

## The Line of James Bynum (c1690 – 1763), Grandson of John Bynum

This line is continued from Chapter 2

- 2.2. **James Bynum** (1690s – 1763), son of James and grandson of the immigrant John Bynum, used a very distinctive signature mark in both Virginia and North Carolina, making it relatively simple to trace him. That he was the son of James Bynum of Surry County, Virginia is suggested by a reasonably conclusive array of circumstantial evidence. His birth date can only be estimated. He was not tithable in 1704, thus was born after mid-1688, and does not appear in the Surry court minutes (which end in 1718). He does not appear in any record until 1724, and thus could have been born as late as 1700 or later. Since his father was dead by 1723, the James Bynum who witnessed to the will of Thomas Hunt on 3 April 1724 must have been the son.<sup>1</sup> Indeed his signature mark was the same distinctive mark later used in North Carolina.<sup>2</sup> On 4 June 1726, he witnessed Edward Grantham's sale of part of his father's 1714 patents which Grantham had earlier bought from William Bynum.<sup>3</sup> It is likely that he had already married by then to Agnes (Nicholson) Farmer.

Agnes Farmer was the widow of Thomas Farmer, who had died intestate before 21 August 1723, when the court appointed Agnes Farmer his administratrix and ordered an inventory.<sup>4</sup> She was still Agnes Farmer when she presented the inventory on 2 November 1723.<sup>5</sup> She was James Bynum's consort by 8 November 1727, when both James and Agnes Bynum witnessed the will of Thomas Horton.<sup>6</sup> On 24 September 1728 James and Agnes Bynum were ordered to produce an accounting of the Farmer estate, which they delivered on 18 June 1729.<sup>7</sup> This accounting listed five Farmer children: sons Isaac, James, William, and Thomas Farmer, and daughter Elizabeth Porter, and included small payments to both James Bynum and William Bynum. Agnes Farmer was the daughter of the George Nicholson mentioned elsewhere, whose will dated 13 February 1712/13 left a cow to his daughter Agnes Farmer.<sup>8</sup> Since Agnes Farmer was left with several minor children at her husband's death, it is likely that she remarried to James Bynum within a year or so after Farmer's death, though the 8 November 1727 will of Thomas Horton was the first reference to her as Agnes Bynum. Oddly, she was called "Agnes Farmer" a week later, when on 15 November 1727 she was presented by the grand jury for having a bastard child.<sup>9</sup>

It seems likely that Agnes and James Bynum were married as Quakers, and thus were not recognized as a married couple in the eyes of the civil authorities. Indeed, James Bynum and Agnes Farmer were fined for "evil cohabitation together" on 20 November 1728.<sup>10</sup> Although there was a relatively

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<sup>1</sup> Surry County Deeds & Wills Book 7, p691. This has been abstracted incorrectly as "James Byrum". A Mary Bynum witnessed the same will, whether a first wife, a sister, or a sister-in-law is unclear.

<sup>2</sup> He used a sort of Roman "J", a block letter "I" with a horizontal line through the middle.

<sup>3</sup> Surry County Deeds & Wills Book 7, p728. William Bynum, his brother, had sold James Bynum Sr.'s 1714 patents to Edward Grantham in 1723. Her Jams Bynum is witnessing Edward Grantham's sale of part of that land.

<sup>4</sup> Surry County Deeds & Wills Book 7, p496. This refers to an "order of the court bearing the date 21 August 1723."

<sup>5</sup> Ibid. Inventory dated 2 November and recorded 18 December 1723.

<sup>6</sup> Surry County Deeds & Wills Book 7, p839.

<sup>7</sup> Surry County Deeds & Wills Book 7, p955. Small sums were paid to James and William Bynum, and the remainder was divided among the five Farmer children:

<sup>8</sup> Surry County Deeds & Wills Book 7, p35.

<sup>9</sup> Surry County Deeds & Wills Book 7, p769. Mary Owen was indicted for having a bastard child "at Agnes Farmer's", while Agnes was indicted for "having" a bastard child.

<sup>10</sup> Surry County Deeds & Wills Book 7, page number unreadable.

large Quaker contingent in Surry County, its records before 1752 do not survive. However, one of the Farmer children was later a prominent Quaker in North Carolina. Agnes Farmer was perhaps the Quaker influence, for there is no later evidence that their Bynum children adopted that faith.

James Bynum, apparently with the Farmer children in tow, moved into North Carolina about 1730, settling a few miles from his brother William Bynum. The last record of him in Virginia is the final accounting of the Farmer estate filed on 18 June 1729.<sup>11</sup> He was a resident of Edgecombe County, North Carolina on 8 January 1732/3 when he bought 270 acres from Thomas Turner on Kehukee Swamp, south of the Roanoke River.<sup>12</sup> The land was in the part of Edgecombe County which would, in 1759, become southeastern Halifax County. He sold 100 acres of that land to Robert Surjoyner adjacent to “Bynum’s Mill Pond” in 1744.<sup>13</sup> (This would be later referred to as “James Bynum’s Mill Swamp” in a 1748 deed.<sup>14</sup>) On 25 January 1741/2 he bought 120 acres nearby on Deep Creek from Nicholas Porter, the husband of his stepdaughter Elizabeth Farmer.<sup>15</sup> He sold that land three years later to Samuel Whitney.<sup>16</sup> He added a grant for 179 acres on Deep Creek on 25 March 1749.<sup>17</sup> He sold that 179 acre grant to James and Arthur Smith on 10 August 1755, still signing with the same distinctive mark he had used thirty years earlier in Virginia.<sup>18</sup>

These transactions left him with 170 acres, but he evidently had acquired additional land not recorded in the surviving deed books.<sup>19</sup> He sold 500 acres to his son Nicholson Bynum on 14 December 1753, again signing with his distinctive mark.<sup>20</sup> He also witnessed the deed the same day between his sons Nicholson Bynum and William Bynum, when Nicholson sold the land he had bought a few months earlier in a transaction also witnessed by James Bynum.

James Bynum died testate in Halifax County in 1763, leaving two sons and two daughters mentioned in his will dated 21 June 1762 and recorded at the April court 1763.<sup>21</sup> The will makes bequests to his sons William and “Nichols”; to daughters Agnes Whitney and Mary Dill; and to grandsons John, son of William, and James, son of Nichols. He may have had a son named John who died in 1761 and whose estate was administered by William Bynum – it’s not clear whether this was a brother or a son. He may also have had a son named Robert, who appears briefly in the Edgecombe records in the 1750s but not thereafter. William Bynum, his executor, seems likely to have been the eldest son.

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<sup>11</sup> Surry County Deed Book 7, p955.

<sup>12</sup> Edgecombe County Deed Book 1, p44.

<sup>13</sup> Edgecombe County Deed Book 1, p416.

<sup>14</sup> Abstracts of Deeds, Edgecombe Precinct, North Carolina 1732-1758, Margaret M. Hoffman, (DB 2, p318). I note that here is a present-day creek in Edgecombe County called “Bynum’s Mill Creek” which does not appear to be the same creek as this one.

<sup>15</sup> Edgecombe County Deed Book 5, p76.

<sup>16</sup> Hoffman, p297, dated 2 June 1744.

<sup>17</sup> Halifax County Deed Book 2, p449. Also among the Granville grant records at NC Archives.

