

David Coulston Research Report

for Brooks Nelson

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OBJECTIVE:

Identify the parents of David Coulston who was born in Amelia County, Virginia in 1750 as recorded in Revolutionary War pension application S. 1899.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

On 15 October 1832, David Coulson filed an application for a Revolutionary War pension from White County, Tennessee. According to his deposition, he volunteered for service under Captain Thomas Collier of Charlotte County, Virginia. The pension paperwork stated "he thinks this was in 1775 but is not certain as to the year, nor the length of time for which he volunteered; but he remembers that he entered the service on the 4th day of May and continued till the 1st of December following." He deposed that he served at Gwynn's Island against Lord Dunmore, followed by actions against the Cherokees at Long Island of the Holston River. After this service, he was drafted for three months in Charlotte County into Captain Thomas William's Company under Ensign Joseph Collier. Although he did not see battle, his unit was sent to Williamsburg, the Town of Hampton and Portsmouth before he received a discharge from Captain Williams. He was later drafted for another three months under Captain John Clayton of Charlotte County with Lieutenant William Price and Ensign Douglass Hancock. As he recollected, four companies including his own went to Petersburg where they remained for about two months. They returned from Peterburg "in order to meet Lord Cornwallis, who was expected about that time...he did not come as soon as was expected and the company to which he belonged were permitted to leave the service." Finally, he was drafted for his fourth tour of duty from Charlotte County under Captain Joseph Fuqua and served at the siege of York. After the surrender of Cornwallis, he obtained a discharge from Captain Fuqua.

At the end of his deposition, David answered a series of questions identifying his origins. He was born on 16 February 1750 in Amelia County, Virginia. Their family bible had since been lost or worn out. For the entire period of military service, his home of record was

Charlotte County, Virginia. At the end of the Revolutionary War, he removed to Stokes County, North Carolina where he lived for about 20 years. From there, he moved to Bledsoe County, Tennessee “for some years, he cannot say how long – from there he removed to the County of White where he now resides.” He received two discharges which “were both lost when his house was burnt...before he left Virginia in Charlotte County.” He provided the names of the following individuals who could serve as character witnesses and for veracity of his service in the Revolutionary War: Moses Goddard, James Simmons, Daniel Hollingsworth, George Sparkman, Reverend Arnold Moss and Grief Smallman.

According to folklore, David married a daughter of Daniel Cardwell between 1790 and 1795 in Stokes County, North Carolina. They reportedly had at least one child, Nathaniel Coulson, born about 1795. No documentary evidence of this marriage was provided. A preliminary search for this marriage record was performed in “North Carolina, County, Marriages, 1769-1979,” on *FamilySearch* with negative results.¹ A separate search was conducted in the same database for a Cardwell bride in the late 1700s and early 1800s, also with negative results.² However, a marriage bond was discovered for Nathan Coulson to Millie Henn on 24 September 1818 in Stokes County, North Carolina. The security was provided by the groom and Edward Coulson (Document 9).³

Brooks recalled seeing an index for a probate or will of David in Coffee County, Tennessee in 1833. A copy was not provided. Coffee County was formed in 1835 from southern Warren and northern Franklin Counties.⁴ Brooks hypothesized that David’s father was possibly Charles Coulson/Coulston who was born in Spotsylvania County, Virginia and died in 1769. Charles Coulson’s will was obtained and reviewed during scoping phase of this project and David was not listed as an heir in Charles’ will. Therefore, Brooks chose to begin with research of Coulstons/Coulsons in Amelia County in about 1750 to identify possible parents or relatives of David.

¹ “North Carolina, County Marriages, 1762-1979,” database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 7 June 2022), search for David Colson/Coulson/Coulston, negative results, DGS 102522052; citing Stokes County, North Carolina, Marriage Bonds, Coggeshell-Cutts stored at North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh. A marriage was discovered for Nathan Coulson to Milley Henn on 24 September 1818 in Stokes County. The security for the bond was provided by Edward Coulson. See Document 9. *Ibid.*, DGS 102522051. A marriage was discovered for Nathan Coulson to Milley Henn on 24 September 1818 in Stokes

² *Ibid.*, citing DGS 102522051, a separate search was performed for a Cardwell bride to David Coulson with negative results; there were no Cardwell brides listed in the 1700s.

³ *Ibid.*, citing DGS 102522052, marriage bond of Nathan Coulson to Milley Henn, 24 September 1818.

⁴ “Interactive Map of Tennessee County Formation in History,” *MapofUS* (<https://www.mapofus.org/tennessee/> : accessed 7 June 2022), see 1824 and 1835 maps.

SUMMARY:

From 1748 through 1752, only one man with the surname Coulson was recorded in the records of Amelia County, Virginia: James Coulson. A 1752 deed recorded his wife's name as Jane. In 1744, James and William Coulson were recorded in the same household with only the two of them as subject to colonial tithes.

A timeline of David Coulson's life was compiled roughly using the residences mentioned in his Revolutionary War pension application. Original records support the following timeline:

- 1782–1798: David resided in Charlotte County, Virginia. Using 1782 and 1785 Virginia enumerations, the lost 1790 United States Census was approximated by the United States Census Bureau in a document entitled *Heads of Families of the First United States Census*. David's household was comprised of four people.
- 1807: David purchased land from Daniel Cardwell, his hypothesized father-in-law. No evidence was found to support or deny this relationship.
- 1808-1816: David was recorded in Stokes County, North Carolina. During this period of time, Isaac, William and John Colson were also recorded there in varied years.
- 1818: John Coulson continued to be recorded in Stokes County, North Carolina. Nathan Coulson married Millie Henn in the county during the same year.
- 1821–1829: Isaac, John, William and Edward Coulson were recorded in tax lists of White County, Tennessee.
- 1833: David Coulson applied for his Revolutionary War pension from White County, Tennessee.
- March 1845: David Coulson was dropped from the Revolutionary War pension payments ledger from West Tennessee

In 1833, a man named David Coulson recorded his will in Coffee County, Tennessee. FindAGrave shows a tombstone for David Coalson, 1771-1840 in the Coalson Cemetery in Grundy County, Tennessee. Grundy County was formed from Coffee County. In 1840, the younger David Coalson resided in Coffee County, Tennessee and recorded 16 enslaved people in his household. His relationship to the elder David Coulson remains unknown.

A family of Colesons that originated from eastern North Carolina in the 1600s were consistently recorded in adjacent jurisdictions nearby David Colson and his probable parents, James and

Jane Coulson. Portions of this family utilized the alias surname Rainwater in official records. They were recorded in Virginia, South Carolina, and North Carolina during the 1700s and were recorded in South Carolina as trading meat to the Indians. Their relationship to David could not be proven during this round of research, but future efforts should be made to build their identities.

To see a timeline and map of these Coulsons in comparison with David and James Coulson, please see Document 49.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH:

- Research Bedford County, Virginia records for evidence of James Coleson prior to the formation of Charlotte County.
- Determine the identities of Isaac, John, William and Edward Coulson of White County, Tennessee and Van Buren County, Tennessee and their relationship, if any, to David Coulson
- Research the Colsons of Bertie, Perquimans and Edgecombe precincts and counties in the 17th and 18th centuries for their potential as earlier generations of the same family.
- Clarify the identities of the men listed under the section entitled **James Coleson**.
- Research the Colesons of South Carolina to clarify the identity of Abraham “Collson” who appeared in the *Journals of the Commons House of Assembly* in 1738 as Joseph Coleson’s will recorded in Brunswick County, Virginia, suggested his brother William would be going there. William died the next month, but Abraham appears. Abraham is a name appearing in Lunenburg County, Virginia in the mid-1750s.
- Research the Colesons of Anson County, North Carolina.



RESEARCH DETAILS:

White County, Tennessee

The Pension Roll of 1835 listed David Coulson, Private, Virginia Line, White County, Tennessee, was allowed \$52.98 annually and reported that David had cumulatively received \$158.94 at the time of the report's publication.⁵ He was placed on the roll 28 February 1833 and the pension was backdated to 4 March 1831. The pension ledgers recorded payments to David effective from September 1831 through March 1845. Payments were made semiannually in March and September at a rate of \$26.49 (Document 31).⁶

An enumeration of White County, Tennessee was performed in 1833. David Coulson was listed on Captain Sparkman's list, along with four people previously listed as character witnesses in his pension application: Daniel Hollingsworth, Moses Goddard, James Simmons and Griff Smallmill [Grief Smallman].⁷ A search of tax lists in White County produced negative results for David.⁸ This list was microfilmed with tax lists, but court minutes indicated an enumeration was ordered in that year. Other Coulsons did appear in county tax lists:

Year	Coulsons
1816	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isaac Coulson, 1 white poll tax
1821	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isaac Coulson, 1 white poll tax, 10 acres, Lost Creek • John Coulson, 1 white poll tax

⁵ *The Pension Roll of 1835, Volume III*, p. 629, entry for Private David Coulson of the Virginia Line; citing U.S. Congress, *Report from the Secretary of War in Obedience to Resolutions of the Senate of the 5th and 30th of June, 1834, and the 3rd of March, 1835, in Relation to the Pension Establishment of the United States*, 23rd Congress, 1st Session, Senate Document 514 (Washington, D.C., by the government, 1835), p. 514.; "U.S., The Pension Roll of 1835," database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 24 June 2023).

