

# James McColskey, Sr. of Bladen County, NC

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## Objective

**Identify the parents of James McColskey, Sr. (b. 1750s, d. before 1820) who lived on Drowning Creek in Bladen County, NC.** Was he a first or second generation from the immigrant ancestor, Duncan McCoulskey?

James McColskey, Sr. married Margaret Shaw, daughter of Neil Shaw. Their children were James, Neil, and David. James McColskey, Jr. (1795-1870) also lived on Drowning Creek. He left a will in 1870 in Columbus County, NC. Neil McColskey moved to AL.

The immigrant ancestor was Duncan McCoulskey (1705-1762) who was born in Isle of Jura, Scotland. He was issued grants in 1745 in the Brown Marsh and White's Creek area of Bladen County, NC.

Other McColskey's included the following:

- Neil McColskey (1730-1808), Duncan's son, lived on Horseshoe Swamp
- Archibald McColskey, brother or son of Duncan, on early tax lists
- John McColskey, on later tax lists
- Duncan McColskey (1760-1807), Neil's son, lived on Double Branch

## Final Conclusions

Duncan McColskey was the progenitor and was born prior to 1706. The name of his wife has not been identified.

Neill McColskey was the oldest son, having been born prior to 1731. He married Mary Clark in 1754 and had children between 1755 and 1763. He named a son Duncan McColskey who was born in 1760 and died in 1807.

Archibald McColskey was apparently the next oldest son of Duncan McColskey, progenitor. The name of his wife is unidentified. He was living with James McColskey from 1768 through 1779. He was taxed 5 times with James McColskey, but their relationship was never stated. In 1778, he moved with James McColskey from Whites Creek and Hammons Creek to Great Swamp. It is presumed that he died between 1780 and 1783 while living with James McColskey.

James McColskey was born prior to 1752, but his wife was born after 1756. He had a household with 6 young children in 1800. He was very active in obtaining land warrants beginning in 1778. In 1778, he moved from Hammons Creek to Great Swamp. In 1792, he moved from Great Swamp to Cow Branch. He died in 1804 and his land was put up for auction.

John McColskey was born prior to 1754. The records place him in close proximity to Archibald and James McColskey. He does not fit with Neill McColskey. He left Bladen County in the 1780s and may have moved to Burke County, NC.

It appears very likely that James McColskey and John McColskey were sons of Archibald McColskey. There is no absolute evidence but the relationship can certainly be inferred. If that is the case, and if Archibald was the brother of Neill, we must conclude that Neill McColskey was born a few years earlier than 1731. The reasoning is the available timeframe for the age of Archibald McColskey compared to the birth of James McColskey. We must conclude that both Neill McColskey and Archibald McColskey were born in the late 1720s.

Ronald/Randel McNaughton was somehow related to the McColskey family, but the relationship is not clear.

Joseph Powers may have married a daughter of Archibald McColskey. Further research would be needed to confirm/deny that.

## Summary of findings

### Duncan McColskey (elder) summary:

Duncan McColskey owned land on White's Creek, Horseshoe Swamp, and Baptist Branch. He was granted 3 different tracts totaling 600 acres of land between 1745 and 1753. He was associated with Hugh Campbell, John Campbell, Donald McKichan, Malcom McNeill, Ronald McNaughton, Anguish Shaw, John Upton, George Brown, Neill Shaw, John Shaw, Murdoch McCraine, and Archibald Clark.

No records were found for Duncan McColskey buying or selling land.

### Neill McColskey summary:

Neill McColskey was probably the oldest son. The 1752 will of Ronald MacNaughten named executors as “Duncan MacCoulskey and his son Neil MacCoulskey”. In 1753, Neill McCoulskey became the guardian of Neill Shaw, orphan of John Shaw. In 1763, Neill McCoulskey witnessed a deed for Duncan McKeithan/McKichan, relative of Alexander McKichan. Duncan McCoulskey had previously witnessed a deed for them in 1746.

Based on available records, Neill McColskey was born prior to 1731. Based on this estimation, we can estimate Duncan McColskey was born prior to 1706.

No records were found for Neill McColskey buying or selling land.

Neill McCoulskey was granted:

- 1767: 200 acres on Brown Marsh between Double Branch of Horse Shoe Swamp and Long Creek Branch
- 1767: 640 acres between Elizaeth Dallison and John Dallison
- 1779: 200 acres on north side of Horseshoe Swamp a little below Baptist’s hole
- 1779: 100 acres on both sides of Double Branch
- 1779: 100 acres on south side of Hammons Creek

Neill McCoulskey was taxable:

- 1763: 2 polls
- 1768: 3 polls including Neil Shaw and Charles McNaughton
- 1770: 3 polls including Neil Schaw and Charles McNorton
- 1771: 2 polls including Neal Shaw
- 1774: 2 polls
- 1775
- 1776: 1 poll
- 1779: 1 poll
- 1784: 2 polls
- 1787: 1 poll
- 1788: 1 poll
- 1789: 1 poll

### **Archibald McColskey summary:**

In 1773, Archibald McCoulsky was named as an adjacent landowner to Archibald McBride on White's Creek.

In 1773, Archibald McCoulsky served on a jury that included Neill Shaw and Simon Bright.

In 1779, Archibald McColskey was a chain carrier with Joseph Powers on a survey for James McColskey. The land was on the east side of Great Swamp (see Big Swamp in maps).

No records were found for Archibald McColskey buying or selling land. No land grants were found.

Archibald McCoulskey was taxable:

- 1763: 1 poll
- 1768: 2 polls including James McCoulsky
- 1770: 2 polls including James McColeskey
- 1771: 2 polls including James McCoulsky
- 1774: 3 polls
- 1775
- 1776: 2 polls including James McCoulsky
- 1779: 2 polls including James McColskey

The taxable age in 1763 was 16, so we can estimate Archibald McColskey was born prior to 1747. However, given the estimated age of Neill McColskey, it is probable that he was born in the 1730s.

**John McColskey summary:**

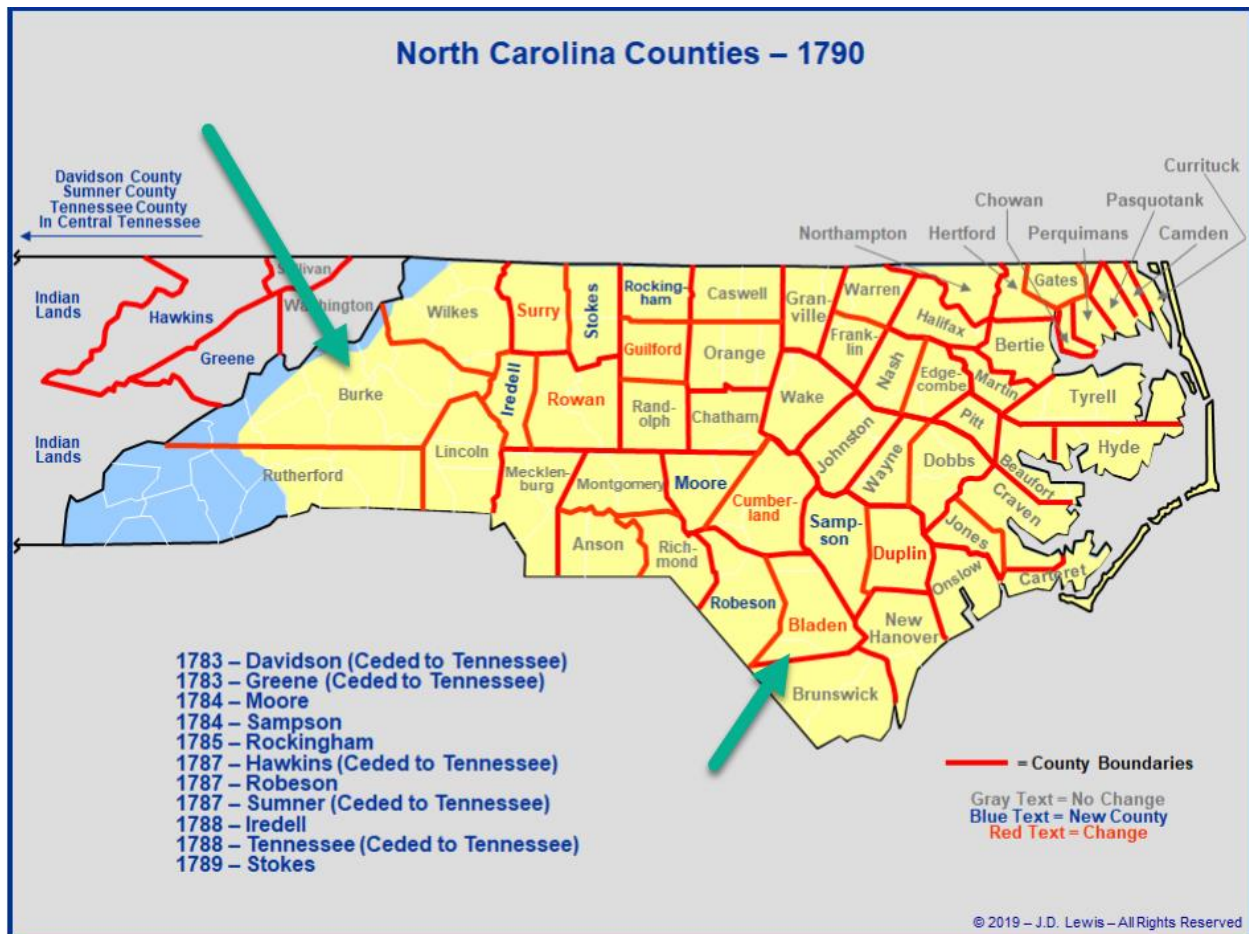
John McColskey was taxable in John Turner’s district in Bladen County in 1770. This was the same district that Neill McCoulsky, Archabal McColeskey, and James McColeskey were living in.

