Purpose of this study:

To review all generally-accessible Craven County, NC, records from the early 1700s through the 1780s and determine, if possible, whether the William Barron and Prudence Davis identified in these records are the same persons as the William Barron and Prudence Davis named in John Davis Garrard’s 1892 letters (and the widow, Prudence Barron, found in Wilkes County, GA, records in 1780s/1790s).

Basis of assumptions:

Garrard’s identification is the only early source (from which other writers later borrowed) identifying the persons William Barron and Prudence Davis, earliest known ancestors of our Barron line. Garrard stated that they were born in Ireland and immigrated to America, settling in Warren County, GA before the Revolutionary War.

Assumptions:

- We know from documentary evidence that one Prudence Barron, widow, lived in Wilkes County, GA, as early as 1785. However, this search assumes that Prudence’s husband was named William Barron, as stated by John Davis Garrard. Records uncovered to date do not identify this man.
- Though a Prudence Barron, widow, did exist, documentary evidence has not yet provided her maiden name. This search assumes that her maiden name was Davis, as stated by John Davis Garrard.
- Though we are accepting the above assertions of John Davis Garrard in the parameters of this search, for this study we are denying another of Garrard’s assertions: that William Barron and Prudence Davis were born in Ireland and immigrated to America about 1766.

Items of note:

- A William Barron appeared in Craven County, NC, as early as 1720.
- William Barron, Jr. was mentioned in 1731, 1749 and 1754. Because of the gap between 1731 and 1749, the question is: were there two or three generations of men named William Barron?
- Other than William and William, Jr., there is only one other mention of a male Barron in any Craven County, NC, court or deed record before 1771! James Barrin was named constable in May Court 1757. David Barron apparently moved to New Bern, Craven County, NC, from Virginia sometime in 1771. (There were two men, Arthur and Isaac ‘Barrino’, sometimes identified as ‘Barrins’, but their surname does not appear to have been Barron and they did not associate with William Barron. Also, there were few men with the surname Barrow in the county.)
- No available records to date name William Barron’s wife or children (as such – there are three women named Barron in the records: Mary and Elizabeth in 1730 and ‘Caterine’ in 1759, but none were associated with a William Barron). There are no probate documents for a William Barron.
- William Barron (by 1745) and Moses Davis (by 1752) owned land on Batchelor Creek, on the south side of the Neuse River, to the west of New Bern and the Trent River. Moses Davis’s land was inherited by his son, Thomas. Moses Davis was the son of Thomas and Elizabeth Davis of Perquimans County, NC, and grandson of Thomas Davis (d. 1705 Nansemond County, VA) and wife Jane (living in Perquimans County, NC, in
Moses was first mentioned in Craven County when he purchased property in 1752, probably moving there after his father’s death in 1745/1746. Moses sold land he inherited from his father in Perquimans in 1753. Named in his father’s estate records were siblings John, William, Sarah, Mary, Ruth, Elizabeth, Charity, & Judith – no Prudence. (See more on Moses Davis below).

- Orphans of Thomas Davis, as identified by Craven County Court records in 1746: Jacob, Philip, William, Tomzin and Prudence. No mention of Thomas Davis in Craven County Court records prior to that time. Also, no mention of Thomas Davis in Craven County deeds until 1741, when a Thomas Davis, carpenter, of Tyrrell County, purchased land on Beards Creek on the north side of the Neuse River. This Thomas Davis may have been the son of Thomas Davis, who died in Hyde Precinct, Bath County, in 1714. The elder Thomas had a wife named Thomasin and son Philip. No connection appears likely between Thomas Davis, father of Prudence, and Moses Davis, son of a different Thomas Davis. (See more on Thomas Davis of Bath County below).

- No record was found that connected William Barron or Thomas Davis’s children to the Smith or Foster families in Craven County (two Smith children married two children of Prudence Barron of Wilkes County, GA, in 1790s Wilkes County and the Barrons associated with the Fosters in GA). A James and Thomas Davis and Smiths/Fosters owned land on Brice Creek, which flowed into the Trent River, also on the south side of the Neuse River, to the south and west of New Bern. However, this James Davis was the printer from VA and Thomas Davis was probably his son.

- James Davis, printer, who married Prudence Carruthers Hobbes, moved to Craven County, NC, from Williamsburg, VA, in 1749. His is the line that perpetuates the given name Prudence; hence, the many references to women named Prudence Davis in Craven County records. It seems to be a coincidence that these women lived in the same time frame and place as Prudence Davis, daughter of Thomas Davis, who is only mentioned twice in local records – in 1746 and 1750. No connection between the two families has been uncovered. (See more on James Davis below).

- Families with whom William Barron most often associated: Graves, Fonvielle, Green, Harris, McCubbins, Gatlin, Bryan, Lamberton. Families with whom Thomas Davis’s children most often associated: Griffis, Perkins, Heaton, Handy, Dawson, Bryan (but there are not too many mentions of the Davis family group in Craven records). None of these associated surnames seem familiar when reviewing the neighbors of Prudence Barron and family in Wilkes County, GA, in the 1780s.

- William Barron disappears from Craven County, NC, records about 1769/1770 after selling most or all of his property.

Conclusions:

Currently available published records (2006) provide no conclusive evidence to either confirm or deny that William Barron and Prudence Davis of Craven County, NC, were the same persons as the William Barron and Prudence Davis identified by John Davis Garrard. William Barron of Craven County disappeared without a trace from local records about 1770. There are no mentions of any place to which he might have migrated and there is no indication that he died. Prudence Davis is named only twice in Craven County court records, both times as a minor orphan of Thomas Davis.

Nor do records reviewed in this study provide direct connection between the William Barron and the Prudence Davis who lived in Craven County in the mid-1700s. It is possible that some of William Barron’s associates may have had dealings with associates of Prudence Davis’s family in Craven County. The most interesting possibility is through Jane Griffis, wife of Samuel, to whom Prudence Davis was apprenticed. Jane’s first husband was John.
Fonvielle, Sr. William Barron had many connections to the Fonvielle family. However, as tantalizing as this conjecture is, no evidence revealed that William Barron and Prudence Davis of Craven County knew each other.