⁶ "U.S., Revolutionary War Pensioners, 1801-1815," database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 24 June 2023), entry for David Coulson, West Tennessee list, p. 271 frame 260; citing Ledgers of Payment, 1818-1872 to U.S. Pensioners Under Acts of 1818 Through 1858, Records of the Office of the Third Auditor of the Treasury, RG 217; NARA microfilm publication T712, roll 8.

⁷ White County, Tennessee, enumeration list, 1833, David Coulson; "Tennessee, U.S., Early Tax List Records, 1783-1895," database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 16 June 2023); this appears to be an enumeration/census, not a tax list. Court minutes listed directed enumerations periodically.

⁸ White County, Tennessee, Tax Book 1816-1829, search for Colesons; digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/007642731> : accessed 17 June 2023), negative results for David. Also, see White County, Tennessee, Tax Record, 1811-1876, search for David Coulston; digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/258245> : accessed 16 June 2023).

	<i>Different districts</i>
1822	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Coleson, 1 white poll tax • Isaac Coulson, 1 white poll tax, 10 acres,
1823	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Coulson, 1 white poll tax • Isaac Coulson, 1 white poll tax, 10 acres, [Cumberland] Mountain
1824	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Coulson, 1 poll tax • Isaac Coulson, 1 white poll tax, 10 acres, Lost Creek
1825	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isaac Coulson, 1 white poll tax • William Coulson, 1 white poll tax • Edward Coulson, 1 white poll tax <p><i>Edward and William were in the same district as Grief Smallman, one of David's character witnesses</i></p>
1826	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isaac Coulson, 1 white poll tax • Jacob Coulson, 20 acres, no poll tax
1827	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isaac Coulson, 1 white poll tax • Jacob Coulson, 20 acres, no poll tax
1828	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jacob Coulson, 1 white poll tax, 50 acres
1829	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isaac Coulson, 1 white poll tax
1830-1831	<i>No tax lists recorded on this microfilm</i>
1832	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capt. Coultson's list, he was not taxed
1833-1836, 1838	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negative results

Table 1. Coulsons in Tax Lists of White County, Tennessee⁹

DeKalb County, Tennessee

In 1837, DeKalb County formed from the western portions of White and Warren Counties. Tax lists from this jurisdiction were not available online on *FamilySearch* before 1857. The Tennessee State Archives (TSA) does have 1839 tax records on microfilm that could be ordered in a future round of research. After 1839, the next year of available tax lists at TSA is 1857. A search of deed indexes produced negative results for any Coulsons from inception through the 1880s.¹⁰ A transcription of Court Minute Book A completed by the

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ DeKalb County, Tennessee, Index to Deeds, 1838-1885, search for Coulsons; digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS41-KV27> : accessed 17 June 2023).

Historical Records Project of the Works Progress Administration recorded no Coulsons in the index.¹¹

Van Buren County, Tennessee

In 1840, Van Buren County formed from the eastern portions of White and Warren counties. In 1840, David Coulson was assessed a poll tax in Van Buren County. On the same list, “Oley” Coulson appeared with 100 acres of land, but no poll tax assessed to her for eligible white males or enslaved people.¹² David did not appear on this list beyond 1840. It is possible that David was exempted from taxes after 1840 due to age or infirmity and that his children, John and William came to care for their father. Olley’s relationship to David remains unknown. Here is a snapshot of the Coulsons in the tax lists of Van Buren County:

Year	Coulsons
1840	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Coulson, 1 poll tax (Document 47) • Oley Coulson, 100 acres
1841	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Olley Coulston, 100 acres
1842	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • William Coulston, 1 poll tax • Olley Coulston, 100 acres
1843	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Coulson, 1 poll tax
1844	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Coulson, 1 poll tax
1845	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Coulson, 1 poll tax
1846–1848	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negative results for Coulsons

Table 2. Coulsons in Tax Lists of Van Buren County, Tennessee¹³

A search of the deed index for Van Buren County from 1840 through 1875 produced negative results for any Coulston surname.¹⁴ Likewise, a manual read of Van Buren County’s Wills and

¹¹ DeKalb County, Tennessee, Court Minute Book A, official transcription by Works Progress Administration, search of index for Colsons, negative results; digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:SQWF-7HBY-9> : accessed 24 June 2023)

¹² Van Buren County, Tennessee, Tax Books, 1840, search for Coulston entries; digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS54-Q3XB-G> : accessed 16 June 2023).

¹³ *Ibid.*, 1840-1848, search for Coulston entries; digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/008264049> : accessed 16 June 2023).

¹⁴ Van Buren County, Tennessee, Index to Deeds, 1838-1885, search for Coulsons; digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS41-KV27> : accessed 17 June 2023).

Inventories Book A through 1849 produced negative results for a probate record of David Coulson. This book was not indexed.¹⁵

Coffee County, Tennessee

A will for a man named David Coalson, resident of Warren County, Tennessee was recorded in Coffee County, Tennessee. This will was devised on 21 February 1833. He left legacies to the following family members (Document 10):¹⁶

- Wife, Sarah
- Brothers: Henry, John and James
- Sisters: Rachael Belliums, Fanny Hastings and Mary Wallace
- Sons named: Charles and James
- Other children were underage and not listed; the executors were to provide shares of the estate to them as they came of age.

There was no date listed as to when the will was proven or to the probate of the estate. However, *FindAGrave* revealed a tombstone image for David Coalson, born 25 December 1771 in Virginia and died 12 August 1840. He was buried in the Coalson Cemetery in Grundy County, Tennessee.¹⁷ Grundy County was formed in 1844 from the southern portions of Coffee and Warren Counties. There was insufficient time to determine if any relationship existed between David Coulston, the Revolutionary War veteran, and the younger David Coalson. In 1840, the younger David was recorded in Coffee County, Tennessee with no apparent wife, a possible son aged 20–29 and a possible daughter or daughter-in-law, 15–19. He reported sixteen enslaved

¹⁵ Van Buren County, Tennessee, Wills and Inventories, Volume A, 1840-1860, search for Coulsons, negative results; digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S7WF-SVCM-X9> : accessed 24 June 2023).

¹⁶ Coffee County, Tennessee, Will Book 1, transcription by Works Project Administration, p. 18 citing original page 127, David Coalson, 21 Feb 1833; digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:2:77TV-TL2W> : accessed 24 June 2023).

¹⁷ Ancestry, *FindAGrave*, database with images (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/157872821/david-coalson> : accessed 24 June 2023), memorial 157872821, David Coalson, image of tombstone by Bob Sherwood. Inscription on tombstone reads: David Coalson, born in Virginia Dec. 25, 1771, died Aug. 17, 1840; memorial is connected to spouse Sarah (Cox) Coalson and eight children not named in the will: James Coulson, 1802-1893; Alexander E. Coulson, 1806-1872; John D. Coulson, 1807-1884; Bartley M. Coulson, 1809-1895; Lucinda Coulson Mooney, 1811-1902; William Harrison Coulson, 1813-1884, Sarah Nancy Coulson Herriford, 1815-1847; Poleyxyna Coulson Nevill, 1818-1880.

people from children through ages 55–99 (Document 48).¹⁸ He is of the right age to be a son of the elder David, but some caution is warranted. Nathaniel is not listed as a brother to the younger David. No mention of John, William or Isaac was made in the will. In future rounds of research, the relationship of Isaac, John and William to the elder David Coulson can be explored.

Bledsoe County, Tennessee

In his affidavit for pension in 1833, David mentioned residing for some period of time in Bledsoe County, Tennessee. A transcription of the 1836 tax record was the only one available for this jurisdiction. However, by this date, he was already a resident of White County where he filed his pension application. The earliest circuit court minute books available on *FamilySearch* begin in 1834. The earliest chancery court minute books available begin coverage in 1836. A search of Deed Index, Volume 1 covering 1797-1838 produced negative results for any Coulsons.¹⁹

North Carolina

According to David's Revolutionary War pension application, he resided in Stokes County, North Carolina for about 20 years. Family lore suggested David married a daughter of Daniel Cardwell. On 9 November 1807, David Colson purchased 26 acres of land "on Morgan Bryant's Old Road [on] the south side of Big Buffalo" from Daniel Cardwell in Stokes County (Document 33).²⁰ No relationship between the two men was described in the deed. Buffalo Creek is in Snow Creek Township of Stokes County. Two maps are provided for reference.

¹⁸ 1840 U.S. Census, Coffee County, Tennessee, district not stated, p. 170, household of David Coulston; digital images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 2 July 2023); citing NARA microfilm publication M704, roll 519.

¹⁹ Bledsoe County, Tennessee, Deed Index Book 1 (Direct and Reverse), 1797-1838, search for David Coulson or similar spellings return negative results; digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS4Y-D3T6-W> : accessed 2 July 2023).

²⁰ Stokes County, North Carolina, Deed Book 5:183–184, Daniel Cardwell to David Coulson, 9 November 1807; digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-9967-3JMG> : accessed 16 June 2023).



Figure 1. Township Map of Stokes County, North Carolina²¹

²¹ Wikimedia Commons, digital images
(https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Map_of_Stokes_County_North_Carolina_With_Municipal_and_Township_Labels.PNG : accessed 24 June 2023), "File: Map of Stokes County North Carolina with Municipal and Township Labels.PNG," uploaded 2:45, 10 July 2007.