In 1778, John Taylor entered 200 acres on a branch of White’s Creek between John McColskey, John Brown, and Archibald Taylor.

Note that John Brown was also a landowner on Drowning Creek when James McKoulskey had his land surveyed there in 1779.

Archibald Taylor was an adjoining landowner when James McClasley was granted land on Hammons Creek in 1779.

No other records of John McColskey were found. It is interesting that a John McClisky was living in Burke County, NC in 1790.



[https://www.carolana.com/NC/Early\\_Statehood/nc\\_statehood\\_1800\\_counties\\_1790.html](https://www.carolana.com/NC/Early_Statehood/nc_statehood_1800_counties_1790.html)



### James McColskey summary:

In 1768, James McCoulsky was taxable with Archibald McCoulsky in George Gibbs district. Neill McCoulsky, Neill Shaw, and Charles McNaughton lived in the same district.

Note that the early tax lists for surname McColskey consistently represent 3 men: Neill, Archibald, and James between 1768 and 1779. Neil McCoulskey and Archibald McCoulskey were taxable in 1763, but James McColskey was not listed. There was a 1763 entry for "Joseph Kemp, Spaight, McCoulskey, and Porter" but the first name of McCoulskey was not given.

In 1770, James McColeskey was taxable with Archabal McColeskey in John Turner's district. Neill McCoulsky, Neill Schaw, Charles McNorton, and John Colskey lived in the same district.

In 1771, James McCoulsky was taxable with Archibald McCoulsky in John Turner's district. Neal McCoulsky and Neal Shaw were taxable in the same district.

In 1776, James McCoulsky was taxable with Archibald McCoulsky in William McRee's district. Note that Neil McCoulsky was living in George Brown's district.

On 6 July, 1778, James McClasky entered 100 acres on the south side of Hammons Creek joining Archibald Taylor. It was noted that McClasky was living on the land as of the entry date. Daniel McFatter and John McFatter helped survey the land.

In 1779, James McColeskey was granted 150 acres on the east side of Great Swamp (Big Swamp in maps). The entry date for the land was 17 July, 1778, and it was noted that McColskey was living there as of that date. Archibald McCoalskey and Joseph Powers helped survey the land.

Note that Great Swamp was on the border of Bladen and Robeson and is just above Drowning Creek.

Based on the above, we know that James McColskey had moved to Drowning Creek by 17 July, 1778. He was still living on Hammons Creek as of 6 July, 1778. James McColskey moved in July, 1778!

In December, 1778, James McKoulskey entered 200 acres on the south side of Buckhead on Drowning Creek. Joseph Powers and Stephen Glear helped survey the land.

In December, 1778, James McCoulskey entered 150 acres on Drowning Creek on both sides of Rough Horn Branch.

In December, 1778, James McCloskey and John McFatter were chain carriers on a survey for Daniel McFatter for land bordering Archibald McKeithan and Hammons Creek.

In June, 1779, James McKoulskey and Joseph Powers were chain carriers on a survey for Stephen Glear on Drowning Creek bordering John Brown.

A July, 1779 survey documented that James McColesky owned land bordering Joseph Powers.

In August, 1779, James McKoulskey entered 56 acres on the east side of Drowning Creek. Simon Bright, Jr. and Simon Bright, Sr. helped survey the land.

In August, 1779, James McColeskey entered 100 acres on the east side of the mouth of Great Swamp joining Dennis Lennon. He sold the warrant to William Register before it was granted.

In 1779, James McColskey was taxable with Archibald McColskey in Captain Yates district. Together, they were taxed for 5 tracts of land totaling 1020 acres. Neil McCoulskey was living in Captain Shipman's district.

It is clear that by 1779, Archibald McColskey and James McColskey had both moved to Drowning Creek in the area of Bladen County that became the NW corner of Columbus County in 1808. Neil McColskey was still living in the original area that Duncan McColskey had settled.

It is also clear that James McColskey was traveling back and forth between the 2 "homeplaces". He was still surveying land on Hammons Creek after he had moved to Drowning Creek.

In 1784, James McCoulsky was taxable with 1 poll and 470 acres of land in Captain Yates District.

In February, 1786, James Coulskey and Joseph Powers witnessed a bond for Dennis Lennon.

In 1786, James McColskey was taxable with 1 poll and 706 acres of land in Captain Yates District.

In 1789, James McKolskey sold 200 acres on the east side of Drowning Creek to Simon Bright. John Shaw and William Register witnessed.

In 1792, James McCoulskey sold 150 acres on the east side of Great Swamp to William Register. The deed noted he was living there. This appears to be the same land that McColskey settled on in 1778. John Shaw was one of the witnesses.

In 1796, James McCoulskey bought 3 tracts of land totaling 250 acres on Cow Branch from John Shaw.

Note that James McColskey had moved again, but only a short distance. See maps for location of Great Swamp (Big Swamp), Drowning Creek, and Cow Branch.

James McCoulsky's 1800 census record indicates that he had a young family. He was over 45 years of age. The adult female in the household was between 26 and 44 years of age. There were 5 children under 10 years of age in the household.

James McColskey was deceased by June, 1804. His 3 tracts of land on Cow Branch were sold at public auction on 30 July, 1805. John Shaw recovered the land.

## McColskey records in Bladen County, NC

On 18 November, 1743, **Duncan McCoulsky** was issued a warrant for 200 acres on a creek joining Hugh Campbell's upper line. [*Abstracts of Land Warrants, Bladen County, NC, 1778-1803, Pruitt*]

On 11 April, 1745, **Duncan McCoulskey** was granted 200 acres in Bladen County, joining the west side of White's Creek and Hugh Campbell. [*Colony of NC, 1735-1764, Abstracts of Land Patents, Volume One, Hofmann; Crown grant, Patent book 5, pg. 249*]

Note: The 1745 grant is the same land as the 1743 warrant.

On 2 May, 1746, **Duncan McCoalskey** and John Campbell witnessed a deed from Donald McKichan of Bladen County, NC to Alexander McKichan of Brunswick County, NC. The deed was for 0.25 acre or half a lot in Brunswick on the Cape Fear River. [*Abstracts of Deeds, New Hanover County, NC, Books C, D, E, Pruitt*]

On 3 April, 1749, **Duncan McCoulskey** was issued a warrant for 200 acres on a branch of Horseshoe Swamp. The land was "a little distance up the branch above land that was disputed between Bryan Conner and Malcolm McNeill. [*Abstracts of Land Warrants, Bladen County, NC, 1778-1803, Pruitt*]

On 1 April, 1751, **Duncan McCoulskey** was granted 200 acres in Bladen County near the horse shoe on Baptists long branch joining near and above Maccolm MacNiell and by the said branch. [*Colony of NC, 1735-1764, Abstracts of Land Patents, Volume One, Hofmann; Crown grant, Patent book 5, pg. 357*]

Note: The 1751 grant is the same land as the 1749 warrant.

On 8 April, 1752, **Duncan McCoulsky** was issued a warrant for 200 acres on the NE branch of White's Creek and at the upper forks. [*Abstracts of Land Warrants, Bladen County, NC, 1778-1803, Pruitt*]

On 9 May, 1753, **Duncan McCoulskey** was granted 200 acres in Bladen County on White's Creek, joining the lower end of a small meadow. [*Colony of NC, 1735-1764, Abstracts of Land Patents, Volume One, Hofmann; Crown grant, Patent book 2, pg. 49*]

Note: The 1753 grant is the same land as the 1752 warrant.

On 5 October, 1752, Ronald MacNaughten, planter of Bladen County, NC wrote his will. He named the following heirs and property:

- Wife Isbell MacNaughten, 1/3 of goods and cattle
- Eldest son Neill MacNaughten, saddle and bridle, 200 acres on Whites Creek
- Son Charles MacNaughten, a calf
- Daughter Mary MacNaughten, a calf

The executor was **Doncan MacCoulskey** and his son **Neil MacCoulskey**. Isbell MacNaughten was named executrix of her daughter Mary. Witnesses were Anguish Shaw, John Upton, and John Campbell.

[*Early Records of NC, Volume 3, Loose Papers and Related Materials, 1712-1798, Bradley; Secretary of State Loose Papers, 1712-1798, SS889-898*]

On 15 January, 1753, in Bladen County, NC, an inventory of Randel McNaughton's estate was taken by George Brown and Neill Shaw. On 23 August, 1753, the inventory was proven by **Duncan or Neil**

**McCasky** before James Murray. [*Early Records of NC, Volume 3, Loose Papers and Related Materials, 1712-1798, Bradley; Secretary of State Loose Papers, 1712-1798, SS889-898*]

527. RANDEL McNAUGHTON  
Bladen Co. Inventory taken 15 Jan 1753 by George Brown & Neill Shaw. Proved 23 Aug 1753 by  
Duncan(Neil?) McCasky before Jas. Murray.

Citation from Early Records of NC, Volume 3  
As shown the name is unclear.

On 25 June, 1753, in Bladen County, NC, an inventory of John Shaw was taken by Murdoch McCrainie and Archibald Clark. The estate had been divided among the orphans and each administrator had taken a child. Dushee Shaw took the eldest son Daniel Shaw. John Clark took John Shaw. **Neill McCoulskey** took the youngest son, Neill Shaw. The transaction was proven before Thomas Armstrong. [*Early Records of NC, Volume 3, Loose Papers and Related Materials, 1712-1798, Bradley; Secretary of State Loose Papers, 1712-1798, SS889-898*]

On 17 April, 1754, Neill McCoulskey married Mary Clark. They had the following children:

- Margaret McCoulskey born 21 May, 1755
- Flora McCoulskey born 16 January, 1757
- Christian McCoulskey born 3 October, 1758
- Duncan McCoulskey born 26 September, 1760
- Twins born 2 May, 1763

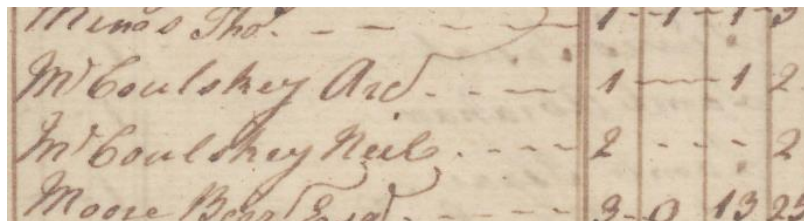
[*Kate Biggs collection, File 42, Robeson County, NC Public Library; original source not available and data has not been verified*]

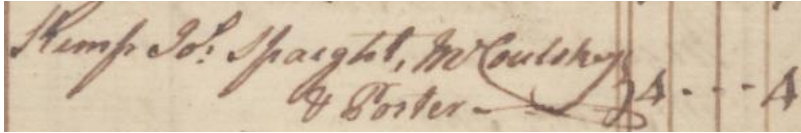
According to the same document, Duncan McCoulskey (elder) died 15 July, 1762.

