



A Revised Timeline for Jeremiah York

A Narrative of His Life from 1683 - ca. 1765

by

Ronald E. York and James Earl York III

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Cover Art: This is an image of a English Yew tree that is over 1000 years old in the garden of Kelburn Castle in Scotland.¹ The earliest antecedent of the city name “York” was Eburacum, which meant “yew tree place.” That area at the time was the kingdom of Northumbria which included the northern portion of today’s England and southern portion of Scotland. Our male line of Yorks’ Y-DNA belongs to haplogroup I-M253, which has Scandinavian origins. The combination of Scandinavian genetic origins along with the etymology of the surname York, suggests that is likely that one of our male York ancestors was among the Vikings that settled in the area of York, possibly by, or even earlier than, 1000 AD when that yew tree was just a seedling.

¹ Lairich. “The Kelburn Yew”. Retrieved from https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Thousand-year-old_yew_tree_-_geograph.org.uk_-_1011057.jpg and used per the Wiki Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 2.0 Generic license.

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Preface

Jeremiah York I, born in Olney, Buckinghamshire, England in 1683, was the first immigrant to America of our York family. Jeremiah and several following generations were regularly found to be among the earliest families to migrate to the fringes of America's expanding frontier. He apparently firmly implanted into our family the attitudes and resourcefulness necessary to enter, survive and thrive in the harshest of frontier settings, far from any civilized conveniences or comforts and often on the border of conflict.

Genealogy is a work-in-progress that never ends. Although much has been written about Jeremiah York in the past, our recent research has allowed us to write a much more comprehensive narrative of Jeremiah's life, supported by primary sources and viewed in the historical context of his time and locations. Today's internet has allowed us to discover and retrieve many records not readily available to genealogists even a few years ago.

As our work progressed, we have found that many earlier assumptions about Jeremiah and his family needed to be rejected or revised.² Therefore, this paper supersedes previously published "Timelines" by us, including "The Timeline of Jeremiah Yorke - Late 1600's to mid 1700's" published as Part IV of "The Emigrant" by James Earl York, III and also "The Jeremiah York I Family (1683 - ca. 1765) by Ronald E. York and Dennis R. York, III. We expect, and hope, that our work presented here can be supplemented and corrected by future York genealogists.

We have endeavored to rely strongly on primary genealogical sources, historical references and contemporary maps. We have tried to be clear where we present conclusions or postulate possible scenarios derived from those sources and to document our rationale. Our intent has been to provide our readers with sufficient information to allow them to distinguish between genealogical shades of gray, i.e. possible, probable or almost certain.

The authors are direct descendants of Jeremiah York.^{3,4} As family genealogists, we are often asked if we've discovered links to royalty in our York lineage. We have not; but we're even more proud of Jeremiah York and the amazing family he founded here in

² Much of the information related to Jeremiah found on the internet is often based on secondary compilations, typically abstracts of the primary sources, or merely copying what others have presented, which may be only conjectures, and is not clearly traceable to any primary contemporary record. Unfortunately, this undocumented information is too often inaccurate or incomplete yet is adopted without question and subsequently becomes broadly disseminated.

³ Ronald Eugene York, Ph.D. (Engineering) is a 7th great-grandson of Jeremiah I via his son Jeremiah II.

⁴ James Earl York III, Ph.D. (Geology) is a 6th great-grandson via Jeremiah's son Semore.

America. It is our hope that those of our readers who are part of this family will share this pride.

We are very thankful for the effort and thoughtful comments of our reviewers: Bethann (York) Strodel⁵, Beth (Fidiam) Clark⁶, Doug York⁷ and Keith Allred⁸.

We encourage readers to contact us at [http://TheYorkCousins@gmail.com](mailto:TheYorkCousins@gmail.com) with comments, corrections or additional information relevant to the life of Jeremiah York.

⁵ Beth (York) Strodel is an 8th great-granddaughter of Jeremiah I via his son Jeremiah II.

⁶ Beth (Fidiam) Clark is a 7th great-granddaughter of Jeremiah I via his son Semore.

⁷ Douglas York is a 6th great-grandson of Jeremiah I via his son Joseph.

⁸ Keith Allred is the editor of From England to America, Our Allred Family.

Overview

Jeremiah York I⁹ emigrated from England to Pennsylvania not long after 1700 and soon settled in West Nottingham, where we have our first firm American record of him on a tax list in 1718. From that beginning, he became the progenitor of a large York family in America that genealogists have traced through at least twelve generations!

Earnest genealogists have been working for decades to trace Jeremiah's lineage back in time and also to follow and record his descendants. A great deal of excellent work was accomplished prior to 2000, but some poorly justified assumptions were also made. The internet has been both a benefit and a bane – facilitating access to records and enabling collaboration, but also allowing widespread dissemination of errors.

Fortunately, in the past twenty years, a large number of additional genealogical records have become more readily available: for example, indexed and full images of government records and digital and microfilmed copies of important records by services such as Ancestry, RootsWeb, Fold3, etc. In the past, such records could be found only by long trips and tedious hours of location-based research. DNA testing services are the most recent and powerful of some of these new research aids.

These newly available records have enabled genealogists to confirm many marginally well-documented cases and to flesh out important details of our ancestors' lives. But the data have also frequently allowed and compelled us to reject or substantially revise previously asserted genealogical relationships. Per Mills, "The case is never closed on a genealogical conclusion."

We have uncovered a number of important elements of data relating to Jeremiah that most likely were not available to the authors of earlier accounts of his life. These data, gleaned from primary data sources, are presented here in an appropriate historical context as a "revised timeline" for Jeremiah York.

This revised timeline presents our data and sources, the logic of our estimates derived from primary data, and our assumptions. We have also studied the settlement history of the places where Jeremiah lived to help frame a narrative of how he might have fit into those times. Our intent is that our work may be reviewed by other competent genealogists and that the basis of our assumptions and stories are clear and judged to be plausible.

⁹ Although the suffix I does not appear in the records, the authors use it to distinguish this progenitor from his son and other Jeremiahs in subsequent generations that have the same given name. Also, the surname is usually spelled Yorke in English records and York in America.

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Jeremiah York's English Origins

In 2007, James "Jim" Earl York III reported his extensive research about the English origins of Jeremiah York of West Nottingham. Jim presented substantial justification that Jeremiah York, born in 1683 in Olney, Buckinghamshire, was the son of Robert York and Ann Seymore,¹⁰ and was the same person as Jeremiah York found in West Nottingham, Pennsylvania in later years (James Earl York III).¹¹

Jim's report, *The Emigrant*, traced Jeremiah's lineage back seven generations, through the small English towns of Olney, Naseby, and Olde to about 1470. This lineage is included as Appendix A. While providing the documentation and rationale for the reported lineage, the report also provided sound reasons to discount several alternate propositions for Jeremiah's parentage that were, and still are, on many internet sites. It is helpful to review some of the key points from *The Emigrant*.

Records from the Church of St. Peter and St. Paul



Figure 1: Church of St. Peter and St. Paul

Fortunately for us, most English families in the late 17th century recorded important life events in the local Anglican church, even if they were non-aligned Protestants.¹² In some areas, many records have been lost over the centuries due to various causes, but the records of the Church of St. Peter and St. Paul in Olney, Buckinghamshire, England¹³ and surrounding towns have survived and are available to researchers. Several important discoveries regarding Jeremiah York's origins were made by examining these primary sources, i.e., parish

and estate administration records, or copies of them.

¹⁰ The spelling of the surname Seymore varies (e.g., Seymour, Semore). For consistency in the text, we use Seymore.

¹¹ York, James Earl III. "The Emigrant Jeremiah York: His English Ancestors and American Descendants to James Earl York III." (2007): 1–132.

¹² David Hey, *The Oxford Guide to Family History*, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1993), p. 186.

¹³ Original image by Lisha WilkinsonBarker, 8 Aug 2019. Post-processed by Ron York. Both Lisha and Ron are seventh great-grandchildren of Jeremiah York

The four most important discoveries came from the records of Church of St. Peter and St. Paul in Olney, Buckinghamshire, England.¹⁴ In calendar sequence they are:

1. The first is a record marriage of Jeremiah's father Richard York to Ann Seymore on 14 Nov 1682, as seen in Figure 2, is of critical importance.¹⁵

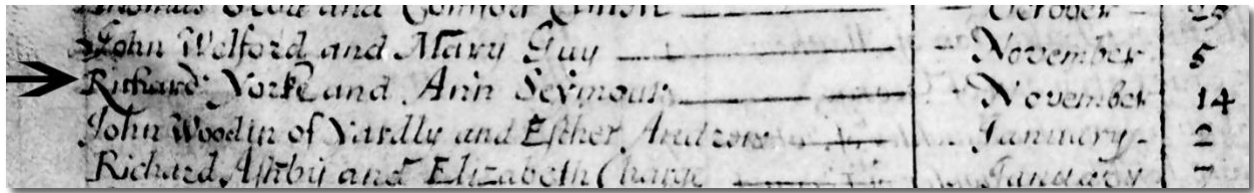


Figure 2: Marriage of Richard Yorke and Ann Seymour

2. The second is Jeremiah York's christening in Olney, Buckinghamshire, England on 9 Sept 1683, as shown in the left column of Figure 3. Children were usually christened very quickly after their birth because of a fear that they might not survive and be cut off from God if they had not received the ordinance of baptism¹⁶. So, this recorded date is customarily used as his birthdate, since these dates could have differed, but typically by not more than a few days. A better genealogical practice is to use "c" to denote a christening date instead of "b" for birthdate



Figure 3: Church record shows Jeremiah Yorke's birth and his grandfather's death

¹⁴ Church of St Peter and St. Paul. "Parish Registers, Church of St Peter and St Paul in Olney, Buckinghamshire." Supplemented by the Bishop's transcripts.

¹⁵ These parish records were microfilmed in the mid-20th century, and a transcription, including an index, was made as a more readily available secondary source. Ann's maiden name was inadvertently omitted in the transcription, which led to much speculation about her maiden name until the primary record was examined.

¹⁶ Keith Allred, private communication, 2019.

3. The third discovery was the death record of Jeremiah Seymore on the right-hand side of the same page as Jeremiah York's christening record.¹⁷
4. The fourth is the death record for Richard York on 6 March 1695/1696.¹⁸ We think that this entry is for Jeremiah's father rather than his brother, because (1) it does not have the "son of Richard" added as expected for a child and (2) Richard and Ann have no more children after 1693.

These records, together with examination of other parish records in Olney and the nearby parishes for some decades before and after 1683 lead to several observations:

- Jeremiah York was the son of Richard and Ann York;
- Ann's maiden name was Seymore, which provides a rationale for the name and a link to Jeremiah York's son Seymore;¹⁹
- the only Seymore names in these records are Jeremiah York's mother Ann, the Jeremiah Seymore who died about two weeks after Jeremiah York was born, and another Ann Seymore who died 8 Oct 1694.
- Richard York died in 1695/1696, leaving the family fatherless when the eldest child Jeremiah was 12 years old.

Plausible inferences we can draw are:

- That Jeremiah and Ann Seymore were the parents of the Ann Seymore who married Richard York;
- That Richard and Ann²⁰ York named their first son after his maternal grandfather shortly before the grandfather's death;
- And that Jeremiah York later named his son Seymore to continue this family name.

The records of the Olney Church show that Richard and Ann (Seymore) Yorke had a total of five children:

1683	Jeremiah
1684	Mary
1686	Richard
1688	Ann
1693	Elizabeth

¹⁷ Death records were usually not included in the secondary source transcription. This discovery again emphasizes the importance of examining the primary sources to which the secondary sources point.

¹⁸ The first of the dual dates refer to the "Old Style" Julian calendar which used March 25 as the beginning of each new year. The second date is the modern Gregorian calendar, which uses January 1 as the beginning of the new year. The switch from the old calendar to the new one occurred at different times in various locations but was in 1752 for most of Great Britain and its colonies.

¹⁹ To explain the use of the name Seymore, other genealogists have speculated, without any evidence, that Jeremiah York married a Seymore. With the evidence that Jeremiah's mother was a Seymore, that speculation is unnecessary.

²⁰ Although passing a mother's given name to a daughter is not common currently, it was at that time in England.

Jeremiah's sister Elizabeth married on 29 Sept 1716 and had children in Olney. There are a few subsequent Olney records for Ann Yorks, but none of them can unambiguously be linked as Richard's widow.²¹

1689 - 1702 A Period of Change

Radical changes came to England during Jeremiah's childhood. The reign of William and Mary brought a degree of stability and religious tolerance to England after centuries of constant upheavals in the religious and political landscape while Catholics, Anglicans, and Puritans alternately acquired power and tore one another apart. In 1689, the English Parliament passed a Bill of Rights and also the act of Toleration. This comparative tolerance in England contrasted with the religious persecution in Europe and led to an influx of "non-conforming" Protestants from northern Europe, the German Palatine states, and French Huguenots to the English Midlands. They brought valuable skills with them, one of which turned Olney, England into a lace-making center. Jeremiah's grandfather Jeremiah Seymour was a glove-maker. Jeremiah's sister Elizabeth married John Glover; a name that suggests his family were descended from glove-makers.²²

After Jeremiah's father death in 1695/96, the widow and five young children would have faced severe financial difficulties in a time and place where the agricultural-based economy was severely impacted by the peak of "little ice age," known as the "Maunder Minimum,"²³ when even the Thames River froze.²⁴ Jeremiah's father Richard was not particularly well-off financially (based on probate records for earlier generations), and his modest estate would have been quickly exhausted supporting the young family. Typically, in such economic circumstances, and as the oldest, Jeremiah at age twelve might have been fortunate to be apprenticed to a tradesman or taken on as a farmhand. An apprenticeship obligation would typically last seven years or until the apprentice was eighteen to twenty-one, which in Jeremiah's case would have been until 1701-1704.

In England, religious tolerance lessened after death of King William III in 1702, creating more pressure to emigrate for religious reasons. These changes, in addition to economic opportunities, probably provided the impetus and direction for Jeremiah's emigration

²¹ One, a widow, was buried 2 Feb 1743/1744 with no record of her husband or a will. If this is Jeremiah's mother and if she married about age twenty, she would have been about age eighty. A second possibility is the Ann York who married Hugh Smith on 19 Jul 1696, which could be a second marriage for Jeremiah's mother just four months after the death of her first husband. In each case, there is yet another Ann York in Olney that these records could fit.

²² David Hey, *The Oxford Guide to Family History*, op. cit., p.28.

²³ Anonymous, "Timeline Middle Ages and Early Modern Period," *Environmental History Resources*, <https://www.eh-resources.org/timeline-middle-ages/> : accessed Sept. 2019.

²⁴ Anonymous, "Little Ice Age," Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Little_Ice_Age_cite_note-73 : accessed 27 Sept 2019.

to Pennsylvania. Considering the religious surroundings of his childhood, Jeremiah's choice of immigration to Pennsylvania and his family's subsequent Baptist affiliations in America, it seems quite possible that his family may have been "non-conforming" Protestants, i.e. not aligned with the official Anglican Church of England. Even his particular biblical given name, rather than a traditional English name, was indicative that his parents were non-conforming Protestants.

From the receipt of his charter for Pennsylvania in 1681 from Charles II, Wm. Penn planned for a land of religious freedom, fair laws, and equitable administration of justice. He planned for an economy based on small landholdings and individual entrepreneurs in substantial contrast to the large agrarian estates of the Colony of Virginia. Although many of the early immigrants to Pennsylvania were English Quakers, waves of Welsh, Scotch-Irish, and northern-European German Protestants were soon to follow, driven by successive economic and political disruptions in the UK and Europe. Penn's recruiters worked in England to encourage emigration to Pennsylvania, and although we have no evidence that recruiters were active in Olney, news of opportunities in Pennsylvania would have spread even to small English parishes like Olney.

Rationale for Concluding Jeremiah Yorke of Olney and Jeremiah York of Pennsylvania Are the Same

Jim York concluded that Jeremiah York of Olney is the same as Jeremiah York who was listed as a 1718 taxpayer in Pennsylvania and was the progenitor of the Yorks of Randolph County, North Carolina and other branches recognized by York genealogists.²⁵ He concluded this, even though there is no direct evidence, because the circumstantial evidence was strongly convincing:

- (1) Based on family lore and lack of records of him in America before his adulthood, Jeremiah of Randolph County is said to be an emigrant to America. And the lack of further records in England for Jeremiah of Olney suggests that he emigrated.
- (2) Jeremiah of Olney is one of only three Jeremiahs found in English parish records that is a possible match in age. He is the best overall fit of the three. Jeremiah was an unusual first name and York was not a common surname, making the combination rare.
- (3) Jeremiah of Olney and Jeremiah of Randolph County were likely both non-conforming Protestants (a reason for persecution in England).

²⁵ James Earl York, III. *The Emigrant, op. cit.*: Section II, York's of Olney, p. 1-4.

(4) Perhaps most convincing, the Olney connection provides a documented family maiden surname as a rationale for Jeremiah to give his firstborn the unusual name Seymour. Jeremiah, the first child, was named after his maternal grandfather Jeremiah Seymour, who died a few weeks after Jeremiah York was born. Jeremiah later named his son Seymour after his mother's maiden name.

Supporting Y-DNA Evidence that Jeremiah Came from Olney, England

Recently, and after the above rationale was developed, very important supporting evidence that Jeremiah came from Olney, England has been provided by Y-DNA testing of another living York in the USA who is not a descendant of Jeremiah. His English immigrant ancestor, Thomas Robert York, came to America in 1870, over 150 years after Jeremiah.

This descendant's Y-DNA matches the authors' Y-DNA and also the large group of Jeremiah's descendants listed on the York DNA Project website.²⁶ His ancestral line was traced back to Olney, Buckinghamshire by a dedicated family genealogist, supported in part by professional genealogists in England.

Connections were then made between Thomas Robert York's ancestor in Olney and one of the parallel branches of Yorkes shown to be related to Jeremiah in Olney as documented in "*The Emigrant*." The eventual, first common ancestor to Jeremiah York of Olney and the newly known branch of Thomas Robert York was Thomas Yorke, born about 1500 in Naseby, Northamptonshire, England. Thomas of 1500 is the 12th great-grandfather of one the authors and 13th of the other.

This confirmation of the connection of the two branches substantiates that (1) the Jeremiah York of Pennsylvania in 1718 is the same as the Jeremiah Yorke of Olney and (2) the deduced links of Jeremiah back to ancestors in 1500 are likely accurate. Isn't the stability of Y-DNA wonderful!

This Y-DNA match between the two York branches must be combined with extensive, documented genealogy records, but it should be viewed as a very conclusive, independent confirmation that Jeremiah of Olney is, in fact, who we have deduced him to be.

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²⁶ Family Tree DNA, "York DNA Project," <https://www.familytreedna.com/groups/yorkdnaproject/about>.

Jeremiah York's First Years in America

Unfortunately, no documented records have been found for Jeremiah York I between the time of his father's death in 1695/1696 and his appearance on a tax list in West Nottingham, Pennsylvania in 1718. Two alternative scenarios that bridge this gap are outlined in this section. The "Early Arrival" scenario, presented for the first time in this paper, assumes that Jeremiah may have emigrated to America shortly after turning twenty-one in 1704, well before appearing on that 1718 tax record. A "Late Arrival" scenario was first proposed over thirty years ago. It is based on the assumption that Jeremiah remained in England until shortly before 1718.

There is insufficient evidence to prove that either scenario is wholly correct, but we believe that the "Early Arrival" scenario presented in this section is a better integration of the facts and circumstances of Jeremiah's early life.

The "Early Arrival" Scenario

This "Early Arrival" scenario assumes Jeremiah may have arrived much earlier in America than when he first appeared on the 1718 tax records in West Nottingham, Pennsylvania. The 1718 tax records are the earliest existing tax records for Chester County, Pennsylvania. Hence Jeremiah could have been there earlier despite the lack of a record. Also, ship records of immigrants for that time period are rare, hence the lack of a record again does not constrain the time of his immigration.

The following timeline blends a combination of relatively well-established events in Jeremiah's life with logical inferences and historical context. While portions of this timeline are circumstantial, the scenario combines all well-established data about Jeremiah and does not contradict known facts.

We will endeavor to clearly distinguish well-accepted facts from derived estimates and outright assumptions. We are depicting several shades of certainty – from postulated, possible, plausible, or probable to proven. Only a few of the records for Jeremiah are sufficient to meet professional genealogists' standards of proof for "proven."

1704-1705 Based mainly on Jeremiah's age, we assume that 1704 (at age 21) is the earliest date that he might have been free to choose to immigrate to America. It seems reasonable that Jeremiah elected to immigrate to Pennsylvania in pursuit of economic opportunities and possibly also religious freedom. In view of his family's circumstances in England and his low economic status shown in subsequent West Nottingham tax records, it seems unlikely that he would have had the money to pay for his passage. It seems more probable that he would have contracted for a period of indenture as did one-half to two-thirds of immigrants to the colonies.²⁷

²⁷ David W. Galenson, "The Rise and Fall of Indentured Servitude in the Americas: An Economic Analysis," *The*

He most likely arrived at Philadelphia or one of the nearby ports on the Delaware River. Unfortunately, ship passenger records were not routinely kept at that time, and those kept were usually only for “foreigners” because English-speaking immigrants were already considered to be subjects of the English crown. So, we cannot determine precisely when Jeremiah arrived or who he might have been traveling with.

There is an interesting “family legend” that has survived. Dr. Brantley York was a well-known educator and founder of the school²⁸ that became Duke University. He was a great-grandson of Jeremiah. His information can be considered somewhat reliable since he was close in time with Jeremiah, was raised among the Yorks in Randolph County, and generally wrote knowledgably. In the introduction to Brantley York’s autobiography,²⁹ published some twenty years after his death, a professor from Trinity wrote in the foreword, “His grandfather and grandmother in their youth came over together in the same vessel, and shortly afterwards married.” This is clearly not precisely correct, because Brantley’s grandfather was Jeremiah’s son Henry. But, if we allow for this writer’s notes being off by one generation, then the statement should have been that “Jeremiah and his future wife came to America while young, on the same vessel and married shortly thereafter.”

