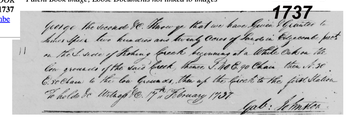
NC LAND GRANT IMAGES AND DATA

Edgecombe Co. File No. 11, James Spier
Issued 17 Feb 1737 for 220 acres "S. side of Fishing Creek"
Patent Book image; Loose Documents not linked to images

From *PATENT BOOK*
*Issued: **17 Feb 1737**
County: Edgecombe
Book: 3 pg: 370

James Spier 220 ac 1737



begin x SS Fishing Creek (on the low grounds)
S 40 E 90 Chain
N 50 E 50 to low grounds
...up Creek to 1st

Grok 3 ·

In colonial surveys, what is the difference between the measurements of poles and chains, and half chains

In colonial surveys, **poles, chains**, and **half chains** were units of length used for measuring land, particularly in systems like the English statute system or Gunter's chain system. Here's the difference:

- **Pole**: Also called a **perch** or **rod**, a pole is a linear unit equal to **16.5 feet** (5.0292 meters). It was commonly used for measuring distances or areas in land surveys. For reference, 1 pole is equivalent to **1/4 of a chain**.
- **Chain**: A **chain** (specifically Gunter's chain, widely used in colonial surveys) measures **66 feet** (20.1168 meters) and consists of **100 links** (each link being 7.92 inches). It was designed for land measurement, and 1 chain equals **4 poles**. The chain was practical for surveying because 10 square chains equal 1 acre, simplifying area calculations.
- **Half Chain**: As the name suggests, a **half chain** is half the length of a full chain, so **33 feet** (10.0584 meters). It equals **2 poles** or **50 links**. Surveyors might use half chains for smaller measurements or when subdividing land.

Key Relationships:

- 1 chain = 4 poles = 66 feet
- 1 half chain = 2 poles = 33 feet
- 1 pole = 16.5 feet = 1/4 chain

These units were critical in colonial land surveys, especially in the British colonies, for laying out property boundaries and calculating acreage. The chain and pole were often used together, with chains for longer distances and poles for shorter or more precise measurements.

X

Fishing Creek

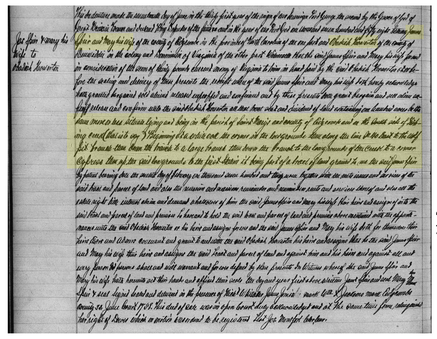
James Spier 220 ac 1737

NC LAND GRANT IMAGES AND DATA

Edgecombe Co. File No. 681, James Spier
Issued 17 Feb 1737 for 220 acres "On So side of Fishing Creek"
Patent Book image; Loose Documents not linked to images

From *PATENT BOOK*
*Issued: **17 Feb 1737**
County: Edgecombe
Book: 9 pg: 160

22 Oct 1772; Halifax County, North Carolina, USA . 270-(94) WILLIAM BIRD and RACHEL his wife of Edgecombe Co. to PETER BIRD Jr of same. 22 Oct 1772. 30 pounds proclamation money. 100 acres which had been patented by JOHN SPIER 17 Feb 1737, ***joining Short Swamp.*** WILLIAM BIRD(x), RACHEL BIRD(x). Wit: ISHAM PITMAN, MICAJAH RAWLS, PENNELOPE BIRD. May Ct 1774



James Spier to Obediah Howerton 100 acres 1758

begin x SS Fishing Creek
S 40 E ? to Wolf Pit Branch
down WPB to larger branch
then to Creek
then to 1st

"tract of land granted James Spier 7 Feb 1737"

is this 17th?

