights. One of these occurred soon after the Yazoo Act was rescinded, showing that the enmity between the two men ran back to the famous land speculation in which some of the most influential men of Georgia were involved. The difficulty occurred in Louisville, at the close of the Legislative session. We quote this paragraph from a letter describing the affair: "This was done to bring on dispute. Flesh and blood of such texture as mine would not bear it (i.e. the provocation offered by WATKINS), and the lie and stick involuntarily flew on him." In this encounter, Gov. Jackson was stabbed in several places and for a time his wounds were thought to be mortal."

"Story of Augusta" by Edward J. Cashin, 1980. page 51

"ROBERT WATKINS voted for the Yazoo Act but made it clear that HE WAS NOT A SHAREHOLDER. He thought that the bill would help the state by keeping taxes down, and he believed that the people's interest was protected by the reservation of over seven million acres for their purchase. For his outspoken defense of the Yazoo Act, ROBERT WATKINS would be embroiled in disputes for years. The first occurred when William Few challenged him to a duel. Few, John Twiggs, John Wereat and others had formed a company which offered the legislature more for the western lands than the successful companies. When Few and the others protested, Watkins said that he doubted that they acted from patriotic motives. That is why Few made his challenge: Watkins accepted and Few changed his mind. Later Watkins fought a series of duels with James Jackson over the Yazoo business.

GEORGE WALTON'S cousin and nephew, therefore, were prominent Yazooists. Thomas Glascock's sister was the wife of Robert WALTON. George Walton, Jr. married George Walker's daughter, Sally. So, it is not surprising to find Walton defending the Yazooists as criticism mounted. The first real opposition to the act was voiced by Grand Juries in their presentments to him as he moved about his district. The Richmond Grand Jury, which included John Twiggs of the disappointed company and Ezechie Harris the new tobacco merchant, state that "the citizens generally execrated the business." ...."When the angry James Jackson resigned his Senate seat to fight the Yazoo Act, Walton was appointed to finish out the term, adding the title Senator to the many he already bore. Back in Augusta Walton resumed his judgeship and found the Yazoo reaction out of hand. He boldly accused James Jackson of fanning the popular prejudices like a demagogue. Justice could not be meted out with minds so inflamed, he thought. He cited the case in which Ezechie Harris and three friends had openly lynched a man and were brought to trial before Judge William Few. When judge and jury learned that the murdered man was a Yazooist, they concluded that he got what was coming to him and let Harris and his friends go free." ~!

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"History of the Georgia Militia" Volume 4, "History of the Richmond Hussars, The Companies"  
page 133

"From the rank and arrangement of the Richmond County militia in "Georgia Military Affairs (1775-1793", I, (bound transcript), 300, in the Georgia Department of Archives and History, Atlanta, GA. ROBERT WATKINS (died 1805) was commissioned as a lieutenant in the 5th Regiment Virginia Continental Line. He moved to Savannah, later to Richmond County, GA, after the Revolution. He was admitted to the practice of law there. He became a colonel in the Richmond County militia. While living in Savannah he married his first cousin, Elizabeth Martha

WALTON, the only daughter of the Hon. John WALTON, on 22 June, 1785. As a member of the Georgia Legislature he voted in favor of the Yazoo Acts. In 1800 he and his brother George edited their "Digest of the Laws of Georgia", Robert WATKINS fighting a series of duels with James Jackson as a result of this compilation's inclusion of the Yazoo Acts. WATKINS died in Bath, South Carolina (Richmond County, GA?) on 24 August, 1805. He was buried in the family cemetery on his plantation ROSNEY in Richmond County. His wife died at the age of 37 on 3 May, 1809, at Rosney. Frances B. Heitman, "Historical Register of Officers of the Continental Army During The War of the Revolution" April 1775 to December, 1783 (Washington, DC, 1914), 575, account of duel between Watkins and James Jackson in "His Last Duel" in "Savannah Morning News," 22 April 1885 (from "Field Of Honor"); second account of the Watkins-Jackson duel in "Four Famous Georgia Duels Fought in Closing Years of Eighteenth and Beginning of Nineteenth Centuries" in "Savannah Morning News," 14 February 1915 (Frank Willing Leach in the "Philadelphia North American"); Grace Gillam Davidson, comp., "Historical Collections of the Georgia Chapters, NSDAR, II (Athens, GA., 1929), 338-339; Charles Stephen Gurr et al., eds., "Dictionary of Georgia Biography," II, (Athens, GA, 1983), 1040-1041 (Henceforth, "Savannah Morning News" cited as SMN).

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"Story of Augusta" by Edward J. Cashin, 1980. page 59

"Virginia Airs 1798-1818"

Discussing "The Hill", where George Walton had a tract of 250 acres. By 1810, Thomas (Lord) Sandwich could boast that the Hill was so healthy that "most of the respectable citizens have their summer residence here." In 1804, Dr. Dennis Smelt removed his patients there, and it was his observation that they quickly recovered from "bilious, remitting fever" which had plagued Augusta that summer. "And so during this period the Hill acquired a name and a reputation for health and respectability. When Thomas Cumming bought his first ten acres in 1800, he was identified in the deed as "merchant". When he bought an additional 261 acres in 181, he had become "Thomas Cumming, Gentleman." By that time the Virginia attitudes which provide the theme for this chapter had come to characterize the community of Summerville.

"The most bizarre manifestation of the new impulse to act as gentlemen was the rash of duels which occurred in Augusta in the first two decades of the new century. Some of Georgia's leading citizens insisted on fighting duels and soon it seemed that everyone was challenging everyone else. Governor James Jackson fought ROBERT WATKINS because Watkins included the Yazoo Act in his digest of Georgia laws. The two met on a field outside Louisville, chatted coolly until their seconds gave the word, then paced off the correct number of steps, turned and fired. When both men missed, they repeated the maneuver and missed again. On the third try, Jackson was hit in the hip; he expressed a willingness to go for a fourth shot, but Watkins was satisfied. According to the code the honor of both men was vindicated. William Crawford fought two famous duels, killed his opponent in the first and then receiving a wound in the wrist in the second."

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#### ROBERT WATKINS DEATH NOTICE:

Augusta Chronicle, August 31, 1805

"DIED, On the 24th instant, at Bath, near Augusta, in the State of Georgia, ROBERT WATKINS, Esq. Counselor at law, and Col. of Richmond County.

"If connubial love, parental fondness, humanity to the slave, charity to the indigent, attachment to the friend, and patriotism to the commonwealth, deserve to be \_\_\_\_\_, I say, none that has left us, \_\_\_\_\_ high encomium in a more \_\_\_\_\_ than our department friend. Col. Watkins, from a good education, and great application to study, became eminent in the law, and from the exercise of this liberal profession, he rendered great services to his clients, and was actually the Idol of the Bar - In private and domestic life he deserves to be quoted; in all his public

transactions, which were numerous, he deserves to be imitated; nature designed him for great performances and, and the world has not been disappointed.

As a soldier he was brave and undaunted; as a commander, he was not only obeyed but loved, and was extremely popular at the head of his ranks...perhaps few men that have passed the rugged and tempestuous scene of life, have sustained a character more chaste, a conduct more uniform, and a deportment more dignified, than this gentleman...such as the fondness of his fellow citizens for him, that when they heard the knell sound, which announced his death, they were [panic] struck, dismay was seated in every countenance, and each \_\_\_\_\_ sympathized for the irreparable loss which his amiable consort, and innocent children, had sustained. The writer of his, does not know his age, but is fully impressed with the idea, that he had not reached the meridian of life."

AT a meeting of the members of the bar of the middle district, on Tuesday the 17th of August, 1805..

SEABORN JONES, Esq. In the chair.

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY, that Messrs. WARE and F. WALKER be a committee to draft a resolution or resolutions, expressive of our regret at the death of our late brother, Robert WATKINS, Esq.

In conformity to the resolution of the bar of the middle district, the committee have taken into consideration the melancholy death of Robert Watkins, Esqr, and while they lament the loss society has sustained in the death of one so eminently distinguished, for the exercise of every manly virtue, they beg leave to submit as feeble tribute of respect for the name of their departed brother, and as a memento of the high estimation in which they held his transcendent worth, the following resolution:

RESOLVED, That the bar of the middle district will wear crape on their left arm, for the space of three months, as an emblem of regret for the death of their much esteemed brother.

Which report was read, unanimously agreed to, and ordered to be published."

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"WATKINS, COL. ROBERT, of Augusta, 40 years, d Bath S.C. 7/18/1805, left wife and four children, buried at family cemetery at Rosney 8/18/1805; AC 8/31/1805; Monitor 8/31/1805"

Mrs. Watkins, 37 years old, died 5/3/1809 at Rosney, left five children. AH 5/11/1809; AC 5/13/1809"  
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1941: "ABOUT AUGUSTA. KNOW YOUR STREETS.....In 1816, five years after Walker Street had been incorporated into the city, additional lots were marked off south of Walker. A new street was created and named in honor of ROBERT WATKINS, eminent member of the Georgia Bar. WATKINS STREET today consists of two links, the intervening gap being almost twice the distance of either of the sections. ROBERT WATKINS, with his brother, George, compiled "Watkin's Digest," the earliest

ROBERT married<sup>1</sup> **Elizabeth Martha \* WALTON**, daughter of John (brother of signer) \* WALTON and Elizabeth "Betsey" CLAIBORNE, on 22 Jun 1785. Elizabeth was born 1772 in Georgia. She died<sup>1</sup> 3 May 1809 in Rosney Plantation, GA and was buried in Rosney Plantation.

Elizabeth married her cousin, Robert Watkins, son of Sallie.

"WATKINS, Robert, esq, of Savannah; & WALTON, Miss Elizabeth Martha, only daughter Hon. John WALTON, esq., married 6/22/1785; GG 6/23/1785"

Note: Robert Watkins: June 4, 1804 - Robert Watkins appt. guardian of George Walton, minor

orphan of Robert Walton, (Esq) dec'd. Thomas Glascock, Sec.

POWER OF ATTORNEY:

"STATE OF GEORGIA. KNOW ALL MEN by these presents that I, ROBERT WATKINS of Rosney in the same State, Attorney at Law, heir at law by intermarriage with ELIZABETH MARTHA WALTON, only surviving issue of the honorable JOHN WALTON Esquire of New Savannah in the said State, deceased, who was assignee representative and heir at law of LEONARD CLAIBORNE Esquire, late of the State of Virginia, attorney at law, deceased, do hereby nominate, constitute and appoint my trusty friend Thomas Woodleif, Esquire, of the Said State of Virginia, my true and lawful attorney, for me and in my name, to ask for, demand, and receive, or sue and loyally recover whatsoever the lott or lotts, land or lands, which may be my right, in the said last mentioned State, as heir at law and legal representative as aforesaid. And I do hereby further authorize my said friend, to rent, lease, sell, or otherwise dispose of the same, or any part thereof to my use and benefit, and in my name to transfer and convey the same, and do bind myself, my heirs executors and administrators to uphold and support the said Woodleif in all which legal acting and doings; and to ratify and confirm what my said attorney may do in this respect, which shall be as binding up on me and my heirs, as if the same had been transacted by myself in person. 19th NOVEMBER, 1791.

Signed and sealed & delivered ROBERT WATKINS, L.S. in the presence of J. C. WALTON, THO. WATKINS, Recorded November 19th, 1791."

"Mrs. Watkins, 37 years old, died 5/3/1809 at Rosney, left five children. AH 5/11/1809; AC 5/13/1809" The actual quote on the 13th only says that Mrs. Watkins died on the third instant, the relict of the late Col. Watkins, at Rosney.

Per a letter from her son, Claiborne, in 1846, in which he mentions his mother (see Claiborne for complete transcription of letter):

"Be pleased to send my Mother's letter or bring it with you after Christmas. It is a choice family relict - and recalls a few short warm recollections of my Mother whose maternal love I enjoyed only to the age of seven years. Still, I remember her distinctly as fond, kind -- though very ill, having suffered a long time from Consumption."

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December 1809: "Notice, on Saturday the 6th day of January next, Will Be HIRED, To the highest bidder at Rosney, the late residence of Col. Robert Watkins, dec. upwards of fifty Negroes, consisting of men, women, boys and girls, for the term of one year. One the same day will be rented the mansion house at Rosney with the improvements attached thereto; Also the establishment at the Richmond Baths, for one year; Being the property of the Estate of Robert Watkins dec. Conditions will be made known on that day. Anderson WATKINS, Adm'r."

- 3 M ii. **Lt. Col. Thomas (IV) WATKINS** was born about 1765 in Virginia. He died Feb-June, 1797 in Richmond County, GA.

Note: In Georgia Marriages and Deaths 1763 to 1820" there is a note that

"WATKINS, THOMAS, esq., and PARIS, MISS SALLY, married 5/13/1791. AC 5/21/1791". (see his will, wherein he names his wife "Sarah BENSON" - more research needed)

Historic Note: 1789 Georgia voters, participating in the first U.S. presidential election, cast their vote for electors. A month later, Georgia's electors met in Augusta and voted for George Washington as the nation's first president.

Most of the major cities of Georgia grew along a major river. Augusta, Columbus, Macon, and Milledgeville developed as river trade centers at the head of navigation (the Fall Line) of the large rivers that drained the interior of the state. These cities had a ready water supply. As the importance of river trade decreased, the population growth of these cities slowed in response, but that wasn't until 'later'~!

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"Story of Augusta" by Edward J. Cashin, 1980. page 44 - Regarding George Walton, Robert Watkins, and Thomas Watkins. [see George Walton for complete text from this page]:

"When [George Walton] was chosen governor under the new Constitution, he must have decided that he needed a place of his own. By August of that year the "Governor's Plantation" is described as lying above Call's Warehouse in Springfield. WALTON must have rented the property which he called 'Meadow Garden' and in order to keep it in the family he arranged for his nephew THOMAS WATKINS to buy the estate and hold it for George Walton, Jr. This transaction occurred in 1791."

From the biography of Octavia Walton LeVert, page 5, "...One of the times when George Walton, Sr., was in financial difficulties, apparently from poor investments and unsecured loans, he sold part of the land. Later, he was about to lose 'Meadow Garden' when his brother-in-law, Thomas Watkins, bought the property and deeded it to Thomas and George Walton, Jr., with the stipulation that their father could live there the rest of his life, if he desired. Later George, Jr., (the remaining owner) in difficulties, had sold still more land. He inherited his father's lack of financial acumen along with his political ambition."

