

DESCENT OF THE BUNCH FAMILY IN VIRGINIA AND THE CAROLINAS

1 **JOHN¹ PUNCH [BUNCH?]** arrived in Virginia before 1640. He and two other men fled for freedom but were captured in Maryland and returned to their master, Hugh Gwynn¹ of York County. The information is preserved in this court record dated 9 July 1640:²

Whereas Hugh Gwyn hath by order from this Board Brought back from Maryland three *servants* formerly run away from the said Gwyn, the court doth therefore order that the said three servants shall receive the punishment of whipping and to have thirty stripes apiece one called Victor, a dutchman [*sic*], the other a Scotchman called James Gregory, shall first serve out their times with their master according to their Indentures, and one whole year apiece after the time of their service is Expired ... the third being a negro named *John Punch* shall serve his said master and his assigns for the time of his natural Life here or elsewhere.³ (emphasis added)

Hugh Gwynn was a justice and one of the relatively few members of the House of Burgesses of that period, representing York County in 1639/40 and 1646.⁴ He patented large tracts of land, including what is now known as Gwynn's Island in Mathews County. He was a resident of Gloucester County when it was created in 1651, serving as burgess for that county in 1652.⁵ Hugh Gwynn was dead by 23 March 1654/5, when widow and executrix, Elizabeth, patented 700 acres in Southside Virginia (a tract Hugh had initially patented on 3 March 1640/1).⁶

Of the fewer than one hundred African men who resided in Virginia before 1640, John Punch is the only man who bears a surname similar to Bunch. John Punch was an adult male living in

¹ In this section, names will be spelled out as they appear in the text of the document cited when the original records are quoted. There was no standardized spelling during this time period, so it is not unusual to find surnames or the names of places spelled many different ways, even in the same document.

² The shire called Charles River in Virginia's earliest decades was renamed York County in 1642. Present-day Gloucester County was not settled until the latter part of the 1640s, so Hugh Gwynn presumably lived closer to Jamestown when John Punch attempted his futile quest for freedom.

³ H.R. McIlwaine, *Minutes of the Council and General Court of Colonial Virginia* (Richmond: Virginia State Library, 1979), page 468. This was published earlier in "Decisions of the General Court," *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* 5 (1898), page 236.

⁴ Cynthia Miller Leonard, *The General Assembly of Virginia, July 30, 1619–January 11, 1978* (Richmond: Virginia State Library, 1978), pages 18, 25, 29, and 30.

⁵ Lyon G. Tyler, "Historical and Genealogical Notes," *William and Mary College Quarterly*, 1st series, 18 (1910), page 60; William Waller Hening, *The Statutes at Large ...* (Charlottesville, Virginia: University Press of Virginia, 1969), vol. 2, pages 323, 371, and 374. Leonard, *The General Assembly of Virginia*, pages 18, 25, 29, and 30. Even evidence concerning Hugh Gwynn's children is problematic because of the destruction of records, in spite of his being one of the most prominent citizens in the colony. A David Gwynn settled in Hanover County near Charles Hudson. C.G. Chamberlayne, *Vestry Book of St. Paul's, Hanover County, Virginia 1706-1786* (Richmond: Virginia State Library Board, 1940), pages 110, 167, 200, 274, 287, 295, and 305.

⁶ Virginia Land Patent Book 3, page 315, Family History Library, Salt Lake City (FHL) microfilm 29319.

the period in which John Bunch I was born in Virginia, and resided in the same county. Evidence strongly suggests that John Punch was the father of John Bunch I.

The children of John Bunch III freely married neighboring white families. The government of Virginia had focused directly on their father's racial status in 1705 and decreed by statute that anyone with a great-grandparent who was African or Native American was a mulatto and forbidden to marry a white spouse.⁷ This indicates that the children of John Bunch III must have been great-great grandchildren of the immigrant from Africa. Chronology does not allow them to be a generation closer. It is concluded from these facts that John Bunch I was son of a white woman by an African immigrant. In early Virginia the child followed the status of its mother. If she were free, the child was free. If she were a servant, the child had to serve a period of indenture.

Since John Bunch I acted as a legal adult in York County in 1658, he must have been born before 1637. As a new man (not inheriting land from his father), it would normally take a few years for him to establish himself. If there was no error when the clerk entered the facts about the lawsuit against John Bunch in 1658, then John had borrowed a sum in tobacco in order to plant a small crop in 1652, only to have the crop fail the following year.⁸ If son of a free white woman, then John Bunch I was probably born in the early 1630s, which would indicate that John Punch, as his father, also resided in Virginia at that period as an indentured servant. If Hugh Gwynn had refused to grant John Punch his freedom at the end of his term of service, it could have provided him motive to seek freedom elsewhere, which he sought in 1640.

2 **JOHN² BUNCH I (JOHN¹ PUNCH)** appears to have been born about 1632-5. He died by 1704⁹ (by which time he would have been about seventy years old). John obtained a patent in New Kent County on 18 March 1662/3, adjacent the land of Richard Barnhouse and not far from Blisland Church and Wahrani Creek.¹⁰ The tract was also close by land of Richmond Terrell, a planter

⁷ Hening's *Statutes*, 3:250-2.

⁸ See Figure 1 in this descendency for an image and abstract of this record.

⁹ It is possible that John Bunch I, as an aged man, could still have been holding on to 100 acres of land in New Kent County 1704, but he was not found in any records of York County during the intervening period, nor in records of St. Peter's Parish that begin in 1684. The records of Blisland Parish do not survive before 1721.

¹⁰ Richard Barnhouse obtained a grant of 900 acres in James City County on Burchen Swamp on 7 February 1658/9 (renewed 26 February 1665/6). Virginia Land Patent Book 4, pages 351–52, FHL microfilm 29322; also available online, "Virginia Land Office Patents and Grants," *Library of Virginia* (Online: Library of Virginia, 2012), Patent Book 4, pages 351-52, .tif image, http://image.lva.virginia.gov/LONN/LO-1/004/004_0366.tif, accessed 23 May 2012. The 900 acre patent began on the west side of Burchen Swamp, ran west south west 400 perches, thence south by east 300 perches, thence east by north 475 perches back to Burchen Swamp, thence up the swamp to the beginning, 380 acres of the grant being due by a previous patent dated 28 October 1656. The patent bearing that date was recorded in Virginia Land Patent Book 4, page 95, FHL microfilm 29322; also available online, "Virginia Land Office Patents and Grants," *Library of Virginia* (Online: Library of Virginia, 2012), Patent Book 4, page 95, .tif image, http://image.lva.virginia.gov/LONN/LO-1/004/004_0109.tif, accessed 28 May 2012. Richard Barnhouse Jr. obtained land on the Mattaponi River adjacent land of William Wyatt and Lt. Col. Robert Abrahall. Richard Barnhouse Jr. was granted 200 acres on the southeast side of Mattaponi River two miles above the Indian Ferry. Virginia Land Patent Book 4, page 33, FHL microfilm 29322; also available online at "Virginia Land Office Patents and Grants," *Library of Virginia* (Online: Library of Virginia, 2012), Patent Book 4, page 33, .tif image,

who is also an ancestor of President Obama.¹¹ The name of John Bunch's wife is not known, but the fact that his great-grandchildren were able to freely marry white neighbors suggests that she was white.¹²

This John Bunch received the land grant in Blisland Parish, and he appears to be the same man who is named in records of York County in the previous decade. Initially, John Bunch lived on land near the Mattaponi River, which he rented from Dr. Francis Haddon, a resident of York County. Given the extreme rarity of the surname Bunch in England and Scotland¹³ one might reason that having traced one white immigrant named John Bunch to his death (headright of Gervase Dodson)¹⁴ would make it less likely there were two more unrelated Bunch men living in the same thirty mile radius in 1659.

John Bunch I was non-suited by the York County Court on 17 November 1658.¹⁵ He was brought before the York County Court on 24 August 1659 for a bill of 429 pounds of tobacco, the said John "suffering the loss of his crop the year following," so the bill was ordered to be canceled.¹⁶

http://image.lva.virginia.gov/LONN/LO-1/004/004_0047.tif, accessed 28 May 2012. Virginia Land Patent Book 3, page 193, FHL microfilm 29319; also available online, "Virginia Land Office Patents and Grants," *Library of Virginia* (Online: Library of Virginia, 2012), Patent Book 3, Page 193, .tif image, http://image.lva.virginia.gov/LONN/LO-1/002-2/002_0622.tif, accessed 28 May 2012.

¹¹ Obama is a descendant of Richmond Terrell. The descent is traced down through the generations from Richmond Terrell to his son William Terrell, then to his daughter Anne Terrell (wife of David Lewis, born 1695, New Kent County, died about 1779, Albemarle County), to her daughter Hannah Terrell (wife of James Hickman), to her daughter Susannah Hickman (wife of James Browning), to her daughter Ann Browning (wife of Robert Overall), to her son George W. Overall (husband of Louisiana Duvall), to his daughter Susan Overall (wife of Christopher Clark), to her daughter Gabriella Clark (wife of Henry Ellington Armour), to her daughter Ruth Lucille Armour (wife of Ralph Emerson Dunham), to her son Stanley Armour Dunham, father of Stanley Ann Dunham, the president's mother.

On November 28, 1656, Richmond Terrell was granted 640 acres ... described as lying on the southwest side of the York River, the northeast side of Cattail Swamp and next to Diascund Swamp, near the Rockahock Path, and Charles Edmond's land (Eltham). This fixes this land about where Angel View Church now stands, at the intersection of Route 33 and Route 168. In 1689, the line that was run, dividing the Parishes of St. Peter's and Blisland, began at Captain Bassett's Landing and ran between the lands of Joseph Foster and Mr. Richmond Terrell and then Joseph Foster's lines to the County bounds, which was "the Ridge that turned the waters to the York or the Chickahomine Rivers." Malcolm Hart Harris, *Old New Kent County: Some Account of the Planters, Plantations, and Places* (West Point, Virginia: Malcolm Hart Harris, 1977), vol. 1, page 54.

¹² In this period, a wife would most frequently be found signing off dower rights in the sale of land or in the will of a parent or relative. Few church records survive for early Colonial Virginia, and almost no marriage bonds.

¹³ See footnote 28 in main article, "Documenting President Barack Obama's Maternal African-American Ancestry."

¹⁴ See "Documenting President Barack Obama's Maternal African-American Ancestry," Appendix B.

¹⁵ A non-suit and 50 pounds of tobacco damages is granted to John Bunch vs. John Ripley attorney of Christopher Abbott, being arrested and now prosecuted made to be paid. York County (Virginia), Deeds, Orders, and Wills, Book 3, 1657-1662, page 40 (80), FHL microfilm 34403. See Figure 2.

¹⁶ York County (Virginia), Deeds, Orders, and Wills, Book 3, page 61 (122), FHL microfilm 34403.

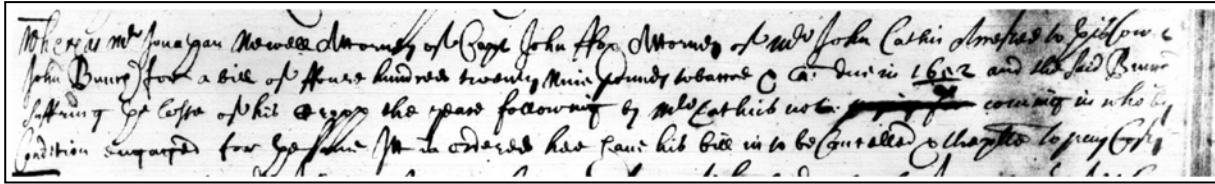


Figure 1 – 1659 Court Case concerning John Bunch I. Whereas Mr Jonathan Newell Attorney of Capt. John Fox Attorney of Mr John Catlin Arrested to this Court John Bunch for a bill of Foure hundred twenty nine Pounds tobacco & co. ... due in 1652 and the said Bunch suffering the losse of this Cropp the year following by Mr Catlin's note praying for [?] coming in who by Condition engaged for the same Itt is ordered hee have his bill in to be Cancelled & the p[lain]tiffe to pay Cost.

It would seem odd that Catlin would wait six years to sue for a bill due in 1652, but he sued two other men that same year for debts due in 1650 and 1653.¹⁷ One possible explanation would be that John Bunch inherited this obligation, but was legally underage until 1658; thus, he could not be sued in court until he attained age twenty-one.¹⁸ The other explanation could be that he was born by 1632-37 and old enough to be planting a crop by 1653. The wording of the contract indicates that John Bunch borrowed what he needed on condition that the crop he planted would be harvested the following year.

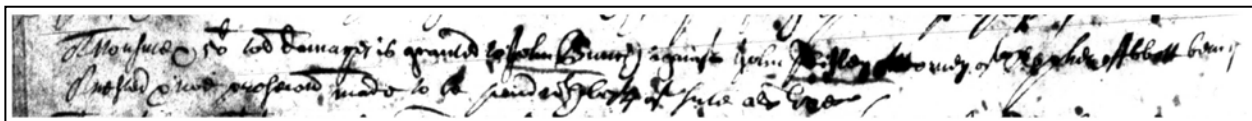


Figure 2 – The non-suit of John Bunch I vs. Christopher Abbott. A nonsuit & 50 lb. tob. damages is granted to John Bunch against John Ripley attorney of Christopher Abbott[,] being arrested & not prosec[ted] made to be paid ...

¹⁷ York County (Virginia), Deeds, Orders, and Wills, Book 3, 1657-1662, pages 61 and 70, FHL microfilm 34403.

¹⁸ Virginia inherited the Common Law of England, making its own emendations (as published in Hening's *Statutes*). The great legal treatise by the preeminent English jurist Sir Edward Coke (died 1632), Solicitor General, Speaker of the House of Commons, Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, and Chief Justice of the King's Bench (England), had just been published in several parts between 1628 and 1644 (*The Institutes of the Laws of England*). These would have been brought to Virginia and used as reference and guidance. There was technically no socage tenure in Virginia (the Virginia Company of London had barred it in 1609), so all children were legally infants in the eyes of the law until age twenty-one. The age of discretion occurred at fourteen (for boys, twelve for girls, but eventually the two were merged and age fourteen became the rule in Virginia), making boys able to serve as witness or make contracts, but any contract entered into could be rejected as soon as they attained the age of majority (twenty-one).

On 10 March 1661/2, John Bunch I was non-suited and awarded 50 pounds of tobacco in recompense for being brought to court because of Dr. Francis Haddon’s claim.¹⁹

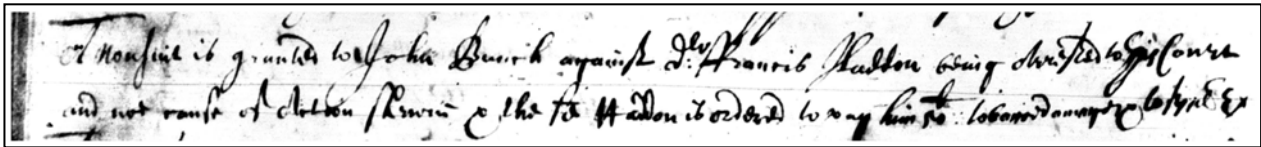


Figure 3 – The non-suit of John Bunch I vs. Dr. Francis Haddon

On 19 April 1671, Francis Haddon of York County sold Josias Moody (Haddon’s stepson) 200 acres *on the Mattaponi River* that was “now in the occupation of John Bunch at the expiration of the lease granted by Haddon to Edward Greene”²⁰ [emphasis added]. This indicates that John Bunch I had initially (perhaps by 1661 when Haddon first brought suit against Bunch) settled northward in the sparsely populated region on the Mattaponi (then still part of York County).

The 1661 suit for which Haddon did not show up to court, and the knowledge that his lease on Haddon’s land would eventually expire, might have provided the impetus for John Bunch I to patent his own tract, which he could then work on improving. John Bunch I, therefore, initially resided near where Paul Bunch is first found. John I then patented land a few miles away in what became Blisland Parish (not as far from civilization) where a later John Bunch intended to marry Sarah Slayden. The associations are remarkably suggestive because John Bunch I is the only known candidate who could be the father of John Bunch II and Paul Bunch.

We have two descriptions of the tract John Bunch I obtained—one version was recorded when Thomas Meredith was originally granted the land, the other version when John Bunch I had it recorded again. Comparing the two versions helps teach how descriptions can vary and how errors can creep in depending on the skill of the clerk who recorded the information:

Thomas Merridith [Meredith]...Four hundred and Fifty [450] Acres...in the County of New Kent on both sides of Rickahock path, bounded as followeth, Viz.^t
Beginning at white oak corner by Burchen Swamp running West northwest ¼ West 160 poles to three marked Trees by the aforesaid path, thence southwest ½ 132 [sic]

¹⁹ York County (Virginia), Deeds, Orders, and Wills, Book 3, page 150 (300), FHL microfilm 34403. Francis Haddon occurs numerous times in the York County records of this period.

²⁰ York County (Virginia), Deeds, Orders, and Wills, Book 4, 1665–1672, page 342, FHL microfilm 34403. “Francis Haddon of Hampton Parish, York County, Phisitian [physician] to Josias Moody, son of Mr. Gyles Moodey, dec’d [deceased] late of the same parish for valuable consideration 200 acres [of land] on Mattapony River being part of 1000 acres granted to said Gyles Moodey and 200 acres more, part of same patent, adjoining it, formerly granted by said Haddon and Jane his wife to said Josias Moody, and by him sold to William Parker, in all 400 acres, and Moody to be possessed of said plantation now in occupation of John Bunch at expiration of the lease granted by Haddon to Edward Greene. Land is between Folly Creek Swamp and the next swamp, near horse path to Capt. John Underhill’s. Josias Moody shall also enter and possess after the death of said Francis Haddon and Jane his wife, the whole dividend of land upon Kings Creek, formerly belonging to said Giles Moody, containing 300 acres, now in occupancy of said Haddon and Jane his wife, natural mother of said Josias. Haddon also gives Josias a mare, now running at the glebe land formerly purchased by Haddon of Edward Foliat.” as abstracted in Benjamin B. Weisiger III, *York County, Virginia Records, 1665–1672* ([Richmond]: by the author, 1987), page 202.

poles, thence South by East $\frac{1}{2}$ 80 poles to an oak, thence South Southeast $\frac{1}{2}$ East 100 poles to Mr. Richard Barnhouse's Land, thence East with East 80 poles & southeast by East 100 poles by the said Barnhouse's Land to Burchen Swamp to the place where it Began...Dated the 25th of February 1658 [1658/9 by modern reckoning, as the year then began on March 26, not January 1].²¹

The description was recorded as follows when entered into the patent book for John Bunch I on 18 March 1662/3:

John Bunch...Four hundred and fifty [450] Acres...in New Kent County on both sides of Rickahock path bounded as followeth Beginning at a white oak Corner by Burchen Swamp running West North West one fourth West, One hundred and sixty [160] poles to three marked trees by the aforesaid path, thence south west half Two hundred and thirty two [232] poles, thence south by East half Eighty [80] poles to a red Oak, thence East South East One half One hundred [100] poles to Mr. Richard Barnhouse's Land, thence East North East Eighty [80] poles, and South East by East one hundred [100] poles by the said Barnhouse's Land to Burchen Swamp up the said swamp to the place where it Began...Dated the twenty fifth [25th] of February One thousand six hundred and fifty eight [1658/9]. And by him sold I assigned to Philip Freeman and by the said Freeman sold and Assigned to the said Bunch.²²

Richmond Terrell was a neighbor of Thomas Meredith as described in Terrell's patent for 600 acres in New Kent County on branches of Chickahominy Swamp on 8 February 1670.²³ Thomas Meredith obtained a number of patents, as did Phillip Freeman.²⁴

²¹ Virginia Land Patent Book 4, page 386, FHL microfilm 29320; also available online, "Virginia Land Office Patents and Grants," *Library of Virginia* (Online: Library of Virginia, 2012), Patent Book 4, page 386, .tif image, http://image.lva.virginia.gov/LONN/LO-1/004/004_0370.tif, accessed 23 May 2012.

²² Virginia Land Patent Book 10, page 15, FHL microfilm 29322; also available online, "Virginia Land Office Patents and Grants," *Library of Virginia* (Online: Library of Virginia, 2012), Patent Book 10, page 15, .tif image, http://image.lva.virginia.gov/LONN/LO-1/005/005_0169.tif, accessed 28 May 2012. Paul Heinegg also speculated that this John Bunch was ancestor of the later Bunch family in *Free African Americans of North Carolina, Virginia, and South Carolina From the Colonial Period to about 1820, Volume I*, 5th ed. (Baltimore: Clearfield, 2005). Heinegg has done an extraordinary job constructing the genealogies of free blacks and should be one of the first sources people check for African-American ancestry in the colonial period. He has also made resources available free online. Our research was conducted entirely independent of his work, but we do not want it to appear that we are not aware of his efforts.

²³ Virginia Land Patent Book 6, page 369, FHL microfilm 29323; also available online, "Virginia Land Office Patents and Grants," *Library of Virginia* (Online: Library of Virginia, 2012), Patent Book 6, page 369, .tif image, http://image.lva.virginia.gov/LONN/LO-1/006/006_0379.tif, accessed 28 May 2012. Mr. George Smith was another neighbor. A grant on 3 February 1662/3 to Thomas Mines (Mimes) of 800 acres in James City County on branches of Chickahominy Swamp adjoined land of Thomas Meredith and George Smith. Virginia Land Patent Book 5, page 124, FHL microfilm 29322; also available online, "Virginia Land Office Patents and Grants," *Library of Virginia* (Online: Library of Virginia, 2012), Patent Book 5, page 124, .tif image, http://image.lva.virginia.gov/LONN/LO-1/005/005_0141.tif, accessed 23 May 2012. George Smith obtained a patent on 20 October 1662 of 592 acres in James City before Westham Path adjacent Thomas Meredith, a branch of Chikahomany Swamp called Beaver Quarter, the head line of Thomas Meredith, land of Richmond Terrill, along his land, and back along land of Thomas Meredith. Virginia Land Patent Book 4, page 325 (445), FHL microfilm 29320. See also his grant with Edmond Price immediately following, and a grant on the following page with the same date for 1,020 acres near Rickahock

- Thomas Meredith received a grant of 380 acres in New Kent County on 28 October 1656 on the south side of the freshes of York River by land of Mr. Richard Barnhouse including 200 acres that had been granted to Major William “Hoccoday” on 9 March 1654/5.²⁵
- Thomas Meredith obtained a grant of 420 acres in New Kent County on the southwest side of the narrows of York River on 1 July 1657. This tract began at his own corner, by Mr. Hurd’s path, by a branch of Wahrani Swamp, and thence to *Captain Richard Barnhouse*.²⁶
- Thomas Meredith was granted 450 acres in New Kent County on 25 February 1658/9 (abstracted above).
- Thomas Meredith received a grant for 1,370 acres in James City on 27 April 1661.²⁷
- Thomas Meredith received a grant of 420 acres in New Kent County on 18 March 1662/3 on the narrows of York River beginning at the south most corner of his own land, then running by Mr. Hurd’s path, along a branch of Wahrani Swamp to *Captain Richard Barnhouse*, and 380 acres on the south side of the freshes of York River by land of Mr. Richard Barnhouse (including 200 acres granted to Major William “Hockady” on 9 March 1654/5 and

Path and Chikahomani Fort, with 170 acres on the north side of Dyascun Swamp from Pullam’s corner. Thomas Mimes obtained a grant of 800 acres in James City County on branches of Chickahominy Swamp beginning at a corner oak on Westham Path about a mile from Chickahominy Swamp, land of Thomas Meredith, land of Mr. George Smith, Mr. [Richmond] Terrill, Edmond Price, and back to Westham Path and along the path back to the beginning. Virginia Land Patent Book 5, page 218 (124), FHL microfilm. Edmund Price obtained a patent of 600 acres in James City County on 3 May 1661 near Towaywink Swamp by land of the late Mr. Francis Burnell, deceased, and Richard Scruggs. Virginia Land Patent Book 4, page 478, FHL microfilm 29320. Captain John Underwood obtained a grant of 1,200 acres in James City County on 25 November 1661, bordering Tyascon [Diascund], easterly on land of Captain Barne[house?] and Thomas Meredith, northerly on Rockahock Path and Richard [Richmond] Terril, northwest on Charles Edmon’s and Pullam, westerly on a branch of Tyasum [Diascund], and southerly on William Hitchman and a branch of the head of Burchen Swamp. Virginia Land Patent Book 4, page 281 (384), FHL microfilm 29320; also available online, “Virginia Land Office Patents and Grants,” *Library of Virginia* (Online: Library of Virginia, 2012), Patent Book 4, page 281, .tif image, http://image.lva.virginia.gov/LONN/LO-1/004/004_0399.tif, accessed 23 May 2012.