1711-1712 Jeremiah may have begun a period of indentured servitude to pay for his passage as early as 1704-1705. If he served the typical period of seven years, he would have completed this obligation in 1711-1712. Few indentured servants were allowed to marry during their period of indenture.

1712-1717 After completing his contract, Jeremiah would have been free to marry and probably did so once he had sufficient means to support a wife and expected children. We propose that at some point during this timeframe Jeremiah married the daughter of John Willson, based on his will as discussed later. Her name does not appear in any known documents. Therefore, we will adopt the conventional assumption used by many York genealogists that her name could have been “Sarah,” based on the frequent occurrence of this name in succeeding generations. (Except, that in this “Early Arrival” scenario it would have been “Sarah Willson” instead of “Sarah Seymour” as assumed in the “Late Arrival” scenario.)

Even though there is no documented evidence, some genealogists believe that Jeremiah’s sister Ann emigrated with him and subsequently married Solomon Allred

Journal of Economic History, 44(1). (Cambridge University Press, 1984), p1–26; JSTOR, http://www.j-bradford-delong.net/teaching_folder/Econ_210c_spring_2002/Readings/Galenson_Servitude.pdf

²⁸ Union Institute was founded in 1839, became Normal College in 1851, Trinity College in 1859 and Duke University in 1924. Duke University Libraries, *Brantley York (1805-1891)* : <https://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/uarchives/history/articles/york>

²⁹ Brantley York, *The Autobiography of Brantley York*, (Durham, NC: Seeman Printery, 1910).

about 1712.³⁰ Although we have seen no supporting evidence for this marriage, it is interesting to note that it aligns with this “early arrival” timeline. But it is inconsistent with the hypothesis of a late arrival in or shortly before 1718.

1713-1717 We believe Jeremiah and “Sarah” had a son who they named “John,” after Jeremiah’s father-in-law John Willson. It is estimated that this John York was born between 1713 - 1717. This estimate is based on a 1755 tax list in Orange Co., North Carolina where John appeared along with a son, who was at least age sixteen to be subject to a poll tax³¹.

Subtracting his son’s age of sixteen from 1755 yields 1739 for the latest birth year of this son. Assuming that John was at least twenty-one when married and twenty-two when his son was born would place his own birth not later than 1717. Thus, a birthdate of ca. 1715 is used in our genealogy records for John.

1718 - 1729 By 1718, Jeremiah had settled in West Nottingham, Pennsylvania. This was a location along the border with Maryland which was established by a group of Quakers in 1701 as part of Penn’s strategy to protect his claims to the area. In 1718, Nottingham was split into separate East and West Nottingham townships for taxing purposes. Although Quaker records from that era are often available, we found no evidence that Jeremiah was a member of the Quaker Society either in England or later in America. This implies that he was one of the many other non-conforming Protestants that settled with the Quakers.

Jeremiah was listed on the tax rolls for West Nottingham, Pennsylvania eight times between 1718 and 1729³². He has not been found on any of the other Pennsylvania tax rolls prior to or after these dates.³³

Pennsylvania law at the time required that county taxes be based upon annual assessments of the property of every resident male land-holder³⁴, each freeman³⁵, or on the value any estate owned by a non-resident. The tax system had charitable social policy provisions, including “having a due regard to such as are poor or have a charge of children,” and did not tax single men under age twenty-one or who had not yet been out of “servitude or apprenticeship the space of six months.” On the other hand, the

³⁰ Dawnell Griffin, *From England to America, Our Allred Family*. (Logan, Utah: Exemplar Press, 2015), p72.

³¹ Helen Leary, *North Carolina Research, Genealogy and Local History*. (Raleigh, NC: North Carolina Genealogical Society, 1996), p.231-2.

³² Chester County, Pennsylvania, “1715-1764 Chester County Tax Index.” Chester County Archives, West Chester, PA. <https://www.chesco.org/DocumentCenter/View/46795/1715-1764-Chester-County-Tax-Index-T-Z> : accessed September, 2019.

³³ Jeremiah would not have been recorded on tax rolls if in a position of servitude.

³⁴ “Land holders included both land-owners and those who were renting their land and no distinctions were given in the tax records.”

³⁵ Single men over age 21, but not indentured servants.

Figure 4: 1719 Tax List for West Nottingham, Pennsylvania

taxes imposed on freemen were comparatively high to encourage them to take a wife and begin a family. The tax system also provided an appeal process for those that thought their assessments were too high. The net effect was that the actual taxes were determined by a negotiation between the residents and their elected tax officials³⁶.

We acquired West Nottingham Tax Lists from 1718 through 1730 from the Chester County, Pennsylvania Archives & Record Services.³⁷ Figure 4 is the tax list for 1719, in which Jeremiah appears listed as an “Adjacent Inhabitant”³⁸. The first number that appears after each name is the assessed value of their property, in English pounds (£) and the “Rate” column is their tax in £, shillings (s) and pence (p). So, the tax percentage for Jeremiah computes to be 2 shillings / 8 £ = 1.25%. Jeremiah’s property valuation of 8 £ is one of the lowest on the page, probably reflecting that he spent most of his resources getting to America and had not yet built up any more substantial wealth. Comparing Jeremiah’s property valuation to that of the non-resident landholders, who have acreage listed, enables us to estimate his land as about 160 acres. About 40 – 60 acres of cleared land was needed to support a family during colonial times.

Jeremiah’s taxes over these years from 1718 to 1729 averaged about 2 shillings. His taxes were consistently in the lowest 10-20% on each list, indicating that he was either relatively poor and/or was being given some tax relief in consideration of the number of his children. It is clear that he was certainly poor in comparison to his neighbors.

³⁶ Robin L. Einhorn, “Democracy, Slavery and Taxation: American Tax Systems in the Colonial and Revolutionary Eras,” Tax Policy and Public Finance Workshop, (Los Angeles: UCLA, 2006), pp.13–17.

³⁷ It appeared that pages had been cut from the original tax ledgers and mounted (probably for preservation) on backing sheets that had, in turn, been reproduced by some offset printing process. The dots of the printing process interfered with the initial attempts at scanning these images, but a subsequent scanning process using de-screening effectively eliminated the problem. We used Topaz Clean to further “de-grunge” the images to make them more readable. You can obtain a copy of these “clean” tax list images from ryorkgen@gmail.com.

³⁸ We presume this means he was living outside the formal limits of West Nottingham but close enough to be assigned to the same tax assessor.

1721 John Willson's will, probated 7 Apr 1722 in the Cecil County, Maryland shown as Figure 5 grants a cow and a calf to Jeremiah, a gift traditionally given to a daughter (but if married, the gift would typically have been bequeathed to her husband); which strongly suggests that Jeremiah was married to John Willson's daughter³⁹.

245 John Willson by the Grace of God being in his true senses doth will to Thom^s Addams all his Estate in Generale only Excepting one Cow & Calf Jeremiah York which Desireth of said Thom^s Addams to Deliver in the Spring to Jeremiah York this being my Last will & Testament as witness my hand this fifteenth day of January in the year one thousand seven hundred & twenty one

Witnessed by
 Robt Courtney
 Wm Sharswood

at the foot of this will was written as follows

1722 the 7th of Aprile The above was approved in Court before me

Wm Vandenberg Justice of the Peace
 Cecil County

Figure 5: John Willson's 1722 Will

Transcribed, the will reads:

John Willson by the Grace of God being in his true senses doth will to Thomas Addams all his Estate in Generale only Excepting one Cow & Calf Jeremiah York which desireth of said Thomas Addams to Deliver in the Spring to Jeremiah York, this being my last will and testament as witness my hand this fifteenth day of January in the year one thousand seven hundred twenty one.

Witnessed by Robt Courtney and Wm Sharswood

³⁹ Maryland Prerogative Court, "Maryland Prerogative Will Books, 1635-1777," 17, 245; <https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/259693?availability=Family History Library>.

1724 The 1724 tax list is the least clear of all the records. But it does appear that Solomon Alred⁴⁰ is listed right above Jeremiah York, suggesting that they probably lived on adjoining properties. Solomon didn't appear on the tax records again until 1730, suggesting that he may also have been allowed tax relief.



Figure 6: Portion of 1724 Tax List Showing "Alred" and "York on Adjoining Lines

1725 We assume that Jeremiah's first wife, Sarah, died about this time, perhaps due to childbirth, a common cause of death then. This assumed date is based on his apparent marriage to another woman in 1726.

1726 An "Elizabeth York" was investigated and expelled from the New Garden Friends Church for "marrying out of union" (i.e., married a non-Quaker) in 1726. There are several good reasons to believe that this was Jeremiah's second wife. Those reasons and the supporting evidence follows:

1. The first indicator is that Elizabeth married a man named, "York."
 - a. The men's minutes of 11 June 1726 of the New Garden, Pennsylvania Monthly Meeting (hereafter MM) stated:⁴¹

"This meeting being informed that Elizabeth York hath gon to a priest and married a man who was not of our persuasion notwithstanding she was cautioned against it beforehand therefore this meeting agrees that there be a testimony against her and appoints James King and Richard Beeson to write it and bring it to the next monthly meeting."

- b. The women's minutes added that Isabel King and Charity Beeson would also prepare testimony. They were the wives of James King and Richard Beeson mentioned in the men's minutes.
2. According to the archivist at Swarthmore College, where the original records are maintained, the Quaker reports would have used the married name of a woman in her situation and usually would have added (formerly ___) to give her maiden name.⁴² In this case, the minutes do not clarify whether "York" was her maiden

⁴⁰ The surname was usually spelled as "Allred" but sometimes as "Alred" and often confused with "Aldridge" or "Aldrich."

⁴¹ Society of Friends, *New Garden Monthly Meeting Minutes, 1718-1746*. (Swarthmore, PA: Swarthmore College, call #MR-Ph 339); also available at <https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&dbid=2189&h=99847919&ssrc=pt&tid=51652679&pid=250146072778&usePUB=true>

⁴² The possibility that York was Elizabeth's maiden name is slim but cannot be entirely eliminated since standard naming practices may not have been followed. Jeremiah had both a sister (b. 1693) and a distant cousin (b. 1695)

name or married name, but the practice was to use the married name (i.e., her current husband's surname), since that would have been her legal name at the time of the complaint.

3. Elizabeth was apparently from Nottingham.
 - a. The July MM minutes recorded that the testimony was approved, signed, and ordered to be read at Nottingham before the next MM.
 - b. At the August MM, it was reported that the testimony had been read at West Nottingham.
 - c. Having the testimony read at the West Nottingham preparative meeting indicates that Elizabeth York was from there. The Beesons and Kings would have been close enough neighbors to know the facts needed to prepare testimony. Both the Beesons and Kings were on West Nottingham tax lists. Richard Beeson often appeared on the lists near Jeremiah York, suggesting that they were neighbors.
4. Jeremiah York I was the only York of marriageable age listed in West Nottingham.
 - a. Jeremiah was the only York on the tax lists from 1718 to 1730.
 - b. Since the tax lists name included all single men in addition to property holders and taxed them heavily to encourage them to settle and raise a family, the absence of any other York is significant.

We can understand more about this situation from examining Quaker practices and other records of that time. First, Elizabeth York was a Quaker who married a non-Quaker, which was grounds for being disowned from the Quaker faith. After the complaint was reported and testimonies were written, she would have been given a chance to condemn her own behavior, which she apparently did not do. The approval and signing of the testimony at the MM were the official disownment. The reading of the testimony at West Nottingham gave official notice there about the disownment. Typically, she would then be given the testimony. Whatever additional information it contained has not been preserved. The images from these meeting minutes are shown in Appendix B.

This was probably Jeremiah's second marriage, since land records from Frederick County, Virginia indicate that several of his sons were born before 1726. Also, he had been a taxpaying farmer for some time and was not listed with the single "freemen." Beyond these deductions that Elizabeth lived in West Nottingham and may have married a York, one can make more speculative suggestions.

in the Olney area who were named Elizabeth. However, neither of these would fit as an Elizabeth York who emigrated. Jeremiah's sister Elizabeth married in Olney in 1716 and raised a family there. And, his cousin Elizabeth died young. Also, the lack of a record of an Elizabeth York joining the Quakers under the name York argues against her being an emigrant with that maiden name.

Although we have insufficient evidence to conclusively identify this Elizabeth from the known Quakers, it is worth noting that there is at least one potential candidate. Records show Elizabeth Kirk transferred to the Quaker New Garden Monthly Meeting, which included West Nottingham, on 4 Mar 1722/23 from elsewhere in Pennsylvania. There is no corresponding husband that transferred. She, but not a husband, is listed as a witness to a Quaker marriage in Nottingham on 14 April 1726.⁴³ Possibly she was moving to West Nottingham with a related Kirk family and married Jeremiah a few years later, leading to her expulsion from the Quaker meeting.

It is also very peculiar that Jeremiah appeared twice on the 1726 tax roll in West Nottingham (Chester County Archives). A possible explanation is that Jeremiah was taxed for his own property and also for property that his new wife brought to their marriage. And an additional odd coincidence is that Roger and Wm. Kirk are also listed twice in 1726. While the duplicate Roger Kirks may actually be separate people based on entries for other years that distinguish them by age or occupation, William Kirk and Jeremiah do not have duplicate entries in other years. Also, they are listed next to each other twice in 1726, and the Richard Beeson who was assigned to investigate the marriage of Elizabeth York out-of-union is only two lines away from one of the York - Wm Kirk pairs. One can conclude that Jeremiah and the Kirks were close neighbors and postulate that the close proximity may have led to a marriage between Jeremiah and Elizabeth Kirk.

Although we do not have clear evidence to explain these two duplications in the 1726 tax roll or are even certain that the record is accurate, one intriguing hypothesis is that Samuel Kirk, listed in 1722 as moderately well off with 20 £ valuation, died before the next preserved tax list a few years later and left his land to son William Kirk and daughter Elizabeth through her husband Jeremiah York. Each of them then disposed or consolidated their land after the 1726 tax list. Additional research may shed light on this possible connection.

Regardless of Elizabeth York's roots, she provides perhaps the only direct Quaker link for a York in that region at that time. Quaker vital records and meeting records from that time period and location are fairly extensive, many have been indexed, and Elizabeth's is the only known "York" record.

As noted earlier, Jeremiah York does not appear in any records as a Quaker in America or England. However, his moves from West Nottingham, Pennsylvania to Frederick County, Virginia and later to Randolph County, North Carolina mirrored those of neighboring Quakers. These moves were related to shared economic conditions and

⁴³ The marriage of George Robinson to Mary MacKay, daughter of Robert MacKay, who is discussed later as spearheading land settlement in western Virginia. Cecil O'Dell, *Pioneers of Old Frederick County, Virginia*. (Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 1995), p413.

farming opportunities, but it also seems highly likely that Elizabeth had both relatives and friends among the Quakers in West Nottingham, which would help explain those moves.

The “Late Arrival” Scenario

The “Late Arrival” scenario has been used as a working hypothesis by many York genealogists since about 1980. We called it this because it is based on the assumption that Jeremiah remained in England until shortly before he appeared on a 1718 tax roll in Pennsylvania.

Making this assumption of emigration about 1717 leads to additional assumptions for which there is no proof. If Jeremiah remained in England until 1717, he would have been thirty-four. It is reasonable to assume that a man would have married and most likely have had children by that age. The presumption of a wife led to the necessity of two more assumptions: her given and family names. York genealogists initially proposed and used “Sarah” as this wife’s given name, based on it frequently appearing in subsequent York generations. A clever suggestion for her family name was based on Jeremiah’s son’s given name “Seymour.” This was a very uncommon name, and genealogical records often show that such a name given as a person’s first or middle name was often handed down from the family name of the mother or earlier female branch. Thus, Jeremiah’s wife was assumed to be “Sarah Seymore,” and this name has been widely propagated by the internet.⁴⁴

The unfortunate consequence of this proposition, as too often happens on internet-based genealogy sites, is that undocumented assumptions and poorly justified *embellishments* are subsequently added, such as birth dates, parents and even hypothetical children. This has happened in the case of the assumed Sarah Seymour, and unfortunately, many people have accepted the wide-spread repetition of these assumptions as “facts.”

Despite our extensive research, no valid contemporary records have been found in Olney, England or in nearby towns regarding a “Sarah Seymore” or similarly named person that could have been Jeremiah’s first wife.⁴⁵ There are no birth or death records for Sarah, no marriage record for Jeremiah and Sarah, and no records of children’s births. This is a complete absence of any credible records from a place and time where records were legally required, and which generally survive in today’s archives.

⁴⁴ We should note that this suggestion that Jeremiah’s wife’s surname was “Seymour” was made at least a decade before the discovery that “Jeremiah Seymour” was Jeremiah’s maternal grandfather (James Earl York, III).

⁴⁵ James Earl York III, *The Emigrant Jeremiah York: His English Ancestors and American Descendants to James Earl York III*. (2007). *op. cit.*

There are good reasons to doubt that a real "Sarah Seymour" ever existed. The only apparent basis for her first name (a popular name of that era) is that several of her granddaughters (and perhaps a daughter) had that name. From that it was postulated that they were named after Jeremiah's wife. The basis for her proposed surname is an attempt to explain her son's unusual first name Semore/Seymour. However, since records of Parish Register of St. Peter and St. Paul's Church have now been found that established that Jeremiah's mother had that surname, there is no need to hypothesize that it came from Jeremiah's wife.⁴⁶

It would be uncommon for both Jeremiah and his father to have married Seymours, so it is more likely that "Sarah's" maiden name is a different and undocumented surname. Furthermore, the dates of Sarah's birth and death have been routinely changed by various genealogists as required to fit whatever story line they are constructing at the time.⁴⁷ This, in itself, implies that there are no factual records for these events.

Sarah Seymour's parents are typically shown on internet-based compilations as Col. John Seymour and Johanna, both born about 1635. The basis for Sarah's connection to them is unknown but suspect, especially since it is unlikely that her maiden name was Seymour. None of Sarah's estimated birth dates, which vary between 1692 and 1705, seem to match biological reality because these proposed parents would have been about 60 or older at Sarah's birth. Col. Seymour's death date of 30 July 1709 is likely confused with the well-established same death date of a Col. John Seymour who was Governor of Maryland. He was born 18 Sept 1659 in Gloucestershire, married twice (neither named Johanna or Joan), and had four children (none named Sarah). The 1635 birth dates may have come from another Col. John Seymour, who was from Beny Pomeroy in Devon, and could have been born circa 1635 (his next older sibling was b. 1633). This Col. Seymour married a Kennedy (first name and birth date unknown), daughter of a Sir Richard Kennedy, but no children were listed in the landed gentry catalogs. There are other Seymours who could hypothetically link to Sarah without invoking aristocratic origins. But if the Yorks and Seymours of Olney are an indication, our York family origins are humbler.⁴⁸

Furthermore, Jeremiah himself disappears from official records in England after his birth in 1693, indicating that he did not remain there and marry anyone of any name.

Therefore, in view of both more recent data and the absence of critical supporting data, where it should exist, we recommend that York genealogists abandon the "Late

⁴⁶ Church of St Peter and St. Paul. "Parish Registers, Church of St Peter and St Paul in Olney, Buckinghamshire."

⁴⁷ There is the possibility that York genealogists of previous generations heard family lore that the Seymour given name came from a maiden name, that they postulated it came from Jeremiah's wife, and then that assumption was passed on, although we have no written information to support that possibility. In any case, the parish records show that the maiden name belongs to Jeremiah's mother, not his wife.

⁴⁸ James Earl York III, *The Emigrant, Section II: York's of Olney and Surrounding Parishes in Buckinghamshire, England, 1665-1823*, op. cit. p. 8.

Arrival” scenario and adopt the “Early Arrival” scenario as the more probable of the two.

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Moving to Terrapin Neck, Virginia

In the following sections, we trace the movement of Jeremiah and his family from West Nottingham in Chester County Pennsylvania through the Pipe Creek area of the Monocacy Valley in Maryland and then to Terrapin Neck in Virginia (near current Shepherdstown, West Virginia). This is another portion of Jeremiah's life that we believe that happened much differently than has been assumed by most prior York genealogists.

We show how Jeremiah's move reflects two major trends:

- (1) As settled land was becoming more expensive due to population pressure and less productive due to then-common over-farming techniques, families looked for cheaper and unfarmed land to accommodate growing families and the next generation of families.
- (2) Colonial governments were incentivizing settlers to move westward to nearly unoccupied areas both to help establish each colony's claim and to serve as a buffer against potential French and Indian pressure from further west.

It is especially impressive to note the challenges that early settlers faced – navigating along old Indian paths that had been only slightly improved to bridle paths by traders. The first convoys of families with wagons would have to widen the trails and cut trees close to the ground so that carts and wagons could pass. Even so, the task of starting farms from scratch with only the minimal equipment and supplies they carried into the wilderness would have been daunting.

1730 -1731 Setting the Stage

Jeremiah disappeared from the West Nottingham tax roll after being listed in 1729. For many years, most York genealogists assumed that he left West Nottingham about 1730 and that he then moved to “the Pipe Creek Settlement” where his son Henry was born in 1732. In contrast, we do not believe that Jeremiah left West Nottingham in 1730 nor that he established some sort of temporary homestead at a location called “the Pipe Creek Settlement” in the wilderness of western Maryland, before moving on to Terrapin Neck, Virginia.⁴⁹

Our recent research has led to a much different sequence of events, more in tune with contemporary events and geography. We believe that it is much more logical that

⁴⁹ The “conventional” scenario that Jeremiah left Nottingham in 1730 and spent several years in Monocacy Valley Maryland is not considered viable because there were fewer than thirty recorded land owners in western Maryland at that time and the location to which he was presumed to have moved was a total wilderness far removed from even those few.

Jeremiah's family was one of the first of a few hundred known to have moved into the lower valleys of the Shenandoah and Opequon Rivers in Virginia in 1732 - 1734. Many people were involved in overcoming the political and physical challenges that made these new settlements west of the Blue Ridge Mountains possible. We will attempt to summarize how these events progressed and how they most probably impacted Jeremiah.

