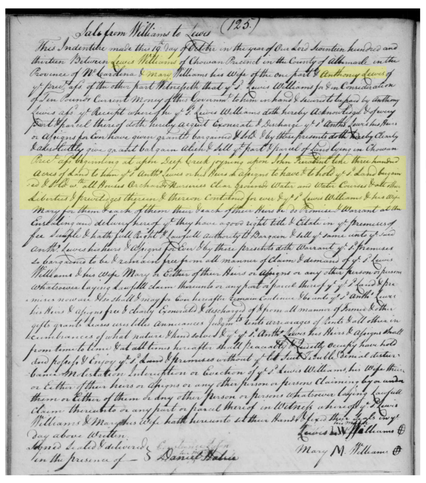
Towards an understanding of this patent...

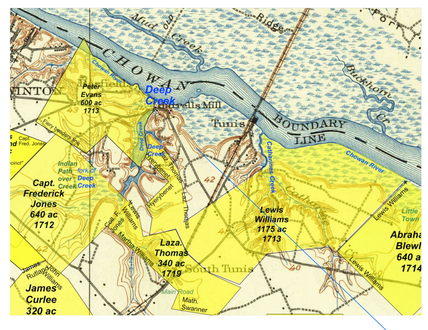
I had failed to find a patent for what appears to be about 600 acres by Lewis Williams prior to 1713... but by his death in about 1716 he has sold 300 acres and willed the rest to his son Anthony

Chowan DB W #1, pg 125... Hofmann abstract

#264 pg. 125 LEWIS WILLIAMS of Chowan Prect. and MARY WILLIAMS his wife to ANTHONY LEWIS of ye Prect. aforesd. 19 Oct. 1713 10 ₶ current money of this government 300 acres upon Deep Creek, joining JOHN FIERABENT all houses, orchards etc. Wit.: DANIEL HALSIE Reg. (not given)



Lewis Williams *wife Mary* ***to Anthony Lewis 300 acres 1713***



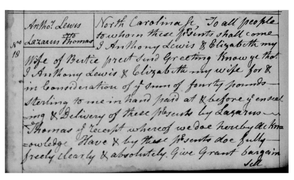
begin x upon Deep Creek at John Fierabent line...300 acres

Not described as part of 1175 acre patent of 1713?

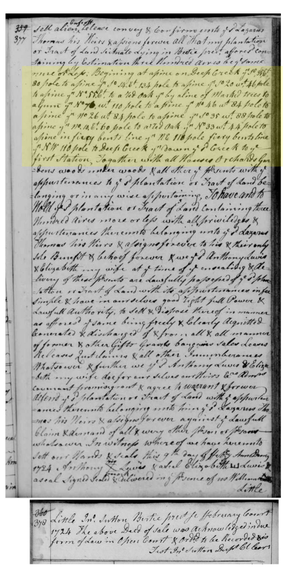
I have found no patent for a John Fierabent on Deep Creek or otherwise...nor have Itraced what happened to the land

It confused me greatly that Anthony Lewis is not Anthony Williams... two different men! The words just "jumbled" in my head. I get perplexed like that much to my consternation... for no good reason.

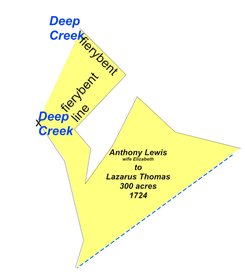
A,376 ANTHONY LEWIS & WIFE ELIZABETH TO LAZARUS THOMAS
February 9, 1724. 40 lbs. for 300 A. on Deep Creek. Adj. Fierybent. Wit: William Little, John Sutton. February Court 1724. John Sutton D.C/C.