[*Kate Biggs collection, File 42, Robeson County, NC Public Library; original source not available and data has not been verified*]

In 1763, the following households were taxed in Bladen County, NC:

- **Neil McCoulskey**
  - 2 white polls
- **Archibald McCoulskey**
  - 1 white poll
  - 1 black female
- Joseph Kemp, Spaight, **McCoulskey**, and Porter
  - 4 white polls





[NC Digital Collections, <http://digital.ncdcr.gov/cdm/ref/collection/p16062coll33/id/1950>, Secretary of State Records, State Archives of NC, S.S.XVIII, Recordkeeping (Misc), Tax Lists, Box 1]

On 11 June, 1763, **Neill McCoulsky**, Frederick Jones, Neill McNaughton, Solomon Canady, and George Brown witnessed a deed from Samuel Swann, esquire, of New Hanover County, NC to Duncan McKeithan, planter, of Bladen County, NC (Bladen County, NC Deed Book 23, page 155). The land was 667 acres about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile below Walker's Bluff. It was part of 1000 acres patented by John Swann, brother of Samuel Swann, in 1728. John Swann conveyed to William Dry who conveyed to Alexander McKeithan, late of Bladen County. Alexander McKeithan had conveyed 333 acres of the land to David Lock and the remainder to Duncan McKeithan. [*Abstracts of Early Deeds of Bladen County, NC, Volume 2, Campbell*]

On 16 April, 1767, **Neil McCoulskey** entered a warrant for 200 acres in Bladen County at Brown Marsh. The land was north of his own plantation between Double Branch of Horse Shoe Swamp and Long Creek Branch of said swamp. [*Colonial Land Warrants, Volume 3, 1758-1768, Pruitt*]

On 16 April, 1767, **Niel McCoulskey** was issued warrant #39 for 640 acres "between Elizabeth Dallison's and John Dallison's upper tract and below the mines Burgland formerly in name of Hauksworth on NW River". [*Abstracts of Land Warrants, Bladen County, NC, 1778-1803, Pruitt*]

In 1768, the following households were taxed in George Gibbs district in Bladen County, NC:

- **Archibald McCoulsky** and **James McCoulsky**
  - 2 white polls.
  - 1 black woman named Chloe
- **Neil McCoulsky**, Neil Shaw, and Charles McNaughton
  - 3 white polls
  - 1 black woman named Phillis
  - 1 black boy named Charles

[*Bladen County, NC Tax Lists, 1768-1774, Volume 1, Byrd*]

In 1770, the following households were taxed in John Turner's district in Bladen County, NC:

- **Neill McCoulsky**, Neil Schaw (patrole), and Charles McNorton
  - 3 white polls
  - 1 black male under 16 named Charles
  - 1 black female named Phillis
- **John McColskey**
  - 1 white poll
  - 1 black male named Hamblet
- **Archabal McColeskey** and **James McColeskey**
  - 2 white polls

[*Bladen County, NC Tax Lists, 1768-1774, Volume 1, Byrd*]

In 1771, the following households were taxed in John Turner's district in Bladen County, NC:

- **Neal McCoulsky** and Neal Shaw
  - 2 white polls
  - 1 black male named Charles
  - 1 black female named Fillis
- **Archibald McCoulsky** and **James McCoulsky**
  - 2 white polls
  - 2 black females named Chloe and Eleanor

*[Bladen County, NC Tax Lists, 1768-1774, Volume 1, Byrd]*

On 6 June, 1771, Hugh Stewart, planter of Bladen County, NC wrote his will:

- Wife and Executrix: Catherine Stewart
- Brother: Robert Stewart
- Niece: Elizabeth Stewart, daughter of Robert Stewart
- Witnesses: **Neill McCaulskey**, William McNeill, Neill Shaw

*[Abstracts of Wills, Bladen County, NC, 1734-1900, Campbell]*

On 10 January, 1773, Archibald McBride obtained a warrant for 200 acres of land on the NW branch of White's Creek, between Knolles' path and **Archibald McCoulsky**, and on the SW side of the Cape Fear. The land was surveyed 13 August, 1773. Angus Taylor and Malcom McBride were chain carriers.

*[Abstracts of Land Warrants, Bladen County, NC, 1778-1803, Pruitt]*

On 5 February, 1773, the following men served on a jury in the case of Levi Glass vs. George Young: **Archibald McCoulsky**, John Legett (foreman), John Bryan, Philemon Bryan, Richard Harrison, George Lyon, Joseph Mercer, John Blount, Edward Davis, Robert McConkey, Benjamin Beasley, John Baldwin, Matthew Bulley, John McCrane, Ever McMillon, Simon Bright, and Neill Shaw. *[Abstracts of Early Deeds of Bladen County, NC, Volume 2, Campbell]*

In 1774, the following households were taxed in the southern portion of Bladen County, NC:

- **Archibald McColesky**
  - 3 white polls
  - 2 black polls (women)
- **Neil McColesky**
  - 2 white polls
  - 1 black poll (woman)

*[Bladen County, NC Tax Lists, 1768-1774, Volume 1, Byrd]*

In 1775, the following men were taxed in William McRee's district in Bladen County, NC:

- **Archibald M Coulskey**
- **Neil McCoulskey**

*[Bladen County, NC Tax Lists, 1775-1789, Volume 2, Byrd]*

On 10 July, 1775, **Neill McCoulsky** and David Bailey witnessed a deed from William Stewart and his wife Janet Stewart to William McNeill (Bladen County, NC Deed Book 23, Page 525). The land was 540 acres on the Brown Marsh being part of a 640 acre grant to William Norton, Sr. in 1738. The land was adjacent Richard Mullington. *[Abstracts of Early Deeds of Bladen County, NC, Volume 2, Campbell]*

In 1776, the following households were taxed in George Brown's district in Bladen County, NC:

- **Neil McCoulsky**
  - 1 white poll
  - 1 black male named Jack
  - 1 black female named Fillis

*[Bladen County, NC Tax Lists, 1775-1789, Volume 2, Byrd]*

In 1776, the following households were taxed in William McRee's district in Bladen County, NC:

- **Archibald McCoulsky and James**
  - 2 white polls
  - 2 wenches

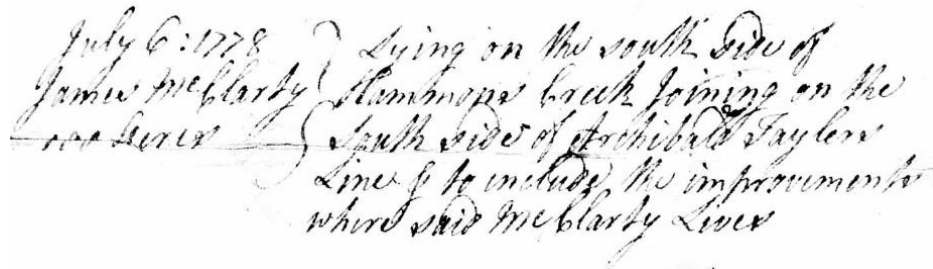
*[Bladen County, NC Tax Lists, 1775-1789, Volume 2, Byrd]*

In 1776, the following households were listed as taxable on a county wide list for Bladen County, NC:

- **Neill McCoulsky**
  - 1 white poll
  - 1 male slave
  - 1 female slave
- **Archibald McCoulsky**
  - 2 white males
  - 2 female slaves

*[Bladen County, NC Tax Lists, 1775-1789, Volume 2, Byrd]*

On 6 July, 1778, **James McClasley** entered 100 acres on the south side of Hammons Creek. The land joined the south side of Archibald Taylor's line and included the improvements where said **McClaskey** lives. The land was surveyed 1 December, 1778. Daniel McFatter and John McFatter were chain carriers. Grant #75 was issued 11 November, 1779. *[Abstracts of Land Warrants, Bladen County, NC, 1778-1803, Pruitt; NC Land Grants Files, 1693-1960, Bladen, 2826-3105, ancestry.com]*



Entry date from original land warrant

On 11 November, 1779, **James McClasley** was granted 100 acres on the south side of Hammons Creek, joining Archibald Taylor. *[NC Abstracts of State Grants, Volume 2, Hofmann; State of NC, Grant Book 34, pg. 232]*

Note: The 1779 grant is the same land as the 1778 warrant.

On 17 July, 1778, **James McCoalskey/McColeskey** entered 150 acres on the east side of Great Swamp. The land joined Dennis Lennon's line "where said **McColskey** lives". The land also bordered Henry Pope's line on the east side of Great Swamp. The land was surveyed 2 January, 1779. **Archibald McCoalskey** and Joseph Power were chain carriers. Grant #293 was issued 12 November, 1779.