We believe that Jeremiah remained in West Nottingham until 1732. We think that the reason that Jeremiah did not appear on the tax rolls in 1730 is that he either was granted poor relief or did not pay taxes to Chester County due to a dispute over whether his land was in Pennsylvania or Maryland. Also, Chester County either did not collect taxes in 1731 or all records were lost.⁵⁰ So, his absence from these records is not proof that he was somewhere else.

By 1730, pressure for change was building up on Jeremiah and his neighbors in West Nottingham. From associated family names wherever Jeremiah lived in America, we know that he usually had Quaker neighbors. These neighbors no doubt had the same motivation for migrating and we think moved about the same time as Jeremiah, possibly together. Because Quaker records were meticulously kept and have been preserved, tracking Quaker migration patterns has helped us understand events affecting Jeremiah too.

Added to the steady immigration of Scotch-Irish from Ireland, large waves of immigrants from northern Europe, especially the German Palatine States, began arriving in Pennsylvania about 1710 as a result of the War of Spanish Succession and increasing religious persecution of protestants in Europe. By 1730, these immigrants had pushed well beyond Philadelphia, and the Quakers and others in West Nottingham were feeling the pressure of rising land prices and cultural change.⁵¹

In addition, the Proprietors of Pennsylvania and Maryland continued to openly disagree about where the border was between their colonies and whether West Nottingham was in Pennsylvania or Maryland.⁵² The two colonies were attempting to issue competing land grants, and both were trying to collect taxes in the contested overlap zone. Surveyors, tax collectors and even settlers of each colony were actively harassed by representatives of the other.

⁵⁰ Chester County only collected taxes when they were needed to replenish the county treasury. They were skipped about one year out of five between 1715 and 1775, per John Gilbert McCurdy, "Taxation and Representation: Pennsylvania Bachelors and the American Revolution," *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, CXXIX (2005), p. 294.

⁵¹ Parke Rouse Jr., *The Great Wagon Road, From Philadelphia to the South*. (Richmond: Dietz Press, 2008).

⁵² Both Pennsylvania and Maryland were proprietary colonies, i.e. all land was initially owned by Wm. Penn and George Calvert, 1st Baron Baltimore, or their successors, per their grants from English Kings. Within their colonies they had nearly sovereign powers and were officially referred to as Proprietors. In contrast, Virginia was a "crown" colony.

Because of their need for land⁵³ and to avoid the on-going dispute, the Quakers of West Nottingham (and others) began making preparations to move. The areas most open to relocation were western Maryland and the lower Shenandoah and Opequon Valleys of northern Virginia. This was because several American Indian tribes still resisted westward expansion of Europeans in Pennsylvania, and the French claimed the part of western Pennsylvania that drained into the Ohio River.

A few Quakers were among the very first settlers in Frederick County, Maryland. Henry and Josiah Ballenger from Salem in West Jersey were the first Quakers to settle on land near today's Buckeystown, along the Monocacy River south of today's Frederick, Maryland. They arrived some time before 1725, when Josiah's tract was surveyed. Soon after, James Wright, William Beals, and others from Nottingham settled nearby. About 1726, they applied to New Garden monthly meeting to hold a meeting for worship, which was held initially at the house of Josiah Ballenger. Although a few others joined them, their numbers remained small.⁵⁴ Fewer than thirty tracts were settled in all of the Monocacy region by 1730, and the majority were not Quakers.⁵⁵ Even though the number of inhabitants grew to about a hundred by 1734, Jeremiah York was not listed among them.

The Monocacy River watershed was still truly a wilderness, with settlers only connected to one another by pack horse trails. There was an extensive network of Indian paths in Pennsylvania and Maryland that preceded the colonists' penetration of the backwoods and continued to be the primary means of travel. The Indian paths were typically only about 18" wide, because the Indians traveled on foot and single-file. They had an uncanny knack of following ridge-lines along the valleys to avoid wet and marshy ground in all seasons and to traverse mountain ranges by a route that minimized steep climbs and descents.⁵⁶

⁵³ Additional land was needed as families grew and because farming methods of that time tended to deplete the soil.

⁵⁴ By 1735, Josiah and Henry Ballenger, James Wright and William Beals were registered members at the Hopewell MM in the Opequon Valley per T. H. Fawcett, T. H. Quaker Migration from Pennsylvania and New Jersey to Hopewell Monthly Meeting, 1732-1759. Bulletin of Friends Historical Association, V26, No.2, (1937), 102-108; Retrieved from <http://www.jstor.org/stable/41944054>.

⁵⁵ Grace L. Tracey & John P. Dern, *Pioneers of Old Monocacy: The Early Settlement of Frederick County, Maryland, 1721-1743*, (Historical Society of Carroll County, Maryland, 1987, Reprint, for Clearfield Company by Genealogical Publishing, Baltimore, 2002; Google Books, <https://books.google.com/books?hl=en&lr=&id=Ei2NW7IXYsIC&oi=fnd&pg=PA1&dq=Pioneers+of+Old+Monocacy&ots=bNGnXZlAh9&sig=BUFkgPJPlqcSWlxsKnuP5kwBVxY>. This is an exceptionally complete historical record of people and properties involved in the early settlement of western Maryland, generally known as the Monocacy Valley.

⁵⁶ Paul A. W. Wallace. *Indian Paths of Pennsylvania*. (Harrisburg, PA: Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. 2005).

Fur traders and trappers followed these paths and gradually widened them by their pack horses. Some of the trails extended westward and crossed the Potomac River to provide access to the Shenandoah and Opequon valleys of Virginia beyond the Blue Ridge Mountains. Although, per the 1722 Treaty of New Albany, the colonists were not supposed to settle beyond the Blue Ridge Mountains, the inevitable happened. A trader/trapper named Israel Friend bought a tract of land from the Indians and settled on the Maryland side of the Potomac near the mouth of the Antietam Creek in 1727.

1730 First Settlements Approved in the Lower Shenandoah Valley

Other trappers and traders saw that the land south of the Potomac in the “Valley of Virginia” was highly desirable and approached the Virginia Council to propose settlements west of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Until 1730, those proposals were rejected. Part of the Council’s reasons were that the land west of the Blue Ridge Mountains was considered, by some, to be off-limits to British settlements per the 1722 Treaty of Albany with the Five Nations. But an equally important constraint was a conflict in ownership.

In this instance, the dispute began far away and many years earlier. In 1649, when Charles II was temporarily in exile after his father had been beheaded, he decided to reward six of his faithful supports with a grant of land in the Virginia Colony, which was called the Northern Neck Proprietary. This grant included all the land between the Rappahannock and Potomac Rivers. One problem with this was that no one at the time had any clear idea regarding the specific boundaries and extent of this grant until surveys almost ninety years later. They assumed that these rivers originated in the barely visible eastern range of the Blue Ridge Mountains, but at that time there were no settlements and limited exploration upstream of the fall line on these two rivers. It subsequently was determined that the headwaters of the Potomac were much farther west and that the Proprietary was vastly greater than imagined, encompassing over five million acres (Everson, Cartmell and Kercheval).

By 1719, the six shares in the Proprietary had been consolidated by marriages and inheritances in a single person: Thomas, the sixth Lord Fairfax. Lord Fairfax and his predecessors had nearly sovereign control over these lands, much like William Penn in Pennsylvania and Lord Calvert in Maryland, including the rights to tax the inhabitants and sell parcels of land.

The colonial government of Virginia was not favorably disposed to losing the financial benefits of this large tract of land, especially after having also lost Maryland to Lord Calvert. This led to a conflict over boundaries, governance, taxation and land sales in the Proprietary that lasted until after the American Revolution.⁵⁷ The colonial Virginia

⁵⁷ Dan Everson, *A History of the National Conservation Training Center Property, and Surrounding Area*, (self-published, 2011); T. K. Cartmell, *Shenandoah Valley Pioneers and Their Descendants: A History of Frederick County*

Council was aware of the ownership prerogatives of the Proprietor, but they chose to exploit the uncertainty regarding the Proprietary's boundaries by allocating tracts of land within areas that they argued would be resolved in their favor.

By 1730, the Virginia Council became concerned about efforts by the French to link up their Canadian possessions with those in Louisiana, intending to claim the entire Ohio River watershed and constrain westward expansion of the British Colonies. Fearful of French encroachment and Indian troubles from the west, the Virginia Council decided to promote settlement west of the Blue Ridge Mountains to establish a protecting buffer.⁵⁸

In 1730, the Virginia Council approved orders to three individuals to settle 140,000 acres west of the Blue Ridge in the Shenandoah Valley.⁵⁹ They followed with three more orders in 1731 for 170,000 acres. and at least two more in 1732 for 30,000 acres. Lord Fairfax's agent in Virginia, Robert "King" Carter, lodged formal protests to these allocations with the Virginia Council, which caused them to suspend further orders pending resolution of the disputed boundaries.

Of these eight orders, the four in the lower Shenandoah to the van Meter brothers, Jost Hite, and Alexander Ross and his partner Morgan Bryan have the greatest relevance to Jeremiah's story. Along with the other five,⁶⁰ these permissive orders from the Virginia Council were significant because (except for Berkeley) they were awarded to men who were not wealthy, not well-connected within the colonies or in England, were not Anglicans and, above all, were not Virginian gentry! It is difficult to imagine the debates that must have occurred in the paternalistic Virginia Council before they could accept the proposals of these "underqualified" men and believe that they would be capable of recruiting and settling the required number of families beyond the mountains.

Unknowingly, these orders set the stage for a westward migration of hardy, capable, individualistic Protestants from Pennsylvania, Maryland, New York and Jersey who not only settled the western regions of Virginia but ultimately filled and determined much of the character of America.

Virginia (illustrated) from Its Formation in 1738 to 1908. (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, 2009); S. Kercheval, *A History of the Valley of Virginia.* (Heritage Books, 1909, reprinted Baltimore: Clearfield, 2002); and S. E. Brown Jr, *Virginia Baron: The Story of Thomas 6th Lord Fairfax.* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, 1965).

⁵⁸ Stuart E. Brown Jr., *Virginia Baron: The Story of Thomas 6th Lord Fairfax.* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, 1965); Google Books,

<https://books.google.com/books?hl=en&lr=&id=NegX1ykdfuQC&oi=fnd&pg=PR7&dq=Stuart+Brown+Virginia+Baron&ots=UiTWv6T8HY&sig=9hjxpxJ4IEScc49I0wLs99dg-x4>

⁵⁹ Virginia Council argued that this was legal by asserting that the Potomac began at the confluence of the Shenandoah and Cohonguroota, as the upstream portion was then called, and therefore the land was not part of Lord Fairfax's Northern Neck Proprietary.

⁶⁰ To Wm. Berkeley, John Fishback, Jacob Stover, John Robinson and Francis Willis

On 17 June 1730, John Van Meter⁶¹ and his brother Isaac acquired a grant from the Virginia Council for 40,000 acres of land between the Shenandoah and Opequon, and south of the Cohonguroota.⁶² The grant was subject to the settlement of one family, for each 1,000 acres, within two years. This grant was not for a specific tract of land; it allowed the grant holder to sell any properly surveyed tract of land in the assigned region. The Van Meters' plan was to recruit settlers from among their business partners and friends back in Pennsylvania, New York and Jersey. However, a financially adept Alsatian immigrant by the name of Jost Hite⁶³ heard of the wonderful land to be had and purchased the Van Meter brothers' grants from them on 5 August 1731. Hite and his Quaker partner Robert McKay jointly acquired the rights for an additional 100,000 acres from the Virginia Council on October 31, 1731 for land between the Shenandoah and the Opequon "not granted to others". The terms of this grant also required the settlement of at least one family per 1000 acres within two years.⁶⁴

Meanwhile, the Quakers in Nottingham were making preparations to move, apparently setting their sights on the Opequon Valley in Virginia instead of the Monocacy Valley in Maryland. In 1730, the West Nottingham Monthly Meeting minutes show that Alexander Ross was put on a committee to explore options. Ross and his partner, Morgan Bryan, approached the Virginia Council and received a grant of 100,000a. on 28 October 1730, four months after the Van Meter brothers. The Hite/McKay grants were to be south and east of the Opequon across the valley to the Shenandoah, and the Ross/Bryan grants were to be north and west of the Opequon. It seems that there was some overlap in subsequent individual land claims; a few settlers recruited by each party ended up on land recorded by the other.⁶⁵

It is important to note that both partnerships included a Quaker from the West Nottingham Monthly Meeting--Ross on one, and McKay on the other. Obviously, a principal part of their roles was to recruit settlers from among the Quaker communities of Pennsylvania. Circumstantial evidence suggests that it is more likely that Jeremiah was recruited by McKay because:

- the land that Jeremiah chose to settle was in the section between the Shenandoah and Opequon Rivers allocated to Hite and McKay,

⁶¹ Van Meter was one of the first fur trappers to settle on land in the Monocacy area of Maryland and was the sheriff and tax collector for Frederick County for several years between 1728-1734.

⁶² Now known as the Potomac River.

⁶³ Also found spelled as Hans, Justus or Joist Heydt, Heyd, Heijt, Hide and Height.

⁶⁴ This was subsequently extended to 1735.

⁶⁵ Wilmer L. Kerns, *Two Settlements at Opequon*. (2001); Retrieved from <https://www.ancestry.com/boards/localities.northam.usa.states.virginia.counties.frederick/2183/mb.ashx>. This may be an excerpt from Kerns' "Frederick County, Virginia; Settlement and Some First Families in Back Creek Valley, 1730-1830." (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, 1995).

- and Jeremiah's second wife may have been Elizabeth Kirk, known to be a friend of the McKays.⁶⁶

1732 The Route from Pennsylvania to the Opequon Valley

In 1732, Hite and Ross each led parties to settle in the Opequon Valley. Both parties had made surveys in their allocated areas by that fall, but historians differ as to which party arrived first. We lean toward the premise that Hite was first, based on the record of Kercheval⁶⁷ and because Hite claimed to be the one who had to widen the Indian paths to accommodate wagons. Also, it appears that Hite made his preparations to leave Pennsylvania before Ross did.

Hite sold his land and mill on the Skippack River in January 1730/1731, even before purchasing the Van Meters' grants.⁶⁸ Ross is recorded as holding an auction of his personal property in Nottingham on 16 September 1732.⁶⁹ It seems odd to have begun such an arduous journey as late in the year as September. So, we presume Ross had made an earlier trip to the Opequon to establish a home site and that this was a return to Nottingham to sell his property and bring his remaining household goods.

We assume that since Hite had time in 1730 and 1731 to prepare, he would have gathered his party and begun the trip to Virginia as early in 1732 as the weather permitted.⁷⁰ At least some of Hite's party had wagons, which meant they had to use the few existing roads or make their own. Although Pennsylvania was reported to have the best roads among the colonies, the roads outside of the immediate vicinity of Philadelphia were largely undeveloped, and few were capable of carrying wagon traffic in 1732.

In Lancaster County, which Hite's party had to cross, there had been some "common" roads as early as 1714. But these were short roads leading to locally important places like mills and churches. Only a single road, the "Old Conestoga Road," crossed the

⁶⁶ Cecil O'Dell, *Pioneers of Old Frederick County, Virginia*, *op. cit.* says on p.412 that Elizabeth Kirk was a witness at the marriage of McKay's daughter Mary to George Robinson on 14 April 1726 in Nottingham.

⁶⁷ Samuel Kercheval. *A History of the Valley of Virginia*, *op. cit.* p15.

⁶⁸ Nancy K. Gaugler & Ralph Connor, "Jost Hite: From the Neckar to the Shenandoah," *Pennsylvania Folklife* Vol. 37, No. 1 (1987): 15–32; retrieved from

<https://digitalcommons.ursinus.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=https://www.google.com/&httpsredir=1&article=1117&context=pafolkclifemag>.

⁶⁹ Kirk Brown, "Early Settlement of Friends in the Valley of Virginia," *The West Virginia Historical Magazine* V3, n1 (1903): 55–59. Brown's paper gave the date in Quaker format as "7th Month 16th day 1732."

⁷⁰ Jim Coburn, a direct descendant of Jost Hite and John van Meter, believes that the Hite party made the trip in 1731, crossing the Potomac in the late fall when the water would typically be at its lowest. He thinks that they then wintered over on the south side of the Potomack near today's Sheperdstown, West Virginia and then moved further south in the valley to settle along the Opequon Creek in the spring of 1732. Coburn, *Opequon Creek: Early Settlers of the Shenandoah Valley*, Amazon eBook, accessed 2019.

county from east to west.⁷¹ This was a precursor to the “King’s Road” from Philadelphia to Lancaster that was commissioned a year later and eventually became part of the

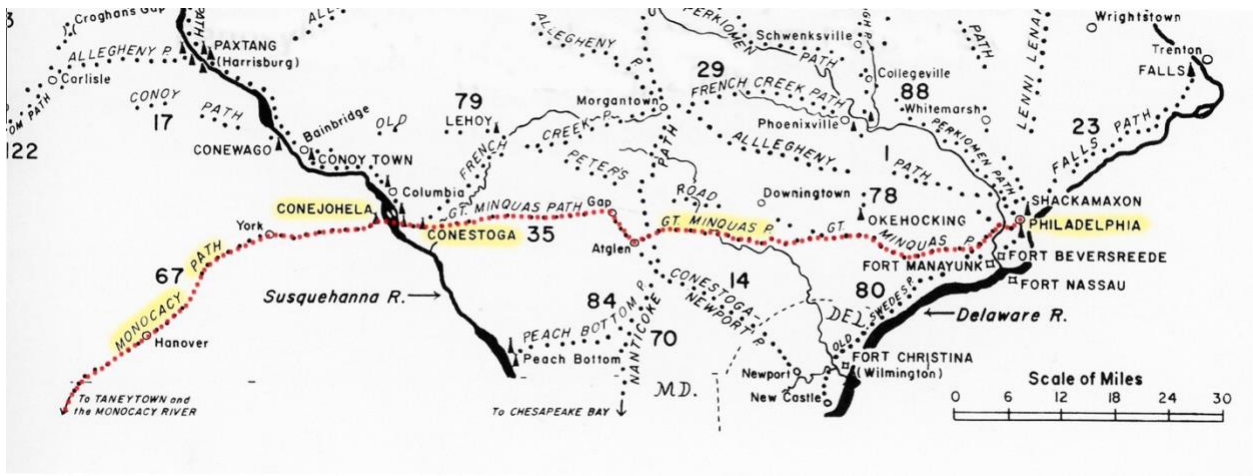


Figure 7: Hite's Probable Route

Great Wagon Road. The Conestoga Road ran westward from Philadelphia, roughly following the Indians’ Great Minquas Path to Washington Boro on the eastern shore of the Susquehanna River.⁷²

In 1730, a ferry across the Susquehanna was established at the Blue Rocks by Thomas Cresap. The ferry crossed the river from the location of today’s Washington Boro, on the east side, to Conejohela, on the west side. That there was a ferry across the Susquehanna was obviously a great help to Hite and his wagons. But Cresap’s presence was also the catalyst for escalating the border conflict between Maryland and Pennsylvania into what became known as “Cresap’s War.”

Once across the Susquehanna River, the Hite party’s task became immensely more difficult. Pennsylvania had only opened the lands west of the Susquehanna to settlement by Pennsylvania in 1728, and there were not yet any roads in the future York County.⁷³ At this point on the west bank, known as Conejohela, Hite’s party connected with the northern end of the Monocacy Path⁷⁴, which was the only available route into western Maryland and onto Virginia. This was a well-known trader’s pack-horse trail

⁷¹ Frank H. Eshleman, “History of Lancaster County’s Highway System From 1714 to 1760, and Map,” (Lancaster County Historical Society, Vol. XXVI, No. 3, 1922).

<https://play.google.com/books/reader?id=DG9IAAAAYAAJ&printsec=frontcover&pg=GBS.PA35>

⁷² Paul A. Wallace, *Indian Paths of Pennsylvania*, (Harrisburg: Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, 2005).

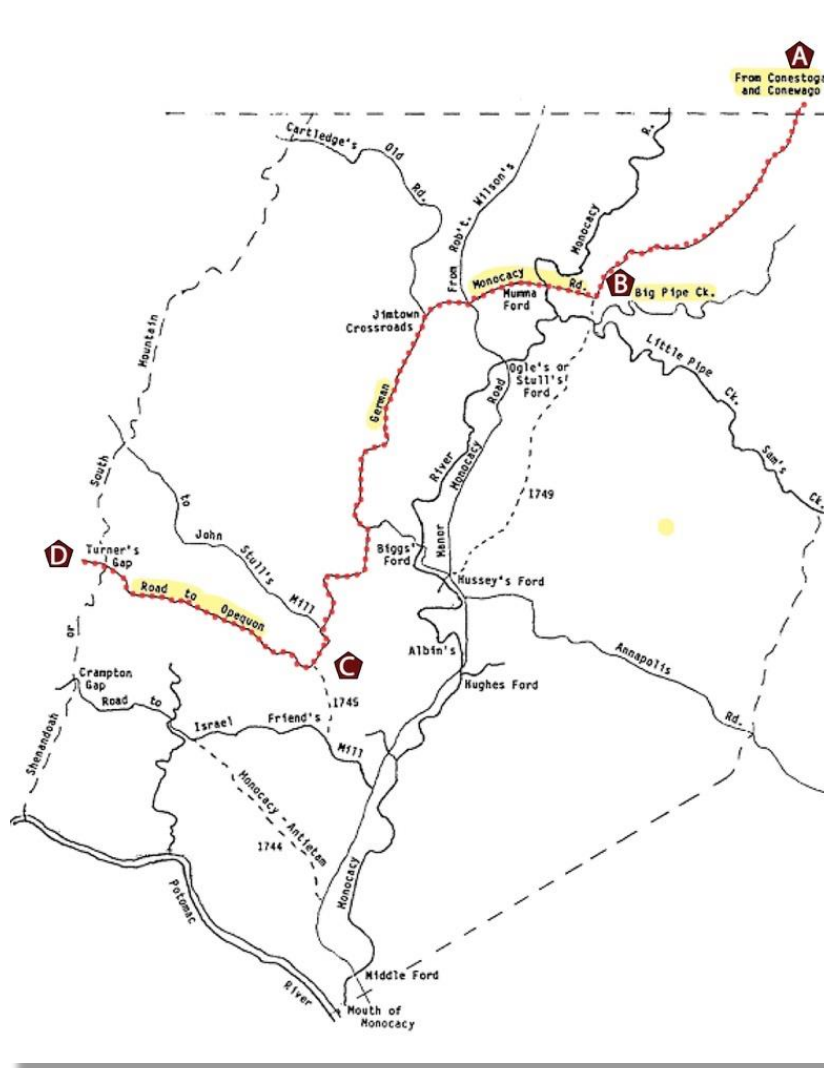
⁷³ The town of York, Pennsylvania wasn’t established until 1741, and York didn’t become a county until 1749.