Much hope had been pinned on the association of William Barron and Moses Davis in Craven County, with the expectation that this relationship would infer William Barron was acquainted with Prudence Davis. However, records indicate that Moses Davis was either unrelated or not closely related to Prudence Davis. The same situation applies to the recurring use of the name Prudence in another Davis family in Craven – James Davis married Prudence Carruthers and passed the name Prudence through several generations of his family. But there apparently was no relationship between James Davis and Prudence Davis, daughter of Thomas. (See Items of Note above for specifics).

Likewise, there is no similarity of names when comparing those families with whom William Barron and Prudence Davis of Craven County associated and those neighboring families of the Prudence Barron in Wilkes County, GA. It was common when families migrated to a new location that they would do so with other family members or neighbors from the old community. The only name that appeared might be a match was that of Richard Davis, close neighbor to Prudence Barron in Wilkes, but he was not the Richard Davis found in Craven County records. (See below).

It must be noted that the Smith and Foster families of Craven County, NC, did later remove to Wilkes County, GA, and that two of James Smith’s children married two of Prudence Barron’s children. From this close association, researchers of the Prudence Barron family of Wilkes County, GA, had anticipated that there would be some indication that these families were known to each other in Craven County, NC. However, there was no evidence that William Barron, nor any of Thomas Davis’s family, had dealings with the Smith family in Craven County.

This study began with many promising leads, none of which led to the expected results. The findings of this study do not preclude the possibility that William Barron and Prudence Davis of Craven County, NC, might have been the same persons as William Barron and Prudence Davis, as identified by John Davis Garrard. However, facts uncovered during this investigation dispelled several relationship assumptions and may have weakened the case. Until more records are made available in published form – or some enterprising researcher spends many hours in the county courthouse or NC Archives – Barron researchers may better spend their time pursuing other leads regarding the early Barron history.

Sources of data:

- NC Genealogical Society Journal
- Journal of NC Genealogy
- Early Records of NC, vol. IV, Wills, 1663-1722 (Secretary of State papers).
- Craven County North Carolina Deed Abstracts, Book I: Deed Book 1, Deed Book 5, 1707-1775, Weynette Parks Haun, 1996. [Note: Haun’s Books 2 and 3 contain Deed Books 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7, duplicating Pruitt.]
- Craven County, NC, Deed Books 2, 3 and 4, 1708-1765 and Craven County, NC, Deed Books 6, 7, 8 and 9 10, 1750-1758, Dr. A. B. Pruitt, 2004 and 2005.
Chronological listing of records for Barron, Davis and associated families in Craven County, NC

Note: I have underlined many of the names that appear often in conjunction with William Barron or Prudence Davis. All listings are recorded in Craven, unless otherwise noted.


10 April 1721: Order to the Provost Marshal or deputy of *Bath County* to summon Joseph Fulford planter of Core Sound to appear. Executed by Wm Baren Dep Marshall.

12 May 1722: Order to the Provost Marshal or deputy of *Bath County* to summon Richard Whitehurst, William Barren, Rice Price, & Capt Edward Gattlin to appear in the Court of Common Pleas to be held at Edenton on Queen Annes Creek in Oct next to testify.

2 Nov 1722: Deposition of William Barren taken. He stated that about 3 years ago that he was a Capt William Stone’s house in Core Sound when William Meads & George Blantin came by water from South Carolina, bringing an Indian boy they offered to sell to Stone. The boy had belonged to an old tailor who was coming with them, but he died. The men did not know the tailor’s heirs. [Note: Core Sound is located in present-day Carteret County, situated between the mainland and the Outer Banks (Core Banks) south of Ocracoke].

9 May 1730: Louis Thomas to William Barren, £33, a plantation, 320 acres, SS Neus River, the name of Hanging Point....surveyed by Christopher Gold and by him sold to Louis Thomas and Charles Cogdell son and heir to John Cogdell and by said Gould & Cogdell to Louis Thomas and by him to William Barren. Wit: Joshua Platt, Jno. Carter. Craven County Deed Book 1, p. 222.
September 1730: Mary Baron and Eliz. Barron prayed to have their marks admitted to record. *Craven Precinct, County Court Minutes, Book II, 1730-1741*, Weynette Parks Haun.

September Court 1731: **William Barrn: Junr** (sic) had his mark admitted to record. *Craven Precinct County Court Minutes, Book II, 1730-1741*, Weynette Parks Haun.

March Court 1731/32: **W. Barron** had his mark admitted to record. *Craven Precinct County Court Minutes, Book II, 1730-1741*, Weynette Parks Haun.

20 March 1732: **William Barren** sold to Hugh Banks 300/320 acres on S side Neuse River, name of Hanging/Hanagin’s Point. [Included in deeds dated 8 November 1755 between Richard Saunders and Rip Van Dam and 19 April 1757 between Rip Van Dam and Joseph Leech as part of the property’s history]. *Craven County, NC, Deed Books 6, 7, 8 and 9 10, 1750-1758*, Dr. A. B. Pruitt, 2005.

June Court 1732: **William Barron** replaced James Green as overseer for segment of road. *Craven Precinct County Court Minutes, Book II, 1730-1741*, Weynette Parks Haun.

December Court 1732: Complaint by Capt John Powel against Amborss Airis [Harris?] and **William Barron** for not keeping the roads clear. *Craven Precinct County Court Minutes, Book II, 1730-1741*, Weynette Parks Haun.

December Court 1733: **William Barron** petitioned to be relieved as overseer; John Warde appointed in his stead. *Craven Precinct County Court Minutes, Book II, 1730-1741*, Weynette Parks Haun.

10 April 1740: John Fonvielle, Jr., to Abraham Smallwood of MD, planter, £25, 500 acres, lower side Bachelors Creek, part of 640 acre grant, beginning at Mr. John Lassieres (or Lapieres) corner tree.... Wit: James (+) Arlor, Wm. Barn


30 July 1740: John Fonvielle, Jr., to John Lassiere (or Lapiere), £10, 360 acres, on SS Nuse River and SS Batchelors Creek....Wit: Wm. Barn, Benja. Fordham

2 August 1740: Wm. Barn (Baren) among subscribers who agree and conclude to build our house of worship on Trent river in Craven County....for the use of the Church of England and for the Palatines or Germans.