<sup>18</sup> Halifax County Deed Book 2, p323. Note that the deed was recorded in Edgecombe County, but appears in what is now called a Halifax County deed book.

<sup>19</sup> There may be a missing or unrecorded deed. Or he may have acquired land from someone’s will. Another possibility is that the grant to “Robert Bynum” of 1752 may have been a miscopied grant to James Bynum. I note that James Bynum was left with about 170 acres and the grant was for 249 acres, a total of about 419 acres. Though he sold 500 acres to Nicholson Bynum, Nicholson Bynum’s resales were for only 460 acres. The accuracy of surveys allowing for considerable variations in acreage, we should consider the possibility that the grant to Robert Bynum was misrecorded. The grant files in the NC Archive have not been checked, but would likely resolve this question.

<sup>20</sup> Halifax County Deed Book 4, p569.

<sup>21</sup> Halifax County Will Book 1, p98. Dated 21 June 1762 and recorded in April court 1763. The will is abstracted as dated in 1763, but was dated 1762.

2.2.1. **William Bynum** (c1727 – 1790s) From later records, it is likely that he was the “bastard child” born to Agnes in 1727 (see above). On 14 December 1753 his brother Nicholson Bynum sold him 100 acres in Edgecombe County with James Bynum a witness.<sup>22</sup> William Bynum also witnessed (by his mark) James Bynum’s deed to Nicholson Bynum dated the same day. William Bynum patented another 249 acres in Edgecombe County on 15 May 1756.<sup>23</sup> Both parcels fell into Halifax County when it was formed in January 1759. In March 1761 William Bynum was granted administration of the estate of John Bynum, with Nicholson Bynum his security.<sup>24</sup> He apparently relinquished the administration, for three months later John Weaver had assumed the duty in June 1761.<sup>25</sup> His father died in 1763, his will leaving half of his estate to his son William, a slave to William’s minor son John Bynum, and named William his executor.<sup>26</sup>

William Bynum added to his land in Halifax with 270 acres on Deep Creek purchased on 19 October 1762.<sup>27</sup> He would sell that parcel to William Bynum Jr. twenty years later. Two odd transactions occurred in the next few years. He bought another 200 acres on Deep Creek from Benjamin Whitehead on 9 October 1765, described as the “land William Bynum now lives on.”<sup>28</sup> On 15 January 1768 he sold his 249 acre patent to Benjamin Whitehead, describing it as “the land the said Benjamin Whitehead now lives on”.<sup>29</sup>

On 14 February 1772 William Bynum and his wife Faith sold 240 acres on Deep Creek next to “the plantation the said Bynum now lives on”, to Joseph Whitehead.<sup>30</sup> Faith Bynum, his wife, relinquished her dower interest the same day. Ten years later, in 1783, William Bynum was “Senior” when he sold his 249 acres on Deep Creek to William Bynum Jr.<sup>31</sup> He does not appear again in the deed records. However, he witnessed the will of Martha Applewhite (see below) in 1788.

The 1786 state census for Halifax County, returned 1 February 1786, shows both William Bynum Jr. and William Bynum Sr., the latter with two males in the “under 21 – over 60” column. I note that this implies William Bynum himself was over 60, though that seems unlikely. Indeed, in 1790 the state census lists him with two males between 21 and 60, and the 1790 federal census lists him with two males over 16. He had two females in his household in 1786 but only one in 1790, suggesting that he had a daughter who married in the late 1780s. He was listed with two slaves in each census.

No record of his death was found in Halifax County. He may have still been alive as late as 1792 when his son was still styling himself as William Bynum “Junior”.<sup>32</sup> He apparently died sometime in the 1790s, for he does not appear in the 1800 census.

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<sup>22</sup> Halifax County Deed Book 4, p572.

<sup>23</sup> Granville Grant files in NC Archives. I did not find this recorded in Edgecombe or Halifax, but this is the land he sold to Benjamin Whitehead in 1768 when he described it as his patent of 12 May 1756.

<sup>24</sup> Edgecombe County Court Minutes, p44.

<sup>25</sup> Among the loose estate records of Halifax County is a sheriff’s order of 21 June 1761 mentioning John Weaver as administrator. The court records show a bond by John Weaver, with Nicholson Bynum his security, on the same date.

<sup>26</sup> Halifax County Will Book 1, p98.

<sup>27</sup> Halifax County Deed Book 8, p273.

<sup>28</sup> Halifax County Deed Book 9, p420.

<sup>29</sup> Halifax County Deed Book 10, p530.

<sup>30</sup> Halifax County Deed Book 12, p145.

<sup>31</sup> Halifax County Deed Book 15, p93.

<sup>32</sup> Halifax County Deed Book 17, p412.

His wife Faith was the daughter of Benjamin Lane and Ann Drew. The will of Joseph Lane, dated 6 December 1757 and proved in November 1758 in Edgecombe County, gives “to my sister Faith Bynum my Negro woman Destiny”.<sup>33</sup> The will of Edward Drew, dated 24 November 1745 and recorded 8 March 1749 in Southampton County, Virginia bequeaths a slave to his grandson Joseph Lane and £25 to “my granddaughter Faith Lane, daughter of Benjamin Lane.”<sup>34</sup> Elsewhere in the will is a confirmation that Joseph and Faith were children of his daughter Ann Drew and her husband Benjamin Lane.<sup>35</sup> Benjamin Lane, who was living in the part of Edgecombe that became Nash County, survived his son Joseph. In 1787 he deeded a slave to his grandson Benjamin Bryant and in 1789 Benjamin Bryant was appointed his administrator (Joseph Lane’s will had named Drusilla Bryant, apparently the wife of Benjamin, as his sister.)

Faith Lane may have been the widow of Joseph Whitehead, whose inventory was presented in May 1752 in Edgecombe County by his widow Faith. She was unmarried when her grandfather wrote his will in late 1745, but may have married Whitehead shortly thereafter. They evidently had a son named Joseph and perhaps other children.<sup>36</sup> Joseph Whitehead, the son, was later a neighbor of William Bynum and (as noted above) William and Faith Bynum sold him land in 1772, and both William Bynum Sr. and Jr. witnessed his will in 1781.<sup>37</sup> If she were indeed first married to Joseph Whitehead, that would place her marriage to William Bynum sometime after mid-1752 but before her brother’s will of 1757.

- 2.2.1.1. **John Bynum** (1750s – 1790s?) He was mentioned in his grandfather’s 1762 will, which left him a slave, implying that he was the eldest son. He does not appear in any further records, and perhaps died before reaching majority. His father’s household in 1786 included a second male under 21 (or over 60), though John Bynum would have been a few years over 21 at the time. Still, it is possible that was him, for his father’s 1790 census household included a second male over 16. If this was indeed John Bynum, still alive in 1790, he was perhaps incapacitated in some way. The fact that his brother served in the Revolution and he did not, would seem to support that notion.
- 2.2.1.2. **William Bynum** (c1762 - ?) Though not mentioned in his grandfather’s 1762 will, he may have been born by the time the will was written. It was undoubtedly he who served in Captain William Brinkley’s company of the 1<sup>st</sup> North Carolina

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<sup>33</sup> Original in Secretary of State Will files, NC Archives. It also names his brother William Lane.

<sup>34</sup> Southampton County Will Book 1, p8.