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Augusta Chronicle, APRIL, 1792: "GEORGIA, Richmond County } In the Superior Court }  
March Term, 1792. "Present their Honors GEORGE WALTON and JOHN HOUSTOUN.  
"Upon the petition of Amala Jackson, administrator of Stephen Meers, deceased, praying an order to authorize the sale of all and singular the real estate of the said deceased, to wit:

"Three houses and lots in the town of Augusta, numbers 19, 29, and 30, and one unimproved lot in the town aforesaid, number 14; also three and a half and one tenth acres of land lying in the village of Springfield; and also the sale of the following tracts of land, viz. One hundred acres in the vicinity of Augusta, five hundred acres in Richmond county, three hundred acres in the county of Wilkes, and eleven hundred fifty acres in the county of Franklin, and likewise four tracts in the county of Washington, as follows: one tract containing two hundred & eighty-seven acres, one five hundred & seventy five, one four hundred and one fourteen hundred. Extract from the records, THO. WATKINS, Clk"

November 24, 1792: On Thursday the 15th inst. both branches of the Legislature met at the Long Room in the Academy, to ballot for electors for the choice of a President and Vice President of the United States, and on the ballots being taken and examined, by the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives, the poll appeared to be as follows: Benjamin Taliaferro, John King, William Gibbons, and Seaborn Jones, Esquires. Extract from the Journal of the House of Representatives, Saturday Nov 17, 1792.

(Note: Thomas Watkins, Esq. was the Secretary of the Senate).

Augusta Chronicle, March, 1793: "In the Superior Court, February 27, 1793. Present his Honor Wm STITH, jun. Esq. Judge. "ORDERED, that the present term be adjourned to the first Monday in June next, of which all Grand and Petit Jurors, all Suiters, Witnesses and others concerned, are strictly enjoined and required to take due notice. Extract from the Minutes. THO. WATKINS, Clk."

Augusta Chronicle, March 8, 1794: "To Be Rented, for the current year.... THE PLANTATION

just below Augusta, belonging to Thomas Watkins, Esq., consisting of about one hundred acres of land, under good fences, with eight field negroes, several good work horses, an ample supply of corn and fodder, and the necessary tools and utensils for making an advantageous crop. ALSO, His house and out houses in town, ready furnished, together with several valuable house servants.

The terms may be known to Mr. Anderson Watkins, or of  
ROBERT WATKINS, Attorney  
for Thomas Watkins"

Note: This same ad for the yearly rental of the plantation was placed for several subsequent years./vsm  
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Historic note from "Story of Augusta", Chapter: The Mart of the Country, page 43

"A terrible flood wrecked havoc in January 1796. It was generally called the Yazoo Freshet, since the legislature was busy with the repeal of that act at the time. The Hampton Bridge was carried off as were the Springfield tobacco warehouse and the public wharf. The other warehouses and the tobacco in them were badly damaged as Broad Street lay under two feet of water. Whether it was the distress caused by the flood, or the neglect felt by Augusta after the removal of the capital to Louisville, there were calls for a new town charter. Finally, in January 1798, Augusta was incorporated again, this time as a city." "The choice of intendant was in the hands of the elected city council: George Walker, James Pearce, Andrew Innis, Robert Creswell, William Longstreet and Isaac Herbert."  
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Thomas Watkins and most of his brothers served with the Georgia Militia.

"History of the Georgia Militia, 1783-1861" Volume 1, Chapter 1, Introduction" page 28 -  
"TYPES OF MILITIA:

"There were two types of militia units in ante-bellum Georgia.\* The first was the general or un-uniformed militia. This included all eligible males in each militia district aged 18 to 45, the inclusive ages varying depending on the militia law in force at the time, which were not otherwise exempt. These men came to be jokingly called the "uninformed" militia. They preferred, however, to call themselves "unterrified." The men in each district were formed into one company per district. The members of the company elected their commanding officers, and in turn the elected commander appointed the non-commissioned officers.

"The second-type of ante-bellum militia organization in Georgia was the volunteers, also known as the uniformed militia. They were jokingly called names such as "bucks of the blood." These companies grew from the independent or special companies of light infantry, grenadiers, riflemen, fusiliers, horse, and artillery formed by the voluntary association of men who purchased their own distinctive uniforms and as a result of such membership obtained certificates of exemption from service in the general militia companies. The uniforms and strict discipline of the volunteers were to set the example and encourage the un-uniformed militia. For example, in 1898 "Achilles" issued a call for the men of the volunteer companies of Savannah to appear in the uniforms on Sundays and holidays "in order to encourage the military ardor" (of the general militia).

"Together, the general and volunteer militia companies were formed into battalions, each battalion commanded by a major (or, in alternative, a lieutenant colonel from 1818). Each battalion contained from two to six general militia companies. The battalions, in turn, were formed into regiments, the regiment being the basic command and control element of the day. Each regiment was commanded by a lieutenant colonel and from 1818 by a full colonel, with a lieutenant colonel (the senior battalion commander) as second in command."

\* Footnote: "Other writers on the topic occasionally visualize the militia otherwise. Several use the term "militia" to mean exclusively the "general militia," as opposed to the "volunteers, which they consign as elements or components of the part-time army outside of the general militia. Thus, they consider the militia and the volunteers to be separate systems. This writer, on



the other hand, believes that the ante-bellum writers most often used the term "militia" to refer to both the general militia and to the volunteers. This was necessarily so in Georgia, as the volunteers originated within the general militia structure and were subordinated to higher militia command until the creation of independent battalions and regiments of volunteers in the 1850's. Yet a third view, that of those with longtime experience with both regulars and militia, is found in such contemporary writers as Thomas S. Woodward, who classed both the (drafted general) militia and the volunteers as "militia" until they were made regulars by training."

RECORD OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, 1790-1791, PAGE 64 (b).

\*Berrihill, Merander, Lieut.  
\*Burke, Charles, Lieut.  
\*Cowles, William, Captain.  
\*Fox, James, Lieutenant.  
Glascock, Thos., Lieut.-Col.  
\*Gordon, Ambroso, Major.  
\*Harris, James, Captain.  
\*Howell, John, Captain.  
\*Leigh, Ansoln, Lieutenant.  
\*Longstreet, Wm., 2d Lieut.  
Low, George, Lieutenant.  
\*McLane, Daniel, Captain, Lieutenant.  
\*Pearre, James, Captain.  
Stallings, James, Colonel.  
\*Walton, John C., Lieut.  
\*Wambessie, Emanuel, Lieut.  
\*Ward, Charles, Lieut.  
\*Watkins, Robert, Captain.  
\*Watkins, Thomas, 1st Lieut.

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The following trascript of Thomas Watkin's will was viewed and copied from the records at the Richmond County Courthouse, Probate Office, April 2004, by Joy Duncan and Virginia Mylius

Last Will and Testament of THOMAS WATKINS:

"I, THOMAS WATKINS, of the State of Georgia and County of Richmond do make this my last will and testament in manner and form following, to wit:

First - I request that all my just debts be paid.

Secondly - I give and bequeath unto my sister Polley Hughes NUCKOLES all my proportion or allotment of property directed to be divided among the children of my father at the decease of my mother, as well also all the legacy which may be given to me by my mother to her and her heirs forever.

Thirdly - I request that my executors hereafter named do present my relation Polley WALTON, daughter of Robert WALTON of Richmond, with twenty guineas in token of my affection.

Fourthly and lastly - I give and bequeath unto my beloved wife SARAH BENSON WATKINS all my property both real and personal to her and her heirs forever and I do hereby appoint my brothers Robert, George and Anderson WATKINS and my friends Sherwood BUGG and Abraham JONES Executors of this my last will and testament. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this twenty-second day of November in the year of our Lord one thousand Seven Hundred and Ninety-Six and in the twenty first year of American Independence signed, sealed and acknowledged in the presence of us the day and dates above mentioned.

Probated June 13, 1796. Elijah Anderson, Martin Moore and Henry Moore appointed appraisers, Thos Waggener, J.P.

State of George} Jefferson County} Personally appeared before me Benjamin TALLIOFERRO

one of the Judges of the Superior Courts of the State aforesaid John POWELL and being duly sworn depose and saith that he was present at the executors of the above will that he subscribed the same as a witness in the presence of the testator and that Cowles MEAD and Abraham JONES attested the same in the presence of this deponent and the testator in the form. John Powell

Sworn to before me on this the 12th day of July 1797  
Ben Taliaferro one of the Judges  
Recorded this 20th day of March 1798  
By me John MEAD, R.P.

Thomas married **Sally or Sarah BENSON OR PARRIS**.

"Georgia Marriages to 1850"  
Fox, Nicholas to Watkins, Sarah B.[Mrs] 18 Dec 1798 Georgia  
Richmond County

In 1803 there is an ad for recovery of lost items, placed by James & Nicholas FOX

Name: Nicholas Fox  
Death Date: 11 August 1812  
City: Chatham Co

1820 CENSUS Index: FOX 208-218-224-234

1830 CENSUS (Index)

261	9	Fox	Ames (?)	pg0253.txt
273	27	Fox	Ann slaves of	pg0273.txt
292	26	Fox	John	pg0283.txt
275	13	Fox	John slaves of	pg0273.txt
257	9	Fox	Nancy free	pg0253.txt
270	17	Fox	Peter	pg0263.txt

1840 Census, Richmond County

297	3	Fox	Mary	pg0297.txt
264	15	Fox	Nicholas	pg0264.txt

Name: Fox, Nicholas  
Township: District 122  
County: Richmond  
State: Georgia  
Year: 1840  
Roll: M704\_49  
Page: 264  
Image: 226  
One male - living alone? 20-30

- 4 M iii. **Claiborne WATKINS** was born<sup>2</sup> about 1767 in Virginia. He died 16 Mar 1804 in Abingdon, VA.

"JOEL WATKINS, Gent. appointed guardian to Claiborne and George Watkins, orphans of Thomas Watkins. 27 NOV. 1779 p 205" (repeated quote-see "Joel")

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Augusta Chronicle, November 3, 1792, page 3

"Augusta, November 3, [from the Knoxville Gazette, of Sept. 23], Copy of a letter from a gentleman in Cumberland, to his friend in this place, dated Mills Creek, near Nashville, August 31, 1792

"SIR...Since my last, an attack was made on John Beckly and his son, in his peach orchard, near Bledsoe's Lick, by a small party of Indians, of what nation is unknown, about the 1st instant; the former was wounded; but bravely returned the fire and killed an Indian in the act of scalping his son. And on this night of the 27th a party of fifteen Creeks put fire to Captain Morgan's house, near the same place, which was happily extinguished and the party repelled by the aid of Capt Lusk's company, stationed for the protection of the frontiers.

"On the succeeding night, the same party opened the stables of James Douglass, and took his horses- the next day Samuel Wilson fell in with them, wounded one, put the party to flight, and regained the horses, a gun and blanket bloody, which gives reason to suppose the wound was mortal.-Much credit is due to Mr. Wilson for his spirited conduct.

"The treaty of New York taught the defenceless inhabitants of this country to hope for security, but they were permitted only for a short time, to indulge it; and it is an undoubted truth, that the Creeks have killed, scalped, captivated, and plundered the defenceless citizens of this district, as tho' they had received an annuity for so doing. What article of that treaty have they complied with? Have they run the line? The answer is known to every body - NO. I'll venture to say they will not. The nation a large have no thought of it. Have they delivered the white prisoners or the Negroes? I am not able to say that they have delivered none; but I know from my own knowledge there are many they have not delivered, nor will deliver, unless they are purchased. The consider white prisoners as property, and ask the price of a negroe for the ransom of each. My poor neighbours Mrs. Brown and Mayfield have in particular to lament their sons in this situation.

"The Chickasaws and Choctaws have returned home from the conference with Governor Blount and General Pickens, and the United States may safely rely on their friendship, notwithstanding they are red people.

On the 24th ult the Creeks killed and scalped Mr. Ramsey, an old resident among the Cherokees, and a person newly arrived from Charleston, at the Beloved Town of Estanaula, (among the Cherokees) in open day, declaring it was their orders and determination to kill the Virginians wherever they found them, (for thus they call the citizens of the United States.) This outrage has given offence to the well disposed of the Cherokees. They have lately committed similar outrages on several of the white residents among the Chickasaws and Choctaws, who were friends to the United States.

We hear that a few weeks ago a number of Creeks passed the Tennessee, at the Running Water, and had with them captives, a pregnant genteel woman and a pretty boy, about 12 years of age. Who they were, or from whence taken, was not discovered, as it was unsafe for the friends of the United States to make such inquiries of captives.

"On the 6th instant, John Cockran, as he was returning home to his father's house on Little River, was fied on by three Indians, two balls passed thorough his clothes without doing him any further injury.

"It is to be lamented, that a too general opinion prevails in the interior parts of the country, that the murders and robberies committed by the Indians on the frontier settlers, are provoked; by their intrusions on the Indian lands. This was too true previous to the treaties of New York and Holston, with the Creeks and Cherokees, but by no means sinse; for no intrusion whatever has been made on their lands; and it is to be observed, the Creeks, from whose hands the frontier people of this country are made to bleed at every pore, never had a claim to any lands in the limits of the south-western territory, nor even to any north of the Tennessee.

"A thirst for blood, the desire for making the defenceless frontier people slaves, and the fondness of riding fine stolen horses must now be their justification, if they have any.

Extract of a letter from Abington, dated August 21, 1792."

"The 12th instant his excellency Governor LEE arrived at this place, and the next day, accompanied by a detachment of cavalry, he proceeded toward the frontiers, to review the men on

duty, & examine how the country was provided with the means of defence.

"On his way he was informed of the attack made by the Indians the 11th instance in the settlement called New Garden. This was a singular circumstance, and gave the chief magistrate of the state a lively proof of what frontier settlers have so often suffered.

"On his tour he dispersed instruction to the various officers charged with the defence of the country and seemed, by his presence, to give new life and vigor to the inhabitants.

"Before parting, his excellency was pleased to express himself to Colonel Campbell, in the following terms,

"SIR, As we shall probably separate this day, I must use the present moment in returning you my thanks, for your continual attention to me, in my visit to this part of the frontiers; and to assure you that I shall hold the same in grateful remembrance.

:"Be pleased to present y thanks to Capt. Craig, and the gentlemen of the county of Washington, who, with him were so good as to accompany me where my personal safety required it.

"I am exceedingly obliged by their civility, and sincerely wish them every happiness."

ANSWER

"SIR, The commanding officer of the militia, and corps of cavalry, from Washington county, are more than repaid by the reflection, that they may have contributed to your excellency's safety in your tour on our frontiers.

"It seems to be a peculiar crisis of the present Indian war.- In behalf of our fellow citizens, we acknowledge the obligations we are under, for your patriotic exertions, to establish the best plan of defence against the cruel enemy.