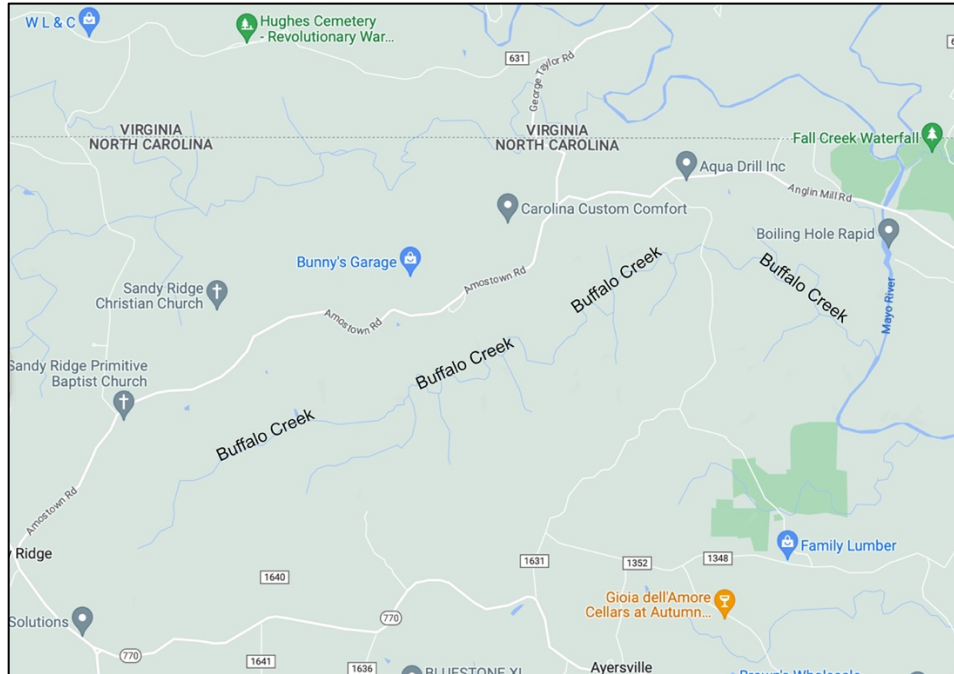


Figure 2. Location of Buffalo Creek within Snow Township, Stokes County, North Carolina²²

Stokes County tax records produced results for both Daniel Cardwell and David Coalson:

Year	Coulsons	Document
1795	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daniel Cardwell (Frame 215) 	39
1800	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Danel” Cardwell (Frame 399) 	40
1808	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Colson, 25 ½ acres, 2 white polls • Daniel Cardwell, 105 acres, 1 white poll (Frame 688) 	41
1810	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Coalson, 2 white polls, 25 ½ acres (Frame 839), Snow Creek • Cardwell not listed 	42
1813	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Colson, 25 ½ acres, 1 white poll (Frame 986) • John Colson, 114 acres, 1 white poll • Wm. Colson, 1 white poll • Charles Colson, 1 white poll 	43

²² GoogleMaps (<https://maps.google.com> : accessed 17 June 2023), customized map showing Buffalo Creek in Snow Creek Township, Stokes County, North Carolina.



1815	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Colson, two tracts totaling 50 ½ acres, 1 white poll, Beaver Island (Frame 1059) • William Colson, 1 white poll (Frame 1060) • John Colson, 52 acres, 1 white poll (Frame 1060) 	44
1816	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Colson, 46 acres (Frame 1150) • John Colson, 52 acres (Frame 1150) • William Colson, 1 poll, insolvent, possibly Meadow District (Frame 1137) 	45
1818	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Coulson (Frame 1224) 	46

Table 3. Colsons in Tax Lists of Stokes County, North Carolina²³

The Stokes County Index to Deeds, Grantors, 1787–1962 contained no reference to any transfer of properties belonging to the surnames Colson, Coleson, Coulson or Coalson to anyone else.²⁴

After Daniel Cardwell disappeared from Stokes County, he reappeared in Wilkes County, North Carolina in the 1810 United States Census. A search of the cross index to wills cover 1780-1940 returned negative results for any Cardwells.²⁵ There was insufficient time to identify the children of Daniel Cardwell, but two men named Thomas and George Cardwell both appeared in White County, Tennessee in the 1830 and 1840 United States censuses. They were both of the right age to be sons of Daniel Cardwell as Daniel was over 45 in the 1800 United States Census in Stokes County, North Carolina.²⁶ In that enumeration, Daniel’s household was reported with two free white males 10–15 and one 16–25. In the 1830 and 1840 enumerations in White County, Thomas Cardwell was 50–59-years-old and 60–69 respectively. George was

²³ Stokes County, North Carolina, Tax Lists, 1795-1818, Cardwells and Coulsons; digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/007761992> : accessed 16 June 2023).

²⁴ Stokes County, North Carolina, Index to Deeds, Grantors, A-D, 1787–1962, search for Colsons, negative results; digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QSQ-G98G-LCC4> : accessed 25 June 2023).

²⁵ Stokes County, North Carolina, Cross Index to Wills, 1780-1940, search for Cardwells, negative results; digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S7WF-3361-H9> : accessed 25 June 2023).

²⁶ 1800 U.S. Census, Stokes County, North Carolina, p. 595 (stamped), p. 503 (penned), household of Daniel Cardwell who had four males in the household, one over 45 (likely himself), two 10–15 and one male 16-25; digital images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 25 June 2023); citing NARA microfilm publication M32, roll 32.

40–49 years old in 1830.²⁷ In 1840, there were two households of men named George Cardwell in White County. The younger recorded adjacent to Thomas Cardwell was 30–39-years-old. The elder was recorded two pages later and was 50–59 years old. The younger may have been a son of the elder as the 1830 enumeration recorded two 15–19-year-olds in the elder’s household.²⁸ Thomas did not appear in the 1850 enumeration in White County.²⁹ George survived through the 1850 enumeration and was recorded in White County. He was 60 years old and born in North Carolina. His wife was Avarella and two apparent daughters, 28-year-old Rhoda and 26-year-old Margaret, also resided in the household.³⁰ Research of the Cardwells may be considered for future rounds of research to explore a connection between David Coulson and Daniel Cardwell of Stokes and Wilkes counties.

Of additional interest, the United States Census Bureau’s publication entitled *Heads of Families of the First United States Census* recorded a man named Thomas Cardwell in Amelia County, Virginia and men named John and George Cardwell in Charlotte County, Virginia.³¹ In this publication, David Colson was recorded in Charlotte County with four white household members (Document 15).³² The 1790 United States Census is no longer extant for Virginia. The

²⁷ 1830 U.S. Census, White County, Tennessee, district not stated, p. 24 (penned at the center top of page), p. 26 (penned at the left top of page), p. 26 (stamped on right side of two-page spread), households of Thomas and George Cardwell adjacent to each other, Thomas was 50–59 and George was 40–49; digital images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 25 June 2023); citing NARA microfilm M19, roll 182. Also, 1840 U.S. Census, White County, Tennessee, p. 56 (penned on right side of two-page spread), p. 29 (stamped on right side of two-page spread) households of George and Thomas Cardwell adjacent to each other, Thomas was 60–69 and George was 30–39; digital images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 25 June 2023); citing NARA microfilm publication M704, roll 536. Also, see 1840 U.S. Census, White County, Tennessee, p. 31 (stamped), p. 60 (penned), household of George Cardwell, 50–59 years old.

²⁸ *Ibid.*

²⁹ “1850 United States Federal Census,” database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 25 June 2023); citing NARA microfilm publication M432.

³⁰ 1850 U.S. Census, White County, Tennessee, District 7, p. 184 (not identified, but between 183 and 184 penned), folio 82 verso (stamped), household of 60-year-olds George and Avarella Cardwell, both born in North Carolina; digital images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 25 June 2023); citing NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 900.

³¹ Department of Commerce and Labor, Bureau of the Census, *Heads of Families at the First Census of the United States Taken in the Year 1790, Records of the State Enumerations: 1782 to 1785, Virginia* (Washington, D.C., GPO, 1908), p. 13, Thomas Cardwell in Edmund Booker’s District of Amelia County and John and George Cardwell in Charlotte County. p. 14, column 3.

³² *Ibid.*, p. 14, first column, David Coleson, 4 white household members, Charlotte County, Virginia.

United States Census Bureau approximated the enumeration of Virginia using state enumerations of 1782 and 1785.

Virginia

Jurisdictional Analysis

Amelia County, Virginia was created by a legislative act in August 1734 from parts of Prince George (Parish of Bristol) and Brunswick (Parish of St. Andrew) Counties.³³ The assembly directed that the county become effective on 25 March 1735, the first day of the legal year on the Julian Calendar.³⁴ The county was named for Princess Amelia, daughter of George II of England.³⁵ As the number of counties expanded to serve the westward migration of the growing population of Virginia, the county lost territory on two occasions. First, Prince Edward formed from its western half in 1754 and Nottingham from its remaining southern portion in 1788.³⁶ Raleigh parish was formed in August 1734 and served Amelia County until after 1785. Nottoway Parish was formed in 1748 and also served Amelia County until after 1785 and Prince Edward County to 1755.³⁷ In 1755, Nottoway Parish was divided to

³³ William Waller Hening, *The Statutes at Large, Volume 4*, pp. 467–468, *Acts of Assembly, August 1734*, Chapter XXXI, *An Act for dividing the County of Prince-George, and Parish of Bristol; and adding part of the County of Brunswick to the new erected County*, 8 August 1734; electronic version, *VaGenWeb* (<https://vagenweb.org/hening/vol04-23.htm>).

