

This document is a Deed of Gift from Thomas Browne to Daniel McDaniel. It includes the consent of Christian Browne (his wife), and declares "Especially for the tender Love yt I bear to my Son in Law Daniel McDaniel". It is for 100 acres and declares "a Course of mark'd trees to 'the old tree Swamp'". The Old Tree Swamp is shown on modern maps. The date is July, 1715 and the property is in Chowan Precinct. Note also the witness is Valentine Braswell...who will also be McDaniel's neighbor near Roanoke River in 1717.

McDaniel married Sarah Browne.

The document is a handwritten deed in cursive script. The text is as follows:

Tho. Browne to Dan. McDaniel Deed of Gift  
 In witness whereof these presents I the said Tho. Browne of the  
 Precinct of Chowan with the Consent of my wife  
 Christiane Browne we have made writinge and more  
 especially for the tender Love of I bear unto my Son  
 in Law Daniel McDaniel do give grant (Grant do)  
 Confeire to y<sup>e</sup> said Daniel in full Right or Charge for  
 ever some Part or Part of Land Containing One  
 Hundred Acres be it more or less bounding at the  
 said Course to be on the River the said Course by  
 a Course of mark'd trees to the old tree Swamp  
 the said Swamp to w<sup>ch</sup> the said Course to y<sup>e</sup> said  
 Land shal be done the said Part to y<sup>e</sup> said Part  
 and I do by these presents Givey Confeire & warrant  
 the said Land to the said Daniel McDaniel in full Right  
 or Charge for ever from all Claim or Claim of me  
 my heirs or assigns or any Person or Persons  
 whatsoever by me or them Carrying or to Carry on  
 withing my said & hold of 15<sup>th</sup> Day of July 1715  
 and in y<sup>e</sup> first Year of our Sovereign Lord George  
 King of great Brittain France & Ireland 5<sup>th</sup> Year  
 of his Majesty's  
 Tho. Browne  
 in presence of us  
 Jacob E. Lewis  
 Val. Braswell

...ca. 1715 near Chowan River...

Reference notes:



Robert Patterson of "Patterson's Roster" fame... See Worth S. Ray's book

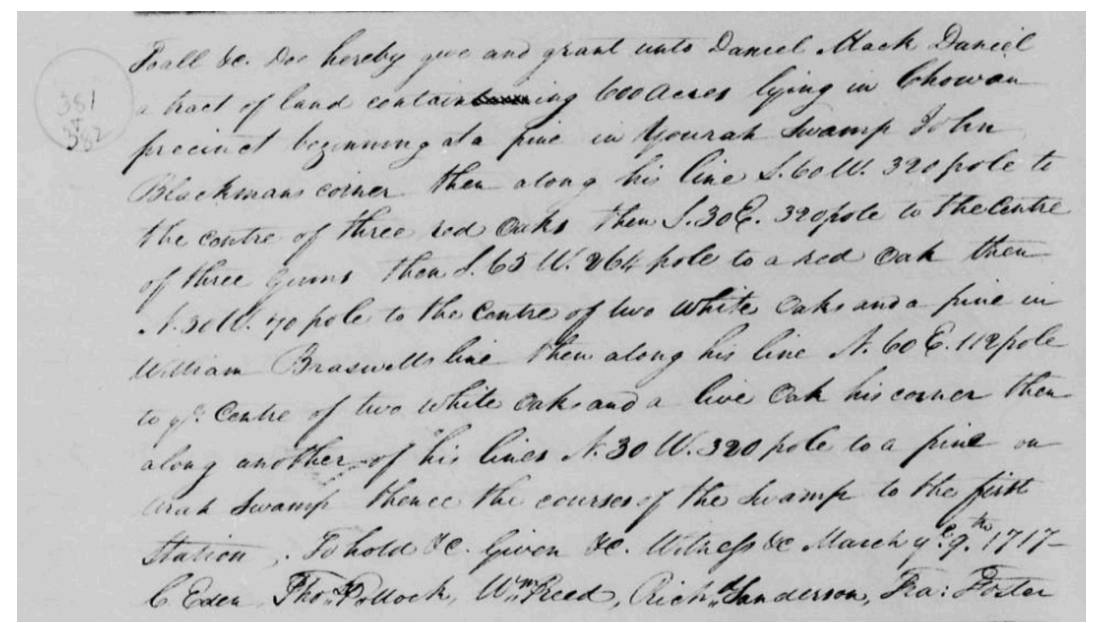
Frederick Jones Chief Justice during the various Court proceedings of Daniel McDaniel and Robert Atkins starting In 1720

Jacob Lewis, son of John Browne's wife Bridgett (Lewis) Browne. witness to Daniel McDaniels "gift deed" of 1715.