"We cordially wish you long life and prosperity; and now bid you a friendly---farewell. (signed)

ARTHUR CAMPBELL, ROBERT CRAIG; CLAIBORNE WATKINS, Head of Clinch,  
August 16, 1792."

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AUGUSTA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, VOL X

Claiborne Watkins was a signer to the TREATY OF THE HOLSTON, NEAR THE MOUTH OF THE FRENCH BOARD WITH THE CHEROKEE ON JULY 2, 1792.

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Republican Party Committee of Correspondence, in Virginia 1800

On January 23, 1800 friends of Thomas Jefferson met in Richmond to decide on a course of how best to elect their candidate in the presidential election to be held in November of that year. Other stated goals were to elect Republican [now the Democratic party] candidates to other elective offices in the Old Dominion and the United States Congress. This convention determined that a "general committee of correspondence to consist of five persons in or near the city of Richmond whose duty it shall be forthwith to inform the several persons agreed upon as Electors, that a poll will be taken for them at the ensuing election in confidence of their attachment of Liberty...." Of course this committee needed people to correspond with, and county committees were formed. These committees consisted of the following individuals: Philip Norborne Nicholas, Meriweather Jones, Benjamin Hatcher, Gervias Stors, and John Courtney.

"Resolved that John H. Foushee be appointed Secretary to the General Committee in the city of Richmond; and should any vacancy hereafter happened in this office, the Standing Committee shall be authorized to make such other appointments as they shall think proper.

"The following persons were appointed Corresponding Committees in the different counties, to

wit: CLAIBORNE WATKINS, Ro. Preston, Sam'l Edmondson and Andrew Russell,  
Westmoreland County, VA.

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Marriage sources:

A. Virginia Marriages to 1800 - - Craig, Elizabeth married Watkins, Claiborne on 15 May 1794 in Washington County, Virginia

B. Marriage is shown on pg. 63 of "The Marriages of Washington Co., VA, 1781-1855, publ. 1993 by the Historical Society of Washington Co., VA. Minister was Charles Cummings, a Presbyterian Minister.

C. Watkins, Claiborne, Esq. of Abingdon married in Washington County, Virginia on the 15th ult. to Miss Elizabeth Craig. From the Knoxville Gazette (Thurs., June 5, 1794).

Republican Party Committee of Correspondence, in VA, 1800

On January 23, 1800, friends of Thomas Jefferson met in Richmond to decide on a course of how best to elect their candidate in the presidential election to be held in November of that year. Other stated goals were to elect Republican (now the Democratic party) candidates to other elective offices in the Old Dominion and the United States Congress.

"The following persons were appointed Corresponding Committees in the different counties, to wit:

Washington Co.: Francis Preston, Abingdon; Claiborne Watkins, Ro. Preston, Samuel Edmondson and Andrew Russell."

C. Watkins signed as a witness in a land transaction between Thomas Jamison and George Goodman in Washington Co., VA on October 12, 1803.

Deed BK 1, Wash. CO, VA: This indenture made 15th day of July, 1795, between Claiborne Watkins (sic) of Abingdon in CO of Washington and Elizabeth his wife of the one part, to James ARMSTRONG of the same place of the other part. Witnesseth that the said Claiborne Watkins and wife for and in cons. of sum of \$75 to him in hand paid do bargain and sell unto the said James Armstrong and his heirs one certain tract or parcel of land lying in CO of Washington aforesaid containing an estimation 20 acres be the same, more or less, being part of a larger tract or plott of 46 ac. distinguished in the plan of the Owten (?) Lotts of the said Town of Abingdon by the Num. 9 usually De...GREERS Lott, the said 20 acres being the same land which was conveyed to the said Claiborne Watkins by the Trustees of the Town of Abingdon, as by deeds eading date of the 4th day of May 1793 of Records of Wash. Dist. Ct. will aper. Together with allits Appurtenances. To Have and to Hold the said tract and parcel of land with its appurtenances unto the same James Armstrong and his heirs to the only proper use and behoof of the said James Armstrong and his heirs forever. And the said Claiborne Watkins and Elizabeth his wife for themselves and their heirs do covenant with the said James Armstrong and his heirs that they the said Claiborne Watkins & Elizabeth his wife and their heirs, the aforesaid tract or parcel of land with the App. unto the same James Armstrong and his heirs against all and every person & persons whosoever will forver warrant and defend.

In Witness whereof the said Claiborne Watkins & Eliz. his wife....Signed: C. Watkins & Elizabeth Watkins...in prsence of Andrew RUSSELL, Robert LEGGET, Joseph HAYS....

Washington Co., VA Will Book B (District Court) 1801 - 1840:

Elizabeth Watkins and ch. is a devisee of Alexander Lefersore Bk. 2, Pg. 507.

appr. Claiborne Watkins - Eliz. Watkins admin. Bk. 2, Pg. 494.

Virginia Genealogical Society Quarterly, - volume XVI, number 2 (01-APR-1978) - Sinking Spring Cemetery Inscriptions, (Sinking Spring Presbyterian Church) Abingdon, VA:

"In Memory of Claiborne Watkins who died March 16th 1804 in the 35th year of his life."

Virginia Genealogical Society Quarterly - volume XXII, number 4 (01-NOV-1984) - Shinto and

Ancestor Worship  
Watkins, Claiborne, 2:29 (and other Watkins)

Virginia State Library. Index to Obituary Notices in the Richmond Enquirer from May 9, 1804, through 1828, and the Richmond Whig from January, 1824, through 1838. McIlwaine, H.R., ed. Richmond, VA: Virginia State Library, 1923.

OBITUARY:

Prim:Name: Claiborne Watkins  
Loc: Powhatan -  
News: Whig  
News Date: 19 Dec 1829  
OSPage: 3

Washington CO, VA, orphan bonds:

Oct 19, 1808-David Campbell named guard. of Louisa Watkins, orphan of Claiborne Watkins, dec'd. Bond: \$1500. surety: James Cummings

Oct 19, 1808-Andrew Russell named guard. of Eveline Watkins, dau. of Claiborne Watkins, dec'd, she being under age 14. Bond: \$1500. suret: Early B. Clapp.

Claiborne married **Elizabeth CRAIG**, daughter of Robert CRAIG and Jean DENNY, on 15 May 1794. Elizabeth was born 24 Jan 1775 in Lancaster, PA. She died 29 Aug 1831.

Virginia Colonial Records, 1600s-1700s  
Virginia Colonial Abstracts, Vol. III, Washington Co. (VA)  
Marriage Register, 1782-1820, Pg. 499  
Claiborne Watkins to Elizabeth Craig, 15 May 1794, married by Charles Cummings

Washington County (VA) History

The first white settlers arrived in what is present day Washington County in the 1760's. Abingdon, Va. was known as Wolf Hills before "Abingdon" was selected as the name of the county seat. Washington County was formed from Fincastle County in 1777, the county seat, Abingdon was formed in 1778. The original Washington County, VA in addition to containing some of the other present day surrounding counties also contained what is today, Sullivan County, TN. In 1786 the northwestern part of Washington County became Russell County. In 1814 the western part of what remained of Washington County was combined with parts of Lee County and Russell County to form Scott County. In 1832 the northeastern part of Washington County was combined with part of Wythe County to form Smyth County. With the incorporation of the town of Goodson as the independent city of Bristol in 1890, Washington County assumed its present size.

Among the first settlers of Washington County, Virginia were the Craigs, three brothers - David, Robert and James Craig, The heads of families that composed the Rev. Charles Cummings' congregation at Sinking Spring, in the Grace Spring neighborhood, I will give a list of their names, and it must be remembered that they were all Presbyterians.

"These families were in the county previous to 1772: among them is listed Robert Craig, David Craig, Henry Cresswell, William Bates. Many of them came from Germany to Pennsylvania, thence to what forms Shenandoah and Rockingham, and from there to Holston. Many of the men whose names I have mentioned, and others from Old Washington, participated in the battle of Point Pleasant, in 1774, and principally fought the battle of the Long Island Flats, in 1776, and also participated in the memorable battle of Kings Mountain, distinguishing themselves in each battle." written by Gov. David Campbell.

DAVIDSON posted by Jane Davidson on Saturday, August 14, 1999: Leonidas Watkins Davidson b. 8 Jul 1821 Washington Co., Va, son of John Davidson m. Agnes Vest. I need birth & death dates on John & Agnes and names of their other siblings.

Militia: To better understand the situation one has to have a grasp of the Militia system as it was

the standard form of military service during the development time of the nation. Each County had at least one unit divided into companies. The officers of each company were appointed by the County Court and their records are often found in the County Court Minutes. Then the unit is made up of all the men in the boundaries of the company. Every man between 16 and 45 years of age was expected for the six muster calls each year. Four of these were for the company, one for the Regiment and one for the Battalion. When a man missed one of these meetings, he was fined. The Sheriff collected the fines and reported these to the Auditors of the State.

- 5 M iv. **Maj. GEORGE WATKINS** "George" was born 1769 in Virginia. He died<sup>3</sup> 16 Oct 1829 in Greensboro, (Greene Co), GA.

Georgia Georgia Marriages: POLLY EARLY to GEORGE WATKINS, Dec 26, 1801, Greene Co., GA

"The Family of Early - Which Settled Upon the Eastern Shore of Virginia; And Its Connection With Other Families," by R. H. Early, Lunenburg, Virginia 1920:

"Mary Early married Major George Watkins, son of Thomas Watkins Jr. and wife, Sally Walton, sister of George W., a signer of the Declaration of Independence, and governor of Georgia. MAJOR WATKINS RESIDED AT "CALAIS" [his plantation] ACROSS BROAD RIVER FROM JOEL EARLY, JR'S RESIDENCE, "DOVER," IN GREENE COUNTY, GA."

"George, fourth son of Thomas and Sallie Walton-Watkins, was left an orphan and was brought up by his uncle, Joel Watkins, of Charlotte Co., VA; later he went to live with his eldest brother, Col. Robert Watkins in Georgia; soon after his marriage he moved (1804) to Greene County., GA; was an elder in the Presbyterian Church, a gentleman without fear or reproach. He together with his brother, compiled and published the first "Digest of the Laws of the State of Georgia, from its first establishment as a British province down to the year 1798 inclusive, the principle Acts of 1799, also Constitution of 1798, etc.; title of all the obsolete and other acts concluding with an Appendix containing the original charter and other documents ascertaining and defining the limits and boundary of the State; of all the treaties with the Southern tribes of Indians; the Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union; the Constituion of the U.S. and a few Acts of Congress." This Digest was printed in 1800 by Robt. Aitken of Phila.; because it contained the Yazoo Act the Legislature would not pay the compilers for their work, which was afterwards copied by Wm. H. Crawford.

"Major George Watkins d. in 1829 and was buried in the Greensboro cemetery. Judge Geo. Hillyer has in his possession an ivory miniature of this grandfather. Mrs. Mary E. Watkins was a woman of vigorous intellect; she d. 1842-3 [note: she died either in the last days of December 1839 or first days of January, 1840] and was buried in Athens."

George W. Watkins' plantation in Greene County was "Calais":

July 11, 1832, Emily Watkins, Athens, GA wrote to her brother Thos. Watkins, Courtland, AL... of "Calais": "Mama has just returned from Calais-she dislikes to leave that lovely and quiet dwelling. She is, as you know, an enthusiastic admirer of the beauties of Nature so finely displayed in the country."

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"History of the Georgia Militia, 1783-1861" Volume 4: The Companies: page 153

1st Battalion, redesignated the 27th Battalion in 1804; MAJ James Fox (1st Battalion)(comm. 9 February 1798); MAJ. THOMAS WATKINS (comm. 18 February 1811); MAJ. GEORGE W. WATKINS (comm. 28 September 1818); MAJ James Knight (Comm. 29 November 1821), MAJ Thomas H. Handley (comm. 15 August 1823)."

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GEORGIA LAND INDEX, 1789-1799

NAME: WATKINS, ANDERSON  
COUNTY: RICHMOND  
YEAR: 1795  
DISTRICT: BUGG

"History of Greene County (GA)"

"Watkins, George - 29 slaves"

OTHER WATKINS MARRIED IN GREENE COUNTY, from "Georgia Marriages Up To 1850".  
Not sure of any relationships:

Early, Polly to Watkins, George 26 Dec 1801 Georgia  
Greene County

Watkins, Delpha to Williams, John 21 Nov 1803 Georgia  
Greene County

Shropshire, Dicey to Watkins, Josiah 31 Jul 1805 Georgia  
Greene County

Kennedy, Polly to Watkins, William 31 Oct 1811 Georgia  
Greene County

Atkinson, Elizabeth to Watkins, John 18 Sep 1816 Georgia  
Greene County

Foster, Samuel to Watkins, Jane 13 Mar 1827 Georgia  
Greene County

Watkins, Mary Ann to Wheeler, Lawrence F. 16 Dec 1841 Georgia  
Greene County

AUGUSTA GENEALOGY SOCIETY, VOL X "First Presbyterian Church Records"

page 6 Listed as Charter Members:  
1804, 1805, 1806 GEORGE WATKINS (noted as Elder)  
1807 - MRS. C. WATKINS

page 8  
Mr. GEORGE WATKINS, Elder, Dec(eased) at Greensboro  
(In same year, 1822, that Mrs. Catherine Watkins dismissed to another church?)

1820 Census, Greene County, GA Roll: M33\_8 Page: 202 Image: 149  
GEORGE WATKINS,

free white males:

1 (10-15 yrs)

1 (16-20 yrs)

1 (+45 years)

free white females

3 (under 10)

3 (10-19)

1 (20-45)

slaves:

12 males

14 females

1824 Census, Greene County, Woodham District, GA Roll: M33\_8; Page: 202; Image: 149



Georgia Tax Index:  
WATKINS, GEORGE  
COUNTY: RICHMOND  
YEAR: 1797  
DISTRICT: STILES

Note: Greene County was formed from Washington County in 1786. Quote from Greene County web page:

"But the simple creation of Greene County was overshadowed. Another more localized treaty had stirred the Creek into a fury. In 1786, the Treaty of Shoulderbone Creek, a swift tributary feeding the Oconee in lower Greene, was signed in which a number of Creek chiefs ceded another large portion of land to the Georgians. The Creek contested the treaty, claiming a few minor chiefs had represented the interests of the whole. In like representation, they took their case to the fledgling United States. Not looking for a war with the Creek, Congress voided the treaty. This enraged the frontier Greene Countians, and would prove one of the first steps in placing the loyalties of these southerners with their own rights over the rights of the nation. Most every settler ignored the rulings; the rulings proving virtually unenforceable at that.