³⁴ *Ibid.* For information about the Julian Calendar, see Library Guides, “1752 Calendar Change,” *Connecticut State Library* (<https://libguides.ctstatelibrary.org/hg/colonialresearch/calendar> : accessed 6 May 2023), between 1582 and 1752, two calendars were in use in Europe. The Julian year began on March 25th and the Gregorian year began on January 1st. Between 1582 and 1752, England double dated all dates between 1 January and 25 March to clarify the dates. The first year in the date represented the old New Year (March 25th-March 24th) and the second represented the new New Year (January 1st through December 31st). Therefore, 15 March 1735 would have been written 15 March 1734/5. This did not change until a 1750 act of Parliament and became effective in 1752 when the Gregorian Calendar was officially adopted by England.

³⁵ *Wikipedia* (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amelia_County,_Virginia), “Amelia County, Virginia,” rev. 01:53, 4 May 2023.

³⁶ “Interactive Map of Virginia County Formation History,” state historical county boundary maps, *MapofUS* (<https://www.mapofus.org/virginia/> : accessed 25 June 2023), see 1754 and 1788 maps. Also, see William Waller Hening, *The Statutes at Large, Volume 4*, pp. 467–468, *Acts of Assembly, August 1734*, Chapter XXXI, *An Act for dividing the County of Prince-George, and Parish of Bristol; and adding part of the County of Brunswick to the new erected County*, 8 August 1734; electronic version, *VaGenWeb* (<https://vagenweb.org/hening/vol04-23.htm>).

³⁷ Freddie Spradlin, “Parishes of Virginia,” *VaGenWeb* (<https://vagenweb.org/parishes.htm> : accessed 25 June 2023), entries for Nottoway, Raleigh and St. Patrick’s Parishes; citing “Henings Statutes at Large”

form St. Patrick's Parish in Prince Edward County.³⁸ The Library of Virginia has a large collection of parish records. St. Patrick's Parish records exist from 1755 through 1979 including vestry books and minutes. A volume covering 1755 through 1774 includes minutes, a history of the parish and land processioning records.³⁹ St. Patrick's Parish records were set aside for another round of research due to time constraints. For Raleigh Parish, two groups of accessions are relevant. Unfortunately, both are too early to cover David's birth. Raleigh Parish vestry books containing minutes of the 1 May 1790 and 16 April 1827-20 March 1926 sessions are in their collection. From 1833-1883, P. F. Berkeley served as a rector of the parish. A 60-leaf volume containing his baptisms, funerals, marriages, communicants and confirmations are also in the Library of Virginia collection.⁴⁰

Charlotte County was created on 4 October 1764 from the northwestern portion of Lunenburg County and lay along the southwestern border of Prince Edward County. In the same act of legislation, Mecklenburg County was formed from the southern portion of Lunenburg County lying along the North Carolina border. Both counties were to become effective on 1 March 1765. Prior to the split of Lunenburg into three counties, the residents were served by three parishes. The boundaries of these three parishes formed the new counties: Cornwall Parish formed Charlotte, St. James formed Mecklenburg, and the remaining parish of Cumberland formed the new boundaries of Lunenburg.⁴¹ John Cameron, born in Scotland in 1744 or 1745 immigrated to Virginia and was ordained in 1770. He served as the rector for Cornwall Parish from 1771 to 1774, at St. James from 1774-1784 and additional congregations including Nottoway Parish beyond 1784.

(<https://vagenweb.org/hening>) and Emily J. Salmon and Edward D.C. Campbell, Jr., editors, *The Hornbook of Virginia History, 4th Edition* (Richmond, Va.: Library of Virginia, 1994).

³⁸ Ibid., see St. Patrick's Parish entry.

³⁹ Gerald P. Gaidmore, revisor, *A Guide to Church Records in the Library of Virginia* (Richmond, Va. : *The Library of Virginia*, 2002), p. 73, St. Patrick's Parish, Prince Edward County, accessions 19760 (original records), Vestry Book or accession 34422, miscellaneous film reel 34422, Library of Virginia, Richmond.

⁴⁰ Ibid., p. 66, Raleigh Parish, Amelia County, accessions 20788 (negative photostats), accession 24268 (negative photostats), and accession 25665, original manuscript and p. 84, P.F. Berkeley, accession 24267.

⁴¹ Hening, *The Statutes at Large, Volume 8*, pp. 41–442, *Acts of Assembly, October 1764*, Chapter IV, *An Act for dividing the county of Lunenburg into three counties*, 4 October 1764; electronic version, *VaGenWeb* (https://vagenweb.org/hening/vol08-03.htm#page_41 : accessed 7 May 2023).

Unfortunately, the 82-leaf collection of his records at the Library of Virginia only contained marriages from 1784 through 1815 and baptisms and funerals from 1815.⁴²

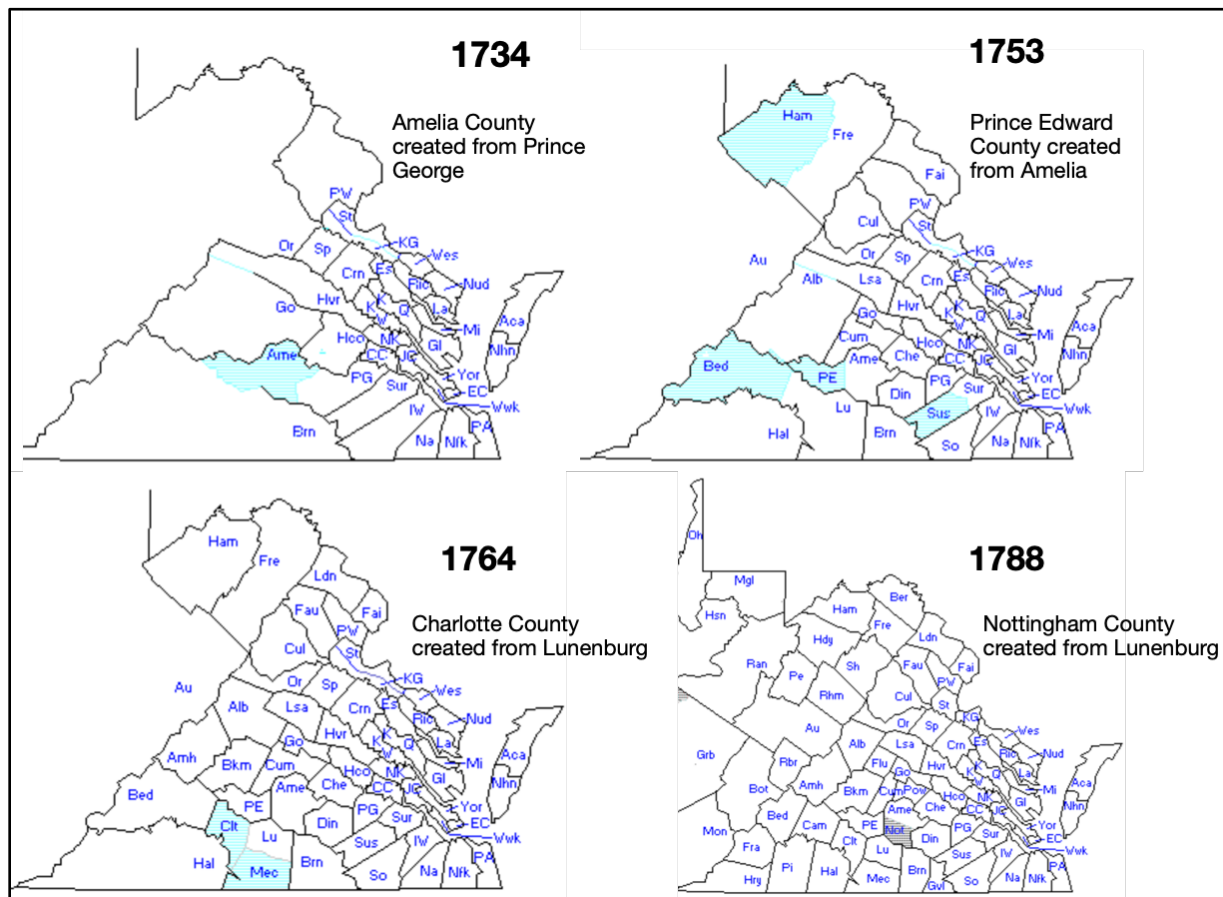


Figure 3. County Formation Map (Select Counties)⁴³

Charlotte County, Virginia

⁴² Gaidmore, revisor, *A Guide to Church Records in the Library of Virginia*, p. 84, John Cameron (1744 or 1745–1815), Register 1784-1891, accession 20077, includes multiple parish records, none of which are Cornwall Parish. Also, see p. 85, Lyman Brown Wharton (1831-1907), accession 28576a, whose diary from 1858-1899 is at the Library of Virginia, also too recent for David Coulson’s family.

⁴³ “Interactive Map of Virginia County Formation in History,” *MapofUS* (<https://www.mapofus.org/Virginia> : accessed 7 May 2023), see 1734, 1753, 1764 and 1788; maps created for *MapofUS* using *Animaps Plus 3* with permission of the Goldbug Company.