²⁴ There were no Meredith or Freeman patents in present-day Hanover County. Their patents were in what is now New Kent County. Part of James City County was added to New Kent County in 1767. That removed St. Peter’s Parish from James City County and put it wholly in New Kent County. Charles Francis Cocke, *Parish Lines, Diocese of Southern Virginia* (Richmond: Virginia State Library, 1964), page 65.

²⁵ Virginia Land Patent Book 4, page 61 (89), FHL microfilm 29320.

²⁶ Virginia Land Patent Book 4, page 100 (148), FHL microfilm 29320.

²⁷ Virginia Land Patent Book 5, page 197, FHL microfilm 29322. This tract was on the north side of Chickahomany Main Swamp about 1.5 miles from Poewhite Swamp, metes and bounds given, bordering in part Westham Path.

assigned to Meredith).²⁸ At least part of this seems to be a renewal of the 1657 grant.

- Thomas Meredith Sr. obtained a patent of 523 acres in New Kent on 29 November 1682.²⁹
- Phillip Freeman obtained a grant of 100 acres in New Kent County on 20 April 1660 bordering land of William Cox and John Woodington.³⁰
- Phillip Freeman received a patent for 1,000 acres in James City County on 2 May 1661.³¹ This seems to have been modified a dozen years later. Phillip Freeman obtained a grant of 650 acres in James City County on 10 March 1673/4.³²

Later patents verify that Burchen Swamp was next to Wahrani Creek. Henry Duke was granted 736 acres in James City County on 20 April 1694 beginning on branches of Wahrani Creek at a white oak on the Burchen Swamp.³³ The 1662/3 patent of John Bunch I certainly lay in Blisland Parish, not far from the chapel near the headwaters of Wahrani Swamp.³⁴ It is curious that the widowed Amy Barnhouse, of Martin's Hundred, James City County, was the one who discharged Mihill Gowen³⁵ from service on 25 October 1657.³⁶ This document offers the name

²⁸ Virginia Land Patent Book 5, page 197 (91), FHL microfilm 29322.

²⁹ Virginia Land Patent Book 7, page 211, FHL microfilm 29324. This tract was on the south side of York River by the mouth of Hammons Creek (formerly patented by Col. Manwarring Hammond) by the name of Royall Fort [Fort Royal], following meets and bounds to Mackdannells Path, the bank of the river over against Pamamack Town, thence on the river downwards, down the river, Rockahock landing, the Spring Branch, etc. Manwarring Hamon, Esquire, obtained a grant of 3,760 acres in York County on 15 March 1649/50. Virginia Land Patent Book 2, pages 195 and 196, FHL microfilm 29319. This was also described as lying on the south side of York River commonly called Fort Royal alias Ricahock, along meets and bounds on the river, into the woods, upon the mountains, upon Black Creek, a bay, etc.

³⁰ Virginia Land Patent Book 4, page 478, FHL microfilm 29320.

³¹ Virginia Land Patent Book 4, page 470, FHL microfilm 29320. The tract was on the north side of Chickahominy Swamp beginning at a corner beech by the swamp on Thomas Meridith's land, down Meridith's line towards Powwhite Swamp, etc.

³² Virginia Land Patent Book 6, page 519, FHL microfilm 29323. This was on the main swamp of Chickahominy River above Westham Path and adjacent a tract of Thomas Meredeth and land of Thomas Landon. This appears to be immediately northwest of Meredith's 1661 patent.

³³ Virginia Land Patent Book 8, page 321, FHL microfilm 29325; also available online, "Virginia Land Office Patents and Grants," *Library of Virginia* (Online: Library of Virginia, 2012), Patent Book 8, page 321, .tif image, http://image.lva.virginia.gov/LONN/LO-1/008/008_0326.tif, accessed 23 May 2012. This appears to be the same 736 acres granted to William Edwards on 23 October 1690. Virginia Land Patent Book 8, page 108, FHL microfilm 29325; also available online, "Virginia Land Office Patents and Grants," *Library of Virginia* (Online: Library of Virginia, 2012), Patent Book 8, page 108, .tif image, http://image.lva.virginia.gov/LONN/LO-1/008/008_0133.tif, accessed 28 May 2012.

³⁴ "The church was erected at the head of Warreneye Swamp, which flows in a southerly direction to Chicahominy River and it became known as Warreneye Church." Harris, *Old New Kent County: Some Account of the Planters*, vol. 1, page 10.

³⁵ He is also known as Michael Gowen. Additionally, his surname is presented many different ways in original records, including Goins, Gowns, Going, Goings, Gowin, etc.

of Amy Barnhouse's brother, Christopher Stafford, and the Stafford family's relevance becomes apparent later in this article.

Bee itt knowne unto all Christian people that whereas Mihill Gowen Negro of late servant to my Brother Xopre [Christopher] Stafford dece[ase]d by his last will & Testament bearing date the eighteenth of January 1654 had his freedome given unto him after the expirac[i]on of ffoure yeares service unto my unckle Robert Stafford Therefore know all whom itt may concerne that I Anne [Amie] Barnehouse for divers good causes mee thereunto moving doth absolutely quitt & discharge the sai[d] Mihill Gowen from any service & for ever sett him free from any claime of service either by mee or any one my behalf as any part or parcel of my Estate that may be claimed by mee the said Amy Barnhouse my heyres Exec[uto]rs Ad[ministrators] or Assignes as wittnes my hand this 25:th of October 1657/

The mark of Amy AB: Barnhous[e]

Test: [witnesses] Arthure Dickenson[,] Joseph Blighton[,] Rec[orded] 26^o Januarii 1657

Bee itt knowne unto all Xpian [Christian] people that I Amie Barnehouse of Martins hundred widdow for divers good causes any [?] caused [____] mee thereunto moving hath given unto Mihill Gowen Negro hee being att this time servant unto Robert Staffo[rd] a Male child borne the 25:th of August in the yeare of oure Lord God 1655 of the body of my Negro Prossa being baptized by M^f Edward Johnson the 2:^d of Septemb[er] 1655 & named William & I the said Amy Barnhouse doth bind myselve my heyres & exec[uto]rs Adm[inistrato]rs & Ass[ignee]s never to trouble or molest the said Mihil Gowen or his sonne William or demand any service of the said Mihill or his said sonne William In wittnes whereof I have caused this to be made & done & [____] hereunto sett my hand & seale this p^r[e]sent 16th day of September 1655

the marke of Amy AB: Barnehouse noe seale

Test [witnesses:] Edward Johnson Minist[er] W Ingraham test Rec[orded] 26:^o January 1657

Amy was the relict of Richard Barnhouse Sr.³⁷ Given the relationships she sets out (sister of Christopher Stafford and niece of Robert Stafford), she and Christopher would be children of

³⁶ York County (Virginia), Deeds, Orders and Wills, etc., Book 3, page 16, FHL microfilm 34403.

³⁷ The elder Richard Barnhouse was known as Captain Richard Barnhouse; he was owner of the ship *Samuel* in 1639. "Virginia Colonial Records," *Library of Virginia* (Online: Library of Virginia, 2012) [High Court of Admiralty, Examinations on Commission, 1638/39, Class HCA 13/242, Part I, HCA 1-23, page 60], .tif image, <http://image.lva.virginia.gov/VTLS/CR/11328/0002.tif>. He patented 250 acres on Kethese Creek in James City County on 27 February 1638/9. Virginia Land Patent Book 1, page 622, FHL microfilm 29318. This land on Kethes Creek, in Martin's Hundred, was taken up again in his patented on 20 March 1653/4. Virginia Land Patent Book 3, page 9, FHL microfilm 29319. He patented 33 acres on Kethes Creek in Martins Hundred on 23 November 1653. Virginia Land Patent Book 3, page 230, FHL microfilm 29319. Since Amy Barnhouse was freely devising rights on her own in September 1655, it would appear that the elder Richard Barnhouse was dead by that time. William Stafford received 100 acres on the west side of Kethes Creek on 23 August 1634. Virginia Land Patent Book 1, page 154, FHL microfilm 29318.

Richard Barnhouse, Jr., patented 200 acres in Gloucester County on the south side of the Mattaponi River two miles above the Indian Ferry on 27 April 1653. Virginia Land Patent Book 3, page 193, FHL microfilm 21319. Richard Barnhouse, Jr., patented 200 acres in Gloucester County on 17 March 1655/6, but this tract was described as being on the southeast side of the Mattaponi River. Virginia Land Patent Book 4, page 33, FHL microfilm 29322. He was not designated "Jr." thereafter. Richard Barnhouse patented 380 acres on the west side of Burchen Swamp on 28 October 1656. Virginia Land Patent Book 4, page 95, FHL microfilm 29322, and 900 acres on Burchen Swamp on 7 February 1658/9 (renewed 26 February 1665/6), when he was also called captain. Virginia Land Patent Book 4, page 351, FHL microfilm 29322.

William Stafford of York County, whose inventory dated 3 March 1644/5 included eight slaves.³⁸ Christopher Stafford married Elizabeth (who subsequently became the wife of William Purnell, and then, by 1 December 1656, Joseph Watkins),³⁹ and left a son and heir named Humphrey Stafford. It appears that Amy Stafford, widow of Richard Barnhouse of James City County, married again. Mrs. [Amy] Beazley of James City County, by her will dated 1664, “left a negro to her cousin, Mr. Humphrey Stafford, of Virginia.”⁴⁰ Phillip Gowen “negro” sued John Lucas for his freedom on 16 June 1675.⁴¹ The court ordered that Phillip be free from service and that the indenture acknowledged in Warwick County be invalid. Further, Mr. Lucas was to pay Gowen three barrels of corn “According to y^e Will of M^{rs} Amye Boazlye [Beazeley] dec[ease]d wth Costs.”⁴²

There was some blood kinship between Amy (Stafford)(Barnhouse) Beasley and Hugh Gwynn’s family, because Humphrey and John Gwynn, in their own right and as attorneys of Humphrey Stafford, petitioned the General Court on 30 September 1681 claiming that the three were the closest relations (Nearest allied”) of Colonel John Burnham of Middlesex County, Virginia.⁴³

The grant of 30 or 40 acres that Mihill Gowen obtained in James City County on 8 February 1668/9 had belonged to Captain Richard Barnhouse.⁴⁴ It seems extraordinary that the Gowen and

The grant of 484 acres in New Kent County to John Stark on 30 October 1686 states that 200 acres of his patent was originally granted to Richard Barnhouse Sr. deceased, and on petition his son, Richard Barnhouse Jr. obtained a survey before selling the tract to Stark. Virginia Land Patent Book 7, page 525, FHL microfilm 29324.

³⁸ His estate included a black man named Anthonio [sic], black women named Palassa and Couchanello, a black girl named Mary who was age four, a black girl names Elizabeth, age three, an unnamed black boy age one, and a black boy two weeks old. York County (Virginia), Deeds, Orders and Wills, Book 3, 1657-1662, page 185, FHL microfilm 34402. They appear to have been purchased from Charles Harmer. William Stafford patented 300 acres on Kethes Creek on 12 November 1635 (the same Creek on which Captain Richard Barnhouse patented land in Martins Hundred), claiming his wife Rebecca and Christopher Stafford among the headrights. Nell Marion Nugent, *Cavaliers and Pioneers: Abstracts of Virginia Land Patents and Grants...* (Richmond: The Dietz Printing Company, 1934), vol. 1, page 33; also, Virginia Land Patent Book 1, page 305, FHL microfilm 29318.

³⁹ York County (Virginia), Deeds, Orders and Wills, Book 2, 1657-1662, page 19, FHL microfilm 34402.

⁴⁰ “Abstracts of Virginia Land Patents: Notes,” *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, 2(1895), page 314. Paul Heinegg tracked down a more detailed account of this event: “Phillip Cowen [sic] ‘a Negro’ ...petitioned the Governor and Council of State for his freedom. He was the servant of Amye Beazleye whose 9 April 1664 will stated that he was to be free and receive three barrels of corn and a suit of clothes after serving her cousin, Humphrey Stafford, for eight years. Stafford sold the remaining years of his indenture to Charles Lucas who forced Philip to acknowledge an indenture for twenty years before the Warwick County court,” citing Colonial Papers, Library of Virginia microfilm, p.19, fol. 2. Paul Heinegg, *Free African Americans*, page 543. At that time, the term “cousin” also meant uncle/nephew or aunt/niece.

⁴¹ McIlwaine, Minutes of the Council and General Court of Colonial Virginia, page 411.

⁴² McIlwaine, Minutes of the Council and General Court of Colonial Virginia, page 411.

⁴³ “Abstracts of Virginia Land Patents: Notes,” *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, 2(1895), pages 314-315.

⁴⁴ Virginia Land Patent Book 6, page 208, FHL microfilm 29323; also available online, “Virginia Land Office Patents and Grants,” *Library of Virginia* (Online: Library of Virginia, 2012), Patent Book 6, page 208, .tif image, http://image.lva.virginia.gov/LONN/LO-1/006/006_0212.tif, accessed 23 May 2012. The land was sold by Barnhouse to John Turner, deceased, but escheated. No metes or bounds are given in the grant. C.G. Chamberlayne,

Bunch families were so intimately connected with Richard Barnhouse and his wife Amy Stafford, and that they, in turn, were related in some way with the children of Hugh Gwynn. It was not uncommon for servants or their children to be passed around among relatives as Amy did with Mihil Gowen (later also freeing Phillip Gowen by the terms of her will). John Punch had been a servant of Humphrey and John Gwynn's father, Hugh.

The Gowen and Bunch families bear the same deep-clade yDNA, which means that their origins were from the same region of Africa. Given that there were so few African Americans in Virginia at that period, it may indicate that they traveled from Africa together. They continued to live and move together in the following centuries, from Virginia to the Carolinas, Tennessee, and beyond.

The fact that John Bunch I disappears from records of York County argues in favor of the conclusion that he moved to New Kent County after he improved his grant. Records of York County survive fairly intact for this period. No records survive for New Kent County at the level of the local court before 1800.⁴⁵

Children of John² Bunch I (wife unknown):

- 2 i Paul³ Bunch, born about 1652–58 (see below).
- 3 ii John³ Bunch II, born about 1655–60 (see next).
- 4 iii [Henry?]³ Bunch, born about 1660–70 (see below).

2 **JOHN³ BUNCH II, SR.** (*John² Bunch I, John¹ Punch*) born about 1655–60, was presumably the man taxed for 100 acres in New Kent County in 1704. He was still alive in 1723, when his son John III was styled “Jr.” in one of the patents.⁴⁶ John Bunch II probably had sisters and daughters, but since probate and marriage records have been destroyed for this period, then short of the discovery of an early Bible, their identities are forever lost.

The original 1704 quit rent of New Kent County was grouped by the first letter of the surname (all last names beginning with “B” are listed together).⁴⁷ This does not allow an analysis of the list for John Bunch II's close neighbors. However, it is clear that the three persons listed before John Bunch II were Andrew Banks (50 acres), Richard Baker (80 acres), and John Bowels

The Vestry Book of Blisland (Blissland) Parish, New Kent and James City Counties, Virginia, 1721–1786 (Richmond: The Library Board, 1935), page ix, quoting a patent dated 13 October 1653 to Thomas Dunketon in Blisland Parish bordering Barnhouse's land. Nicholas Barnhouse was one of the residents of Blisland Parish who signed on to the grievances presented to the government dated 2 April 1677 (page xlv and Photostat facing page xlii).

⁴⁵ Some records survive from 1822 and 1830. Personal property tax lists and land tax lists in Virginia began in 1782 and were kept by the colony instead of the local court, hence they do survive. Personal property tax lists are invaluable for people searching in burned-record counties for that period as they serve as a virtual census of adult males (similar to a listing of heads of households).

⁴⁶ We do not believe the “Sr.” and “Jr.” designation would have been used to differentiate between this John Jr. and the son of Paul Bunch (who is not known to have owned land and may have left for North Carolina).

⁴⁷ The National Archives (Kew, England), CO (Colonial Office) 5/1314, no. 63 viii.

Banky Andrew	50
Baker Richd	80
Bowles John	500
Bunch John	100
Burnett Job	150
Barnhouse Richd	1600

Figure 4 – 1704 Quit Rent

(500 acres); the three persons following John Bunch II's entry for 100 acres were John Burnett (150 acres), Richard Barnhouse (1,600 acres), and Thomas Barbar (500 acres).⁴⁸

It is extraordinary that John Bunch II was listed two entries before Richard Barnhouse, the major landowner whose land bordered the 1662/3 patent of

John Bunch I. This clearly suggests that the 100-acre tract owned by John Bunch II in 1704 is a remnant of the 450 acres originally patented on 18 March 1662/3. This also implies that John Bunch II's son, John III, was making a fresh start into a new region when he patented his land on Taylor's Creek in 1721/2.⁴⁹

John Bunch II appears to have owned land in St. Paul's Parish that was processioned on 8 February 1719/20, with the other landowners in his district being Edward Nix,⁵⁰ Richard Brooks,

⁴⁸ Louis des Cognets Jr., *English Duplicates of Lost Virginia Records* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1981), page 164.

⁴⁹ John Bunch, Jr., of Hanover County, 18 February 1722, for 40 shillings, 400 acres in Hanover County, upper side of Taylor's Creek, beginning at a white oak on Taylor's Creek a little above Edward Garland's corner, running south 190 poles to a corner of several marked trees, thence south 57½ degrees east 400 poles to another corner of several marked trees, thence north 190 poles to a [blank] on the creek, thence down the watercourse of the creek, making upon a straight line, 400 poles to the beginning. "Virginia Land Office Patents and Grants," *Library of Virginia* (Online: Library of Virginia, 2012), Patent Book 11, page 162, .tif image, http://image.lva.virginia.gov/LONN/LO-1/010-2/010_0666.tif and http://image.lva.virginia.gov/LONN/LO-1/010-2/010_0667.tif, accessed 25 June 2012.

⁵⁰ Edward Nix also owned land in the western region that would become part of Louisa County. The churchwardens of St. Paul's agreed in 1722 that two chapels should be built to service those who lived far away from the existing churches, one to be at or near land of Edward Nix on the south side of the South River. Edward Nix was paid for railing in the churchyard of this new chapel that came to be called Allen's Creek Church. Chamberlayne, *Vestry Book of St. Paul's Parish, 1706–1786*, pages 97, 113; George Carrington Mason, "The Colonial Churches of New Kent and Hanover Counties, Virginia," *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* 53 (1945), page 257 and the map between pages 246 and 247. But Edward Nix's neighbors in other processioning records included John Bostock, Thomas Gibson (Nix's father-in-law), William Reynolds, Thomas Thorpe, Rowland Horsey [Horsley], Henry Crumpton, William Walters, and John Bowles. Chamberlayne, *Vestry Book of St. Paul's Parish, 1706–1786*, pages 227 and 239.

The key to placing the neighbors in this district is Richard Brooks. It appears that his land was near where he obtained a patent for 294 acres on 5 September 1723. Virginia Land Patent Book 11, page 223, FHL microfilm 29327. His neighbors there were Nicholas Meriwether (north), Nathaniel West (west), Christopher Clark and John Stone (southwest), and George Alves (east). Richard Brooks also patented 120 acres a little to the southeast close to the boundary between where Hanover, Henrico, and Goochland Counties now meet on 17 September 1731. Virginia Land Patent Book 14, page 328, FHL microfilm 29330. His neighbors, then, were John Utley, Robert and Charles Anderson, John Sims, and John Black. When Richard Brooks made his will on 8 October 1731, he made his loving friends Edward Nix and Abraham Venables executors. Rosalie Edith Davis, *Hanover County, Virginia Court Records, 1733–1735: Deeds, Wills and Inventories* (Manchester, Missouri: by the author, 1979), page 30. Venables was a neighbor of Brooks as early as 1711. Chamberlayne, *Vestry Book of St. Paul's Parish, 1706–1786*, page 225.

Captain Nathaniel West, John Stone, and Francis Stone (John Bowles was apparently West's overseer and refused to procession⁵¹ the land because he had no orders from West to do so).⁵²

John Bunch II and Paul Bunch (below) were contemporaries who eventually purchased tracts of land relatively near to one another. yDNA proves they were related. It seems most likely that they were brothers.⁵³ yDNA also indicates that their common ancestor was from Sub-Saharan Africa, and possibly Cameroon.

Child of John³ Bunch II, wife not known:⁵⁴

5 i John⁴ Bunch III (see below), born about 1680–85.

3 **PAUL³ BUNCH** (*John² Bunch I, John¹ Punch*), born possibly about 1652–58, married by 1679, and died shortly before 16 November 1727, when his will was proved.⁵⁵ He spent his earliest years in Virginia, in counties where most of the records have been lost for the period he lived.⁵⁶ The first surviving reference to Paul is in 1695, when he purchased 150 acres near Sweet Hall Road from John Claiborne on 29 July 1695.⁵⁷ Paul Bunch was taxed on 150 acres in King William County in the 1704 quit rent.⁵⁸ His land was near Cohoke Creek where it flows into the Pamunkey River and just east of the Pamunkey Indian Reservation.

⁵¹ From 1662, Virginia landowners were required to walk the boundary lines between tracts every four years in an effort to prevent disputes in court. The parish vestries were in charge of defining the precincts and directing the parishioners charged with processioning the lands.

⁵² Chamberlayne, *Vestry Book of St. Paul's Parish, 1706–1786*, page 266.

⁵³ It is not likely that their father had siblings born of the same early mixed-race union, given the prevailing attitudes of the period.

⁵⁴ It is possible that some of the other Bunch men of the next generation were sons of John Bunch II, but moved to North Carolina in pursuit of a better life (see the listing of possible nephews of John and Paul Bunch under the account of no. 4 [?Henry]³ Bunch, in this descendency). But if they were recognized as persons of color, it may have made life in Virginia more difficult. If John Bunch II married a white spouse, then he and his descendants might stay in Virginia and manage well. If Paul or another brother married a wife who was also from mixed family (be it African American or Native American), then it would to their advantage to initially move out of Virginia to North Carolina, or South Carolina (as the laws of North Carolina became less favorable), or finally moving into regions like Tennessee, Kentucky, and elsewhere as those frontiers opened up.

⁵⁵ Paul Bunch's will is transcribed by John Anderson Brayton, *Transcription of Provincial North Carolina Wills, 1663–1729/30, Volume 1, A–K* (Memphis: by the author, 2003), pages 100–101.

⁵⁶ No Bunch entry was found in the records of St. Peter's Parish, New Kent County, Virginia, which survive from 1684. This implies that the family either still resided within the bounds of Blisland Parish, or Paul Bunch had already moved into the area on the Mattaponi or Pamunkey Rivers that became present day King William County.

⁵⁷ Harris, *Old New Kent County: Some Account of the Planters*, vol. 1, page 608 (citing King William Records, no. 1, page 402). William Clayborne gave his son, Thomas, the portion of his land in King William County, Virginia that came to be known as "Sweet Hall" on 25 January 1673. William gave the tract known as "Cohoke" to his son John Claiborne on 10 November 1676, and the tract known as "Romancoke" descended to William's eldest son William. Lolita Hannah Bissell, *Cliborn-Claiborne Records* (Nashville: by the author, 1986), page 185. Sweet Hall was just northeast of Cohoke.

⁵⁸ des Cognets, *English Duplicates of Lost Virginia Records*, page 157. Paul Bunch was second on the list of "B" surnames in King William County, Virginia (after Major Burwell, who was taxed for 4,700 acres, and before John Baker, who was taxed for 250 acres). Colonel William Claibourne, Captain Thomas Claibourne, and John

Paul Bunch does not appear to have been literate, because he signed with a mark on every record we have where he would have signed, including two in Virginia: as a witness to a deed by John Claiborne on 20 May 1704, and also when he purchased a mulatto named John Russell from John West, gentleman, on 27 January 1700/1 and immediately assigned him over to Elizabeth Russell.⁵⁹

The Virginia Assembly had made it difficult to manumit slaves in 1691 by requiring that freed slaves had to leave the colony shortly after obtaining their freedom. Rather than freeing John Russell outright, granting his custody to someone else avoided an additional fine of £10.⁶⁰

Paul Bunch settled southward in Hanover County by 17 “9br” [November] 1711, when his land became part of a district in St. Paul’s Parish to be processioned. His neighbors included Emanuel Richardson, Nathaniel Hodgkinson, Captain Roger Thompson, John Richardson, James Whitlock, Widow Clough, Thomas Graham, and Thomas Lacy.⁶¹ This represents a completely different group of neighbors than those listed four years later, apparently indicating that Paul

Claibourne were the three men who began the list of “C” surnames, which should indicate—knowing what we do from other sources—that Paul Bunch lived near the Claibourne family.