⁷⁴ Wm. Marye, in *The Old Indian Road*, Maryland Historical Magazine, Vol 15, num. 4, (Maryland Historical Society, 1920) described this portion of the trail west of the Susquehanna as an extension of the Conestoga Road, but it was much more often referred to as the Monocacy Path or Road.

by then, but it would not have been capable of carrying wagon traffic. One of the most amazing things we learned from our research is that Hite's party then proceeded to cut through the woods to widen the path and clear stumps for their wagons, all the way from York to the Opequon Valley, a distance of over 100 miles!

The northern portion of the Monocacy Road first crossed the Codorus and Conewago Creeks in today's York and Adams Counties and then crossed the border into Maryland southwest of today's Hanover, Pennsylvania. Figure 7 shows the Pennsylvania portion of the route that the Hite party probably traveled from Philadelphia to the Monocacy

Path, overlaid on a portion of the map of Pennsylvania Indian Paths by Wallace.



Once across the border into Maryland, Hite's party would have followed the Monocacy path (which subsequently was improved enough to be called the "Monocacy Road") along the route highlighted on a map of early Monocacy roads from Tracey and Dern, shown here as Figure 8.⁷⁵

The "A" in the top right (northwest) corner of the map shows the route originating in Pennsylvania. The route from A to B, is essentially Maryland 194 today, from the Pennsylvania boarder to a junction where the main route (at that time) turned west on today's Keysville Rd. to cross the Monocacy River at Mumma's Ford. Nearly

Figure 8: Route through Monocacy from Pennsylvania toward Opequon

⁷⁵ Grace L. Tracey and John P. Dern, *Pioneers of Old Monocacy: The Early Settlement of Frederick County, Maryland, 1721-1743*, op. cit., p.46; used with permission of The Historical Society of Carroll County, Maryland.

thirty years later, this well-traveled route was shown on Scull's 1759 map as the "Manakisy Road".⁷⁶

After fording the Monocacy, the route headed initially west and then south to point C, which was near John van Meter's land then and Frederick, Maryland today. From here, they could take the trail west to the Opequon River valley. Tracy indicates that this became known as the "German Monocacy Road" because the industrious German immigrants traveling this route (in Hite's party and later) were clearing and improving the road in order to make it passable for their wagons.

Location "D" is at Turner's Gap where Alt US 40 crosses the South Mountain today. After crossing South Mountain, the Opequon road went southwest along the route of today's Maryland 34 to cross the Potomac at the Pack Horse Ford near today's Shepherdstown, WV. In 1732, that was unchartered territory beyond the border of Spotsylvania County,⁷⁷ which only went as far as the Shenandoah River.

Hite's party of sixteen families included five of his sons, three of his daughters, and four business partners. When they arrived in the valley, they would have selected a dry location close to a good water supply as a base camp, from which they could scout the area for locations that they wished to purchase. Although wild game was plentiful, they were hard put to survive on the limited goods that they had been able to bring with them. In Hite's own words,

"put to such Hardships and Difficulties as are scarcely to be conceived being Obligated to Live in their Wagons till they Built some small Huts to shelter themselves from the Inclemency of the Weather and so far Distant from any settlement but especially from any such as could supply them any Provisions of Necessaries that they could scarce procure any one thing nearer than Pennsylvania or Fredericksburg which were near two hundred miles distant and to which for the greatest and most Difficult Parts of the way they were Obligated to make roads".⁷⁸

One can easily see why it would have been very fortunate for Ross and his party of settlers to have followed Hite to Virginia! The news that the road could now carry

⁷⁶ Nicholas Scull, A Map of the Improved Parts of the Province of Pennsylvania, (Philadelphia: N. Scull, 1759); Retrieved from <https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3820.ar129600/?r=0.555,0.028,0.15,0.11,0>. This was the first map of Pennsylvania to be printed in America.

⁷⁷ Orange County was formed in 1734, then Frederick County was formed from part of Orange County in 1743. Then this northern portion of Frederick County became Berkeley County, Virginia in 1772, and the eastern portion that contained Terrapin Neck became Jefferson County in 1801. Berkeley and Jefferson Counties were made part of West Virginia in 1863, a decision that was contested by Virginia after the Civil War but upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court.

⁷⁸ N. K. Gaugler and R. Connor "Jost Hite: From the Neckar to the Shenandoah," *Pennsylvania Folklife*, Vol. 37, No. 1, 1987, p15-32; Retrieved from <https://digitalcommons.ursinus.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=https://www.google.com/&httpsredir=1&article=1117&context=pafolklifemag>

wagons and that they were able to ford the Monocacy and Potomac Rivers would have been a strong encouragement to those in West Nottingham planning or considering a move to Opequon. That information would have been communicated quickly to the Quakers and neighbors at West Nottingham because Hite's partner Robert McKay and Alexander Ross were both members in Nottingham and had financial incentives to promote settlements.

Meanwhile, pressure to leave West Nottingham was certainly building throughout 1732 because the dispute over their border had intensified into open warfare between Pennsylvania and Maryland. Cresap had settled a good 20 - 25 miles north of the temporary border that was agreed to by Pennsylvania and Maryland authorities. Maryland authorized Cresap's efforts to promote settlements in the name of Maryland and to eject Pennsylvanians, which he did forcefully. The Pennsylvanian residents and authorities responded in kind and the skirmishes became violent and occasionally deadly. Sheriffs and posses were arresting and imprisoning leading citizens suspected of siding with the other party in this dispute.

At least one party led by Ross or his partner Bryan must have left West Nottingham before his auction in September 1732. We assume that Ross must have made at least one trip back to Nottingham to dispose of his remaining property there in September after establishing his settlement near Opequon Creek.

Only about half of the members of Ross' initial or subsequent parties that made the trip to the Opequon are known. According to the settlements recorded in Virginia, the parties included several Quakers from West Nottingham and other Pennsylvania Monthly Meetings but also included about an equal number of non-Quakers.

We do not know for certain that any of them used wagons but presume that they would have done so if they had one. Also, as was the case in many other migrations in succeeding generations, several families might have jointly purchased a wagon to make a long-distance, one-way move like this. The German settlers in Conestoga area of Lancaster County had already begun to build wagons at least fifteen years before 1732.⁷⁹ But we suspect that the early versions that might have been used in this trip would have been fairly compact farm wagons and probably not the classic Conestoga Wagon design that came along twenty years later during the French and Indian War. The big Conestogas would have needed larger teams of specially bred horses to pull them.

Even if there were a few wagons, most families would have also used packhorses, which could carry up to 200 pounds if properly loaded. Most people would have been walking, and livestock would have been driven or led along behind the wagons and

⁷⁹ "Conestoga Wagon," Wikipedia (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conestoga_wagon), retrieved 27 March 2018.

packhorses by children. Even if there were no wagons, a trail that had been cleared or beaten down by some traffic would have been a blessing. In reality, pack horses were preferable to wagons in many ways: they could go up and down steep hills, readily ford small streams, and follow trails that simply went around inconvenient obstacles like large trees and boulders. Pack horse trains were the primary means of transporting goods along frontier routes.

Few of the public roads described by Eshleman⁸⁰ were within twenty miles of West Nottingham at that time. But there was a network of “common” roads or trails that

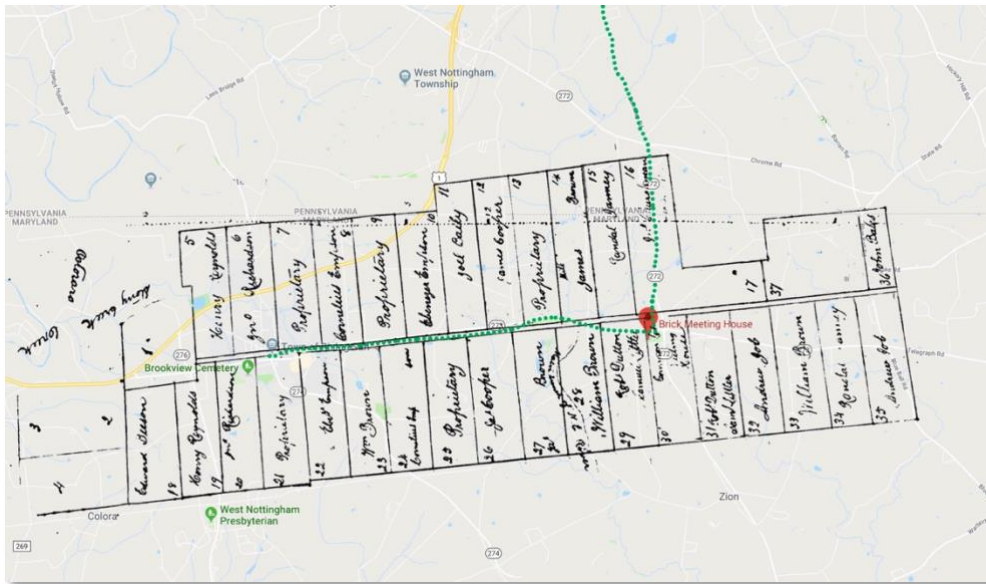


Figure 9: Road from Nottingham Lots to Nanticoke Trail

could have provided the access the families needed to reach the Conestoga Road for the first portion of their trip. The families that left West Nottingham to go to Virginia probably first went about five miles east along a local “common” road to where East Nottingham’s Brick Meeting House⁸¹ was built about 1724, as shown on Figure 9. That is where Maryland 272 & 273 intersect at Calvert, Maryland today.

The north-south road there today, Maryland 272, corresponds closely to the Nanticoke Trail of native Americans (green dots on Figure 10) and would have allowed the Nottingham folks to travel about five miles north to where they would have been able to intersect with and follow the same Minquas path/Conestoga Road to the northwest (also the continuation of Maryland 272) that the Hite party most likely used to get to a

⁸⁰ Frank H. Eshleman, *History of Lancaster County’s Highway System from 1714 to 1760*, op. cit.

⁸¹ The Nottingham Brick Meeting House was built on the highest ground in the area, personally selected and set aside by William Penn in 1701 “...for the combined purpose of public worship, the right of burial and the privilege of education” per Kirk Brown, et. al., *Bicentennial of Brick Meeting House*, (Lancaster: Wickersham Publishing, 1902).

crossing at the Susquehanna and on to the Monocacy Path. Figure 10 is an overlay of the Indian paths on today's map.

The two maps, Figures 9 and 10, are not to the same scale, but they allow you to see how Jeremiah and his traveling companions could have left Nottingham Lots and accessed the most easily traveled routes to connect to the Monocacy Path.

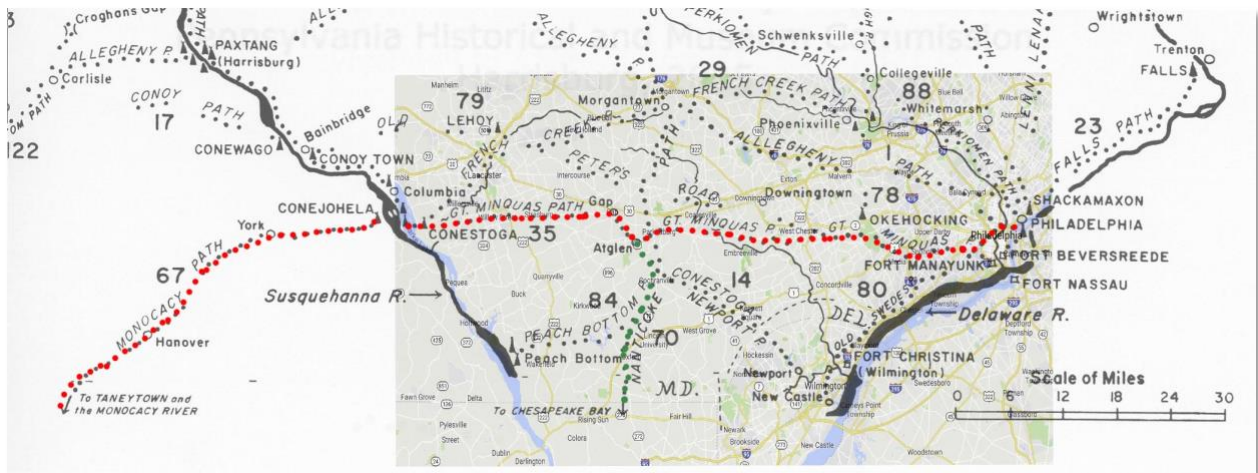


Figure 10: Wagon Roads and Indian Trails

1732 Henry York's Birth "en route"

We do not know whether Jeremiah York was among the initial party or not. We don't even know whether he traveled with a Hite or McKay-led party, one led by Ross or Bryan, or even some unrecorded third-party. However, we must conclude that if he was not with the first party to leave West Nottingham in 1732, he wasn't too far behind. This is because we know that Jeremiah's son Henry was born *en route*, about half-way to Opequon, on 8 August 1732.

Henry's 1732 birth was documented in Memory Aldridge Lester's collection of old family Bible records.⁸² This record is important because it is the only written record we have linking Jeremiah to a son; our other Jeremiah-son connections reflect very strong circumstantial evidence based on other written records. In this case, the Bible record is

HENRY YORK

Henry York b. 6 Aug 1732 in Pipe Creek Settlement, Carroll Co., Md. [now Union Bridge, Carroll Co.], m. 15 Jan 1789 to Margaret Lenderman b. 30 July 1774.

Figure 11: Record of Henry York's Birth in *Old Southern Bible Records*

for Henry's birth date and location, and an old paper in the Bible states that Henry's father was Jeremiah.

However, the cited location cannot be correct. Carroll County, Maryland was not created until 1837, 105 years after Henry's birth. And, the community that became Union Bridge began around the time of the Revolutionary War wasn't chartered as Union Bridge until 1872.⁸³

After extensive research, we finally found a reference to the "Pipe Creek Settlement": "During the Revolution and for some time afterwards, the neighborhood was known as the "Pipe Creek Settlement," the words Pipe Creek being a translation into English of the Indian name 'Apoochken.' The inhabitants at that time were mainly Quakers, ...".⁸⁴ Sharf was describing a location along a road between heirs of William Farquhar that eventually become Main Street in Union Bridge, Maryland. So, the Pipe Creek Settlement was not just *near* where Union Bridge is now, it was *in* where the town of Union Bridge is now. A Pipe Creek Friends Meetinghouse was built there in 1771.⁸⁵

Colbert⁸⁶ stated that the information about Henry was not written in the Bible passed down through Henry's descendants but was in old-fashioned writing on a card that fell from the Bible while it was being examined. Since the card refers to Union Bridge, it had to be written after 1872. So, it appears that whoever created that card made an incorrect

⁸² Memory Lee Alldredge Lester, *Old Southern Bible Records: Transcriptions of Births, Deaths, and Marriages from Family Bibles, Chiefly of the 18th and 19th Centuries*. (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, 1974); Retrieved from https://play.google.com/store/books/details?id=qgQRciE16lIC&source=gbs_api

⁸³ Anonymous, "History of Union Bridge," retrieved from <http://www.townofub.org/history>, 2018.

⁸⁴ John T. Scharf, *History of Western Maryland - Carroll County* (Chapter 38). (Philadelphia: L. H. Everts, 1882), p966; Retrieved from <https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/100895231>

⁸⁵ Wikipedia (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pipe_Creek_Friends_Meetinghouse). *Pipe Creek Friends Meetinghouse*, accessed 2019.

⁸⁶ Douglas A. Colbert, *The Yorks of 1700's and 1800's: a history and genealogy of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th generations in America*. (San Rafael, CA, self, 1993).

assumption that a bit of (probably oral) family history that Henry was born at (or near) Pipe Creek, Maryland referred to the Quaker Pipe Creek Settlement, not knowing that it didn't exist until several decades after his birth.

Even if we disregard questions regarding the naming of the location, the geography doesn't seem to pass muster either. The tract of land that became Union Bridge was first surveyed by John Tredane in 1729, who named it "Kilfadda."⁸⁷ It was sold to Adam Farquhar in 1731. The eminent Maryland historian J. Thomas Scharf said that there was "no evidence that he actually resided there".⁸⁸ In 1735, Adam Farquhar conveyed Kilfadda to his son William, with the condition that his son move there. Scharf provides this description, "The country was then a wilderness and destitute of roads, except such paths as were made by wild beasts and Indians, and no little intrepidity was required for such a journey, clogged with a helpless family."

We have examined historical maps of the area and have concluded, in agreement with the above description, that it would have been somewhere between exceptionally difficult-to-impossible for Jeremiah York and his family to have traveled to the Union Bridge location in 1732, and we can think of no reason he would have wanted to.

However, there is a nugget of information in the note about Henry's birth that provides some guidance. He could have been born *at, or near*, Pipe Creek, but it likely was not where Union Bridge now stands. As shown in Figure 8, the route through the Monocacy region of western Maryland led very close to Pipe Creek at the location marked "B" where the main trail turned due west at today's Keysville. If Henry was born *near* Pipe Creek, then this would be the most likely location.

If Henry was born *at* Pipe Creek, that suggests Jeremiah chose to leave the main route to follow a very primitive trail, indicated by the dashed line at "B," about one mile south to where it crossed Pipe Creek just below the junction of Big Pipe Creek and Little Pipe Creek. Did Jeremiah take this detour? It's unlikely if they had a wagon because that dashed route was considered impassable by wagons as late as 1749.

Regardless of the specific location, it seems that the arduous trip may have hastened Henry's birth or that the trip took longer than planned. Clearly, there must have been a need to make camp to provide shelter for the birth and to allow Jeremiah's wife to recover. We do not know how long Jeremiah and his family camped at or near Pipe Creek before returning to the main route to continue on to the Opequon Valley.⁸⁹ Much

⁸⁷ Grace L. Tracey and John Dern, *Pioneers of Old Monocacy: The Early Settlement of Frederick County, Maryland, 1721-1743*, op. cit., p.17. (in the footnote)

⁸⁸ John Scharf, *History of Western Maryland, ..., op. cit.*, Vol 2, p790.

⁸⁹ It is not inconceivable that Jeremiah found it necessary to establish a temporary camp that was sufficient to winter-over in place near Pipe Creek until continuing on to Virginia in 1733 – but it seems highly unlikely that he would have remained in a complete wilderness with nine children in addition to the newborn Henry.

would have depended on the group of families the Yorks were almost certainly traveling with. The Yorks would have had their support, but certainly would have also felt strong pressure, to continue on.

In any case, it seems certain that Jeremiah did not remain long in the Pipe Creek area because he does not appear on the List of Taxables in the Monocosie Hundred⁹⁰ in 1733 or in 1734.⁹¹

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⁹⁰ A "Hundred" was a designation for a district used for taxation and other administrative reasons, roughly corresponding to a township.

⁹¹ Grace L. Tracey and Paul Dern, *Pioneers of Old Monocacy: The Early Settlement of Frederick County, Maryland, 1721-1743*, op. cit., p.368-9.

On Terrapin Neck

Jeremiah and the party he traveled with would have arrived in the late summer of 1732 and would have had a lot of work to do to prepare for their first winter in the Opequon Valley. Like other migrating parties, they would have made a base camp and built some temporary shelters before setting out to select their parcels of land. For most of them, an ideal tract would have had a mixture of open meadows that could be cultivated or used as pasture, close to forested areas that could supply building materials and fuel. A reliable water supply was also essential. Some would have looked for land by one of the feeder streams where there was sufficient flow and slope to power a mill, but not so large a stream that it would have been difficult to dam.

After they arrived in the Opequon Valley, the families would have taken the following steps to become “settlers.” They would have selected a tract of land and established their “settlement,” i.e. a shelter and some cleared land for their first crop. They would have likely marked the boundaries to establish “tomahawk rights.”⁹² Then they would have had to make an “entry” at a designated land office to request a warrant, which was a license to have their property surveyed. After they had the survey in hand, they could apply to receive the patent or grant of their property title. The whole process often took several years. Fees were required at each step of the process, and those who didn’t have ready cash or credits would have signed promissory notes.

Tomahawk rights were generally recognized, and instances of “claim jumping” were few because they would have been dealt with sternly by neighbors, and because there was ample quality land available. The Shenandoah Valley offered both limestone-based soils and shale-base soils. The limestone zone supported a rich growth of deciduous trees like walnut, hickory, sumac, locust, etc. and would have been indicative of the rich soils desired most for farming. Only pines tended to grow in the weaker shale soils, but these were also valued as good for pasturing and crops like flax. Many farms that were settled along the old Native American path straddled the contact between the two zones, which ran the length of the Shenandoah Valley.⁹³

Several sources compiled from land records and Quaker meetings provide partial lists of the early settlers in both the Ross and Hite zones. Looking at their names, we can see several Quakers that came from the Nottingham area and others that had been in the Monocacy Valley of Maryland as early as 1725.⁹⁴ Others that were not Quakers included Van Swearingen, who became an early neighbor of Jeremiah on Terrapin Neck and was on the tax lists for Monocacy Valley in 1733-34. Even though some partial lists of early

⁹² The bark of trees marking boundaries were blazed with a tomahawk and the owner’s initials were carved.