On 5 January 1784, David “Coltson” purchased 24 acres of land from Thomas Robertson for £25. The land laid at the head of Ward’s Fork and adjoined the properties of Edward Williams, **James Coltson**, and James “Larkens.”⁴⁴ A search of deed indices for James Coltson in Charlotte and Lunenburg counties returned negative results. Ward’s Fork empties into Roanoke Creek south of Charlotte Court House, the county seat of Charlotte County. The description of the property as being located at the head of Ward’s Fork is a bit misleading as there are three tributaries that feed the main waterway of Ward’s Fork Creek: East Branch Wards Fork, Middle Branch Wards Fork and West Branch Wards Ford. The Middle Branch and the East Branch come together to form the main Wards Fork Creek about 3.6 miles almost due north of Charlotte Court House. The Western Branch feeds the Middle Branch further upstream. A map of the joining of these branches (Middle and Eastern Branch) is shown on the below map. The white dot west of the end of the vehicular route is the head of Wards Fork Creek as it is fed from the north:

⁴⁴ Charlotte County, Virginia, Deed Book 5:78, Thomas Robertson to David Coltson, executed 5 January 1784, recorded 2 February 1784; digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS4C-Q96C-V> : accessed 22 May 2023).

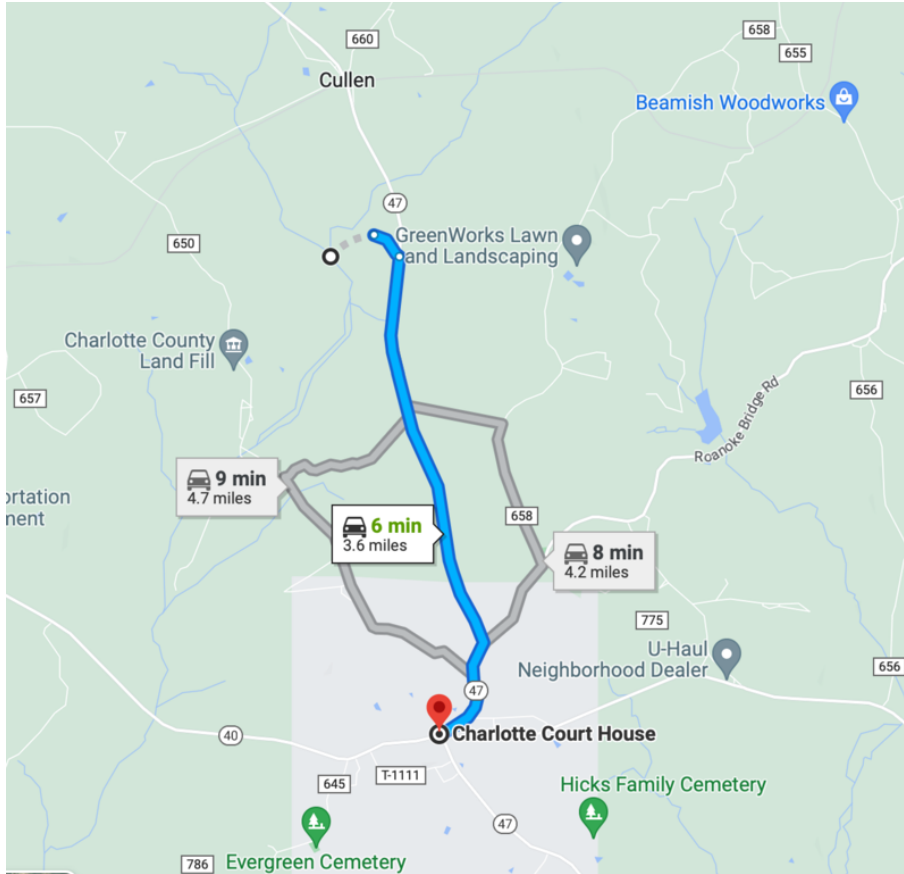


Figure 4. Driving Directions to Wards Fork Creek, Google Maps⁴⁵

A review of personal property tax lists in Charlotte County returned the following Coleson results:

Year	Coulsons	Document
1782	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> David Coleson, 1 male tithable, no enslaved people, one horse, two head of cattle 	16
1784	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> David Coleson, 1 male tithable, no enslaved people, one horse, three head of cattle 	17
1785	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> David Coleson, 1 male tithable, no enslaved people, no horses, no cattle 	18

⁴⁵ Driving directions, Charlotte Court House to manually dropped pin for head of Wards Fork Creek, GoogleMaps (<https://maps.google.com> : accessed 7 May 2023); customized map.

1790	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> David Coleson, 1 male tithable, no enslaved people, no horses, no cattle 	19
1790 ⁴⁶	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> David Coleson, 4 household members*, <i>Heads of Families of the First United States Census</i> 	15
1794	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> David Coleson, 1 male tithable, one horse 	25
1795	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> David Coleson, 1 male tithable, one horse 	20
1796	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> David Coleson, 1 male tithable, one horse Cardwells: John, Wilcher, Peter and Susanna Cardwell were all on the tax list. (Document 	34
1798	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> David Coleson, 1 male tithable, no horses Cardwells: John, Wilcher, Peter and Susanna Cardwell were all on the tax list. 	21
1799-1801	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Negative results for Coulsons 	

Figure 5. Colesons in Tax Lists of Charlotte County, Virginia⁴⁷

David Coleson appeared as a witness for David Jean in a lawsuit in Charlotte County on 4 December 1770 indicating he was recognized to be of legal age which was twenty-one years old at that time. Jean sued John Smallwood for an unknown cause. Jean was ordered to pay David Coleson 125 pounds of tobacco for five days as a witness in the lawsuit (Document 14).⁴⁸ There are no tithable or poll lists prior to 1782 in Charlotte County at the Library of Virginia. There was no record of David having sold his property after he left Charlotte County.

Amelia County, Virginia

⁴⁶ Department of Commerce and Labor, Bureau of the Census, *Heads of Families at the First Census* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1908), p. 14, David Coleson, 4 household members; digital images, *United States Census Bureau* (<https://www.census.gov/library/publications/1907/dec/heads-of-families.html> : accessed 22 May 2023).

⁴⁷ Charlotte County, Virginia, Tax Lists, 1782–1801, entries for Colesons; digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSQ2-3Y8K> : accessed 22 May 2023).

⁴⁸ Charlotte County, Virginia, Court Order Book 2:414, David Colson attended court as a witness for David Jean versus John Smallman, 4 December 1770; digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS4C-C3FN-1> : accessed 22 May 2023).

Tithable lists, not to be confused with church tithes, were early tax lists for people of income, generally defined as white males and nonwhite males and females sixteen or older.⁴⁹ The definition of “tithable” changed throughout early colonial Virginia. In October 1748, the General Assembly defined the class to include all male persons 16 and over, “all negroe, mulatto, and Indian women of the same age, except Indians tributary to this government and all wives of free negroes, mulattos, and Indians, except as before excepted...[also] excepting such only as the county courts, for charitable reason appearing to them, shall think fit to excuse.”⁵⁰ Some exceptions included the governor of the colony, his domestic servants, the president, masters, scholars and domestic servants of the College of William and Mary, beneficed ministers of the colony, and any constables.⁵¹

A search of tithable lists from 1736-1764 returned results for two men carrying the surname Coltson or Coleson. In 1744, James and William “Coltson” were recorded in William Clement’s district between Flatt Creek and Appomattox River to as far as Saylor’s Creek (Document 12).⁵² Only James Coleson or Colson appeared on tithable lists from 1745–1748 and 1750-1751.⁵³ In 1748, James Coleson appeared on Thomas Tabb’s list above Flatt Creek (Document 11).⁵⁴ This area fell in Nottoway Parish. *GoogleMaps* provides some context for the general southern portion of the district:

⁴⁹ Roger Christman, Virginia Dunn and Cara Griggs, revisors and expanders, “List of Colonial Virginia Tithables, Rent Rolls and Polls,” finding aid, reference desk, Library of Virginia, Richmond, introduction, third page.

⁵⁰ Hening, *The Statutes at Large, Volume 6*, pp. 40–42, *Acts of Assembly, October 1748*, Chapter XXI, *An Act concerning Tithables, §I*, 22 October 1748; electronic version, *VaGenWeb* (https://www.vagenweb.org/hening/vol06-02.htm#page_40 : accessed 7 May 2023).

⁵¹ *Ibid.*, p. 41, §II.

⁵² Amelia County, Virginia, Tithable List, 1744, William Clement’s List between Flatt Creek and Appomattox River as far as Saylor’s Creek, James and William Coltson, microfilm reel 55, Library of Virginia, Richmond.

⁵³ *Ibid.*, Tithable Lists, 1745–1748 and 1750-1751 on same microfilm reel 55, Library of Virginia, Richmond.

⁵⁴ *Ibid.*, 1748, Thomas Tabb’s list above Flatt Creek.