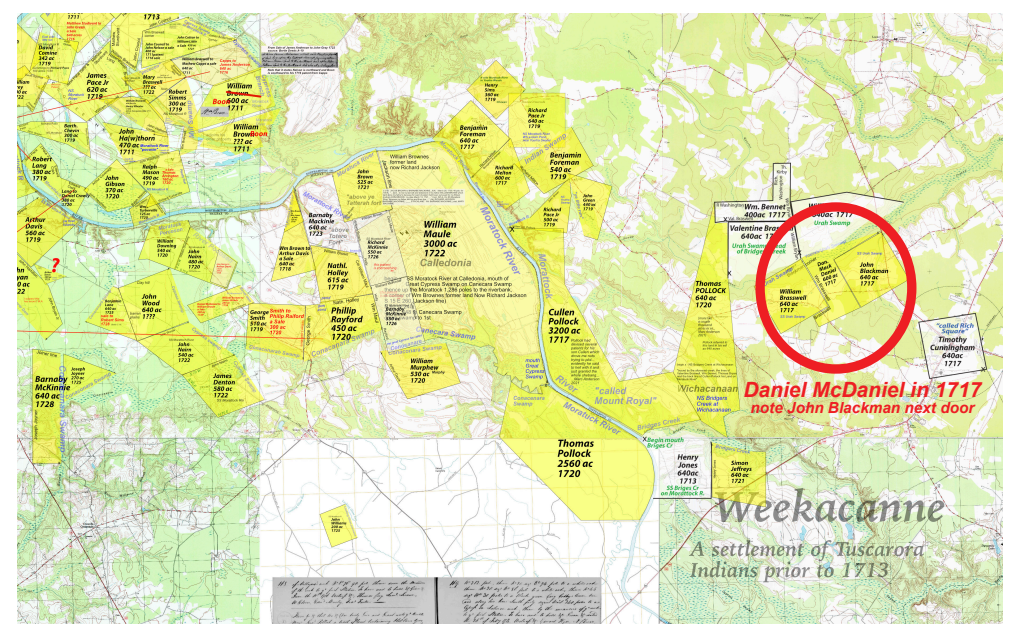
John Browne, father of Thomas Browne

I created this map 2019, or so... Marc Anderson

From a patent dated March 9, 1717



It is established that Daniel McDaniel is clearly aware of the community of Indian Traders located at Occonechee Neck. Moreover, this other property is in addition to His other patent of 1717 near the Chowan River at Meherrin Creek. This property at Yourah Swamp gives him close access to the Morattock (Roanoke) River. This is three Years before the notorious affair involving the death of Ebenezer Taylor. Indeed, I suspect this is perhaps when and where McDaniel got his start in the river transport business.