Anthony Lewis *wife Elizabeth* ***to Lazarus Thomas 300 acres 1724***

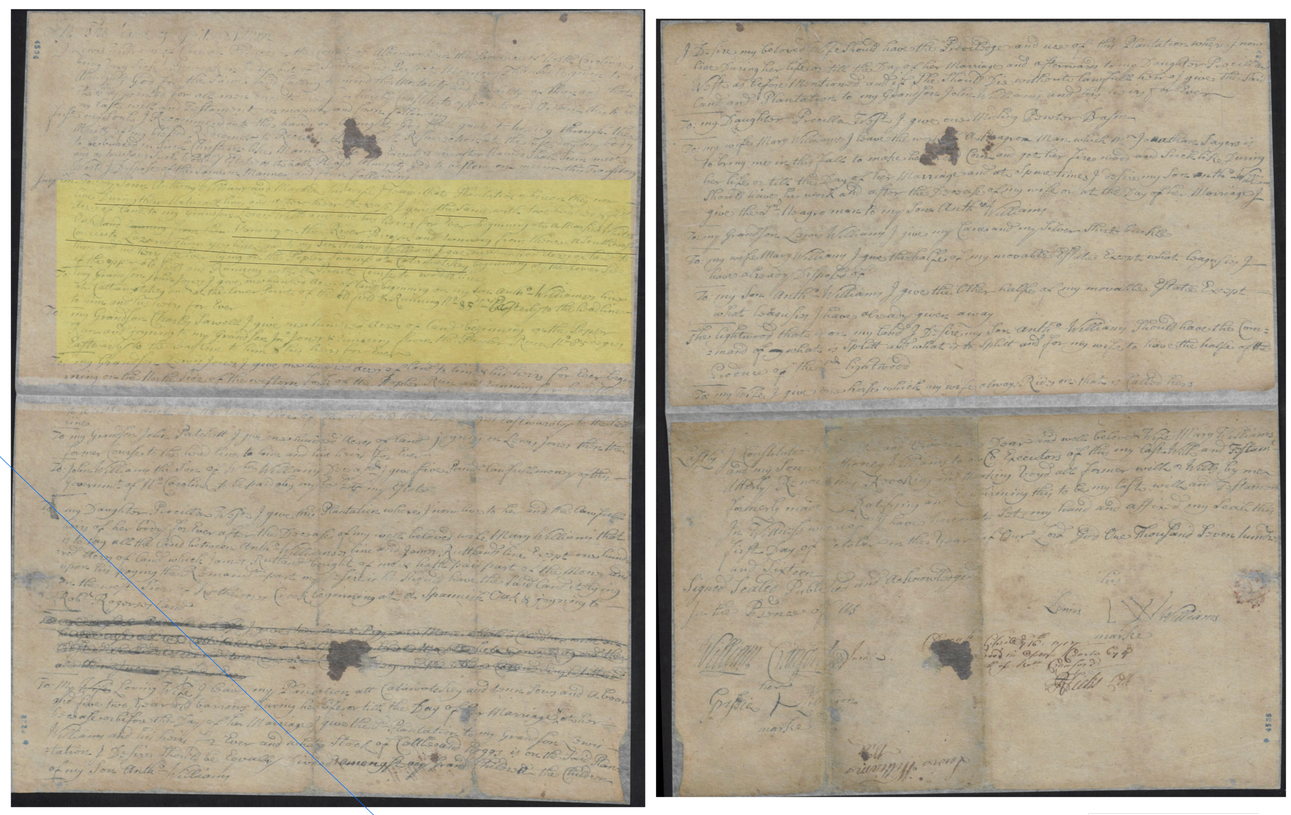


begin x on Deep Creek
S 35 E 80
S 14 E 134
S 20 W 46
N 55 E [?distance]
N 76 W 110
N 46 W 84
N 26 W 84
S 35 W 88
N 10 E 60
N 33 W 44 to fierybent line
NE 118 fierybent line
NW 110 to Deep Creek
...Creek to 1st



I have found several deeds between Lazarus and Lewis folks... What was the connection?

Deeds 1722-1857; general index 1722-1924
Deeds v. A 1722-1725



Impremis *...gives that plantation where they now live*

"To my sonn Anthony Williams and Martha his wife (during their natural lives)
...after their decease to my grandson Lewis Williams and his heirs forever...
...at a marked white oak (on the River) ...SW course to Lazarus Thomas' line"

Grimes

WILLIAMS, LEWIS. Chowan County.
October 1, 1716. April 16, 1717. *Son:* ANTHONY. *Grandsons:* LEWIS WILLIAMS (land on Poplar Swamp), JOHN JONES, CHARLES SAWELL, JOSHUA PATCHETT. *Daughter:* PRISCILLA WEST (land on Katherine's Creek). *Wife and Executrix:* MARY (land at Catawatsky). *Witnesses:* WILLIAM CRANFORD, GRISSIE LITTLESON. *Clerk of the Court:* R. HICKS.

wife Mary was the widow of Lewis Sr

Martha was the wife of his son Anthony. Anthony would die soon after his father. Which explains this patent...

Martha the widow would soon remarry to William Curlee.