"The flood of settlers into Georgia was the result of the system of "head-right" grants. Any veteran of the Continental armies was provided 287 1/2 acres of land as compensation for his service; 50 additional acres for every family member, or slave if they owned them. The treasury of the U.S. was broke after fighting the long war. All the country had was land; massive tracts of land. In 1788, Georgia ratified the Constitution; was the fourth state admitted. It also had little to offer economically. But it had land. And on the impetus of the land grants, veterans poured into Greene County. Most were from Virginia and the Carolinas, bringing their hardscrabble ways and their religions with them. Thaddeus Brockett Rice, celebrated historian of Greene County, described the original settlers as possessing "little sophistication . . . sturdy, virile, and easy to anger"; advantageous traits for the hard life they would lead. Until the 1800s, Greene County would be the edge of civilization in Georgia.

"In 1790, George Walton, signer of the Declaration, presided over Greene County's first superior court. It would be kept busy settling everything from minor infractions such as "profane swearing" to higher crimes against the county."

In the middle of the 1790's hostilities with the Indians was fierce, with many attacks, and many settlers killed. By 1800 hostilities with the Indians were over.

"The boats of the world stood at anchor in the harbors wanting cotton, and now that the cotton gins were operating, the virgin and fertile fields with the slave labor could supply their wants and a tide of wealth came into the South . . . The planters and their families lived in luxury . . . and their rolling lands as far as the eye could see were growing the fleecy cotton . . . The rail fences cut off lush green pastures for the blooded horses and fine cattle. The driveway curved up across a vast expanse of lawn, bordered by crepe myrtles or cedars on either side . . . Their homes were substantial and well built by slave labor . . . It was the slaves whose muscle turned a wilderness into a cultivated land." ..... Carolyn Williams ~ History of Greene County, Georgia

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Augusta Chronicle, March 17, 1798

"NOTICE.... On Tuesday the 20th inst. The election for members of the city council of Augusta will be held. For district No 1 at Major Deatignac's superintended by Juha Green, James Fox, and George L. Hull, Esquires. For district No 2 at Hutchinson, Henry Smeidon and George Graves, Esquires. For District No 3 at John Pearce's, superintended by GEORGE WATKINS, Absalom Rhodes and Samuel Jack, Esquires. The poll to open at ten o'clock and closed at five in each district or ward. The wards are as follows: from the cross street running between Mrs. Fox's and the market house down to the lower end of town, composes district No 1, two members. From the

said cross street up to the cross street between Mr. Innis and Collin Reed & Co. composes district No 2, three members. From thence upwards including Springfield composes district No 3, two members.

"The members of the city council are to possess the qualifications requisite for a member of the legislature; and that all free white persons residing in each district, being citizens of the United States, and residing one year within the said town, and having a freehold or lease for years of a lot therein as aforesaid, shall be entitled to vote for members of the respective districts."

ABRAHAM JONES, J.P.  
WM. LONGSTREET, J.P.  
JOs HUTCHINSON, J.P.  
March 8, 1798"  
-----

Letter from GEORGE WATKINS, Greensboro, GA, and the "young men of Augusta" to President John Adams, 1798.

In April of 1823, the United States embarked upon a course to restrict trade between the United States and Britain. When the acts were proclaimed, the Augusta Chronicle saw fit to republish correspondence from 1798 between the "young men of Augusta" and President John Adams, who at that earlier time had just enacted similar acts towards France, to wit: June 13, 1798: An Act to Suspend the Commercial Intercourse between the United States and France, and the Dependencies Thereof. And July 7, 1798: An Act to Declare the Treaties Heretofore Concluded with France, no Longer Obligatory on the United States.

Also in 1823, William H. Crawford was (again) involved in political controversy, and questions had been raised regarding his previous position - and current one - with regard to issues of this type.

As the Chronicle stated, in 1798, the young men of Augusta wrote to President John Adams at a time when "circumstances indicated a rupture between the United States and France." "It is well known that the intemperate course pursued by the infuriate leaders in what was then denominated the "terrible republic," seemed to be hastening to an open war between this country and France." The reason for the republication of these letters was based partly on patriotic fervor, and partly for those current political reasons having to do with William H. Crawford. But that is beside the point of this transcription of the letters. George WATKINS was Chairman of the meeting of the young men, and signed the letters. Mr. Clayton requested copies of the letters, and Major Watkins graciously provided copies of the 1798 correspondence to the Chronicle.

From the Georgia Journal,

Greensboro, March 11, 1823

Maj. George Watkins:

"Sir, Understanding that you are fully conversant with the facts relative to the address made to President Adams in the year '98, in which you, as Chairman of the meeting, and the Secretary of the Treasury, are said to have taken a part, and which has recently been published to charge the latter gentleman [Crawford] with being at that time a Federalist; and knowing that your regard for sincerity, will induce you readily to do an act of justice even to a political opponent, I have taken the liberty to request the favor of you, to state all the circumstances connected with that transaction, its exclusive object, and what were Mr. Crawford's political principles seen and at all times either prior or subsequent to that period- and if you have the President's answer to that address, will you furnish a copy for publication.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant, A. S. CLAYTON.

Greensboro, GA, Mary 14, 1823.

The Hon. Augustin S. Clayton:

"Sir, Having been already referred to in relation to an address to President Adams by the young men of Augusta, in 1798, in which Mr. Secretary Crawford and myself were concerned, I feel it my duty not only in compliance with your request, but to prevent misconstruction, to state briefly the facts concerning it, so far as it involves political principles.

"The general policy of the then French government toward the United States had been mainly intended to involve us in a war with its enemies. And after various and fruitless attempts to accomplish this object, other plans and most disgraceful schemes were devised, which now seemed as if war was inevitable. In this situation of things, Presidents Adams by a wise and energetic course preserved our neutrality, and was a measure rendering almost universal satisfaction. And it is well known that addresses from every section of our country, uniting the feelings of both the political parties, were at that time pouring in to the President, loudly applauding the firmness and decision of the administration in relation to the belligerent powers of Europe.

"The young men who composed the meeting in Augusta, were of different political sentiments, and the committee selected by the chairman to prepare the address in questions, were also so-considered, and consisted of Messrs. Wm H. Crawford, Nathaniel Cocke, Samuel Barnett, Isham Malone and John McKinne- the three first of whom were known as Republicans. In making this choice, the chairman was influenced by a desire, that the address should manifest the feelings of American, without regard to the distinction of political parties then existing. The draft reported by the committee underwent some trivial and merely verbal alterations in general committee. The transaction in relation to this address was previous to those acts of that administration which seemed not be acceptable to the great body of the American people.

"Viewing things as I then and now do, I must in candor say that I cannot conceive how any port of the address can be alleged as ground for charge of fickleness in Mr. Crawford's political sentiments. For my part I have no recollection, nor has any thing come to my knowledge to induce a belief that any change has since taken place; - On the contrary that it has always been considered he never belonged to what is termed the Federal party; and such has ever been my opinion.

"The original report of the address by the committee together with the President's answer having been preserved among my papers, I do myself the pleasure to furnish a copy of each for your perusal, or for publication, as you may deem expedient.

"Dr. Abbott has been pleased to refer to me as a federalist of 1798, and still remaining so. Be this as it may- To use the language of President Jefferson, it would seem as if we were now "all Federalists, all Republicans."

"Feeling, now and at all times, a deep and permanent interest in the welfare of my beloved country, I have the honor to be, with sentiments of esteem, your most obedient servant, GEO. WATKINS.

Augusta, July 2nd, 1798

To John Adams,  
President of the United States:

"Sir- Whilst clouds darken our political horizon; whilst the ferocious frenzy of the "Terrible Republic" threatens the United States with bloodshed, massacres and desolation, WE, the young men of the city of Augusta, deem it a duty, in common with our fellow-citizens, to assure the Chief Executive Magistrate, of our unalterable attachment to our country and its government.

"At the commencement of their revolution, we regarded the French nation as engaged in a glorious and just cause; the support of that political liberty, which, unless the soul is debased by oppression or corrupted by avarice, neither nations or individuals will resign, but with their lives.

"Viewing them in this light, we were proud of calling France a sister republic; we gloried in calling Frenchmen by the endearing appellation of brothers. Unwilling to form a hasty conclusion against a nation in whose favor we were thus prepossessed, we long wished to view the injuries and insults offered by them to the United States; their contempt of our government, through the medium of their ambassadors; their uprighteous and piratical attacks upon our commerce as the usurped and nefarious acts of individuals, unsanctioned by their government.

"But by the absolute rejection of all conciliatory measures, the French government has avowed the flagrant violations of our rights as a neutral nation and total disregard of their most solemn compacts, to have been authorized by them; that indiscriminate rapine and universal empire, instead of peace and justice are their objects; and that no nation can secure their friendship, without sacrificing its national independence.

"Although we are attached to the blessings of peace, and deprecate the horrors of war, yet we are sensible that, self preservation now points out a firm and energetic conduct to our government; we view with the highest degree of approbation, those measures which have been pursued by the executive, for the preservation of our national honor.

"As we enjoy the supreme felicity of being citizens, of perhaps, the only genuine and well balanced republic, now existing in the world, we feel a just contempt for a nation who can brand us with the imputation of being a divided people, and who presuming on our disunion, have left us the awful alternative, disgraceful peace, or war.

"With the most unlimited confidence in the firmness, justice and wisdom of your administration, we pledge ourselves to you and our fellow citizens, that we will be ready at the call of our country to defend, what is dearer to us than our lives - her liberty and laws.

By order of the meeting. GEO. WATKINS, Chairman."

President John Adams' reply to the young men of Augusta:

"To the Young Men of the City of Augusta in the State of Georgia.

"Gentlemen - An address from the Youth of Augusta, so remote from the seat of government, and where I am personally wholly unknown, is a very high gratification to my feelings.

"Threats of bloodshed, massacres and desolation, from the frenzy of any nation, however great, or any republic however terrible at the distance of a thousand marine leagues need not intimidate the American people, if they really feel like you an unalterable attachment to their country and government. It has been my destiny to differ from my fellow citizens in general, in opinion concerning the French revolution - as a dispensation of Providence, I have ever beheld it with reverence, unable however to comprehend any good principles sufficient to produce it, to see its tendency, or in what it would be terminate- built the warm zeal, the violent attachment to it manifested by Americans, I have ever believed to be an error of the public opinion- it was none of our business- we had or ought to have had nothing to do with it, and I always believed we were making work for severe repentance. To me little time remains to live, and less I hope to have any thing to do with public affairs, but I could neither die or retire in peace, if at such a time as this, and in the station I now hold, I should conceal my sentiments from my fellow citizens.

"Self preservation now points out a firm conduct to government, and your satisfaction in those measures, which have been pursued for the preservation of our national honor is much esteemed. May you long live to rejoice in them, and enjoy their happy effects.

"It is a gratification to my pride to see you boast of a well-balanced republic; the essence of a free

republic in in this balance - the security of liberty, property, character and life depends every moment on its preservation, and France and America will be scourged by the rods of vengeance if they will not study and preserve that balance, as the ark of safety.

"The expression of your confidence in my administration, is the more precious as it was unexpected.

JOHN ADAMS, Philadelphia, July 20th, 1798."

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Augusta Chronicle, August 30 and Sept 6, 1800

"DUTIES on CARRIAGES, And on Retailer's Licenses. District of Georgia, Collectors Office, 5th Division, only Survey. August 29, 1800.

"NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the subscriber will attend on Monday in each week during the approaching month of September, at Col. WATKIN'S Law Office, for the purpose of receiving the entries of all carriages for the conveyance of persons owned or possessed by inhabitants of the city of Augusta and county of Richmond-and of issuing licenses of the United States to those who may commence the benefits of retailing wines and foreign distilled spirits within the said city and county, also to those whose present licenses shall expire within that month. All persons concerned are exhorted to pay attention to this notice, and are informed that the penalties incurred by omission, will in ever instance be strictly exacted.

GEORGE WATKINS, Collector. Augusta, August 30, 1800"

Augusta Chronicle, April 4, 1801

"GEORGIA, Richmond County, by GEORGE WATKINS, Clerk of the Court of Ordinary.

"Whereas John Jamieson, has applied to me for letters of administration on the goods, chattels, rights and credits of John McIntosh, Michael Hebbard, Peter McIntyre and Robert Barker, late on board the galley 'Savannah', mariners in the service of the United States, deceased.

"These are therefore to cite and admonish all and singular the kindred and creditors of said deceased, to be and appear before me at my office, on or before the 1st Monday of May next, to show cause, if any, why said letter should not be granted.

"Given under my hand at the office, this 11th day of March, 1801. GEO. WATKINS, Clerk"

Augusta Chronicle, June, 1802

"ROADS and STREET.

"Sealed proposals for amending and keeping in complete repair for one year, the streets within the limits of this city, and the roads and bridges within three miles thereof, will be received by either of the subscribers, until the 25th. It is expected that the contractor, whoever he may be, will give bond with approved security, at least in double the amount of the contract, to the City Council, for the faithful performance of his duty, which security shall be announced by him in his proposals; and that the contractor immediately after executing the bond as aforesaid, proceed to repair the same, and that he has them in complete order within six weeks thereafter- the whole of which shall be subject to the superintendence and examination of the City Council or either of them.

The contractor shall receive his compensation quarterly, to be computed from the date of the bond.

N. B. Proposals will be received for any part, or the whole, of the repairs aforesaid, as may be most convenient.

Walter Leigh, John Moore, GEORGE WATKINS, Committee

Council Chamber, June 11, 1802"

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Augusta Chronicle, December 31, 1803 "Married, on the evening of the 24th inst., BY Maj. GEORGE WATKINS, Ebenezer Early, late merchant of this city, to Miss Jane M.\_\_\_\_\_"

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**BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

Watkins, Robert And George  
Allibone's Critical Dictionary of English Literature. British and American authors living and deceased from the earliest accounts to the latter half of the Nineteenth Century. Three volumes. By S. Austin Allibone. Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott & Co., 1858.(Alli)  
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Prior to 1803 Georgia distributed land via a headright system. Designed to prohibit corruption, the system actually encouraged it. During early administrations the government abused this system and created what today is generally known as the Yazoo Land Fraud. These abuses led to the adoption of the lottery system in May, 1803 under governor John Milledge. The first lottery under the new system occurred in 1805.