⁵⁹ King William County (Virginia), Record Book 1, pages 129–30, FHL microfilm 1987186. The deed from West, recorded in court on 20 August 1703, reads, “Know all men by these Presents that I John West Gent[leman] of the parish of St. Johns ... Doe hereby assign and make over unto Paul Bunch of the same parish and County one Mullaito [*sic*] Servant Man Known and Commonly Called by the name of John Russell, for whom I Doe acknowledged [*sic*] to have Received...Twenty six pounds ten shillings ster[ling]...thus 27th day of Jan[uar]y 1700[1].” Richard Curteen, John Weatherford, and Derick Will[ja]mson were witnesses. “The above sale was (upon the Motio[n] of John Russell & with the Consent of Coll. John West) admitted to Record.”

The deed from Paul Bunch to Elizabeth Russell followed immediately after on the next page. “Know all men...that I Paul Bunch Doe for myselfe my heires Ex[ecutors] Adm[inistrators] Assigne and Make over all my Right and Interest of the within mentioned John Russell until Eliz^a Russell with w[arranty?] from any person whatsoever unto her the said Eliz^a Russell her Assigne[es] for ever Witness my hand this 27th Jan[uar]y 1700[1]” Paul Bunch “his mark,” witnessed by John West, Richard Curteen, and John Weatherford. Luckily the record survives as it was recorded 20 August 1703.

Paul Bunch also witnessed a deed of John Claiborne before the King William County Court on 20 May 1704, signing with a mark that might resemble the letter “P” each time. King William County (Virginia), Miscellaneous Record Book 1, page 181 (167), FHL microfilm 1987186. A white planter named John Russell purchased [torn] 80 acres in King William County from Thomas West on 20 [torn] the 2nd year of the reign of [torn]. King William County (Virginia), Miscellaneous Record Book 1, pages 135–38, etc. John West and Henry Winfrey were witnesses and it was recorded 20 August 1703. The planter named John Russell was taxed for 550 acres in New Kent County in 1704. des Cognets, *English Duplicates of Lost Virginia Records*, page 169. The inventory of William Clayborne, gentleman (deceased), appraised on 17 January 1706/7, included a mulatto boy named Thomas Russell. Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *King William County, Virginia, Record Books, 1705–1721* (McLean, Virginia: Antient Press, 1996), page 90.

⁶⁰ Hening’s, *Statutes*, vol. 3, pages 87–8. Freed slaves were to leave the colony within six months, and a penalty of £10 was imposed on the person freeing the slave.

⁶¹ Chamberlayne, Vestry Book of St. Paul’s Parish, 1706–1786, pages 228 and 240.

Bunch moved from one location to another in Hanover County between 1711 and 15 “9br.” [November] 1715.⁶²

On 8 March 1715/6 (when Paul Bunch’s land was called “Paul Bunch’s Quarter”), Francis Clark, John English, John Venable, John Corley, Samuel Sperring, William Webb, Paul Bunch, Thomas Wetherford,⁶³ Gilbert Gibson, William Thacker, Stephen Ragland, and John Hart (and all their male tithables) were ordered to help clear the road from Stony Run to Half Sink Road.⁶⁴ This would normally represent the landowners who lived near that road. Paul Bunch was described as owning land adjacent to Gilbert Gibson on 11 July 1719 when Gibson patented 224 acres in New Kent County (now Hanover County), Virginia. Gibson’s patent was described as beginning on Sunter’s corner patent line, bordering Captain Dangerfield’s line, a branch, bordering on Paul Bunch’s line, and following his line back to Stephen Sunter’s line to the beginning.⁶⁵ William Alsop Jr. became a neighbor on 9 July 1724, when he patented 400 acres that bordered Dangerfield’s tract, Paul Bunch, Jeremiah Parker, Timothy Sullivant, and others.⁶⁶

Paul Bunch patented 400 acres in Hanover County on 9 July 1724, apparently some distance west of his residence.⁶⁷ This tract was on both sides of Black Haw (Swamp) in Hanover County. This was a few miles west of Paul’s residence next to Gilbert Gibson. He probably turned around and sold the land soon after in preparation for leaving Virginia to settle in North Carolina, but the deeds of Hanover County are missing for this period.

Paul was granted 265 acres on the south side of Morattock River in Bertie Precinct, North Carolina, on 1 January 1725/6 joining land owned by Simms, *Gideon Gibson*, Wilkins, and Quankey Pocoson (recall that Paul Bunch was Gilbert Gibson’s immediate neighbor in Hanover County as well).⁶⁸ The yDNA results of some living Gibson descendants also indicate they have the E1b1a haplotype.⁶⁹ It would make sense that mixed-race descendants of early African-

⁶² Paul Bunch and Major Meriwether were assigned to procession a district on 15 November 1715, Stephen Sunter refusing to sign the return because he was a resident of Henrico County, Virginia. Chamberlayne, *The Vestry Book of St. Paul’s Parish, 1706–1786*, page 252.

⁶³ John Weatherford had acted as a witness to Paul Bunch in King William County, Virginia a few years earlier.

⁶⁴ Chamberlayne, *Vestry Book of St. Paul’s Parish, 1706–1786*, page 75. Paul Bunch’s Quarter was added to Peter Haroldson’s Gang (for clearing roads) on 2 March 1721/2 (page 101).

⁶⁵ Virginia Land Patent Book 10, page 437, FHL microfilm 29327.

⁶⁶ Virginia Land Patent Book 12, page 33, FHL microfilm 29328.

⁶⁷ Virginia Land Patent Book 12, page, FHL microfilm 29328. The land formed a rectangle, 200 poles by 320 poles, tilted 45 degrees. Thomas Grant of Hanover County received a grant of 800 acres on 17 August 1733. Virginia Land Patent Book 15, page 113, FHL microfilm 29331. His land bordered Black Haw Swamp, a branch of Grassy Swamp, the north side of Ashe Cake Road, and land of John Crenshaw and Thomas Johnson. This was just east northeast of the present border between Hanover, Goochland, and Henrico Counties on the road towards Ashland. Black Haw Branch is now immediately south of Farrington, Hanover County.

⁶⁸ Margaret M. Hofmann, *Province of North Carolina, 1663–1729, Abstracts of Land Patents* ([Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina], by the author, 1983), page 215 (no. 2359, page 203).

⁶⁹ The Gibson-DNA Project: y-Results (Online: WorldFamilies.net, 2012), online at <http://www.worldfamilies.net/surnames/gibson/results>, accessed June 11, 2012.

Americans in Virginia who spoke the same language and had the same cultural background would stay together, move together, and probably intermarry.

Paul died soon after he moved to North Carolina. He made his will on 16 November 1726. He stated that he was of sound mind and perfect memory (the usual preamble, but hopefully accurate). First, after ordering that his debts and funeral charges be paid, he gave his son John Bunch “that part of this Land I now live on which he now lives on” up to a line of marked trees, with “one Negro fellow named Dick” and one iron pot. Paul gave the other part of his plantation to Fortune Holdbee for life, remaining after her death to Keziah Holdbee and Jemima Holdbee, to be equally divided between the two sisters, but “if these two Children die without Heirs lawfully begotten [of their bodies]” then it was to revert back to John Bunch.⁷⁰

The special favor Paul Bunch showed to Fortune and the two Holdbee children might indicate that Fortune was Paul’s common-law wife.⁷¹ A late marriage for Paul to a woman of white race was forbidden in Virginia and outlawed in North Carolina in 1715.⁷² One might argue that a tenuous bequest to children illegitimate in the eyes of the law would require Paul to give something (even one shilling) to his other surviving children, so they could not dispute his wishes.

In his will, Paul continued his bequests, giving Fortune Holdbee two feather beds and half the household goods (the other half to go to Joseph Meacham—a grandson?), and half of Paul’s stock (the other half to Joseph Meacham), except two cows and calves that were to be given to *Thomas Holdbee*.⁷³ Paul gave Fortune one Negro named Frank as long as she lived single (unmarried).⁷⁴ Paul bequeathed “my Negro fellow named Daw” to Fortune Holdbee and Joseph Meacham to “help and assist [them] one as much as the other” and gave “one Mullatto Wench named Pegg” to Keziah Holdbee, to be kept in the care of her mother until Keziah reached age eighteen or got married. Paul gave Jemima Holdbee “one Negro Girl named Betty” on like terms,

⁷⁰ Brayton, *Transcription of Provincial North Carolina Wills, 1663–1729/30, Volume 1*, 100–101 (citing Secretary of State North Carolina Archives [SS] 876, page 138). These spellings are consistent with the abstract published in Stephen E. Bradley Jr., *Early Records of North Carolina, Volume V: Wills, 1723–1736 (From the Secretary of State Papers)* (Keysville, Virginia: by the author, 1993), page 13.

⁷¹ The transcription of one record, however, states that the orphan was daughter of Thomas Holdbee. Weynette Parks Haun, *Bertie County, North Carolina County Court Minutes, 1740 thru 1743: 1758 thru 1762, Book II* (Durham, North Carolina: by the author, 1977), page 7. If Thomas Holdbee was Fortune’s first husband, but they never divorced, then children of Fortune by a common-law husband might have been considered legal orphans of her legal husband. It may also be that in this instance the clerk confused the first name of Thomas Bryant, the guardian, inserting Thomas as the name of the orphan’s father. A William Holderbee was taxed for 100 acres in King William County, Virginia, in 1704. des Cognets, *English Duplicates of Lost Virginia Records*, page 158. The surname is very rare. If Keziah and Jemimah were daughters of Paul Bunch, and born about 1723 and 1725, they might have been born in Hanover County and brought with their father to North Carolina, so the possible connection with King William County may be worth investigating.

⁷² Fortune apparently had three legal marriages to white men. The only common-law union was with Paul Bunch. If Fortune were white, then the fact that one of her daughters was styled mulatto would indicate that it was well known Paul Bunch was of mixed race.

⁷³ This was a substantial grant, but it was not of the same level of special care and property bequeathed to the two Holdbee girls. Thomas might be Fortune’s legitimate son by her first (legal) husband.

⁷⁴ This was normally the stipulation men required of their wives when making a will.

and gave Joseph Meacham “one Negro Wench named Moll and her child Fortune and one Negro Wench [named] Rose and all my Land that I have over Roanoke River” belonging to the plantation that Paul Bunch purchased from Thomas Wilkins. In addition, Paul gave “one Survey of Land only 100 Acres” to *Thomas Holdbee*. He gave his son John Bunch “one Buckaneer Gun.” Paul Bunch appointed Joseph Meacham and Fortune Holdbee his executors, the residue of his estate to be equally divided between them. The last statement in his will reads, “I give Eliz^a Bunch one Shilling Sterling and my Daughter Russell I give one Shilling Sterling[,] this I appoint my last Will and Testament as Witness my Hand and Seal this 16th Day of Nov^r 1726.” Paul Bunch signed with a mark, as he did in the records we have of him in Virginia.⁷⁵ Andrew Ireland and John Cotton witnessed the will, and the name *Henry Irby* is appended (he became Fortune’s next husband).⁷⁶

Fortune Holdbee sold the plantation upon which she lived (and that was formerly Paul Bunch’s plantation) to William Little for £15 “silver money” on 5 July 1727.⁷⁷ Fortune sought out better opportunities far away from Bertie and Chowan, moving to New Hanover County, North Carolina, the southernmost point in the colony on the Atlantic Ocean. Her petition to patent 640 acres there was recorded in 1735.⁷⁸

Fortune had already married again—or at least had taken another husband—and gave birth to two more children by 1733. Henry Irby, innholder, of Brunswick on Cape Fear, North Carolina, made his will on 30 January 1733/4.⁷⁹ He declared that he was very sick and weak in body. He gave his son William Irby, a minor living in Virginia, £40 when he reached age twenty-one. He gave his daughter Ann Irby the same amount at age 18. He gave his son Henry Irby [there was a second son of the same name] “born of the body of Fortune Holderby” £40 at age twenty-one. He gave his daughter Elizabeth Irby, also his child by Fortune, the same amount at age eighteen. He gave Fortune, Henry, and Elizabeth, his house and lot at Cape Fear and made Fortune his executrix.

Henry Irby’s first wife, Hannah Irby, who was still living, was none too pleased about his bequests, but there was not much she could do except sue for her dower rights, even though she declared that Henry had “deforced her” [*sic*, divorced her]. On 6 February 1733/4, Hannah Irby (by her attorney David Osheal) sued for the third part of one messuage and one tract of land that had been assigned to her as dower by Henry Irby (“in times past her husband”). Two days later, order was made to the Provost Marshall to command the officer of Edgecombe Precinct to render

⁷⁵ Paul Bunch witnessed the will of Alexander Cambrill of Chowan Precinct on 1 February 1726/7, signing with a mark. Bradley, *Early Records of North Carolina, Volume V: Wills, 1723–1736*, page 15.

⁷⁶ Brayton, *Transcription of Provincial North Carolina Wills, 1663–1729/30, Volume I*, pages 100–101 (citing Secretary of State of North Carolina Archives, SS 876, page 138).

⁷⁷ Laura Willis, *Bertie County, N. C. Deeds, Vol. 3 (May 1727–Aug. 1728)* (Melber, Kentucky: Simmons Historical Publications, 2001), page 17. The sale including all the crop standing or growing on the land “or may yet thereon grow.” Mary Best Bell, *Colonial Bertie County, North Carolina: Volume II, Abstracts of Deed Books B & C, 1725–1730 & 1739* (Windsor, North Carolina: by the author, 1963), page 56.

⁷⁸ Robert J. Cain, ed., *Records of the Executive Council, 1735–1754*, The Colonial Records of North Carolina, 2nd series, vol. 8 (Raleigh: Department of Cultural resources, Division of Archives and History, 1988), page 33.

⁷⁹ Bradley, *Early Records of North Carolina, Volume V: Wills, 1723–1736*, page 42.

the widow her dower and appear before the General Court at Edenton. A note dated 15 March 1734/5 states that Henry refused to deliver the dower (if there had been a legal divorce she might not be entitled to dower).

Henry Irby did not settle all his accounts before his demise. Fortune Holdbee “of Onslow Precinct,” as executrix of Henry Irby, was sued by William Wadill on 1 February 1734/5 and 21 August 1735 (for £30). Hugh Campbell, merchant, sued Fortune Holdbee (then of New Hanover) on 26 May 1735 for £100.⁸⁰ On 14 August 1738, the entry calling her Irby was crossed out (“Fortune Holderby ~~alias Irby~~”) and it was stated that Fortune had since married Thomas Brown, so the court summoned him (once married, a woman and her goods were the right of her husband during his lifetime). The suit continued on 13 November 1738.⁸¹ John Hodgson brought suit against her for £50 as executrix of Henry Irby on 26 June 1736 when her residence was described as Bladen Precinct. Again, it was stated that she had since married Thomas Brown, who was duly summoned. This case was continued until at least 20 November 1739.⁸² Records of New Hanover, Bladen, and Onslow Counties, North Carolina, all suffered heavy losses from courthouse fires.

Thomas Brown, of Wilmington, North Carolina, made his will on 16 July 1748; it was proved 10 May 1749. Being “very Sick and weak in Body,” he gave his wife Fortune 400 acres on the sound and two slaves (“Petter & Old Betty”), gave his daughter Isabella Brown the plantation where he formerly lived and part of the land he purchased from Richard Quince, gave his daughter Elizabeth Brown the plantation he purchased from William Salter (the plantations to be delivered to his daughters at age eighteen or marriage). Thomas Brown made his brother, John, and Richard Quince executors.⁸³

Fortune married yet again and this time to Robert Stanton of New Hanover. Robert Stanton, planter, of New Hanover County, sold John Sampson of Wilmington a town lot on 14 September 1750. Robert’s wife Fortune signed off on the deed (with an “x”).⁸⁴ “Fortune Brown now Fortune Stanton, the widow and deviser of the said Thomas Brown” obtained a grant of 350 acres opposite Cabbage Inlet (land secured from Thomas Brown) on 26 February 1754.⁸⁵ Fortune Stanton, of Bladen County, sold William Brown of the same 300 acres on 22 April 1755 (again signing with an “x”).⁸⁶

⁸⁰ Stephen E. Bradley Jr., *Early Records of North Carolina, Volume X: Colonial Court Records-Estate Papers, 1655–1775*, Gilbert-Owen (Lawrenceville, Virginia: by the author, 2000), pages 41–43.

⁸¹ Bradley, *Early Records of North Carolina, Volume X: Colonial Court Records-Estate Papers, 1655–1775*, pages 41–43.

⁸² Bradley, *Early Records of North Carolina, Volume X: Colonial Court Records-Estate Papers, 1655–1775*, pages 41–43.

⁸³ Stephen E. Bradley Jr., *Early Records of North Carolina, Volume VI: Wills, 1737–1749 (From the Secretary of State Papers)* (Keyesville, Virginia: by the author, 1994), page 14; *The North Carolina Historical and Genealogical Register* (Edenton, North Carolina: J.R.B. Hathaway, 1900), vol. 1, page 27.

⁸⁴ A.B. Pruitt, *Abstracts of Deeds, New Hanover Co., N.C. Books C, D, & E* ([n.p.]: by the author, 2002), page 56 (referring to Deed Book C, page 276).

⁸⁵ Pruitt, *Abstracts of Deeds, New Hanover Co.*, page 92.

⁸⁶ Pruitt, *Abstracts of Deeds, New Hanover Co.*, page 101.

Fortune (Holdbee) (Bunch) (Brown) Stanton died sometime between 1755 and 1761. On 11 August 1761, Henry Irby, butcher, and his wife, Mary, sold James Moran 100 acres at Cabbage Inlet formerly granted to James Hassell Sr., esquire, and sold by him to Fortune Stanton in 1754. Fortune Stanton, “mother of said Irby, had willed it to said Henry Irby.”⁸⁷ On 10 September 1760, William Brown and his wife, Isabelle [*sic*], sold 200 acres bordering Henry Irby, which was described as being part of Fortune’s land. This deed also stated that 100 acres had been willed to him by Fortune, with the will having been recorded in Bladen County.⁸⁸ Unfortunately, the will has since perished in the destruction of early records of Bladen County.

On 15 March 1763, Gideon Bunch, planter, of Berkeley County, South Carolina, sold Montfort Eelbeck, gentleman, “565 acres [in Halifax County] of which 265 acres had been patented to Paul Bunch on 1 Jan[uary] 1725, the remaining acreage having been purchased by Paul Bunch from Thomas Wilkins, on the south side of Roanoke River, joining Quankey Pocoson, Sims, Gideon Gibson, Burgess, Quankey Creek,” etc.⁸⁹ That proves beyond any doubt Gideon’s descent from Paul Bunch.

Children of Paul Bunch, wife not known:⁹⁰

- i **JOHN⁴ BUNCH**, born about 1678–80, would have grown up in New Kent and Hanover Counties, Virginia, but followed his father to North Carolina. William Stevens Sr. sold John Bunch 270 acres on the south side of Morattuck Rover bounded by a patent dated 1 February 1725/6.⁹¹ On 28 August 1728, John Bunch sold William Little (the man who purchased Fortune Holdebee’s land) the tract “my father Paul Bunch bought of James Kelly on Oceaneche.”⁹² John Bunch purchased 100 acres on the south side of Morattuck River adjacent Tuckahoe Marsh in Bertie County from Barnabee McKinne Jr. on 12 May 1729.⁹³ John owed quit rent on 640 acres in Bertie Precinct on 12 June 1737 (he was listed next to Henry Bunch).⁹⁴ John Bunch had a plat for 350 acres (on a bank of the Santee River) and a half acre lot (No. 177) in Amelia Township certified 15 November 1735, when it was part of Berkeley County, South Carolina.⁹⁵ John Bunch Sr. and his wife, **MARY (GIBSON?)**, gave their son John Bunch

⁸⁷ Pruitt, Abstracts of Deeds, New Hanover Co., page 145.

⁸⁸ Pruitt, Abstracts of Deeds, New Hanover Co., page 142.

⁸⁹ Stephen E. Bradley Jr., *The Deeds of Halifax County, North Carolina, 1758–1771* (South Boston, Virginia: by the author, 1989), page 43. William Bunch and Temperance Bunch were among the witnesses.

⁹⁰ Paul Heinegg, *Free African Americans*, gives details of these families in North Carolina. This research study did not try to exhaust all records of the Bunch family in North and South Carolina beyond being certain there were no more likely alternative hypotheses.

⁹¹ Bell, Colonial Bertie County, North Carolina: Volume II, page 99.

⁹² Bell, Colonial Bertie County, North Carolina: Volume II, page 112.

⁹³ Bell, Colonial Bertie County, North Carolina: Volume II, page 94.

⁹⁴ Walter Clark, *The State Records of North Carolina*, 26 Volumes (Goldsboro, North Carolina: Nash Brothers, 1907), Miscellaneous Records, vol. 22, page 240.

⁹⁵ “Colonial Plat Books (Copy Series) S213184,” *South Carolina Department of Archives and History* (Online: South Carolina Department of Archives and History, 2012), <http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/onlinearchives/Thumbnails.aspx?recordId=105520>, accessed 26 May 2012. John received a grant for the tract and lot on 16 September 1738. John Bunch Sr. and his wife [not named in the abstract] gave John Bunch Jr. 175 acres and town lot 177 in Amelia Township in 1755–56. South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Town Lot Sales, Series S372001, Volume 02Q0, page 193.

Jr. 175 acres (half the tract he patented) with the town lot by deed of gift on 15 December 1755.⁹⁶ It appears that John Bunch died before 15 March 1763, when his son Gideon sold inheritance that had passed down to him.⁹⁷

The identity of John Bunch's wife, Mary, is not clear. Naming patterns and associations would suggest she could have been a Gibson, but a number of John Bunch's neighbors moved with him because their wives were white. A number of free men of color left Virginia to settle in South Carolina at this period (as John Bunch, son of Paul, did). A member of the South Carolina Commons House of Assembly related in 1731 that a number of free men of color with their white wives had emigrated from Virginia with the intent to make a new life on the Santee River. A committee was appointed to investigate the details, "The house apprehending [this prospect] to be of ill Consequence to this Province." The families involved were summoned to report to Governor Robert Johnson. The governor was favorable to their cause:

The people lately come into the Settlements having been sent for, I have had them before me in Council and upon Examination find that they are not Negroes nor Slaves but free People, that the Father of them here is named Gideon Gibson and his father was also free, and I have been informed by a person who has lived in Virginia that this Gibson has lived there Several Years in Good repute and by his papers that he has produced before me that his transactions there have been very regular, That he has for several years paid Taxes for two tracts of Land [in Hanover County—his two patents] and had seven Negroes of his own, That he is a Carpenter by Trade and is come hither for the support of his Family.

The account he has given of himself is so Satisfactory that he is no Vagabond that I have in Consideration of his Wife[']s being a white woman and several white women capable of working and being Serviceable in the county permitted him to settle in this Country upon entering into Recognizance for his good behavior which I have taken accordingly⁹⁸

The land that John⁴ Bunch (*Paul³ Bunch, John² Bunch I, John¹ Punch*) obtained was curiously enough on the Santee River. His wife might well have been white. Not allowed to marry in Virginia, it would be no wonder that these free men would leave to settle somewhere they could reside in peace and prosper on their own merits.

Children of John Bunch (perhaps by his wife Mary):

1. **Gideon⁵ Bunch**, born about 1704–05 (perhaps named after Gideon Gibson), first occurs on record in Brunswick County, Virginia, on 7 June 1739, when William Gunn brought suit against "Giddeon Bunch" for £3.0.11 guaranteed by a promissory note dated 20 October 1738.⁹⁹ At that time Brunswick County covered a massive expanse, including most of

⁹⁶ South Carolina, Deed Book Q-Q, pages 193–94 as cited in Clara A. Langley, *South Carolina Deed Abstracts, 1719–1772, Vol. III, 1755–1768, Books QQ-H-3* (Easley, South Carolina: Southern Historical Press, 1983), pages 6–7.

⁹⁷ Bradley, Deeds of Halifax County, North Carolina, 1758–1771, page 43.

⁹⁸ Winthrop D. Jordan, "American Chiaroscuro: The Status and Definition of Mulattoes in the British Colonies," *William and Mary College Quarterly*, 19, no. 2 (1962), pages 189–90; Winthrop D. Jordan, *White over Black: American Attitudes towards the Negro, 1550–1812* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1968), pages 171–72 (citing Parish Transcripts, Box II, bundle: S.C., Minutes of House of Burgesses (1730–35), page 9).