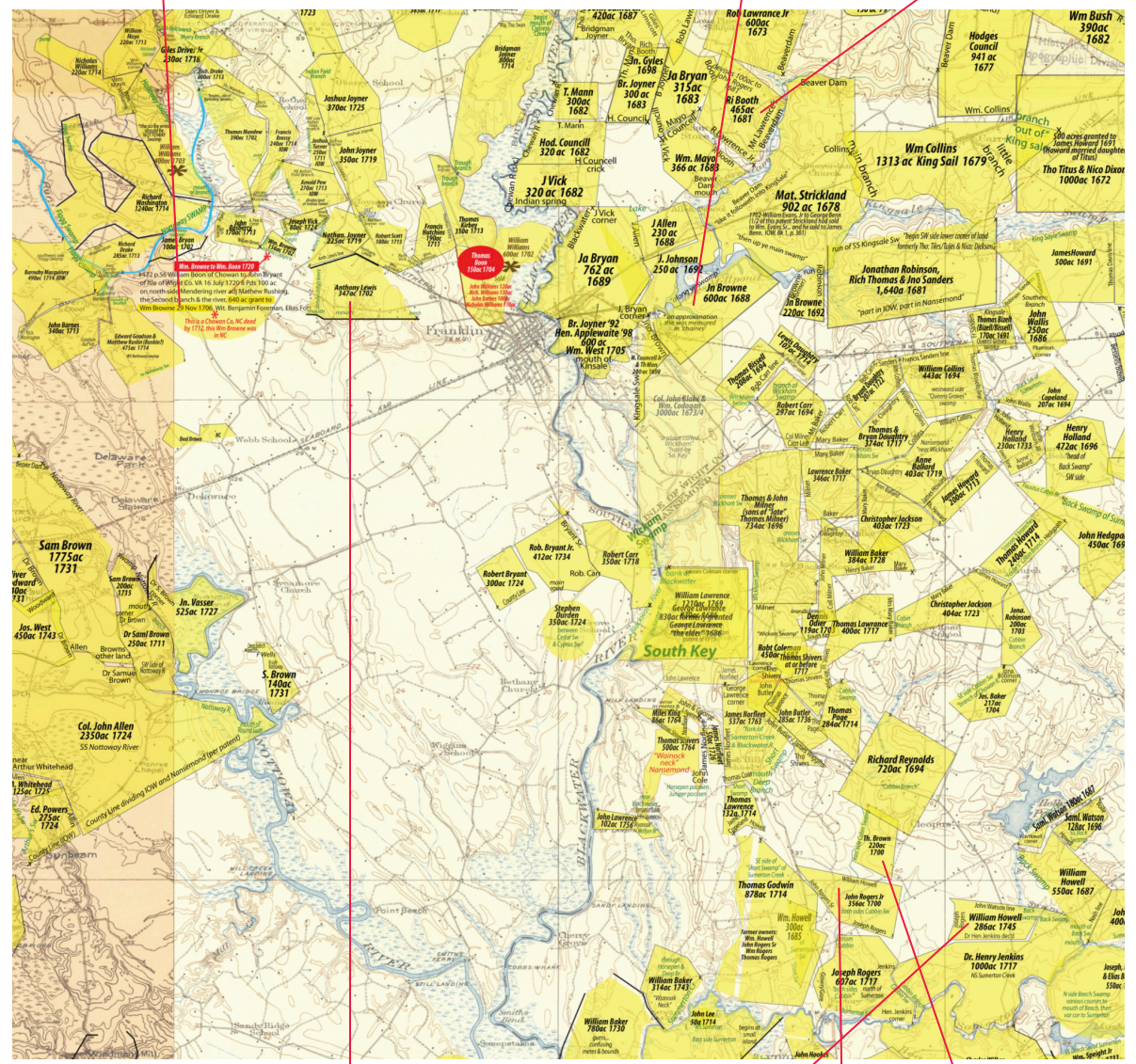


**Background reference map... ca 1700**

John Browne d 1713 (Indian Trader)  
Moved to Petty Shore on Chowan River

William Browne

Richard Booth



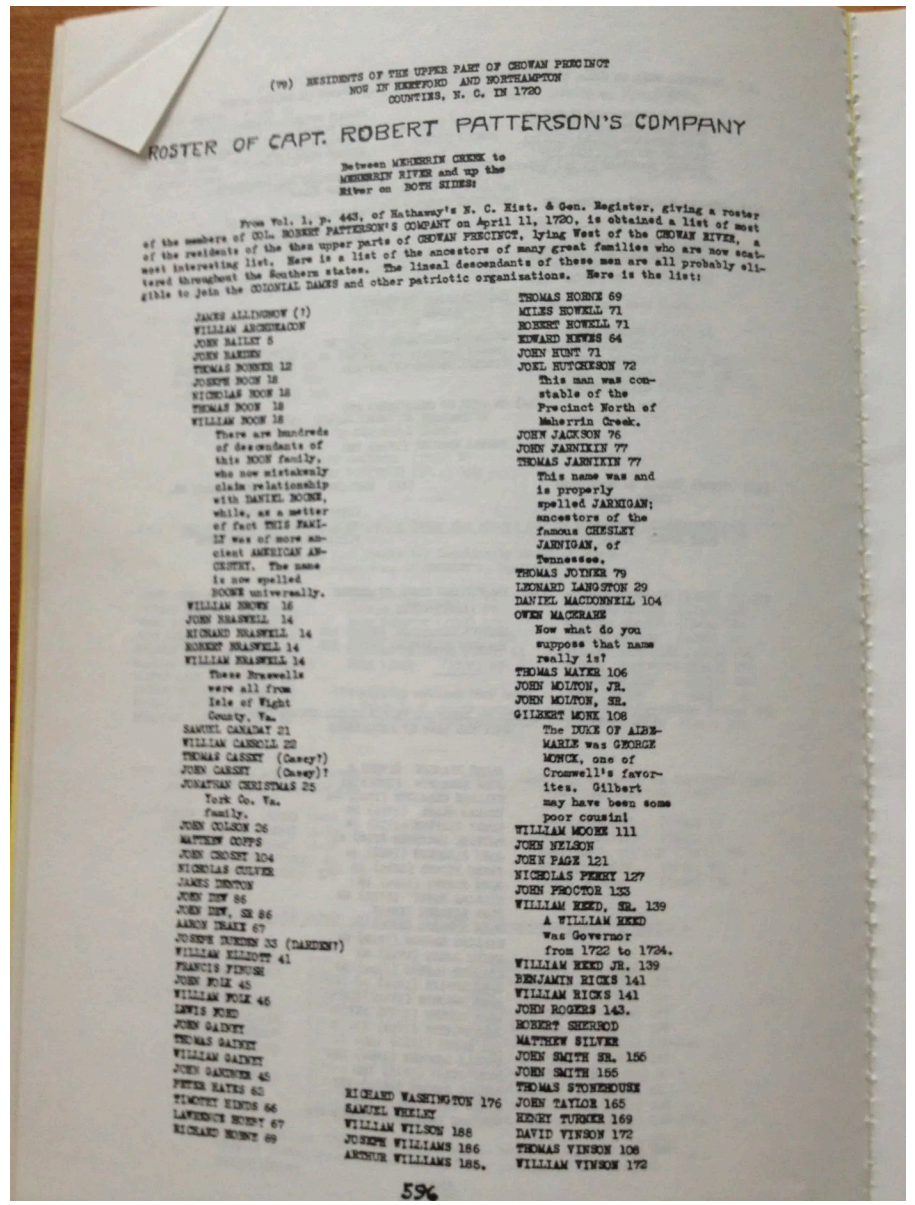
Anthony Lewis  
Son of Bridgett  
Lewis- step brother  
Of Thomas and  
William Browne

William Howell  
Father of wife of  
Thomas Browne  
(Christian Howell)

Thomas Browne  
Father in law of  
Daniel McDaniel  
Moved to NC  
By 1715

John Rogers

**This is the Patterson "roster" I mentioned earlier. This roster is From the book by Worth S. Ray named OLD ALBEMARLE AND ITS ABSENTEE LANDLORDS.**



I have found this very valuable in my research of the early Meherrin Creek and River area... these men were able-bodied, property owning (I think) men between the age of 16 and 60. As is noted, this is 1720, so while many men were "trading" for work around Occonechee Neck, I do not think the "planters" were moving there as quickly. Most Indian Traders also kept their families at a reasonable distance away from, shall we say, the "hustle" and "bustle". Which is why I was so confused by so many people having patents in both Meherrin River and Occonechee Neck (such as the Boons).

Were it not for the unfortunate death of Ebenezer Taylor in February, 1720 then I would not be writing this little tale. I will try to tell the story in as few words as possible.

#### The background of the case:

The North Carolina historical and genealogical register, Volume 2 edited by James Robert Bent Hathaway

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS. pg. 146

Rev. Ebenezer Taylor died on his way from Pampticoe to Core Sound, so says a letter written to Gov. Chas. Eden, Feb. 22, 1720, by Richard Rustull; he was in company with Daniel McDaniel & Son and a negro named Jack, the weather was extremely cold; he is buried on a Sand hill on the South west end of Cedar Island. He died in a canoe refusing to go on shore with the others; he had quite a large sum of money on his person, which after his death disappeared. McDaniel however showed that he delivered it and his other effects to other parties.