2 October 1741: Benjamin Talbot, school master (Edenton, Chowan County, NC) to Thomas Davis, carpenter ("Tyrrel" County, NC) for £100 NC money land on N side of Nuce River and head of Beards Creek; beginning at Martin Frank’s corner pine on head of Beards Creek and joins E side of a great branch that falls into head of Beards Creek; granted 6 December 1720 by Lords Proprietor to Capt. John Petiver. Wit: Robert Fullerton, James Craven and Edmund Hatch. [Note: John Pettiver, late of London, now of Chowan County, heir of Capt. John “Pettiver,” deceased of Perquimans County, sold this land in 1740 to Benjamin Talbot of Chowan County, brother-in-law of said John Pettiver (the younger). NO RECORD OF SALE OF THIS LAND BY DAVIS FAMILY FOUND.] *Craven County, NC, Deed Books 6, 7, 8 and 9 10, 1750-1758*, Dr. A. B. Pruitt, 2005; and *Craven County North Carolina Deed Abstracts, Book I: Deed Book 1, Deed Book 5, 1707-1775*, Weynette Parks Haun.

15 March 1742: **Hyde County**. Thomas Davis patented 300 acres in Hyde on the N side of Matchapungo Creek from the head to the mouth, and Pungo Creek. [Note: Is this Thomas Davis, father of Prudence? This land is on Matchapungo...
Creek. The Thomas Davis who likely was his father also lived on Matchapungo Creek in Bath County. See Notes on Thomas Davis and William Barren/Barrow of Bath County, NC, below.]


[Note: Thomas Graves was a son of Richard and Hannah Graves (see more about him under item dated 30 October 1765. Thomas’s sister, Mary, married Richard Nixon.]

20 April 1745, William Barron patented 129 acres in Craven County, lying on the south side of Neuse River, adjoining land once owned by Fonville but now owned by Benjamin Fordham. Colony of NC Abstracts of Land Patents, 1735-1764, vol. 1, Margaret M. Hofmann.

June 1746 Court: Upon the motion of Samll. Swann that the orphans of Thomas Davis, decd., Vizt William, Phillip, Jacob, & Tomzin Davis might choose their Guardians & being duly Examd by the Court, have chose James Perkins for their Guardian, who gives Securitys Christr. Dawson & Lewis Bryan in the sum of fifty pounds Procl. Money. [See note below for probable parents of Thos Davis and mention of Saml Swann in Bath Co.] Craven County, NC, Court Minutes, Book III, 1742-1748, Weynette Parks Haun.

September 1746 Court: Prudence Davis Daughter of Thos. Davis came into Court & prayed leave to be bound to Saml. Griffiss (her Guardian) [this last crossed out] chd. which was granted & ordered that she be accordly bound to the sd. Saml. Griffis and him to serve for the space of ___ Eleven (months) [marked out] years and (eleven) [marked out] nine months and the sd Saml. Griffis is ordd to teach the sd orphan child to reade the scripture.’ Craven County, NC, Court Minutes, Book III, 1742-1748, Weynette Parks Haun.


[Note: This is not Prudence Davis, daughter of Thomas, but Prudence Carruthers, who first married Gregory Hobbes, then James Davis. But it is of interest that people known to Prudence Davis, daughter of Thomas, are mentioned in this document.]

June Court 1748: William Barron and James Durham gave security to allow Walter Lane to keep an Ordinary at his dwelling. Craven County Court Minutes, Book III, 1742-1748, Weynette Parks Haun.


[Is this the second or third generation William Barron????]

March Court 1750: _hd. On motion of [torn] ordered that a sumons issue for Samuel Griff... [torn] _ppear at the next court and that he bring or cause to be brought to the said ct Prudence Davis an Orphan under his care, and also that a summons issue to Peter Handy an Elizabeth Heaton to testify in behalf the said orphan concerning the misusage of the said orphan.’ Craven County Court Minutes, Book IV, 1749-1756, Weynette Parks Haun.

[Note: Samuel Griffis married the widow of John Fonvielle, Sr. in 1742]
March Court 1750: Petition of Philip Davis praying his share of his father’s estate be delivered to him by James Perkins, his guardian, in whose hands the same was lodged. Davis now of proper age to receive same…. Later entry, same Court: Petition of Philip Davis praying that increase of a certain cow given to Jacob Davis, brother of Petitioner, detained by Wm. Betsworth for burying said Jacob Davis, his apprentice, might be ordered delivered to him and his brothers and sisters.  [Note: the indication “brothers and sisters” might be important. Above court entries show these children of Thomas Davis: William, Phillip, Jacob and Tomzin… and separately, Prudence. Since Jacob is now dead, there must be more male children than William for Phillip to have brothers. For sisters, Tomzin is one, Prudence would make a second. Were there others?]  Craven County Court Minutes, Book IV, 1749-1756, Weynette Parks Haun.

11 November 1752: Samuel Mackubins sr, planter to Moses Davis 130 acres on S side of Batchelders; begins at Edwd Bryan’s corner pine on Deep Branch near “the hurricane” pines belonging to Richard Johnson and includes all land on S side of creek belonging to McCubbins’ survey except gold and silver mines. Wit: William Barran and John Mackubin. Craven County, NC, Deed Books 6, 7, 8 and 9 10, 1750-1758, Dr. A. B. Pruitt, 2005.

9 February 1753: Benjamin Fordham, planter to John West 100 acres on S side of Neuse and S side of a branch of Batcheldors Creek, in a place called Limbo. Wit: William Barran and David Dunn. February Court 1753: Deed of sale between Benjamin Fordom and John West proved in court by William Barron. Craven County, NC, Deed Books 6, 7, 8 and 9 10, 1750-1758, Dr. A. B. Pruitt, 2005 and Craven County Court Minutes, Book IV, 1749-1756, Weynette Parks Haun.


November Court 1753: Road maintenance – Samuel Fealds and John Jones from Higgens Bridge including Chinkapin to South West Bridge. William Barron, Samuel Pope and William Wiggins from South West to New Bern. Craven County Court Minutes, Book IV, 1749-1756, Weynette Parks Haun.


August Court 1756: William Barram listed on petit jury roster. Same session: Arthur Barrins petitioned for a distributive part of the estate of his late father, Isaac Barrins; ordered that Lemuel Hatch, Edmd. Hatch, John Simmons and Thomas Jerman distribute Craven County Court Minutes, Book IV, 1749-1756, Weynette Parks Haun.