⁹³ Warren. R. Hofstra, *The Planting of New Virginia, Settlement and Landscape in the Shenandoah Valley*, (Baltimore: The John Hopkins University Press, 2004), p31-2.

⁹⁴ Josiah Ballenger, John Beals, James Wright, ...

settlers have been found for both the Hite and Ross tracts, no single comprehensive list has been found that purports to be complete.

Unfortunately, Jeremiah does not appear on any of these lists, probably because he was not a Quaker and did not have his land surveyed at that time.

Jeremiah chose to settle well off the beaten track on a high bluff overlooking the Potomac River that became known as Terrapin Neck. This location was 200 ft. above the valley floor and about 4 miles northeast of the Opequon. Jeremiah was said to be the first settler in the vicinity of Terrapin Neck by a historian at the National Conservation

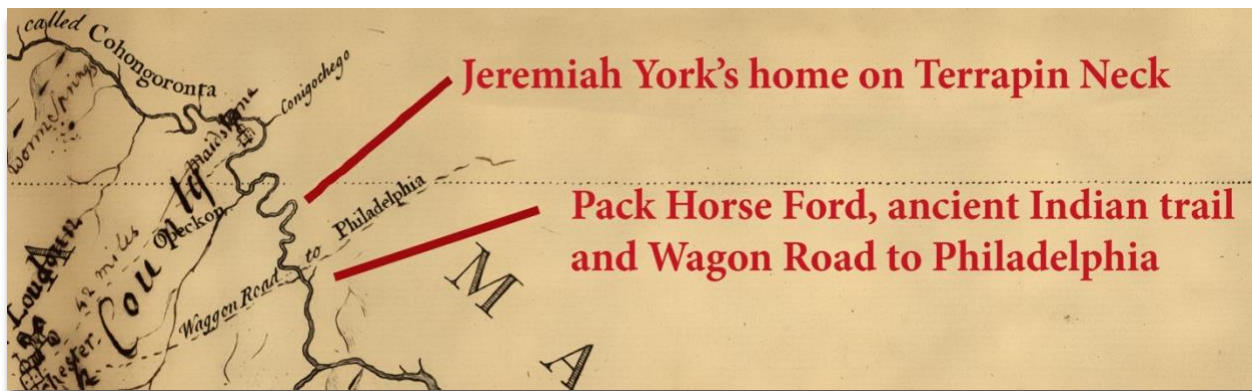


Figure 12: Pack Horse Ford and Terrapin Neck

Center, which occupies land next to Terrapin Neck today.⁹⁵ The soil in this location consists of a limestone subsoil topped with a gravelly or sandy loam that is deposited by the large river bends. It is more easily handled than limestone soils and is considered more valuable than shale soils.⁹⁶ Jeremiah also may have chosen this location comparatively distant from the more densely settled valley in order to secure a parcel of land for hunting and trapping that was less likely to be encroached upon. So, Jeremiah chose his location wisely and got a great view in addition.

However, he had something to worry about. Jeremiah had left disputed land in West Nottingham only to settle on disputed land once again in Virginia! The land dispute between Lord Fairfax and Jost Hite was about to affect Jeremiah personally.

Jeremiah's land lay within the 100,000a. conditional grant of the Virginia Council to Jost Hite on Oct. 1731. But, as of October 1733, Hite had settled only thirty-seven of the

⁹⁵ Dan Everson, *A History of the National Conservation Training Center Property, and Surrounding Area*, op. cit., p.17.

⁹⁶ W. J. Latimer, 1918. *Soil Survey of Jefferson, Berkeley and Morgan Counties, West Virginia*, (Washington, D.C., Government Printing Office, 1918.), p.62-3.

hundred families required within two years on this tract.⁹⁷ This low number was not acceptable to the Council, so they declined to approve the issuance of patents at that time but did grant Hite a two-year extension to Christmas 1735. Robert Brooke began surveying and recording several tracts of land for Hite in the lower Opequon R. Valley near Terrapin Neck in 1734.

However, by October of 1735 Lord Fairfax had arrived in Virginia and produced an Order from the King's Privy Council that directed the Virginia Council to suspend issuing land patents within the contested areas until the boundary issues were settled. The Virginia Council complied and took the additional step of not accepting any new surveys within the disputed zones.

This suspension added to Hite's problems.⁹⁸ It meant that he had not been able to deliver any approved land patents in this allocated 100,000a. area between the Shenandoah and the Opequon, even for tracts with completed surveys. Further, he could not offer solid assurance when, or even if, he would be able to do so. The fact that Hite was not able to deliver land patents had already become a problem that depressed his ability to entice more "buyers" to contract for land from him

We don't know for certain why Jeremiah did not have his land surveyed within those first few years from 1732 to 1735 and recorded by Hite. Perhaps he realized that Hite was charging six times what the land would cost if purchased from the Northern Neck Proprietary. Or, perhaps he was already aware that the dispute between Hite and Lord Fairfax could prevent Hite from delivering a clear title. Jeremiah would have been especially wary because of having been affected by the West Nottingham Lots boundary dispute between Pennsylvania and Maryland. It simply may have been that he was initially too poor to meet the price that Hite was asking, and by the time that he had sufficient funds both Lord Fairfax and the Virginia Council had suspended recording surveys and issuing land grants (Fairfax) or patents (Virginia Council) pending resolution of their dispute ---which took until 1745.

Hite meanwhile pressed on, trying to complete as many sales and surveys as possible by his December 1735 deadline. He probably approached Jeremiah with an offer but, as stated above, Jeremiah did not choose to deal with Hite. Hite then sold 1200a. on Terrapin Neck, including Jeremiah's land to John Browning of Cecil County, Maryland.⁹⁹ This set the stage for a long series of legal disputes between Hite's buyer

⁹⁷ Hite and Ross had satisfied Virginia Council requirements in other areas and land patents were issued to those settlers in 1734 and 1735.

⁹⁸ Many of the tracts of land that settlers "purchased" from Hite were "paid for" by a bond from the settler. In return, Hite had to offer a reciprocal bond to the tentative purchasers guaranteeing a clear title or the return of any monies paid. In the absence of clear titles, some of the settlers suspended their payments to Hite and demanded the return of their monies. All of this put intense financial pressure on Hite.

⁹⁹ Dan Everson, A History of the National Conservation Training Center Property, and Surrounding Area, op. cit., p.24.

Browning (and his heirs) and other Terrapin Neck owners (and their legal assignees) with titles acquired from Lord Fairfax.

1734 - 1748 This period must initially have been a time of great blessings for Jeremiah and his family. He was living on a section of pristine land, with a spectacular view of the river and the opposite (lower) lands. When they first arrived in the area, it was teeming with wildlife. According to Kercheval,¹⁰⁰ “The country abounded in the larger kinds of game. The buffalo, elk, deer, bear, panther, wild-cat, wolf, fox, beaver, otter and all other kinds of animals, wild fowl, etc., common to forest countries, were abundantly plenty.” Jeremiah had the means at hand to provide for his growing family.

1736 Precise Location of Jeremiah’s Home on Terrapin Neck

Lord Fairfax and the opposing parties commissioned extensive surveys of the upper reaches of the Rappahannock and Potomac Rivers to determine the legal boundaries of the Northern Neck Proprietary and to record existing claims and residents. Each side of the legal dispute fielded a team of surveyors, which is why there are two records available to us. Both the survey by Major William Mayo, Figure 13, for the Virginia Council, and the survey by Benjamin Winslow and Thomas Lewis for Lord Fairfax recorded Jeremiah’s home on Terrapin Neck.

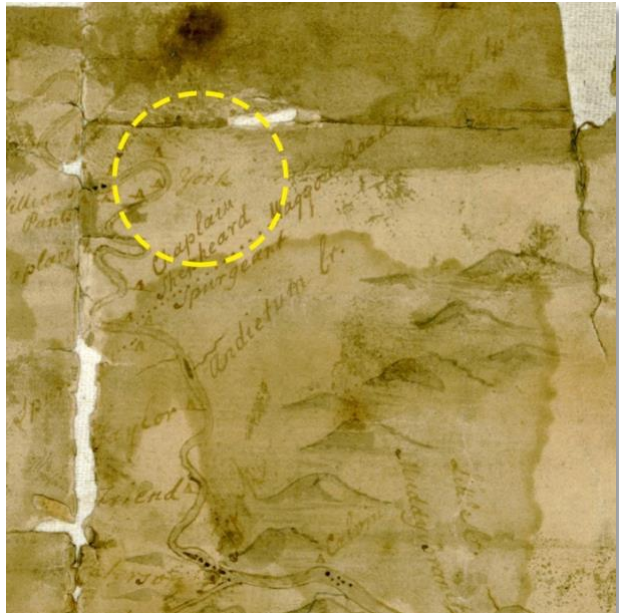


Figure 13: York's Home Shown on Mayo's 1736 Survey (Mayo, 1737)

Figure 14 shows a portion of Benjamin Winslow’s 1736 survey¹⁰¹ that shows York’s home alongside a contemporary map view on Figure 15. These surveys are amazing in how well they agree with one another and almost perfectly fit the contours of the Potomac as we know it to be today. Winslow placed Jeremiah’s name on the east side of the Potomac, opposite Jeremiah’s home on the west side, because of space constraints. Although these maps provide a fairly good location for the Yorks, archaeological investigations have found no physical evidence of the home site.

¹⁰⁰ Samuel Kercheval, *A History of the Valley of Virginia*, op. cit. p.18.

¹⁰¹ James W. Foster, “Maps of the First Survey of the Potomac River, 1736-1737.” *The William and Mary Quarterly*, 1938, 18(2): p.150–57.

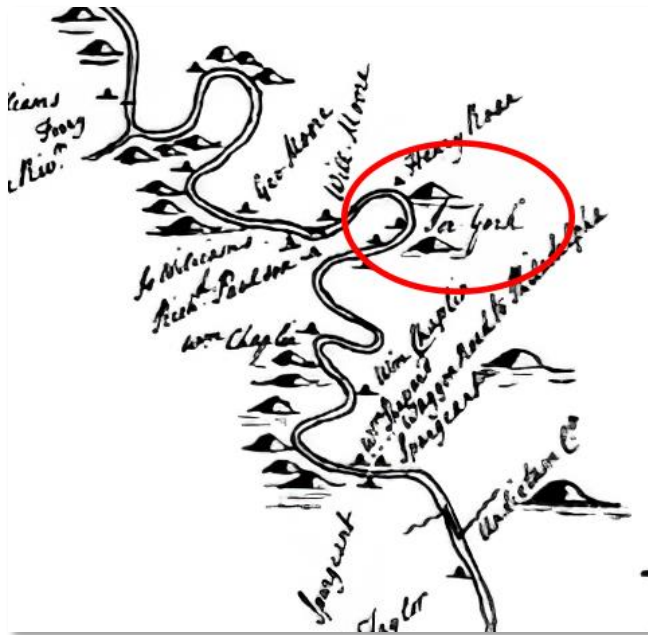


Figure 14: Winslow 1736 Map Shows York Home

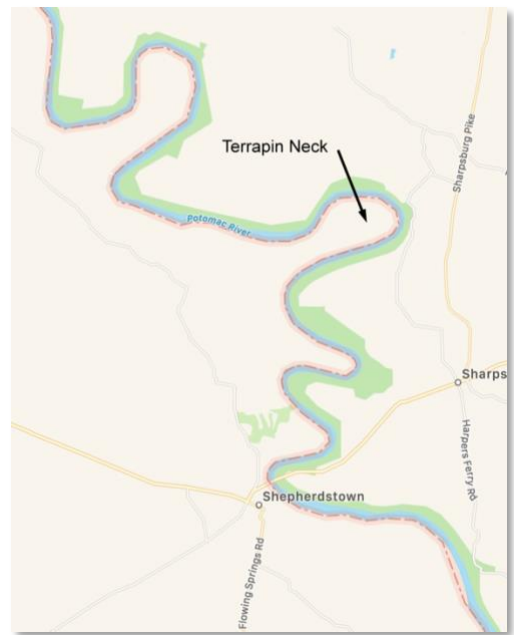


Figure 15: Map of Terrapin Neck Area

York's land was surrounded on three sides by the Potomac but was mostly elevated, as much as 125 ft. above the Potomac, and had no flowing streams. Winslow's 1736 survey notes recorded a pond on the land, which was a natural pond along an old meander of the river and could have supplied livestock. It was over 200 yards from Jeremiah's cabin, so it seems likely that he must also have had a spring or shallow well close by to provide water for household needs.

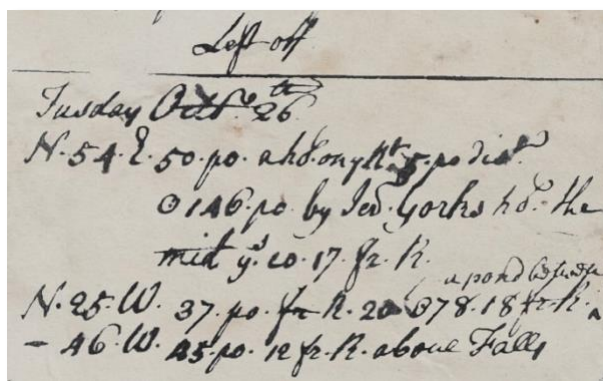


Figure 16: Winslow's Field Notes

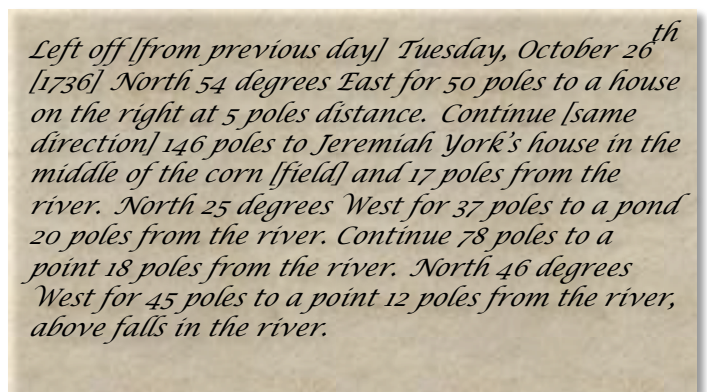


Figure 17: Transcription of Winslow's Field Notes

Jeremiah York was one of twelve jurors serving on an Orange County, Virginia jury in 1738 regarding the identification of a man found drowned in the Potomac and disposition of his personal property. There are two implications concerning York that

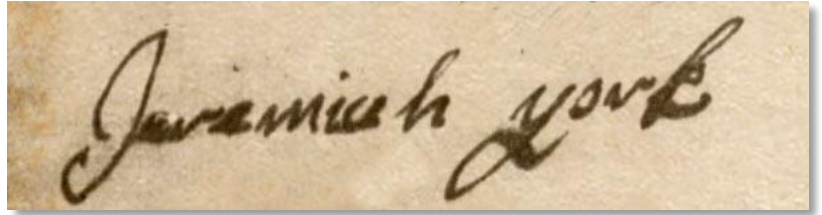


Figure 18: Jeremiah's Signature

can be drawn: (1) to serve on the jury, he was regarded as a freeholder (i.e., landowner) living in Orange County and (2) he had at least some level of literacy to legibly write his name (eight of the twelve jurors could only make their marks).

In 1745, Lord Fairfax's claim and boundaries were upheld by the Privy Council in London. Lord Fairfax returned to Virginia in 1747 and moved into the Shenandoah Valley in 1751. Although Lord Fairfax reached settlement with Ross and many other smaller Virginia Council patent holders, Hite would not settle, leading to a further lawsuit.

Everson says that Jeremiah York was among the first to apply to Fairfax for a grant of the land he already occupied.¹⁰² It took time for Jeremiah to complete the required process, likely involving several trips to Lord Fairfax's office, which was about forty to fifty miles away.

- He first obtained a warrant authorizing the survey, which was dated 4 Apr 1750 and would expire 29 Sept 1750. His son Thomas York obtained a warrant for surveying land adjacent to Terrapin Neck on the same date as Jeremiah.
- He then had the land surveyed by Guy Broadwater, Figure 19, which we presume was completed by the required date in 1750.
- Lord Fairfax finally issued his grant to Jeremiah York for 323 acres 7 June 1751. A copy of the deed is shown in [Appendix C: Jeremiah's 1751 Deed to Terrapin Neck from Thomas, Lord Fairfax](#).

¹⁰² Dan Everson. A History of the National Conservation Training Center Property, and Surrounding Area, op. cit., p.34.

The text of this survey reads,
*By virtue of warrant from the Proprietors
 Office dated 4 April 1750 Granted to
 Jeremiah York One Certain parcel or tract
 of Land Situated & Lying In Frederick
 County Beginning at a hickory Standing
 upon the Edge of Potomack River Bank
 extending down the said River S35E 36 p_o
 thence S24W 66 p_o thence S58W 74 p_o
 thence S74W 38 p_o to an ash Standing
 upon the edge of the Bank of the River
 thence in to the Woods N35W 250 p_o to a
 white Oak thence N39E 186 p_o to a red Oak
 thence S35E250 p_o to the Beginning
 Containing 323 acres*

Surveyed (personally by) me Guy Broadwater

Thos York & David York, Chain Carriers

Two of Jeremiah's sons, Thomas and David¹⁰³, were chain bearers on this survey. The symbol "p_o" was for "poles," a distance of 16 ½ feet, or ¼ of a surveyor's chain.

We hoped that from the survey we could get clues to precisely establish the location of Jeremiah's home/house. That's when it got really interesting, because the obvious thing to do was to attempt to overlay that sketch from the top of the survey onto an aerial map view of Terrapin Neck to see if we could more precisely establish the location of Jeremiah York's home.

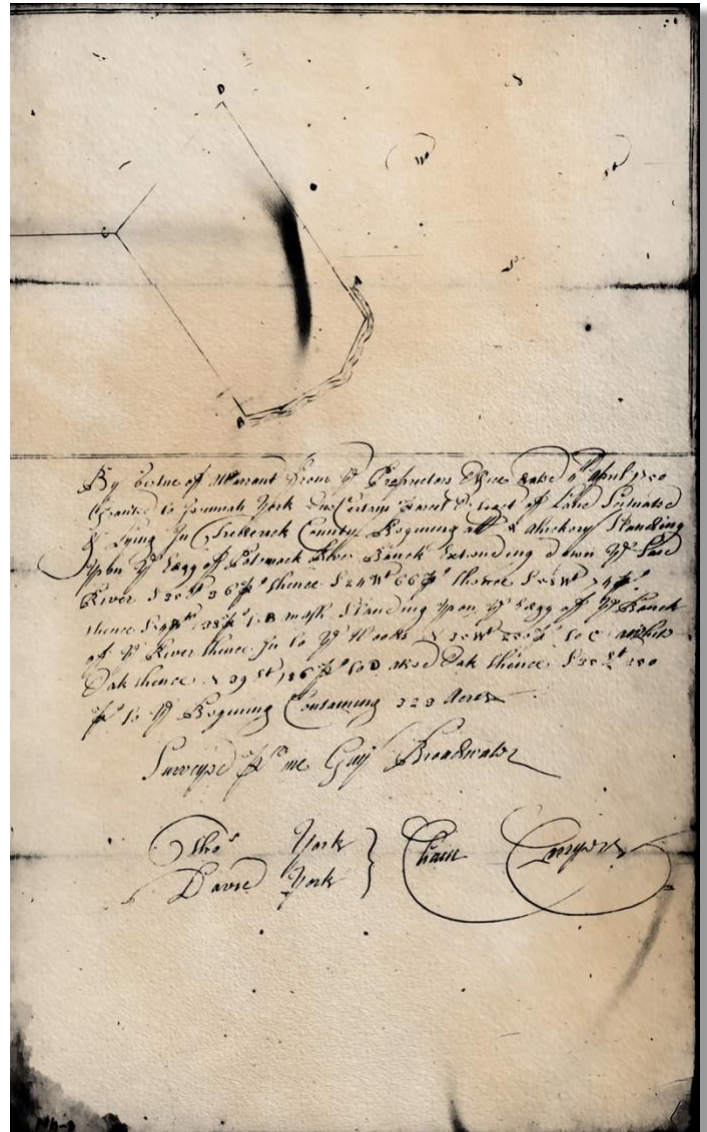


Figure 19: Broadwater's Survey of York's Property

¹⁰³ "David" has been mis-read by other genealogists as "Davie" or "Davis," but if one compares the last letter in "David" to the last letter in the word "situated" at the end of the second line, it can be seen to be a "d."

At first, we could not successfully overlay the surveyor's boundaries onto the eastern tip of Terrapin Neck, regardless of how we scaled and oriented the sketch. Then, we realized that boundary in the sketch, which has North labeled toward the top, corresponds with Terrapin Neck, except that one point is seriously in error.

As the yellow polygon in Figure 20 clearly shows, the northern-most point of Broadwater's sketch lies completely across the Potomac River in Maryland! And, it is also obvious that the enclosed area would be much greater than the real land on Terrapin Neck.

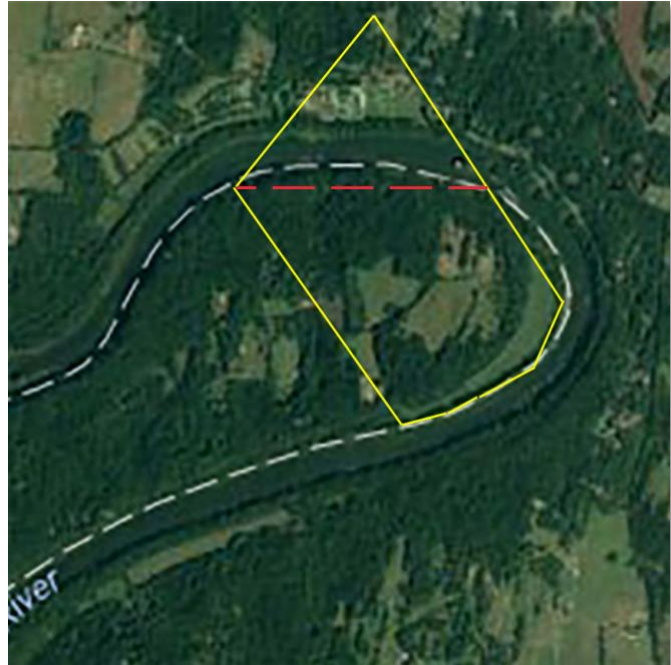


Figure 20: Google Map View of Terrapin Neck with Overlay of Broadwater Survey and Correction

We then entered the survey metes and bounds into a spreadsheet to compute the area. The result was 307a. vs. the 323a. stated on Broadwater's survey notes and the Fairfax grant. The surveyor may have computed the area by dividing it into triangles, but another common practice was to deduce the area of an irregular polygon by making a scaled drawing which was then cut out and weighed to compare with the cutout of a reference area. Using this method, the discrepancy of only 5% between 323a. and 307a. isn't too bad.