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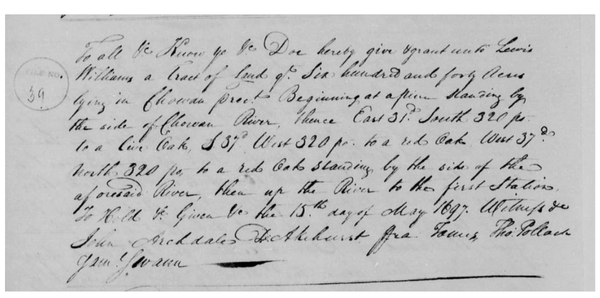
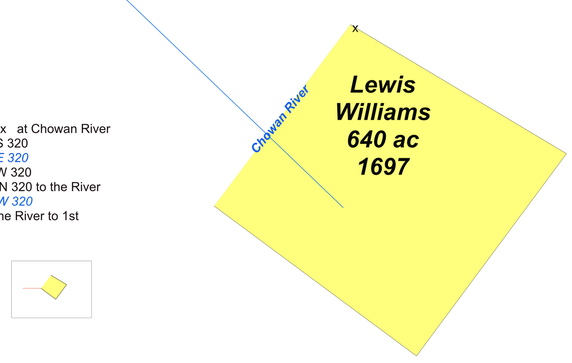
Index | Query | BOOKS | Images
Book number: 1 Page number: 84 Go To Prev Page Next Page
Showing Book 1 Pages 84-85

Lewis Williams 640 ac 1697



begin x at Chowan River
E 31 S 320
S 59 E 320
S 37 W 320
W 37 N 320 to the River
N 53 W 320
...up the River to 1st



This appears to be the missing patent...this is the land that pissed off the Indegenes who lived at Deep Creek

Lewis Williams' Estate (Chowan Precinct, Albemarle County, North Carolina)

Lewis Williams (born circa 1645–1655 in Virginia; died 1717 in Chowan) wrote his will on 1 October 1716.

It was proved in court on 16 April 1717.

Key bequest (direct quote from the abstract):

"To Son **Anthony Williams and Martha his wife**, the plantation they live on and at their demise to Grandson Lewis Williams…"

Lewis's widow and executrix was Mary (often identified as Mary Walburton/Walburton). She is separately named in records (e.g., she confirmed a deed to James Rutland on 18 March 1717 as "relict of Lewis Williams").

Lewis also named other grandchildren and heirs, confirming Anthony as one of his living sons.

The Subsequent 550-Acre Patent to Martha Williams (1717)

Colonial land-grant indexes (North Carolina Land Grants) explicitly list:

"Matha [Martha] Williams, Chowan, 550 acres, 1717" (one of the earliest recorded grants in the precinct after Lewis's death).

The land was on **Holly Branch** (or a branch of the Chowan River area), typical of grants issued in the same vicinity as Lewis's earlier 640-acre patent (1697) and other family holdings.

This patent was issued **later in 1717**, after Lewis's death in April but while his son Anthony was still alive (Anthony's will is dated 3 December 1717).

Martha received it in her own name as a colonial headright-style or purchase grant — common practice for married women or family members improving land in the Albemarle region. It was not part of Lewis's estate distribution; it was a new crown/provincial patent.

Anthony Williams' Death and Martha Becoming His Widow

Anthony Williams (son of Lewis, born ~1675 in Virginia) married **Martha Bush** (daughter of William Bush of Chowan) around 1693–1700.

Anthony wrote his own will on **3 December 1717** (proved April Court 1718 in Chowan).

He names **wife Martha** as executrix, leaves her dower/property rights, and names their children (sons Lewis, Anthony, John, William; daughters Sarah, Mary, Elinor).

Anthony died between December 1717 and April 1718 — **within months of the 550-acre patent being granted to Martha.**

Martha therefore became **Anthony's widow** very shortly after the patent was issued. She later remarried (to William Curlee/Corley), and deeds continue to refer to her as "Martha Curlee, formerly widow of Anthony Williams" and note her connection to Lewis Williams as father-in-law.

same land

How the 550-Acre Patent Became the Basis for John Williams' 1723 Patent

By 1723 the original 1717 patent had lapsed because the land had not been seated and planted as required by law. This was a common occurrence in early North Carolina, where many grants reverted to the crown/province for re-granting.

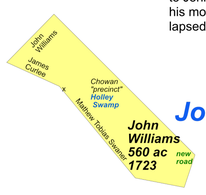
Date of petition and order: 3 August 1723 (Governor's Council proceedings held at Edenton, Chowan Precinct).

Petitioner: John Williams (son of Anthony and Martha Williams; grandson of Lewis Williams).

Exact council record (Colonial Records of North Carolina, Vol. 2, p. 494):

"Read the petition of John Williams shewing that Martha Williams obtained a patent in ye year 1717 for 560 Acres of Land which is not seated and planted as the Law directs praying to have a Lapse for the same. Ordered that a patent Issue according to the Pray r of the Pet r."

Outcome: The council approved a lapse patent (a re-grant of the forfeited land) directly to John Williams. This new patent covered **the same 550-acre** tract originally patented to his mother Martha in 1717. It was not a new piece of land but a formal re-issuance of her lapsed grant to the next family claimant (her son).



John Williams was her son

I cannot explain the different Metes and Bounds of the two patents...