[Abstracts of Land Warrants, Bladen County, NC, 1778-1803, Pruitt; NC Land Grants Files, 1693-1960, Bladen, ancestry.com]

July 17: 1778  
James McColskey } Dennis Lennon  
150 Acres }  
Line where said McColskey  
now lives on joining of the  
Lower Side of Henry Pipes  
line on the East Side of the  
Great Swamp

Entry date from original land warrant  
noting that James McColskey was living there in July, 1778

On 5 November, 1778, John Taylor, blacksmith, entered 200 acres on a branch of White's Creek between **John McColskey**, John Brown, and Archibald Taylor. Angus Taylor and John Taylor were chain carriers. The grant was issued 12 November, 1779. [Abstracts of Land Warrants, Bladen County, NC, 1778-1803, Pruitt]

On 21 December, 1778, **James McKoulskey** entered 200 acres on the south side of Buckhead on Drowning Creek. The land included his own improvements and an old indigo field. The land was surveyed 24 June, 1778. Joseph Powers and Stephen Glear were chain carriers. Grant #662 was issued 23 October, 1782. [Abstracts of Land Warrants, Bladen County, NC, 1778-1803, Pruitt]

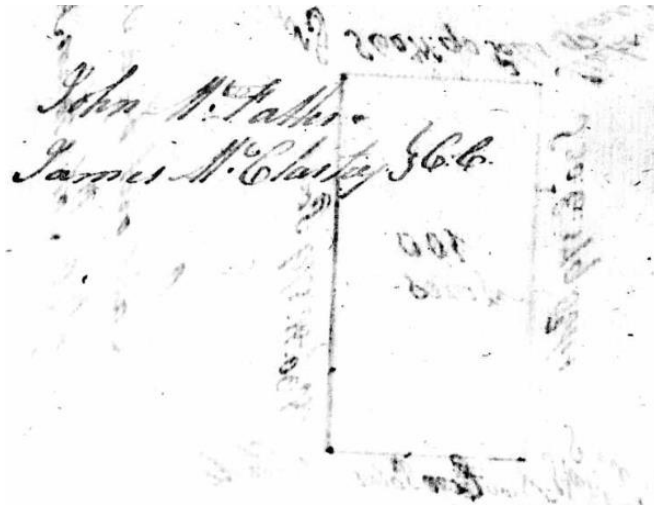
On 21 December, 1778, **James McCoulskey** entered 150 acres on Drowning Creek joining Dennis Lennon on both sides of Roof Horn Branch. The land was surveyed 8 January, 1791. No chain carriers were mentioned. Grant #1946 was issued 16 July, 1795. [Abstracts of Land Warrants, Bladen County, NC, 1778-1803, Pruitt]

On 26 December, 1778, **James McCloskey** and John McFatter were chain carriers on a survey of 100 acres for Daniel McFatter. The land bordered Archibald McKeithan and Hammons Creek. [Abstracts of Land Warrants, Bladen County, NC, 1778-1803, Pruitt; NC Land Grants Files, 1693-1960, Bladen, ancestry.com]

Surveyed for Daniel McFatter the 26 Day of  
December 1778 -

Survey date from Daniel McFatter land warrant  
26 December, 1778





John McFatter and James McCloskey  
named as chain carriers on reverse side of survey

In 1779, the following households were taxed in Captain Shipman's district in Bladen County, NC:

- **Neil McCoulskey**
  - 850 acres
  - 2 slaves between 11 and 39 years
  - 2 slaves between 5 and 10 or between 40 and 50 years
  - 2 slaves under 5 or between 50 and 60 years
  - 6 horses
  - 40 cows
  - Cash available 75 pounds 1 pence
  - 3 tracts of land
  - Value of land 460 pounds
  - Value of horses 400 pounds

*[Bladen County, NC Tax Lists, 1775-1789, Volume 2, Byrd]*

In 1779, the following households were taxed in Captain Yates' district in Bladen County, NC:

- **James and Archibald McColskey**
  - 1020 acres
  - 8 Horses
  - 50 cows
  - Cash available 24 pounds 4 shillings
  - 5 tracts of land
  - Value of land 400 pounds
  - Value of horses 400 pounds

*[Bladen County, NC Tax Lists, 1775-1789, Volume 2, Byrd]*

On 24 June, 1779, **James McKoulskey** and Joseph Powers were chain carriers on a survey for Stephen Glear. The land was 200 acres on Drowning Creek bordering John Brown. *[Abstracts of Land Warrants, Bladen County, NC, 1778-1803, Pruitt]*

On 5 July, 1779, Joseph Powers and Simon Bright were chain carriers on a survey for Benjamin Moore for 100 acres. The land joined Powers, **James McColesky**, long point, and beach island. [*Abstracts of Land Warrants, Bladen County, NC, 1778-1803, Pruitt*]

On 4 August, 1779, **James McKoulskey** entered 56 acres on the east side of Drowning Creek. The land joined the lower side of his new survey and included the indigo fields. The land was surveyed 13 November, 1783 by John Yates. Simon Bright, Jr. and Simon Bright, Sr. were chain carriers. Grant #863 was issued 7 November, 1784. [*Abstracts of Land Warrants, Bladen County, NC, 1778-1803, Pruitt*]

On 4 August, 1779, **James McColeskey** entered 100 acres on the east side of the mouth of Great Swamp joining Dennis Lennon's line. He sold the warrant to William Register. William Register had the land surveyed 9 March, 1790 and was granted the land 16 July, 1795. [*Abstracts of Land Warrants, Bladen County, NC, 1778-1803, Pruitt*]

On 1 November, 1779, **Neill McCoalskey** entered 200 acres on the north side of Horseshoe Swamp between his own line and Samuel McRee's land. The land began a little below Baptist's hole and included part of the swamp. [*Abstracts of Land Warrants, Bladen County, NC, 1778-1803, Pruitt*]

On 2 November, 1779, **Duncan McColeskey** entered 100 acres on both sides of Double Branch, a branch of Horseshoe Swamp, between his own line, Richard Small, and Mary McFatter. The land was surveyed 10 February, 1783. Simon Burney and **Neill McCoalskey** were chain carriers. Grant #1129 was issued 10 October, 1787. [*Abstracts of Land Warrants, Bladen County, NC, 1778-1803, Pruitt*]

On 23 August, 1783, **Neill McCoalskey** and Malcom Shaw were chain carriers on a survey for Duncan Laarmon. The land was 100 acres joining John McClaron and John Blew. [*Abstracts of Land Warrants, Bladen County, NC, 1778-1803, Pruitt*]

On 27 August, 1783, **Neill McCoalskey** and Maklom Shaw were chain carriers on a survey for Archibald Bradley. The land was 200 acres on both sides of Middle Branch joining **Duncan McCoulskey's** line. [*Abstracts of Land Warrants, Bladen County, NC, 1778-1803, Pruitt*]

In 1784, the following household was taxed in Captain Johnsons district in Bladen County, NC:

- **Neill McCoulsky**
  - 1150 acres of land
  - 2 white polls
  - 3 black polls

[*1784 Tax List, Bladen County, NC, Bladen County Historical Society*]

In 1784, the following household was taxed in Captain Yates district in Bladen County, NC:

- **James McCoulsky**
  - 470 acres of land
  - 1 white poll

[*1784 Tax List, Bladen County, NC, Bladen County Historical Society*]

On 21 March, 1785, **Duncan McCaulskey**, Angus McKay, and Alexander Carmichaell witnessed a deed from Archibald Shaw to Alexander Hortler of New Hanover County, NC (Bladen County, NC Deed Book 1, Page 202). The deed was for 150 acres on both sides of Hammons Creek adjacent lands of Anguish Shaw, Neill Shaw, and John Shaw. [*Bladen County, NC Abstract of Deeds, Volume 2, Campbell*]

On 20 February, 1786, **James McCoulskey** and Joseph Powers witnessed a bond from Charity Lennon, William Stevens, and Abraham Stevens to Dennis Lennon (Bladen County, NC Deed Book 1, Page 232). *[Abstracts of Early Deeds of Bladen County, NC, Volume 2, Campbell]*

In 1787, the following household was enumerated in Bladen County, NC:

- **Neill McCoulsky**
  - 1 white male age 21 to 60
  - 4 white females
  - 5 blacks between 12 and 50 years

*[Bladen County, NC Tax Lists, 1775-1789, Volume 2, Byrd]*

In 1788, the following household was taxed in Captain Browns district in Bladen County, NC:

- **Neill McCoulskey**
  - 1300 acres of land
  - 1 white poll
  - 5 black polls

*[1788 Tax List, Bladen County, NC, Bladen County Historical Society]*

In 1788, the following household was taxed in Captain Yates district in Bladen County, NC:

- **James McCoalskey**
  - 706 acres of land
  - 1 white poll

*[1788 Tax List, Bladen County, NC, Bladen County Historical Society]*

In 1789, the following households were taxed in Captain George Brown's district in Bladen County, NC:

- **Neil McColsky**
  - 1300 acres
  - 5 slaves
  - 1 white poll

*[Bladen County, NC Tax Lists, 1775-1789, Volume 2, Byrd]*

On 17 July, 1789, **James McKolskey** sold 200 acres on the east side of Drowning Creek to Simon Bright for 60 pounds specie (Bladen County, NC Deed Book 7, Page 247). The land began at a small water oak about 100 yards above the improvements and runs S 48 E 179 poles to a stake than S 42 W 179 poles to a small pine sapling then N 48 W 179 poles to the beginning. **James McColskey** signed his name. Witnesses: John Shaw signed his name and William Register made his mark. William Register proved the deed during the September term of court 1799. *[Bladen County Deeds 1738-1790, 1797-1869; indexes, 1770-1920, 1738-1920, Deeds v. 7, 9 (old v. G, K, L), 1797-1817; familysearch.org]*

In 1790, **John McClisky** was enumerated in Burke County, NC. His household consisted of 1 adult male and 1 female. *[1790 US Federal Census, ancestry.com]*

Agusta Quinton	1	1	1
J. M. Celisby	1	0	1
Ala Ham. Kelly	1	2	2

On 5 April, 1792, **James McCoulskey** of Bladen County, NC sold 150 acres on the east side of Great Swamp, where **McCoulskey** now lives, to William Register for 100 pounds (Columbus County, NC Deed Book B, Page 102). The land was adjacent Dennis Lennon and Henry Pope. **James McCoulskey** signed his name. John Shaw, Cade Weatherbee, and Absalom Powell witnessed. [*Abstracts of Earliest Columbus County Deeds, 1808-1818, Deed Books A & B, Williamson*]

On 23 August, 1796, **James McCoulskey** purchased 100 acres on both sides of Cow Branch from John Shaw for 50 pounds specie (Bladen County, NC Deed Book 7, Page 290). The metes and bounds of the land were W 31 chains and 62 links to a stake then N 31 chains and 62 links then E 31 chains and 61 links to a stake then S 31 chains 62 links to the beginning. Wynne Nance and William Sibbett witnessed. John Shaw signed his name. [*Bladen County Deeds 1738-1790, 1797-1869; indexes, 1770-1920, 1738-1920, Deeds v. 7, 9 (old v. G, K, L), 1797-1817; familysearch.org*]

On 28 September, 1796, **James McCoulskey** purchased two tracts of land on Cow Branch from John Shaw for 40 pounds specie (Bladen County, NC Deed Book 7, Page 291).