Almost 3/4 of the land in present-day Georgia was distributed under this lottery system. During the 27 years that land was distributed under the system the rules and the methods of the lottery remained virtually unchanged. Applicants could be white males over 18 (or 21 depending on the lottery), orphans, or widows. Fees depended on the lottery and the size of the lot won, but in general they only covered the cost of running the lottery. The state did not profit from allocating these lands. Fractional lots were sold in each of the lotteries and some lands, especially those near major rivers, was exempt from the lottery. These were distributed by the state using alternate, frequently corrupt, methods.

For each person subscribing to a lottery a ticket was placed in the barrel. Since each lottery was over-subscribed, blank tickets were added to compensate for the over-subscription. According to the state archives, no record remains of the people who drew the blank tickets after the 1805 lottery.

**Georgia Archives 1805 Land Lottery**

This encompassed Creek Indian lands just west of the Oconee River ceded to the state in 1802 and a small strip of land in the southeast section of the state.

Augusta Chronicle, June, 1805

**"LAND LOTTERY...**

"In pursuance of an act of the general assembly of this state, passed the 11th day of May, 1803, for making distribution of the lands obtained from the Creek Nation of Indians, at the Treaty of Fort Wilkinson, we, the Commissioners, appointed to superintend the drawing of the Lottery thereby authorized and established, do hereby give notice, that the drawing of the aforesaid Lottery, will commence at the State House in Louisville, on Monday the 22nd day of July next, and that the day of drawing for the names enrolled under each letter of the alphabet, will be as follow, viz:

- A. Monday 22nd of July
- B. Tuesday 23rd, Wednesday 24th and Thursday 25th of July
- C. Friday 26th, Saturday 27th, & Monday 29th of July
- D. Tuesday 30th & Wednesday 31st of July

E. Thursday 1st of August  
 F. Friday 2nd of August  
 G. Saturday 3rd & Monday 5th of August  
 H. Tuesday 6th, Wednesday 7th & Thursday 8th of August  
 I, J, K. Friday 9th of August, all names under I and part of the names under J. Saturday 10th of August, the residue of the names under J and all under K.  
 L. Monday 12th & Tuesday 13th of August  
 M. Wednesday 14th, Thursday 15th, and Friday 16th of August  
 N & O. Saturday 17th of August  
 P & Q. Monday 19th of August, part of the names under P. Tuesday 20th August the residue of names under P and all under Q.  
 R. Wednesday 21st and Thursday 22nd of August.  
 S. Friday 23rd, Saturday 24th, & Monday 16th of August  
 T, U. V. Tuesday 27th of Aug. part of the names under T. Wednesday 18th of Aug. the residue of names under T, and all under U & V.  
 W, X, Y, Z - Thursday 29th & Friday 30th Aug. part of the names under W. And Saturday 31st Aug the residue of the names under, and all under X, Y & Z.

JARED IRWIN  
 GEO. WATKINS  
 EDWIN MOUNGER  
 GEO. R. CLAYTON  
 Commissioners

Louisville, June 11, 1805:

WATKINS, Robert, and George Watkins, editors. Digest of the Laws of Georgia, from its first establishment as a British Province down to the Year 1798. Philadelphia: R. Aitken, 1800.

Augusta Chronicle, July 5, 1806:

"One brick house and lot, levied on as the property of GEORGE WATKINS, Esq in or adjoining to the said City of Augusta, containing in front on Broad Street, 80 feet, more or less, and running through to Reynold Street, supposed to be 342, and bounded on the north-west by a small alley, which is bounded by land belonging to the heirs of McCarten Campbell, and on the south-west, by a lot belongin g to McIver; the above lot with improvements thereon is levied on to satisfy an execution in favor of the City Council of Augusta."

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"History of the Georgia Militia 1783-1861" Volume I, Campaigns and Generals, page 373

"1st BRIGADE, 2nd DIVISION:

"Brigade Orders (about 11 April 1821), by order of Brigadier General Thomas GLASCOCK, signed by Samuel TAVER, aide-de-camp. COL. THOMAS WATKINS resignation (as commander of the 10th Regiment, G.M.) having been tendered and accepted, an election is scheduled for 21 May in Augusta to elect a new commander, Augusta "Chronicle," 12 April 1821. NOTE: later notices name the former commander as LTC George WATKINS."

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"In a letter written December 16, 1873, Dr. [Thomas A.] Watkins writes, "My mother was a daughter of Joel Early who emigrated from Culpepper County, now Madison County, VA, about 1791, and settled in Greene County, GA; her grandfather was Jeremiah Early of Culpepper, VA; my paternal ancestor was Thomas Watkins, of Chickahominy, VA. A little more than a century ago these ancestors were in moderate circumstances; at the commencement of the late war (1861-1865) their descendants had more that fifty million dollar's worth of negro property, besides other valuable effects in proportion to that property."

GEORGE WATKINS DIED IN 1829; "Watkins, Maj. George, 60 years, died 10/15/1829 in Greene Co, GA ACon 10-27-1820"

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#### OBITUARY for GEORGE WATKINS:

"Communicated. DIED at his residence in Greene County, on the 15th inst. Major George Watkins, in the 59th year of his age. His native goodness of character enabled him through life to bear with trials (of which he had many) with a truly Christian fortitude. So, in his last affliction, he looked on death with the calm of matured resignation. At any early age, he became a member of the Presbyterian Church, and was one of the few who aided in the establishment of the first church in this city. He was engaged for several years with his lamented brother Robert, in the first compilation of the Laws of Georgia, at that time an arduous undertaking; the weight of the labor devolving on him; he performed his duty with a carefulness and devotion which merited a better reward – his work was sacrificed by party – the rulers of the day viewing his brother as a powerful opponent, deemed it important to seek every opportunity to arrest his career of fame.— Disregarding the obligation of the Legislature, the Digest was refused on the ground that it contained the far-famed Yazoo Law, and every compensation denied. He had, however, the satisfaction to see their work in the hands of the enlightened, and complimented by the honest."

George married **Mary "Polly" EARLY**, daughter of Joel EARLY \* and Lucy SMITH, on 26 Dec 1801 in Greene County, GA. Mary was born about 1775 in Madison, VA. She died 1839/1840 in Athens, GA and was buried in Athens, GA.

January 2, 1802: "MARRIED, at Dover, in the county of Greene, on the 26th instant, Major George WATKINS of the city of Augusta, to Miss Polly EARLY, eldest daughter of Joel Early, Esq."

Note: the reference to Polly's father being "Governor of Georgia" is in "Watkins Catalogue" by Francis N. Watkins, but it is wrong. Her father was JOEL EARLY; it was her brother who was Peter Early, Governor of GA.

Watkins Family Manuscript  
Written by Dr. Thomas A. Watkins in 1882  
(Beginning on page 16)  
Provided (July 2004) by Eugenia Richards, descendant

"Mary, third child of Joel Early Sr. and Lucy Smith, married George Watkins in 1800. She died in the year 1839 and her husband ten years before. They had a large family of Children: Thomas, the eldest, the publisher of this new edition of Judge F.N. Watkins' Sketch of the descendants of Thos. Watkins of Chickahominy, Va. is now a resident of Austin, Texas. He married Sarah Fitzgerald who lived near Courtland, Ala. and died in the year 1865 near Carrollton, Miss. The children of this marriage are Lettie, who married Maj. Wm. M. Walton of this City. The children of this marriage are Newton S. Walton, Early Walton, George Walton and Sarah Walton. The eldest married Annie Hicks and has one child: Ethel Walton. (Note from Mrs. Richards - Dr. Watkins forgot to put in his second daughter Mary Early Watkins who married Jefferson H. McLemore - no children)"

In a letter, dated October 16, 1832, Polly Early Watkins in Athens, GA wrote to her son Thomas Watkins in Courtland, AL:

"My dear Child, This day three years, your Father died, and I have been taking a mournful retrospect of the transactions of that day, and thinking how probable that before three years more expires, some more of us will be numbered with the dead, and none so likely as myself.... "



To quote from "History of Greene County" pages 288-290

"JOEL EARLY, SR. came from Virginia to Wilkes County and then to Greene County. He was in the list of Headright grantees and it shows that he received 1,000 acres of land on the Oconee river in 1803-6. Other records attest to the fact that he must have been here since 1784-5. In Lucian Lamar Knight's book he says, "Joel Early's Manor was the finest house north of Savannah and he lives in the style of an English Lord." Tradition says that he required his sons and daughters to don evening clothes each day for six o'clock dinner.

"Under the terms of his Will none of his sons were to come into full possession of his property until they reached the age of 45 years. If this Will was carried out, his oldest SON, PETER EARLY who was once Governor of GA., died when he was 45 and so probably did not fully possess his legacy.

"It is thought that Joel Early died in December 1806 as this was when the Will was probated with Joel Early, Jr. as one of the executors. Both Clementine and Ebenezer were disinherited for some reason. The minutes of the Greene Co Inferior Court 1799-1816 show where Joel Early, Jr. made application for letters of administration on the estate of Jeremiah Early, and on the same date GEORGE WATKINS, HUSBAND OF POLLY EARLY WATKINS (co-author of Watkins's Digest of GA Laws from 1733-1800) made application on the estate of Clementine Early. What malady could have caused the death of these two young men of Joel Early? Did they commit suicide? Peter Early also was listed as dead Nov. 1, 1824.

"Eleazer (Ebenezer?) Early the son left and also disinherited, was the author and publisher of one of the best maps of early Georgia. Joel EARLY, JR. was a wealthy Greene County farmer. His plantation of 5,000 acres started at the town limit of Greensboro and extended to near the Oconee river, joining the lands of Thomas Stocks and Col. Richard Willis.

For many years before the Civil War, Joel Early had pronounced views on slave ownership. He called in over a hundred slaves and asked them if they wanted to be free and if they would like to go back to Africa. He also would furnish transportation and give each on \$100. Only forty of these slaves accepted the offer. Joel Early chartered a vessel from Norfolk, VA and the forty slaves sailed with his \$100 and belongings from Norfolk to Liberia, Africa. "One of the numbers who chose to go to Africa was a house-boy who had been taught to read and write. This boy acted as a leader of the migrants and he wrote to Mr. Early from time to time. African fever and diseases took a heavy toll, as well as the tribal wars. Those who survived became very dissatisfied and begged to be returned to their former master and slavery. Under the existing laws this could not be done. Finally the slave boy's letters ceased, still begging to return. Joel Early took this to mean that the boy had also died. Now this troubled him greatly, he said that in trying to do what he thought was right that perhaps he had done the wrong thing. Joel sought relief from his anxiety in drinking, which is borne out by the fact that the minutes of the Greensboro Baptist church show where he was charged with over indulgence many times. He was excluded, forgiven and restored to membership repeatedly, but at this death was non-affiliated.

Stones gave this data on this family: Jeremiah Early married Eliza Cunningham on October 15, 1806. Clementine Early married Frances Terrell, Dec 24, 1811. GEORGE WATKINS married POLLY EARLY December 26, 1801. Charles L. Matthews married Lucy Early January 3, 1807. In 1957 the once fine home is still standing. James Byrnes owns the place, Gatewood Baynes, Mr. F. L. Toney and Mrs. E. G. Adams owns parts of the original farm."

"Early Hill" - The oldest part of this three-story plantation house was built by Joel Early, brother of Gov. Peter Early. The present ante bellum structure is a bed-and-breakfast inn. [From the center of Greensboro go west on Broad Street (Hwy. 278), bearing right onto Hwy. 15. Go north 2.4 miles, turn left onto Lick Skillet Rd. "Early Hill" is on the right 1.6 miles.]

To quote further from the above noted book: "PETER EARLY"

"On a modest headstone that marked the grave is this inscription: "Here lies the body of Peter Early who died on the 15th of August, 1817, in the 45th year of his life." He was buried on the banks of the Oconee but later his remains were moved to Greensboro cemetery by the side of his

brother Joel Early, Jr. The remains of his widow were also placed by Peter Early. The inscription reads: "Sacred to the memory of Ann Adams Sherwood, consort of Rev. Adiel Sherwood. She was born in Bedford, VA in 1783 and died Nov. 1822....delecta dum vixit Memorabilis in Mortu."

(Ann Adams Early married the Rev. Sherwood three years after Peter Early died. Rev. Sherwood was the first pastor of Greensboro Baptist Church. Sherwood was a protégé of the "old father" of Mercer University, Jesse Mercer, who performed the ceremony when Sherwood "married the rich, pretty widow of Peter Early. Ann Adams Early Sherwood lived only a year after her second marriage and the child she bore Sherwood died too, and is buried by her side. Sherwood became guardian for the Peter Early children. They were: Augusta, Cynthia, Alexander, Thomas and Frances. )

Peter Early studied law with Mr. Ingersoll in Philadelphia, then went back to practice in Georgia. "His competitors at the bar were, Thos. P. Carnes, John M. Dooley, John Griffin, Wm. H. Crawford, ROBERT WATKINS and George WALKER."

#### BRIEF HISTORY OF THE EARLY FAMILY:

Date 1661. John Early married \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ County, Va. (Rev. G. C. Smith)

Date 1676. John Early of Mulgrave. Commission to officers of the five companies of foot in his Majesty's Regiment of Guards, employed on expedition to Virginia. Capt. Herbert Jeffries, commander-in- chief. (From Robert Beverly's History of the present state of Virginia.)

Date 1705. Thomas and Elizabeth Early. (Christ Church Parish registrar Middlesex County, Va.) Elizabeth Early Died 1716, a widow.

1705. Their son Jeremiah Early, born December 9, 1705, married Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth Buford of Lancaster. (Born 1709) They were married in 1728. Both of them lived in Culpepper County, Va. Jeremiah died in 1787. Buried on his estate.

Their sixth and ninth children, sons, moved to Georgia.

"Joel Early (his father's executor) married Lucy Smith of Culpepper County, Va., June 23, 1772. Moved with his family to Wilkes County (afterwards Greene County, Ga.) This was about 1795. Had his manor place on the Oconee River. He was the father of Governor Peter Early and a large family of sons and daughters. His will recorded in 1807 in Greensboro, Ga., 3000 acres of land in the northeast corner of Greene County."

"Jeffery Early (father of at least seven children) moved to Lexington, Ga., then Wilkes County. Will recorded September 1811 in Oglethorpe County for benefit of his wife and seven children. Jeffery makes a deed to the daughters Sally, Elizabeth and Nancy Early of one Rachel Early of Surrey County, Ga. "for love, good will and affection" of two negroes. See deed book "E", page 17, Oglethorpe County, Ga."

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1st Generation, 1661, John Early. In 1676 he was an officer in the King's troops.

2nd Generation, 1705. Thomas Early, son of above, married Elizabeth in Middlesex County.