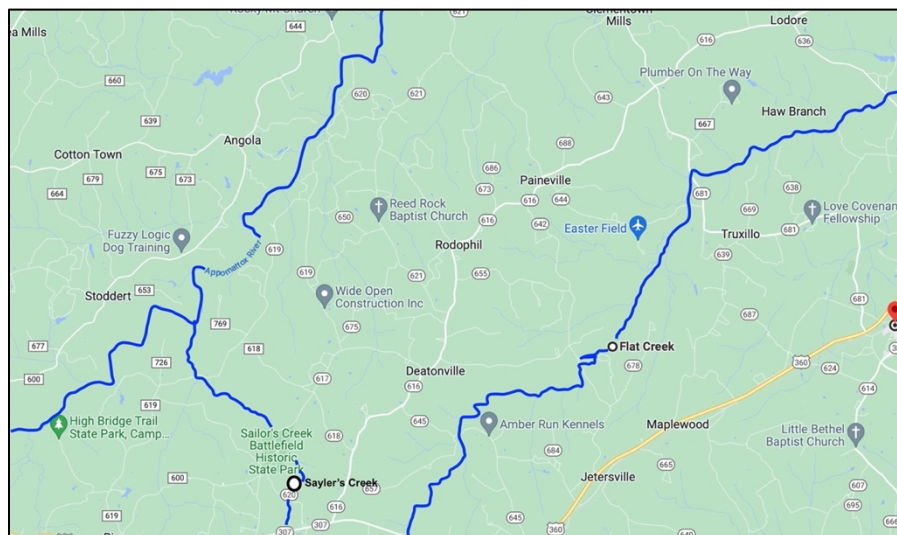


Figure 6. Map showing Saylor's (a.k.a. Saylor's or Sailor's) Creek, Flat Creek and Appomattox River⁵⁵

In records researched, James only appeared in Amelia County from 1744 through 1752. His neighbors and associates were identified in three records. On 16 March 1748/9, Amelia County court approved the motion of Mr. Williamson to clear a road from Saylor's Creek to Mr. Nash's above "Womawks" in the most convenient way possible. The male tithables of the households of Mr. Cobbs, Mr. Towns, Major Booker, William Sadler, William Liggon, Abraham Jones and **James Coleson** were ordered to assist with clearing the way.⁵⁶ On 20 March 1750, James Coleson purchased 163 acres from Thomas Hamm for £15. The property laid on the south side of the Appomattox River and the upper side of Saylor Creek and joined that of William Towns, Richard Booker and Thomas Osborne. Witnesses to the transaction included Abijah Elmore, William Russell and John Hudson (Document 3).⁵⁷ On

⁵⁵ "Saylor's Creek, Virginia," *GoogleMaps* (<https://maps.google.com> : accessed 7 May 2023); customized map for client adding bold traces to the creeks forming the southern boundary of William Clement's district in the 1744 tithable list district description.

⁵⁶ Amelia County, Virginia, Order Book 2, unpaginated, arranged chronologically, 3rd Friday in March 1749, Mr. Williamson appointed overseer of clearing the way for a road from Saylor's Creek to Mr. Nash's, James Coleson's tithables ordered to assist; digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS4H-C98H-W> : accessed 21 May 2023), see top of right page in image.

⁵⁷ Amelia County, Virginia, Deed Book 4:61–62, Thomas Hamm to James Colston, 20 March 1750; digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSKW-MS5W-D> : accessed 7 May 2023).

23 November 1752, James and his wife, Jane, sold the complete tract to James Fiers for £21 (Document 4).⁵⁸

Additional sources were searched with negative results for the Colson or Coltson (or variations in spelling). A line-by-line search of original tithable lists on microfilm from 1752 through 1754 produced negative results for any Colesons in Amelia County during this period.⁵⁹ A General Index to Deeds for Grantees for Amelia County covered the period from 1734–1953.⁶⁰ Only two entries for the surname appeared. First, James Colston's purchase from Thomas Hamm in 1750. Second, J.D. Coulson from L.W. Clarke and wife in 1922. A search of the grantor deed index covering the same period returned only one result in the 1700s: James Coltson to James Fiers in 1752.⁶¹ The remainder of the entries were for Coulson or Coltrane in the 20th century. Finally, the first four volumes of court order books covering 1735–1757 were indexed. Aside from the November 1752 recording of James Coleston's deed transaction to James Fears (Fiers), no other entries were indexed. It is possible that James appeared in other road orders, but they were not indexed and would require a page-by-page reading which was not possible in the time allotted. The Virginia Transportation Research Council compiled abstracts of early road orders from court order books from 1735-1753. This volume was leveraged as a finding aid to locate the aforementioned entry about Mr. Williamson's 1749 motion for a road, his appointment as overseer of the road and the order that the tithables of James Coleson and others would help to clear the way.⁶²

⁵⁸ Amelia County, Virginia, Deed Book 4:468–469, James & Jane Coleston to James Fiers, 23 November 1752; digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSKW-MSPY-X> : accessed 21 November 2022).

⁵⁹ Amelia County, Virginia, Tithable Lists, 1752-1754, search for Coleson surname; microfilm reel 55, Library of Virginia, Richmond.

⁶⁰ Amelia County, Virginia, General Indexes to Deeds, 1734-1953, Grantees, surnames C-E, search for other Colsons in Amelia County in the 18th century produced negative results; digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/282005> : accessed 21 May 2023).

⁶¹ Amelia County, Virginia, General Indexes to Deeds, 1734-1953, Grantors, surnames C-E, search for other Colsons in Amelia County in the 18th century produced negative results; digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/282005> : accessed 21 May 2023).

⁶² Nathaniel Mason Pawlett, Ann Bush Miller and Kennedy Madison Clark, *Amelia County Road Orders, 1735-1753* (Charlottesville, Va.: Virginia Transportation Research Council, April 2002), 51; citing Amelia County, Order Book 1, old style page 201, motion of Thomas Williamson to clear a road from Saylor's Creek to Mr. Nash's and that James Coleson's tithables and other assist in clearing the road; repository: Ruth E. Lloyd Information Center (RELIC room) at Central Community Library, Prince William County, Manassas; also available as PDF,



James Coleson

James Coleson was only Coleson who appeared in records of Amelia County, Virginia during the timeframe when David Coleson was born. Additionally, David Coleson’s land in Charlotte County adjoined the property of James Coalson in 1784. A brief review of James’ identity and possible related identities was compiled to show the movement of Colesons and the use of the surname Rainwater by some members of the family.

DATE	James Coleson, probable father of David Coleson	Other Colesons in adjacent or nearby jurisdictions
18 August 1735		Joseph Colson purchased land in Edgecombe Precinct, North Carolina from Joseph Bradley (Document 36). ⁶³
7 January 1736/7		Joseph Colson’s will was proven in Brunswick County, Virginia. He left his son Daniel Coleson half of his property at the mouth of Pork Creek on the south side of the Roanoke River in Edgecombe Parish (North Carolina). He also left him a sorrel horse to have when his Uncle William goes to South Carolina (Document 8). ⁶⁴

Virginia Department of Transportation (https://www.virginiadot.org/vtrc/main/online_reports/pdf/02-r14.pdf : accessed 21 May 2023).

⁶³ Edgecombe Precinct, North Carolina, Deed Book 1732-1741, pp. 134–135, Joseph Colson of Brunswick County, Virginia from Joseph Bradley of Edgecombe Precinct, North Carolina, 18 August 1735; digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://hdl.handle.net/2027/iau.31858045012675> : accessed 21 June 2023).

⁶⁴ Brunswick County, Virginia, Deeds, Wills, Inventories & Accounts Book 1:315, Joseph Colson, 7 January 1736/7; digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/275016> : accessed 6 May 2023); citing FHL microfilm 30632, item 3.

9 February 1736/7	William Colson's will was proven in Bertie Precinct, North Carolina, He left legacies to his brothers Abraham and Joseph and to sister, Sarah Lundy. Also, he left a legacy to John Coleson, son of John Coleson (Document 12). ⁶⁵
1744	James Coltson and Wm Coltson, 2 tithables (same residence), Ameila County, Virginia (Document 1) ⁶⁶
1748	James Coltson, 1 tithable, Amelia County, Virginia (Document 2) ⁶⁷
16 March 1748/9	James Coleson's tithables ordered to assist in clearing a road from Saylor's Creek to Mr. Nash's in Amelia County, Virginia (Document 11) ⁶⁸
20 March 1750	James Coleson purchased 163 acres from Thomas Hamm in Amelia County, Virginia (Document 3) ⁶⁹
2 November 1752	James and Jane Coleson sold his property in Amelia County to

⁶⁵ "North Carolina, U.S., Willis and Probate Records, 1665-1998," digital images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 25 June 2023), will of William Colson, 9 February 1736/7, Bertie Precinct, North Carolina

⁶⁶ Amelia County, Virginia, Tithable Lists, 1744, William Clement's List between Flatt Creek and Appomattox River as far as Saylor's Creek, microfilm reel 55, Library of Virginia, Richmond.

⁶⁷ *Ibid.*, 1748 list, Thomas Tabb's List, Raleigh Parish above Flatt Creek (very faded).

⁶⁸ Amelia County, Virginia, Court Orders, Volume 2, 1746-1751, unpaginated, arranged chronologically, third Friday, March 1749[50], road order including Jas. Colson's male tithables; digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS4H-C98H-W> : accessed 25 June 2023).

⁶⁹ Amelia County, Virginia, Deed Book 4:61-62, Thomas Hamm to James Colston, 20 March 1750; digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSKW-MS5W-D> : accessed 7 May 2023).