Also accused of nefarious activities is one Robert Atkins:

from the Colonial Records:

"Read the Petition of John Porter Gent Admr of the Estate of the Reverend Ebernezer Taylor Clerk deçed with the Will annexed shewing that the said Ebnezer Taylor being possessed of a very valuable Estate consisting of Goods and money of this Government to the value of divers hundreds of pounds and in the course of his mission Travelling by water from Bath Towne to Core sound he fell sick and Dyed and not without some suspition of foule practices of Daniel Mack Daniel and others who Transported him Upon whose death the said Daniel Mack Daniel being in possession of the Goods and Money belonging to the said Ebenezer Taylor confederating with one Robt Atkins (as is Supposed) embezelled or Stole most of the Money at least Two hundred and Ninty pound"

Here is my source for the death date of Ebenezer Taylor... the concern for me of this date was to be able to ascertain "where" Daniel McDaniel was... or as close as I could get.

In an article by Claiborne T. Smith in 1996, he says this :

"At the end of 1719 Urmston said that "brother Taylor" had changed his habitation a dozen times since arriving in North Carolina and such were his trials that he wished himself back in South Carolina. Nevertheless, the hardworking missionary soon came to an unfortunate end. On 25 Apr. 1720 Urmston reported to his superiors in London that in February "his fellow laborer" had died of exposure from being in an open boat for ten days going from Bath Town to Core Sound. The boatmen buried the deceased on Harbor Island at the mouth of the Neuse River and then rifled his chests. There was suspicion of foul play, and two of the men were tried and convicted of taking a large sum of money from a chest belonging to Taylor."

<https://www.ncpedia.org/biography/taylor-eben-ezer>

Here is a bit more to verify my date...

According to... Letter from John Urmston to David Humphreys  
Urmston, John  
October 23, 1717  
Volume 02, Pages 294-295

North Carolina Oct 23rd 1717

"...Mr. Taylor arrived here about a month ago but is not fixed not being able to find a House to put put his head in, There's no living here for a Clergyman except he will keep house: I believe he will return to South Carolina, he is as unfit a man as they could have chosen, neither was it fair to send him. I understand the Society ordered one of their Missionaries whose parish was abandoned by reason of the War with the Heathen: he is not able to ride five miles were it to gain the world, he is aged and very infirm I have acquainted him with my usage he insists on being chosen or inducted for Life, which no Parish here will comply with. "

So... Ebenezer Taylor arrived in NC about September, 1717. The first mention of his death I find is in the Minutes of the Governor's Council, April, 1720. A letter is extant dated April 23, 1719 written by Taylor... so he was still alive at that date.

The Governor haveing laid before this Board several Letters Depositions and papers relateing to Mr Ebenezar Taylor Deced concerning his Death and the disposal of his moneys and goods which they haveing duely Considered of are of opinion that foul practices have been used therein and Doe therefore desire and order that Mr Chief Justice Jones make a very strict enquirey into that matter that the Offenders may be brought to speady Justice

As I mentioned earlier, I want to know where McDaniel was living when Taylor died. And I have to admit I cannot figure it out. Note this about the land he acquired near Thomas Browne at Old Tree Swamp...

The North Carolina historical and genealogical register, Volume 1 edited by James Robert Bent Hathaway pg 299 John Milton, to Daniel McDaniel. 200 acres adjoining lands of John Crosby, and Thomas Vincent; July 17, 1717. Test, Robt. Hicks, William Braswell. Daniel McDaniel assigns above tract to Thomas Brown

He gave this to Thomas Browne.

*I can only guess that Sarah, his wife, stayed near her mother near the Chowan river in early 1720 when Taylor died. It seems McDaniel still had the 100 acres that Browne had given him, But Browne died 1718 so this was an unsettling time it seems. McDaniel still had the property at Urah Swamp near the Roanoke River but he gets rid of it later...*

A 379 DANIEL MACKDANIEL & WIFE SARAH to LAWRENCE HOBBY Nov. 10, 1724 14 pds. for 600 A. adj. WILLIAM BRASWELL on Yorworhah Swamp. Patent date March 9, 1717. Wit: JAMES BRYANT, THOMAS WILSON, W. MAUL Feb. Court 1724

*The speculation seems to be that McDaniel and Atkins were "on the run" after they were charged with the felony (not of his murder) but with taking his money. The Court proceedings that I have read all seem to concern the 294 pounds that Taylor had in one of his chests. I find it hilarious...*

*At a Councill held at Edenton April the fifth 1722*

*Collo Fredrick Jones having been Orderd to appear before this Board this day by Ten a clock upon the Petition of John Walker &c which he not complying with, nor sending any satisfactory message:*