3rd Generation. Jeremiah Early, son of above, married Elizabeth Buford-Early, in 1728. They had nine children. The sixth child, a son named Jacob, married Elizabeth Roberson, and moved to Wilkes County, Ga. The will of this Jacob Early, dated 1806 is on record in Clarks County, Ga. His first child, a daughter, Anne Early (called Nancy) married Buckner Harris. He had four other children, Sally Early, Mary Early and Alice Early. (Note: Full details of this Early family are contained in the records belonging to Miss Josephine Ethel Massy Lynch, now living at Marietta, GA. September 1911.)

General Buckner Harris, first son of Walton and Rebecca Lanier, was born \_\_\_\_\_ in Virginia.

At an early age he was engaged with the Late Governor Clarke in fighting the Tories and Indians during the Revolutionary War; was at the siege of Augusta when the fort was held by a British Colonel Brown. Under secret orders from Mr. Madison's cabinet, he occupied a part of East Florida, then the property of Spain, he was general of the American troops called the Patriots. Governor Matthews of Revolutionary fame, Major Alexander and General Harris, were authorized by the Federal Government to occupy Florida, etc., but the Government perfidiously in its diplomatic intercourse with Spain disavowed its complicity. General Harris married a Miss Nancy Early. (See Early records to be entered later.)

Nancy Early was a cousin of the afterwards celebrated Governor Peter Early.

HISTORY OF GREENE COUNTY, GA. web site:

[http://www.inheritage.org/almanack/a\\_scul.html](http://www.inheritage.org/almanack/a_scul.html)

"Joel Early oversaw his farm "Fontenoy" at Scull Shoals, one of the first successful plantations in Greene County, GA." another quote; "Joel Early, built his "Fontenoy" plantation in 1791, a sprawling farm which would encompass thousands of acres on both sides of the river. His son Peter (governor of Georgia, 1813-1815) followed in his father's footsteps, setting up his own operations on the west side of the river."

(After 1812) "A few years later, Peter Early, son of Greene's most prosperous pioneer settler, Joel Early, became governor of Georgia." Around 1840 "Joel Early, son of the county's first large planter, freed his slaves, and even paid their way back to Africa if they wanted it."

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"Letters from Forest Place... A Plantation Family's Correspondence, 1846-1881". edited by E. Grey Dimond and Herman Hattaway; University Press of Mississippi, 1993

Family mentioned in letter of January 12, 1856, between Sarah F. Watkins (MS) and her daughter, Letitia (TX): Mrs. Flournoy's mother was a half sister to Mrs. Early that died at our house and cousin to Mrs. Hawkins of this county."

6 M v. **Dr. Anderson WATKINS of Augusta, GA** was born 28 Aug 1773 in Virginia. He died<sup>4</sup> 16 Sep 1828 in Scott County, KY.

"GEORGIA MARRIAGES: 1801-1825" WATKINS, ANDERSON, DR. to CATHERINE EVE  
28 Jan, 1804, RICHMOND COUNTY, GA

Augusta Chronicle, February 6, 1802: "DOCTOR WATKINS... Has taken the house on \_\_\_\_\_ lately occupied by Doctor Ulino, one door above the City Hotel, where he has opened an Apothecary's Shop. "In addition to the purchase of Doctor Ulmo's stock on hand, he has just received from Charleston, an ample supply of Fresh Drugs; and offers his Medical Services, in the various branches, to such of the inhabitants of Augusta and its vicinity as may honor him with their confidence. January 27. "

THOMAS CAMBER WALTON, dec'd. October 3, 1804: Anderson Watkins appt. Admr. Jacob Danforth, Thos. Glascock, Sec.

THE HON. GEORGE WALTON, dec'd. June 1, 1804: Dorothy Walton appt Admx. Robert Watkins, Anderson Watkins, sec. All the record in the files of the Signers estate.

ROBERT WATKINS, dec'd. November 22, 1805: Elizabeth M. Watkins, and Anderson Watkins, appt. Admr. Thos. Glascock, Oswell Eve, George Watkins, Sec. January 13, 1812: Division of estate at Rosny (sp?) late residence between four of the children and heirs: Oldest son Thomas Watkins; next Robert, George, Claiborn Anderson and John Robert Watkins."

July 5, 1806: "A Bargain, Will be Rented or Leased: The elegant plantation called, in common the "Richmond Baths:, Georgia, for the term of our or eight years, to the highest bidder; notes payable every six months will be required with approved security- to any person wishing to purchase said property, a credit will be given for the term of two or three years. They may have also some furniture, horses, cattle, and the present pitched crop. Good titles will be given by DR. ANDERSON WATKINS. For further information apply to J. G. Posner."

Augusta Chronicle, July 4, 1807: "WILL BE SOLD, Three negroes, viz. Charity and Chancy, and her child, Jinney, executed as the property of Floyd Jarvis, to satisfy the following executions, via. ANDERSON WATKINS, THOMAS GLASCOCK, Evans and Macabe, Wm. Fitzpatrick to the use of E. Bacon and Charles Tulley-judgments obtained against said Jarvis. JAMES LUKE, D.S. June 27."

Augusta Chronicle, June 4, 1808: "A BARGAIN. On Wednesday the 15th of June next, between the hours of 10 and 2 o'clock, at Joseph G. Posner's Baths, WILL BE RENTED OR LEASED, The elegant Plantation called, in common, the 'RICHMOND BATHS, Georgia" for the term of eight years, to the highest bidder; notes payable every six months will be required with approved security---to any person wishing to purchase said property, a credit will be given for the term of two or three years. They have also some furniture, horses, cattle and the present pitched crop. Good titles will be given by DR. ANDERSON WATKINS. For further information apply to the subscriber. J. G. POSNER, April 23."

Returns for 1812-1813: of Anderson Watkins, guardian of Thos. Walton (orphan of Robert & Elizabeth Walton) shows he was at school under Dr. Waddell at Willington, later goes to Athens.

November 1819, Dr. Anderson Watkins also owned lands in Columbia County, GA, next to William Collier, who sold 781 acres 10miles above Augusta.

December, 1819 (numerous ads) SHERIFF'S SALES: "On the first Tuesday in January next, at the Market house in the city of Augusta, between the usual hours, WILL BE SOLD....325 acres of land, more or less, lying near the waters of McBean, Richmond County, adjoining Job. S. Burney, Jeremiah Harris and others - taken as the property of John Turman, to satisfy an execution in favor of ANDERSON WATKINS, Trustee of GEO. WALTON.

Also...The undivided interest or one fifth part of 1700 acres of land, more or less, bounded by Oswell Eve, Edward Rowel, and lands formerly belonging to the Estate of S. Jones. Known by the name of "Rosney". Levied upon as the property of GEO. W. WATKINS, to satisfy an execution in favor of Cosby Dickinson and others. W. LAMKIN, D.S. December 6th."

Nov 1820. Miss Mary Hornby one of the children of Thos. Hornby chooses Dr. Anderson Watkins, guardian, and he is appt. guardian for Ann, Henrietta, and Emma Hornby, minors of said Thos. Hornby.

1820 CENSUS, Richmond County, GA

A. Watkins (Dr. Anderson Watkins - son of Thomas and Sally Walton Watkins)  
1 m 10-16 1 f 10-16  
2 m over 45 ( 1 must be Dr. A.W.) 1 f 16-26  
(who are all these people?)

President of the Richmond County Medical Society, 1822.

"The Medical College of Georgia's Venerable Old Lady" pages 16 & 17

"There have been physicians in Augusta since before the War of the Revolution.....

"The first attempt at organized medicine in the State of Georgia was the publication of a Uniform

Fee Bill by a group of Augusta physicians in "The Augusta Chronicle and Gazette" on 23 December, 1797.

"Early Augusta was a rather grubby place and early Minutes of Council are concerned primarily with shooting dogs loose upon the streets, making sure that slaves do not live apart from their masters, upkeep on the fire-fighting equipment, and keeping the streets at least reasonably passable. However, in 1817, 1818, 1819, and 1820, the city suddenly came alive, with the building of a courthouse, a powder magazine, a poorhouse, a wharf, and, more to our point, a hospital.

"I might add parenthetically, before we look at this, that the major recreation of the early 19th century Augusta was street brawling by prominent citizens: on 30 March 1811, Dr. ANDERSON WATKINS, First President of the Augusta Medical Society, and GEORGE WALTON were summoned before Council for "riotous conduct and fighting." Dr. WATKINS was fined one dollar and costs and Mr. WALTON two dollars and costs. On 5 September 1812, Thomas GLASCOCK and Joseph CUMMING paid costs and were dismissed on disorderly behavior charges; Zachariah WILLIAMS and John FORSYTH were found guilty on the same charges and fined costs. On 4 December 1813, Henry MEALING was acquitted of identical charges.

By mid-1817, a hospital of sorts was in use, as the Minutes list under 7 July 1817: "Rent of House for Hospital - \$31.00" On 7 March 1818, Dr. John CARTER was paid \$63 for "attendance on the hospital", and on 8 June 1818, Dr. J. B. CUMMING was paid \$100 for attendance at the hospital in summer, 1817. ....

"The Rules and Regulations for the Augusta Hospital, published in May 1821, are quite explicit: the steward is to oversee workmen, close doors and gates each evening, admit patients, make sure there is no wine or spirits in the hospital save on doctor's orders, etc. The patients are not to play at cards or dice, not to beg from visitors, must assist in nursing and housekeeping if able, cannot spit on the walls, and the males are to stay out of the females' rooms and vice versa.

"In 1822 was established the Medical Society of Augusta, Georgia, by such as ANDERSON WATKINS, Alexander CUNNINGHAM, John CARTER, and a relatively new man in town, Milton ANTONY. Dr. Antony had been reared in Washington, Georgia, where he also "read medicine" with Dr. Joel Abbot, the guardian of his future wife, Nancy Godwin. He then studied for one course of lectures at the University of Pennsylvania, but was unable financially to return for a second year, and thus did not receive a degree. .... It would appear from the wording of the preamble of the constitution that these gentlemen hoped to start a school; however, the record books shows that Milton Antony withdrew from the Society in 1823, and the records go only to 1830, so the exact activities of this group are not clear to me. Members of the Society must have attended at least one course of lectures, or practiced for at least four years.

"By 1826, Dr. Antony and a younger colleague and pupil, Joseph Adams EVE, who would later graduate from the recently-established Medical College of South Carolina in Charleston, had started instruction of a sort at the previously mentioned City Hospital.

"The actual founding of the school must be set at 20 December, 1828, when, primarily upon the urging of Milton Antony, the legislature of the State of Georgia passed an act establishing the Medical Academy of Georgia in Augusta, the first school of medicine in the state."

Augusta Chronicle, August 20, 1819: "TO CARPENTERS. The Trustees of the Richmond Academy, having determined to finish the building according to the original plan, the undersigned will receive stated proposals until the 25th inst. for the Wood Work with all the materials to complete the same, which must correspond with the work already done on the wings of the building. WALTER LEIGH, ANDERSON WATKINS, L. C. CANTELOU, Building Committee. Aug 6."

Augusta Chronicle, December 17, 1822: "NOTICE. By order of the Board of Trustees of the

Richmond Academy, will be rented, at the market house, in this city, on the 4th day of January next, for five years, all that part of Lot No. 5, which lies south of the Beaver Dam, containing about ten acres; also, a lot containing about five acres, lying between Telfair and Watkins street, and east of the square at present occupied by Mr. Cantelon, as a vegetable garden. At the same time and place, will be rented on building lease, about ten other lots of various sizes, from a half to one and half acres each, all eligibly situated, and on accommodating terms. A plan of the Lots will be exhibited to applicants prior to the time of leasing, if required. ANDERSON WATKINS, L.C. CANTELOU, Committee, November 30."

Augusta Chronicle, April 26, 1823: "SALE, one Negro boy named PRINCE, about 20 years of age; levied on the property of John W. Pritchard, to satisfy debt to ANDERSON WATKINS"

Dr Watkins was still practicing medicine in Augusta in Oct, 1823, as evidenced by advertising placed in the Augusta Chronicle by others who were "across the street from Dr. Watkins". vsm

April, 1823 - ALSO, for SALE...a lot on Jackson Street, in the city of Augusta, on which are two tenements, adjoining Fury and Fletcher. Application to be made to Doct. A. WATKINS, or to the subscriber. Absolum RHODES.

In 1825, Anderson Watkins was the executor named in the will of Eleanor HORNBY. In her will she names many nieces and nephews, among them was Leonidas Watkins Groves, her grand nephew.

"Memoirs of Georgia" Vol 2 1895 - Chapter 5 Medical Profession  
"Memoirs of Deceased Physicians"

This article is primarily about Dr. Milton Antony, born Aug 7, 1789, gone to Philadelphia for medical training, although he never received a diploma. He took up practice at Monticello, (GA) staying seven years, then removing to New Orleans, LA. The mention of ANDERSON WATKINS is as follows:

"...in the spring of 1819 he came to Augusta (GA) and began the practice which, upon the death of his friend, DR. ANDERSON WATKINS, was so large as to exceed his ability to attend it."

The article further mentions that Dr. Antony was prominent in forming the medical society of Augusta, in 1822; and in 1825 applied to the legislature requesting the appointment of a state board of medical examiners. Anderson Watkins was prominent in the forming of that society, as well.

Another book about Augusta, (sorry, forgot to copy the title) mentioned about some public buildings in Augusta - early 1800's: "Among the benevolent insitutions of Augusta ought not to be forgotten its "Poor School," which has been supported a number of years by private liberality, and has now one hundred pupils. Lately is has become a fortunate legatee; Dr. Anderson WATKINS, well known as a gentleman of great benevolence, has bequeathed to it \$5,000, and Mr. Campbell a similar sum."

In 1985, the Augusta Chronicle printed an article entitled: "Medical Society Incorporated with 9 Members" and stated: "What is now the Richmond County Medical Society was incorporated by the Georgia General Assemby in November 1822. The Autusta Chronicle and Georgia Advertiser ran the notice of the iincorporation of "The Medical Society of Augusta, Georgia," on Nov. 27, with ANDERSON WATKINS, PRESIDENT; Alexander Cunningham, Vice President; Milton Antony, Thomas Wray, William Savage, William T. Young, Dont Dent, B.D. Thompson, and Thomas H.M. Fendall as founding members. A call had been issued for formation of a medical group in 1808, but no published reports of the actual formation could be found. The primary purpose of hte society's incorporation was to establish a medical school in Augusta. The prime founder of both the society and the Medical Academy of Georgia, later the Medical College of Georgia, was Dr. Antony. The Augusta society, spurred by Dr. Antony, was instrumental in

getting established a State Board of Medical Examiners in 1825, and for the Legislature incorporating the Medical Academy of Georgia in 1828. The society's activity came to a half during the Civil War, but it was revived in 1866. A few years later the name was changed to the Richmond County Medical Society."