The overlay shows that 323a. is a gross overstatement of the actual land Jeremiah claimed. Jim York suggested the possibility that Broadwater took only field measurements as far as the red oak and that he or an assistant then calculated the last mete and bound in the office to prevent closure error that could occur with imprecise field measurements, drew the plat and determined the area. If the azimuth to the red oak in the field notes was actually N89E but was misread in the office as N39E one gets the results (sketch and area) that he finalized. The 89/39 misread of script written in the field is an understandable error.

We confirmed that correcting the assumed error by using N89E and 186 poles would place the red oak on the Virginia shore, as shown by the red dashed line, with a straight shot along the shore back to the starting point. With this change, the correct area should have been 202a., which corresponds to the 1750 warrant which gave an estimate of 200a. to be surveyed.

Unfortunately, we found this error over 250 years too late to help Jeremiah. So, the grant issued by Lord Fairfax in 1751, included in Appendix C, was based on Broadwater's flawed survey, and Jeremiah York ended up paying more and owing a larger annual quitrent¹⁰⁴ than for the land he actually occupied. Since he had estimated the area of his land as 200a. at the time he applied for the survey warrant in April 1750, he surely must have known that this deed contained an error, but perhaps he never saw Broadwater's survey that it was based on.

1744 - 1750 Crisis & Changes in the Wind

Meanwhile, other significant events were occurring in the region where Jeremiah lived. In 1744, the Treaty of Lancaster was reached between the Six Nations (of the Iroquois) and the provinces of Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia. By this agreement, the Indians ceded all land east of the Alleghenies to the English, thereby reducing some of the occasionally violent interactions.

The ink had hardly dried on this agreement before (in 1748) a group of influential Virginians formed the Ohio Company to explore (and exploit) land opportunities beyond the Alleghenies. They were aided and abetted by a grant of a potential 500,000a. from King George in 1749.

This push westward by the Virginians challenged France's claims to all land west of the Alleghenies and north of the Ohio River. In addition, the English penetration into this area threatened to prevent the French in Canada from connecting with their growing settlements along the Ohio watershed and forming a contiguous territory from Canada to Louisiana. The tinder for the French & Indian War was laid.

Changes were also occurring within Jeremiah's family during this period. By 1750, several of his sons had left the family home to set up for themselves. The first that we have a record for was David, who was recorded by the surveyor James Genn living on lot #12, a 312a. tract of land along the Patterson Creek about 4.5 miles south of the mouth of the creek at the Potomac in 1748,¹⁰⁵ where Ft. Ashby, West Virginia is today. A sixteen-year-old George Washington accompanied Genn as the surveyor's assistant on this trip. This was one of the western-most collection of settlements in Virginia, placing it at great risk when the French and Indian War began a few years later. Some of the residents did not flee in time and were reported to have been scalped. David sold

¹⁰⁴ A "quitrent" was essentially an annual tax paid to the patent-issuing authority, Lord Fairfax in this case. Per Jeremiah's deed in Appendix C: Jeremiah's 1751 Deed from Lord Fairfax, his annual fee was 1 shilling per 50a.

¹⁰⁵ Wilmer Kerns, *Early Settlers Along Patterson Creek*, located at <http://parkerhannah.com/ParkerParker/EarlySettlersofPattersonsCreek.html>; and also at Patti McDonald, *The Patterson Creek Settlement Map of 1748*, (Keyser, WV, Mineral County Historical Society), located at <http://www.wvgenweb.org/mineral/patckmapstory.htm>, Sept. 2019.

his land to John Parker in 1748 and was back at Terrapin Neck in 1750, when he was one of the chain carriers on the survey of his father's land.

Jeremiah II had established himself on the Cacapon River about twenty miles west of Terrapin Neck by 1749. This date was based on several records:

- Joyner¹⁰⁶ reports that Jeremiah II sold 126a. on the Great. Cacapehon River to Lewis Demoss, Jr., who died before entering his land record.
- Enoch¹⁰⁷ adds that the land was about 5 ½ miles below the Forks of the Cacapon, that it was sold prior to being surveyed¹⁰⁸ and that Lewis Demoss Jr. died in 1749.
- DeMoss' death was confirmed by estate records noted by a direct descendant, Joshua DeMoss.¹⁰⁹

Jeremiah II obtained warrants for two additional properties on the Cacapon River that were adjacent to Henry Enoch's tract of land between the Forks which had been surveyed by George Washington in 1750.¹¹⁰ Jeremiah II's tract was surveyed 1 Nov 1753 by John Mauzy but he didn't get around to having the second, small 15a. tract, surveyed until 6 Nov 1761.

Thomas was appointed as a constable in 1749. Thomas received a warrant from the Northern Neck land office to survey his land on 4 Apr 1750, the same day as Jeremiah. Thomas' land was only about a mile from his father's.

Jeremiah II was married at least by 1751, based on his son John's Revolutionary War records¹¹¹ and was probably married even one to two years earlier, based on his property records. It would be reasonable to assume that David and Thomas might also have been married by, or shortly after, the dates each of them had their own land.

¹⁰⁶ Peggy Shomo Joyner, *Abstracts of Virginia's Northern Neck Warrants & Surveys, Vol IV: Hampshire, Berkeley, Loudoun, Fairfax, King George, Westmoreland, Northumberland & Lancaster Counties, 1697-1784.* (Portsmouth, VA, P.S. Joyner, 1985), p.54.

¹⁰⁷ Henry G. Enoch, *Historical Records of the Enoch Family in Virginia and Pennsylvania.* (2nd printing, 1999), p.6.

¹⁰⁸ Jeremiah II evidently held the land by "tomahawk rights" and was, in effect, selling his improvements to the land.

¹⁰⁹ Joshua DeMoss, *DeMoss Family Tree*; <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/5091259/person/1647478573/facts> : accessed 2019.

¹¹⁰ Henry Enoch was well known as a friend of George Washington. George Washington was the surveyor of Enoch's property in 1750, and he stopped there again in 1753 on his mission to dissuade the French from settling at Fort Venango. His journal recorded his harrowing return from that trip and established his international reputation.

¹¹¹ Jeremiah II's marriage to Mary Thomas is estimated as at least one year prior to 1752 when their son John was born. John's birth is based on his Revolutionary War records (Fold3). The name "John" likely was given in respect for his grandfather John Willson and uncle John York.

1751 In 1751 Jeremiah finally held legal title to the land on which he lived for the first time in his life!¹¹² His deed from Lord Fairfax for 323a. is shown in Appendix C.

1751 - 1754 The 1750s brought many major changes to the emerging nation and the Jeremiah York family. The most significant change on a personal level to Jeremiah and his family was that he sold his Terrapin Neck property on 4 Jul 1753, only two years after receiving the grant from Lord Fairfax.

This seems to reflect a major change of plans, coming only two years after finally completing the purchase of his home on Terrapin Neck. We can only guess at the possible reasons for this decision, and we have insufficient evidence to know what actually took place. Several possibilities are discussed below, and the reader is encouraged to make their own interpretation of this event.

1. One possibility is that Jeremiah's wife (Elizabeth) died about 1752. Two pieces of circumstantial data support this.
 - a. His wife was not listed on the deed when he sold the property, as wives sometimes were on other contemporary sales records.¹¹³
 - b. Semore's will only mentioned his father as living in North Carolina.
2. A second possibility is that the Yorks were receiving enough information from Jeremiah II and possibly other sons living in the Cacapon River Valley to anticipate the upcoming conflict that became known as the French and Indian War. This seems less likely because there was no open conflict west of the Alleghenies until Lt. Col. George Washington's mission in 1754 to establish a fort at the forks of the Ohio, a strategic location that is now Pittsburgh.
3. Since Jeremiah's sons were coming of age, marrying, and starting their own families there was a need for more land. It's likely that Jeremiah's land was insufficient to support the growing family and land in nearby had probably become more expensive.

We do not know why no son chose to remain on Jeremiah's land, but their decision might have been influenced by the extra quitrent they would have been paying, concern over the title dispute with Hite's buyer Browning, or many other possible reasons. In any case, Jeremiah was approaching age 70 and it was perhaps fortunate that he now had apparently clear title to his land and could sell it to finance a move with a son or sons.

¹¹² Gertrude Gray, *Virginia Northern Neck Land Grants, 1742-1775, Vol II.* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, 1988 and reprinted 2008), p.50 lists Grant # G-541 Jeremiah York, 323a. on Potomack R, 6/7/1751.

¹¹³ Cecil O'Dell, *Pioneers of Old Frederick County, Virginia, op. cit.*

After they decided to move, the question was “to where?” It appears that they had two options: west or south.

- Jeremiah’s sons David and Jeremiah II had settled about 20 miles west of Terrapin Neck on Patterson Creek and the Cacapon River, respectively. In the early 1750s, there was still good land to be had along these waterways or their feeder streams. In addition, there was an option to go even further west, cross the Alleghenies, and settle in the land being opened up by the Ohio Company by their 1752 treaty reached at Logstown with the main tribes in that region. The Ohio Company had to settle at least a hundred families within seven years to secure their grants from King George II.
- Alternatively, the Yorks likely heard that lands were available in the piedmont region of North Carolina for only 10 shillings per hundred, where settlement had begun about 1740.¹¹⁴ William Allred, a neighbor across the Potomac and possibly a relative, sold his land in Maryland in 1752 and had moved to the Deep River in Orange County, North Carolina by 1753.¹¹⁵

As we now know, the Yorks still living with Jeremiah on Terrapin Neck¹¹⁶ decided to join the growing stream of people moving south on the Great Wagon Road to settle in North Carolina. The sale of Jeremiah’s Terrapin Neck property in 1753 may have been instrumental in providing the funds the family needed to acquire property in North Carolina.

After the 1753 sale of his land, Jeremiah may have lived with one of his sons nearby, either with Thomas who owned land that adjoined Terrapin Neck, or with Jeremiah II on his land twenty miles away. Or, he may simply have had an agreement with Chapline to stay in his home on Terrapin Neck temporarily since Chapline had his own home on adjoining land.

After Jeremiah’s departure from Terrapin Neck, the issue over conflicting titles to Terrapin Neck granted by Lord Fairfax and Jost Hite developed into a legal dispute that lasted until about 1798.¹¹⁷ The land became a heated battle between the two leading families of Sheperdstown, the Swearingens and the Shepherds. As the case wore on, it became more confused by the fading memory and absence of first-person witnesses and decisions were clouded by the politics of the local power struggle. John Marshall, the future Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, was involved at one point. In the end, the

¹¹⁴ *Ibid*, p.15.

¹¹⁵ Dawnell Griffin, *From England to America, Our Allred Family*, *op. cit.*, p.155.

¹¹⁶ Semore, Henry, John, Joseph and Thomas; although Thomas stayed near Terrapin Neck another 10 years

¹¹⁷ Dan Everson, *A History of the National Conservation Training Center Property, and Surrounding Area*, *op. cit.*, p.90.

legal heirs of Browning won, even though the survey by Hite was probably after the expiration of his charter and the Brownings had never occupied the land.

Dennis York, Jim York and Doug York have all visited Terrapin Neck and were welcomed by the third generation of the family that now owns the land. Jim reported that "Jeremiah York's parcel is still mostly undeveloped. The field still exists but is in a low part of the parcel that is susceptible to flooding. No remnants of his house remain. A Native American longhouse has been

built by an historical society near the location of his house, several hundred feet inland from the point at the east end of Terrapin Neck where the river flow direction changes from slightly east of south to slightly west of south. The pond, which is natural, still exists."



Figure 21: "A View of the Potomac from Terrapin Neck," possibly by Garnet Jex



Figure 22: Photo of the View of Potomac River from Terrapin Neck

Terrapin Neck today is readily seen in this image by Doug York as a uniquely beautiful property, offering wonderful vistas of the Potomac River and glimpses of some of the bottom land across the river in Maryland. It is not difficult to envision why Jeremiah selected it. How hard it must have been for him to leave this home.

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Moving to North Carolina

This section discusses the evidence of the Yorks' movement to Orange County, North Carolina, and how they fit into the broader migration pattern to central North Carolina. There is reasonably solid evidence indicates that five York men, thought to be brothers, and their father Jeremiah moved from Terrapin Neck, Virginia to Orange County, North Carolina (that part is now Randolph County) in the early to mid-1750s. Less clear but intriguing are the details of their moves and interactions with two well-known neighbors, the preacher Shubal Stearns and the activist Herman Husband.

Although much of North Carolina had been open to settlement for many years prior, Lord Granville did not open his 1/8 share of North Carolina to settlement until 1749. This area in the central piedmont of North Carolina no longer had Indian "problems" after the 1711 Tuscarora War. It offered virgin land with clear land titles.

This opportunity for new settlement was attractive to many from more established areas, and a rough wagon road began being developed from Pennsylvania through western Virginia as a result. Religious groups such as the Quakers¹¹⁸ and Moravians quickly moved in to establish communities, as did others looking for new opportunities to start farming or other businesses in the frontier. Five York brothers and their father Jeremiah were part of this broad movement, perhaps driven by the brothers' need for affordable land on which to raise families.

Challenges in Moving to North Carolina

Deciding to move to North Carolina and actually doing it was still a challenge in the early 1750s. Only in the preceding ten years had the "Warrior's Trail" become an extension of the Great Wagon from Philadelphia to the Yadkin River in North Carolina.¹¹⁹ The earliest traders and settlers followed the Native American warriors' trail with only packhorses, fording all the streams and staying constantly on guard.

¹¹⁸ The first Quaker meetinghouse in the area, called Cane Creek, was established in 1751.

¹¹⁹ Parke Rouse, Parke Jr., *The Great Wagon Road, From Philadelphia to the South*, (Richmond: Dietz Press, 2008).

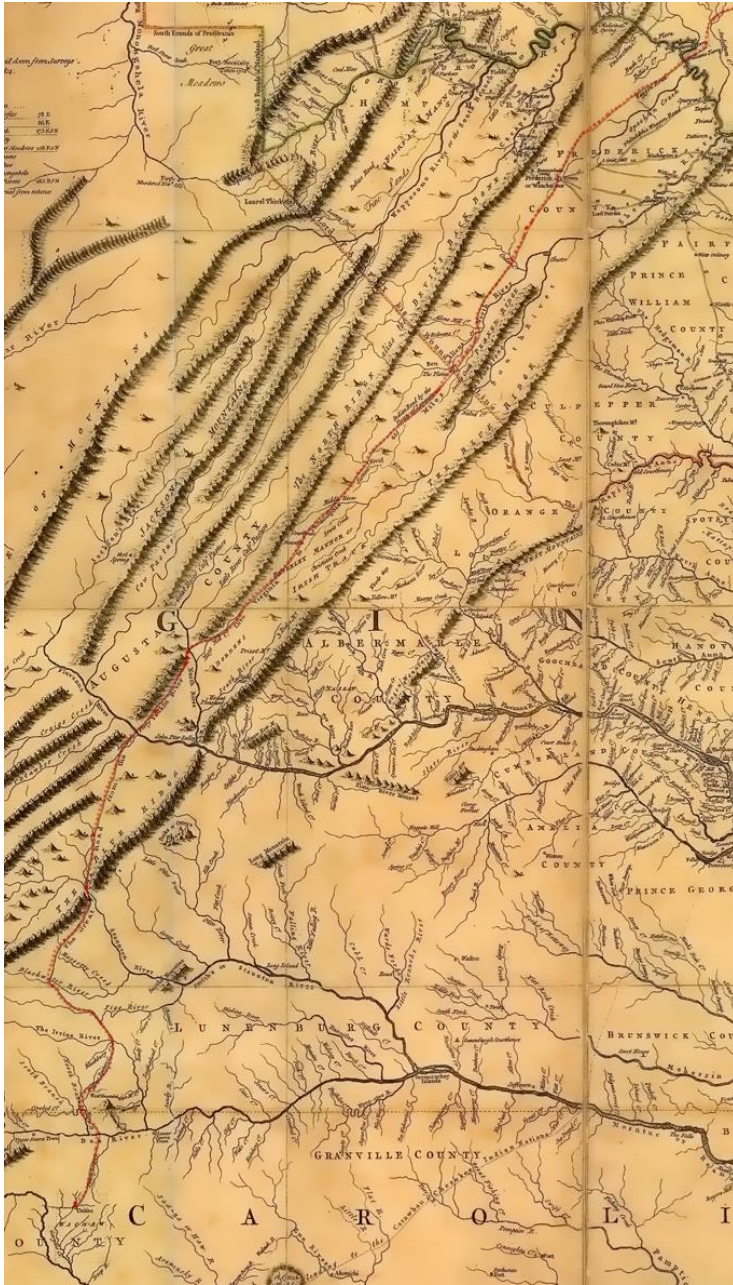


Figure 23: The Great Wagon Road from the Potomac to the Yadkin River

After a treaty between Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Maryland and the Six Nations of the Iroquois Confederacy in 1744¹²⁰, Virginia licensed a ferry¹²¹ to cross the Potomac. This ferry connected the Great Wagon Road from Philadelphia to the emerging road south through the Valley of Virginia. As traffic increased, ferries were established over some of the streams, and the route gradually extended further to the south, though it grew progressively worse. By the time of the York family's move to North Carolina, the Great Wagon Road crossed back east through the Blue Ridge Mountains where the Staunton River passes through near today's Roanoke, Virginia.

In Figure 23¹²², the Great Wagon Road is highlighted in red from the Potomac, near Terrapin Neck at the top right, to the Yadkin River at the bottom left.¹²³

¹²⁰ Mohawks, Oneidas, Onondaga, Cayugas, Senecas and Tuscarora.

¹²¹ Evan Watkins' ferry passed through various owners to become Williams Ferry and then the site of Williamsport, Maryland, per Parke Rouse, *The Great Wagon Road from Philadelphia to the South*, *op. cit.*, p.69.

¹²² Joshua Fry and Peter Jefferson. "A Map of the Most Inhabited Part of Virginia and Maryland With Part of Pensilvania, New Jersey and North Carolina." (1751); Library of Congress. Peter Jefferson was a renowned frontier surveyor and was the father of Thomas Jefferson.

¹²³ The map is a "classic." The cartographers were Joshua Fry and Peter Jefferson, father of Thomas Jefferson. The scope, detail and accuracy of this map caused it to be a primary reference for another fifty years.

Many families migrated south along this route in 1755 as a direct result of French and Indian War, as well documented by the Julian families of Randolph County, North Carolina.¹²⁴

The Yorks would have followed the trail to a settlement called Wachovia that was established by the Moravians in 1753, which became Bethania in 1759 and is near today's city of Winston-Salem.

From Wachovia, there were multiple Indian trails and trading paths that continued south into Colonial Orange County, North Carolina¹²⁵ in the summer of 1755 to the central piedmont section of colonial North Carolina. Figure 24 shows the most direct route to Herman Husband's mill, which was next to Semore York's land, on a slightly later map of the area.¹²⁶ This route might not have been the one that they used in 1755.

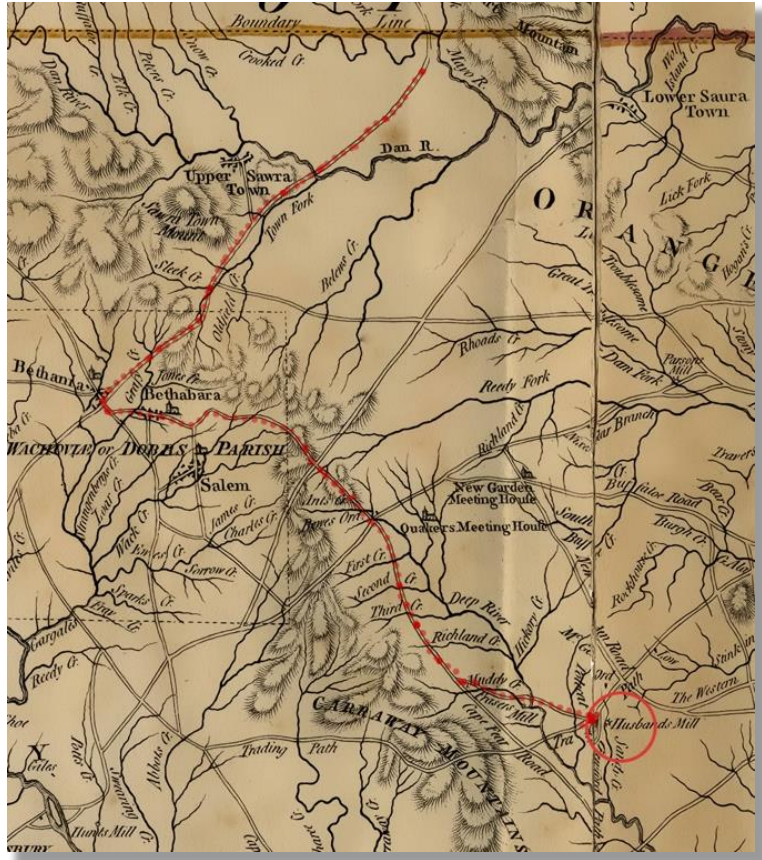


Figure 24: Possible Path taken to Husband's Mill on Sandy Creek

Types of preserved records from the 1750s in Orange County North Carolina¹²⁷

As with Lord Fairfax's process in Virginia, the process of land settlement in North Carolina was typically to choose unoccupied land, start a farm, and make improvements such as buildings. Then settlers would get enter a record of their property at a designated land office and apply for a warrant for a survey, have a survey done by an approved surveyor, and get a land grant from Granville. This process was often spread over several years between occupying unsettled land to getting the land

¹²⁴ William E. Julian *Descendants of Rene Julien & Mary Bullock*. (Genealogy.com, 2006), p174; <http://www.genealogy.com/ftm/j/u/l/William-E-Julian-IN/BOOK-0001/0000-0001.html> : accessed September, 2019.