- The first tract included his improvements and began at a large pine about 250 yards south of said improvement running N 82 E 22 chains and 75 links to a pine then N 80 W 43 chains and 96 links to a pine then S 82 W 22 chains and 75 links to a stake thence a direct line to the beginning. The land had been granted to John Shaw on 18 May, 1789.
- The second tract was 50 acres on both sides of Cow Branch beginning at a white oak on the south side of the branch and runs S 30 W 90 poles to a pine N 60 W 90 poles to a gum sapling in the edge of the branch thence N 30 E 90 poles to a stake then to the beginning. The land was conveyed by David Clarke to John Shaw.

Wynne Nance and William Sibbett witnessed. Wynne Nance proved the deed during the December term of court, 1799. John Shaw signed his name. [*Bladen County Deeds 1738-1790, 1797-1869; indexes, 1770-1920, 1738-1920, Deeds v. 7, 9 (old v. G, K, L), 1797-1817; familysearch.org*]

On 4 November, 1798, **Neil McCaulsky**, **Duncan McCaulsky**, and Dugald Clark witnessed the will of Duncan Lamont. Executors were Daniel Taylor and Duncan McCall. [*Abstracts of Wills, Bladen County, NC, 1734-1900, Campbell*]

On 8 March, 1801, John McLearn, planter of Bladen County, NC, wrote his will:

- Son: Malcom McLearn
- Sister: Catherine Shaw
- Executors:
  - **Duncan McCoulskey**
  - Dugald Blue, Sr.
- Witnesses:
  - John Blue, Sr.
  - Duncan McCall

- John Blue, Jr.

*[Abstracts of Wills, Bladen County, NC, 1734-1900, Campbell]*

In 1800, **Niel McCoulskey** was enumerated in Capt. Levi's District in Bladen County, NC. He was over 45 years of age. Also enumerated in his household were:

- 2 females 26-44
- 10 slaves

*[1800 US Federal Census, ancestry.com]*

In 1800, **Duncan McCoulsky** was enumerated in Capt. Levi's District in Bladen County, NC. He was between 26 and 44 years of age. Also enumerated in his household were:

- 1 male under 10
- 2 females under 10
- 1 female 26-44
- 1 slave

*[1800 US Federal Census, ancestry.com]*

In 1800, **James McCoulsky** was enumerated in Capt. Greene's District in Bladen County, NC. He was over 45 years of age. Also enumerated in his household were:

- 2 males under 10
- 3 females under 10
- 1 female 10-15
- 1 female 26-44
- 2 slaves

*[1800 US Federal Census, ancestry.com]*

On 30 July, 1805, Josiah Lewis, High Sheriff of Bladen County, NC auctioned and sold multiple tracts of the **James McCaulskey** estate to John Shaw for \$125 (Bladen County Deed Book 27, Page 457). It was stated that John Shaw obtained a judgement against the estate for \$200 during the June term of court, 1804.

- The first tract contained 100 acres beginning at a red oak on the south side of Cow Branch and running W 31 chains and 62 links to a stake then N 31 chains and 62 links to a stake then E 31 chains and 62 links to a stake then S 31 chains and 62 links to the beginning.
- The second tract was 100 acres on both sides of Cow Branch "including his improvements". It began at a large pine about 250 yards south of said improvements and ran N 82 E 22 chains and 65 links to a stake then N 80 W 43 chains and 96 links to a pint then S 82 W 22 chains and 75 links to a stake then a direct line to the beginning.
- The third tract was 50 acres on both sides of Cow Branch beginning at a white oak on the south side of said branch and running S 30 W 90 poles to a pine then N 60 W 90 poles to a gum in the edge of the branch then N 30 E 90 poles to a stake then to the beginning.

Malcom Shaw witnessed the deed. He proved the deed during the March term of court, 1806.

*[Bladen County Deeds 1738-1790, 1797-1869; indexes, 1770-1920, 1738-1920, Deeds v. 27, 1803-1855; familysearch.org]*

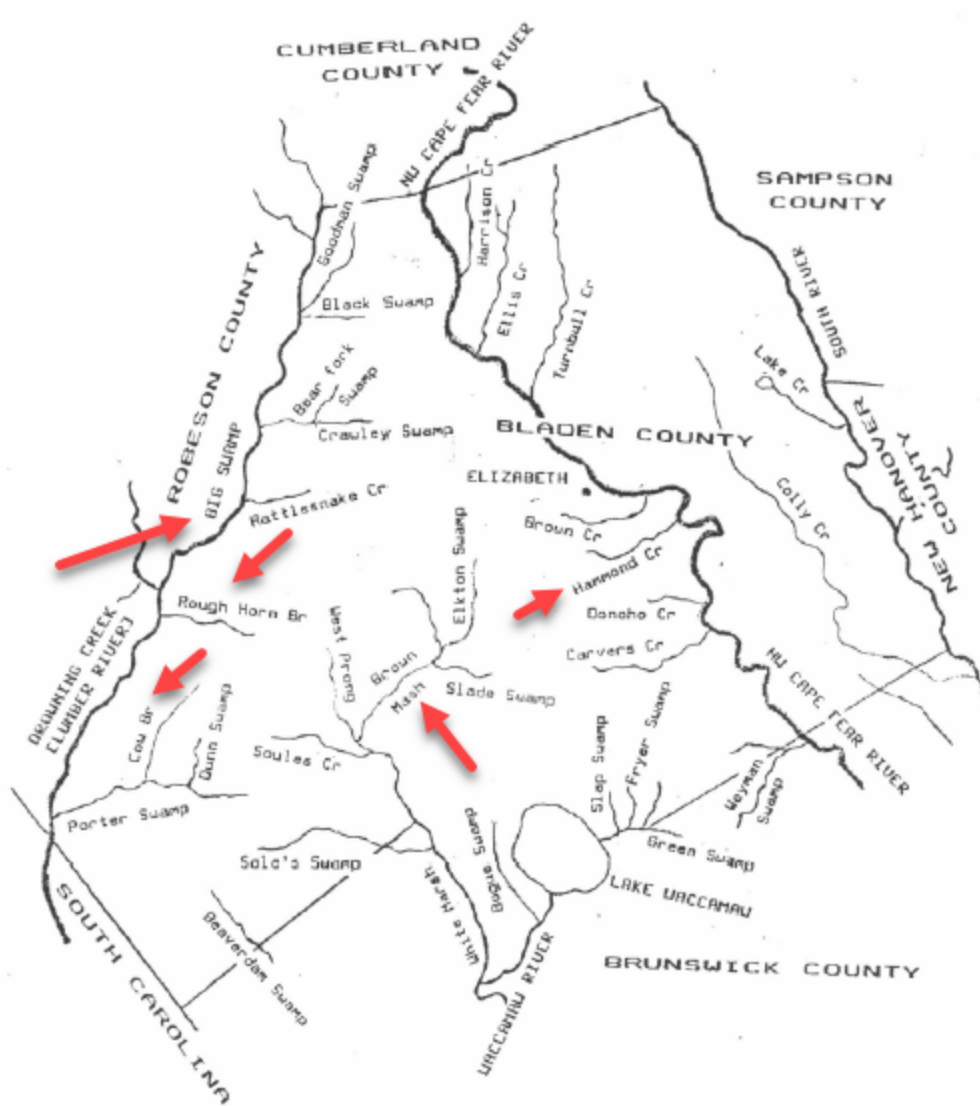
On 5 May, 1807, **Duncan McCoulsky**, planter of Bladen County, NC, wrote his will:

- Sons:
  - **Neill McCoulsky**

- **Duncan McCoulsky**
  - **Daniel McCoulsky**
- Daughters:
  - **Mary McCoulsky**
  - **Ann McCoulsky**
  - **Sarah McCoulsky**
- Executors:
  - Duncan McCall
  - Aaron Lewis
- Witnesses:
  - Dugald McKeithan
  - John Mun
  - D. McCall