South Carolina Magazine of Ancestral Research, Vol. 1-20

Marriage and Death Notices from The Charleston Observer, 1827-1845

Issue of October 11, 1828

page 29 Marriages & Deaths, Charleston Observer, 1827-1845, p.29

"At Lexington, Ky., on the 16th ult., Dr. Anderson Watkins, of Augusta, Ga., 54."

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"WATKINS, DR. ANDERSON, 54 YEARS, DIED AT LEXINGTON, KY 9-16-1828, member of the Board of Physicians of the State of Georgia, of Augusta. He was a native of Virginia. Ath 10-24-1828; GR 10-7-1828; AC 10-4-1828 & 10-8-1828; GC 10-2-1828; GJ 10-6-1828; SP 10-11-1828; A Con 10-14-1828; DG 10-7-1828; ACon 10-3-1828 says he died at the home of a sister near Lexington, KY. Funeral to be preached Sunday next at St. Paul's [Episcopal] Church {in Augusta, GA} by Rev. Hugh Smith. ACon 12-12-1828"  
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Richmond County, GA Probate Records:

Last Will and Testament of DR. ANDERSON WATKINS

Dated: June 2, 1828

"To my God the great Father of the universe I humbly offer up and commit my Soul, with a hope of pardon and forgiveness beyond this life through the interception and atonement of our blessed Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, whom to know is deemed a privilege, and when known devolves an imperative duty, on all suitable occasions, publicly to acknowledge.

"I thank my God and Creator for having placed me in an enlightened Gospel land and age, and for having enlightened my heart and understanding to see and bear testimony to the important truths contained in the holy \_\_\_\_\_ as revealed and sacred word of God. I thank him moreover, for having granted me health and this length of years; it having pleased him \_\_\_\_\_ me with a portion of worldly goods, and knowing as I do, the frail uncertainty of human life, and the certainty of death, I, ANDERSON WATKINS of the County of Richmond and State of Georgia, being now in tolerable health and possession of my usual portion of mental faculty, unimpaired by age or disease, Do make this my Last Will and Testament.

"When I am dead, I trust my friends will commit my body decently to the earth.

"It is my will and desire that my just debts, if any, should be ascertained and paid without delay.

"I give and bequeath to my Executors hereafter named \_\_\_\_\_ thousand dollars in trust for the use and benefit of NANCY HUNSTER, a free woman of color, formerly of this place, but now of Huntsville, Alabama, and her assigns forever, at the discretion of my said Executors hereafter named.

"Item: I give and bequeath to my beloved wife CATHARINE WATKINS one-half of my estate both real and personal, after deducting and providing the foregoing request, to her and her heirs and assigns forever, giving her over a choice the property at a fair valuation and not hereafter specifically \_\_\_\_\_.

"tem: I give and bequeath to my Executors hereafter named, Five thousand dollars in money to

be invested in a house and lot in the City of Augusta and also Shares of the Capital Stock of the Bank of Augusta, also the following Negro slaves, viz, Winny, Sarah, Jerry, Rosana, together with present and future issue of Sarah, also Caroline and her future issue and also a tract of Land in 3rd District Dooly County, drawn by my late nephew, LEONIDAS WATKINS, in \_\_\_\_ for the use and benefit of my niece EVELINA S. WALTON, wife and intermarried with (Robert) WALTON, and the children of said Evalina S. Walton, share and share alike. Hereby authorizing my said Executors hereafter named to appoint an \_\_\_\_ trustee, with the consent and approbation of my niece Evalina S. Walton, \_\_\_\_ and manage the foregoing request should they or either of them decline to \_\_\_\_.

"Item: I give and bequeath to the wardens and vestrymen of St. Paul's Church, City of Augusta for the time being and their successors in office, all the debts due me of every description by that church supposed to amount to about one thousand dollars, also Fifty shares of the Capital Stock of the Bank of Augusta in annual dividends, to be applied to the support of an Episcopal clergyman whilst officiating in said St. Paul's Church, but when not needed in that way to be applied to the use and benefit of a free school in the City of Augusta.

"Item: I give and bequeath to the managers of the free school society, City of Augusta, for the time being, and their successors in office, Fifth Shares of the Capital Stock, Bank of Augusta, the semi-annual dividends alone to be drawn out and applied for the support of said free school forever, whilst continued in operation, but when not continued, to revert to my Executors hereafter named to be applied to any other suitable institution at the discretion of my said Executors hereafter named.

"Item: I give and bequeath to my Executors hereafter named Fifty-Shares of Capital stock Bank of Augusta, in trust for the use and benefit of my nephew GEORGE CLAIBORNE WATKINS, son of my deceased brother Isaac Watkins, the sum annual dividends of which alone to be applied to the education and support of my said Nephew, until he shall arrive to the age of Twenty-one years, after which he is to be invested with control of said stock and its proceeds.

"Item: It is my Will and desire that the residue of my Estate both real and personal, after complying with the foregoing and subsequent bequests be equally divided between the children of my brother, GEORGE WATKINS; the children of my sister, POLLY HUGHES NUCKOLS of Kentucky, and the children of my deceased brother of Arkansas Territory, ISAAC WATKINS, share and share alike to them and their heirs and assigns forever.

I" give and bequeath to my \_\_\_\_ Executors hereafter named Five Hundred Dollars each to be set apart out of my estate before making a final distribution thereof to be applied to their own use, and which I beg they will accept of as a small compensation for their trouble in carrying into effect this my last Will and Testament.

"Lastly: I do hereby appoint my trusty and worthy friends, JOHN BONES, WILLIAM SMITH, and PAUL F. EVE, the sole Executors of this my last Will and Testament, hereby resting them with full power to sell and dispose of my estate, both real and personal at their discretion in order to afford a facility in dividing and distributing my said estate, as fully as I myself could do were I in life.

"In testimony whereof I the aforesaid ANDERSON WATKINS doth hereunto affix my hand and seal to this my last Will and Testament at Augusta this second day of June, 1828.

Anderson Watkins

(Signed in the presence of)

Augustus Moore  
Thos. Cumming  
Charles A. Crawford

Richmond County, Clerks Office, Friday the 24th day of October, 1828



In Chambers, Present their Honors, Samuel Hale and Dabney Berry

"The foregoing last will and testament of Doctor Anderson Watkins was presented in Chambers, and Charles A. Crawford (being) duly sworn, made oath that he was personally present, and did see the said testator sign, seal, publish, pronounce, declare the same to be and contain his last will and testament, that he was of sound and disposing mind and memory, according to the best of his knowledge and belief, and that he, together with Augustus Moore and Thomas Cumming subscribed their names to same, at the request and in the presence of the said Testator, in the presence of each other.

Whereupon it was ordered that the same be presented to the next Court of Ordinary to be admitted to Record.

Test. William Longstreet, Clerk"

Georgia, Richmond County} At the Court of Ordinary held in and for the County aforesaid on Monday the 3rd day of Nov 1828 the foregoing last will and testament of Doctor Anderson Watkins was presented in Court and ordered to be recorded.

Test. William Longstreet

Note: The wishes of Dr. Anderson WATKINS with regard to a school were carried out. In a history of Augusta (did not make a note of the source, although I xerox copied the page, (page 123):

"Among the benevolent institutions of Augusta ought to be forgotten its "Poor School," which has been supported a number of years by private liberality, and has now one hundred pupils. Lately it has become a fortunate legatee: Dr. ANDERSON WATKINS, well known as a gentleman of great benevolence, has bequeathed to it \$5,000, and Mr. Campbell a similar sum." (note: an English teacher's salary was \$1,000 a year, the Rector "1,500.)

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#### OBITUARY for ANDERSON WATKINS:

"The lamented death of our respected fellow citizen, Dr. ANDERSON WATKINS, has left a chasm in this community which will long remain, ere it is filled by worth so distinguished. He was a native of Virginia, and came to this place before he arrived to the age of manhood, and commenced the study of Medicine under the late Dr. Smelt.—Possessing a sound judgment, and a mind formed for action he was soon found at the head of the profession to which he belonged. From no duties, however arduous, was he known to shrink—constant in his attention to every branch of his profession for more than 20 years, he acquired a reputation and fortune, which but few attain.

"An ardent admirer of the pursuits of agriculture, a great proportion of his time, for the last few years, was devoted to improvements in farming, intended more as a stimulant to others, than a profit to himself. In the dispensations of his wealth, the orphan and widow were kindly provided for, and to such of his immediate connections, his liberality was conspicuous—and in all enterprise in which the public welfare was concerned, his course was always energetic and liberal. Far distant from home (but fortunately under the roof of an only sister) where he arrived but two days previous, he was attacked with fever, with which he was confined for the long period of thirty days, which he bore with great patience and Christian resignation. A true believer in Jesus, death brought no terrors; his endeared wife and kind friends, who watched his last moments, were assured by him of his happiness: "I am happy—let that console you," were his last words."

Book Title: KENTUCKY OBITUARIES 1787-1854  
Compiled by: G. Glenn Cliff @1977  
ISBN: 0-8063-0758-7

Steven Wright supplied the following obituary from Kentucky:

Kentucky Reporter  
Lexington, Kentucky  
Wednesday, September 24, 1828

page 3 col. 4

Communicated.

Departed this life September 16th, 1828, in Scott County, at the house of Lewis Nuckles, Esq., his brother-in-law, Dr. Anderson Watkins, of Augusta, Georgia. He had for some time laboured under a chronic disease, and was traveling for his health; but died of a bilious fever of a very obstinate character.

Dr. Watkins was born in Henrico county, Virginia, August 28th, 1773. After finishing his education, preparatory and medical, he moved from Virginia to Louisville, Ky., where he remained only a few years, and finally settled in Augusta, where he lived near thirty years. At this place he engaged in an extensive practice, with ardour and success; by which, and other sources of income, he accumulated a large estate.

His industry, and the systematic and orderly manner in which he conducted his business have been for a long time proverbial—a good lesson for those who survive him in the profession. Tho' his estate was large and multiform, he could, for years past, at a few minutes notice, have everything as he would be willing to leave it forever; in short, he was, as all mankind ought to be, ever willing to live, and ready to die; especially since he became a believer in, and disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ, which has been about 6 years.

A few years after settling in Augusta, he married Miss Catherine Eve, who made him one of the most affectionate of wives, and whom he has left in the deep valley of affliction, for the loss of one of the best of husbands, together with several of her relatives, to whom he was affectionately dear.

Augusta, weep! one of your best citizens is no more! mourn ye destitute and poor! one of your kindest benefactors lies low and cold in the silent grave! Lament, ye fatherless and widowed the kind hand of a father and friend, which has often been extended for your relief & comfort, is now unnerved by the chilling frost of death! Deplore your loss ye members of the healing art! one of your best companions and most skilful counselors, one who lately moved among you, with so much honor to the profession, advantage to you, and success in relieving the sufferings of the sons and daughters of affliction, has ceased to administer the healing drug, and is gone! Your WATKINS is no more! His constellation has set to rise no more till the great rising day; when all in the north and all in the south shall appear, each in his proper glory. Church of Christ! bless the name of your Lord, who gave you so valuable a member, and has transplanted him from your nursery into a more congenial soil; from the church militant to that which is triumphant; from the assembly of the saints on earth to the general assembly and church of the redeemed in Heaven! where he shall be clothed in immortal youth; where you shall soon join him in the festivities of that happy place, and sit down with him around the table of his Lord and your Lord.

Note: This obituary was followed by a lengthy poem, and signed, "FREDRICUS."

Steven L. Wright, 984 Kings Way, Elizabethtown, Kentucky 42701

In 1843, John Bones and P.F. Eve applied for letters dismissory for the estate of Anderson Watkins.

Anderson married<sup>5</sup> **Catherine EVE**, daughter of Oswell (II) EVE and Aphra Ann PRITCHARD, on 26 Jan 1804 in Richmond County, GA. Catherine was born 12 Mar 1787. She died 1869 in Athens, GA.

AUGUSTA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, VOL X, "First Presbyterian Church Records"

(Removal of Church members) " 4 March, 1822, Mrs. CATHERINE WATKINS, to join the Episcopal Church in the this city." (dismissed to another church)

DR. ANDERSON WATKINS  
MRS. CATHERINE WATKINS (noted as communicant prior to confirmation)

From the Journal of Emma Eve Smith:

Catherine, our third sister, was the lively, sweet tempered, industrious child of our household. When she was 15 years of age she was left in charge of the family while mother went to Charleston. I had just recovered from the measles which left one of my eyes in bad condition. A young physician named Anderson Watkins came every day to drop something into it and while thus employed was cutting sheep's eyes at Sister Kitty. Her tenderness and firmness combined, made him think her particularly suited for a physician's wife and as he was very promising and had a comfortable home my parents consented to her marriage although she was only 16 years old. They lived in happy usefulness for 25 years - - singing through her daily round of household work, she was always the brightest, most cheerful and hospitable person. Dr. Watkins and sister were members of the Episcopal Church. He amassed a large property by his practice and at his death left her very comfortable. She resided in a large house and with her nieces and nephews always had company. She was admired and courted by many and in five years married again. Her second husband was a bachelor named Robert Campbell. He was a great abolitionist and his first act was to send to Liberia all her well trained servants. She was thus deprived of her cook, laundress, driver and seamstress but cheerfully commenced the teaching of others and never murmured, though for many years she had none of the repose accompanying efficient service. He was also violently opposed to the use of spirituous liquors and deliberately poured into the sand all her first husband's fine wines. She was very kind to me and my son after my husband's death. Sister adopted as her own child Sister Longstreet's eldest daughter Aphra Ann, who brightened her home by her wit and uniform cheerfulness and whose brilliant mind acquired knowledge rapidly and made her the object of pride and devotion to her Aunt. This idol was taken away in early life just after she had married and become a mother. She married Rev. C. Ketchum and dying left Sister her infant son. Mr. Campbell owned a mountain home in Habersham county to which they traveled every summer, so that my Sister was known all through Georgia -- was welcomed wherever she went. In summer of 69 while in Clarksville she had a terrible fall from her piazza which so impaired her health that she died from its effect on her homeward journey when she had reached Athens.

- 7 F vi. **Mary "Polly" Hughes WATKINS** was born 22 Jul 1775 in Virginia. She died 15 Sep 1830 in Scott County, KY.

Note: Mary's mother, Sally Walton Watkins Morris and her 2nd husband, the Rev. Morris, moved to Kentucky in 1788. It is probable that all of the Nuckolls children were born in Kentucky.