¹²⁵ Orange County, North Carolina was created in 1752 from parts of Granville, Bladen, and Johnston counties.

¹²⁶ Henry Mouzon, *An Accurate Map of North and South Carolina With Their Indian Frontiers*. (London: Sayer and Bennett, 1775); <http://dc.lib.unc.edu/cdm/ref/collection/ncmaps/id/125>

¹²⁷ Genealogical records for colonial North Carolina are more sparse and harder to find, at least on-line. This section describes the types of records we've been able to find.

grant. The preserved legal record from Granville's office might include the Granville warrant (sometimes a prior land entry record exists), survey, and grant, although some or all might be missing. Rarely is there any record of the initial land occupation. Surveys completed soon after the warrants were issued sometimes show already built cabins. So, we know that some building and farming occurred before warrants were issued. Some land entry permits mention the applicant's existing improvements. This process is quite different from today's practices of land ownership. Unfortunately, records of subsequent land purchases from speculators or earlier settlers who had acquired grants were often not preserved from this time.¹²⁸

There are tax rolls (preserved for 1755 and 1779) that are helpful and some recorded wills. Also, there is church-related information written around that time for Stearns and some documentation of the activities of Husband, some of which can be tied to the Yorks. Rarely do wills from the 1750s survive from that area; and birth, marriages, and deaths were usually not documented. Some court records exist. From all of this evidence, we can deduce a story about the York migration to North Carolina.

1750s - 1760s

As central North Carolina opened up to settlement beginning in 1749, the Great Wagon Road from the Potomac River near where the Yorks had settled to central North Carolina gradually was improved from an Indian path to a passable route for wagons. Settlers seeking new lands and religious groups started moving from Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia to central North Carolina. The Yorks were part of this movement.

The Yorks and Allreds, who were neighbors both in West Nottingham and western Virginia and perhaps already inter-married, probably learned about the land opportunities in North Carolina about the same time. The Allred family apparently moved before the Yorks because records show that William Allred sold his land across the Potomac River from Jeremiah York on 2 Oct 1752 and recorded a land entry in Orange County North Carolina on 7 Jul 1753. There is an earlier land entry record there for Solomon Allred on 10 Mar 1752. It is not unreasonable to postulate that one or more sons of Jeremiah moved to North Carolina with an allied family such as the Allreds in the early 1750s and either they simply did not start the formal land acquisition process until later or the records have been lost.

¹²⁸ Keith Allred said that during the Revolutionary war, a Tory named James Munro seized the deed books for Orange County and buried them. Deed Book 1 rotted and only Deed Book 2 survives.

The earliest record for the York brothers in North Carolina is the 1755 poll tax list for Orange County, North Carolina¹²⁹ shown in Figure 25. Jeremiah's sons Henry, Semore, and John (with a son at least 16 years old) were listed on this poll tax list.

Although sons Thomas and Joseph appear later in North Carolina records, by their absence on this list, we assume that they were not yet there in 1755. Joseph was a chain carrier in North Carolina for Herman Husband in 1757, so his move was probably slightly later. Also, Thomas continued to have records in Virginia until he sold his land next to Terrapin Neck Virginia in 1763, so we know that his move was separate and later yet.

Thomas Allred	2
Henry York	1
Timothy Doshire	1
William Aldrige	1
Simore York	1
Edmond Chambers	1
Thinch Carter	1
John York & son	2
Aaron Vanhouchs	1

Figure 25: Yorks on North Carolina Tax Lists in 1755

Jeremiah's son Semore got a warrant dated 12 Feb 1756, had a survey on 5 May 1756, and received a land grant from Lord Granville on 5 Aug 1758.¹³⁰ Typically, he would have been establishing himself on the land for a few years prior to the warrant. But we are uncertain about when he arrived within the 1749 - '55 timeframe. Although his brothers in North Carolina are known to have farms, per the 1779 tax list, they did not have grants from Lord Granville. Presumably they bought land from others for which there are no extant records.

Similarly, not all of the Allred brothers appear to have land grants from Lord Granville. In addition to the land entry records mentioned above for Solomon and William, John Allred received a land entry record on 15 Mar 1755. Those three, plus Thomas Allred, are on the 1755 poll tax list.

Having established some approximate dates for their moves, it is worth mentioning the possible influence of the French and Indian War, 1755 - 1763, on these moves. Many other related family names, in addition to the Allreds, from Virginia, Pennsylvania and/or Maryland that would have been familiar to the Yorks also moved to Orange

¹²⁹ Orange County, NC. "Tax Lists, Orange County." *North Carolina Digital Collections*. (1755), pp.3,7, & 19; <http://digital.ncdcr.gov/cdm/ref/collection/p16062coll33/id/2699>

¹³⁰ Orange County, NC. "North Carolina Land Grant Files, 1693-1960." Book 12 (1758): p.60; nclandgrants.com. An interesting observation is that Shubal Stearns was a chain carrier on this survey and Herman Husband was a witness on this grant.

County, North Carolina. Some of the families have stories of Indian attacks during that war that drove their move to North Carolina. However, the timing of the York moves seems largely either before or after that war, so its influence on the Yorks move south seems minimal.

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Jeremiah's Time in North Carolina

Three questions arise about Jeremiah's time in North Carolina about which we have no direct evidence:

1. when did he move to North Carolina,
2. what was he doing while in North Carolina, and
3. when did he die?

We have only a few data points for Jeremiah's time in North Carolina, and some are ambiguous. We know from Semore's will written in 1782¹³¹ that his father (Jeremiah) formerly lived on land that Semore later bequeathed. Semore's will is the clear evidence that Jeremiah moved to North Carolina and likely died there. The will states:

"It is my will that my executors do make a deed for one hundred and twenty acres of land to my son-in-law John Welborn¹³² that my father formerly lived on and likewise a claim of land containing about eighty acres adjoining to the aforesaid land."

As for when he moved to North Carolina, the absence of Jeremiah's name in the 1755 poll tax list suggests either:

- that he had not yet traveled to North Carolina,
- that he was excused because of his age if that was a common tax practice¹³³, or
- that he had already died in North Carolina¹³⁴.

Since he sold his land in Virginia in 1753 but does not appear to have been in North Carolina in 1755, one plausible assumption is that he lived after 1753 with his son Thomas, who owned land next to Terrapin Neck until 1763, and then moved to North Carolina, although there are other possibilities.

As for the land on which he lived, it is not clear from the language in Semore's will whether this land was part of the land grant that Semore received, other land that Semore purchased and his father lived on, or land that Jeremiah purchased that became Semore's upon Jeremiah's death. To help resolve this, we note that Jeremiah's 1753 sale of his land on Terrapin Neck was in the year he turned 70, and he moved to North Carolina a few, or as much as ten, years later. So, he was at an age where he would not typically have been starting a farm or even building a house.

¹³¹ Orange County, VA. "Will Book No. 1, for 1735-1943." (1738): 64–65.

¹³² Welborn was the husband of Semore's daughter Sarah.

¹³³ The 1755 poll tax list included all free males aged 16 or over and all slaves aged twelve or over (see https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/North_Carolina_Taxation). Also, the recording clerk for this tax list noted that in addition to the 1113 listed, about 30 might have concealed themselves, but he made no mention of any age exemptions.

¹³⁴ This third possibility is also discounted, since a possible gravesite has been found at Sandy Creek Baptist Church, as discussed later. This site for the church was established in 1762, as also discussed later.

Since Jeremiah lived on this land, there would have been a house on it. Whether his wife was still alive or if other relatives were assisting him is unknown. The lack of mention of a living wife was not unusual at that time when referring to land ownership.

Jeremiah definitely died after the land sale in Virginia in 1753 (age 70) and after his move to North Carolina, which was sometime after 1753, possibly as late as 1763 (age 80), and before Semore's will was written in 1782 (age 99) or the 1779 tax list was made (age 96). Based on typical life expectancy, he lived long but was unlikely to make it much beyond 80. A death date of circa 1765 (age 82) is proposed.

Herman Husband and the Yorks

There has been speculation in earlier papers whether the Yorks' move to North Carolina was influenced by or coordinated with the Quaker businessman and politician Herman Husband. However, we have been unable to find any records that show the Yorks and Husband were acquainted before they arrived in North Carolina.

Herman Husband formed a land company and went to central North Carolina from Maryland in 1754.¹³⁵ Eventually, he acquired about 15 land grants from Lord Granville, which was far larger than other settlers, suggesting that he was a land speculator. He went back and forth between North Carolina and Maryland and was not listed on the 1755 poll tax list. He transferred from the Quaker meetinghouse in East Nottingham Pennsylvania to that in Cane Creek, North Carolina in 1755 (Lazenby). Whether he became acquainted with the Yorks through Nottingham connections, during travels through Virginia or not until after the move to North Carolina is uncertain.

Husband became a political leader (elected to the North Carolina Assembly) but was an activist involved in the so-called War of Regulation, a populist protest in central North Carolina against the Colonial government and was subsequently expelled from the Assembly. He was also a religious activist and was asked to leave the Quakers.

Semore York's land adjoined the land where Herman Husband lived on Sandy Creek. Joseph York was a chain carrier on 20 Aug 1757 for the survey of this land grant to Herman Husband, where Husband established a mill.

By their proximity, Herman Husband and the Yorks, particularly Semore but also Jeremiah for a time late in his life, would have been well acquainted in North Carolina.

¹³⁵ Mary Elinor Lazenby, *Herman Husband, a Story of His Life, 1724-1795*. (Silver Spring, MD: Westland Printing, 1940); Google Books, https://books.google.com/books?hl=en&lr=&id=-BM-AAAAIAAJ&oi=fnd&pg=PR1&dq=Herman+Husband&ots=q_BeBxln4n&sig=N-KEZiWc4kTNDXrtj_-15sthTswv=onepage&q=Herman%20Husband&f=false

Elder Shubal Stearns and the Yorks

Similarly, other papers have inferred that a relationship existed between Elder Shubal Stearns and the Yorks in Virginia and that their moves to North Carolina were interdependent.¹³⁶ Elder Shubal Stearns, a very charismatic pastor whose church is discussed in more detail later, moved in 1754 from New England to the areas where the Yorks lived in Virginia, first near Opequon Creek (near Terrapin Neck) and then in the Cacapon River Valley.¹³⁷ At least one of Jeremiah's sons¹³⁸ lived on the Cacapon River, but we are uncertain whether Stearns' relationship with the Yorks began there in Virginia or later in North Carolina.

Stearns spoke against involvement in the War of Regulation and had at least somewhat different religious perspectives than Husband. Semore York appears to have aligned with Stearns. However, we do not have clear evidence of how Husband interacted with Stearns and the Yorks, although they lived in close proximity on the frontier.

Stearns moved with his congregation from Virginia to Orange County, North Carolina in late 1755 but was not on the 1755 poll tax list. Stearns was a chain carrier for the 5 May 1756 survey for Semore York's land grant. Semore York donated the land for the original Sandy Creek Baptist Church in 1762. Semore and his brother Thomas were buried at the church cemetery, with headstones that remain legible today. Elder Stearns died in 1771 and is also buried there near Semore and Thomas. We can be certain of the close relationship of Shubal Stearns and Semore York, and it is highly likely that the preacher interacted with Jeremiah as well, since their time at Sandy Creek almost certainly overlapped.

The Sandy Creek Baptist Church

Writing from Hampshire County, Virginia on 13 June 1755, Elder Shubal Stearns informed his friend [Noah] Alden that he was planning to follow some of their company who had settled in North Carolina. Stearns said to him, "that there was no established meeting within one hundred miles of them, and that the people were so eager to hear, that they often came forty miles each way, when they could have an opportunity to hear a sermon. ... "

¹³⁶ Ronald E. York and Dennis R. York III, *Time Line and Genealogy of Jeremiah York I from England to Colonial North Carolina*, (Dallas: York & Associates Family Histories, 2016).

¹³⁷ Elder John Sparks, *The Roots of Appalachian Christianity: The Life and Legacy of Elder Shubal Stearns*, (Lexington: The University Press of Kentucky, 2001); <https://books.google.com/books?hl=en&lr=&id=KMUeBgAAQBAJ&oi=fnd&pg=PP1&dq=rev.+Shubal+Stearns&ots=CJNew6GAuh&sig=Ny5zDkzab5liPYnCFIrgs6lmskk>

¹³⁸ Jeremiah II

The Sandy Creek Church began with a meeting on 22 Nov 1755, when sixteen people¹³⁹ arrived to start a place of worship. As was typical at the time, Sandy Creek Church likely started with a campground and camp meetings in a brush arbor¹⁴⁰ near Sandy Creek until the first 30' by 26' log cabin was built in 1762, on a hill near the creek on land donated by Semore York.¹⁴¹ Family accounts and church records document that several members of the York family joined the church and are buried in the church cemetery.

In seventeen years, the preaching of Elder Shubal Stearns produced forty-two mission church branches westward as far as the great river Mississippi; southward as far as Georgia; eastward to the sea and Chesapeake Bay; and northward to the waters of Potomac River. Those forty-two churches produced 125 ministers.¹⁴² Two dominations developed from these churches(Paschal, *Morgan Edward's Materials ...*):

- The US's largest Protestant denomination, the Southern Baptist Convention, and
- The Primitive Baptist Church (formerly Separate Baptists).

¹³⁹ Shubal Stearns, Peter Stearns, Ebenezer Stearns, Shubal Stearns Jr., Daniel Marshall, Joseph Breed, Ennis Stinson, Jonathon Polk and their eight wives.

¹⁴⁰ In early colonial times, there were few churches in rural areas. To remedy this situation, brush arbors were built at a good location that had a clearing for wagons to be parked and campfires to be built. This would be near a good source of water with room for families to camp and worship. People who wanted to hear the gospel preached by Elder Shubal Stearns would gather there at the Sandy Creek Settlement. They would come in their wagons prepared to stay several days because if they came from long distances, it would be too far to come and go home each day. They would bring their quilts, food and utensils to cook the food and sleep. At night they would sleep in the wagons or on the ground. The place was called a campground, and the extended meeting was a camp meeting lasting typically a week or more.

¹⁴¹ George W. Paschal, *History of North Carolina Baptists*, Vol.1, 1663-1805, (Raleigh: Edwards & Broughton, 1930), p.227; <http://onemag.org/HistoryNCBaptistsVol1.pdf>

¹⁴² George W. Paschal, "Morgan Edward's Materials Towards a History of the Baptists in the Province of North Carolina (1771)." *North Carolina Historical Review* 7, no. 3 (1930).

Figure 26 shows the 1802 log cabin church restored by Mr. Hal Younts for the 250th anniversary of the Primitive Baptist Church in October 2005. It is still used regularly.



Figure 26: The third Church, built in 1802

Jeremiah York's Grave Located and Rededicated

The children of Jeremiah York and their spouses were faithful members of the Sandy Creek Church. This is evidenced by the burial of most of Jeremiah's children and their families in the church cemetery. Semore York died 8 Feb 1783 in Randolph County, North Carolina. Semore York I and his brother Thomas are buried in the older section of the Sandy Creek Baptist Church Cemetery near the original log cabin. Their graves are only a few feet from his pastor Elder Shubal Stearns. Two hundred and sixty years after its beginning, descendants of the Jeremiah York I family still attend this very active rural church near the town of Liberty in northeastern Randolph County, North Carolina.

After many years of research, the hand-inscribed field rocks of Thomas York and Semore York were discovered, excavated and cleaned in 2002 to 2003. The grave sites of these two York brothers were identified by a plat of the grave sites and confirmed by archeological probing.¹⁴³ Memorial tombstones for Thomas and Semore were then designed and ordered by their fifth great-grandson Dennis York. The new engraved stones were installed along with the original field rock markers in 2003, with a small group of descendants present.

¹⁴³ Franklin Allred and Dennis York were trained by the North Carolina State Archeologist in the proper methodology using steel archaeological probes for locating colonial graves.

Jeremiah's grave was found by cousins Franklin Allred and Dennis York by observing the depression in the adjacent grave site next to Semore York, based on the survey plat of the cemetery, Archeological probing was able to confirm a grave site that could correspond to his father, Jeremiah I. Typically, a head stone marker was unearthed when probing at the proper depth of a proposed grave site. A medium size white flint rock was discovered at the head of the grave that may have been a field rock marker.



Figure 27: The New Sandy Creek Baptist Church

A new tombstone was designed by descendants in 2015, ordered from Legacy Headstones and paid for by the G. M York Family Association.

On Saturday, 16 April 2016, over forty descendants of Jeremiah York I gathered at the Sandy Creek Baptist Church to celebrate the lives and immense contributions of Jeremiah and our other York ancestors who set roots down for our family in America. Figure 28 shows Sandy Creek Baptist Church pastor Travis Brock, center, sharing the history of the church inside the 1802 Log Cabin Church with York family descendants.



Figure 28: York Family Gathers in the 1802 Church

The congregation provided an excellent “down home” meal for the family, which offered a fellowship opportunity for both close and quite distant cousins. The most distant relationship present was about 8th cousins, once-removed – with Jeremiah I as their closest shared



Figure 30: Dedication Prayer by Pastor Brock



Figure 29: New Grave Marker for Jeremiah York I

ancestor!

Most certainly the highlight of the event was the placement and dedication of a new grave marker for Jeremiah.¹⁴⁴

¹⁴⁴ The phrase referring to the “unconfirmed and possibly 2nd wife, Sarah Ann Wilson...” is based on the assumption of an earlier marriage for Jeremiah in England, which the current authors believe to be unsubstantiated.

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Jeremiah's Wives and Children

Our understanding of Jeremiah's wives and children is an evolving story, needing review and revision as additional information is discovered. While logically this section should be an appendix, we felt it was too important to be placed where some readers might not see it.

We have presented evidence that Jeremiah probably had two wives. He appears to be the only male York of his generation in Nottingham Pennsylvania and the Northern Neck of Virginia. The evidence for his sons is largely based on land, tax, military, probate and other government records for York males that fit for the next generation. Most importantly, we have the Bible record for Henry's birth, the given name Jeremiah that was given to one son and several grandsons, and the use of Jeremiah's mother's maiden name for the given name of one son. Plus, we have a migration pattern of five sons moving to one area in North Carolina and at least three sons moving further west together in Virginia. We also have Y-DNA evidence from living descendants of several of these sons that they are closely related. So, there is strong evidence for the names and migrations of his sons.

Unfortunately for genealogists, no official records can be found of births and marriages for the time and location of Jeremiah and the next generation (except for some Quakers and elites, but those do not help us). Coupled with the practice then of all women taking the surname of their husband and property belonging to the husband, women rarely are named in government documents. There are a few exceptions, where a wife may be named in a will or a petition, but even then, the maiden name is not used. Other than with the rare example of a preserved Bible record, at best we can know only the given names of the wives of Jeremiah's sons and would have to make suppositions based on circumstantial evidence for their surnames. Occasionally, we sometimes have a surname or (presumably) favorite brother from the maternal lineage passed along as a given name.

For Jeremiah's daughters (and assuredly he had some daughters in addition to the eight or nine sons), the situation is considerably worse. We have no record of their given names, and after they were married, their maiden name was lost. The only recourse is to look at allied families (e.g., families that migrate to the same areas at the same times, neighbors per tax and land records, witnesses to wills, etc.) and speculate whether a wife with known given name and approximate age could potentially be a York. This approach is fraught with uncertainty and is unacceptable to many genealogists. Nonetheless, such speculation based on careful examination of the full record for a given time and area could be useful for showing possible links. In that spirit, we are presenting the results of that examination, although we are not presenting the details of why those links were made in this paper.

Much of what has been published on the internet in various shared sites like Ancestry and RootsWeb plus many personal webpages is based on assumptions that were in place before 2000. The key assumption at that time of course was based on the “late arrival” scenario that presumed Jeremiah was first married in England to Sarah Seymour, which in turn led to other speculations.

Most York genealogists did not have a complete list of Jeremiah’s children before 2000; instead, listing only those associated with their branch. Even past 2000, some of the websites most-often used as a source did not have a complete list of the children. There was no confirmed primary source for the birth dates of any of Jeremiah’s children and only a single, third-hand record of Henry’s birth in 1732. We need to recognize that all of the birthdates, except Henry’s, in any of these records are estimates, are based on other data and additional assumptions.

Conventional List of Jeremiah’s Children

The predominant view has been that all of Jeremiah I’s known children were born in America after he married Sarah before 1721, based on the date of John Willson’s will. Some set of (undocumented) reasoning was applied to establish birth dates for the children and then they were “stacked” up about a year apart around Henry’s birth date of 1732, in a list that usually looks something like this:

1722	Hannah Jane
1723	Elijah
1724	Jesse
1725	John
1726	Elizabeth “Betty” Ann
1727	Semore
????	David
1729	Thomas
1730	Jeremiah II
1732	Henry
1734	Joseph
1735	Sarah

David was added to this list and assumed to be close in age to Thomas because both were chain carriers on the 1750 survey of Jeremiah’s property by Guy Broadwater.

It’s easy to see the problems that this combination of assumptions produced, 12 children in the space of only 13 years! Biologically possible, we assume --- but highly unlikely. However, other than recognizing that this close-packed sequence of dates was improbable, none of the most prevalent assumptions provided sufficient guidance as to how the dates should be adjusted.