*[Abstracts of Wills, Bladen County, NC, 1734-1900, Campbell]*

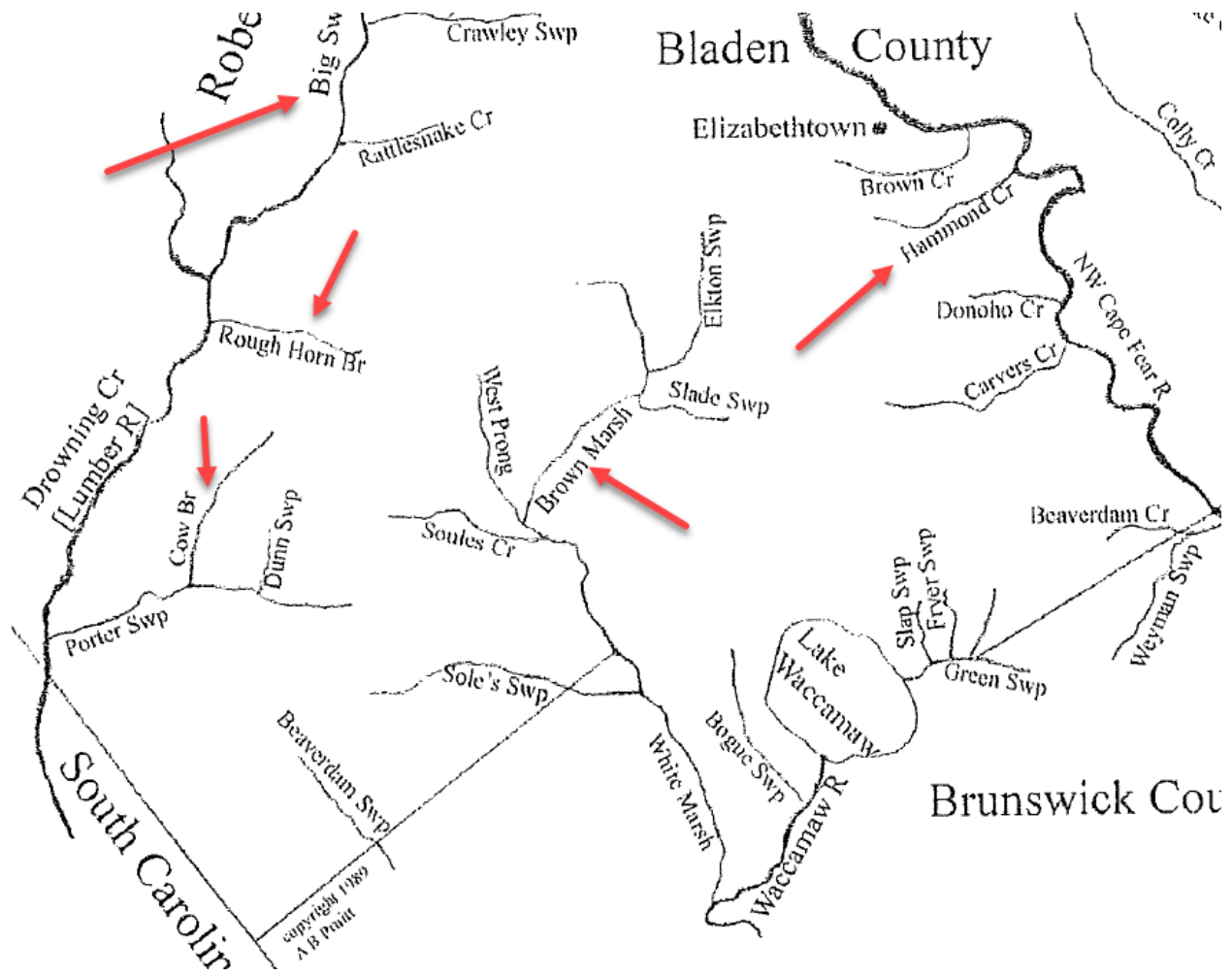
# Maps



Bladen County, NC 1800

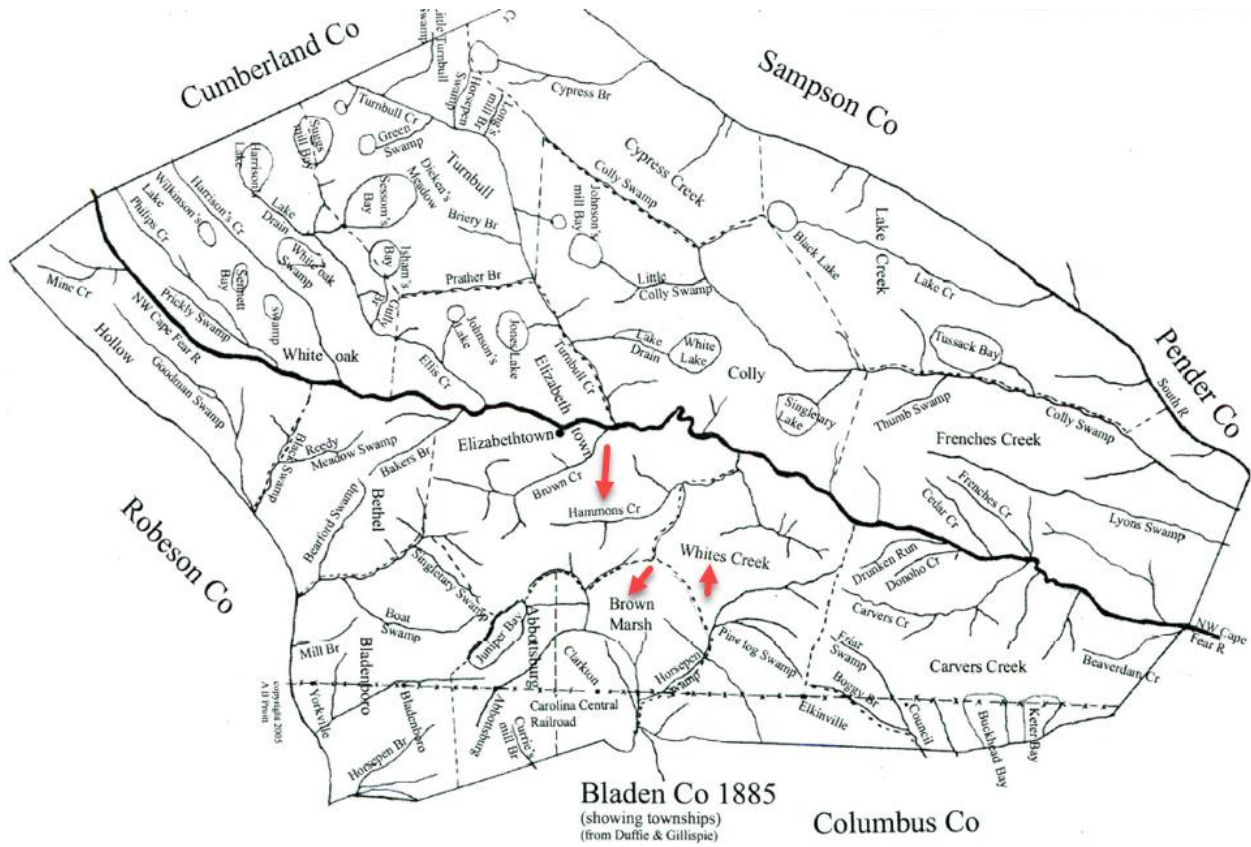
*Abstracts of Land Warrants, Bladen County, NC, 1778-1803, Pruitt*

Big Swamp (Great Swamp), Cow Branch, Rough Horn Branch,  
Hammond Creek, and Brown Marsh denoted with red arrows