August Court 1757: Thos. Graves and James Green petitioned to build a grist mill on the main run of Batchelors Creek and that two acres of land might be laid out of the property of Wm. Barran on the SS of said creek. Wm Barran appeared and agreed to make over land in fee simple to Graves and Green. William Barran, Farnifold Green, Richd. Blackledge included on petit jury.

24 October 1757: William Sitgreaves, merchant (New Bern, Craven County) to William Barron, planter (same); for £36 sold 100 acres on Batchelers Creek; border: begins at a pine near Batchelers Creek Bridge and joins the creek; sold by

November Court 1757: Wm. Barran, John Green served on juries.


24 November 1758: inventory of William Davis: young stallion, young breeding mare, old breeding mare and household items and farming tools. 15 January 1759 certified before Marmaduke Norfleet by Robert Riddick, administrator. [Is this the son of Thomas Davis?????] Craven County, NC, Deed Books 6, 7, 8 and 9 10, 1750-1758, Dr. A. B. Pruitt, 2005

30 January 1759: Harding Jones to Charles Hardison 720 acres on S side of Brices Creek on Trent River. Granted to grandfather Frederick Jones who willed it to father Frederick Jones; became owner as heir to his father. Wit: Mary Moore, Caterine Barron. Craven County, NC, Deed Books 2, 3 and 4, 1708-1765, Dr. A. B. Pruitt, 2004.

February Court 1759: Road maintenance – Wm. Barron from _______ Batchelors Creek including the Bridge Farnifold Green from Batchelors Creek to Cove(?) Creek including the Bridge

6 April 1760: Account of sundries of Mary McCubbins, deceased, sold . Buyers: William Barran; Henry Black; Ealick Bogey; William Brown; Peter Conway; Mary Farnelson; David Fonvielle; Isaac Fonvielle; Edward Frank; Farnifold Green; James Green; Joseph Leech; Benjamin Lewis; Samuel Mackubbins; Samuel McCubbins; Rebecka Morgain; George Powell; Mrs. Powel; Samuel Salde; John Smith; William Snead; Moses Taylor; Benjamin Timeson; John Tomlinson; William Whitford. Craven County Wills, Deeds, and Inventories, 1749-1777, Dr. Stephen E. Bradley, Jr.

13 June 1760: Sale of estate of Mary Mackubins. Purchasers: W. Barran; Elexander Bogey; David Fonville; Edward Franck; Mary Johnson; Saml. Mackubins; Rebecca Morgan; Absalum Taylor.

July Court 1760: Saml. McCubbins requested letters of administration on estate of Moses Davis as being nearest akin. [Must be Samuel Jr., as Samuel Sr. died about 1757].

22 August 1760: William Barron bought 2 iron wedges, 1 'carpender's joynter', 1 plane, 1 old gun, 1 woman's 'gound' and 1 barrel, 1 tub at the sundries sale for Moses Davis. Other buyers included Elick Bagey [Bogey]; William Bonn; David Fonvel; Edward Francks; Mary Johnson; Uriah Lamberson; Samuel Mackubin; Rebeckah Morgan; Widow Snead; William Snead; William Whitford.
1760: William Barron was one of the intended buyers of a bay horse at an estate sale for Moses Davis; his name was marked out. A Mr. Graves bought 7 hogs. Loose Estate Records [Note: inventory of goods of Moses Davis’s estate dated 15 October 1760.]

3 July 1761: Philip Davis to Bond Veal, yeoman 100 acres on S side of Bay River and W side of Riggs Creek. Wit: John Martin and Mark Harfford. Craven County, NC, Deed Books 2, 3 and 4, 1708-1765, Dr. A. B. Pruitt, 2004.

7 July 1761: Stockwell Bright, planter to Isaac Simmons, planter 160 acres on N side of Nuce River; begins at a corner pine in dividing line between Samuel Harvey and William Bright, joins John Moore, head of a gut above Philip Davis’ plantation, the main creek, Isaac Simmons, and Thos Dillamar, where Samuel Harvey formerly lived. Wit: Joseph Fisher and Caison Fulshire. Craven County, NC, Deed Books 2, 3 and 4, 1708-1765, Dr. A. B. Pruitt, 2004.

18 June 1762: Estate sale of Cornelius Loftin. Edward [----]; Richard [----]; William Barran; Abraham Beasley; Solomon Beasley; David Bell; Richard C[----]; Richard Carl[-----]; Richd. Carlton; Chd. Charlton; Longfield Co[-----]; Richard Cogdell; Thomas Dyas; Francis Fonvielle; Richard Gibbs; Richard Graves; James Green, Sr; James Heath; Richard Heath; William heath; William Heath, Jr; John Holloway; Thomas Holloway; William Holloway; John Jones; Samuel Lambeth; Ephraim Lane; Francis Law[----]; William Livell; Benony Loftin; Francis Loftin; Eleanor Loftin; Sarah Loftin; Francks Macklewin; Edward Peirson; Francis Pope; Luke Russell; John Slade; John Slade, Jr; Samuel Slade; Samuel Slade, Jr; George Stringer; Evan Swann; Abslam Taylor; Absalom Taylor; William Truwhit; John Turner; Benajmin West; John West; Thomas Williams; Thomas Willson; Thomas Wingate. Craven County Wills, Deeds, and Inventories, 1749-1777, Dr. Stephen E. Bradley, Jr.

July Court 1762: Wm. Barren, John Fonveille and John Turner served on juries.

October Court 1762: Deed from William Barran (Barren) carpenter of Craven County to John Moore cooper of same, £6, proclamation money, 100 acres, Batchelors Creek, conveyed by Reverend John Lapiere (or Lassiere) to Benjamin and Martha Fordham and by them to William Sitgraves and by him to William Barren, joining sd creek bridge. Wit: Farnifold Green, John Nun. Proved October Court 1762 before Petr. Conway, CJC. Craven County Wills, Deeds, and Inventories, 1749-1777, Dr. Stephen E. Bradley, Jr.

7 April 1763: A deed of sale from William Barron to John Moore, a free Negroe, for 100 acres in Craven County proved in Open Court by Furnifd. Green agreeable to law and ordered to be registered. Craven Co., NC court Minutes, Book V, 1757-1763, Weynette Parks Haun. Also, Craven County Deed Book 11, p. 59.