James Fears (Fiers) (Document 4) ⁷⁰	
5 February 1753	Abraham Coleson (alias Reignwater) and Jacob Coleson (alias Rainwater) purchased land from Nicholas Major in Lunenburg County, Virginia (Winney Coleson witnessed both) (Documents 32 and 35) ⁷¹
2 September 1755	Abraham Coleson and Nicholas Major sold six acres of land in Lunenburg County to Pinkethman Hawkins (Document 26) ⁷²
6 July 1756	Abraham Coleson sold a portion of his land in Lunenburg County to James Tucker (Document 37) ⁷³
6 January 1757	Jacob Coleson sold a portion of his land in Lunenburg county to James Tucker (Document 38) ⁷⁴

⁷⁰ Amelia County, Virginia, Deed Book 4:468–469, James & Jane Coleston to James Fiers, 23 November 1752; digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSKW-MSPY-X> : accessed 21 November 2022).

⁷¹ Lunenburg County, Virginia, Deed Book 3:237–241, Abraham Coleson from Nicholas Major, Cumberland Parish, 5 February 1753; digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSL6-W2G6> : accessed 25 June 2023). For Jacob’s land, see pages 354–356 (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSL6-W2P7> : accessed 25 June 2023).

⁷² Lunenburg County, Virginia, Deed Book 4:175–177, Abraham Coleson and Nicholas Major to Pinkethman Hawkins, 2 September 1755; digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSL6-W2NQ> : accessed 25 June 2023).

⁷³ Lunenburg County, Virginia, Deed Book 4:273–275, Abraham Coleson to James Tucker, 8 November 1755; digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSL6-W2CQ> : accessed 25 June 2023).

⁷⁴ Lunenburg County, Virginia, Deed Book 4:391–392, Abraham Coleson to James Tucker, 8 November 1755; digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSL6-W2CQ> : accessed 25 June 2023).



1771	James and Abraham Coleson were listed on the same page in tax records of Surry County, North Carolina. Surry County is a western adjoining county to Stokes County where David later appeared (Document 22). ⁷⁵
12 November 1778	James Rainwater received a grant for 200 acres on Fisher River, a tributary of the Yadkin River, adjoining the land of John Jarvis (Document 5). ⁷⁶
12 August 1779	James Rainwater received a grant for 200 acres on Hogan's Creek in Surry County adjoining widow Rainwater's (Document 6). ⁷⁷
1782	James Coleson and Mary Coleson appeared as James Rainwater and Mary Rainwater (likely widow Rainwater) on the tax list in Surry County. Note that James Tucker was also on this list on the previous page (Document 24). ⁷⁸

⁷⁵ Surry County, North Carolina, Tax List, 1771, p. 7, James Coleson; digital images, *North Carolina Digital Collections* (<https://digital.ncdcr.gov/digital/collection/p16062coll33/id/144> : accessed 23 May 2023).

⁷⁶ "North Carolina, U.S., Land Grant Files, 1693-1960," database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 25 June 2023), grant 840, entry 944, for James Rainwater on Fisher River, entered 12 August 1779, issued 3 November 1784; citing Book 55, p. 44, Surry County.

⁷⁷ "North Carolina, U.S., Land Grant Files, 1693-1960," database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 25 June 2023), grant 768, entry 534, for James Rainwater on Hogan's Creek adjoining widow Rainwater's, entered 30 November 1778, issued 3 November 1784; citing Book 55, p. 25, Surry County.

⁷⁸ Surry County, North Carolina, Tax List, 1782, search for Colesons; digital images, *North Carolina Digital Collections* (<https://digital.ncdcr.gov/digital/collection/p16062coll33/id/1124/rec/1> : accessed 23 May 2023), frame 027.



5 January 1784	David Coltson purchased land adjacent to James Coltson's in Charlotte County, Virginia (Document 13). ⁷⁹ <i>No deed was located for James in Charlotte County.</i>
1790	James Rainwater was recorded on the tax list with 300 acres of land in Surry County (Document 27).⁸⁰
1792	James Rainwater recorded with 280 acres in Surry County; he was also recorded for another 180 acres with no tax rate listed (Document 28).⁸¹
1794	James Rainwater recorded with 180 acres in Surry County and only one poll tax (Document 29).⁸²
15 February 1797	James Coleson acquired a Revolutionary War land bounty in Davidson County. It was assigned it to William Hall in 1814 (Document 7).⁸³

⁷⁹ Charlotte County, Virginia, Deed Book 5:78, Thomas Robertson to David Coltson, executed 5 January 1784, recorded 2 February 1784; digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS4C-Q96C-V> : accessed 22 May 2023).

⁸⁰ Surry County, North Carolina, Taxable Property, 1790, Captain Edwards' District, James Rainwater, 300 acres at tax rate 1; digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-898Q-Q9TY> : accessed 23 May 2023).

⁸¹ Surry County, North Carolina, Taxable Property, 1792, Captain Edwards' District, James Rainwater, 280 acres at tax rate 2; digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-998Q-Q9JF> : accessed 23 May 2023).

⁸² Surry County, North Carolina, Taxable Property, 1794, Captain Edwards' District, James Rainwater, 180 acres at tax rate 2; digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-898Q-Q9K7> : accessed 23 May 2023).

⁸³ "U.S., North Carolina and Tennessee, U.S., Revolutionary War Land Warrants, 1783-1843," database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 25 June 2023), warrant no. 4713, James Coleson, Private, 274 acres, assigned to William Hall in 1814.



1798	James Rainwater was recorded with 180 acres in Surry County with no tax listed (Document 30).⁸⁴
22 February 1805	William Colson sold 171 acres to William Gray in Surry County (Document 23).⁸⁵
24 September 1818	Nathan Coulson wedded Milly Henn in Stokes County, North Carolina (Document 9). ⁸⁶

Figure 7. James Coulson, probable father of David and other Coulson identities

It remains unclear how many generations of men named James, William or Abraham Coleson, with or without alias Rainwater, are contained in this list. Defining these identities should be a topic for future rounds of research. William Coleson’s will was proven 9 February 1736/7 was in Bertie Precinct, North Carolina. The will of his brother, Joseph Coleson, was proven a month earlier in Brunswick County, but he left a legacy to his son Daniel for property in Edgecombe Precinct, North Carolina. Edgecombe Precinct was formed from Bertie in 1733, but it did not start functioning as a county until 1741. The limits of the precinct’s territory are depicted on this map.

⁸⁴ Surry County, North Carolina, Taxable Property, 1798, Captain Ogleby’s District, James Rainwater, 180 acres, no tax rate; digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QSQ-G98Q-Q9VB> : accessed 23 May 2023).

⁸⁵ Surry County, North Carolina, Deed Book M:31–32, William Coleson to William Gray, 22 February 1805; digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QSQ-G98Q-QK66> : accessed 23 May 2023).

⁸⁶ *Ibid.*, citing DGS 102522052, marriage bond of Nathan Coulson to Milley Henn, 24 September 1818.

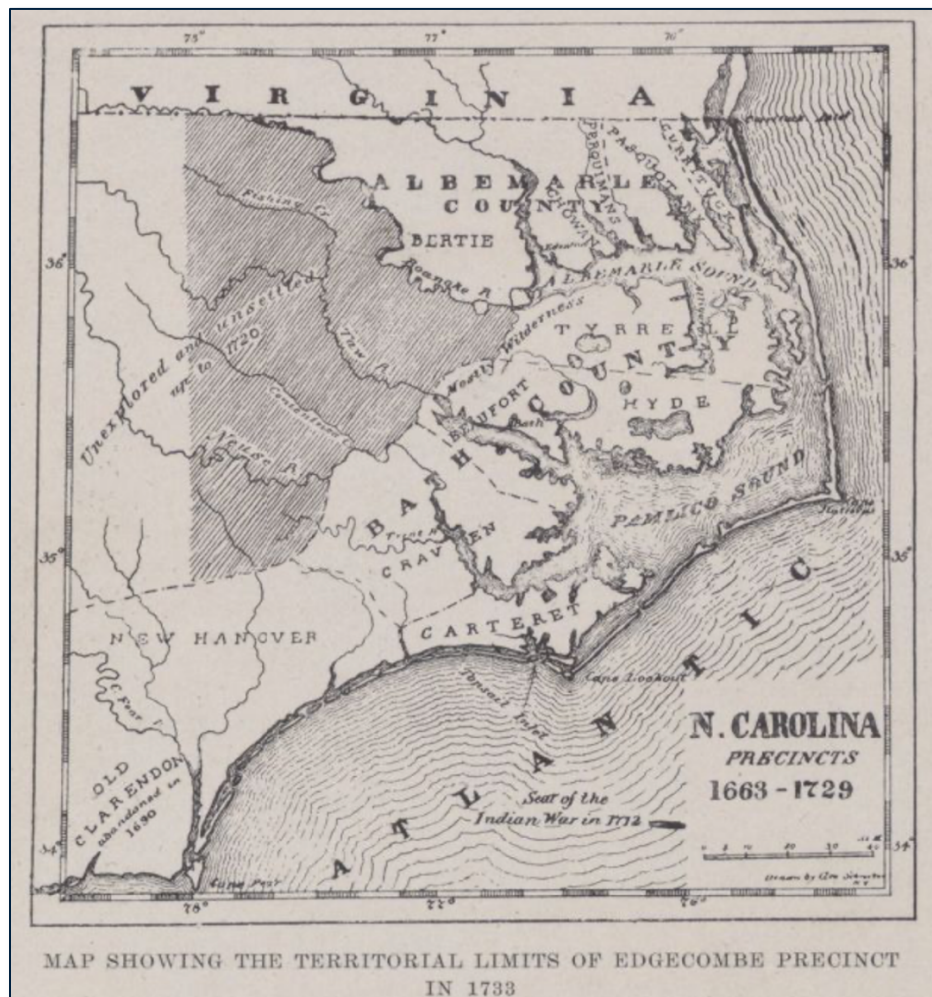


Figure 8. Territorial Limits of Edgecombe Precinct, 1733⁸⁷

At least one source suggests that William and Abraham Coleson conducted trade with the Indians in South Carolina. Joseph Coleson mentions that his brother William would be going to South Carolina. Unfortunately, William died a month later. However, Abraham Coleson appeared in the *Journal of the Commons House of Assembly of South Carolina in July 1738* for being allowed £25 for providing a steer, two quarters of beef to the Indians. Another account immediately below this entry provided for £6 for two quarters of beef for the Choctaw Indians

⁸⁷ J. Kelly Turner and Jno. L. Bridgers, Jr., *History of Edgecombe County, North Carolina* (Raleigh, NC: Edwards & Broughton Printing, Co., 1920), 12.

for their travel to Charles Town.⁸⁸ Some suggest that this interaction with the Native Americans may be the source of their alias Rainwater.