Familysearch, Film # 007547220, image 463
Deeds 1732-1934; index to deeds and mortgages 1732-1934
Deeds, v. 5-7 1741-1760
Citation

Note the similarities

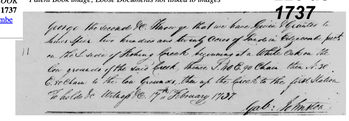
"S 40 E" the starting direction
"the low grounds"
"up Creek to 1st"

NC LAND GRANT IMAGES AND DATA

Edgecombe Co. File No. 11, James Spier
Issued 17 Feb 1737 for 220 acres "S. side of Fishing Creek"
Patent Book image; Loose Documents not linked to images

From *PATENT BOOK*
*Issued: **17 Feb 1737**
County: Edgecombe
Book: 3 pg: 370

James Spier 220 ac 1737

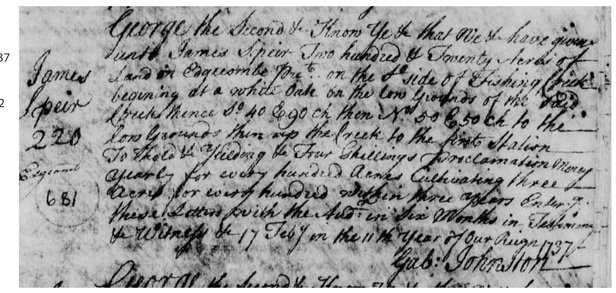


begin x SS Fishing Creek (on the low grounds)
S 40 E 90 Chain
N 50 E 50 to low grounds
...up Creek to 1st

Wolf Pit Branch study-
the area concerning Fishing Creek and White Oak Swamp, Edgecombe County

Edgecombe
*Issued: 17 Feb 1737
Book: 9 pg: 160
File no.: 681
MARS: 12.14.59.682
Spier, James
Fishing Creek

- Before county was formed in 1741



James Speir 220 ac Edgecombe , S side Fishing Creek
begin x low grounds of said creek
S 40 E 90 ch
N 50 E 50then up creek to 1st station
1737

This may have been surveyed in "chains" instead of usual "poles"

The same patent, re-written, same year... 1737

In June, 1758, James Speir sells 200 acres to two parties... between 1737 and 1758 it appears that a section of a stream or creek had been named "Wolf Pit Branch".

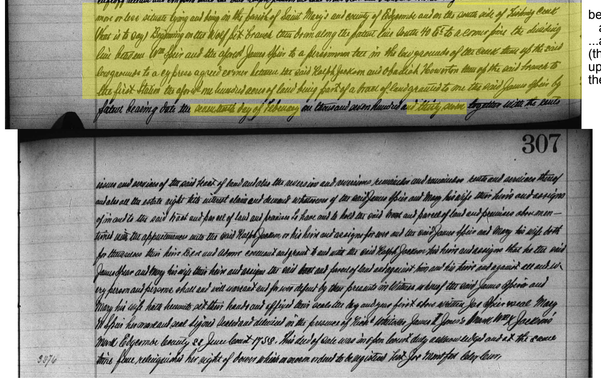
Edge. Co. (Halifax) Db 6, page 306, deed date 17 Jun 1758, recorded Jun Ct 1758, James Speir and Mary his wife, Edge. Co to Obediah Howerton, Dinwiddie Co, Va for 30 pds Va, a tract of 100 acres in St Marys Parish, Edge. Co on the south side of (Fishing Creek) beginning at a white oak the corner ***in the low grounds then along the line east to the Wolf Pit Branch then down the branch to a large branch then down the branch to the low grounds of the creek*** to a corner cypress then up the said low grounds to the first station, it being part of a tract granted the said James Speir dated (7 Feb 1737), signed James Speir, Mary Speir (M), wit Richd Whitaker, (James Jones)(mark), William Jackson (mark). Abstracted 5-13-06, NCA film C.047.40002, CTC.

Edge. Co. (Halifax) Db 6, page 306, deed date 17 Jun 1758, recorded Jun Ct 1758, James Speir and Mary, his wife, Edge. Co to Ralph Jackson, Dinwiddie Co, VA, for 60 pds VA, a tract of 100 acres in St Marys Parish ***on the south side of Fishing Creek beginning on the Wolf Pit Branch then down along the patent line south 40 east to a corner pine the dividing in between William Speir and the said James Speir*** to a persimmon tree in the low ground of the creek then up the said low ground to a cypress between the said Ralph Jackson and Obediah Howerton then up the said branch to the first station, being part of a tract granted to the said James Speir by patent dated (17 Feb 1739), signed Jas Speir, Mary Speir (mark), wit Richd Whitaker, James Jones (I), Wm Jackson (mark). Mary released her dower right. Abstracted 5-13-06, NCA film C.047.40002, CTC.