23 December 1762 and 1 January 1763; April Court 1763 (proved) -- Part of the estate of John Murphy, deceased, sold by request of Thomas Murphy, admr. Buyers: William Barron; Richard Cogdell; Edward Franks; William Gilgo; James Green; Mrs. Herritage; Mr. Herritage; William Herritage; John Kannady; Arthur Lipsey; William Lipsey; Mrs. Murphy; Thomas Murphy; Widow Murphy; James Parkinson; Emanuel Simmons; Mr. West; William Baston Whitford. Craven County, NC, Deed Books 6, 7, 8 and 9 10, 1750-1758, Dr. A. B. Pruitt, 2005 and Craven County Wills, Deeds, and Inventories, 1749-1777, Dr. Stephen E. Bradley, Jr.

July Court 1763: Edward Gatlin, Wm Barran, David Fonvielle, Isaac Fonvielle chosen as petit jurors for October court.


October Court 1763: Wm. Barran, David Fonvielle and Isaac Fonvielle served on juries.

7 January 1764, Deed from William Barren planter of Craven to Thomas Fearn, planter of same, £10 proclamation money, west side of Beaver Creek [a Beaverdam Branch is located near and may flow into Batchelors Creek], joining Jacobs Branch. Wit: Peter Galvin, William Bryan. Proved April Court 1764 before Pet. Conway, CJC. Craven County Deed Book 11, p. 376.


30 October 1765: Thomas Graves patented 340 acres in Craven on both sides Batchelors Creek, joining Moses Davis, Jacob Tingle and Uriah Lambert. [Note: Thomas Graves died about 1767 in Craven Co., N.C. He married Sara Turner, daughter of Robert Turner, about 1745. Their daughter, Hannah Graves, was the wife of William Brice Fonvielle. Thomas Graves' widow, Sara Turner, married John Fonvielle by 1774.]

October Court 1765: William Barran a. Saml. Catlin [It is likely that this published Catlin is actually Gatlin. There are other Gatlin references immediately following this entry.] Thomas Graves Guarnishee in this cause being sworn was discharged. McLin & Burroughs a. Wm. Barron, Issue. Jury found for plaintiff. Craven Co., NC court Minutes Book VI, 1764-1771, Weynette Parks Haun.


April Court 1767: William Barran proved by oath the will of Jacob Tingle, deceased. Isaac Fonvielle ordered to serve as overseer of the Road from New Bern to Blackledges Saw Mill in the Room of William Barran for the Ensuing Year. Craven Co., NC court Minutes Book VI, 1764-1771, Weynette Parks Haun.


Deed from William Holloway to Richard Blackledge, proved by William Barran.
Craven Co., NC court Minutes Book VII, 1767-1778, Weynette Parks Haun.


29 April 1768: Richard Blackledge granted 150 a. on SS of Neuse River on ES of Batchelors Creek, joining Graves Mill Lands, the main road, John Moore, John Fonveal, a Savannah, and William Barron. Colony of NC Abstracts of Land Patents, 1765-1775, vol. 2, Margaret M. Hofmann.


NC Taxpayers, 1701-1786 (GPC, 1984):
Craven, 1744    William Barron
Craven, 1769    Arthur Barron, William Barran, Benjamin Davis, James Davis, John Davis
Dobbs, 1769    David Barron, William Barron

June Court 1772: William Barron sold to Richard Blackledge 129 a. proved by Richard Graves. (See above)
Craven Co., NC court Minutes, 1772-1778, Weynette Parks Haun.

1772: Richard Graves sold to Richard Blackledge land on both sides Batchelors Cr., on Moses Davis’ line; wit: Chris Neale, Saml Smyth. Craven County Deed Book 19, p. 331.
[Note: Richard Graves, m. Ann Dawson, d. May-June 1774. He died testate in Craven Co., N.C. They had no children. His will was dated May 3, 1774, Craven Co., N.C. and probated June 4, 1774. It names nephews Graves Bright (son of Ann Graves and Simon Bright), and Richard Fonvielle (son of Hannah Graves and William Brice Fonvielle); wife Ann (Dawson); mother Sarah Fonvielle.]


June 1778: Samuel McK Kubbins, administrator of account of Moses Davis, lists expenses for estate, including ‘expenses of burying Davis & wife and child’. Also mentioned is money collected ‘by interest in bills calculated until Thos Davis came of age’. Wit: Wm Bryan, John Fonvielle, Edw Blanthard (?). Loose Estate Records. Also, June 1778: Wm. Bryan, Andrew Blanchard and John Fonvielle were appointed to settle the accounts of Samuel McCubbins admr. on Moses Davis Decd. and as admr. to Mary McCubbins and make return to the Court. Craven Co., NC court Minutes, 1772-1778, Weynette Parks Haun.

27 June 1781: Thomas Davis of Jones Co. sold to Elizabeth Jump land on E side Batchelors Cr. grtd Saml McKulans [McKubans?] by patent. Wit: Waightstill Avery, David Kornega. Craven County Deed Book 24, p. 171. [This must be the land purchased by Moses Davis in 1752. Thomas must be the son mentioned in Moses’s probate records.]
A Thomas Davis married Mary White, daughter of Robert White of Craven County, NC. One researcher identified him as the son of John and Anne Briscoe Davis: [http://awt.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=beckygcarter&id=1562](http://awt.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=beckygcarter&id=1562)

Notes on William Barron and Thomas Davis (likely father of Thomas Davis and grandfather of Prudence), of Bath/Beaufort/Hyde Counties, NC:

19 May 1706: Thomas Davis given two patents, (1) 320 acres in Davis Creek in Marchepungo joining the mouth of the creek, the river and the said creek and (2) 230 acres joining mouth of a small creek and the said creek. Signed: Thomas Cary, W. Glover, Saml. Swann, Edward Moseley, Francis Foster.

10 September 1707 - Thomas DAVIS' patent of 320 acres in Matchapongo, in DAVIS’ Cr., beginning mouth of Creek. Signed: Tho. CARY, Sam. SWANN, Ed MOSELEY, Wm. GLOVER, Francis FOSTER. Beaufort County Deed Book 1, p. 148


11 February 1715/16: John Wright patented 305 acres on Davis’s Creek in Hyde Precinct, joining Widow Davis, a Branch on head of Oyster Creek, Reedy Branch, White oak pond, Joseph Hall and the long swamp. Wit: Charles Eden, N. Chevin, Wm. Reed, C. Gale, Rra. Foster, T. Knight. (See 1720 deed below).

