

Newport Parish

January the 29, 1727/8

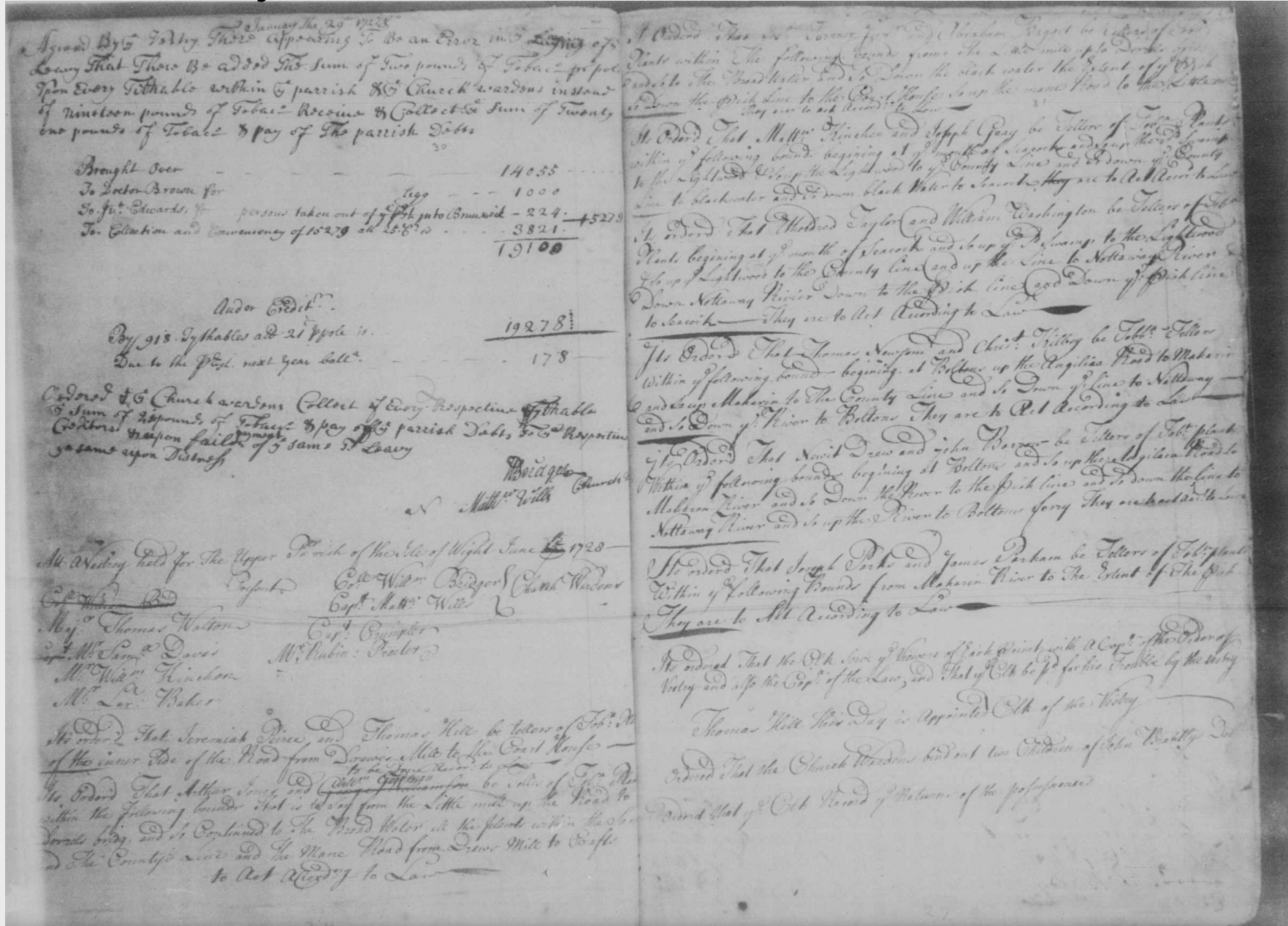


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Vestry book, 1723-1772 [Isle of Wight County, Virginia]

In 1734, the parish was divided by the Blackwater River:

- **Lower Parish (Newport Parish):** East of the Blackwater River (the "lower" or coastal/Tidewater side, closer to the James River and urban centers like Jamestown).
- **Upper Parish (Nottoway Parish):** West of the Blackwater River (the "upper" or inland/frontier side, extending toward Southampton County, formed 1749 from this area).

"Ordered That the Church Wardens bind out the Orphans of John Brantley Dec'd"

John Brantley, son of Philip Brantley (d.1727)

This John who died around 1727/8 is not Edward Sr.'s third son John (b. bef. 1650, d. abt. 1731), nor is he John Jr. (b. abt. 1685, grandson via that third son). Instead, logical correlation with timelines, parish records, and family migrations points to this being John Brantley, a son of Philip Brantley (second son of Edward Sr., b. abt. 1651, d. 1727) and his wife Joyce Lewis (d. 1727).