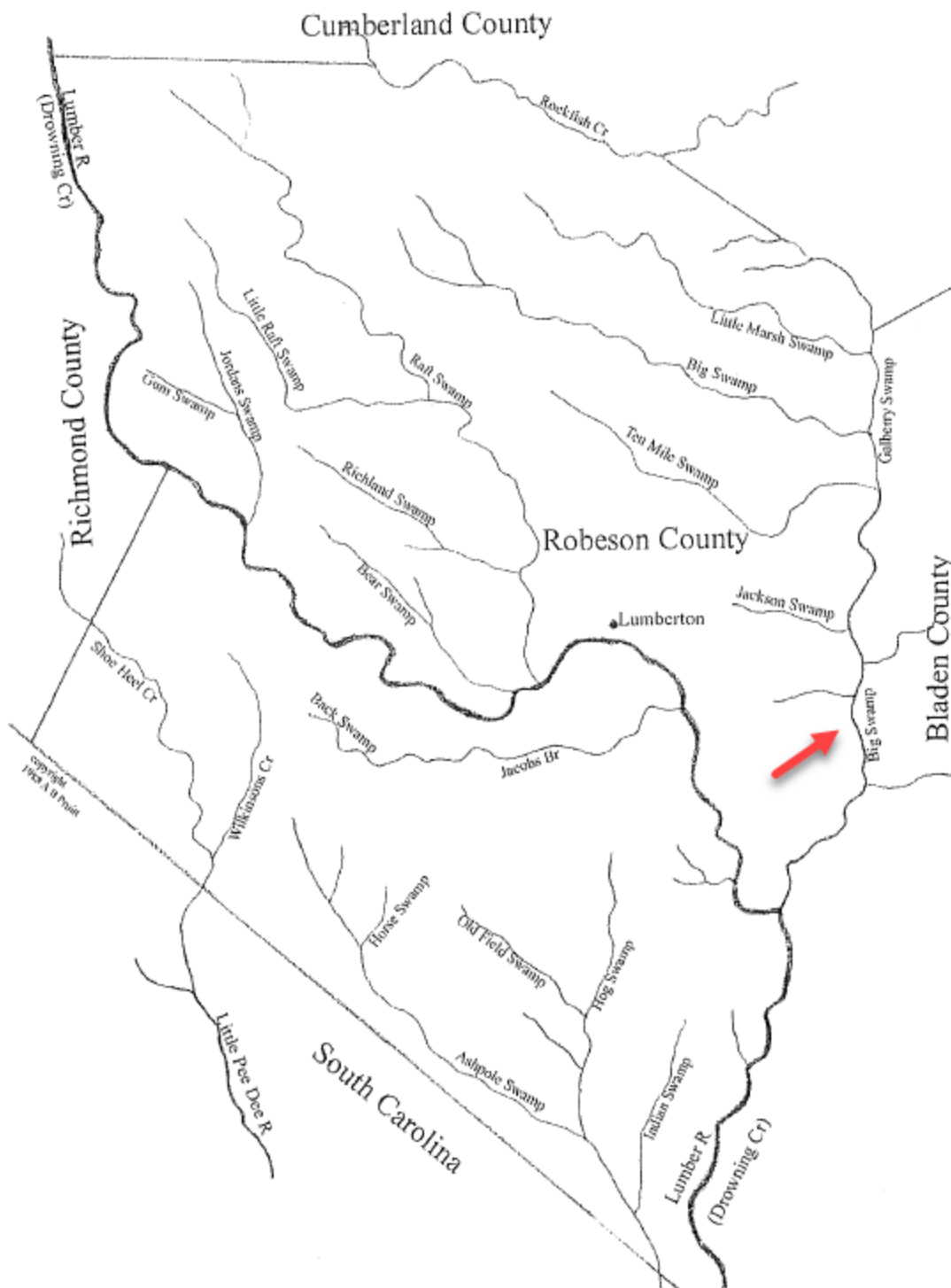


Closeup of Bladen County, NC 1800, Pruitt

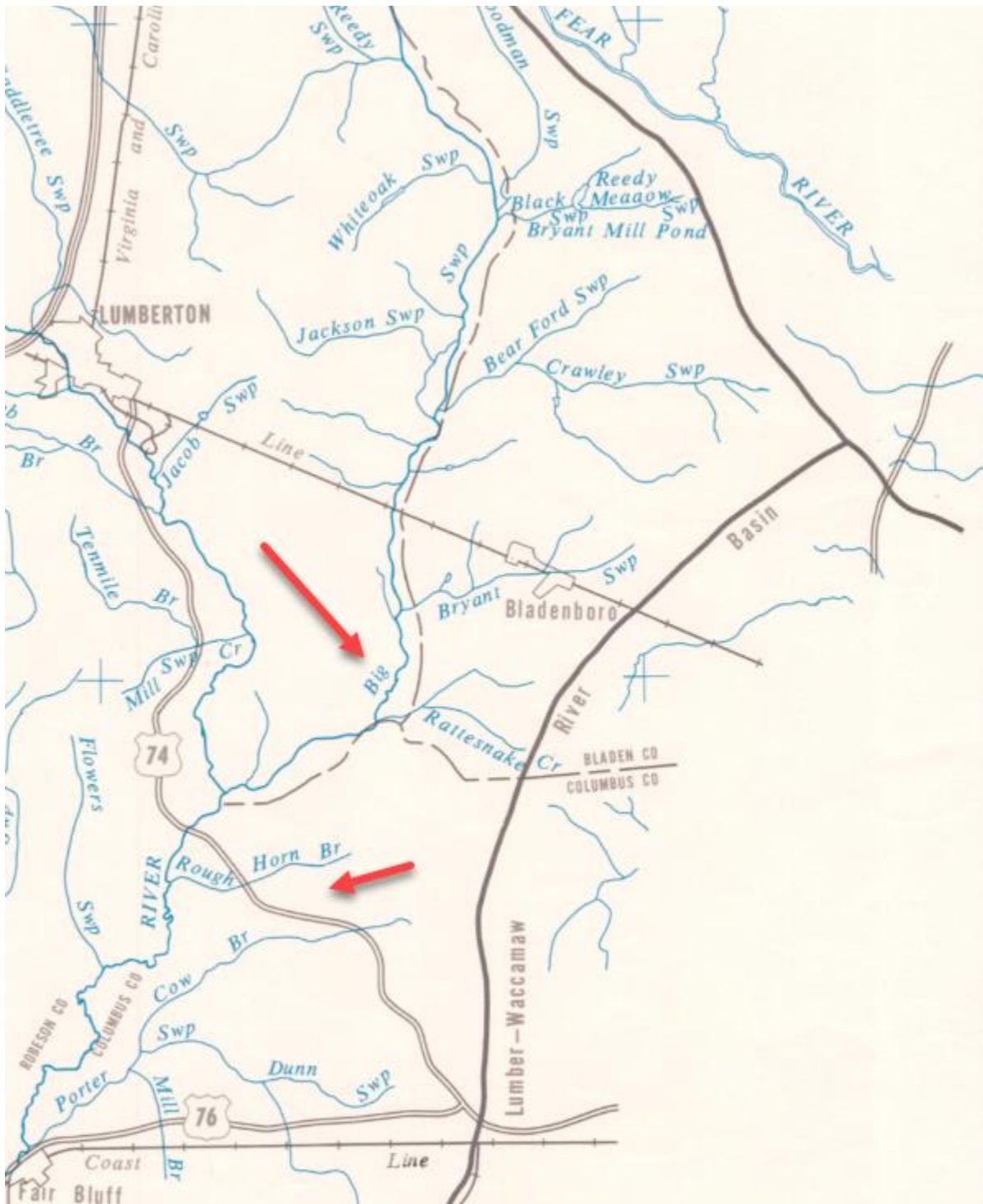




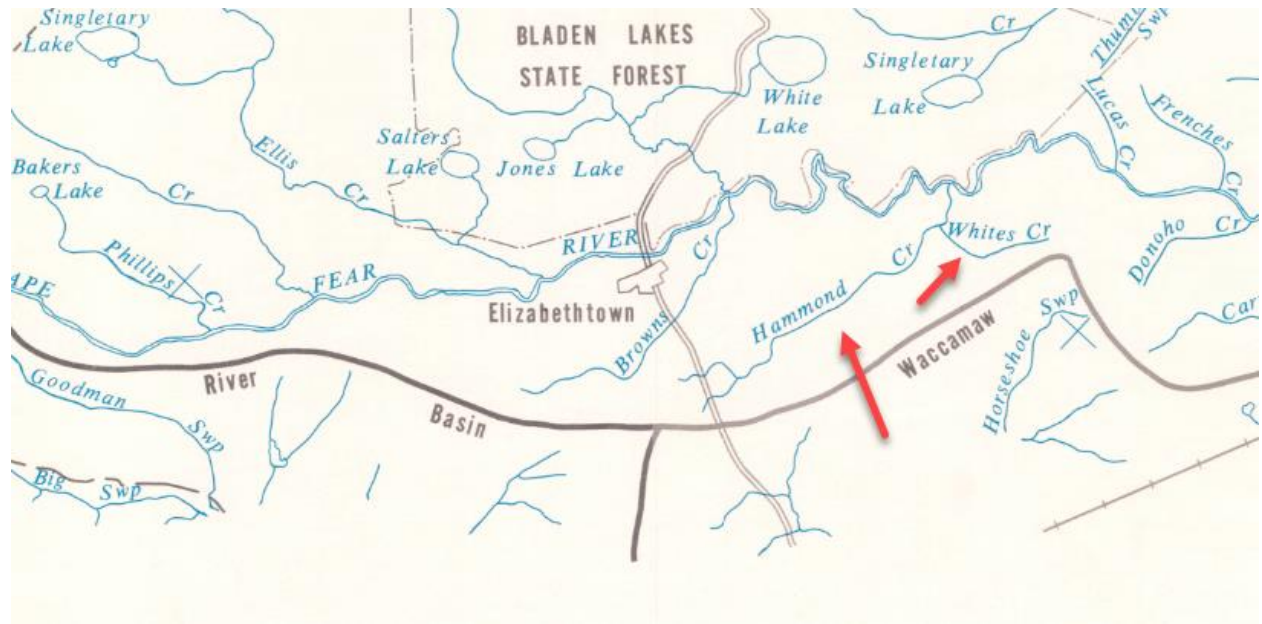
1885 map of Bladen County  
 Hammons Creek, Brown Marsh, and Whites Creek denoted with red arrows



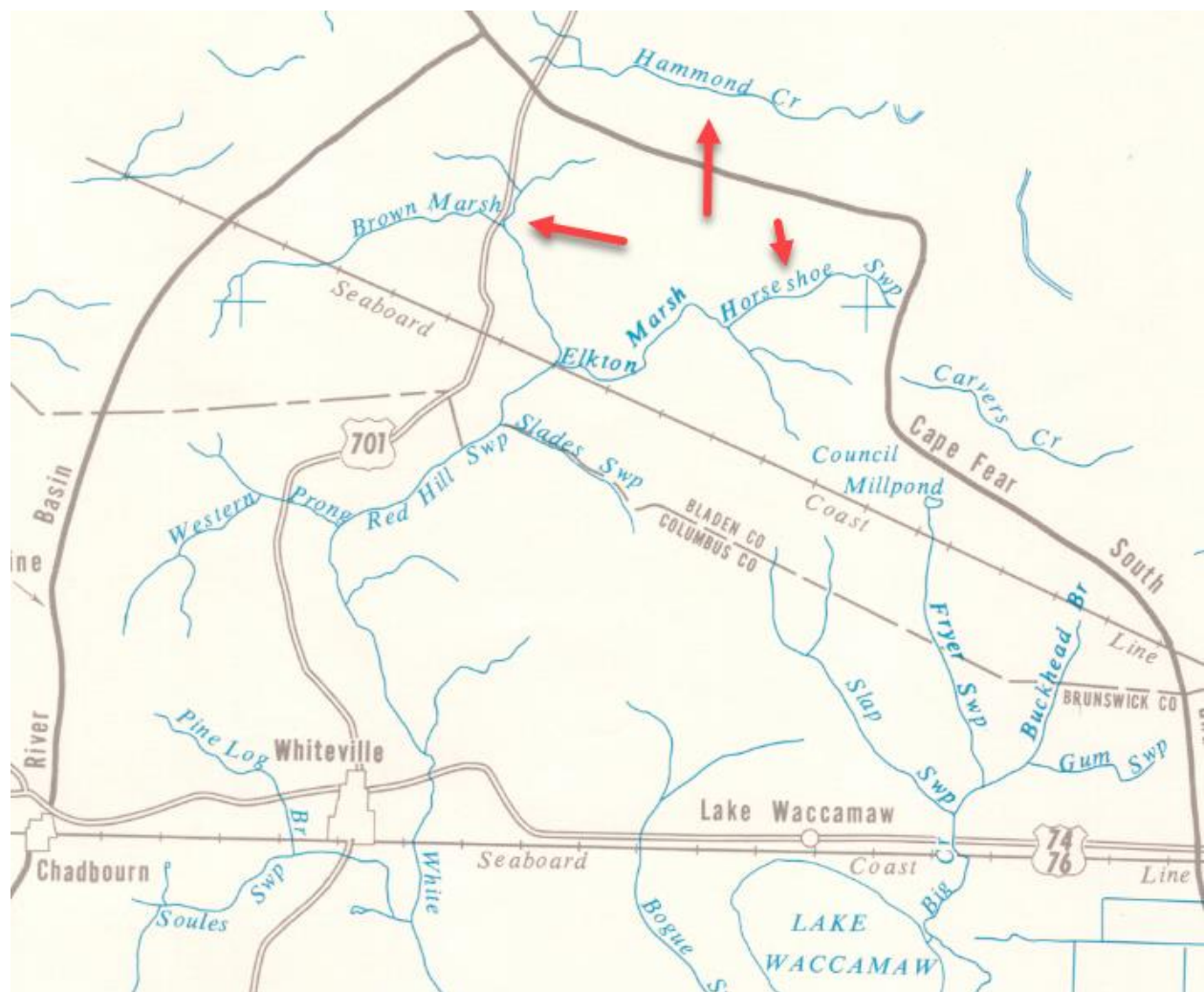
Robeson County, NC 1800  
*Abstracts of Land Warrants, Bladen County, NC, 1778-1803, Pruitt*