<sup>35</sup> The following convoluted clause from the will confirms this: “...the next eldest children born of my daughter Ann Lain, not knowing their names, may have the Negro children born of my Negro wench called Avery now at Benjamin Lains, the eldest of my grandchildren to have the oldest Negro child after the two first children of Benjamin Lane abovementioned and the next eldest to have the next oldest Negro child & so on if there be more of my grandchildren then Negro children the youngest child to have the next child that the wench brings that shall live after these children have each of them a Negro not including my grandson Joseph & Faith Lane my desire is that the said wench and her increase may be equally divided among the children that there names are not known born of my daughter Ann Lane according to quantity and quality I say I give the said Negro’s to the aforesaid children & to their heirs.”

<sup>36</sup> The Benjamin Whitehead from whom William Bynum bought land in 1765 may have been Joseph Whitehead’s half-brother, but he could not have been the son of Faith Lane. If Faith Lane was unmarried when her grandfather’s will was written in November 1745 she could not have had a son of age in October 1765. It doesn’t seem plausible that she had been married more than a year and her grandfather was unaware of it.

<sup>37</sup> Genealogical Abstracts of Wills 1758-1824, Halifax County, North Carolina, Margaret M. Hoffman, p245.

Regiment in the Revolution, a company which included several of his neighbors.<sup>38</sup> He evidently married Winny (Winifred?) Applewhite sometime before 1788. The 5 April 1788 will of Martha Applewhite in Halifax County left a slave to Martha Gainer with reversion to her sister Winny Bynum, and named William Bynum Jr. and Lewis Brantley executors.<sup>39</sup> (Martha Applewhite had married Thomas Gainer the previous year, suggesting that Winny might have been of a similar age and thus the wife of a younger Bynum.) Martha Applewhite was probably the widow of John Applewhite, who had been in Edgecombe County by 1754.

William Bynum Sr. sold him 249 acres on Deep Creek in Halifax County on 20 June 1783.<sup>40</sup> He was still William Bynum “Junior” when he sold that land to James Bynum on 5 January 1792.<sup>41</sup> William Bynum Jr. appears in the state census of 1786 and the federal censuses of 1790 and 1800 in Halifax County. In the February 1786 census he was over 21, listed with two females. By 1790 he had added one male under 16 and had a total of five females. In 1800, he and his wife were both 26-45, with five males and two females in their household.<sup>42</sup> He does not appear in the 1810 or later censuses of Halifax, nor do any other Bynums. A search of the deed books through Book 28 did not uncover a sale of his land.

It seems obvious that William Bynum and his family left North Carolina sometime between 1800 and 1810, but where they went is uncertain. **There are two obvious candidates in later records. He may have been the William Bynum of Washington County, Georgia who drew land in the 1805 lottery as a married man. Apparently the same person appears in the 1820 Washington County census with a household that is reasonably consistent with the earlier 1800 household.**<sup>43</sup>

- 2.2.2. Nicholson Bynum (c1730 – 1780) He appears in records as Nicholas, Nichols, and Nicholson. Given the likelihood he was given his mother’s surname, we assume his given name was “Nicholson.” (He signed by mark, rather than by signature, which partially explains the variety of ways in which his given name is rendered.) He first appears buying 100 acres in Edgecombe County, North Carolina in February 1753, with James Bynum a witness. As “Nickelson” Bynum, he sold this land to his brother William Bynum a few months later, on 14 December 1753, again with James Bynum a witness.<sup>44</sup> On the same day, 14 December 1753, his father James Bynum sold “Nicholson” Bynum 500 acres on Byrd’s branch of Deep Creek, with William Bynum witnessing.<sup>45</sup> Halifax County was formed from Edgecombe effective in January 1759, and Nicholson Bynum’s land fell into the new county. On 3 February 1759 Nicholas Bynum “of Halifax County, formerly called

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<sup>38</sup> Clark’s State Records, Vol. 17, p1060 reproduces a roll which includes Benjamin and Bennett Whitehead, Travis Weaver, William Bynum, and several other neighbors. He is mentioned twice more by Clark, in contexts that are less informative.

<sup>39</sup> Halifax County Will Book 3, p158 (abstracted version was read). The will was witnessed by William Bynum (presumably Sr.) and James Bynum. I note also that Martha Applewhite had sold land on Deep Creek to Thomas Drew in 1788 with William Bynum a witness.

<sup>40</sup> Halifax County Deed Book 15, p93.

<sup>41</sup> Halifax County Deed Book 17, p412.

<sup>42</sup> Halifax County 1800 census, p294: William Bynum 21210-11010

<sup>43</sup> Washington County, Georgia 1820 census, p

<sup>44</sup> Halifax County Deed Book 4, p572.

<sup>45</sup> Halifax County Deed Book 4, p569.

Edgecombe County” sold to William Alsobrook 300 acres, describing it as half a “survey that... I purchased of Charles Johnson” which was granted to Johnson two months earlier.<sup>46</sup> (I found no deed to Nicholson Bynum for this land, but he evidently bought the rights to the pending grant.) The same year he began selling off the 500 acres deeded to him by his father in 1753. On 18 December 1759 he sold 350 acres of that land to John Boykin.<sup>47</sup> On 20 February 1762 he sold 50 acres to James Harris.<sup>48</sup> On 19 May 1762 he sold 60 acres to Solomon Turner.<sup>49</sup> (This totals only 460 acres, but there are no further deeds in Halifax for this land.)

In 1759 he moved several miles south into the part of Edgecombe which in now Wilson County, purchasing 200 acres on Toisnot Swamp from Solomon Alston on 8 December 1759. He would remain of this land for nearly fifteen years. While there in 1761 he was surety for William Bynum’s administration of the estate of John Bynum, and was surety for John Weaver’s administration a few months later.<sup>50</sup> His father’s 1763 will, as noted above, left him a feather bed and furniture. On 26 January 1773 he sold the 200 acres on Toisnot Swamp which he had purchased in 1759, with his wife Mary Bynum relinquishing dower.<sup>51</sup> He then moved a few miles northeast into Pitt County.

Just over a month after selling his land in Edgecombe, on 4 March 1773, he was of Pitt County when he bought 200 acres just over the Edgecombe County line from Benjamin Ellis.<sup>52</sup> Less than two weeks later, he bought two adjoining parcels of 150 acres and 100 acres from Richard Barrow, with Drury Bynum a witness to both deeds.<sup>53</sup> Nicholson Bynum sold one of those parcels to his son Benjamin Bynum on 3 November 1777, with James Bynum a witness.<sup>54</sup> (He sold the land for £5, though he had purchased it for £30.) Nicholson surveyed an adjacent 16 acres for a state grant on 13 May 1780, for which Reuben Bynum and Benjamin Bynum were chain carriers.<sup>55</sup>

Nicholson Bynum died intestate in Pitt County sometime in late 1780. Unfortunately, all but the deed records of Pitt County were destroyed in a courthouse fire in 1857, so there is no record of a will or administration. However, a notice of James Bynum’s appointment as administrator of “Nichols” Bynum in Pitt County was filed with the Secretary of State in January 1781.<sup>56</sup> James Bynum also posted a bond for the administration in Pitt county (and again in Edgecombe County), with securities Benjamin Bynum and George Wolfinden.<sup>57</sup>

A later record (see below) shows that Nicholson Bynum’s widow Mary was still alive in

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<sup>46</sup> Halifax County Deed Book 7, p45.