The above named "Wolf Pit Branch" appears to be different than the below of the same name. These properties are not that far apart.

Edge. Co. Db 9, page 204, deed date 8 Feb 1799, recorded May Ct 1799, Allen Knight, Edge. Co to John C. Knight, county aforesaid for 100 pounds, a tract of land on the south side of Fishing Creek containing 100 acres beginning at a cypress standing in Griffins Swamp then south 20 west 196 poles to a red oak Absalom Benton's corner then along said Benton's line south 70 east 102 poles ***to a pine standing in the Wolf Pitt Branch also in John C. Knight's own line*** then north 20 east 160 poles to a cypress standing in said Griffins Swamp then up the various courses of said swamp to the first station, signed Allen Knight, wit Fredk Philips, K. Knight. Abstracted 10-2-04, NCA film C.037.40009, CTC.

Edge. Co. Db 9, page 211, deed date 27 May 1799, recorded May Ct 1799, John Carter Knight, Edge. Co to Absalom Benton, county aforesaid for 100 pounds, a tract of land on the south side of Fishing Creek containing 100 acres beginning at a cypress standing in Griffins Swamp then (south 20 west) 196 poles to a red oak Absalom Benton's corner then along said Benton's line south 70 east ***102 poles to a pine standing in the Wolf Pit Branch in my own line*** then north 20 east 160 poles to a cypress standing in said Griffins Swamp then up the various courses of said swamp to the first station, signed John C. Knight, wit R. Knight, Jas. Whitaker, (Mills Cross), proved by Kindred Knight. Abstracted 10-2-04, NCA film C.037.40009, CTC.



James Spier to Ralph Jackson 100 acres 1758

100 acres

begin x SS Fishing Creek
at Wolf Pit Branch
along patent line S 40 E...
(the dividing line between Wm Spier & James Spier)
up to an agreed corner between Ralph Jackson & Obediah Howerton
then up said branch (Wolf Pit) to 1st

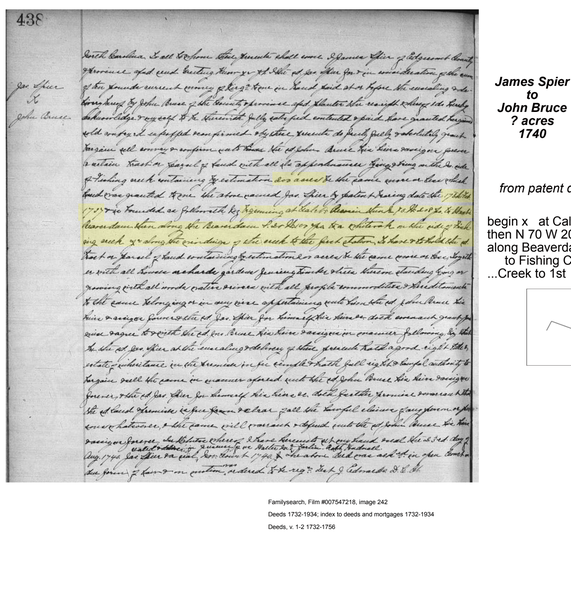
X

Fishing Creek

James Spier to Obediah Howerton 100 acres 1758

James Spier Wolf Pit Branch 220 ac 1737

James Spier to Ralph Jackson 100 acres 1758



James Spier to John Bruce ? acres 1740

from patent dated Feb, 17 1737

begin x at Calebs Pocosin?
then N 70 W 208 to __ Beaverdam
along Beaverdam S 28? W 100
to Fishing Creek
...Creek to 1st

Familysearch, Film #007547218, image 242
Deeds 1732-1934; index to deeds and mortgages 1732-1934
Deeds, v. 1-2 1732-1756

X

Fishing Creek

James Spier to John Bruce ? acres 1740

James Spier 220 ac 1737

James Spier to Caleb Coker 100 ac 1740

This is incorrect patent

James Spier to Caleb Coker 100 ac 1740

This patent for 225 acres appears to be missing...

"part of Patent ...225 acres...James Spiers... dated 17, feb 1737"

begin x low ground Fishing Creek
S 40 W ...? along Spier line
then along sd line? N 60 W ?
then along agreed line to [tree]
then Fishing Creek (low grounds) to 1st

Familysearch, Film #007547218, image 192
Deeds 1732-1934; index to deeds and mortgages 1732-1934
Deeds, v. 1-2 1732-1756