1733 Moseley map: Barron land identified below Machapungo Creek and just above headwaters of Dividing Creek in Hyde Precinct, Bath County.


Many mentions of William Barrow, who was named for power of attorney and at whose residence the court met. No mentions of a William Barron.

BEAUFORT COUNTY DEED BOOK 1 - part 1

Page 44
July 5, 1703 - Collingswood WARD, Bath Co., Blacksmith, to Thomas DAVIS, same - 640 acres fork of north dividing creek. Wit: Levi TRUEWHITT, Robert MELLYNE Acknowledged at court held at house of Mr. BARROW, 1st Tuesday in July, 1703.

Page 81 – don’t know if this is the same Thomas Davis with wife Thomason………
Oct. 8, 1707 - Thomas DAVIS of Virginia, to Richard WINFIELD - 13 pounds - 610 acres South side Pamlico River "being and joining on the easternmost side of Lyonell READING and running down the River..." Signed: Joel MARTEN, Senior, Attorney for Thomas DAVIS Witness: Jno. LAWSON Acknowledged at court at Bath Town, Oct. 8, 1707

Page 148
Sept. 10, 1707 - Thomas DAVIS' patent of 320 acres in Machapongo, in DAVIS' Cr., beginning mouth of Creek. Signed: Tho. CARY, Sam. SWANN, Ed MOSELEY, Wm. GLOVER, Francis FOSTER


Page 153
Mar. 5, 1705/6 - Major William BARROW's patent of 180 acres joining Thomas PEARCE's line, also John BARRAS' line. Signed: Tho. CARY, S. SWANN, Ed. MOSELEY, F. FOSTER, Wm. GLOVER

Page 203
Jan. 1, 1716- Oliver SMITH, Bath Co., to Mary SMITH - 5 pounds Land no side Pamlico River, above Ward's Point (Wade's) beginning north side Laurel Swamp, running to Thomas DAVIS' corner tree. 6 pence rent to Lords Proprietors excepted. Wit: Nico. DAW, Jno. DRINKWATER Acknowledged Jan. Court 1716

July 2, 1717 - John TRANTER, Bath Co., to Thomas BONNER - 15 pounds 100 acres, part of a greater tract on North side Pamlico River, binding on a branch called the Little Herring Run, coming out of the Great Herring Run, up to Thomas DAVIS' line "reserved rent of 6 pence per 100 acres annually due to the Lords Proprietors only and always excepted". Wit: Jno. DRINKWATER, John PORTER Acknowledged July Court 1717

NOTE: Are the Davises below related? No son James named in Thomas’s will in 1711. Perhaps James older???

p. 240
January 7, 1717 - Thomas DAVIS, Bath Col, Leatherdresser, to Thomas HARDING, Bath Col, Shipwright - 40 pounds - Plantation and tract of land North side Pamlico River, up a branch of Tranter's Creek, 540 acres, 480 of which was surveyed by John GARRETT and other 60 acres purchased of John TRANTER, "where he now dwelleth - annual fee rent due Lords Proprietors. Wit. Robt. TAYLOR, Thos. UNDERWOOD Acknowledged Jany. Court 1717

Page 279
Feb. 18, 1716/17 - James DAVIS, Bath Co., LEATHER (?), Power of Attorney to "good friend", Thomas HARDING, Bath Town, Shipwright. Wit: Edw'd. TRAVIS, Sam'l. TORSHALL (?) Proved April Court, 1717

Page 333

Page 344
Jan. 29, 1717 - Thomas HARDING, Bath Co., Shipwright, to George MOYE, Bath Co., Planter - 47 pounds, 10 shillings - 540 acres ? side of Pamptico River, up a branch of Hunter's Cr., 480 acres surveyed by Jno. JARRETT, transferred to Thomas DAVIS, and from Thomas DAVIS to said Thomas HARDING, and other 60 acres purchased of John FULFORD. Rent of 6 pence per 100 acres annually due Lords Proprietors. Wit: J. DRINKWATER, Thos. MOUNT

Beaufort Precinct North Carolina Land List 1717
Tho's Davis W't Side Pamlico 480 Survey 480
Rob't Turner            S'o Side Pamlico 615  } Pat
                       Cow Sound 870  }
http://www.rootsweb.com/~nchyde/WILLSDE.HTM
HYDE CO., N.C. INDEX of WILLS D & E as taken from North Carolina Wills: A Testator Index, 1665-1900
Courtesy of Thornton W. Mitchell and In the Name of God, Amen! Abstracts of Hyde Co., N.C. Wills Probated 1709
through 1775 Courtesy of Ellen A. Williams
NAME                        DATE       RECORDED BOOK / PAGE
DAVICE, Thomas            1714        Bath Co. Sec. of State Original
*In 1714 the widow Davis paid her Estate Tax in Hyde Precinct

The inter-related families who associated with William Barron in Craven County, NC

Hannah Consolvo
m. (1) Farnifold Green, d. 1714  Children:
  ➢ Farnifold (1697 Bath Co., NC – 1759 Craven Co., NC) m. Sarah Graves (b. 1694
  ➢ Elizabeth (1698 Craven Co., NC – 1765 Craven Co., NC) m. Daniel Shine
  ➢ James (1710 Bath Co., NC – 1788 Craven Co., NC) m. Mary Gray
m. (2) Richard Graves (1682, Essex Co., VA – 1730, Cr. Co., NC) 1705
  ➢ Mary Graves (1707 – ) m. Richard Nixon (1705 – 1746 Craven Co., NC)
  ➢ Thomas Graves (1710??, Craven Co., NC – 1767, Craven Co., NC) m. Sarah Turner (1718, Craven Co., NC – 1790, Craven Co., NC), dau. of Robert Turner.  Children of interest:
    o Richard Graves (1747, Craven Co., NC – 1774, Craven Co., NC) m. Ann Dawson
    o Thomas Graves (1749
    o Hannah Graves (1751, Craven Co., NC – 1800, Craven Co., NC m. William Brice Fonvielle (1733-1780)
Sarah Turner Graves
m. (2) John Fonvielle (c. 1731 Craven Co., NC – 1794 Craven Co., NC)  (see more below on Fonvielles)