⁹⁹ Brunswick County (Virginia), Order Book 1, 1732–1741, page 253, FHL microfilm 30662. Brunswick County was technically formed in 1720, but there was no functioning court house until 1732. Its parent county, Prince George County, Virginia, suffered a heavy loss of records.

southwest Virginia. Thomas Jones sued Gideon Bunch on 2 October 1741, claiming he was indebted for twelve pounds of good, merchantable deer leather by bill, but had refused payment. Jones brought suit before the court of Brunswick County on 2 October 1741, but Gideon had not been properly served yet. Service was apparently made in the next few months, as the court ruled in Jones's favor on 3 December 1741.¹⁰⁰ Twelve pounds of processed deer hide was no small amount and probably reveals how Gideon earned much of his living. Gideon was a defendant in Lunenburg County, Virginia, on 1 June 1747 (this time for £1.8.6).¹⁰¹ Lunenburg was created from Brunswick County in 1745. Gideon and Cage (Micajah) Bunch (his son) were tithables in Lunenburg County in 1749.¹⁰² Gideon moved back into North Carolina soon afterwards. He was taxed in Granville County, North Carolina, in 1750 (he was sometimes recorded as Gibeon and is probably the Gibbe Bunch recorded in one record).¹⁰³ Gideon was taxed as a mulatto in Orange County, North Carolina, in 1755 (with the Collins and Gibson families).¹⁰⁴ He was still in Orange County in June 1756 and indebted to a man named Samuel Benton.¹⁰⁵ Gideon Bunch had a plat for 100 acres on Four Hole Swamp, Berkeley County, South Carolina, certified 20 January 1759.¹⁰⁶ He had a grant of 100 acres on the north east side of Four Hole Swamp in Berkeley County on 25 April 1765, and another 100 acres grant in Berkeley County on 17 May 1774.¹⁰⁷ A plat for 200 acres owned by Gideon Bunch in Berkeley County is dated 11 March 1773, and a memorial for 200 acres in St. Mathews Parish, Berkeley County, South Carolina, is dated 25 October 1774.¹⁰⁸ Children: 1. **Micajah Bunch**, born by 1726.¹⁰⁹ 2. **Paul Bunch**, possibly born as

¹⁰⁰ Brunswick County (Virginia), Order Book 2, 1741–1783, pages 41 and 64, FHL microfilm 30662.

¹⁰¹ Lunenburg County (Virginia), Court Orders, 1746–1748, page 209, FHL microfilm 32403.

¹⁰² Landon C. Bell, *Sunlight on the Southside Lists of Tithes Lunenburg County, Virginia* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1974), page 114.

¹⁰³ Timothy W. Rackley, *Granville County, North Carolina Tax Lists, 1747–1759* (Kernersville, North Carolina: by the author, 2003), page 8. Micajah and Liddy Bunch were taxed in Granville in the household of John Stroud (Rackley, *Granville County, North Carolina Tax*, page 44).

¹⁰⁴ Heinegg, *Free African Americans*, vol. 1, page 221.

¹⁰⁵ Weynette Parks Haun, *Orange County, North Carolina Court Minutes, 1752–1761, Book I* (Durham, North Carolina: by the author, 1991), page 52.

¹⁰⁶ Gideon Bunch's petition for 100 acres on Four Hole Swamp was recorded 5 December 1758. Brent H. Holcomb, *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals, Volume V: 1757–1765* (Columbia, South Carolina: SCMAR, 1998), page 37. There are a number of other Bunch entries in this volume.

¹⁰⁷ Brent H. Holcomb, *South Carolina's Royal Grants, Volume Two: Grant Books 10 through 17, 1760–1768* (Columbia, South Carolina: SCMAR, 2007), page 107 (citing 12:206, plat certified 2 October 1764); also South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Land Grants, Series S213019, Volume 0030, page 312 (17 May 1774).

¹⁰⁸ "Gideon Bunch Plat for 200 acres in Berkly [sic] County," On-Line Records Index, *South Carolina Department of Archives and History* (Online: State of South Carolina, 2011) [Series S213184, vol. 13, page 424, item 3, record 7], <http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/onlinearchives/Thumbnails.aspx?recordId=105518>; also "Gideon Bunch Memorial for 200 acres in St. Mathews Parish, Berkly [sic] County," On-Line Records Index, *South Carolina Department of Archives and History* (Online: State of South Carolina, 2011) [Series S111001, volume 0013, page 00064, item 2, record 9].

¹⁰⁹ Micajah witnessed a deed between William Lewis and Humphrey Robinson in Chowan County on 17 February 1746/7. Weynette Parks Haun, *Chowan County, North Carolina, Deed Books: A-1, E-1, F-1, F-2, G-1 [Deeds Dated 1701–1755], Vol. II* (Durham, North Carolina: by the author, 1999), page 83. Micajah Bunch served on a jury in Chowan County 18 January 1749/50. Weynette Parks Haun, *Chowan County, North Carolina, Court Minutes, 1749–1754, Book III* (Durham, North Carolina: by the author, 1992), page 15. Micajah Bunch was taxed in

early as 1722, died testate in Wake County, North Carolina, in 1771 (making his brother Micajah his executor).¹¹⁰ 3. **William Bunch**, age 16 and more in 1761 (born before 1745), was taxed within his father's household in Granville County in 1761 ("Gideon Bunch [&] son William") and 1762 ("Gibeau [*sic*] Bunch [&] son William").¹¹¹

2. **John⁵ Bunch**, born about 1710, was apparently an adult by 1735 when his parents gave him half their tract and the town lot in Amelia Township, Berkeley County, South Carolina. John had a grant of 250 acres on the Four Holes adjacent John Oliver on 18 January 1765.¹¹² John Bunch, of Berkeley County, purchased 250 acres on Four Holes from William Heatly and his wife Mary Elizabeth, on 13 and 14 August 1765. This tract bordered John Bunch's own land

Chowan County in 1746 (1 white), 1748 (2 whites and 6 blacks), 1750 (10 tithables), 1751 (8 tithables), 1753, 1765 (1 white, 5 black: Stephne, Tony, Stephne, Murrear, Patt), 1768 (1 white, 5 black: Jeny, Doll, Stephney, Mariah, Stephney), and 1770 (1 white, 6 black: Stepney, Stepney, Toney, Moriah, Doll, Grace). David Barrett and Janet Searles Barrett, *Chowan County, North Carolina Tythables and Taxables, 1717 to 1770: A Compilation of 121 Tax Lists and Records* (Elizabeth City, North Carolina: Family Research Society of Northeastern North Carolina, 2009), pages 33, 43, 49, 63, 64, 91, 111, and 118. The will of Micajah Bunch was proved in Chowan County (dated 6 December 1783). He named his wife Mary, sons Micajah Bunch, Joseph Bunch, Edward Bunch, James Bunch, Thomas Bunch, and daughters Penelope, Lydia, and Frances. *Chowan County Will Abstracts, 1707–1850* (Edenton, North Carolina: The Edenton Tea Party Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, 1976), page 34 (Book B:62)

¹¹⁰ Frances Holloway Wynne, *Wake County, North Carolina, Abstracts of Wills, Inventories, and Settlements of Estates, 1771–1802* (Baton Rouge, Louisiana: Oracle Press, 1984), page 5. Paul Bunch's will was dated 18 December 1762 and proved 15 June 1771. He was a respectable landowner more than 617 acres), and described himself as of Johnston County, North Carolina, when he wrote his will (Wake County was created partly from Johnston and Orange Counties, with a part from Cumberland County, in 1771). He named his wife Ann, son Thompson Bunch, son David Bunch, carpenter's and cooper's tools, his daughters Mary Macnatt, Anna Pace, Rachel Bunch, Sarah Bunch, and Feroba Bunch, making his brother Micajah Bunch and James Thompson (brother-in-law?) his executors. Paul's inventory included books and a violin (Wynne, page 7). "Danl." Bunch purchased land in Johnston County in January 1762. Weynette Parks Haun, *Johnston County, North Carolina Court Minutes, 1759 through 1766, Book I* (Durham, North Carolina, 1974), page 43 (see also entries for Paul Bunch on pages 49, 108, 144, and 174). Haun has made useful abstracts of many records, but it is not uncommon to find misreadings of names in her work (which she even cautions about in some of her prefaces). The original court minutes are not available at the Family History Library. If "Dan'l." is actually "Dav'd" (no Daniel Bunch is known in this period) it would indicate that Paul's son was born by 1741. Johnston County suffered a partial loss of records (the deed involved does not survive). David Bunch had his mark recorded in May 1768. Weynette Parks Haun, *Johnston County, North Carolina Court Minutes 1767 thru 1777 Book II* (Durham, North Carolina: by the author, 1974), page 23. Thompson Bunch appears to have joined distant relatives in Grainger County, Tennessee by 1816 when Thompson Bunch and a David Bunch were mentioned in deeds. "Grainger County, Tennessee Deeds, Volumes C through F, Various Pages," *Grainger County Tennessee USGenWeb Archives* (Online: TNGenWeb, 2012), <http://files.usgwarchives.net/tn/grainger/land/land001.txt>, accessed 24 May 2012. A Robert Bunch died testate in Johnston County making his will on 27 August 1787 and proved February 1788. He named his wife Mary, son Gideon and daughter Leanath[?] Bunch. Moses Rainwater (from a family with Native-American blood) was among the witnesses. Elizabeth E. Ross, *Johnston County, North Carolina Will Abstracts, 1746–1825, Vol. I* (Clayton, North Carolina: by the author, 1975), page 2.

¹¹¹ Timothy W. Rackley, *Granville County, North Carolina Tax Lists, 1760–1764* (Kernersville, North Carolina: by the author, 2004), pages 21 and 54. Also transcribed by Paul Heinegg, "Free African Americans Taxable in Granville County" (Online: by the author), <http://www.freeafricanamericans.com/Granville.htm>, accessed 24 May 2012.

¹¹² Holcomb, *South Carolina's Royal Grants, Volume Two*, page 90 (citing 11:712, plat certified 25 November 1764).

and land of John Oliver.¹¹³ John Bunch, planter, of St. Matthews Parish, purchased 150 acres from John Oliver on the north side of Four Hole Swamp in Berkeley County on 28 and 29 December 1767.¹¹⁴

3. [?] **Naomi⁵ Bunch**, born about 1720–22, married **John Joyner Jr.** on 23 December 1754, both of Amelia Township, Orangeburg, South Carolina (unless the Naomi in that record was actually widow of no. 4, Paul⁵ Bunch).
4. [?] **Paul⁵ Bunch**, born about 1720–25, married **Amy [Naomi?] Winigum** on 28 April 1648 in Orangeburg, South Carolina, was described in the register as a resident of Amelia Township.¹¹⁵ Some of the Gibson clan also settled in Amelia Township in 1735.

ii **[ELIZABETH]⁴ BUNCH**, born *about* 1675–79, married **JOHN RUSSELL**.

Children of Paul Bunch, perhaps by Fortune Holdbee:

- iii [?] **KEZIAH HOLDBEE**, born *about* 1724, was still a minor in 1742 (so born after 1721). Captain Thomas Bryant obtained guardianship of one of Paul Bunch's orphans (who was "Entitled to a considerable Estate in this Precinct...by the Will of Paul Bunch") by 13 August 1734. Bryant gave security for the same on 13 May 1734.¹¹⁶ Keziah Holdbee was called "a Molatto woman" on 14 May 1734 when her guardian Bryant was ordered to post £1000 security.¹¹⁷ Keziah Holdbee's guardian, Mr. Dawson, was to give security of £2000 on her estate in 1740.¹¹⁸ Thomas Bryant was dead by May 1742, when his executor Benjamin Bryant pleaded to the court to allow him a sum for the expenses his

¹¹³ Clara A. Langley, *South Carolina Deed Abstracts, 1719–1772, Vol. IV, 1767–1773, Books I-3-E-4* (Easley, South Carolina: Southern Historical Press, 1984), page 10.

¹¹⁴ Langley, *South Carolina Deed Abstracts, 1719–1772, Vol. IV*, page 288.

¹¹⁵ Paul Bunch married Amy [Naomi?] Winigum on 28 April 1748 in the church at Orangeburg[h], South Carolina. Mary, daughter of Paul and Naomi Bunch, was born "71th" [17?] July 1750, and their daughter Elizabeth was born "17th" April 1752, with Mary Bunch, Joseph Joyner, and Winifred Joyner witnesses. Naomi Bunch married John Joyner Jr. after the publication of banns on 23 December 1755. (Was this Paul's widow or his sister?) Gideon Bunch witnessed the baptism of Charles, son of Nathaniel and Winifred Joyner, who was born on 27 September 1751. A.S. Salley Jr., *The History of Orangeburg County, South Carolina: From Its First Settlement to the Close of the Revolutionary War* (Orangeburg, South Carolina: R. Lewis Berry, 1898), pages 109, 119, 132, and 134. Paul's (first?) wife might be the Amy Wunningham born 11 August 1733 in Bristol Parish, Virginia, daughter of Thomas and Mary Wunningham. Churchill Gibson Chamberlayne, *The Vestry Book and Register of Bristol Parish, Virginia, 1720–1789* (Richmond: privately printed, 1898), page 389. Thomas Wunningham sold the land he lived on in Prince George County on 8 April 1718. Benjamin B. Weisiger III, *Prince George County, Virginia Wills and Deeds, 1713–1728* ([Richmond]: by the author, 1973), page 27. The plat mapping out Thomas Wunningham's 300 acres on Santee River in Amelia Township, Berkeley County, and half acre Town lot #101 certified 2 June 1738 is now online through the "Colonial Plat Books," *South Carolina Department of Archives and History* (Online: SCDAH, 2011), <http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/onlinearchives/Thumbnails.aspx?recordId=94975>, accessed 23 May 2012. It is curious that a number of the Bunch family in Orangeburg were apparently Loyalists during the Revolution. Murtie June Clark, *Loyalists in the Southern Campaign of the Revolutionary War, Volume I* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1981), page 203.

¹¹⁶ Weynette Parks Haun, *Bertie County, North Carolina County Court Minutes, 1724 thru 1739* (Durham, North Carolina: by the author, 1976), vol. 1, pages 60 and 64.

¹¹⁷ Haun, *Bertie County, North Carolina, County Court Minutes, 1724 thru 1739*, page 68.

¹¹⁸ Haun, *Bertie County, North Carolina, County Court Minutes, Book II*, page 15.

father had in caring for the orphan “Cashia Holbee, her Negro Wench,” and six children for the space of thirteen years. John Dawson, gentleman, was the guardian of Keziah Holdbee at that time.¹¹⁹

- iv [?] **JEMIMA HOLDBEE**, born circa 1726 (before Paul Bunch made his will) was called “orphan of Thomas Holderby, deceased,” on the second Tuesday in November 1740 when she complained that years ago the court had appointed Captain Thomas Bryan her guardian. Now that she was of an age to choose (age 14), she prayed that John Edwards be appointed in Bryant’s stead.¹²⁰

4 [?**HENRY**]³ **BUNCH**, born about 1660–70 in Virginia, was apparently the father of several of miscellaneous early Bunch settlers who went to North Carolina (those who were not named in Paul Bunch’s will, though they were also recorded as mixed race in later records). The following Bunches are grouped here because they cannot be shown to definitely descend from Paul Bunch or John Bunch II.¹²¹ There was also a slave who was probably not a Bunch by blood, but who used the name John Bunch as a ruse to pass as free. A “runaway Malatto Man Slave, named Jack” who belonged to Samuel Harwood, the younger, of Charles City County, was in South Carolina in April 1719 according to the testimony of George Rives, age fifty-nine, who said he talked with Jack many times.¹²² In his testimony, Rives recounted that Jack had gone into South Carolina in the company of Mr. Robert Hix and other traders, disguising himself by using the name John Bunch. Jack said he would have willingly returned to his master, but he was detained by a man named Capt. How and other traders there. Rives further testified that he knew Harwood’s runaway slave very well because they had lived on the plantation of Poplar Swamp, swearing deposition on 6 September 1719.

- i **HENRY**⁴ **BUNCH**, born about 1685–90, purchased 200 acres at the mouth of Reedy Branch in what was Chowan Precinct (Bertie County Deed Book), North Carolina on 18 December 1727.¹²³ He purchased three more tracts of land on Conaristat Swamp (totaling 640 acres) on 30 May 1729 bordering his own land.¹²⁴ Henry Bunch served on a jury on 14 May 1734.¹²⁵ Henry owed rent on 515 acres in Bertie Precinct on 12 June 1735.¹²⁶ Henry Bunch had a patent of 200 acres in Bertie County on 14 February 1739/40. This joined his own land and a branch running out of Coneyruckey Swamp.¹²⁷

¹¹⁹ Haun, Bertie County, North Carolina, County Court Minutes, Book II, page 26.

¹²⁰ Haun, Bertie County, North Carolina, County Court Minutes, Book II, page 7.

¹²¹ The given name Henry passed down in all branches of this family so is suggested as a possible given name. There was a Henry “Birch” listed in the 1704 quit rents of King William County, where Paul Bunch resided. Birch, however, is normally a distinct surname not normally confused with Bunch.

¹²² Prince George County (Virginia), Deeds, 1713–1728, page 350, FHL microfilm 33052. It is curious that Captain Samuel Harwood served as security for the good behavior of George Gibson in December 1745, possibly for failing to answer the suit of Phillis Goeing (Gowen). Paul Heinegg, *Free African Americans*, vol. 1, page 523. John Bunch was among the seven headrights claimed by Robert Hix for land granted in Surry County on 31 October 1716. Virginia Land Patent Book 10, page 307, FHL microfilm 29327.

¹²³ Bell, Colonial Bertie County, North Carolina: Volume II, page 76.

¹²⁴ Bell, Colonial Bertie County, North Carolina: Volume II, page 110.

¹²⁵ Haun, Bertie County, North Carolina County Court Minutes, 1724 thru 1739, page 54.

¹²⁶ Clark, The State Records of North Carolina, vol. 22, page 240.

¹²⁷ Margaret M. Hofmann, *Colony of North Carolina, 1735–1764, Abstracts of Land Patents, Volume One* (Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina: by the author, 1982), page 278 (no. 4014).

Land Henry sold to Media White on 23 July 1740 was mentioned in 1759.¹²⁸ Henry Bunch died testate in Bertie County in 1775. His will was dated 21 April 1775 and proved August term 1775.¹²⁹ His son Jeremiah was married about 1740, so born about 1715. Henry Bunch was therefore certainly born by 1694–99. The yDNA of his descendants matches the Bunch DNA of the descendants of John Bunch III. If Henry is not son of Paul³ (John² Bunch I), then he would fit well as Paul's nephew. This branch seems to be darker in complexion than the John Bunch II descendants who remained in Virginia because they were intermittently recognized as people of color. Henry was father of at least six children:¹³⁰ 1. **Jeremiah Bunch** [Sr.] born about 1715–20,¹³¹ will dated 8 March 1797, Bertie County, North Carolina.¹³² 2. **Tamerson Bunch** married Thomas Bass.¹³³ 3. **Susannah Bunch** married Lazarus Summerlin. 4. **Rachel Bunch** married Joseph Collins. 5. **Nancy Bunch** married Isaac Bass. 6. **Embrey Bunch**, born about 1730, left a will dated 20 July 1780.¹³⁴

- ii **PAUL⁴ BUNCH**, born about 1690–95, intended to settle in Beaufort County, North Carolina, before his death, but died in 1741.¹³⁵ He was the same Paul Bunch who purchased 640 acres on Indian Town Creek in Chowan Precinct on 31 July 1729.¹³⁶ Paul Bunch sold William Mackey 640 acres on Indian Town Creek formerly belonging to Thomas Bray on 2 April 1734.¹³⁷ Mackey sold it to Joseph

¹²⁸ Stephen E. Bradley Jr., *The Deeds of Bertie County, North Carolina, 1757–1772* (Keysville, Virginia: by the author, 1992), page 20.

¹²⁹ Laura Willis, *Bertie County, N. C. Wills—Vol. Two (May 1774–Aug. 1784)* (Melber, Kentucky: Simmons Historical Publications, 2000), pages 10–11; and David B. Gammon, *Abstracts of Wills, Bertie County, North Carolina, 1774–1797* (Raleigh, North Carolina: by the author, 1991), pages 4–5.

¹³⁰ For more on these families, see Heinegg, *Free African Americans*, vol. 1, pages 220–23.

¹³¹ Jeremiah Bunch was born before 1723, as his son Jeremiah Jr. was an adult by 1765. Jeremiah Bunch Jr. was taxed for himself in Bertie County in 1765 (indicating he was born by 1744). A.B. Pruitt, *List of Taxables 1765–1771, Bertie County, NC* (by the author, 2009), page 3. Jeremiah Bunch Jr., the elder Jeremiah's son, purchased land in Bertie County in 1769. Weynette Parks Haun, *Bertie County, North Carolina County Court Minutes, 1763 through 1771 Book III* (Durham, North Carolina: by the author, 1978), page 79.

¹³² Sandra Lee Almasy, *Bertie County, North Carolina Wills, 1797–1805* (Joliet, Illinois: Kensington Glen Publishing, 1993), page 24; and *The North Carolina Historical and Genealogical Register* (Edenton, North Carolina: J.R.B. Hathaway, 1901), vol. 2, page 328.

¹³³ David B. Gammon, *Abstracts of Wills, Bertie County, North Carolina, 1722–1774* (Raleigh: by the author, 1990), pages 79–80.

¹³⁴ Laura Willis, *Bertie County, N. C. Wills—Vol. Three (Aug. 1784–Feb. 1791)* (Melber, Kentucky: Simmons Historical Publications, 2000), pages 60–1; Gammon, *Abstracts of Wills, Bertie County, North Carolina 1774–1797*, page 42; *The North Carolina Historical and Genealogical Register*, vol. 2, page 328. Embrey Bunch was taxed in Bertie County in 1765. Pruitt, *List of Taxables 1765–1771, Bertie County*, pages 2 and 3.

¹³⁵ Stephen E. Bradley Jr., *Early Records of North Carolina, Volume II: Probates, Administrations, Inventories, 1677–1790 (From the Secretary of State Papers)* (Keysville, Virginia: by the author, 1992), Book 2, page 49; John Anderson Brayton, *Abstracts of Beaufort County, North Carolina Deed Book 2, 1729–1748* (Memphis: John Anderson Brayton, 2011), page 82.

¹³⁶ Weynette Parks Haun, *Chowan County, North Carolina, Deed Books ... Deeds Dated 1723–1759 [a few dated before & After]*, Vol. III (Durham, North Carolina: by the author, 2004), page 30; Haun, *Chowan County, North Carolina, Deed Books, Vol. II*, page 9; *The North Carolina Historical and Genealogical Register*, vol. 2, page 446.

¹³⁷ Weynette Parks Haun, *Chowan County, North Carolina, Deed Books: W-1, 1729–1739, C-2, 1738–1740, D, 1748–1806 and Various Earlier and Later Dates, Vol. I* (Durham, North Carolina: by the author, 1998), page 7; *The North Carolina Historical and Genealogical Register*, vol. 2, page 611.

Anderson on 5 June 1734.¹³⁸ Samuel Woodward sold Paul Bunch 640 acres in Bertie on Chinkapin Creek on 6 September 1735.¹³⁹ Robert Hilton and Joseph Anderson sold John Boyd 600 acres lately in possession of Paul Bunch on 12 October 1736.¹⁴⁰ Paul Bunch was sued by William Badham in Chowan County in 1736.¹⁴¹ Paul had been a planter in Bertie County in the 1730s, but had just arranged before his death to purchase an island in Beaufort County to be planted with an orchard and have a house built. This was to cost £100 (by agreement dated 10 November 1737), so Paul Bunch was well established by 1741.¹⁴² His administrator was his adult son, who was also named Paul Bunch. This youngest Paul was certainly born by 1720, so the father Paul Bunch must have been born some years before 1699. He could therefore be a brother of Henry Bunch (born about 1685–90).

- iii **JULIUS⁴ BUNCH**, born about 1700–10, first appears in records in Chowan Precinct on 16 April 1735, when Samuel Woodward deeded him land there.¹⁴³ Julius Bunch purchased 100 acres in the fork of Indian Town Creek Swamp (where Paul Bunch had purchased land in 1729) from Thomas Muns Jr. on 2 July 174[0].¹⁴⁴ Julius Bunch was taxed in Chowan County in 1739, 1741, 1742, and 1743 but not in 1746 or later lists.¹⁴⁵ Julius served on a jury in Chowan October session 1741 (about an assault).¹⁴⁶ For £50, Julius Bunch of Chowan, a planter, purchased 200 acres in Perquimans County, North Carolina, from William Elliott on 13 December 1742 (land bordering Nathan Newby).¹⁴⁷ Julius moved to Perquimans County by 8 October 1748, when he sold Thomas Archibald 50 acres on Rockahock Creek.¹⁴⁸ Julius served on a jury in Perquimans on the 3rd Monday in October 1753.¹⁴⁹ Julius Bunch sold 31½ acres bordering land of Thomas Newby, Thomas Elliot, and Nathan Newby to Caleb White on 12 April 1756.¹⁵⁰ Julius had a grant of 383 acres in Chowan County on 7 September 1761.¹⁵¹ He

¹³⁸ Haun, Chowan County, North Carolina, Deed Books, Vol. III, page 47.

¹³⁹ Haun, Chowan County, North Carolina, Deed Books, Vol. I, page 14; The North Carolina Historical and Genealogical Register, vol. 3, page 128.