<sup>47</sup> Halifax County Deed Book 7, p89.

<sup>48</sup> Halifax County Deed Book 8, p43.

<sup>49</sup> Halifax County Deed Book 8, p125.

<sup>50</sup> Edgecombe County Court Minutes, p44. As mentioned above, John Weaver assumed the administration in June 1761 and Nicholson Bynum was again the surety.

<sup>51</sup> Edgecombe County Deed Book 2, p61.

<sup>52</sup> Pitt County Deed Book E, p211. This and his other land was between the Tar River and Coneto Creek in extreme western Pitt County.

<sup>53</sup> Pitt County Deed Book E, p209.

<sup>54</sup> Pitt County Deed Book F, p467.

<sup>55</sup> Pitt County Deed Book G, p423. This was surveyed on the above date but not recorded until 13 October 1783, after Nicholson Bynum’s death. .

<sup>56</sup> NC Archives File SS945, p2, folio 2.

<sup>57</sup> *North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal*, Vol. 14, p225.

1783. Her maiden name is unknown. James Bynum is a provable son of Nicholson Bynum, per his grandfather's will, and Benjamin Bynum is surely another son. The other children of Nicholson Bynum listed below are theorized based on their association with Nicholson Bynum, and later associations with one another.

2.2.2.1. James Bynum (c1760 - ?) The 1762 will of his grandfather James Bynum left a slave to his "grandson James Bynum, son of Nichols Bynum." He is apparently the same James Bynum who witnessed Nicholson Bynum's deed to Benjamin Bynum on 3 November 1777, and who witnessed at least four more Pitt County deeds in 1779 and 1780.<sup>58</sup> James Bynum bought land adjacent his brother Benjamin Bynum on 11 February 1780.<sup>59</sup> He bought adjoining parcels in February 1782 and a month later in March 1782.<sup>60</sup> He bought still another small parcel on 28 February 1783.<sup>61</sup>

On 1 March 1783 James Bynum and Mary Bynum sold the remaining land of Nicholson Bynum in a deed which both Mary Bynum and Sally Bynum signed.<sup>62</sup> Although the deed is not clear on the point, James Bynum's wife was evidently Sally, and Mary Bynum was evidently the widow of Nicholson Bynum.<sup>63</sup> James Bynum sold his own remaining land two months later on 29 April 1783, to the same buyer, Benjamin Bell.<sup>64</sup>

After selling his Pitt County land, James Bynum apparently left the area, though his precise whereabouts for the next nine years are uncertain. He perhaps moved a few miles north to his father's old lands near the Edgecombe-Halifax county line, for he was apparently the James Bynum who witnessed a deed in Halifax in 1784, and who witnessed the Halifax will of Martha Applewhite in 1788. In the meantime, it was probably the same James Bynum who witnessed the two deeds for land in Johnston County to Drury and Abraham Bynum, both dated 18 March 1788.<sup>65</sup> James Bynum bought land on Deep Creek in southern Halifax from his cousin William Bynum on 5 January 1792.<sup>66</sup> He sold 100 acres of it on 16 December 1800.<sup>67</sup> He is in the 1790 census of Halifax County with a household of a single male and 2 females. In 1800 he had another male in the household, perhaps a brother.<sup>68</sup>

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<sup>58</sup> Pitt County Deed Book F, p467 and Book H, p48 (with Benjamin Bynum), p544, Book H, p102, p105.

<sup>59</sup> Pitt County Deed Book H, p151.

<sup>60</sup> Pitt County Deed Book I, p336 and Book I, p100.

<sup>61</sup> Pitt County Deed Book I, p335.

<sup>62</sup> Pitt County Deed Book I, p111.

<sup>63</sup> James Bynum, as the eldest son of an intestate, inherited the land of his father. Naturally, his wife had a dower interest in the land. Nicholson Bynum's widow also would have had a dower interest during her lifetime. Since Mary was earlier the wife of Nicholson Bynum, it seems likely that she is the widow and Sally the wife of James Bynum.

<sup>64</sup> Pitt County Deed Book I, p111.

<sup>65</sup> Johnston County Deed Book S1, p271 and p268.

<sup>66</sup> Halifax County Deed Book 17, p412.

<sup>67</sup> Halifax County Deed Book 18, p713. Note that the sale of this land to James Bynum in 1792 omits the acreage, so it isn't clear if he was selling all of his land or part of it in 1800. The 1800 deed refers to "our agreed corner in [James Bynum's] line", which suggests he retained adjacent land.

<sup>68</sup> 1800 Halifax County census, p294: James Bynum 00011-30101. (The census is alphabetized, thus there is no particular significance to James and William Bynum being on the same page.)

There is no trace of him in North Carolina after 1800.

- 2.2.2.2. **Benjamin Bynum** (c1750 - c1805) He was surely a son of Nicholson Bynum. Though the evidence is circumstantial, it is quite strong. On 3 November 1777 Nicholson Bynum deeded 100 acres in Pitt County to Benjamin Bynum, with James Bynum a witness, at one-sixth the price he had paid just four years earlier.<sup>69</sup> Both Benjamin and James Bynum witnessed a deed in the vicinity in 1779<sup>70</sup> and both Benjamin and Reuben Bynum were chain carriers for Nicholson Bynum's survey of 1780.<sup>71</sup> In 1780, James Bynum bought adjoining land (see above). On 28 April 1783 Benjamin Bynum bought an adjacent 72 acre parcel on the Tar River, 32 acres of which he sold to Benjamin Womble later the same month.<sup>72</sup> On 24 March 1786 he sold the remaining 40 acres, and his original 100 acres, to William Sherrod.<sup>73</sup>

Benjamin Bynum then moved a few miles south, near the Greene County line. Between 5 May 1788 and 20 January 1797, he purchased a total of 697 acres on Little Contentnea Creek in five transactions.<sup>74</sup> He appears in the 1790 Pitt County census with three males under 16 and one female. In 1800, he was 26-45, with four sons, a female 16-26 and a female over 45.

Although no will, court, or other estate records survive for Pitt County, Benjamin Bynum appears to have left a will. He died sometime prior to November 1805. In response to a court order of that date, on 30 December 1805, the land of Benjamin Bynum was partitioned "among his four sons" Turner, Gideon, Benjamin, and Joseph Bynum "agreeable to the will of the deceased."<sup>75</sup> Each received a portion of a single 594 acre parcel. Benjamin Bynum's tract included the buildings (valued at \$700) for which Benjamin was to pay the other three compensation. Each son's share, including the compensation payment, was valued at \$828.

His wife was Judith Allen, according to several Bible records.<sup>76</sup> She survived him and remarried to a Barnes (probably to the Primitive Baptist preacher Joshua Barnes Sr.) and was widowed again between 1810 and 1815. The three oldest Bynum sons are listed consecutively in the 1810 Pitt County census, three names from Joshua Barnes Sr. What household the son Benjamin Bynum was in is not obvious. Judith Barnes is enumerated in 1820 as an apparent widow in Pitt County.

- 2.2.2.2.1. **Joseph Bynum** (c1783 – May 1841) He appears to have been the eldest son, though his birth year is only a guess based on the births of his elder children. He was of age when he sold his inherited land to

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<sup>69</sup> Pitt County Deed Book F, p467.