John Fonvielle (c. 1672 France – 1741 Craven Co., NC)
m. (1) Francoise Lamy  Children of interest:
  ➢ John Fonvielle (c. 1700 – 1773 Craven Co., NC) m. (1) Mary ???.
    m. (2) Elizabeth Brice (Brousse).  Children of interest:
      o John Fonvielle (c. 1731 Craven Co., NC – 1794 Craven Co., NC) m. (1) ???  (2) Sarah Turner (see above)
      o William Brice Fonvielle (1733 Craven Co., NC – 1780 Craven Co., NC) m. Hannah Graves (see above)
      o Francis Fonvielle (1738 Craven Co., NC – 1798 Craven Co., NC) m. Sarah Bright
m. (2) Jane/ Jeane ???. in 1731.  She married (2) William Windham (3) Samuel Griffis
  ➢ David Fonvielle
  ➢ Isaac Fonvielle

Richard Blackledge (1727 PA – 1777 Craven Co., NC)

Moses Davis of Perquimans and Craven County, NC
HISTORY OF PERQUIMANS COUNTY

As Compiled from Records Found There and Elsewhere

Abstracts of Deeds from 1681 through the Revolution—Petitions, Divisions, and Marriages Found in Perquimans and Adjacent Counties—A brief Summary of the Settling of Perquimans, with the kind and manner of settlers—Two Maps, One of the Old Order, and, One a Present Day Map—Illustrations of a Few Old Residences and Several More Modern Ones.

BY

MRS. WATSON WINSLOW RALEIGH EDWARDS & BROUGHTON CO. 1931

Davis, Thomas, of Perq, will p April 1746. Son: Moses, “plantation whereon I live,” dau's Elizabeth Davis, & Sarah Bond, wife Elizabeth.

Davis, Thomas, division in Perq (no date) shows sons: Moses, John, William, dau's: Mary, Ruth, Elizabeth, Charity, & Judith. (Loose papers.)

No. 127. April 9, 1722. Thomas Docton of Perq, & Elizabeth his wife, to Thomas Davis of afore’ for £10 Sold 275a, adj the “Great Pocoson,” & Henry Hill. Test’ John Falconer, Richard Leary.


No. 41. Thomas Docton, of Perq Esq, for “love I bear my son-in-law Samuel Perry” of same, planter—have given 180a on S. side of Indian branch, “where he now dwells” to a line between him & Benj Willson, at his death to gr-child Rachell Perry. Oct 18, 1731. Test’ Thomas Davis, Eliz’b Davis.

No. 158. Thomas Montigue, of Perq, “out of love I bear my friend Joseph Winslow,” of the above-said, Planter—Have given 100a surveyed by Michall Morfohey (Murphey), on So West Side of Little River. Oct 1, 1734. Test’ Jacob Docton, Moses Davis.

No. 15. Jane Davis, of Perq Widow—“being aged, & unable to get my own living, and especially, for Christian-like Maintenance, during my Natual life, by my Son-in-law, John Boyse, & his wife Susanna, have delivered unto my sd Son-in-law, all part, & parcel, given me by my late husband, Thomas Davis of Upper Parish Nansemond Co Vir’ dec’d, in his will, Jan 28, 1705. The following now in actual possession of sd Boyse; 3 pewter dishes, 1 pewter tankard, 1 feather bed, & bedstead, 1 Iron pot, 1 Iron pestle, 2 Iron wedges, 6 chairs, & a Round Table, also 10 Barrels of Tar, due from my son Thomas Davis, over Orapeake Swamp, upon demand.” April 4, 1739. Test’ William Townsend, Elias Stallings.

Thomas Davis of Warricksqueake, planter—son of James, late of Henrico, in Vir’ dec’d, was granted 300a of land on Warricksqueake Creek, “100 in right of his father, an ancient planter, who came to Va in the “George” 1617, and 100a in right of his mother Rachel, wife of sd James.” Mar 6, 1633. Thomas made deposition in Norfolk Co Va 1640. He sold a grant from Sir Wm Berkeley June 1, 1649, to Thomas Maros, who sold sd land 400a unto Robert Bowers, who in like manner gave the land to his dau Mary, wife of Thomas Davis, and was conveyed by them Nov 14, 1708, unto Phillip Reynolds Mer'cht, “lying on W. side of Western Branch,” in which deed Thomas Davis is styled, “of Nansemond Co. planter.” (One researcher shows Thomas and Mary as parents of Thomas who married Jane ___: http://homepages.rootsweb.com/~edburton/fam22874.htm).
No. 117. Sept 18, 1753. **Moses Davis, in Craven Co, N. C.** for £35 pd by Joseph Hurdle of Perq, sold 175a on the main desert, & Long Branch, in Perq, & Chowan Co, part of land Thomas Davis, bought of Thomas Docton, April 19, 1722, & came to sd Moses by the death of his father sd Thomas. Test’ Josiah Granbery, Jr, Hardy Hurdle, Thomas Coffield.

**James Davis of Williamsburg, VA, and New Bern, Craven County, NC**

[http://www.ah.dcr.state.nc.us/sections/hp/colonial/Nchr/Subjects/elliott.htm](http://www.ah.dcr.state.nc.us/sections/hp/colonial/Nchr/Subjects/elliott.htm)

William Parks provided North Carolina with more than just a good newspaper. From his shop in Williamsburg this colony acquired its first printer, James Davis. After some years of indecision, North Carolina's Assembly agreed to authorize a revision of its laws and then, in 1749, decided to establish a public printing office to print this revision. James Davis was named to that office at a salary of £160 proclamation money. He arrived in New Bern and set up his press June 24, 1749.

Not much is known about the early life of James Davis. He was born in Virginia, October 21, 1721 (state and birthdate according to a broadside Davis printed in 1766); where is not known. But in 1745 he was living in Williamsburg.

James Davis was twenty-eight when he came to New Bern in 1749. Settled, apparently possessing some money, and with a five-year contract as official printer to the colony, he established himself in the town. One of his first acts was to acquire property. When the Governor and Council met in April, 1749, and again that fall, Davis was among those applying for land. He was granted 200 acres in Johnston County and the same amount in Craven County. Then he obtained several lots in New Bern itself; one on the southwest corner of Broad and East Front Streets where after March, 1752, he moved his printing office from its first location on Pollock Street. While thus providing for his economic future, Davis at the same time assured himself a domestic future; he married a local widow, Prudence Hobbs, the daughter of William Carruthers of Beaufort County.