¹⁴⁰ Haun, Chowan County, North Carolina, Deed Books, Vol. I, page 18; The North Carolina Historical and Genealogical Register, vol. 1, page 111; The North Carolina Historical and Genealogical Register, vol. 3, page 126. On 31 January 1735/6, Joseph Anderson sold John Boyd of Bertie 320 acres where Paul Bunch was living (part of land patented by Colonel Thomas Pollock and given by him to Thomas Bray on 3 March 1716 as a marriage portion). The North Carolina Historical and Genealogical Register, vol. 1, page 110.

¹⁴¹ Haun, Chowan County, North Carolina, County Court Minutes, Book I, pages 27, 30, and 35.

¹⁴² Stephen E. Bradley Jr., *Early Records of North Carolina, Volume 9: Colonial Court Records–Estate Papers, 1765–1775, A-Gibson* (Lawrenceville, Virginia: by the author, 1994), pages 36–37.

¹⁴³ Haun, Chowan County, North Carolina, Deed Books, vol. 1, page 13; The North Carolina Historical and Genealogical Register, vol. 1, page 108.

¹⁴⁴ Haun, Chowan County, North Carolina, Deed Books, vol. 1, page 106.

¹⁴⁵ Barrett and Barrett, Chowan County, North Carolina Tythables and Taxables, 1717 to 1770, pages 10, 19, and 26.

¹⁴⁶ Haun, Chowan County, North Carolina, County Court Minutes, Book I, page 39.

¹⁴⁷ Mrs. Watson Winslow, *History of Perquimans County, As Compiled from Records Found There and Elsewhere; Abstracts of Deeds from 1681 through the Revolution...* (Baltimore: Regional Publishing Company, 1974), page 125 (referring to Deed Book D, page 83).

¹⁴⁸ Haun, Chowan County, North Carolina, Deed Books, Vol. I, page 116; Haun, Chowan County, North Carolina, Court Minutes, Book III, no. 17.

¹⁴⁹ Weynette Parks Haun, Perquimans County, North Carolina, County Court Minutes, 1738 thru 1754, Book II (with Deeds 1735 thru 1738) (Durham, North Carolina: by the author, 1987), page 111.

¹⁵⁰ Winslow, *History of Perquimans County*, page 168 (citing Deed Book F, page 198).

purchased 120 acres in Perquimans adjacent his own land and that of Zachariah Nixon on 19 January 1768.¹⁵² Julius Bunch sold Miles Elliott 106 acres near John Williamson's on 18 February 1787, with Julius's wife, **JOANA**, releasing her dower rights. Julius Bunch gave his son "Nazatherith [*sic*] Bunch, for love and affection," land he bought from Thomas Bonner on 20 September 1788. Joshua Bunch was witness. On 24 November 1788, out of love and affection, Julius gave his son Joshua land he purchased from Thomas Bonner by Yeopim River. Nazareth Bunch was witness to the deed.¹⁵³ This appears to have been the settling of his estate, because he left no surviving will. Nazareth Bunch was appointed administrator of the estate of Julius Bunch in January 1789, the widow resigning her right of administration.¹⁵⁴ Julius was father of Nazareth¹⁵⁵ and Joshua,¹⁵⁶ but he might also have been father of Solomon Bunch and Julius Bunch Jr. (this assertion needs to be confirmed from independent documentation).¹⁵⁷

- iv **JESSE⁴ BUNCH**, born by 1708, if the report that he was taxed for 50 acres in Perquimans County in 1729 is accurate.¹⁵⁸ He resided in Chowan County and appears to have been closely associated with Shadrack and Ishmael Bunch. The chronology of their descendants needs to be studied in detail to verify whether Jesse was father of Shadrack and Ishmael or whether he might actually be younger than predicted and belong to the next generation. Jesse had a patent of 640 acres in Chowan in 1753 and 720 acres on the east side of Chowan River joining land of Thomas Hubbard, William Lewis, and Shadrack Bunch on 11 May 1757.¹⁵⁹ Jesse Bunch, Micajah Bunch, and Ishmael Bunch fought during the French and Indian War in a company of men from Chowan County commanded by Captain Lewis according to a list drawn up 25 November 1754.¹⁶⁰ Jesse was taxed in Chowan County in 1753 (as was Ishmael), 1765 and 1768.¹⁶¹ Ishmael Bunch died in Chowan County in 1763. Ishmael's administration was granted to Josiah Small.¹⁶² Jesse Bunch purchased 100 acres in Perquimans County on Yeopim

¹⁵¹ The North Carolina Historical and Genealogical Register, vol. 1, page 21.

¹⁵² Winslow, *History of Perquimans County*, page 211 (referring to Deed Book H, page 4).

¹⁵³ Lori Higley White, *Abstracts of Deeds, Perquimans County, North Carolina, 1785–1791* (Boise, Idaho: by the author, 1995), pages 10, 16, and 17.

¹⁵⁴ Raymond A. Winslow Jr., "Appointments of Administrators/Executors, 1774–1801," *Perquimans County Historical Society Yearbook, 1977* (Hertford, North Carolina: by the author, 1977), page 21.

¹⁵⁵ Nazareth Bunch married Peneloper Mackshehi in Perquimans County on 4 September 1779. *Perquimans County, North Carolina Marriage Bonds* (Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1943), page 14.

¹⁵⁶ Joshua Bunch died testate in Perquimans County, will dated 25 March and proved May 1796. He named wife Sarah, sons David, Joshua, and Lemual, and daughters Rachel, Elizabeth, and Levinah. Nazareth Bunch was a witness. Raymond A. Winslow Jr., *Abstracts of Perquimans County, North Carolina, Wills 1761–1864* (Hertford, North Carolina: by the author, 1999), page 11.

¹⁵⁷ Julius Bunch married Joanna Stacy in Perquimans County on 27 November 1782. Solomon Bunch was bondsman. *Perquimans County, North Carolina Marriage Bonds*, page 14. Julius Bunch [Jr.] died in Chowan leaving a will dated 11 March 1789. He named his wife Priscilla, daughters Marian, Sarah, Miriam, and Abigail, and sons Solomon, Lamachi, and Jacob, making his wife and brother Solomon Bunch executors. *Chowan County Will Abstracts, 1707–1850*, page 19 (Book A, page 73).

¹⁵⁸ Winslow, *History of Perquimans County*, page 22.

¹⁵⁹ The North Carolina Historical and Genealogical Register, vol. 1, page 120.

¹⁶⁰ Clark, *The State Records of North Carolina, Vol. XXII, vol. 22*, pages 325–26.

¹⁶¹ Barrett and Barrett, *Chowan County, North Carolina Tythables and Taxables*, pages 64, 91, and 95.

¹⁶² Stephen E. Bradley Jr., *Early Records of North Carolina, Volume I: Probates, Administrations, Inventories, 1753–1790* (From the Secretary of State Papers) (Keysville, Virginia: by the author, 1992), pages 7 and 30.

River (part of 400 acres called Sturgin's Point on Broad Creek that William Wyatt had purchased) from Richard Banks on 15 December 1769.¹⁶³

- v **SHADRACK BUNCH**, born about 1715–25, purchased 100 acres on the easternmost side of Rockahock Creek in Chowan (called Patchets Next) from Luke White on 25 July 1746.¹⁶⁴ Shadrack sold 100 acres on the east side of Rockahock Creek, Chowan County, on Paget's Neck at the mouth of Grindles Branch Dam to Jesse Ambross on 6 July 1756. Micajah Bunch witnessed the deed.¹⁶⁵ Ishmael Bunch purchased 205 acres in Chowan County from Anthony Jones on 23 March 1757 (so was born by 1736). Micajah Bunch also witnessed this deed.¹⁶⁶ Shadrack Bunch was taxed in Chowan County in 1746, 1747, 1748, 1750, 1762, 1765, 1768, and 1770.¹⁶⁷ Shadrack Bunch died testate in Chowan County making his will on 17 October 1786. He named his wife **SARAH**, sons William and Collen Bunch, and daughters Rachael Goodwin and Mary Bunch.¹⁶⁸

5 **JOHN⁴ BUNCH III "Jr."** (*John³ Bunch II, John² Bunch I, John¹ Punch*) of Hanover County, Virginia, born about 1680–85, and probably married about 1705–10. It appears that John Bunch III died shortly before 14 March 1741/2 leaving a will that no longer survives. John Bunch III had already settled on Taylor's Creek by 2 March 1721/2 when he was ordered to help clear the road in that area.¹⁶⁹ He obtained several tracts of land by patent in 1722, 1724, and 1725 on Taylor's Creek (see below). This land, which formed a contiguous tract, now crosses the border between Hanover and Louisa Counties.

John Bunch III petitioned the General Court of Virginia, appealing a minister's decision not to allow him and his intended bride, **SARAH SLAYDEN**, to publish banns of marriage in Blisland Parish. This was a necessary prerequisite for their intended marriage. Sarah Slayden was the daughter of a neighboring white landowner, John Slayden, who gave his name to Slayden's Creek.¹⁷⁰ Their petition reads as follows:

¹⁶³ Winslow, *History of Perquimans County*, page 220 (citing Deed Book H, page 94).

¹⁶⁴ Haun, Chowan County, North Carolina, Deed Books, Vol. II, page 73.

¹⁶⁵ Haun, Chowan County, North Carolina, Deed Books, Vol. III, page 111.

¹⁶⁶ Haun, Chowan County, North Carolina, Deed Books, Vol. III, pages 111–12.

¹⁶⁷ In 1765 Shadrack was taxed on 1 white tithes and 2 black tithes. In 1768 Shadrack was taxed on 1 white tithes, 1 black tithes. In 1770 Shadrack was taxed on 1 white tithes and 1 black tithes. Barrett and Barrett, *Chowan County, North Carolina Tythables and Taxables*, pages 33, 38, 49, 78, 91, 95, and 120.

¹⁶⁸ Chowan County Will Abstracts, 1707–1850, page 8 (Book A, page 73).

¹⁶⁹ Chamberlayne, *Vestry Book of St. Paul's Parish, 1706–1786*, page 101. All the male tithables belonging to Mr. Thomas Johnson, Mr. David Meriwether's Upper Quarter, and neighbors including Isaac Johnson, John Bostick, Mr. Richard Phillips, and Samuel Knuckols were to assist in the work.

¹⁷⁰ The Slayden surname was almost unique in Virginia at that period. A John Slaterne was claimed as a headright of Ralph Wormsley for land on the Pamunkey River in King and Queen County, Virginia, on 25 October 1695. He was not listed among the 1704 quit rents of New Kent, King William, or King and Queen Counties. John Sladden was mentioned as a landowner in St. Paul's Parish in the processioners' accounts in 1711 and 1716 (District 28) and 30 March 1720 (District 27). Slayden's Branch of Meechump's Creek was mentioned in one of the few surviving deeds of the period in 1734. The land is between Ashland and Hanover County Court House. It appears that John was father of Arthur Slayden, of New Kent County, who purchased land in Goochland County from George Hilton on 14 September 1741 on branches of Lickinghole Creek. The vestry book of St. Peter's Parish records the

The Petition of John Bunch and Sarah Slayden praying that the minister of Blissland [*sic*] Parish may be ordered to publish the Banns between the Pet[itione]rs in order to their marriage, w[hi]ch he hath hitherto refused on pretence of the s[ai]d Bunch's being a Mulatto, was read, and referred to M^r Attorney General to report his opinion whether the Petitioners case be within the intent of the Law to prevent Negros & White Persons intermarrying to y^e next meeting of the Council.

[4 September 1705] ...Mr. Attorney Gen[era]ll reported his opinion on the Petition of Jn^o Bunch & Sarah Slayden as followeth[:] Upon perusal of a Petition of John Bunch & Sarah Slayden to his Excell[en]cy Edwd Nott Esq^r & c [i.e., etc.] and upon perusal of an Act of Assembly of this Colony entitled an Act for suppressing Outlying Slaves; I am of [the] opinion & do conceive that y^e s[ai]d Act being Penal is Coercive or restrictive *no further then the very letter thereof*, and being wholly unacquainted with the Appelations given to [the] issue of such mixtures, cannot resolve whether *the issue begotten on a White woman by a Mulatto man can properly be called a Mulatto*, that name as I conceive being only appropriated to the Child of a Negro man begotten upon a white woman, or by a white man upon a negro woman, and as I am told the issue of a Mulatto by or upon a white Person has another name viz that of, Mustee; w[hi]ch if so, *I conceive it wholly out of the Letter* (tho[ugh] it may be conjectured to be within [the] intent) of the s[ai]d act, the which (as aboves[ai]d being Penal) is, as I conceive not to be construed beyond [the] letter thereof. S. Thomson, A[ttorney] G[eneral]

Upon consideration of which Report, and that the Petition[e]rs Case is [a] matter of Law, It is therefore ordered that the Petition of the said Bunch and Slayden be referred till next General Court for Mr. Attorney to argue the reasons of his opinion before his Excell[en]cy and [the] Council. The Council adjourned till tomorrow morning 9 o'clock.¹⁷¹ (emphasis added)

By virtue of this marriage petition and the laws of the time, John Bunch III was apparently the son of a white woman and a man with some degree of African ancestry. This is what caused the legal conundrum, because John III was not technically a mulatto; he would have been less than 1/8th African. John Bunch may have specifically disputed the letter of the law to the minister, which is why the petition was brought to the court. The court's ruling does not survive, but the government issued a statute the next month that would define the status of John Bunch III and what they termed mulattos for the next two centuries. As a direct result of John Bunch's petition, a mulatto was defined as someone who was child, grandchild, or great-grandchild of a black or Native American.¹⁷²

birth of Arthur's son John on 22 February 1730/1. C.G. Chamberlayne, *The Vestry Book and Register of St. Peter's Parish, New Kent and James City Counties, Virginia, 1684-1786* (Richmond: Division of Purchase and Printing, Virginia State Library, 1937), page 493. Arthur fathered a large family, but no mention of Sarah or the Bunch family was found in a search of records relating to his life.

¹⁷¹ H.R. McIlwaine, *Executive Journals of the Council of Colonial Virginia, Vol. III (May 1, 1705–October 23, 1721)* (Richmond: Virginia State Library, 1928), pages 28, 30–31.

¹⁷² Hening, *Statutes at Large*, vol. 3, pages 250-2.

Returning the focus to John Bunch III, son of John Bunch II, it was known that John III received the first of his three grants on Taylor's Creek, Hanover County, on 18 February 1722/3. He paid the standard 40 shillings for 400 acres.

unto John Bunch jun^r of Hanover County ... lying and being on the upper side of Tay[lors] Creek ... and bounded as followeth to wit, Beginning at a white oak on the said Creek a Little above Edward Garland's corner on the Land running South one hundred and ninety [190] poles to a corner of several marked trees[,] thence south fifty seven and a half [57 ½] poles east four hundred [400] poles to another corner of several marked trees[,] thence north one hundred and ninety [190] poles to a [blank] on the Creek[,] thence down the watercourses of the said Creek making upon a straight line four hundred [400] poles to the beginning[.]¹⁷³

This tract is now where Taylor's Creek crosses from Louisa County into Hanover County. The grant is roughly a trapezoidal shape (with the left and right sides running parallel north-south). The left third of the grant is now in Louisa County, the right two-thirds in Hanover County just north of route 610 between Hopeful Church and Taylor's Creek. The Meriwether family (Nicholas, William, and David) were John Bunch III's neighbors to the southeast. The Meriwethers had obtained a huge grant of 4,185 acres on 16 June 1714 on branches of the Pamunkey River in St. Paul's Parish (part of New Kent County until 1720–21 when Hanover County was created). The Meriwether grant also ran along Taylor's Creek and bordered land of Garland, George Alves, and Captain Nathaniel West.¹⁷⁴ Edward Garland received a grant of 1,513 acres in St. Paul's Parish on 1 April 1717.¹⁷⁵ Garland's grant was just southeast of John Bunch's first grant with Meriwether beyond that (on the south side of Taylor's Creek).

The first land patent is especially important because it explicitly designates the John Bunch who was obtaining his first patent on Taylor's Creek as "junior" (which meant *younger*).¹⁷⁶ John Bunch obtained a second patent of 400 acres on Taylor's Creek on 2 July 1724 (one week before Paul Bunch obtained his patent), again for 40 shillings. This grant was immediately northwest of his first grant. The first and second patents joined, forming a new contiguous tract. It was roughly between Taylor's Creek and Mt. Zion Church:

¹⁷³ Virginia Land Patent Book 11, pages 162–63, FHL microfilm 29327; also available online, "Virginia Land Office Patents and Grants," *Library of Virginia*, (Online: Library of Virginia, 2012), Patent Book 11, pages 162-63, .tif image, http://image.lva.virginia.gov/LONN/LO-1/010-2/010_0666.tif and http://image.lva.virginia.gov/LONN/LO-1/010-2/010_0667.tif, accessed 23 May 2012.

¹⁷⁴ Virginia Land Patent Book 10, page 175, FHL microfilm 29327.

¹⁷⁵ Virginia Land Patent Book 10, page 316, FHL microfilm 29327. His tract began on the southwest side of Taylor's Creek, ran into the woods, ran on a branch called Elk Creek, and then along Taylor's Creek back to the beginning.

¹⁷⁶ In this period, "senior" and "junior" did not mean "father" and "son" as it usually does now, it simply meant older and younger, to differentiate two men of the same name who lived relatively near one another. In this case, research surmises they were differentiating between two landholders named John Bunch, the older John Bunch being the man listed in the 1704 quit rents of New Kent County. There is no indication that Paul Bunch's son John owned land in Virginia.

Beginning at a white oak of John Bunch's on the South side of the Creek, running up the creek by the watercourses making in a Straight Line One Hundred Thirty Eight [138] poles[,] Thence North Forty Eight [48] [degrees] West One Hundred and Ten [110] poles to several [saplings?] Thence South Forty One [41] [degrees] West Two Hundred and Ten [210] poles to several marked Trees Thence South Fifty seven [57] [degrees] East Four Hundred and Fifty [450] poles to several marked Trees *in John Bunches Line* Thence *along his Line* North One Hundred and Sixty [160] poles to the Beginning.¹⁷⁷

This wording that this second grant joined “his” first patent indicates it is the same John Bunch obtaining both tracts. He expanded this land with a third grant on 17 August 1725, another 400 acres for 40 shillings. This tract wrapped around his first grant, approximately two-thirds on the south of his first grant and about one-third of the new grant abutting the first grant on the east.

Beginning at a White Oak of *John Bunch's line* on the south side of Taylor's Creek Run[n]ing down the same by the watercourses making in a straight Line Sixty Four [64] poles to an elm of Garland's [line] by the Mouth of a Branch Thence up the Branch being Garland's Line south Twenty [20] [degrees] West One Hundred Ninety six [196] poles to Matthew Sims's Corner White Oak in Meriwethers Line Thence along the said Sims's Line North Eight Two [82] [degrees] west at Two Hundred Eighty Four [284] poles [to] his [Matthew Sims's] several marked Trees by Tarepin Swamp Thence continued [along] the [water]Course North Eighty Two [82] [degrees] west Two Hundred and [blot]teen [21_] poles to a Corner of several marked Trees Thence North Fourteen [14] [degrees] East Two Hundred Forty Eight [248] poles to *John Bunch's former back Corner* of several marked Trees Thence *along his Back line* North Fifty seven and half [57½] [degrees] West Four Hundred [400] poles *to his corner* Black Oak Thence south One Hundred and Ninety [190] poles to the Beginning.¹⁷⁸ (emphasis added)

It appears that the territory to the west of these three patents remained virgin land for another decade. Colonel Thomas Jones (of Williamsburg) obtained a patent of 6,690 acres on both sides of Taylor's Creek on 9 October 1732, including 325 acres John Bunch sold to Edward Chambers, who sold it to Jones.¹⁷⁹ Thomas Henderson obtained a grant southwest of John Bunch near the head of Terrapin Swamp,¹⁸⁰ with John Mickie and George Alves as neighbors, Matthew Sims

¹⁷⁷ Virginia Land Patent Book 11, page 343, FHL microfilm 29327; also available online, “Virginia Land Office Patents and Grants,” *Library of Virginia* (Online: Library of Virginia, 2012), Patent Book 11, page 343, .tif image, http://image.lva.virginia.gov/LONN/LO-1/010-2/010_0849.tif, accessed 28 May 2012.

¹⁷⁸ Virginia Land Patent Book 12, page 244, FHL microfilm 29328; also available online, “Virginia Land Office Patents and Grants,” *Library of Virginia* (Online: Library of Virginia, 2012), Patent Book 12, page 244, .tif image, http://image.lva.virginia.gov/LONN/LO-1/011-1/011_0268.tif, accessed 28 May 2012.

¹⁷⁹ Virginia Land Patent Book 15, page 1, FHL microfilm 29331.

¹⁸⁰ Thomas Henderson's patent dated 25 August 1731 of 400 acres stated that his neighbors were Matthew Sims, George Alves, John Michie (Mickie), Colonel Thomas Jones, Mr. James Whitlock, and John Bunch. Virginia Land Patent Book 14, page 233, FHL microfilm 29330. James Whitlock also owned land next to Paul Bunch according to the 17 November 1711 list of processioners in St. Paul's Parish. Chamberlayne, *Vestry Book of St. Paul's Parish, 1706–1786*, page 228. Whitlock did not obtain any patents in Hanover or Louisa Counties, so purchased his land.

owning two tracts on the south of John Bunch's lands. Folly Creek (Maidlines Folly Creek) was northwest.

John Bunch was granted 400 acres in the western part of what is Louisa County, Virginia, on 28 September 1728. He paid 40 shillings for 400 acres of new land:¹⁸¹

on both sides [of] the South Anna [River] joining to Col. Meriwethers line in the County of Hanover....Beginning on the North side [of] the South Anna opposite to Col^o Meriwethers Corner two Birches[,]Running North five [5] [degrees] East one hundred and thirty [130] poles to several marked Trees[,] Thence North twenty seven [27] [degrees] West one hundred seventy three [173] poles to a Sweet Gum on the [South Anna] River[,] Thence across the same West one hundred and seventy six [176] poles to Several Marked Trees[,] Thence South two hundred and eighty [280] poles to several markes Trees in Meriwethers line at two hundred and nineteen [219] Hudsons Creek[,] Thence East at twenty [20] [degrees] Hudsons Creek in all two hundred and forty [240] poles along Meriwethers line Corner two Birches and across the River to the Beginning.

Many of the same neighbors who had lived near John Bunch III and Paul Bunch in Hanover County, Virginia also moved to this new region in what is now the southwestern corner of Louisa County. Charles Hudson was the principal grantor and may have influenced others to follow.¹⁸² John Smething patented three tracts north and east of John Bunch. Michael Holland patented a tract to the east, and Charles Norman south and west.

The name of John Bunch III's wife is not certain. It appears that his son David's mother was named **REBECCA**, and she might be the mother of all of John III's children if he did not end up marrying Sarah Slayden as his first wife. The death of Rebecca Bunch is given in the family Bible immediately preceding David's own birth record, but she is not specifically stated to be his mother. Online accounts make guesses at a surname for her, but no evidence of her surname has been uncovered. Rebecca Bunch died 16 March 1770.¹⁸³

Rebecca Bunch patented 400 acres on 15 March 1741/2 in what was then Goochland County, Virginia (west of Louisa County), with the tract traversing both sides of Ivy Creek on the county

¹⁸¹ Virginia Land Patent Book 14, page 3, FHL microfilm 29330; also available online, "Virginia Land Office Patents and Grants," *Library of Virginia* (Online: Library of Virginia, 2012), Patent Book 14, page 3, .tif image, http://image.lva.virginia.gov/LONN/LO-1/011-2/011_0575.tif, accessed 23 May 2012. John Bunch, Captain Hudson, and Colonel Meriwether's land on Camp Creek was mentioned in a grant of 5,000 acres to Henry Power, William Kenney, and William Morris on 14 December 1726. H.R. McIlwaine, *Executive Journals of the Council of Colonial Virginia, Vol. IV (October 25, 1721–October 28, 1739)* (Richmond: The State Library, 1930), page 222.

¹⁸² Charles Hudson was granted 2,000 acres on both sides of Hudson's Creek and the south side of the South Anna River on 16 June 1727. Virginia Land Patent Book 13, page 97, FHL microfilm 29329. This tract was described as beginning at John Bunch's corner and running along his line to Bunch's corner on the South Anna River, up the river, along various meets and bounds back to Hudson's Creek, crossing the creek to the beginning. Hudson obtained three other grants in Louisa County between 1732 and 1745.