William Curlee (also spelled Curley, Corlee, or Curly) married Martha (née Bush) Williams, the widow of Anthony Williams (son of Lewis Williams), sometime after Anthony's death in late 1717/early 1718.

He is the same man referenced in the Chowan/Bertie land records connected to the 550-acre patent and its 1723 lapse to John Williams.

Key Events in His Life (Chowan/Bertie Area, 1718–1745)

Marriage and early activity: By the early 1720s he and Martha were living in the Chowan/Bertie Precinct area. He patented land there as early as 1720 (one record notes a 300-acre patent).

Land deeds with Martha (1724–1733): Several documented Bertie County deeds show the couple actively buying and selling land, often on Ahoskie Swamp or nearby branches:2 May 1724: William Curlee & wife Martha sold 400 acres on the south side of Ahoskie Swamp to Thomas Bird.

11 November 1724: William Carlee (Curlee) sold 100 acres on Ahoskie Swamp (where he then lived) to Richard Willyford.

12 May 1725: John Bryan sold William Curlee 634 acres on the east side of Canaan Swamp.

Additional deeds through at least 1733 involve the couple (some referencing the Williams family land from Lewis's will that Martha had inherited rights to).

Martha disappears from records: After 1733, Martha no longer appears in any deeds or court records. Researchers conclude she had likely died by then (no estate papers survive for her either).

William's later activity (1738 onward): He continued in the area and received a gift deed in 1738 (Bertie County Deed Book E, p. 292) from John Barfield and wife Elizabeth of 140 acres "out of the pure love and free good will that we bear unto William Curlee." By this time some records place him in adjacent precincts (Craven or Johnston).

What Happened to Him: Death by 1745

William Curlee died before 20 April 1745. A Bertie County court record from that date (in a petition by Will Ormond) explicitly refers to him as "William Curley (now deceased)" in connection with his earlier 300-acre patent. This is the clearest primary-source evidence of his death.No will has been found.

No estate or administration papers survive in the North Carolina State Archives (Raleigh) for William or Martha Curlee of Bertie/Chowan.

These deeds involve the area I am discussing... I have not disected them but suspect that they just merged over time...
The decendants perhaps just sold them off piecemeal and willy nilly...

Bertie County, NC

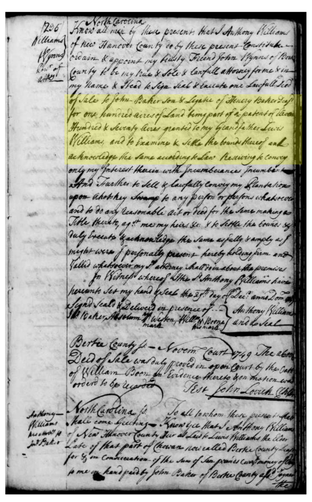
Deeds 1722-1857; general index 1722-1924

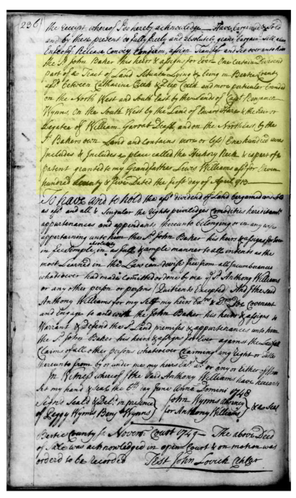
Deeds v. G 1744-1753

G 235 ANTHONY WILLIAMS of New Hanover Co. TO JOHN WYNNS
Dec. 29, 1747. Power of atty. 1170 A. Power to "sign deed to JOHN BAKER son & Legatie of HENRY BAKER Dec'd... Land granted to my Grandfather LEWIS WILLIAMS....." On Ahotskey Swamp. Wit: JOHN BAKER, ABSOLOM WESTON, WILLIAM BOONE. November Court 1749. JOHN LOVICK C/C.

G 235 ANTHONY WILLIAMS of New Hanover Co. TO JOHN BAKER, joyner
"...10 pds. for 100 A. "...ANTHONY WILLIAMS Heir at Law to LEWIS WILLIAMS the Elder Late of that part of Chowan now called Bertie County Dec'd....." Land between Catherine Creek and Deep Creek adj. CAPT. BENJAMIN WYNNS, EDWARD HARE "the heir or Legatee of WILLIAM GARRAT Dec'd...." Land to Include a place called Hickry Neck patented to LEWIS WILLIAMS April 1, 1713. Signed: JOHN WILLIAMS atty. for ANTHONY WILLIAMS. Wit: PEGGY WYNNS, BENJAMIN WYNNS. November Court 1749. JOHN LOVICK C/C.

G 237 JONATHAN MELTON of Onslow Co. TO JOHN HARRILL, JUN.





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