<sup>70</sup> Pitt County Deed Book H, p48.

<sup>71</sup> Pitt County Deed Book G, p423.

<sup>72</sup> Pitt County Deed Book I, p302, and p304.

<sup>73</sup> Pitt County Deed Book L, p46.

<sup>74</sup> Pitt County Deed Book M, p176, Book N, p131, p516 (two deeds), and p525.

<sup>75</sup> Pitt County Deed Book Q, p180.

<sup>76</sup> Bible Records of Early Edgecombe, R. S. Williams & M. G. Griffin (1958), p49, p313.

his mother, Judith Barnes, on 3 May 1806.<sup>77</sup> His wife was Nancy Vines, according to a Bible record.<sup>78</sup> She evidently died after bearing the children, for his widow was named Sally. Joseph Bynum died testate in Edgecombe County, leaving a will dated 23 May 1841 and proved the same month.<sup>79</sup> He left the home plantation and eight slaves to his wife Sally, sixteen slaves and substantial real and personal property to the eight children listed below.

- 2.2.2.2.1.1. **Nancy Bynum** (c1805 – aft1860) She was Nancy Wilkinson in her father's will. She had married Abner C. Wilkinson by Edgecombe County bond dated 1 August 1835. On Christmas day 1838, Joseph Bynum gave three slaves to his daughter Nancy and her husband Abner C. Wilkinson.<sup>80</sup> They are in the 1850 and 1860 censuses of Edgecombe County, Nancy aged 44 and (uncertain, perhaps 50) respectively. The children in the census households were Alvana Wilkinson (c1836), Benjamin Wilkinson (c1838, perhaps named Berry), Susan E. S. Wilkinson (c1837), William Wilkinson (c1842), and Joseph John Wilkinson (c1844).
- 2.2.2.2.1.2. **Allen Bynum** (c1809 – 1870s) He was surely one of the three males under 10 in his father's 1820 household, and one of the two males 20-30 in the 1830 household. He married Mariah T. May, daughter of James and Harriet Williams May. His wife (1813-1893) is buried in the Church of Christ cemetery in Pitt County as Mariah T. Bynum. He is in the 1850 through 1870 censuses of Pitt County, age 40, 50, and 61 respectively. In 1880, Mariah was head of household with three spinster daughters (Virginia, Mary, and Martha) still at home. Censuses suggest he and Mariah had ten children: **Joseph J. Bynum** (c1833), **Robert W. Bynum** (c1835), **Sarah F. Bynum** (c1836), **Virginia A. E. Bynum** (c1838), **Julia A. Bynum** (c1844), **Mary E. Bynum** (c1846), **Martha Bynum** (c1848, her middle initial given as W., E., and A. in various censuses), **Peter A. Bynum** (1850), **William B. Bynum** (c1852), and a son who died in childhood (J. N., c1856).
- 2.2.2.2.1.3. **Reuben Bynum** (c1810 – aft1880) He married Spicy Ellis in Edgecombe County by bond dated 25

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<sup>77</sup> Pitt County Deed Book Q, p214.

<sup>78</sup> Bible Records of Early Edgecombe, R. S. Williams & M. G. Griffin (1958), p58.

<sup>79</sup> Edgecombe County Will Book F, pp259.

<sup>80</sup> Edgecombe County Deed Book 22, p235.

February 1834, with Benjamin Bynum surety. (There is some doubt about her name, which was “Vicey” in the 1850 census.) He is in the 1850 census of Edgecombe County and the 1860 through 1880 censuses of Wilson County, his age given as 39, 49, 59, and 69 respectively. His wife evidently died sometime between the 1850 and 1860 censuses. From censuses, he had five daughters: **Susan Bynum** (c1839), **Louisa Bynum** (c1841), **Elizabeth Bynum** (c1845), **Sarah Bynum** (c1847), and **Virginia Bynum** (c1851). In 1880 he was enumerated in the household of his daughter Sarah Applewhite.

- 2.2.2.2.1.4. **Sarah Bynum** (c1813 – aft1860) She was Sally Applewhite in her father’s will, her husband Council Applewhite was called a brother-in-law in the will of her brother Samuel. They married by bond of 22 February 1841 in Edgecombe County, and are in the 1850 Edgecombe County census with several children, Sarah aged 35, and with her sister Elizabeth in the household. In 1860 Sarah was head of household in Wilson County, aged 48 and apparently widowed. From censuses, her children were Thomas J. Applewhite (c1842), William P. Applewhite (c1842), Joseph J. Applewhite (c1856), and Samuel Applewhite (1850).
- 2.2.2.2.1.5. **Julia Ann Bynum** (18 October 1815 – 26 October 1884) She married Justus Gilbert Daniel in Edgecombe County by bond dated 7 June 1848, with the return dated the same day. A family Bible lists their children as Stephen Joseph Daniel, Thomas Jackson Daniel, William J. Daniel, Sarah Elizabeth Daniel, and Apple Bynum Daniel.<sup>81</sup>
- 2.2.2.2.1.6. **Elizabeth Vines Bynum** (c1819 – aft1860) She was unmarried at the time of her father’s will and her brother Samuel’s will, which left her most of his property. She was age 30 in the 1850 household of her sister Sally Applewhite. She is apparently the E. V. Bynum (still age 30) in the 1860 Wilson County household of Josiah Ellis.
- 2.2.2.2.1.7. **Samuel Vines Bynum** (c1821 - 1848) He was apparently the youngest son, born after the 1820 census, and was still in his father’s household in 1840. He died testate in Edgecombe County in 1848, a

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<sup>81</sup> Williams & Griffin, p58.

bachelor. His will was dated 5 September 1848 and proved at the November Court later the same year.<sup>82</sup> It left all his land and livestock to his sister Elizabeth Vines Bynum, with small bequests to his brother Reuben Bynum and his sister “Apsila” C. Bynum, and direct that the residue be divided among his sisters. His brother-in-law Council Applewhite was named executor.

2.2.2.2.1.8. **Abselah Clara Bynum** (c1824 – aft1880) She was called “Absala” in her father’s will and “Apsila C.” in her brother Samuel Bynum’s will. She is in her brother Reuben Bynum’s 1850 household as “Clara Bynum”, age 26. She later appears in censuses as “Abselah”. She married Robert W. Best and appears in the 1860 census of Greene County. Robert W. Best was appointed North Carolina’s Secretary of State by Governor Holden in 1865 and later served in several public capacities. The family appears in the 1870 and 1880 censuses of Raleigh, Wake County. Censuses list four daughters: Anna C. Best (c1857) Sally Best (1860), Minnie Irene Best (c1862), and Roberta Best (c1865).

2.2.2.2.2. Gideon Bynum (24 April 1785 - 14 June 1843) He apparently retained the land he was given from his father’s estate, and purchased an additional 463 acres on Little Contenea in 1810.<sup>83</sup> He remained in Pitt County, from which he served as a representative to the North Carolina House of Commons in 1820 and in which he appears in the 1810 through 1840 censuses. His family Bible gives his birth and death dates, his marriage to Sally May, daughter of Benjamin May Jr., and lists 11 children.<sup>84</sup> His wife, according to the Bible record, died two years before Gideon on 29 July 1841. Gideon died intestate in 1843, but no probate records survive. The birthdates of his children, and the death dates of most, are from the Gideon Bynum Bible.