¹⁸³ Alice Crandall Park, *Park/e/s and Bunch on the Trail West with Allied Families* (Baltimore: Gateway Press, 1975), page 208.

line.¹⁸⁴ Robert Lewis, gentleman, and Michael Holland were neighbors.¹⁸⁵ This part of Goochland County was later added to Albemarle County. Rebecca was therefore a widow by 1742, acting in her own right just after John Bunch III died. Naming patterns may also support the relationship, since Samuel Bunch named his eldest daughter Rebecca. Rebecca Bunch's land on Ivy Creek was again mentioned in 1766, but at some point before her death in 1770, she had sold it to Alexander McKey.¹⁸⁶

Children of John⁴ Bunch III, wife not known (perhaps Rebecca):

- i **JOHN⁵ BUNCH**, born about 1708, died shortly before 13 January 1777, when his will was proved. John does not appear to have ever married. William Bunch and Henry Bunch sold John Bunch their rights in 120 acres in Fredericksville Parish, 60 acres from William Bunch and 60 acres from Henry Bunch, for £15 (£7 10s to William Bunch and £7 10s to Henry Bunch) on 14 March 1742/3. The 120 acres was part of a survey of 400 acres patented by John Bunch, deceased, who by last will and testament left 100 acres of land including the plantation unto his son John Bunch ("this purchaser"), with the remainder bequeathed to be equally divided between William Bunch, Henry Bunch, David Bunch, and James Bunch, also John Bunch's sons. The deed was acknowledged in court on 14 March 1742/3.¹⁸⁷ This deed indicates that John Bunch was the eldest son, receiving the larger portion including the plantation house representing his family's homestead. Note that there is an error since Samuel was omitted by the scribe. The 400 acres, minus 100 acres, equals 300 acres, and that divided equally represents the 60-acre parcels received by each son (since William and Henry were selling their 60-acre part). William, Henry, David, and James Bunch only represent 240 of the 300 acres (thus, Samuel represents the other 60 acres). Since there was only one David Bunch in Virginia at this period, the man born in 1722, who was brother of Samuel (and John called Samuel his brother in his will), it is clear that Samuel Bunch was brother of William, Henry, David, James, and John Bunch, all being sons of a John Bunch who died testate before 1742 (if A=B, and B=C, then A=C).

John Bunch was listed among the tithables of Trinity Parish in Louisa County in 1768, taxed for himself, James Meredith (his nephew?), and a slave named Abram.¹⁸⁸ John Bunch sold Joseph Bunch twenty-two acres between the South Anna River and Hudson's Creek adjacent land of Charles Moorman and James Bunch for £16 4s on 11 January 1773. That same day, for £178, he sold James Bunch 182 acres on the south side of the South Anna River adjacent to the river and to land of Hudson, Joseph Bunch, and James Watson.¹⁸⁹

¹⁸⁴ Virginia Land Patent Book 20, page 241; also available online, "Virginia Land Office Patents and Grants," *Library of Virginia* (Online: Library of Virginia, 2012), Patent Book 20, page 241, .tif image, http://image.lva.virginia.gov/LONN/LO-1/018/018_0257.tif, accessed 23 May 2012. Rebecca Bunch's land on Ivy Creek was mentioned in 1766. Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Albemarle County, Virginia Deeds, 1761–1764* (McLean, Virginia: Antient Press, 1989), vol. 4, page 80.

¹⁸⁵ Rebecca's land was mentioned in a patent of 300 acres by Jacob Sneed (on both sides of Ivy Creek in Albemarle County) on 10 March 1756 adjacent his own land and lands owned by [Robert] Lewis, Rebecca Bunch, and Michael Holland.

¹⁸⁶ Rebecca Bunch's land on Ivy Creek was mentioned in 1766. Sparacio, *Albemarle County, Virginia Deeds, 1761–1764*, vol. 4, page 81; Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Albemarle County, Virginia Deeds, 1778–1780* (McLean, Virginia: Antient Press, 1997), vol. 8, page 97. The land is in the central part of Albemarle County.

¹⁸⁷ Louisa County (Virginia), Deed Book A, page 48, FHL microfilm 32201.

¹⁸⁸ Rosalie Edith Davis, *Louisa County, Virginia Tithables and Census, 1743–1785* (Bellevue, Washington: Heritage Trails, 1981), page 16.

¹⁸⁹ Louisa County (Virginia), Deed Books Book: D1/2, pages 432 and 433, FHL microfilm 32202.

John Bunch, of Louisa County, made his will on 8 June 1774.¹⁹⁰ He gave his sister Lucretia Meredith £15. He gave £10 to Nanny Bunch, daughter of William Bunch. John left the remainder of his estate to be equally divided between “my three brothers” Samuel, David, and James Bunch and appointed his three brothers Samuel, David, and James Bunch administrators. Charles Moorman, George Bibb, and Micajah Davis were witnesses. The will was recorded 13 January 1777. John Bunch’s estate was appraised at £27.10.10 on 12 April 1777.¹⁹¹

- ii **HENRY⁵ BUNCH**, born about 1709–12,¹⁹² served as witness with Edward Nix, Valentine Nix, and Nicholas Meriwether in a deed (of lease and release) dated 20–21 June 1734 from John Dowell to Samuel Dolton (400 acres along Robert Anderson’s land), as well as the widow’s dower.¹⁹³ Henry Bunch joined his brother William in selling their rights in their father John’s land on 14 March 1742/3.¹⁹⁴ Henry was appointed overseer of the road under construction from Coursey’s Road up to Rocky Creek.¹⁹⁵ Joseph Martin (the father of General Joseph Martin, who would move from Albemarle County to Henry County, Virginia, as did James Meredith and his nephews, Martin and David Bunch) patented 500 acres in Louisa County on both sides of Rocky Creek adjacent land of Henry Bunch, James Meredith, and William Keaton.¹⁹⁶ William Keaton patented 331 acres on Rocky Creek on 12 January 1746/7 on both sides of the south fork of Rocky Creek bordering Henry Bunch.¹⁹⁷ Henry’s land was again mentioned in Mosias Jones’s patent for 290 acres in Fredericksville Parish, Louisa County, on branches of South Fork of Rocky Creek under the foot of the Ragged Mountain on a spur of a mountain, and mentioned again on 24 October 1752.¹⁹⁸ On 27 May 1746, Henry made a report on the building of a road.¹⁹⁹ Henry Bunch settled in Bedford County, Virginia, by 1754, but eventually died intestate. He is believed to be father of the various Bunches who attained

¹⁹⁰ Louisa County (Virginia), Will Book 2, page 243, FHL microfilm 32192.

¹⁹¹ Louisa County (Virginia), Will Book 2, page 278, FHL microfilm 32192.

¹⁹² Henry settled in Bedford County, Virginia, by 1754. Charles Bunch of Bedford County, who appears to be Henry’s son, was an adult by 1752, so born by 1731 (no other candidate has been found who could be Charles’s father). Henry Bunch witnessed a power of attorney in Hanover County with Nicholas Meriwether and Edward Nix (close neighbors of John Bunch II and Paul Bunch in Hanover County) on 21 June 1734, which would indicate Henry was at least age sixteen at that time, or born by 1718.

¹⁹³ Rosalie Edith Davis, Hanover County, Virginia Court Records, 1733–1735: Deeds, Wills and Inventories (Manchester, Missouri: by the author, 1979), page 91.

¹⁹⁴ Louisa County (Virginia), Deed Book A, page 48, FHL microfilm 32201. This was also noted in the Order Book. Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Order Book Abstracts of Louisa County, Virginia, 1742–1744* (McLean, Virginia: Antient Press, 1999), page 10.

¹⁹⁵ Sparacio, *Order Book Abstracts of Louisa County, Virginia, 1742–1744*, page 11. Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Order Book Abstracts of Louisa County, Virginia, 1744–1747* (McLean, Virginia: Antient Press, 1999), page 2.

¹⁹⁶ Nugent, *Cavaliers and Pioneers: Abstracts of Virginia Land Patents and Grants—Volume Five: 1741–1749* (Richmond: Virginia Genealogical Society, 1994), page 100.

¹⁹⁷ “Virginia Land Office Patents and Grants,” *Library of Virginia* (Online: Library of Virginia, 2012), Patent Book 28, page 292, .tif image, http://image.lva.virginia.gov/LONN/LO-3/094/094_0306.tif, accessed 23 March 2012.

¹⁹⁸ Nugent, *Cavaliers and Pioneers, Volume Five*, page 327; “Virginia Land Office Patents and Grants,” *Library of Virginia* (Online: Library of Virginia, 2012), Patent Book 30, pages 503, .tif image, http://image.lva.virginia.gov/LONN/LO-1/028/028_0512.tif and http://image.lva.virginia.gov/LONN/LO-1/028/028_0513.tif, accessed 23 May 2012.

¹⁹⁹ Nathaniel Mason Pawlett, *Historic Roads of Virginia: Louisa County Road Orders, 1742–1748* (Charlottesville, Virginia: Virginia Highway and Transportation Research Council, 1975), pages 5, 18, and 19.

majority in Bedford County in the next generation.²⁰⁰

- iii **NANCY⁵ BUNCH**, born about 1712, was still unmarried and alive in 1777 when mentioned in her brother John's will.
- iv **LUCRETIA⁵ BUNCH**, born about 1715, married **JAMES MEREDITH** and was mentioned in her brother John's will in 1777.²⁰¹ James Meredith received a grant of 350 acres on 26 March 1739. The tract was by the Goochland Road, Charles Moorman's line, Randolph Bobbitt's, and crossed over the road.²⁰² He received a grant of 400 acres on 15 October 1741 on both sides of the North Fork of Rocky Creek and bordering Joseph Keaton, thus becoming a neighbor of Henry Bunch.²⁰³ Louisa County, Virginia was created from Hanover County in 1742, so one of his tracts fell into that jurisdiction. Charles Hudson patented 400 acres bordering that tract on 1 August 1745²⁰⁴ It was next to what is now the Louisa–Fluvanna County line. Secretary John Carter patented 1,350 acres on the head branches of Byrd Creek adjacent to Meredith and Hudson's tracts on 12 March 1739/40, but that land was then in Goochland County.²⁰⁵ Albemarle County, Virginia was created from Goochland County in 1744,²⁰⁶ with part of Louisa added in 1761. James Meredith's other tract fell into that jurisdiction. James Meredith occurs frequently in records of both Louisa and Albemarle Counties. This article will only highlight the events involving his wife, **LUCRETIA BUNCH**. Lucretia relinquished her dower rights on 13 June 1742 for a tract sold to John Goodall, having been privily examined.²⁰⁷ This was the 400 acres in the 1741 patent in Fredericksville Parish between two ridges of mountains. David Mills and William Bunch witnessed the deed.²⁰⁸ James Meredith and his wife Lucretia, residents of Albemarle County, sold 100 acres in Albemarle to Thomas Walker on 4 October 1766. Both signed with marks.²⁰⁹

It appears that James and Lucretia had at least one child, named Bradley Meredith, who witnessed a deed from David Mills to James Meredith on 6 [blank] 1764 (recorded 8 March 1764).²¹⁰ This was

²⁰⁰ Henry Bunch is presumed to be father of eight sons, Zachariah (adult by 1770), Joseph (adult by 1782), Richard (adult by 1783), Winston, George (born ca. 1766), Calloway (born about 1769), James (born ca. 1771), and *Charles Bunch* (born by 1752). All initially lived in Bedford County, Virginia, but by various routes had relocated to Mercer County, Kentucky (before moving on), where Charles Bunch, David, Richard, Joseph, and Calloway Bunch were taxed in 1795. See also Park, *Park/e/s and Bunch on the Trail West*, pages 211–14 and 225–27.

²⁰¹ Louisa County (Virginia), Will Book 2, page 243, FHL microfilm 32192.

²⁰² Virginia Land Patent Book 18, page 242; also available online, “Virginia Land Office Patents and Grants,” *Library of Virginia* (Online: Library of Virginia, 2012), Patent Book 18, page 242, .tif image, http://image.lva.virginia.gov/LONN/LO-1/016/016_0260.tif, accessed 23 May 2012.

²⁰³ Virginia Land Patent Book 20, page 1; also available online, “Virginia Land Office Patents and Grants,” *Library of Virginia* (Online: Library of Virginia, 2012), Patent Book 20, page 1, .tif image, http://image.lva.virginia.gov/LONN/LO-1/018/018_0013.tif, accessed 23 May 2012.

²⁰⁴ Virginia Land Patent Book 22, page 372, FHL microfilm 29338.

²⁰⁵ Virginia Land Patent Book 18, page 527, FHL microfilm 29334.

²⁰⁶ There was another James Meredith in Goochland County who should not be confused with this man.

²⁰⁷ Sparacio, Order Book Abstracts of Louisa County, Virginia, 1742–1744, page 22.

²⁰⁸ Rosalie Edith Davis, *Louisa County, Virginia Deed Books A and B, 1742–1759* (Bellevue, Washington: by the author, 1976), page 6.

²⁰⁹ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, Deed Abstracts of Albemarle County, Virginia: Deed Book No. 4, 9 August 1764–12 August 1768 (McLean, Virginia: by the authors, 1989), page 81.

²¹⁰ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, Deed Abstracts of Albemarle County, Virginia: Deed Book 3, 12 February 1761–9 August 1764 (McLean, Virginia: by the authors, 1988), page 98.

100 acres on David Mills's line. Lucretia's death date is unknown. It appears that James Meredith moved with his nephews, Martin and David Bunch (sons of William), to Henry County, Virginia.²¹¹ James Meredith was granted 200 acres in Pittsylvania County, Virginia, on a branch of Orvin River adjacent Randolph and Company on 1 March 1773.²¹² James and Lucretia might have also been parents of a son named James who occurs as "Junior Meredith" in some records of Henry County (the younger James Meredith living in the household of John Bunch in Louisa County in 1768). Bradley Meredith purchased land in Henry County before 1784.²¹³ Martin and David Bunch witnessed a deed from James Meredith of Henry County to John Rowland on 12 April 1790, and James Meredith sold David Bunch 68 acres on branches of Leatherwood Creek on 28 February 1791 (Martin Bunch witnessing).²¹⁴ James Meredith Sr. and James Meredith (following immediately after him) took the oath of allegiance in Henry County, as did Martin and David Bunch.²¹⁵ Bradley Bunch refused.²¹⁶

- v **WILLIAM⁵ BUNCH**, born about 1718, was paid the bounty for two wolves' heads (as was John Bunch, William's father or eldest brother) by the Goochland County Court on 17 November 1731.²¹⁷ William Bunch received a patent for 400 acres in what was then Hanover County, Virginia, and adjoining land of George Webb on 1 February 1738/9.²¹⁸ William was part of the gang ordered to clear the road from the county line to Buffalo Meadow on 25 October 1739.²¹⁹ William was taxed as a tithable in Orange County, Virginia, in 1739 (as was James Meredith and James and Joseph Keaton).²²⁰ On 14 March 1742/3, William Bunch joined with his brother Henry in selling their eldest brother John their part of land bequeathed them by their father in his last will and testament.²²¹ David Bunch's family Bible

²¹¹ We have not investigated this in-depth because it is tangential to our quest. A David Meredith also lived in Louisa County in the same vicinity as James Meredith between 1767–70. Davis, *Louisa County, Virginia Tithables and Census, 1743–1785*, pages 10, 17, and 24 (David); pages 10, 16, 28, 36, 56, 62, and 72 (James).

²¹² Dennis Ray Hudgins, *Cavaliers and Pioneers: Abstracts of Virginia Land Patents and Grants, Volume Seven: 1762–1776* (Richmond: Virginia Genealogical Society, 1999), page 305.

²¹³ Lela C. Adams, *Abstracts of Henry County, Virginia Deed Books I and II* (Bassett, Virginia: by the author, 1975), page 141.

²¹⁴ Lela C. Adams, *Abstracts of Henry County, Virginia Deed Books III and IV* (Bassett, Virginia: by the author, 1978), pages 108, 109, and 136.

²¹⁵ Judith Parks America Hill, *A History of Henry County, Virginia with Biographical Sketches of its Most Prominent Citizens and Genealogical Histories* (Martinsville, Virginia: by the author, 1925), pages 304 and 307.

²¹⁶ C.B. Bryant, "Henry County: From Its Formation in 1776 to the End of the Eighteenth Century," *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* 9 (1902), pages 12-13. "James Meredith, sen^r" and "Juner Meredith" were mentioned and Martin Bunch with Bradley Meredith refused to sign on 7 October 1777.

²¹⁷ Ann K. Bloomquist, *Goochland County, Virginia Court Order Book 1731–1735* (Westminster, Maryland: Heritage Books, 2006), page 23.

²¹⁸ Virginia Patent Book 18, page 175; also available online, "Virginia Land Office Patents and Grants," *Library of Virginia* (Online: Library of Virginia, 2012), Patent Book 18, page 175, .tif image, http://image.lva.virginia.gov/LONN/LO-1/016/016_0193.tif, accessed 23 May 2012. William Bell, of Orange County, sold 200 acres of the 1738 patent by William Bunch to William Davis of Louisa County on 26 June 1753 (Davis was living on the land). Davis, *Louisa County, Virginia Deed Books A and B, 1742–1759*, page 87 (see also page 111).

²¹⁹ Ann Brush Miller, *Orange County Road Orders, 1734–1749* (Charlottesville: Virginia Highway and Transportation Research Council, 1984), 41, others in the list including James Merrideth, James Keaton, and Joseph Keaton.

²²⁰ Barbara Vines Little, *Orange County Tithables, 1734–1782, Part One* (n.p: by the author, 1988), page 15.

²²¹ Louisa County (Virginia), Deed Book A, page 48, FHL microfilm 32201. This was also noted in Sparacio, *Order Book Abstracts of Louisa County, Virginia, 1742–1744*, page 10.

indicated that William was father of a daughter named Nancy [Anna] Bunch, born 18 September 1755.²²² William's son Martin Bunch was apprenticed as a carpenter on 10 October 1768.²²³ It appears that William also had a son named David Bunch, who with Martin Bunch, renounced allegiance to Britain as residents of Henry County, Virginia, in 1777, so he was probably born by 1756.²²⁴ A third son is also sometimes credited to William; a son named Winslow Bunch, who was a resident of Albemarle County when he married Celia Tudor there on 16 May 1783.²²⁵ **FEEBEE** ("Feabea") Bunch witnessed the will of Gilbert Gibson of Louisa County on 7 June 1760.²²⁶ The entry for the birth of Nancy Bunch in 1755 listed Feebee as William's wife and Nancy's mother.

6 vi **SAMUEL**⁵ **BUNCH**, born about 1720 (see below).

vii **DAVID**⁵ **BUNCH**, born 24 June 1722, died testate in Louisa County on 18 April 1776.²²⁷ His birth date is given on a page of a family Bible passed down among descendants.²²⁸ David married **MARY** "**POLLY**," born 29 August 1729, died 4 May 1807, by whom he was father of eleven children,

²²² David Bunch's Bible records the birth of Anna, daughter of William and Febee Bunch, on that date. Park, *Park/e/s and Bunch on the Trail West*, page 208.

²²³ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Order Book Abstracts of Louisa County, Virginia, 1768–1769* (McLean, Virginia: Antient Press, 2001), page 74.

²²⁴ Park, *Park/e/s and Bunch on the Trail West*, page 221, and sources cited therein. David Bunch apparently moved on to Grainger County, Tennessee. See references to Martin and David Bunch under the account of their uncle James Meredith in this article.

²²⁵ Evelyn Dollens, "Hudson Martin's Register of Albemarle Marriages, 1781–1785," *Papers of the Albemarle County Historical Society* 6 (1946), page 57. Martin Bunch and Winslow Bunch were taxed (next to each other) in Albemarle County in 1782. "Personal Property Tax List of Albemarle County, 1782," *Papers of the Albemarle County Historical Society* 5 (1945), page 49.

²²⁶ Nancy Chappellear and Kate Binford Hatch, *Abstracts of Louisa County, Virginia Wills and Estates* (Washington, DC: by the authors, 1964), page 14 (citing Will Book 1, page 78). David Bunch was one of the purchasers at the estate sale (page 19). On 2 May 1767, Gilbert Gibson, age 53 (born circa 1714), swore that years ago he, his father, and his brother George Gibson "went over some land." Gilbert Gibson said to his son George that he would give him 200 acres on Halfway Branch. George built a tobacco house, cleared land, and built a house on land he rented from Captain Hudson and married. George paid his father quit rents on his land for 15 to 20 years. Gibson Jones of South Carolina, late of Virginia, testified that he was living with Gilbert Gibson in Louisa County in August 1758, that Gibson was "privately removing himself to Carolina" with all his goods but was overtaken by the sheriff about a quarter of a mile from his house. Gibson paid the sheriff £10 to discharge a debt. Janice Luck Abercrombie, "Abstracts of Louisa County Judgment Papers," *The Louisa County Historical Magazine* 21 (1990), page 39.

²²⁷ Park, *Park/e/s and Bunch on the Trail West*, page 208. David Bunch's will was abstracted by Malcolm H. Harris, "Early Quaker Families in Louisa," *The Louisa County Historical Magazine*, 11 (1979), pages 7–24; and Chappellear and Hatch, *Abstracts of Louisa County, Virginia Wills and Estates*, pages 46–47.

²²⁸ Park, *Park/e/s and Bunch on the Trail West*, page 208.

including a son named Paul Bunch.²²⁹ David Bunch witnessed a deed between Jonas Lawson and John Bostick for land in Goochland County on 16 August 1737.²³⁰

- viii **JAMES⁵ BUNCH**, born about 1724–25 (definitely before 1728), purchased 208 acres adjacent land to Charles Moorman and Bunch in 1749.²³¹ He inherited 60 acres in his father's will, making his total holding 268 acres. On 2 May 1757, James Bunch made a claim on 315 pounds of tobacco he had at Crutchfield's Warehouse that went up in flames.²³² James Bunch was listed as a tithable in Trinity Parish (south side of South Anna River) in April 1767 (taxed for himself, Joseph Goin, and slaves named Harry and Bett), and again in 1768 (this time only for himself, Harry, and Bett, and 268 acres).²³³ Agnes Going had apprenticed her son Joseph and daughter Sarah Going to James Bunch on 28 November 1759.²³⁴ James Bunch, like his brother Samuel, joined the Quaker faith and settled in Bedford County (moving there from Louisa County). James Bunch purchased 465 acres on the North Fork in Goose Creek in 1788.²³⁵

James Bunch died testate in 1802, making his will on 27 April 1795.²³⁶ James stated that he had already given his daughter Elizabeth Bunch 60 acres in Louisa County and also left her a bed, a cow, and a calf. James gave his daughter Sukey Coil 120 acres on his back line, having already given her a bed, cow and calf. James stated that he had already given his daughter Sally Scott six cattle, a horse, a saddle, and a feather bed before she removed to Kentucky. James gave his daughter Martha Harris 100 acres adjoining William Vannerson (and had already given her a cow, calf, and feather bed). He gave his daughter Priscilla Scott 120 acres on his back lines (he had already given her a cow, calf, and feather bed). James confirmed the gifts he had already given his daughter Margery Harris, 130 acres adjacent his own land, a cow, calf, and feather bed. He gave his daughter Molly Gentry 100 acres adjoining his own land and the tract he gave Margery Harris (and had already given her a cow, calf, and feather bed). James gave his daughter Nancy Bunch his Negro girl named Betty, the horse and saddle Nancy was using, a cow, a calf, and a feather bed. James made his son James Bunch his chief legatee, leaving him the rest of his land after the decease of his wife **MARY** Bunch, along with his Negro woman named Sylvia. James specifically praised his son as being industrious and dutiful to him in his old age, leaving him three horses as a token of his affection. The testator left the residue of his land to his wife, Mary, for life and then to his son James. The residue of his estate was to be divided equally between his children, except that James was to receive an extra share and Molly Gentry was to get an additional £10 (the testator explained that he had accidentally caused her to lose one of her

²²⁹ The children are listed as John (born 1747), Joseph (born 1749), Pouncey (born 1750/1), William (born 30 November 1752—he moved to Guilford County, North Carolina, so should not be confused with the other Bunch family), Jane (born 9 December 1754), Mary (born 10 March 1757), David (born 1759, died 1835), Lucretia (born 7 January 1761), Anthony (born 19 November 1762), Thomas (born 17 February 1765), Nathaniel (born 25 July 1767), Winnie (born 20 December 1769), and Paul Bunch (born 28 May 1772). Park, *Park/e/s and Bunch on the Trail West*, pages 214–17.

²³⁰ Benjamin B. Weisiger III, *Goochland County, Virginia Wills and Deeds, 1736–1742* ([Richmond]: by the author, [n.d.]), page 7.

²³¹ Davis, Louisa County, Virginia Deed Books A and B, 1742–1759, page 49.

²³² H.R. McIlwaine, ed., *Journals of the House of Burgesses of Virginia, 1752–1755, 1756–1758* (Richmond: Colonial Press E. Waddey Co., 1909), page 446. Hening's *Statutes*, vol. 7, page 130.

²³³ Davis, *Louisa County, Virginia Tithables and Census, 1743–1785*, pages 10 and 17 (and see pages 21, 23, 35, 39, and 90).