A Revised Estimate of the Birthdates for Jeremiah's Children

Several of the data and assumptions presented in this paper can lead to more realistic estimates for Jeremiah's children's birth dates. These data, inferences, and assumptions are as follows:

1. Evidence suggests that Jeremiah's first marriage was to Sarah Wilson as early as
2. We deduced that John was born circa 1715 in order to have had a son listed with him on the 1755 tax list in Orange County, North Carolina. We assumed that John was the first-born son, named after his maternal grandfather John Willson, as was often the custom.
3. David appears to be older than Jeremiah II, because he is recorded as having sold land on Patterson Creek in 1748.
4. David and Thomas were of legal age to serve as chain-carriers on Jeremiah's 1750 survey. If the legal age was eighteen, then they were both born at least by 1732, so they are older than Henry. If the legal age was twenty-one, then they were born at least by 1729.
5. Semore has several age constraints: (1) his eldest child begins signing legal documents in 1771 (over age twenty-one), putting Semore's marriage before 1749 and likely birth before 1728; (2) six of his ten living children were underage when Semore wrote his will in 1782; an approximate 1727 birthdate and a twenty-five year spread of children from 1749 to 1774 would fit the will with him fathering children from age twenty-two to forty-seven.
6. We estimate Jeremiah II was born no later than 1730 to have been married about 1751, and to have produced a son John in 1752 (confirmed by John's Revolutionary War Records). Jeremiah II was likely born before 1728 because he sold his improvements on a tract of land on the Cacapon River to Lewis DeMoss before DeMoss died in 1749¹⁴⁵. Jeremiah II established a 2nd home about 1750 on 195a. just below the Forks of the Cacapon next to Henry Enoch. Jeremiah's land was surveyed by John Mauzy in 1753.¹⁴⁶
7. Little is known about Elijah and Jesse beyond a few Pennsylvania tax records that suggest that Elijah was the eldest of the three brothers went west over the Allegheny Mountains together, followed in age by Jesse and Jeremiah II.¹⁴⁷
8. Hannah Jane is reported to be the wife of Zachariah Routh, Sr. by Dennis York. He gives Zachariah's birth as 1717 and their marriage as about 1738. A birthdate between 1717 and 1722 for Hannah is a good match for Zechariah and conflicts with no known data.
9. Thomas may have been born a year or two earlier than 1729 based on his marriage to Elinor Aldridge about 1747 and the birth of Susannah in 1748.

¹⁴⁵ "Jeremiah York sold this land to Lewis Demoss, father of Christian Demoss, who died before he had entered it ..." (Joyner, 1985) Lewis DeMoss died about 1749, Executors were appointed to administer his estate on 6 June 1749. Frederick County Will Book 1, pp 298-299. (DeMoss, 2019)

¹⁴⁶ Henry G. Enoch, *Historical Records of the Enoch Family in Virginia and Pennsylvania*, op. cit., p.79.

¹⁴⁷ Ron York, "*Jeremiah York II, A Life on the Frontier*," Work-in-progress, 2019.

Thomas was appointed a constable in 1749, so must surely have been 21 by then. Thomas also applied for a warrant to purchase land in 1750, suggesting that he was at least twenty-one by that time.

10. It would make sense for a daughter of Jeremiah's second wife to be named Elizabeth and, therefore, to have been born after 1726. Some genealogists believe that Elizabeth married William Diffie Jr. about 1752¹⁴⁸ and had a son in 1755. Elizabeth's birth date could be as early as 1726. If it was as late as 1734 she would have still been eighteen by the time of a 1752 marriage.
11. Henry's birth date in 1732 is based on a traceable record.¹⁴⁹
12. There appears to be no need or reason to shift Joseph (1734) and Sarah (1735) only slightly.

Children were generally kept in the above presumed order, but some additional, more speculative assumptions were also applied:

13. It's just a hunch, but it might be reasonable to switch the sequence of Jeremiah II and Semore. If Jeremiah II was a son of the first wife instead of Semore, it would explain why David, Elijah, Jesse and Jeremiah II went west together to the Patterson Creek and Cacapon River valleys and then the latter three were found together later over the Allegheny Mountains in southwest Pennsylvania. In contrast, Semore, Thomas, Henry and Joseph all went south to North Carolina.
14. Men are assumed to have been at least twenty-one when married and women eighteen. Men were assumed to be at least twenty-one when they purchased and/or settled land.
15. Children (of the same mother) are assumed to be spaced two years apart, some of Jeremiah's children already fit very closely to the assumed "normal" ages.
16. It's assumed that there were no twins.

The result of applying these considerations results in the following realignment. The columns are the newly proposed dates, the prior assumed dates listed above and the number of years the dates were shifted.

1712	Jeremiah m. Sarah, daughter of John Willson			
	Proposed	Was	Shift	
	John	1715*	1726	-10
	David	1717		-
	Hannah Jane	1719	1722	-3
	Elijah	1721	1723	-2
	Jesse	1723	1724	-1
	Jeremiah II	1725	1730	-5

¹⁴⁸ Dawnell Griffin, *From England to America, Our Allred Family*, op. cit., p.171.

¹⁴⁹ Memory Lester, *Old Southern Bible Records*, op. cit., p.343.

1725	Sarah died			
1726	Jeremiah m. Elizabeth (the Quaker)			
	Semore	1726	1727	-1
	Thomas	1728	1729	-1
	Elizabeth	1730	1726	4
	Henry	1732*	1732	0
	Joseph	1734	1734	0
	Sarah	1736	1735	1

Is this result right or wrong? There is no way to tell for certain. However, it satisfies these criteria:

- It is internally consistent and biologically more reasonable than the initial list.
- It agrees with the few comparatively well-established dates, denoted with an * above
- The adjusted birth years result in “more normal” ages at the time of their marriages and are better-matched to the ages of their spouses
- It provides a rational suggestion why Elijah, Jesse and Jeremiah II (from the 1st wife) chose a different path than Semore, Thomas, Henry and Joseph (from the 2nd wife). However, the oldest son John deviates from this pattern as he moved south with the group from the 2nd wife.
- It conflicts with no “known” data.
- The assumptions are documented.

What we are proposing essentially is to replace one list of assumed dates that were constructed independently of one another with this list of more rational, internally-consistent assumptions based on the updated research presented in this paper. The authors recommend the use of this last list as a “working hypothesis” going forward, to be confirmed or adjusted as we can find relevant data such as tax lists, property records, etc. that can establish specific ages at known dates.

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Summary and Conclusions

Jeremiah York of Olney, England was the initial immigrant of our family to arrive in America, which now is estimated to include over 100 million descendants. He was clearly an individual who was bold and resourceful enough to face and overcome huge challenges as he gained a foothold and then a home for the family he established.

When we look at Jeremiah in the context of what we also know about the York generations that followed him, we see each generation regularly being one of the earliest families to move to and settle on the ever-expanding western frontier of the colonies and succeeding states. He apparently instilled into our family the attitudes and skills necessary to enter, survive and thrive in the harshest of frontier settings, far from any civilized conveniences or comforts and often on the border of conflict. We have observed a pattern to the initial moves made by Jeremiah I and the succeeding generations. There seemed to be three factors that were almost always present:

1. There was a need to leave where they were. Usually this was a need for more land. The earliest settlers in each newly opened area got to choose the best land, which usually included a focus on the quality of land and water to establish a working farm. But, by the time the succeeding generation was of age to marry and establish their own homes, wild game was depleted and most of the good land was already taken, expensive or worn out by poor farming techniques. A growing family had to move to find more, affordable land. Jeremiah's family probably included nine children by the time he left West Nottingham and twelve by the time the family began leaving Terrapin Neck.
2. There was an opportunity that opened up. Frequently, political events played a major role that led to the opening of new lands. Wm. Penn's decision to establish West Nottingham Lots as a hedge to assert his rights on the border with Maryland and Penn's intent to promote small landholders created the first opportunity for Jeremiah. The Virginia Council's decisions in 1730 to promote settlement in the Shenandoah Valley west of the Blue Ridge Mountains created his second. Granville opening land for sale in North Carolina was the third.
3. There was means to get there. There had to be physical access good enough to move a family with sufficient provisions and tools to carve out a new home in the wilderness. By foot, pack horse, wagon and riverboats, our family moved along the first (and often only) available trails and rivers to open up routes to these new lands. Jeremiah followed the first roads in western Chester & Lancaster counties of Pennsylvania, that had only recently been upgraded from Native American paths, and then the Monocacy Road to the Opequon River Valley of Virginia. He went along the Great Wagon Road south through the

Shenandoah Valley when he left his home on Terrapin Neck to reach the family's next home in North Carolina.

Those of us who are Jeremiah's descendants have a right and obligation to be very proud of Jeremiah and the family he established here in America. He, and they, were the very epitome of the independent, capable pioneers who built this great country.

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Appendix A: Ancestors of Jeremiah York I

Information in this appendix is based on English parish (christenings, marriages, and burials) and probate (will) records (except for the postulated marriages of Jeremiah in America). To clarify what is based on records and what is based on circumstantial evidence, we use specific dates or "about," respectively. Also, the original spellings are used and info in (parentheses) is added for clarification.

While the examination of the potentially relevant records was fairly thorough, the parish and probate records are incomplete. And, new information may arise that would revise our analysis. Also, while some links between generations are clear, a few are based on circumstantial evidence. The quality and justification of the links are discussed in detail in earlier papers.¹⁵⁰

Generation 1

Jeremiah Yorke (I), son of Richard Yorke (II) and Ann Seymour, was christened 8 Sep 1683 in Olney, Buckinghamshire, England. He died about 1765 in Randolph County, North Carolina, USA. He first married Sarah Willson, daughter of John Willson about 1714. She died about 1725 in West Nottingham, Chester County, Pennsylvania He second married Elizabeth York about 1726 in West Nottingham, Chester County, Pennsylvania. Elizabeth York was ejected from Quakers "for marrying out of unity" per minutes of New Garden, Pennsylvania monthly meeting.

Generation 2

Richard Yorke (II), son of Richard Yorke (I) and Mary, was christened 27 Nov 1650 in Old, Northamptonshire, England. He was buried 6 Mar 1695/96 in Olney, Buckinghamshire, England. He married Ann Seymour, daughter of Jeremiah and Ann Seymore on 14 Nov 1682 in Olney, Buckinghamshire, England. Jeremiah Seymore was buried on 21 Sep 1683 and Ann Seymore on 8 Oct 1694, both in Olney, Buckinghamshire, England.

Wife: Ann Seymour

Generation 3

Richard Yorke (I), son of George Yorke (II) and Ellen, was christened 22 Oct 1620 in Naseby, Northamptonshire, England. He died before 25 Sep 1660 (probate date) in Old, Northamptonshire, England. He married Mary on 12 Sep 1642 in Old, Northamptonshire, England.

Wife: Mary surname unknown

Jeremiah Seymore, was buried on 21 Sep 1683 in Olney, Buckinghamshire, England.

¹⁵⁰ James E. York, III, *The Emigrant Jeremiah York: His English Ancestors and American Descendants to James Earl York III*, op. cit.

Generation 4

George Yorke (II), son of George Yorke (I) and Francis Astyll was born about 1595 in Naseby, Northamptonshire, England. He was buried 04 Nov 1664 in Naseby, Northamptonshire, England. He married Ellen about 1614 near Naseby, Northamptonshire, England.

Wife: Ellen surname unknown

Generation 5

George Yorke (I), son of John Yorke and Agnes was christened 15 Jan 1563/64 in Naseby, Northamptonshire, England. He was buried in 1647 (month and day illegible on record) in Naseby, Northamptonshire. He married Francis Astyll on 24 Oct 1594 in Naseby, Northamptonshire, England.

Wife: Francis Astyll was buried 10 Jul 1614 in Naseby, Northamptonshire, England.

Generation 6

John Yorke, son of Thomas Yorke and Em (Emily) was born about 1530 in Naseby, Northamptonshire, England. He was buried 16 Sep 1607 in Naseby, Northamptonshire, England. He married Agnes in 1562 in Naseby, Northamptonshire, England.

Wife: Agnes surname unknown was buried 27 May 1599 in Naseby, Northamptonshire, England.

Generation 7

Thomas Yorke, son of Robert Yorke and Margaret was born about 1500 in Naseby, Northamptonshire, England. He died before 9 May 1559 (probate date) in Naseby, Northamptonshire, England. He married Em (Emily).

Wife: Em (Emily) surname unknown was buried 26 Nov 1571 in Naseby, Northamptonshire, England.

Generation 8

Robert Yorke was born about 1470. He died in 1528 (probate date; will written 20 Oct 1528) in Lamport, Northamptonshire, England. He married Margaret.

Wife: Margaret surname unknown

You can access this ancestral lineage of Jeremiah York on the tree "RonYork" on Ancestry.com. Simply search the member directory for "ronyork234".

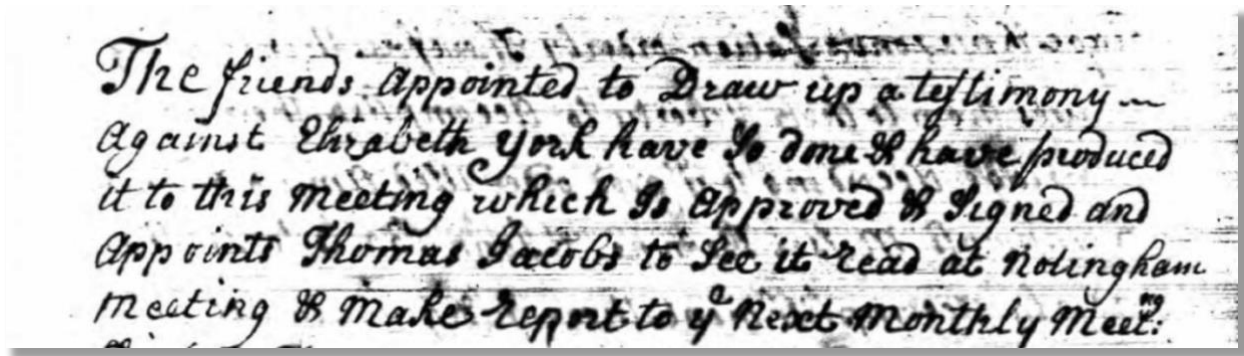
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Appendix B: Excerpts from 1726 Quaker Monthly Meeting Minutes Regarding Elizabeth York

Source: (Quakers 1726) p. 94-98: "Att a Monthly Meeting of New Garden held at New Garden the 8th of the 4th month of 1726 (old calendar = 8 June 1726 modern calendar)

"This Meeting being informed that Elizabeth York hath gon to a priest & married a man who was not of our Persuasion Notwithstanding She was Cautioned against it before hand therefore this Meeting agrees that there be a Testimony against her and Appoints James King and Richard Beeson to write it and bring it to the next Monthly Meeting, next Meeting to be at New Garden.

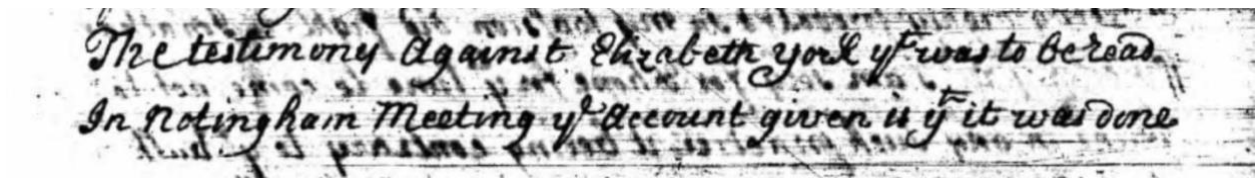
"Att a Monthly Meeting of New Garden held at New Garden on the 4th day of the 4th month of 1726" (old calendar = 4 July 1726 modern calendar)



The friends appointed to Draw up a testimony against Elizabeth York have so done & have produced it to this meeting which is Approved & Signed and Appoints Thomas Jacobs to See it read at Nottingham Meeting & Make report to y^e Next Monthly Meet^g.

"The Friends appointed to Draw up a testimony against Elizabeth York have so done and have produced it to the Meeting which Is Approved and Signed and appoints Thomas Jacob to See it read at Notinham Meeting & make report to the next Monthly Meeting.

"Att a Monthly Meeting of New Garden held at New Garden on the 9th day of the 5th month of 1726 (old calendar = 9 Aug 1726 modern calendar)



The testimony against Elizabeth York y^e was to be read In Nottingham Meeting y^e account given is y^e it was done.

"The testimony against Elizabeth York that was to be read In Nottingham Meeting the account given is that it was done."

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Appendix C: Jeremiah's 1751 Deed from Lord Fairfax¹⁵¹

A transcription of this document is on the next page.

(541)

The Right Honourable Thomas Lord Fairfax Baron of Cameron in that part of great Britain called Scotland Proprietor of the Northern Neck of Virginia to all to whom this Present Writing shall come sende greeting Knowe that for good causes for and in Consideration of the Composition to Me paid and for the annual Rent hereafter to be made I have given granted and confirmed and by these presents For Me my Heirs and Assigns Do give grant and Confirm unto Jeremiah York of the County of Frederick a certain parcel or Tract of Waste Land situate in the said County of Frederick and bounded as by a Survey thereof made by Me Guy Broadwater as followeth Beginning at a liberty standing upon the Edge of Potomack River Banks extending down the said River S³⁵ E³⁵ Thirty six Poles thence S²¹ W²¹ Sixty six Poles thence S³⁸ W³⁸ Twenty four Poles then S⁷ E⁷ Thirty eight Poles to an Ash standing upon the edge of the said River Banks thence into the Woods N³⁵ W³⁵ Two hundred and fifty Poles to a White Oak thence N⁸⁹ E⁸⁹ one hundred and eighty six Poles to a Red Oak thence S³⁵ E³⁵ Two hundred and fifty Poles to the Beginning containing Three hundred and twenty Three Acres Together with all Rights Members and appurtenances thereunto belonging Royall Mines excepted and a full Third part of all Lead Copper Tinn Coals Iron Mines and Iron Ore that shall be found thereon To have and to hold the said three hundred and twenty three Acres of Land Together with all rights Profits and Benefits to the same belonging over any and upon anything except before excepted To him the said Jeremiah York his Heirs and Assigns for ever the the said Jeremiah York his Heirs or Assigns here for yeilding and paying to Me my Heirs or Assigns or to my certain Attorney or Attorneys Agent or Agents or to the certain Attorney or Attorneys of my Heirs or Assigns Proprietors of the said Northern Neck Yearly and every Year on the Feast Day of S^t Michael the Archangel the Fee Rent of one Shilling Sterling Money for every fifty Acres of Land hereby Granted and so proportionably for a greater or all for Quantity Provided that if the said Jeremiah York his Heirs and Assigns shall not pay the before reserved annual Rent so that the same or any part thereof shall be behind or unpaid by the space of two or three Years after the same shall become Due if lawfully Demanded that then it may & shall be lawfull for Me my Heirs and Assigns my or their certain Attorney or Attorneys Agent or Agents into the above granted Premises to Present and hold the same so as if this Grant had been with the said Governor at my Office in the County of Fairfax within my said Proprietary under my Hand & Seal Dated this Seventh Day of June in the twenty fifth Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the second by the grace of God of great Britain France and Ireland King Defender of the Faith &c Done Thousand seven hundred and fifty one

Fairfax

Jeremiah Yorks Deed for
323 Acres of Land in Frederick
County

¹⁵¹ Fairfax. Land Grant to Jeremiah York. Frederick Co., Virginia. 6/7/1751; Library of Virginia, Virginia Land Office Patents and Grants, Northern Neck Grants and Surveys, Book G, p.541, http://image.lva.virginia.gov/LONN/NN-5/292-2/292_0483.tif.

Transcription of the Grant from Lord Fairfax to Jeremiah York

7 June 1751

The Right Honourable Thomas Lord Fairfax Baron of Cameron in that part of great Brittain called Scotland Proprietor of the Northern Neck of Virginia to all to whom this Present Writing shall come sends a Greeting Know Ye that for good causes for and in consideration of the composition to me paid and for the annual rent hereafter reserved I have given granted and confirmed and by these presents For Me my Heirs and assigns do grant and confirm unto Jeremiah York of the County of Frederick a certain parcel or Tract of Waste land situate in the said County of Frederick and bounded as by a survey thereof made by Mr Guy Broadwater as followeth Beginning at a hickory standing upon the Edge of Potomack River Bank extending down the said River So35E Thirty six Poles thence So24W Sixty six Poles thence So58W seventy four poles then So74W thirty eight Poles to an Ash standing upon the edge of the said River Bank thence into the Woods No35W Two hundred and fifty Poles to a White Oak thence No39E one hundred and eighty six Poles to a red oak thence So35E Two hundred and fifty Poles to the Beginning containing Three hundred and twenty Three Acres. Together with all rights Members and appurtenances thereto belonging Royale Mines accepted and a full Third part of all Lead Copper Tinn Coals Iron Mines and Iron Ore that shall be found thereon To have and to hold the said three hundred and twenty three acres of Land Together with all rights Profits and Benefits to the same belonging or in any wise appertaining Except before Excepted To him the said Jemeriah York His Heirs and assigns for ever He the said Jeremiah York his Heirs or assigns therefore yielding and paying to Me my Heirs or assigns or to my certain attorney or attorneys agent or agents or to the certain attorney or attorneys of my Heirs or assigns Proprietors of the said Northern Neck Yearly and every Year on the Feast Day of St Michael the Archangel The Fee Rent of one shilling sterling Money for every fifty acres of land hereby Granted and so proportionally for a greater or a lesser Quantity Provided that if the said Jeremiah York his Heirs and Assigns shall not pay the before reserved annual Rent so that the same of any part thereof shall be behind or unpaid by the space of two whole Years after the same shall become Due if lawfully Demanded That then it may & shall be lawfull for Me my Heirs and Assigns my or Their certain attorney or attorneys agent or agents into the above granted Premisses to Reenter and hold the same so as if this Grant had never pass'd Given at my Office in the County of Fairfax within my said Proprietary under my Hand & Seal Dated this Seventh Day of June in the twenty fifth Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the second by the grace of God of great Brittain France and Ireland King Defender of the Faith AD one Thousand seven hundred and fifty one

Jeremiah York Deed for

Fairfax

323 acres of Land in Frederick

County

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