2.2.2.2.2.1. **Benjamin Bynum** (3 February 1811 – 28 April 1876) He married Jedidah Pitt, daughter of James and Leah Phillips Pitt, on 24 September 1837.<sup>85</sup> His family Bible, whose dates match the Bible of his father, indicates that he died in New Bern and was survived by his wife.<sup>86</sup> The Bible, and census

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<sup>82</sup> Edgecombe County Will Book F, p408.

<sup>83</sup> Pitt County Deed Book S, p1.

<sup>84</sup> Williams & Griffin, p49-50.

<sup>85</sup> Dempsey Dew Barnes took out a marriage bond to marry Jedidah Pitt on 25 March 1836. One or the other apparently changed their mind. He married Harriet Dew 4 August 1836.

<sup>86</sup> Williams & Griffin, p49.

records, list only one child: **Frances Bynum** (1838-1920). She left her own family Bible.<sup>87</sup> Williams and Griffin refer to him as “Elder” Benjamin Bynum, perhaps confusing him with his uncle of the same name.<sup>88</sup>

2.2.2.2.2. **Fanny Bynum** (13 February 1813 – 28 July 1885). She married Jacob S. Barnes on 2 April 1829. Her husband died in 1862 and Fanny remarried to Rev. Peter E. Hines, the brother of Catherine W. Hines who married Fanny’s uncle Benjamin Bynum. Her children were no traced.

2.2.2.2.3. **Priscilla D. Bynum** (10 October 1815 – aft1880) She married a widower named John Holliday Dixon on 4 September 1838. He died five years later, and Priscilla is enumerated in 1850 and 1860 in Greene County, North Carolina with children Caroline Dixon (c1840), Emeline Dixon (c1842), and John R. Dixon (c1844). Priscilla was still alive as late as 1880 when she was enumerated in her son John’s household in Greene County.

2.2.2.2.4. **Margaret May Bynum** (18 January 1818 – 23 July 1892) She married Nathan Parker Daniel, a local wealthy merchant, on 19 April 1846. They appear in the 1850 Edgecombe and the 1860 Wayne County censuses. He died in 1861 and Margaret was head of household in Wayne County in 1870. Both Margaret and her husband kept family Bibles.<sup>89</sup> The Bibles list their children as Sarah Juan Daniel, Margaret Louisa Amanda Daniel, and Adrian Nathan Daniel. The latter also left a published family Bible.<sup>90</sup>

2.2.2.2.5. **Richard Allen Bynum** (23 April 1820 – 23 September 1888) On 31 October 1841 he married Mary Amanda Blow, daughter of James and Susan Blow. His wife died on 13 March 1872, and Richard remarried to Lizzie A. Blow, a widow whose maiden name is thought to have been Spire. He remained in Pitt County, appearing in the 1850 through 1880 censuses. (His second wife was age 30 in 1880.) He and his first wife are both buried in the Church of Christ cemetery in Pitt County. They apparently had

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<sup>87</sup> Williams & Griffin, p164.

<sup>88</sup> Williams & Griffin, p49.

<sup>89</sup> Williams & Griffin, pp58-59.

<sup>90</sup> Williams & Griffin, p56.

no children.

- 2.2.2.2.2.6. **Tabitha May Bynum** (18 May 1822 – 28 January 1891) On 25 June 1844 she married her cousin James William May, son of James May and Harriet Williams, and a grandson of Benjamin May Sr. Their children are listed in their family Bible<sup>91</sup> as James Oscar May, John Edwin Benjamin May, Susan Frances May, and Adeline Gertrude May.
- 2.2.2.2.2.7. **Gideon Bynum** (18 May 1824 – 11 July 1848) He was unmarried. He is buried in the May cemetery in Farmville.
- 2.2.2.2.2.8. Susan Evans Bynum (22 November 1826 – 16 November 1885) She married William Barrett
- 2.2.2.2.2.9. **John Turner Bynum** (24 September 1829 – 16 November 1885) He and his brother Joseph were living adjacent their sister Tabitha in 1850. He married Harriet W. Hines on 18 May 1858, and they are in the 1860-1880 Greene County censuses. Harriet appears in the 1900 census with six children still at home. The children, from censuses, were: **Peter Bynum** (1860), **Ashby Bynum** (c1864), **Ada Bynum** (1865), **Albert Sidney Johnson Bynum** (1868), **Benjamin Bynum** (1873), **Priscilla Bynum** (c1874), **Lillian Bynum** (1877), **Mary A. Bynum** (1879), and **Addie M. Bynum** (1882).
- 2.2.2.2.2.10. **Joseph Nicholas Bynum** (17 May 1832 – 24 May 1909) He received a medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1857 as a classmate of his distant cousins Mark Wesley Bynum and Joseph Medicus Bynum (see Chapter 5). On 2 February 1860 he married Mary Alice Barrett, sister of William Barrett and daughter of Josiah and Selina May Barrett. During the Civil War, he served as a surgeon in the 44<sup>th</sup> NC Regiment. His wife died on 19 February 1888 and on 18 December 1888 Joseph remarried to Margaret A. Sheppard. His second wife submitted biographical data to Pennsylvania's Alumni Catalogue, including his birth and death dates, both in Pitt County.<sup>92</sup> She wrote that “he was actively engaged in the practice of medicine fifty-

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<sup>91</sup> Williams & Griffin, pp164-5.

<sup>92</sup> Copy from Francis J. Dallett, University of Pennsylvania Archivist. His widow gives his date of birth as 17 May 1832 and death as 24 May 1909.

four years.” She lists his children as **Richard Benjamin Bynum** (c1861, who married Grace Elizabeth Potter), **Lucy Bynum** (c1863), **Annie Eloise Bynum** (c1864), and **Joseph Henry Bynum** (who either died young, as he is not in the 1870 or 1880 households, or is a son of the second marriage.)

2.2.2.2.2.11. **Carolina J. Bynum** (2 January 1835 – aft1880) She married her cousin Dr. Robert Williams King, son of John King and Sally Vines. The 1870 and 1880 censuses of Wilson County, North Carolina show two daughters: Minerva Juan King (c1862) and Ida Alice King (c1866).<sup>93</sup>

2.2.2.2.3. **Turner Bynum** (5 October 1787 – 13 November 1867) A copy of his family Bible was found within the Bible of Benjamin Sharpe.<sup>94</sup> It states he married Nancy Jenkins Johnston, the widow of Richard Williams Johnston, and lists seven children with birthdates. The marriage apparently took place in Pitt County, whose marriage bonds are lost. Turner is in the 1850 census of Edgecombe County, age 63, with his wife Nancy, his widowed daughter Nancy Sharp, and son Richard Bynum. According to his Bible, his wife Nancy died in November 1857. In the 1860 census of Edgecombe County Turner was age 72 with an apparent second wife named Martha J, age 63. His Bible lists seven children.