²³⁴ Rosalie E. Davis, *Fredericksville Parish Vestry Book, 1742–1787* (Manchester, Missouri: Heritage Trails, 1981), vol. 2, page 29.

²³⁵ Bedford County (Virginia), Deed Book 8, page 107, FHL microfilm 1940989.

²³⁶ Bedford County (Virginia), Will Book 1, pages 370–5, FHL microfilm 1941022. For further information on James's children, see Park, *Park/e/s and Bunch on the Trail West*, pages 217–20.

fingers). He also mentioned his minor grandchild Walter Bunch. James executed a codicil on 2 February 1798. The will was proved 27 September 1802.

6 **SAMUEL⁵ BUNCH** (*John⁴ Bunch III, John³ Bunch II, John² Bunch I, John¹ Punch*) of Louisa County, Virginia, was born about 1720 and presented a wolf's head for bounty to the county court on 13 November 1744.²³⁷ On 24 June 1745, Samuel Bunch was included in a list of Louisa County residents who were accused of concealing tithables and ordered to answer the presentment of a grand jury. Most of the other men on the list were from families of mixed race.²³⁸ Samuel Bunch and Thomas Collins were summoned to testify against William Hall and George Gibson (two of the men who were accused of concealing tithables) but failed to appear before the Louisa County court in June 1746 and were to be fined 350 pounds of tobacco unless they showed just cause. The fine, however, was remitted in the next session.²³⁹

Samuel Bunch served on a grand jury on 28 May 1745, hearing the case of a man accused of declaring that the church was the work of the devil and those that “join their faith in it” are damned.²⁴⁰ In light of this it is almost ironic that Samuel Bunch and his family (indicating he was then married) were received into membership by the Friends at Camp Creek Monthly Meeting on 16 July 1748.²⁴¹ Samuel Bunch and his wife **Mary** served on a number of committees in the local monthly meeting beginning in 1752.²⁴²

Many sources on presidential ancestry identify Samuel Bunch's wife Mary as Mary Hudson.²⁴³ Samuel Hudson did live in the same vicinity, but no primary document has been discovered that would directly prove that link. If Mary were daughter of John Hudson (who died in Hanover County on 11 April 1732) by his wife Elizabeth Harris, Mary would have come from a family of prominent local landowners.

²³⁷ Sparacio, Order Book Abstracts of Louisa County, Virginia, 1742–1744, Book 1, page 100.

²³⁸ Louisa County (Virginia), Order Book 1742–1748, page 157, FHL microfilm 32218. William Hall, Samuel Collins, William Collins, Samuel Bunch, George Gibson, Benjamin Brannum, Thomas Gibson, and William Donathan pleaded not guilty. Paul Heinegg intelligently queried whether this might represent wives who were mixed race but not reported as tithable. It may be the case that in Samuel's instance, he actually possessed a slave as he did when the earliest surviving tithable lists of Fredericksville Parish were drawn up.

²³⁹ Sparacio, Order Book Abstracts of Louisa County, Virginia, 1744–1747, pages 68 and 69.

²⁴⁰ Sparacio, Order Book Abstracts of Louisa County, Virginia, 1744–1747, page 27.

²⁴¹ William Wade Hinshaw, *Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1973), vol. 6, page 285; Mary Marshall Brewer, *Quaker Records of Cedar Creek Monthly Meeting, Virginia, 1739–1793* (Lewes, Delaware: Colonial Roots, 2002), page 102.

²⁴² Brewer, *Quaker Records of Cedar Creek*, pages 56, 106, 107, 118, etc; Hinshaw, *Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy*, vol. 6, page 285.

²⁴³ This is found in normally trustworthy sources such as Gary Boyd Roberts, *Ancestors of American Presidents* (Boston, Massachusetts: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2009), page 214; and William Addams Reitwiesner, *Ancestry of Barack Obama* (Online: WARGS.com, 2012), online at <http://www.wargs.com/political/obama.html>, accessed 26 May 2012.

The Hudson family was a prominent one in the area, who owned large tracts of land. John Hudson was son of the English immigrant William Hudson (died 27 November 1701).²⁴⁴ John Hudson's brother, Captain Charles Hudson, speculated widely, obtaining patents on thousands of acres in the region. Charles Hudson patented 2,000 acres in Louisa County on both sides of Hudson's Creek (South Anna River) on 16 June 1727 bordering John Bunch's land and the South Anna River.²⁴⁵ It is possible that Samuel Bunch's son Charles was named after Charles Hudson.

Samuel Bunch was paid for turning in two young wolves' heads to the Louisa County court on 25 November 1746.²⁴⁶ Samuel had killed a wolf in 1742 and on 19 October 1769 presented to the court a certificate for killing five young wolves.²⁴⁷

Samuel Bunch purchased twenty-five acres from William Hudson on 23 February 1758 for £6. This tract bordered *Samuel's own land* on the south side of the river by Bunch's Spring.²⁴⁸ Samuel Bunch inherited 60 acres from his father according to the terms of John Bunch's last will and testament (now lost). When William and Henry Bunch sold their brother John Bunch their two 60-acre portions on 14 March 1742[3], the deed recorded that they were parts of a 400 acre survey patented by John Bunch (their father), deceased, who by his last will and testament left 100 acres to his (eldest) son, John.²⁴⁹ There is clearly a clerical error in this deed (a scribe's eye skipping between two instances of the word "son"). John Bunch had been bequeathed 100 acres (forty extra acres presumably as eldest son and heir), leaving 300 acres to be divided amongst the other sons. William and Henry sold John their 60-acre parts, and David and James are also mentioned, but that still left sixty acres wanting. The name Samuel was omitted from the version of the deed recorded in the surviving register, but his 60-acre portion is necessary to complete the last part of the 400 acres. Samuel was specifically stated to be John's brother in John's will (as were other brothers), making the scribal error clear. John Bunch made his brother Samuel one of his executors, and Samuel posted bond on the estate to act as such.

The 400-acre tract John Bunch had patented in Louisa County was bordered on the north by the 2,000-acre tract Charles Hudson patented on 16 June 1727, northeast and easterly by two tracts patented by John Smething, to the west and south by a tract patented by Charles Norman (on the South Anna, Camp Creek, and Hudson's Creek), with a patent by Michael Holland lying southeast. Samuel Bunch patented 400 acres on 8 April 1767 on New Found Fork (a branch of

²⁴⁴ Hudson, *Genealogies of Virginia Families from Tyler's Quarterly*, vol. 2, pages 252–62.

²⁴⁵ Virginia Land Patent Book 13, page 97, FHL microfilm 29329.

²⁴⁶ Sparacio, *Order Book Abstracts of Louisa County, Virginia, 1744–1747*, page 82.

²⁴⁷ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Order Book Abstracts of Louisa County, Virginia, 1766–1772* (McLean, Virginia: Antient Press, 2001), page 57.

²⁴⁸ Louisa County (Virginia), Deed Book B, page 283, FHL microfilm 32201. George Holland, John Moore, Mary Holland, Charles Moorman, and Mumford Robinson witnessed the deed.

²⁴⁹ Louisa County (Virginia), Deed Book A, page 48, FHL microfilm 32201.

Camp Creek), Captain Michael Holland's old line and Morris's line.²⁵⁰ John Bellamy became a neighbor. This tract was just southwest of John Bunch's Louisa County patent.

Samuel Bunch was allowed £3 for a gun impressed for use by the militia during the American Revolution. On 1 November 1781, Samuel was also allowed three pence per pound on 355 pounds of beef delivered to William Anderson, Commissary of Louisa County.²⁵¹ Samuel died less than two years later as the war came to an end.

Samuel Bunch died testate, making his will on 30 January 1782. "[B]eing Diseased of Body, yet of a sound mind and Perfect Memory," he bequeathed his entire estate, both real and personal, to his beloved wife, Mary, for life or widowhood. He gave his son Samuel 125 acres with the plantation John Moore was living on (after the death of the testator's wife or remarriage, a clause repeated with the bequests to each child). Samuel gave his son George Bunch 200 acres, the upper part of the tract where the testator was living and the plantation Benjamin Faris formerly lived on. Samuel gave his son Charles Bunch 125 acres with the plantation the testator was living on. Samuel gave his daughter Judith Bunch 100 acres between Camp Creek and Found Fork Creek that he purchased from Roger Thompson. Samuel gave his daughter Mary Bunch 124 acres in Albemarle County at the place called North Garden. Samuel gave his son James one bed with furniture (after his widow's death or remarriage), gave his son John five shillings, gave his daughter Rebecca Meredith five Shillings, and gave the like sum to his daughter Ann Bunch. The remainder of his estate was to be divided equally among his children Samuel, George, Charles, Judith, and Mary Bunch. Lastly, Samuel Bunch appointed his wife, Mary, and his son Samuel to be his executors (with Samuel Richardson). Samuel Richardson, William Payne and Richard Morris proved the will on 9 June 1783. Samuel, Pouncey, and James Bunch posted the bond on Samuel's estate which amounted to £1,000.²⁵²

Mary Bunch survived her husband and was listed in the personal property tax lists of Louisa County from 1783 through 1792.²⁵³ This matches the entry for the death of Mary Bunch of Camp Creek on 31 January 1792, a few weeks after her youngest son Charles married.²⁵⁴

²⁵⁰ Virginia Land Patent Book 36, page 1037, FHL microfilm 29354; also available online, "Virginia Land Office Patents and Grants," *Library of Virginia* (Online: Library of Virginia, 2012), Patent Book 36, page 1037, .tif image, http://image.lva.virginia.gov/LONN/LO-2/036/036_0495.tif, accessed 23 May 2012. David Bunch patented 25 acres south of Samuel's patent on 9 June 1796 (Book 36, page 1).

²⁵¹ Claudia Anderson Chisholm, *Revolutionary Public Service Claims of Louisa County, Virginia* (Richmond: Expert Graphics, 1976), pages 5 and 75.

²⁵² Louisa County (Virginia), Will Book 2, pages 474–75, FHL microfilm 32232.

²⁵³ Personal Property Tax Lists, Louisa County, Virginia, 1783–1792, FHL microfilm 511947. Mary Bunch, widow of Samuel, was distinguished in the tax lists from Mary Bunch (widow of David), who also resided in the immediate vicinity.

²⁵⁴ Brewer, Quaker Records of Cedar Creek, page 10.

Children of Samuel⁵ and Mary Bunch:²⁵⁵

- i **REBECCA⁶ BUNCH**, born about 1744, might have been named after her father's mother. Rebecca was disowned by the Friends for marrying out of the faith (14 May 1765) and hiring a priest contrary to the commands of her parents.²⁵⁶ Her married name was **MEREDITH** by 30 January 1782, when she was given five shillings in her father's will.²⁵⁷
- ii **JOHN⁶ BUNCH**, born about 1748, was listed as a tithable in April 1767 and 1768 within the household of Samuel Bunch in Trinity Parish, Louisa County.²⁵⁸ He was bequeathed five shillings in his father's will on 30 January 1782. John Bunch, "son of Samuel," was included in a list of dozens of debtors with accounts due to John Lisle of Albemarle County dated 19 April 1774. John Bunch Sr., John Bunch Jr., James Bunch, and Punchy (Pouncey) Bunch are listed next to him.²⁵⁹ John Bunch left for the frontier within the next two years serving under Captain Joseph Martin in a campaign to extend Virginia's influence into Indian Territory. Accounts taken from early journals provide details of John and James's adventures. In the 1776–77 period, "Captain Joseph Martin was stationed at the Rye Cove Fort on Clinch River in order to guard the frontiers of Virginia. He kept two spies [spies] who were brothers, to-wit: John and James Bunch. When we got into the valley we met with these spies. Then they returned with us down to what was called Martin's Station ... but we found no one there—they had all fled ... Five men were granted [for the use of Captain David to go to Owen's Station to investigate] one of whom was James Bunch ... [T]he Indians waylaid the path and fired upon them and wounded Bunch ... as Bunch related ... Three of the party got in that night, two of whom were Bunch and Davis." James Bunch had been shot a number of times through his flesh. "Bunch grew very sick and we had to take him to his company at the Rye Cove. We were then dismissed and returned home. As well as he can remember, this took place in 1776."²⁶⁰ John Bunch was stationed with the company at Fort Lee (Rye Cove Fort) in 1777, and then James Bunch appears on the roster again from 1 May to 30 June 1777 at Fort Lee (the Shelby Family Papers indicate that the brothers James and John Bunch were scouts from 19 March to 21 July 1777). Anthony Bledsoe, in a letter dated at Fort Patrick Henry on 8 April 1777, related, "I much lament poor Bunch and could have sent the doctor, but the waters prevented till there was a particular call for him down the river."²⁶¹ "The Bunch brothers, John and James, who were Indian Scouts under Martin in Powell Valley and at Rye Cove, both moved to Tennessee. James was made an ensign in 1793 and a captain in 1794 in Knox County."²⁶²

²⁵⁵ The order of births of these children is not certain, so their estimated dates of birth might be adjusted as more evidence is added.

²⁵⁶ Hinshaw, *Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy*, vol. 6, page 231; Brewer, *Quaker Records of Cedar Creek*, page 78.

²⁵⁷ As noted above, David and Bradley Meredith are the only other persons of that surname found in Louisa County during that period, but she could easily have married a more distant cousin in Hanover County where a number of generations of men named Samuel Meredith succeeded the Thomas Meredith who is listed in the patents above.

²⁵⁸ Davis, *Louisa County, Virginia Tithables and Census, 1743–1785*, pages 10, 17, 23, and 28

²⁵⁹ Sparacio, *Deed Abstracts of Albemarle County, Virginia, 1772–1776*, page 94.

²⁶⁰ Emory Hamilton, "Indian Forays in Powell Valley," *Virginia GenWeb* (Online: Virginia GenWeb, 2012), <http://vagenweb.org/scott/IndianForaysMA.html>, accessed 27 May 2012. This narrative was taken from the Revolutionary War Pension Application of James Kincaid.

²⁶¹ Hamilton, "Indian Forays in Powell Valley," *Virginia GenWeb* (Online: Virginia GenWeb, 2012), <http://vagenweb.org/scott/IndianForaysMA.html>, accessed 27 May 2012. The letter by Bledsoe is preserved among the Draper Manuscripts; the Shelby Family Papers are at the Library of Congress.

²⁶² Emory Hamilton, "Indian Forays in Powell Valley."

- iii **MARY⁶ BUNCH**, born circa 1751, was bequeathed 124 acres in Albemarle County in a place called the North Garden in her father's will. Minutes of the Monthly Meeting for 25 August 1787 state that Mary, daughter of Samuel Bunch, "hath for sometime [*sic*] neglected the attendance of our religious meetings and hath been guilty of frequenting places of diversion, as also giving too much way to the vain fashions & customs of the world."²⁶³ Her disunion was approved the same day. Mary Bunch, daughter of Samuel, age 26, married her cousin **ANTHONY BUNCH** (son of her uncle David Bunch) on 28 June 1787 (bond 26 June).²⁶⁴ Anthony was born 19 November 1762 according to the family Bible. Mary was to have her dower in Louisa County on 15 November 1827. They were parents of at least one daughter.²⁶⁵

- iv **GEORGE⁶ BUNCH**, born about 1753, and in his father's will was bequeathed 200 acres to be laid off on the upper part of the land whereon the testator was then living, along with the plantation whereon Benjamin Harris formerly lived. George married **SALLY SERGEANT** in Louisa County on 18 July 1783 (bond dated 15 July).²⁶⁶

- v **JAMES⁶ BUNCH**, born 1755, was first listed as a tithable in his father's household in 1770.²⁶⁷ James Bunch was bequeathed only a bed with furniture by his father, perhaps indicating he had already been provided for. James is supposed to be father of William Bunch, born in Tennessee circa 1787, who married Ann Benge, daughter of David Benge, in Clay County, Kentucky, on 28 January 1812.²⁶⁸
 James Bunch and his brother John went out on the Virginia frontier in the 1770s under Captain (later, General) Joseph Martin.²⁶⁹ They forayed into the region of the Clinch River (which runs parallel with the Holston River from western Virginia into Tennessee). During one of these missions, shortly before 1 May 1777, James Bunch was the target of Indian fire and "had five balls shot through the flesh." Permanently debilitated, James was allowed a £30 pension plus half pay as a soldier for three years.²⁷⁰ This incident apparently occurred in Powell Valley, in what is now Lee County, Virginia.²⁷¹ That this James Bunch is the man in the record is indicated because he and John are the only brothers of those names known in this generation.

- vi **JUDITH⁶ BUNCH**, born about 1757, in her father's will she was bequeathed 100 acres lying between Camp Creek and the Creek called New Found Fork, which her father purchased of Roger Thomson. She married her cousin **DAVID BUNCH**, son of her uncle David.²⁷²

- vii **SAMUEL⁶ BUNCH**, born about 1759, was listed in his father's household as a tithable in 1775 and 1777, but apparently in his own household in 1780.²⁷³ In his father's will, Samuel was bequeathed 123 acres

²⁶³ Brewer, *Quaker Records of Cedar Creek*, pages 17 and 154.

²⁶⁴ Louisa County (Virginia), Marriage Bonds, 1766–1861, page 36, FHL microfilm 32190.

²⁶⁵ Park, *Park/e/s and Bunch on the Trail West*, page 216.

²⁶⁶ Louisa County (Virginia), Marriage Bonds, 1766–1861, page 40, FHL microfilm 32190.

²⁶⁷ Davis, Louisa County, Virginia Tithables and Census, 1743–1785, page 28.

²⁶⁸ Park, *Park/e/s and Bunch on the Trail West*, page 239. The Benge family was from Albemarle County, Virginia, but is of special note because John Benge became a trader among the Cherokees.

²⁶⁹ John Redd, "Reminiscences of Western Virginia, 1770–1790," *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* 7 (1899), page 112.

²⁷⁰ Lewis Preston Summers, *History of Southwest Virginia, 1746–1786, Washington County, 1777–1870* (Richmond: J.L. Hill Printing, 1903), page 246.

²⁷¹ Emory Hamilton, "Indian Forays in Powell Valley."

²⁷² Park, *Park/e/s and Bunch on the Trail West*, page 22, and the deed cited there.

²⁷³ Davis, Louisa County, Virginia Tithables and Census, 1743–1785, pages 59, 80 and 136.

of land to be laid off with the plantation where “John Moore now lives.” Samuel was a patriot during the struggle with Britain. On 27 August 1779, the Monthly Meeting records noted that he was “in the practice of exercising in military duty.”²⁷⁴ He “deviated so far as to engage in military service” so he was disowned 9 October 1779.²⁷⁵

viii **ANN⁶ BUNCH**, born about 1764, was still unmarried in 1782 (unless she married a Bunch cousin) when bequeathed five shillings in her father’s will.

7 ix **CHARLES⁶ BUNCH**, born about 1767 (he first headed his own household in the personal property tax lists in 1788), was bequeathed 125 acres to be laid off along with his father’s plantation (“whereon I now live”).

7 **CHARLES⁶ BUNCH** (*Samuel⁵ Bunch, John⁴ Bunch III, John³ Bunch II, John² Bunch I, John¹ Punch*) of Louisa County, Virginia, born about 1767, was apparently the youngest of his parents’ children. He was favored by his father, and was bequeathed his father’s residence in 1782. Charles continued to reside with his widowed mother after Samuel’s death and was listed as a tithable in her household in Trinity Parish, Louisa County in 1785.²⁷⁶

The minutes of Cedar Creek Monthly Meeting on 28 August 1784 recorded that Charles Bunch of Camp Creek “is in the practice of gaming and neglects attendance of our religious meetings.”²⁷⁷ On 26 February 1785, the meeting recorded that Charles “hath done out into several disorderly practices such as gaming, cursing & swearing, we therefore disown him.”²⁷⁸ He became a man of the world, even though his mother still adhered to that faith. Charles first headed his own household in the personal property tax lists in 1788 and continued to be taxed in Louisa County through 1793.²⁷⁹

Charles Bunch married **MARY BELLAMY** in Louisa County by bond 9 January 1792.²⁸⁰ She was daughter of John Bellamy, a nearby landowner. The death of Charles’s mother on 31 January 1792 freed him to follow his own pursuits. Charles and Mary Bunch sold Thomas Whitlock 150 acres of land on 17 March 1794 for £150. The tract was bordered by land owned by Henry Martin and Morris.²⁸¹ It was not long afterwards that Charles and his young bride left Virginia and followed relatives into Tennessee. They disappeared from the personal property tax lists of Louisa County in 1795.

²⁷⁴ Brewer, Quaker Records of Cedar Creek, page 125.

²⁷⁵ Brewer, Quaker Records of Cedar Creek, page 164.

²⁷⁶ Davis, Louisa County, Virginia Tithables and Census, 1743–1785, page 93.

²⁷⁷ Brewer, Quaker Records of Cedar Creek, page 143.

²⁷⁸ Brewer, Quaker Records of Cedar Creek, page 166.

²⁷⁹ Personal Property Tax Lists, Louisa County, Virginia, 1788–1793, FHL microfilm 511947.

²⁸⁰ Louisa County (Virginia), Marriage Bonds, 1766–1861, page 57, FHL microfilm 32190.

²⁸¹ Louisa County, Deed Book: G, page 427, FHL microfilm 32204. Turner Anderson, Charles Quarles, Thomas Brackett, and James Lawrence were witnesses.

There was one other Charles Bunch in the South at this period, his first-cousin (son of Henry Bunch). Charles, son of Henry⁵ Bunch (*John⁴ Bunch III, John³ Bunch II, John² Bunch I, John¹ Punch*) moved with his father to Bedford County, Virginia, before finally settling in Kentucky.²⁸² Charles, son of Samuel⁵ Bunch, left Virginia for Tennessee, following relatives who had settled in Grainger County. The two men therefore followed distinctly different migration routes by which they can be distinguished.

Returning the focus to Charles Bunch, son of Samuel, Charles was in Grainger County, Tennessee as early as 1797. He entered his cattle mark into record before Grainger County Court on Tuesday, 14 March 1797 (“A Slit & under heel in each Ear”).²⁸³ Three months later, he purchased 200 acres in Grainger County on the south side of Richland Creek of the Holston River from Joseph Cobb on 12 June 1797 for \$100.²⁸⁴ Charles Bunch served on a grand jury on Wednesday, 25 February 1798.²⁸⁵ On 17 August 1803, the constable of Grainger County reported to the court that he had levied against 200 acres of land owned by Charles Bunch (bounded by land of John Bunch) for a debt of \$31.60.²⁸⁶ Charles Bunch sold his land to Valentine Morgan on 20 August 1803 for \$150 (a \$50 profit over the initial purchase price).²⁸⁷ Charles served as a juror in Grainger County on 22 November 1803.²⁸⁸ John Elsey sued Charles Bunch and William

²⁸² Charles Bunch (son of Henry) first occurs of record on 22 March 1773 when he was appointed constable of a precinct in Bedford County. Bedford County (Virginia), Index to Court Order Books, FHL microfilm 30573. Charles was taxed for personal property from 1782, when the tax lists first survive, through 1788, after which he disappears. Joseph Bunch was also taxed there (1782–86), as was a Richard Bunch (1783–87). George Bunch was taxed in Bedford County 1787–91. Their uncle, James Bunch, also left Louisa County and settled in Bedford County. On 11 October 1788, Charles Bunch and his wife, Judith, sold two tracts of land in Bedford County, one for 210 acres, the other for 10 acres, both of which he had patented. Bedford County (Virginia), Deed Book 8, page 198, FHL microfilm 198205; Bedford County (Virginia), Deed Book 8, page 205, FHL microfilm 198205. This correlates with his disappearance from the personal property tax lists. Charles Bunch (son of Henry) settled in Mercer County, Kentucky. Charles Bunch, David, Richard, Joseph and Calloway Bunch all initially settled in Mercer County, Kentucky, where they were taxed in 1795. “Mercer County Tax Lists, 1795,” *The Register of the Kentucky State Historical Society*, 9 (1911), page 188. In 1788–89, Charles, Callaway, Clark, Joseph, Richard, and Zachariah Bunch all petitioned for the creation of the new state of Kentucky. James Rood Robertson, *Petitions of the Early Inhabitants of Kentucky to the General Assembly of Virginia, 1769 to 1792* (Louisville: Filson Club, 1914), page 193. Charles Bunch was taxed as a resident of Mercer County in 1792 and 1799. Alma Ray Ison and James H. Miller, *Stray Book and Tax Records, Mercer County, Kentucky, 1787–1806* (Harrodsburg, Kentucky: Harrodsburg Historical Society, 1994), pages 124 and 200. It appears that Charles removed Warren County, Kentucky, in 1800 and then on to Lincoln County, Kentucky, where he was taxed from 1802 through 1809. G. Glenn Clift, “*Second Census*” of Kentucky, 1800 (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1982), page 39; James F. Sutherland, *Early Kentucky Householders, 1787–1811* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1986), page 41. It appears that Charles died intestate before 1820.