*It's the Opinion of this Board that the money lodged in the said Collo ffredk Jones hands late Cheif Justice for the appearance of Robert Atkins and Daniel Mackdaniel at the Genl Court ought to have been deliverd to the present Cheif Justice with the Genl Court Papers & Records*

*Orderd that the said Collo ffredrick Jones late Cheif Justice doe immediately pay to Christopher Gale Cheif Justice or his Order whatever moneys he has in his hands lodged as aforesaid for the security of the appearance of the said Robert Atkins and Daniel Mackdaniel at the genl Court and for so doing this shall be his Warrant and in case of failure hereof the Attorney Genl is hereby Orderd to take proper measures for the recovery thereof*

*J. LOVICK Secry*

*To which Order Collo ffred Jones Answerd that he would not deliver the money therein mentiond but to whom he should think fitt and as for the Kings Attorney he might take what measures he pleases for he shall take noe Notice thereof*

*That could explain why McDaniel turned up on the jury roster in Carteret County In 1723 and not before or after.*

*This tidbit of info also turned up in the records...*

Minutes of the General Court of North Carolina

North Carolina. General Court

November 01, 1720 - November 03, 1720

Volume 02, Pages 408-416

page 415

*"Jams McDaniel being called to answer for feloniously taking some money belonging to Eben. Ezar Taylor & having broken out of the Custody of the Marshall faild to appear. Orderd yt he be taken into the Marshall's Custody and appear here the 3d day of the next Genll Court"*

*I have concluded that this is the son of Daniel McDaniel mentioned in the report by Richard Rusfull to Governor Eden in 1720. A son James is noted in his will of 1733.*

*"Rev. Ebenezer Taylor died on his way from Pampticoe to Core Sound, so says a letter written to Gov. Chas. Eden, Feb. 22, 1720, by Richard Rustull; he was in company with Daniel McDaniel & Son and a negro named Jack"*

*Also noted in that will was a bequest- a "man Jack" to son Elexander [Alexander].*

*dated April 16, 1733, proved 2 May 1734*

*of Bartie Precinct*

*Son Daniell – four heifers and 3 calves, 1000 pounds of pork*

*Son Archbell – Negro boy Seasur*

*Son Elexander – man Jack*

*son James – man Dick, plantation where I now live, a horse*

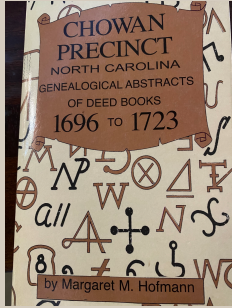
*-snip-*

An aside... the death date of John Browne the Indian Trader

Remember... Daniel McDaniel was the son in law of Thomas Browne, who was a son of this John Browne.

**DEED BOOK W #1, Chowan County, N. C.**

Source



I have researched John Browne (the Indian Trader) for years. I had "supposed" that he died 1713. That was a deduction from comparing all known people of the same name and same era... also simply because Hathaway noted a "John Browne dead 1713".

The "proof" however is obvious in this document dated July, 1713. His widow Bridgett Browne is warning anyone attempting to sue or otherwise come after her that they will be dealing with her son. Likewise, and good for her, she is declaring vice-versa. This was not a woman to mess with.

It is as plain as day. Only a "widow" could transact business on her own in a court. The nagging doubt I had about his death date is now removed... this is the "smoking gun".

#321 pg. 154 BRIDGETT BROWN of Chowan Prect. to ISAAC LEWIS of ye Co. of Albemarle, my well beloved Son 15 July 1713 Letter of Attorney to prosecute to Judgement any person I, the sd. BRIDGETT BROWN, shall at this time or from time to time bring action against and likewise to Defend any action brought against me Wit.: TREDDELL KEEFE, MARY LEWIS in her mark Reg. (not given)

#322 pg. 154

Several sons of Bridgett (Lewis) Browne had dealings with Daniel McDaniel. Anthony Lewis ventured to modern Southampton Virginia (Isle of Wight in colonial era). Anthony held property near William Browne, the brother of Thomas Browne, each sons of John Browne. A creek area was referred to as "Anthony's Delight" In the area north of Nottoway River and west of Blackwater River. I am left with the idea that the area was delightful...even if only to him.

All of this simply proves that they were "kinfolk".