2.2.2.2.3.1. **Robert Bynum** (20 November 1817 – 4 August 1867) Called “Colonel”, he married Elizabeth Harrison 21 February 1843. He appears in the 1850 census of Edgecombe County and the 1860 census of Wilson County. He died testate in Wilson County, North Carolina.<sup>95</sup> His widow Elizabeth appears in 1870 in the household of her daughter Matilda Barnes. She died herself on 24 February 1875. Robert Bynum had only two children: **Mary Jane Bynum** (1846) and **Matilda Bynum** (1848). The daughter Matilda married Franklin Washington Barnes, whose family Bible recorded information about her parents.<sup>96</sup> The daughter Mary Jane married Howell Grey Whitehead, who also left a family Bible.<sup>97</sup>

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<sup>93</sup> A document by Miss Ida Carroway of Wilson County lists the full names of both daughters and adds a third daughter named Carrie B. who does not appear in the 1870 or 1880 census households.

<sup>94</sup> Williams & Griffin, p226-7 and p313.

<sup>95</sup> Wilson County Will Book 2, p1.

<sup>96</sup> Williams & Griffin, pp5-6.

<sup>97</sup> Williams & Griffin, p256.

- 2.2.2.2.3.2. **Matilda Bynum**.(21 May 1819 – 5 December 1883) According to a family Bible, she married General Joshua Barnes 16 May 1843.<sup>98</sup> The same Bible gives her birth and death dates, and lists two children of the marriage: Nancy Barnes (1844) and Louis Dicken Wilson Barnes (1846).
- 2.2.2.2.3.3. Turner Bynum (12 January 1821 - )
- 2.2.2.2.3.4. Sally Bynum (14 November 1822 - )
- 2.2.2.2.3.5. Richard Bynum (8 October 1824 - ?) He was still in his father's household in 1850. On 17 February 1857 he married **Mary Alice (Eliza?) Cobb, daughter of James and Linda Vines Cobb. Eliza Cobb, daughter of Edward and Mary Belcher Cobb?** They appear in the 1860 Edgecombe County census. He had two sons: **Edward Turner Bynum** (2 February 1858 – 3 April 1889) and William R. Bynum.
- 2.2.2.2.3.6. **Nancy Bynum** (7 October 1826 – 5 March 1892) On 7 October 1826 Nancy married John Pike Sharpe, son of Benjamin Sharpe and his first wife Anna Farmer ( a granddaughter of Isaac Farmer.)<sup>99</sup> The marriage produced no children. Her husband died on 22 December 1845 and Nancy was enumerated in her parents' household in 1850 in Edgecombe County. She remarried on 10 June 1851 to George C. Sugg, son of Dr. Pheasanton Southerland Sugg and his wife Lucinda. Their family Bible<sup>100</sup> lists her seven children by her second husband: Lucinda Matilda Sugg, Turner Bynum Sugg, Margaret Southerland Sugg, George Pheasanton Sugg, Nannie Louisa Sugg, Mary Francis Sugg, and Anne Huntington Sugg.
- 2.2.2.2.3.7. **Benjamin Bynum** (23 November 1828 - ?) He evidently died in childhood. His father's household in 1830 contains a male under 5, but there is no sign of him in the 1850 or later censuses.
- 2.2.2.2.4. **Benjamin Bynum** (c1791 – 1850s) He was apparently the youngest of the four sons, born after the 1790 census. In the 1805 partition of his father's lands Benjamin, still a minor, received the portion which included the house. He was of age on 1 June 1812

<sup>98</sup> Williams & Griffin, p9. Also see Genealogy of some of the descendants of Thomas Dew... , Ernestine Dew White (1937), p180.

<sup>99</sup> Williams & Griffin, p227 lists John Pike Sharpe's entry in his family Bible.

<sup>100</sup> Williams & Griffin, p240.

when his mother Judith Barnes (who had remarried) deeded to “my son Benjamin Bynum” for love and affection, the share of his father’s land which had fallen to Joseph Bynum and which Joseph Bynum had sold to Judith Barnes in 1806.<sup>101</sup> The land was to pass to Benjamin Bynum at her death. Turner Bynum sold his own share of the land to Benjamin Bynum on 15 December 1814.<sup>102</sup> On 18 November 1815 Benjamin Bynum married Catherine Williams Hines, daughter of Peter and Prudence Johnston Hines.<sup>103</sup> Turner Bynum was surety for the marriage bond, which was dated the same day. His wife’s grandmother Catherine Johnson left a will in 1842 naming her granddaughter Catherine Williams Bynum, wife of Benjamin Bynum.<sup>104</sup> His mother-in-law Prudence Hines’ will, dated 12 May 1850 and proved in 1855, named her daughter Catherine W. Bynum, wife of Benjamin Bynum, and her son Peter E. Hines (who later married Benjamin Bynum’s niece Fanny Bynum Barnes).<sup>105</sup> Benjamin Bynum was named administrator of the will after Peter Hines, the executor, refused to serve.

Benjamin Bynum appears in the 1820 Pitt County census, then in the 1830-1850 Wayne County censuses, his age consistent with a birth in 1791. By 1822 he was an elder in the Primitive Baptist Church.<sup>106</sup> He listed himself as a clergyman in the 1850 census. He evidently died intestate in Wayne County, but county records were not searched. He was alive in 1855 when he administered the estate of his mother-in-law, but dead by 1860 when his widow Catherine Bynum was head of household in Edgecombe County, with her daughter Catherine in her household. Census records suggest he had no sons and four daughters: **Three are listed in his 1850 household: Prudence Bynum** (c1818), **Catherine L. Bynum** (c1823), and **Charity Bynum** (c1827). The fourth daughter is believed to be **Temperance Bynum** (c1816).

- 2.2.2.3. Drury Bynum ? (c1758 – aft 1823?) He is presumed to be a son of Nicholson Bynum. A Drury Bynum witnessed the two deeds to Nicholson Bynum for land in Pitt County in 1773.<sup>107</sup> He does not appear in any further Pitt County records, but it was perhaps the same Drury Bynum who surfaced about 35 miles southwest in Johnston County fourteen years later. There are several reasons to think he might have been the same man. All Pitt County records other than deeds are lost, which might explain his absence from records there. And he is associated in Johnston County with Abraham Bynum, who is surely a brother or other relative. Finally, the land sales to both Drury Bynum and Abraham Bynum in 1788 were both witnessed by James Bynum, presumably the eldest son of Nicholson Bynum.

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<sup>101</sup> Pitt County Deed Book S, p308. The year is left blank in the deed, but it was recorded in August 1812.

<sup>102</sup> Pitt County Deed Book T, p170.

<sup>103</sup> Williams & Griffin, p115 and Edgecombe County Marriage Bonds.

<sup>104</sup> Edgecombe County Will Book F, p368.

<sup>105</sup> Edgecombe County Will Book G, p106.

<sup>106</sup> Kehukee Association Records.

<sup>107</sup> Pitt County Deed Book E, p209 and p211. Note that a witness did not have to be 21.

Thus, this seems to be the most plausible family into which both Drury and Abraham might fit.

He is surely the same Drury Bynum whose name appears in numerous Revolutionary army records from 1776 through 1783, for he served from the Halifax military district in the company of several Halifax County residents.<sup>108</sup>

Drury Bynum appears in the state census of Johnston County, taken in March 1787, aged 21-60 with two males under 21 or over 60, and two females. (One of the younger males may have been Abraham Bynum, who was of age a year later.) Whether he owned land or not isn't clear, but he is listed in the same district as several persons who were later neighbors.<sup>109</sup> On 19 March 1788 John Ballenger and his wife Elizabeth sold 150 acres on Mirey Branch in southern Johnston County to Drury Bynum "of Johnston County".<sup>110</sup> The Ballengers sold an adjoining parcel the same day to Abraham Bynum, with James Bynum a witness to both deeds.<sup>111</sup> James Bynum was presumably their older brother, who seems to have been living near the Edgecombe-Halifax border at the time.