Mary married **Lewis NUCKOLS** on 11 Mar 1790 in Louisville, Jefferson County, KY. Lewis was born 4 Jun 1766 in Louisa County, VA. He died 28 Feb 1834 in Fayette County, KY.

Father: Charles N. NUCKOLS b: ABT. 1725 in New Kent, Louisa, Virginia  
Mother: Sarah Keziah YANCEY b: BET. 1736 - 1737 in Hanover, Virginia

Provided by Steve Wright, Feb, 2004:

From "Kentucky Obituaries", 1787-1854 by G. Glenn Clift, page 54--"Dr. Anderson Watkins, of Augusta, Ga. Died Sept. 16, 1828, in Scott County, Ky., at the home of Lewis Nuckles, his brother-in-law. Long obituary in the Lexington Register 9/24."

From "A History of Scott County, As Told By Selected Buildings", by Ann Bolton Blevins, pages 137--

"Lewis Nuckols House--Beginning in 1797 Lewis Nuckols began accumulating property in the

Bethel community. His first purchase of 110 acres from James Lindsay was augmented by acquisitions from John White, James Trotter, Jacob Creath, George Taylor, and Jesse and Isaac Beauchamp prior to a survey made from Nuckols in 1817.

Lewis Nuckols probably built the belted three-bay brickhouse about the time he acquired his first tract of land. Like many other houses of its period, it has been altered, especially during the era of romanticism which followed Reconstruction."

The caption under this image says, "Lewis Nuckols house received an unusual entrance around 1870."

In "A History of Scott County"..... on page 227, There is a bit of information on Lewis Nuckols, Jr.

"Lewis Nuckols, Jr. House--the years after the Civil War, when the little bit of building that was taking place was reflecting a new romanticism and exciting informality in home construction, found Lewis Nuckols, Jr., erecting a lacy-like frame house on the farm that he bought from the A.J. Viley estate near Bethel...Nuckol's frame house was fine in detail, with its gable projections on the front and ends of the main facade. Windows were fitted with hood molds, and the overhanging roof was bracketed. Upstairs windows had a slight arch; and heavily ornamented chimneys projected through the roofline. There was a two-story front porch...the interior woodwork was heavy, beautiful, and substantial. There was a steep winding stairway in the front hall. Windows were fitted with single pane, double hung sash. In all, it was a picture of elegant substantiality. In the side yard of this house, which has been owned by the Paul and Keller Littles since 1943, stands a large brick smokehouse, which may predate the residence."

So, apparently, this is the house where Dr. Anderson Watkins died in 1828. These are just some books I happened to already have on the shelf." from Steven Wright

From Steve Wright, February, 2004:

"Scott County, Kentucky where Dr. Anderson Watkins died at his brother-in-law, Lewis Nuckol's home. It is supposed to be in the "Bethel Community", but I couldn't find it. However I thought that "Watkinsville" was an interesting site. This little village which apparently, never had a post office is right on the line with Franklin County. Frankfort, the state capitol is in Franklin County.

Also, something else that came to my mind. In the Adjutant General's Report for the State of Kentucky, no residence for Louis D. Watkins is given. The line where his residence should be it simply says "U.S. Army". However, in Collins' History of Kentucky, which came out in the 1870s, in a listing for general officers who served in both the U.S. and Confederate armies, it has Louis D. Watkins as having been a resident of Scott County, Kentucky. That information must have come from the regular records of the Adjutant General of the State of Kentucky. Those records were destroyed in the latter part of the 19th century but Collins must have had access to them before their destruction. I found it quite interesting that Louis, at some point, would have given his residence as Scott County, Kentucky.

It reflects, I think, that the various Watkins relatives in Virginia, Kentucky and Georgia kept in touch over all those years. Isn't that fascinating? And Louis was criticized by a former superior officer [General and subsequently U.S. Representative] Green Clay Smith for not being a Kentuckian!! I think most Kentuckians would have been quite proud, as I am, to call him a Kentuckian!

Something that you may or may not know is that there were estimated between 100,000 and 120,000 Kentuckians who served in the Union army and between 30,000 and 40,000 Kentuckians who served in the Confederate army."

" In the "History of Bourbon, Scott, Harrison and Nicholas Counties, Kentucky", 1882, pages 198-199,

"Georgetown College [in Scott Co.] was chartered in 1829. The names of the original corporate members of the Board of Trustees from the charter, approved January 15, 1829 are": [among the names was] George W. Nuckols [who was deceased by the time this was written]

"In a History of Scott County which I referred to earlier, on page 227, there is a bit of information on Lewis Nuckols, Jr." Lewis Nuckols, Jr. House--the years after the Civil War, when the little bit of building that was taking place was reflecting a new romanticism and exciting informality in home construction, found Lewis Nuckols, Jr., erecting a lacy-like frame house on the farm that he bought from the A.J. Viley estate near Bethel...Nuckol's frame house was fine in detail, with its gable projections on the front and ends of the main facade. Windows were fitted with hood molds, and the overhanging roof was bracketed. Upstairs windows had a slight arch; and heavily ornamented chimneys projected through the roofline. There was a two-story front porch...the interior woodwork was heavy, beautiful, and substantial. There was a steep winding stairway in the front hall. Windows were fitted with single pane, double hung sash. In all, it was a picture of elegant substantiality. In the side yard of this house, which has been owned by the Paul and Keller Little's since 1943, stands a large brick smokehouse, which may predate the residence."

"Another little bit of something. I believe that Henry Clay was about 4 years old when his father died in Hanover County, Virginia. His mother was remarried to Captain Henry Watkins. Some time afterward they removed to Versailles, in Woodford County, Kentucky where they "conducted a well-known tavern." Henry Clay settled near Lexington, in Fayette County. Scott County's southern border is with Fayette County.  
Hope this helps. Steve"

- 8 M vii. **Major ISAAC WATKINS** was born 10 Apr 1777 in Virginia. He died 13 Dec 1827 in Pulaski Co., Ark and was buried in Mount Holly Cemetery, Pulaski Co, AR.

MUSTER ROLLS SOLDIERS OF THE WAR OF 1812  
DETACHED FROM THE MILITIA OF NORTH CAROLINA  
1812 AND 1814  
HENRY HARRIS  
FIRST REGIMENT  
NASH COUNTY  
ISAAC WATKINS CAPTAIN

These entries are taken from the Index to the War of 1812 Pension Files, transcribed by Virgil D. White: Capt Isaac Watkins' Co KY Militia

KY Post Offices & Postmasters 1816, statewide  
Shelbyville Abraham Smith Virginia 244.63  
Isaac Watkins, clerk/assistant Kentucky 100.00

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Inventory of the Robert Morton Hughes Papers 1715-1933  
Collection Mss. 65 H88  
Geo[rge] Walton, Augusta, [Georgia], to Isaac Watkins, Knoxville, Tennessee, 12 September 1800. Box-folder: 2:5  
2 pages.LS.

Subseries E: Autograph Collection, V-Z and Miscellaneous, 1792-1915. Box-folder: 2:5  
16 items.

Discusses and gives approval as a "Commissioner of the state" to Isaac Watkins and Colonel Whitley to construct a road, to be built through the "Cherokee country to the highest navigation of the Savannah River."

Including a Acy of D of an extract from Judge [George] Walton, n.p., 28 April 1800, to the Grand Jury of Wilkes County, [Ga.], concerning his enquiries regarding the best routes for roads from the Tennessee River into Georgia. 2 pages.

S. K. Watkins, Chapel Hill, [North Carolina], to Bishop [William] Meade, n.p., 29 February 1860.  
Box-folder: 2:3  
2 pages.ALS.

Concerns genealogy of the Watkins family.

Including ALS from William Meade, Mellwood, Clark Co., Virginia, to [Francis Watkins?], n.p., 13 March [18]60, concerning the forwarding of the letter.

Benjamin W[atkins] Leigh, Richmond, [Virginia], to Francis N. Watkins, n.p., 24 April 1840.  
Box-folder: 2:3  
4 pages.ALS. Gives genealogy information of the Watkins family.

"A Pictorial History Of Arkansas 1890"... Period 6 From The Close Of The War To 1890

Page 716 "By the close of 1820, the houses at Little Rock did not number a dozen, and were mere huts.....To the south, the furthest house was a log house at the northeast corner of Scott and Fourth Streets, which MAJOR ISAAC WATKINS occupied after he came, in March, 1821. About 1825, Major WATKINS built a two-story frame house on the next block east and south, which was known as the old Stevenson place -- his widow, Mrs. Maria Watkins married Rev. W. W. Stephenson - and which stood until 1880, when it was pulled down after a division of the estate."

page 764 "One of the early settlers of the place was Major ISAAC WATKINS, who came from Shelbyville, Kentucky, with his family, in March 1821. The town was then the merest collection of huts, and the only house he could find in which to stay was a log house, far out on the outskirts of the place, but near what is now the corner of Scott and Fourth streets.

"When Major WATKINS came, he brought with his family from Shelby county, Kentucky, a colored boy, ten or twelve years old, named John Logan, who, at the date of this writing (1890), is still living, aged 81 years, and who retains a vivid and distinct recollection of the incidents of that day. Logan's wife, who came to the place in 1833, is likewise living, aged 73 years.

"DR. ROBERT A. WATKINS, son of MAJOR ISAAC WATKINS, came in 1822, practiced medicine, and became a leading physician. He was the first Secretary of State, 1836.

JUDGE GEORGE C. WATKINS was born at Shelbyville, Kentucky, November 25, 1815, and came to Little Rock with his father, Major Isaac Watkins, in 1821. In youth he received a collegiate education, and graduated at the law school in New Haven, Connecticut."

DEATH: Per an email received from Meredith Gibson via E-Mail: CALMEG47@aol.com dated: Sat, 9 Feb 2002 - Meredith records the following: "He [Isaac] co-signed note for friend, who defaulted on paying...& Isaac felt honor-bound to repay and left devoid of much of his wealth he had accumulated. He moved his family to Pulaski Co. Ark in 1821 and started over & did well. In 1827 he saw man who had stolen hogs from his farm and accused him in public. Later sitting in local store reading a paper, the man appeared and shot him and Isaac died shortly after. "

ISAAC married (1) **Paulina THURSTON**. Paulina was born 11 Jun 1780 in Campbell County, Virginia.

ISAAC also married (2) **Maria TONCRAY**. Maria was born 13 May 1795. She died 21 Mar 1874 and was buried in Mount Holly Cemetery, Pulaski Co, AR.

Moved to Arkansas.

"Pioneers and Makers of Arkansas" pg 233-235

Major Watkins was married twice, both times in the State of Kentucky, His first wife was Paulina Thurston, who died shortly after giving birth to a son, who afterwards became Doctor Robert Anderson Watkins of Little Rock, and who on June 28, 1827, married Mary W. Nash, daughter of Doctor John T. Nash of Florissant, Missouri. Robert A. Watkins, was the first secretary of State under the new constitution, serving from September 16, 1836, to November 12, 1840.

Major Watkins took for his second wife Marie Toncre of Kentucky, a lady of Huguenot extraction, and who came with him to Arkansas. The children of this marriage were: Honorable George Claiborne Watkins, who became chief justice of the supreme court of Arkansas, and Mary Eliza Watkins. George Claiborne Watkins married Mary A. Crease, the third daughter of John H. Crease, State treasurer of Arkansas, and Jane P. Newton, his wife. Mary Eliza Watkins married John J. Clendennin, afterward one of the supreme judges of the State of Arkansas.

When Major Watkins moved to Arkansas he brought with him Miss Mills, a niece of his wife, who on November 14, 1827, became the wife of William E. Woodruff, Sr., the editor and founder of the Arkansas Gazette.

After the death of Major Watkins, his wife remarried, her husband being Reverend W. W. Stevenson, a pioneer Methodist preacher at Little Rock, but who afterwards joined the Christian church, becoming a noted minister therein. Mrs. Stevenson died at the residence of her son-in-law, Judge Clendennin, on the 21st of March, 1874, in the eighty-first year of her age, having lived in Little Rock continuously for fifty-four years, a longer continuous residence than any other citizen before her time, and, in all probability, since her time. Her husband died in California in his eighty-ninth year. Mrs. Stevenson was one of the best women who ever lived in Little Rock. She was first last and all the time a Christian, and her home was at all times a home of missions and for all the ministers of all denominations. When the Scientist, Featherstonough, was in Little Rock in 1838, he found no place of public lodgment at all suitable for a gentleman. Mrs. Stevenson, hearing of his dilemma, threw open her house to him, wherefor several months he prosecuted his studies, leaving a high testimonial to the admirable good character and magnificent womanhood of Mrs. Stevenson. Such is a brief record of the antecedents of Chief Justice George Watkins, possibly the ablestman that Arkansas has produced.

The following is taken from the files of an old newspaper:<sup>234</sup>  
Pioneers and Makers of Arkansas

"Died. In this city on the morning of the 21st of March, 1874, at the residence of her son-in-law, Judge Clendennin, Mrs. Maria Stevenson in the eighty-first year of her age.

"This brief notice records the death of the oldest female resident of our city. For fifty-four years she has been a continuous resident of Little Rock, and during all that long period she graced the community by her hospitalities, blessed the poor with her charities, and the stricken in sorrow and affliction with her love and advice. Enjoying through most of her long life uninterrupted health and favored with more than an ordinary intellect, she met the troubles and trials of her early frontier life with firmness and fortitude and was able to assist, counsel and advise those who sought her in their troubles; always a Christian, her house was the home of the mission and the ministers of all denominations. She lived to see her children and children's children grow up around her, anxious to minister to her wants, and surrounded by them she calmly passed away to the rest prepared for those who here have so well done the Master's will.

"Mrs. Stevenson was born in Williamsport, Maryland, in 1793, and when quite young moved with her parents to Kentucky where she married Major Isaac Watkins, of Shelby County, with whom she and her infant son, the late Judge George C. Watkins, and her niece, Mrs. Woodruff, the wife of the venerable William E. Woodruff, resided. In 1820, she removed to Little Rock where she had always since lived."

## Appendix A - Sources

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- <sup>1</sup> M. B. Warren - 1968, "Georgia Marriages and Deaths 1763 to 1820".  
<sup>2</sup> *"Historical Collections of the Georgia D.A.R."* .  
<sup>3</sup> Joseph T. Maddox - 1982, *"Information on Some Georgia Pioneers"*.  
<sup>4</sup> Warren & White - 1972, *"Georgia Marriages & Deaths 1820-1830"*.  
<sup>5</sup> "Georgia Marriages 1801-1825".



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