²⁸³ Grainger County (Tennessee), Court Minutes, vol. 1, 1796–1802, page 22, FHL microfilm 968587.

²⁸⁴ Grainger County (Tennessee), Deed Book A, page 30, Deed of Charles Bunch, FHL microfilm 968597.

²⁸⁵ Grainger County (Tennessee), Court Minutes, vol. 1, 1796–1802, page 51, FHL microfilm 968587.

²⁸⁶ Grainger County, Tennessee, Minutes of the Court of Pleas, 1801–1812, Volume 2 (Nashville: Historical Records Survey, 1939), page 40.

²⁸⁷ Grainger County (Tennessee), Deed Book A, page 333, Deed of Charles Bunch, FHL microfilm 968597.

²⁸⁸ Grainger County, Tennessee, Minutes of the Court of Pleas, 1801–1812, Volume 2, page 43.

Bunch on Wednesday, 23 November 1803 and Charles was put in the custody of the sheriff.²⁸⁹ The last record we have of Charles Bunch alive is in May 1804, when the deed from Charles Bunch to Valentine Morgan was entered into record on the oath of John Bunch.²⁹⁰

Charles Bunch was dead by 17 August 1813, when his son Charles was bound out as an apprentice to John Bunch until age twenty-one.²⁹¹ The record indicates that the younger Charles was a ward of the court.

Children of Charles⁶ and Mary (Bellamy) Bunch:

- 8 i **NATHANIEL⁷ BUNCH**, born 23 April 1793, Louisa County, Virginia. (See below.)
- ii **SUSAN⁷ BUNCH**, born about 1795–6, Tennessee, married **DAVID COFFMAN** (a Baptist preacher) in Grainger County, Tennessee on 20 August 1813.²⁹² The couple moved to Polk County, Missouri, where David was invited to help establish a church.²⁹³ The family was enumerated in District 71 of Polk County in 1850. David Coffman is supposed to have died 22 July 1838, buried on the family homestead at Aldrich, Polk County.²⁹⁴ Susan is supposed to have been buried on the Coffman homestead there in 1854. She was mother of a large family.
- iii **CHARLES ALBERT⁷ BUNCH**, born circa 1798, Grainger County, Tennessee, was apprenticed to John Bunch on 17 August 1813. Charles left Grainger County upon finishing his apprenticeship and settled near his brother in Overton County, Tennessee, where he married **KATHERINE CARLOCK** (they were parents of at least eight children). Their family was enumerated in Overton County in 1830.²⁹⁵ Charles Bunch followed his sister to Polk County, Missouri, where his family was enumerated in 1840.²⁹⁶

²⁸⁹ Grainger County, Tennessee, Minutes of the Court of Pleas, 1801–1812, Volume 2, page 46

²⁹⁰ Grainger County, Tennessee, Minutes of the Court of Pleas, 1801–1812, Volume 2, page 69.

²⁹¹ Ella E. Lee Sheffield, *Grainger County, Tennessee, Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, Record Book No 3, 1812–1816* (Easley, South Carolina: Southern Historical Press, 1983), vol. 3, page 56 (112 of the original). Alan N. Miller, *Grainger County, Tennessee Apprenticeships, 1797–1875* (Signal Mountain, Tennessee: Mountain Press, 1997), page 3.

²⁹² Billie Wyrick Kennerly, Grainger County, Tennessee Marriage Bonds and Licenses, 1796–1837, Book No. 1 (Houston: by the author, 1964), page 31.

²⁹³ John Bunch [son of Samuel Bunch's son John], born 11 February 1786, moved to Polk County from Grainger County by 1830 (enumerated in Southwest Missouri in 1830). He had married Margaret Clay in Grainger County on 25 August 1807. John Bunch died testate in Polk County 2 April 1837. Marsha Hoffman Rising, *Opening the Ozarks: First Families in Southwest Missouri, 1835–1839* (Derry, New Hampshire: American Society of Genealogists, 2005), vol. 1, page 297. It may be that Susan and Charles Bunch followed their cousins to Polk County.

²⁹⁴ “Rev David Coffman,” *FindAGrave.com* (Online: Find A Grave, 2000), memorial no. 5000616, Coffman Family Cemetery, Aldrich, Polk County, Missouri, <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GScid=150208&GRid=5000616&>, accessed 18 June 2012.

²⁹⁵ 1830 U.S. Federal Census (Population Schedule), Overton County, Tennessee, page 209, line 19, Charles Bunch household, .jpeg image, *Ancestry.com* (Online: Ancestry.com, Inc., 2012) [National Archives microfilm publication M19, 201 rolls], <http://www.ancestry.com>, accessed 22 May 2012.

²⁹⁶ 1840 U.S. Federal Census (Population Schedule), Polk County, Missouri, page 228, line 24, Charles Bunch Sr. household, .jpeg image, *Ancestry.com* (Online: Ancestry.com, Inc., 2012) [National Archives microfilm publication M704, 580 rolls], <http://www.ancestry.com>, accessed 24 May 2012.

Charles and Catherine Bunch were still residing in Polk County, Missouri, in 1850.²⁹⁷ Charles and Catherine Bunch moved to Breckenridge County, Kansas, where they were enumerated in 1860.²⁹⁸ They had moved to Newton County, Missouri, by 1870.²⁹⁹ Charles Bunch is supposed to have died on 25 May 1877, buried in Bowlus Cemetery, Umatilla County, Oregon.³⁰⁰ A descendant of this Charles has yDNA that matches the descendants of Nathaniel⁷ Bunch, triangulating these two branches back through Charles⁶ Bunch.³⁰¹

8 **NATHANIEL⁷ BUNCH** (*Charles⁶ Bunch, Samuel⁵ Bunch, John⁴ Bunch III, John³ Bunch II, John² Bunch I, John¹ PUNCH*), born 23 April 1793, Louisa County, Virginia, and went to Tennessee with his parents when he was an infant. He grew up in Grainger County, Tennessee (northeast of Knoxville), but married **SARAH WADE RAY** in Overton County, Tennessee, on 15 November 1810 when he was only seventeen.³⁰² His birth and marriage dates are given in his widow's War of 1812 Pension File (copied from the family Bible), so there is no reason to doubt the veracity of the dates. Census records indicate that Sarah was born in 1792–93, so they were both young when they wed. Nathaniel's occupation in 1850 would suggest that he was apprenticed as a blacksmith in his youth; this might explain why he traveled from Grainger to Overton County, Tennessee, at a young age.³⁰³

Nathaniel Bunch enlisted in the War of 1812, volunteering in Overton County for three months, but served four months, six days. Nathaniel was a private in Captain Abel Willis's Company, 2nd Regiment, West Tennessee Militia under Colonel McCrory, serving in an expedition against the Creek Indians. His Certificate of Discharge reads:³⁰⁴

²⁹⁷ 1850 U.S. Federal Census (Population Schedule), District 71, Polk County, Missouri, page 25a, dwelling 315, family 315, Charles Bunch household, .jpeg image, *Ancestry.com* (Online: Ancestry.com, Inc., 2012) [National Archives microfilm publication M432, 1009 rolls], <http://www.ancestry.com>, accessed 24 May 2012.

²⁹⁸ 1860 U.S. Federal Census (Population Schedule), Forest Hill, Breckenridge County, Kansas Territory, page 534, dwelling 316, family 242, .jpeg image, *Ancestry.com* (Online: Ancestry.com, Inc., 2012) [National Archives microfilm publication M653, 1438 rolls], <http://www.ancestry.com>, accessed 24 May 2012.

²⁹⁹ 1870 U.S. Federal Census (Population Schedule), Seneca, Newton County, Missouri, page 795, dwelling 43, family 47, .jpeg image, *Ancestry.com* (Online: Ancestry.com, Inc., 2012) [National Archives microfilm publication M593, 1761], <http://www.ancestry.com>, accessed 24 May 2012.

³⁰⁰ "Charles Bunch Sr.," Bowlus Cemetery, Umatilla County, Oregon, *FindAGrave.com* (Online: Find A Grave, Inc., 2006), memorial 16360385, Bowlus Cemetery, Umatilla County, Oregon, <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=Bunch&GSfn=Charles&GSbyrel=all&GSdyrel=all&GSctry=4&GSob=n&GRid=16360385&df=all&>, accessed 22 May 2012.

³⁰¹ "Bunch Patriarch Page," *The Bunch y-DNA Project* (Online: WorldFamilies.net, 2012), <http://www.worldfamilies.net/surnames/bunch/pats>, accessed 20 June 2012.

³⁰² "Nathaniel Bunch Bible Record," *Carroll County Historical Quarterly*, 6, no. 1 (June 1961), page 15. This is apparently the official transcription made by "Jas. P. Fancher," Clerk of the County Court of Carroll County on 27 October 1873 taken from a leather bound Bible published in 1832.

³⁰³ 1850 U.S. Federal Census (Population Schedule), Osage, Newton County, Arkansas, page 20b, dwelling 282, family 282, Nathaniel Bunch household, .jpeg images, *Ancestry.com* (Online: Ancestry.com, Inc., 2012) [National Archives microfilm publication M432, 1009 rolls], <http://www.ancestry.com>, accessed 20 May 2012.

³⁰⁴ Sarah (Ray) Bunch, Widow's Pension, application WC-5995 for the service of Nathaniel Bunch (Pvt., Capt. Abel Willis's Co., Tennessee Militia, War of 1812), consolidated with bounty-land warrant files 26602 and 43708;

I certify that Nathaniel Bunch, a private in my company W[est] T[ennessee] Militia under the command of Maj[o]r Gen[era]l [Andrew] Jackson in the expedition against the Creek Indians, has served from the 4th day of October 1813 to the 10th day of Febr[ua]ry 1814 And is honorably discharged. [signed] Abel Willis, Cap^t 2nd Reg[imen]t, W. T. M. Charles Sevier[,] Major, 2^d Reg[imen]t W. T. M.

The biography of his grandson states that Nathaniel Bunch fought under Andrew Jackson at the Battle of New Orleans and that “the powder flask carried by him during this battle is still in existence and much treasured for its historical value.”³⁰⁵

Nathaniel Bunch was enumerated in Overton County in the 1820 U.S. Federal Census with his wife (both age 26–45), four sons and two daughters under age ten, and a female over age forty-five.³⁰⁶ In the 1830 census of Overton County, Nathaniel and his wife were both listed as aged 30–40 years, and they still had an older female in the household (aged 50–60 years),³⁰⁷ along with six sons and two daughters.³⁰⁸ Nathaniel was listed immediately preceding Samuel Allred and just after John Allred, Solomon Allred Sr., Solomon Allred Jr., and William Allred.³⁰⁹ Nathaniel and John Bunch were both listed in the 1836 tax lists in District 9 as were Samuel Allred and at least ten other Allred households.³¹⁰ Nathaniel Bunch was aged 40–50 years in 1840, but the age of the older female was given as aged 80–90 years.³¹¹ The family moved to Arkansas according to the biography of his son Bradley, which reads in part:

Capt. Nathaniel Bunch, a Virginian by birth, who was reared in Tennessee, where he married Sally Ray, also a native of Virginia. Capt. Nathaniel Bunch resided in Tennessee till 1841, when he removed to Arkansas and settled in Carroll County. This county was afterwards divided, and the part in which he resided was placed in

Case Files of Pension and Bounty-Land Applications Based on Service in the War of 1812 [Records of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Record Group 15; National Archives, Washington, D.C.]

³⁰⁵ Jo Conners, *Who's Who in Arizona, Volume I: 1913* (Tucson: Arizona Daily Star, 1913), page 316.

³⁰⁶ 1820 U.S. Federal Census (Population Schedule), Overton County, Tennessee, page 259, line 7, Nathaniel Bunch household.jpeg image, *Ancestry.com* (Online: Ancestry.com, Inc., 2012) [National Archives microfilm publication M33, 142 rolls], <http://www.ancestry.com>, accessed 23 May 2012.

³⁰⁷ There is no way of knowing if this older female could be his mother, Mary, or perhaps his wife's mother.

³⁰⁸ 1830 U.S. Federal Census (Population Schedule), Overton County, Tennessee, page 208, line 9, Nathaniel Bunch household .jpeg image, *Ancestry.com* (Online: Ancestry.com, Inc., 2012) [National Archives microfilm publication M19, 201 rolls], <http://www.ancestry.com>, accessed 23 May 2012.

³⁰⁹ Nathaniel's brother Charles Bunch was enumerated on the following page (209). They were the only Bunches in Overton County in 1830.

³¹⁰ James L. Douthat, *Overton County, Tennessee, 1836 Tennessee Civil District and Tax Lists* (Signal Mountain, Tennessee: Mountain Press, 2001), page 12.

³¹¹ 1840 U.S. Federal Census (Population Schedule), Overton County, Tennessee, page 533, line 16, Nathaniel Bunch household, .jpeg image, *Ancestry.com* (Online: Ancestry.com, Inc., 2012) [National Archives microfilm publication M704, 580 rolls], <http://www.ancestry.com>, accessed 24 May 2012.

Newton County. There he resided until his death in 1858. While a resident of Tennessee he served as captain in the State militia.³¹²

The 1850 U.S. Federal Census stated that Nathaniel was a mechanic and blacksmith (both he and his wife, Sarah, were 58 and born in Virginia).³¹³ Nathaniel Bunch was granted 80 acres of bounty land in his application dated 27 December 1850 (Warrant 26602) and 80 acres on 5 May 1855 (Warrant 43708).³¹⁴ Nathaniel Bunch patented 39.420 acres in Newton County on 15 November 1854 (cash entry), the southeast quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 19, Township 17 North, Range 23 West (Fayetteville Land Office).³¹⁵ Nathaniel Bunch died 16 February 1859 of pneumonia. Sarah Wade Ray died in 1878 and was buried with her husband in Liberty Cemetery, Dinsmore, Newton County, Arkansas.³¹⁶ Newton County was created from Carroll County in 1842, but, tragically, most records prior to 1865 have perished, so no deed or probate records survive for Nathaniel.

Children of Nathaniel⁷ and Sarah (Ray) Bunch:³¹⁷

- i **JOHN⁸ BUNCH**, born 1 December 1812, probably in Overton County, Tennessee, died 3 February 1892 and was buried in Rule Cemetery, Carroll County, Arkansas.³¹⁸ John Bunch married (1) on 2

³¹² History of Benton, Washington, Carroll, Madison, Crawford, Franklin, and Sebastian Counties, Arkansas (Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing, 1889), page 1,048.

³¹³ 1850 U.S. Federal Census (Population Schedule), Osage, Newton County, Arkansas, page 20B, dwelling 282, family 282, Nathaniel Bunch household, .jpeg image, *Ancestry.com* (Online: Ancestry.com, Inc., 2012) [National Archives microfilm publication M432, 1009 rolls], <http://www.ancestry.com>, accessed 23 May 2012.

³¹⁴ Sarah (Ray) Bunch, Widow's Pension, application WC-5995 for the service of Nathaniel Bunch (Pvt., Capt. Abel Willis's Co., Tennessee Militia, War of 1812), consolidated with bounty-land warrant files 26602 and 43708; Case Files of Pension and Bounty-Land Applications Based on Service in the War of 1812 [Records of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Record Group 15; National Archives, Washington, D.C.]

³¹⁵ "Nathaniel Bunch, AR0960_.218" *U.S. General Land Office Records* (Online: U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management, 2012), Document 5854, http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/details/patent/default.aspx?accession=AR0960_.218&docClass=STA&sid=hqmhznz54.pwg, accessed 24 May 2012; also available U.S. General Land Office Records 1796-1907," *Ancestry.com* (Online: Ancestry.com, 2012), for Nathaniel Bunch, issued 15 Nov 1854, AR0960_.218 at Fayetteville, <http://search.ancestry.com/Browse/View.aspx?dbid=1246&path=Arkansas.Newton.121>, accessed 20 May 2012. This is conveniently mapped out showing later grants to Samuel Whitley on the north (1860), vacant land west and south, and a grant to Charles Bunch below that (1860). Gary A. Boyd, *Family Maps of Newton County, Arkansas, Deluxe Edition* (Norman, Oklahoma: Arphax Publishing, 2006), page 66.

³¹⁶ The cemetery includes many Bunch and Allred burials. "Liberty Cemetery," *FindAGrave* (Online: Find A Grave, Inc., 2012), <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=cr&GRid=32267143&CRid=1230578&>, accessed 24 May 2012. The original tombstone of Nathaniel might have still existed on 6 July 1959, when J.B. Bunch and two others recorded the gravestones in that cemetery, including "Nathaniel [Bunch], Apr. 23, 1793–Feb. 16, 1859," according to "Tombstone Inscriptions, Liberty Cemetery, Madison County [*sic*, Newton County], Arkansas," *Carroll County Historical Quarterly* vol. 6, no. 1 (June 1961), page 8.

³¹⁷ The birth dates are from the official transcription in the War of 1812 Pension Application. Family accounts give an eldest child named Mary or Polly Bunch, born about 1811, but died young. We have not seen documentation of this yet. Undocumented, but useful, accounts of this family and the children submitted by descendants is available in Jim Lair, ed., *Carroll County Families: These Were the First, Carroll County, Arkansas, 1991* (Berryville, Arkansas: Carroll County Historical and Genealogical Society, 1991), pages 77–90.

November 1834, **CYNTHIA NEWBERRY**, born 5 October 1813, died 28 December 1835. John married (2) on 13 April 1836, **LOUISA JANE “ELIZA” QUALLS**, born 22 August 1818, Tennessee, died 1900 (buried with her husband in Rule Cemetery), mother of fourteen children.³¹⁹

- ii **ANNA**⁸ **BUNCH**, born 27 March 1814, probably in Overton County, Tennessee, married, presumably also in Overton County, **SAMUEL THOMPSON ALLRED** (*she is the ancestor of President Obama’s mother, as outlined in the first section of this treatise, entitled “Documenting President Barack Obama’s Maternal African-American Ancestry: Tracing His Mother’s Bunch Ancestry to the First Slave in America”*).
- iii **CHARLES**⁸ **BUNCH**, born 29 October 1815, Overton County, Tennessee, died 1880, possibly buried with his wife in Liberty Cemetery, Dinsmore, Newton County, Arkansas (but no tombstones survive). He married, on 2 October 1836 (James Bunch, bondsman), in Grainger County, Tennessee,³²⁰ **MARY ‘POLLY’ COFFMAN**, born 22 August 1818, died 1887. They were parents of six children.³²¹
- iv **CALVIN**⁸ **BUNCH**, born 4 March 1817.
- v **BRADLEY**⁸ **BUNCH**, born 9 December 1818, Overton County, Tennessee, died 1 August 1894, buried in Bunch Cemetery, Berryville, Carroll County, Arkansas,³²² married in Tennessee circa 1837, **JANE BOSWELL**, born 5 October 1817, died 9 January 1890, buried with her husband. Bradley became a legislator serving in the lower Arkansas General Assembly. An 1889 biography calls Bradley “one of the most prominent citizens of Northwest Arkansas” and states that he was born in Overton County, Tennessee. Bradley Bunch was elected Justice of the Peace in Carroll County in 1848, served six years, and was Associate Justice of the County Court four years. He served as representative to the state legislature in 1854 representing Carroll County for four consecutive terms, elected state senator in 1862 (but did not serve on account of the war), and elected again in 1866 when he was Speaker of the House. He was delegate to the State Constitutional Convention in 1874. Bradley Bunch was elected senator again the following September, serving two years as the presiding officer in the deliberations. He was appointed probate judge in 1888. His biography describes Bradley and his wife as “earnest Christians and communicants of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South” and states he was a Mason.³²³ Bradley Bunch fathered thirteen children.
- vi **OBEDIENCE**⁸ (“Biddie”) **BUNCH**, born 12 March 1820, Overton County, Tennessee, apparently died in 1857 in Osage Township, Carroll County, Arkansas,³²⁴ married **NATHANIEL (NATHAN) SELBY**, who

³¹⁸ “John Bunch,” *Findagrave.com* (Online: Find A Grave, Inc., 2012), memorial 24295017, Rule Cemetery, Carroll County, Arkansas, <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=24295017>, accessed 24 May 2012.

³¹⁹ Lair, *Carroll County Families*, pages 77–90. Richard Henry Bunch lists fourteen children of John Bunch, stating that he married twice (page 62).

³²⁰ Kennerly, Grainger County, Tennessee Marriage Bonds and Licenses, 1796–1837, Book No. 1, page 84.

³²¹ Lair, *Carroll County Families*, pages 77–90.

³²² “Bradley Bunch,” *Findagrave.com* (Online: Find A Grave, Inc., 2012), memorial 25844950, Bunch Cemetery, Berryville, Carroll County, Arkansas, <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=25844950>, accessed 24 May 2012.

³²³ History of Benton, Washington, Carroll, Madison, Crawford, Franklin, and Sebastian Counties, Arkansas, pages 1048–49.

³²⁴ Lair, *Carroll County Families*, page 533, gives the traditional dates of the death of husband and wife, taken from a family journal. “Aunt Biddy and the baby died. Uncle Nathan died a few days before Grandfather Bunch, & Aunt Biddie Allred died before Aunty Biddie Selby were buried. Pneumonia.”

died 1857, in Newton County, Arkansas, leaving some type of estate.³²⁵ The family was living in Osage, Newton County, Arkansas, in 1850.³²⁶ They were parents of eight children.³²⁷

- vii **NATHANIEL**⁸ **BUNCH**, born 14 June 1824, Overton County, Tennessee, died 27 February 1896, buried in Liberty Cemetery, Dinsmore, Newton County, Arkansas,³²⁸ married **ORLENA NEWBERRY**, born 13 February 1828, died 8/9 March 1898, buried with her husband.
- viii **NANCY**⁸ **BUNCH**, born 24 January 1826, Overton County, Tennessee, died 23 December 1853, married on 12 December 1846³²⁹ **ANDREW J. WHITLEY**. Andrew was born 15 March 1827, Alabama, died 4 November 1905, Wylie, Texas. Andrew married Phoebe Allred on 14 August 1859.³³⁰ Nancy was mother of three children.
- ix **LARKIN**⁸ **BUNCH**, born 24 October 1827, Overton County, Tennessee,³³¹ killed 24 September 1864 at Pilot Knob, Missouri (near St. Louis, carrying the company flag when he was killed),³³² buried on the battlefield at Ironton, Missouri. He married on 24 October 1852, in Newton County, Arkansas, **ELIZA MAXWELL**, born 8 May 1835, Overton County, Tennessee, died of the grip and pneumonia on 12 April 1891, buried in Liberty Cemetery, Dinsmore, Newton County, Arkansas.³³³ Eliza married (2) on 28 November 1878, as his third wife, John G. Reeves, of Newton County, Arkansas, born 8 June 1818 (his tombstone might have been faded, but his birth was transcribed as 3 June 1813), died 29 October 1896, buried Liberty Cemetery with his wife. Eliza's obituary is abstracted online. Larkin and Eliza were parents of five children.

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³²⁵ Judy Tate, "Book A Will Index Newton County, Arkansas," *Newton County, Arkansas* (Online: Ancestry.com, 2012), Will Book A, page 249, Estate of Nathaniel Selby, <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~edgmon/wbooka.htm>, accessed 23 May 2012.

³²⁶ 1850 U.S. Federal Census (Population Schedule), Osage Township, Newton County, Arkansas, page 20B, dwelling 280, family 280, Nathaniel Selby household, .jpeg image (Online: Ancestry.com, Inc., 2012), <http://www.ancestry.com>, accessed 24 May 2012. Nathaniel Selby was age 36, a farmer born in Kentucky, his wife Obedience, was age 31, born in Tennessee, neither could read or write, and they had four children (all born in Arkansas): Sarah, age 8, Polly E., age 5, John C. B., age 8 [*sic*], and William J. Selby, age 1.

³²⁷ Lair, *Carroll County Families*, page 533.

³²⁸ "Tombstone Inscriptions, Liberty Cemetery, Madison County [*sic*], Arkansas," page 8. Nathaniel's year of birth is mistakenly transcribed as 1826. The preface states "Some stones could not be read and many graves are marked only with a field stone. There are probably errors in the following."

³²⁹ Lair, *Carroll County Families*, page 640.

³³⁰ Lair, *Carroll County Families*, page 640.

³³¹ Larkin's birthplace is specifically stated to be Overton County in the biography of two of his sons, which also relates the story of his service and death in the Civil War and the second marriage of their mother. *History of Benton, Washington, Carroll, Madison, Crawford, Franklin, and Sebastian Counties, Arkansas*, pages 1084–85 (Madison County). This is now online at *GoogleBooks*.

³³² Lair, *Carroll County Families*, page 84. Civil War letters Larkin wrote are also abstracted in this source.

³³³ "Tombstone Inscriptions, Liberty Cemetery, Madison County [*sic*], Arkansas," page 12.