Drury Bynum sold 100 acres of his tract to George Keen on 11 February 1793, and on the same day bought from George Keen 100 acres on the opposite bank of the creek.<sup>112</sup> Drury Bynum sold that 100 acres a few months later on 3 January 1794 to George Bell.<sup>113</sup> He sold his remaining 50 acres on 20 August 1803 to Abraham Webb.<sup>114</sup> Although this accounts for all his land in Johnston County, there were two deeds proved in court on 1 June 1790 which are not recorded in the surviving deed books, one from Drury Bynum to Brian Whitfield and the other from Jacob Giles to Drury Bynum.<sup>115</sup> Whether they were bills of sale or the purchase and sale of another land parcel is unknown.

Drury Bynum is in the 1790 Johnston County census with a household consisting of one male over 16, two males under 16, and two females. A Drury Bynum married Patience Howell by bond dated 30 May 1795, though whether that was him marrying a second wife, or a son, is unknown. He does not appear to be in the 1800 census (though neither are several of his neighbors). He was still a resident of Johnston County when he sold his land in 1803, but thereafter he disappears from North Carolina records.

Clearly, it was the same man who resurfaced in Warren County, Georgia drawing land in the 1820 Georgia land lottery as a resident of Warren County and a

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<sup>108</sup> Roster of Soldiers from North Carolina in the American Revolution, (D.A.R., 1932), p241, p612, p360, p181, p4. Note that a different Drury Bynum of Virginia served in a militia company under Turner Bynum. This Drury Bynum served 84 months in Continental Line units, mainly the 2<sup>nd</sup> NC Battalion.

<sup>109</sup> He is listed in Capt. Isaac Hinton's district, along with John Ballenger, from whom he bought land, and nearly all the witnesses to the later deeds of both Drury and Abraham Bynum.

<sup>110</sup> Johnston County Deed Book S1, p271.

<sup>111</sup> Johnston County Deed Book S1, p268.

<sup>112</sup> Johnston County Deed Book T1, p408 (from Bynum) and Book Y1, p13 (to Bynum). It appears that Bynum and Keen simply traded one 100 acre plot for another. The consideration was £20 in both deeds, and both were dated the same day.

<sup>113</sup> Johnston County Deed Book T1, p203.

<sup>114</sup> Johnston County Deed Book D2, p368.

<sup>115</sup> Johnston County court minutes, p112. On These may have been bills fo sale.

Revolutionary veteran. He also drew in the 1832 lottery, again as both a veteran and a resident of Warren County. He is in the 1820 Warren County census, he and his wife both over 45 and no one else in the household. In the 1830 census he is aged 70-80. The 1820 and 1830 Warren County censuses are confusing as to children, but the 1830 census shows him as age 70-80.<sup>116</sup> On 10 April 1823 Drury Bynum applied for a Revolutionary pension for his North Carolina service while residing in Warren County, Georgia stating his age as 65 (and his wife's as 58).<sup>117</sup> The pension was granted and he appears on the 1835 pensioner census, age 76.

- 2.2.2.4. Reuben Bynum (c1760s – ?) A **Reuben Bynum** and Benjamin Bynum were chain carriers for Nicholson Bynum's survey of 13 May 1780 and for a survey for adjoining land made the same day for their neighbor Henry Jones.<sup>118</sup> He is not mentioned again in Pitt County records. However, I should note that all of Pitt County's records, other than deeds, were lost in a courthouse fire.

It is plausible, though not provable, that he moved to Georgia. The name Reuben is rare enough in Bynum families that we might plausibly theorize that he is the same Reuben Bynum who was granted 200 acres in Effingham County, Georgia in 1784.

- 2.2.2.5. **Abraham Bynum** (c1760s – aft1810) It seems highly likely that he was a son of Nicholson Bynum. Though he does not appear in the March 1787 state census, he may have been one of the males under 21 in Drury Bynum's household. He was of age by 19 March 1788, when John Ballenger and his wife Elizabeth sold two parcels totaling 200 acres in southern Johnston County to Abraham Bynum of Johnston County, one of them adjoining the parcel sold to Drury Bynum the same day.<sup>119</sup> James Bynum, presumably the son of Nicholson Bynum, witnessed both deeds. Abraham Bynum does not appear, however, as a head of household in 1790. On 24 December 1811, Abraham Bynum of Beaufort County, North Carolina sold the tract which had adjoined Drury Bynum, with Benjamin Bynum a witness.<sup>120</sup> No record was found of the sale of the other tract, although some Johnston County deeds were unrecorded during this period. As "Abram" Bynum he appears in the 1800 and 1810 censuses of Beaufort County, North Carolina.<sup>121</sup> There does not seem to be any further trace of him.

The censuses suggest he had a son born in the 1790s, whose identity is unknown. The Benjamin Bynum who witnessed the 1811 deed may have been that son, since Abraham Bynum's presumed brother Benjamin was several years dead by 1811.

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<sup>116</sup> Warren County, Georgia 1820 census, p287 Drewry Binom 000001-00001; 1830 census, p231 Druory Bynum 0002000001-00220001.

<sup>117</sup> Pension File S-37815. Only a summary was read by the author.

<sup>118</sup> Pitt County Deed Book G, p423 and p323, respectively.

<sup>119</sup> Johnston County Deed Book S1, p268.

<sup>120</sup> Johnston County Deed Book G2, p383.

<sup>121</sup> Beaufort County census: 1800, p2 Abram Binam 10100-000100-1. 1810, p91 Abram Bynum 01010-02110-1.

- 2.2.3. **Robert Bynum** ? There is a possibility that James Bynum had a son named Robert who predeceased him. On 1 October 1752 a grant for 246 acres on Coneto Creek in Edgecombe County was recorded to Robert Bynum of Edgecombe County.<sup>122</sup> I did not find a later disposition of this land, nor any further reference to a Robert Bynum. He likely was childless, for no heirs were mentioned in James Bynum's will. One possibility (noted above) is that this grant was mis-transcribed, and that it was actually a grant to James Bynum.
- 2.2.4. **Mary Bynum** (c1725-30? – aft1763) She was Mary Dill, wife of Philip Dill, in her father's will, which bequeathed her a slave named Samuel. She was not further traced.
- 2.2.5. **Agnes Bynum** (c1725-30? – aft 1763) Her father's will, which bequeathed her five cows, refers to her as Agnes Whitney. Although I did not attempt to prove it, she was likely the wife of Samuel Whitney, to whom James Bynum sold part of his Deep Creek land on 2 June 1744.<sup>123</sup> Samuel Whitney later received a grant, entered 2 June 1760 and surveyed 25 June 1760, for which a chain carrier was his presumed brother-in-law William Bynum.<sup>124</sup> The family was not further traced.

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<sup>122</sup> Halifax County Deed Book 6, p27. Halifax County inherited the Edgecombe courthouse when it was formed in 1759, so the deed book is generally referred to as a Halifax County book..

<sup>123</sup> Abstract of Deeds Edgecombe Precinct Edgecombe county North Carolina 1732-1758, p297.

<sup>124</sup> NC Grants files, a Granville grant.