Other Coulsons

An additional set of wealthy or estated families of Colstons resided in Richmond County, Virginia. Initially these families were set aside due to lack of mention of James Colston but could be further researched in the future. They were significantly further away than the Colstons in Amelia, Brunswick and Charlotte Counties:

- 3 January 1721/1722: William Colston died in Richmond County leaving a wife and three unnamed daughters. He owned 848 acres which he left for his executors to dispose of at their will, except that reserved for his wife, Mary. After Mary died, the land was to go to his daughter, Mary. The remainder of the estate after his wife's death was to be equally divided between his three daughters.⁸⁹
- 25 November 1724: Captain Charles Colston died intestate, and his estate was administered by James Suggitt, Giles Webb and Sam Peachy. Four pages of assets were listed including law books, Bibles, histories of Barbados, America, Europe and the world, a significant quantity of furniture and kitchen wares and 14 enslaved people at his primary residence. He also had six people at a secondary residence for a total estate valued at £89,917.9 $\frac{3}{4}$.⁹⁰
- 10 December 1768: An account of Rawleigh Colston's Guardian Account was conducted in Richmond County, Virginia.⁹¹
- 1 January 1781: William Colston's will was proven in Richmond County, Virginia. He left legacies to the following heirs:⁹²

⁸⁸ J.H. Easterby, editor, *The Colonial Records of South Carolina, Journal of the Commons House of Assembly of South Carolina* (Columbia, SC: The Historical Commission of South Carolina, 1952), 183; digital images, *HathiTrust* (<https://hdl.handle.net/2027/iau.31858045012675> : accessed 21 June 2023).

⁸⁹ Richmond County, Virginia, Will Book 4:198, William Colston, devised 10 May 1721, proven 3 January 1721/2, also inventory and appraisal, pp. 203-206; citing Library of Virginia, microfilm reel 24, Richmond.

⁹⁰ Richmond County, Virginia, Will Book 4:248-252, Charles Colston, inventory and appraisal, 25 November 1724; citing Library of Virginia, microfilm reel 24, Richmond.

⁹¹ Richmond County, Virginia, Account Book 1: 542-546, Guardian Account of Rawleigh Colston, 10 December 1768; citing Library of Virginia, microfilm 1724-1783, Richmond.

⁹² Richmond County, Virginia, Will Book 7:369-370, will of William Colston, devised 5 October 1780, proven 1 January 1781; citing Library of Virginia, microfilm reel 24, Richmond.

- To wife, Lucy: In addition to dower, the following enslaved persons: Margery, Frankey and her three children: Judy, Peter and Betty, his phaeton and horses are hers forever. Also, the profits of his estate, four of the best servants, the dwelling house and furniture, kitchen and other offices with sufficient provision for her family and horses, unless she prefers her thirds – in that case, I only give her the use of four servants for the above-mentioned time.
- To his son, William Traverse Colston when he arrives at 21 his mansion, plantation including the lands purchased of the late Plummer and Mr. Hill together with any forest land.
- To his daughter, Susanna exclusive of what shall be hereafter given when she reaches 18 or marries, £100 and one likely enslaved person between 12 and 15 years
- Same to his daughter, Elizabeth and that both daughters be supported out of the profits of the estate until his son arrives at the age of 21.
- To all three children, the use of his enslaved people and the residue of his estate to be equally divided between the three children when William arrives at the age of 21. If one of the daughters dies, then her share shall go to the other sister

According to Wikipedia, there was also a William Colston who was a member of the House of Burgesses in colonial Virginia sometime between 1619 and 1775.⁹³ He was not further researched.

⁹³ *Wikipedia* (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_members_of_the_Virginia_House_of_Burgesses : accessed 24 June 2023), “List of members of the Virginia House of Burgesses,” rev. 18:40, 17 June 2023.

DOCUMENTS PROVIDED:

- Document 1 – James and William Coltson, 1744F Tithable List, Amelia County, Virginia
- Document 2 – James Coleson, 1748A Tithable List, Amelia County, Virginia
- Document 3 – Thomas Hamm to James Colston, Grantee Deed, 20 March 1750, Amelia County, Virginia
- Document 4 – James Coleston to James Fiers, Grantor Deed, 2 November 1752, Amelia County, Virginia
- Document 5 – James Rainwater, Land Grant, 12 November 1778, Fisher River, Surry County, North Carolina
- Document 6 – James Rainwater, Land Grant, 30 November 1778, Hogan’s Cree, Surry County, North Carolina
- Document 7 – James Coleson, Revolutionary War Land Grant (assigned to William Hall), 1786, Davidson County, Tennessee
- Document 8 – Joseph Coleston, Will, April 1737, Brunswick County, Virginia
- Document 9 – Nathan Coulson, Marriage Bond, 1818, Stokes County, North Carolina
- Document 10 – David Coulson (younger), Will, 1736/7, Coffee County, Tennessee
- Document 11 – James Coleson, Road Order, March 1748/9, Amelia County, Virginia
- Document 12 – William Colson, Will, 1736/7, Bertie Precinct, North Carolina
- Document 13 – David Coltson, Deed, 1784, Charlotte County, Virginia
- Document 14 – David Colson, Court Order, 4 December 1770, Charlotte County, Virginia
- Document 15 – David Coleson, Families of the First United States Census, Charlotte County, Virginia
- Document 16 – David Coleson, 1782 Tax List, Charlotte County, Virginia
- Document 17 – David Coleson, 1784 Tax List, Charlotte County, Virginia
- Document 18 – David Coleson, 1785 Tax List, Charlotte County, Virginia
- Document 19 – David Coleson, 1790 Tax List, Charlotte County, Virginia
- Document 20 – David Coleson, 1795 Tax List, Charlotte County, Virginia
- Document 21 – David Coleson, 1798 Tax List, Charlotte County, Virginia
- Document 22 – James Colson, 1771 Tax List, Surry County, North Carolina
- Document 23 – William Coleson, Grantor Deed, 1805, Surry County, North Carolina
- Document 24 – James and Mary Rainwater, 1782 Tax List, Surry County, North Carolina
- Document 25 – David Coleson, 1794 Tax List B, Charlotte County, Virginia

- Document 26 – Abraham Coleson & Nicholas Major to Pinkethman Hawkins, Deed, 2 September 1755, Lunenburg County, Virginia
- Document 27 – James Rainwater, 1790 Tax List, Surry County, North Carolina
- Document 28 – James Rainwater, 1792 Tax List, Surry County, North Carolina
- Document 29 – James Rainwater, 1794 Tax List, Surry County, North Carolina
- Document 30 – James Rainwater, 1798 Tax List, Surry County, North Carolina
- Document 31 – David Colson, Revolutionary War Pension Ledger, West Tennessee
- Document 32 – Abraham Coleson from Nicholas Major, Deed, 1753, Lunenburg County, Virginia
- Document 33 – Daniel Cardwell to David Colson, Deed, 1807, Stokes County, North Carolina
- Document 34 – David Coleson, 1796 Tax List B, Charlotte County, Virginia
- Document 35 – Jacob Coleson from Nicholas Major, Deed, 1753, Lunenburg County, Virginia
- Document 36 – Joseph Colson, Grantee Deed, 18 August 1735, Edgecombe Precinct, North Carolina
- Document 37 – Abraham Coleson to James Tucker, Deed, 1756, Lunenburg County, Virginia
- Document 38 – Jacob Coleson to James Tucker, Deed, 1757, Lunenburg County, Virginia
- Document 39 – Daniel Cardwell, 1795 Tax List, Stokes County, North Carolina
- Document 40 – Daniel Cardwell, 1800 Tax List, Stokes County, North Carolina
- Document 41 – David Colson and Daniel Cardwell, 1808 Tax List, Stokes County, North Carolina
- Document 42 – David Colson, 1810 Tax List, Stokes County, North Carolina
- Document 43 – David, William and John Colson, 1813 Tax List, Stokes County, North Carolina
- Document 44 – David, William and John Colson, 1815 Tax List, Stokes County, North Carolina
- Document 45 – William, John and David Coleson, 1816 Tax List, Stokes County, North Carolina
- Document 46 – John Coleson, 1818 Tax List, Stokes County, North Carolina