Reasoning for Identification

Timeline Alignment: Philip Brantley and Joyce Lewis both died in 1727 in Isle of Wight County (Newport Parish), as noted in the same vestry book (e.g., entries around that period mention their deaths and estate matters). Their son John, likely born in the late 1680s or early 1690s (based on Philip's marriage abt. 1680 and known children from deeds and wills), would have been an adult with young children by 1727/8. His death shortly after his parents' fits the pattern of a family cluster of losses, leaving minor orphans to be bound out by the church wardens—a common colonial practice for destitute or unsupported children.

Family Context and Orphans: Philip Brantley (named in Edward Sr.'s 1688 will as inheriting 200 acres, with 100 acres to his eldest son Edward) had at least five children by 1692, per secondary genealogical reconstructions from deeds (e.g., Philip's 1716 sale of land near Blackwater Swamp). While his eldest son Edward is explicitly named in the grandfather's will, other sons like John are inferred from later records, including this vestry entry. The two orphans (names not specified in the record) would be John's children, too young to support themselves, aligning with a father in his 30s-40s dying unexpectedly.

Geographic and Parish Fit: Newport Parish encompassed the Upper Parish area where the Brantleys held land (e.g., along Blackwater Swamp and Akin Swamp, per Edward Sr.'s will). By the 1720s, the family had expanded into what became Southampton County (formed 1749 from Isle of Wight), but vestry duties like orphan binding remained under Isle of Wight jurisdiction. This John's placement in Newport Parish matches Philip's known residence.

Exclusion of Other Johns:

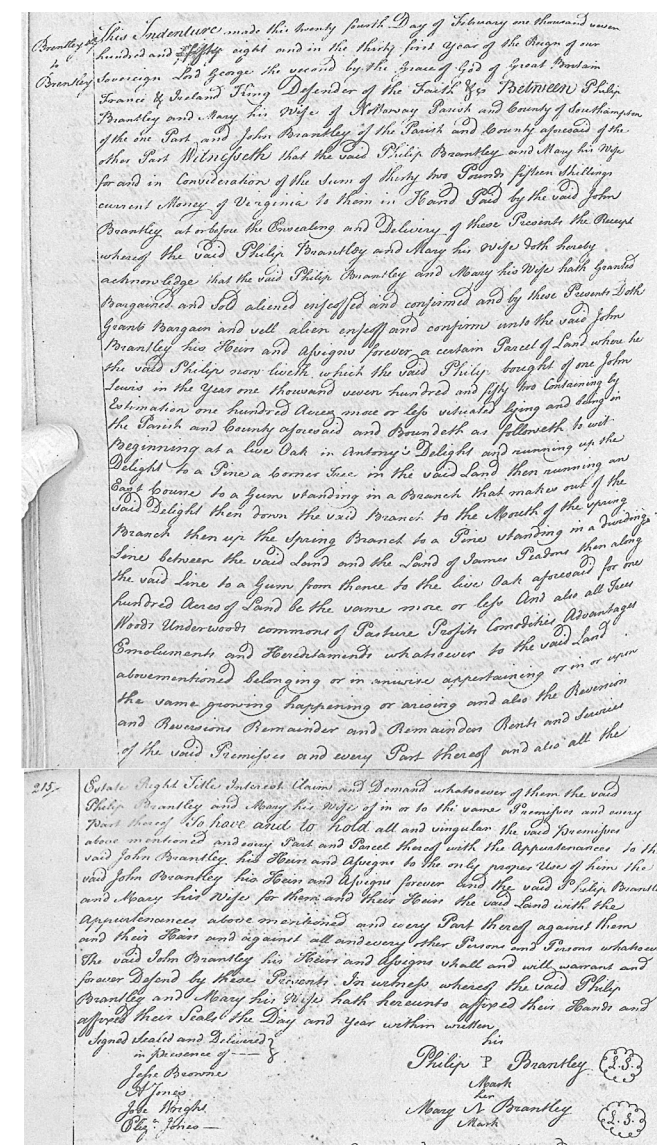
Edward Sr.'s third son John (d. abt. 1731) survived longer, as implied by his absence from 1727/8 death records and potential involvement in later deeds (e.g., boundary references in 1733).

John Jr. (b. abt. 1685, son of the third son) lived into the mid-1700s, migrating southward (e.g., to North Carolina by the 1740s), and had no documented orphans bound out in 1728.

Later Johns (e.g., grandsons born post-1700) are too young to have died leaving orphans in 1728.

This identification is supported by cross-referenced vestry abstracts and Brantley family studies, though colonial record gaps (e.g., no explicit will for this John) introduce some uncertainty.

This deed, 30 years later, shows that the son of Philip (died 1727) also had a son John.



Philip Brantley
to John Brantley
100 ac
1752

Mary, wife of Philip

...Philip bought of John Lewis 1752... 100 acres begin x Anthony's Delight up Branch to corner then East to Branch "that makes out of the said Delight" down branch to mouth of "Spring Branch" up Spring Branch to "dividing line between the said land and James Peardon" [Readers from earlier deed] then to 1st