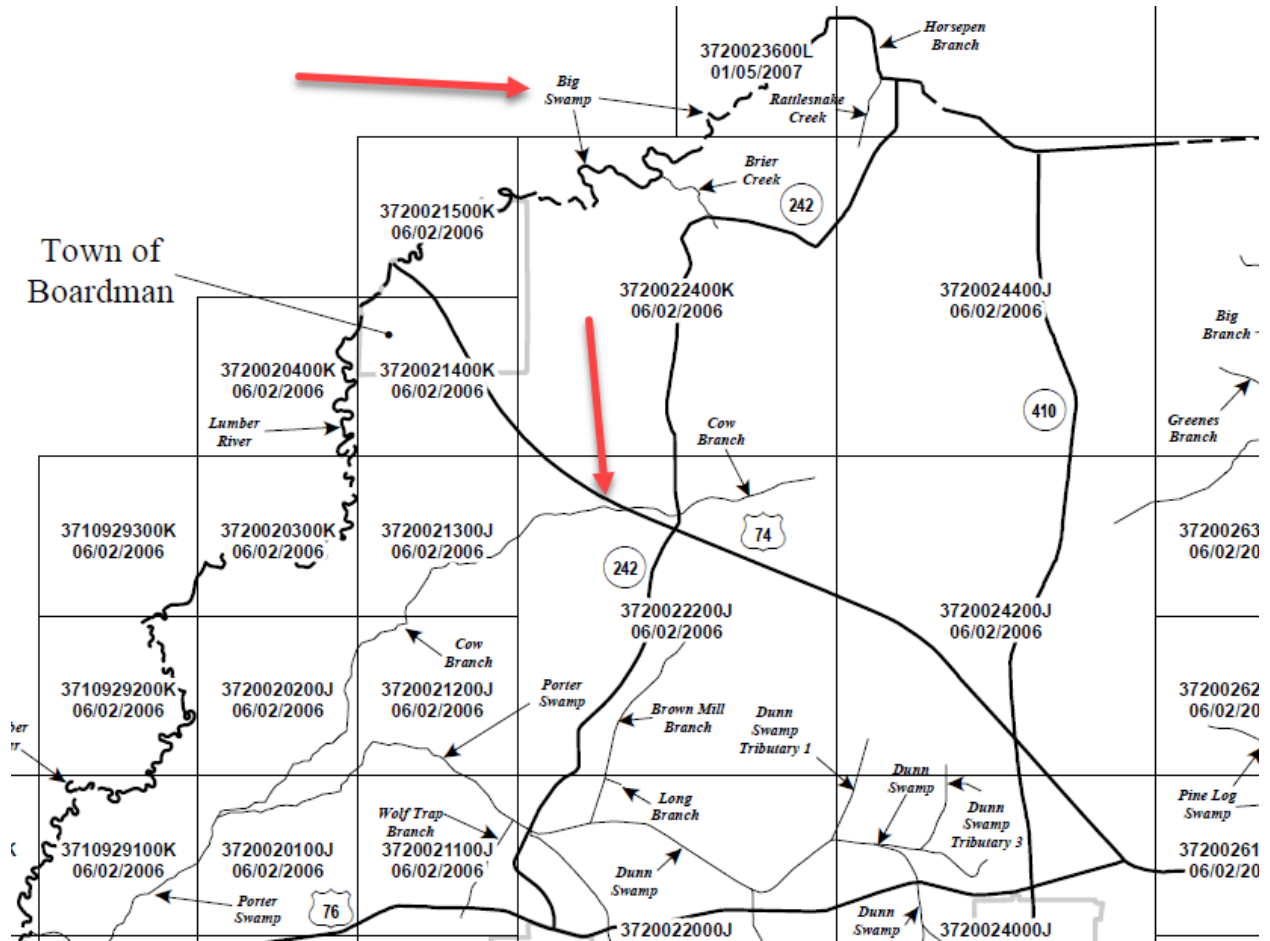
NC Lumber River Basin 1  
Lumber River and minor independent tributaries  
Big/Great Swamp, Rough Horn Branch, and Cow Branch denoted with red arrows



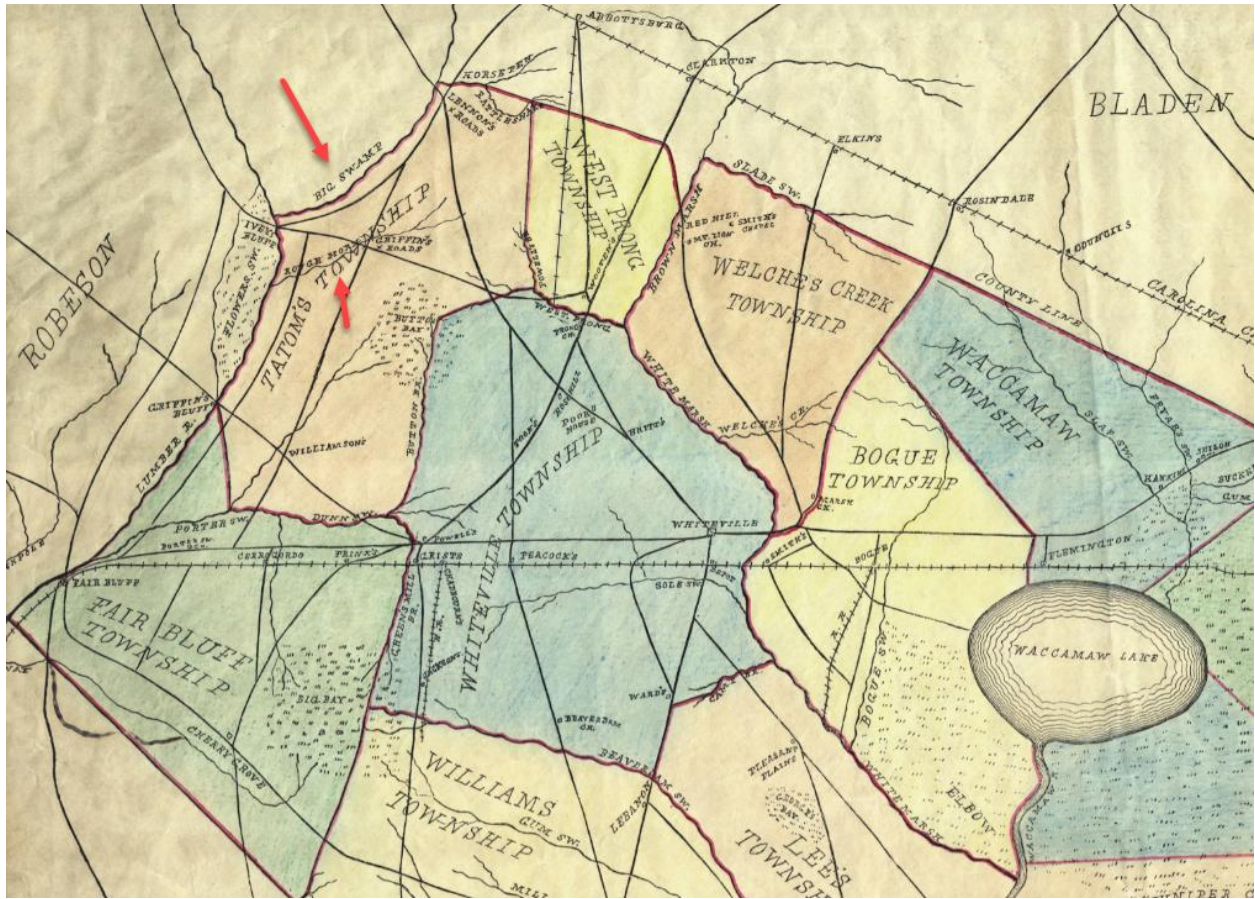
*NC Cape Fear River Basin 3*  
*Main stem from mouth to Fayetteville region, South and Black Rivers, Coastal areas*  
*Hammond Creek and Whites Creek denoted with red arrows*



*NC Lumber River Basin 2  
Waccamaw and Coastal Streams*  
Brown Marsh, Hammond Creek, and Horse Shoe Swamp denoted with red arrows



NW corner of Columbus County  
 Flood Insurance Rate Map, Columbus County, NC, 2007  
 Big Swamp and Cow Branch denoted with red arrows



NW corner of Columbus County  
*Map of Columbus County, Kirkland, 1882*  
Big Swamp and Rough Horn Branch denoted with red arrows