June Court 1767: John Smith, Wm Shepherd Foster, Alexander Gaston, John Vickers, Thos Smith, John Dunn, Richd Hickman, John Yeats, Benj. B. Sanders, Peter Bootz, Chas Johnson, Arthur Johnson, John Smith, John Knox, Thos Stevens, Benj Stevens, Wm Brockett, petitioners. Order for Jas Davis, Esq. to lay off road from Trent Rd., over his mill across Neuse Rd over a large swamp. Petitioners, who were laying road above mill and over Brice's Creek, were requested to vacate this road as petitioners could not support both roads.


June Court 1780: Thomas Davis petition for permit to build a grist mill on Brice's Creek. The mill of James Davis and brother was also on Brice's Creek. Craven County Inferior Court Minutes

Will of James Davis: 29 September 1783: Wife Prudence....sons James and Williams, lands called Green Springs....my mills on Brice’s Creek....son Thomas, lot no. 1, corner of Broad and Front Streets, New Bern....lot No. 9, New Bern....son James....town lots, lot at Union Point....daughter Prudence Davis....son Thomas Davis, my printing office....daughter Sarah McClure....daughter Prudence Davis....daughter Susannah....daughter Prudence Davis 100 pounds to be paid her by my executor....granddaughter Nancy Blinn, 100 pounds.... Proved March Court, 1785, by William, James, and Thomas Davis....

**Richard Davis in Wilkes County, GA apparently not the same Richard Davis as in Craven County, NC**

Craven

*Page 16 of 18*

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21 March 1752, deed from Thomas Andrews, wheelwright, to Richard Davis, carpenter, lot in New Bern. 7, 71
27 October 1753, deed from Richard Davis, carpenter, to John Fonvielle, lot in New Bern. 6, 116
9 October 1754, deed from John Fonvielle to Richard Davis, lot in New Bern. 6, 363
Deed: 1763, Richard Davis to Thomas Haslin, 11, 420.
14 May 1763, deed from Richard Davis, carpenter, of New Bern to Thomas Haskins of same. Commissioner of New
Bern conveyed on 17 April 1750 to Thomas Andrews lot 255, ½ acres, joining Broad Street, Handcock Street. Andrews
sold lot on 21 March 1752 to Davis; Davis sold lot to John Fonvielle, planter, on 27 October 1753; Fonvielle reconveyed
to Davis. Mary Moore, widow, recovered judgment in 1759 against Davis and lot was sold to Haskins and Sheriff had not
made deed. Thus this deed to same. Proved July Court 1764.
19 December 1757, deed from Richard and Hannah Davis to Antipast Tisdall, feltmaker, lot in New Bern. 2, 343.
Deed: 1763, Solomon Carter to R. Daves, 11, 283

Wilkes

The Early Records of Georgia, Volume II, Wilkes County abstracted and compiled by Grace Gillam Davidson
[WILKES COUNTY, GEORGIA] ORIGINAL PAPERS [part 2]
GRANT, DANIEL dec'd est. Thos. Grant, acting excr. Receipts of Stephen Gafford and Richard Davis in full of their
legacies, Dec. 25, 1794; of John Owen Dec. 12, 1794; of Hazlewood Wilkinson, Jan. 9, 1795, for their legacies in full
except a part of land on the Western waters and a balance for tobacco coming from Mr. Maury in England.

The Early Records of Georgia, Volume I, Wilkes County abstracted and compiled by Grace Gillam Davidson
[WILKES COUNTY, GEORGIA] WILL BOOK--1818-1819
Page 93--DAVIS, RICHARD. To son Wylie, dau. Betsy Brown and son-in-law Martin Howard, fifty cents each. To sons
Grant, Thomas, Absalom, certain slaves. To dau. Polly Davis certain slaves, "to act for herself." To dau. Lucy Davis
certain slaves, when 18. To grandson Solomon Howard, minor, certain slaves. To wife Isabel for life the land where I live
for life, stock, etc., final division to children. Sons Grant and Thomas, Excrs. Signed June 28, 1816. Probated July 7,
1817. John Willis, Augusta A. Willis, Chas. H. Ellington, Test.

http://awt.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=tmark&id=I05826
• ID: I05826
• Name: Richard DAVIS 1 2
• Sex: M
• Birth: 14 Jul 1755 in Granville Co NC 2
• Death: 6 Apr 1817 in Wilkes Co GA 1 4
• Note: This may have been the grandson Richard Davis mentioned in the will of Richard Davis (d. 1761).
  According to the diary of his son, Thomas H. Davis, Richard and his brother Augustine Davis moved from
Granville County, North Carolina, to Lincoln County, Georgia, in 1779 or 1780. Richard later moved to Wilkes
County, where he died.

Father: Absalom DAVIS b: ABT. 1714
Mother: Keziah <DAVIS> b: ABT. 1725

Marriage 1 Isabel GRANT b: ABT. 1755 in Virginia
  • Married: 9 Jan 1777 in Granville Co NC 1

Children
  1. Thomas H. DAVIS b: 20 Nov 1787 in Wilkes Co GA
2. Wiley DAVIS b: ABT. 1778
3. Betsey DAVIS b: ABT. 1780
4. <female> DAVIS b: ABT. 1782
5. Grant DAVIS b: ABT. 1784
6. Absolam DAVIS b: ABT. 1792
7. Polly DAVIS b: ABT. 1796
8. Lucy DAVIS b: ABT. 1800

Sources:
1. Title: Diary of Thomas H. Davis (1823-1849)
   Publication: in Marie Stevens Walker Wood, _Stevens-Davis & Allied Families_ (Macon, Georgia, 1957), pages 129-142

2. Title: Will of Absalom Davis, 1807
   Publication: Elbert County, Georgia, Will Book L-F (1804-1809), page 30
   Note: Will dated 12 January 1807 and recorded 24 July 1807, Elbert County, Georgia.
   Repository: Note: Georgia Department of Archives and History, drawer 93, microfilm 5

3. Title: GEDCOM file from Jeanette Cuthriell dated 18 June 1999

4. Title: Will of Richard Davis, 1816
   Publication: Wilkes County, Georgia, Will Book 1818-1819, pages 93-96
   Note: Will dated 28 June 1816, proved 7 July 1817, recorded 28 April 1818
   Repository: Note: Georgia Department of Archives and History, drawer 44, microfilm 31