

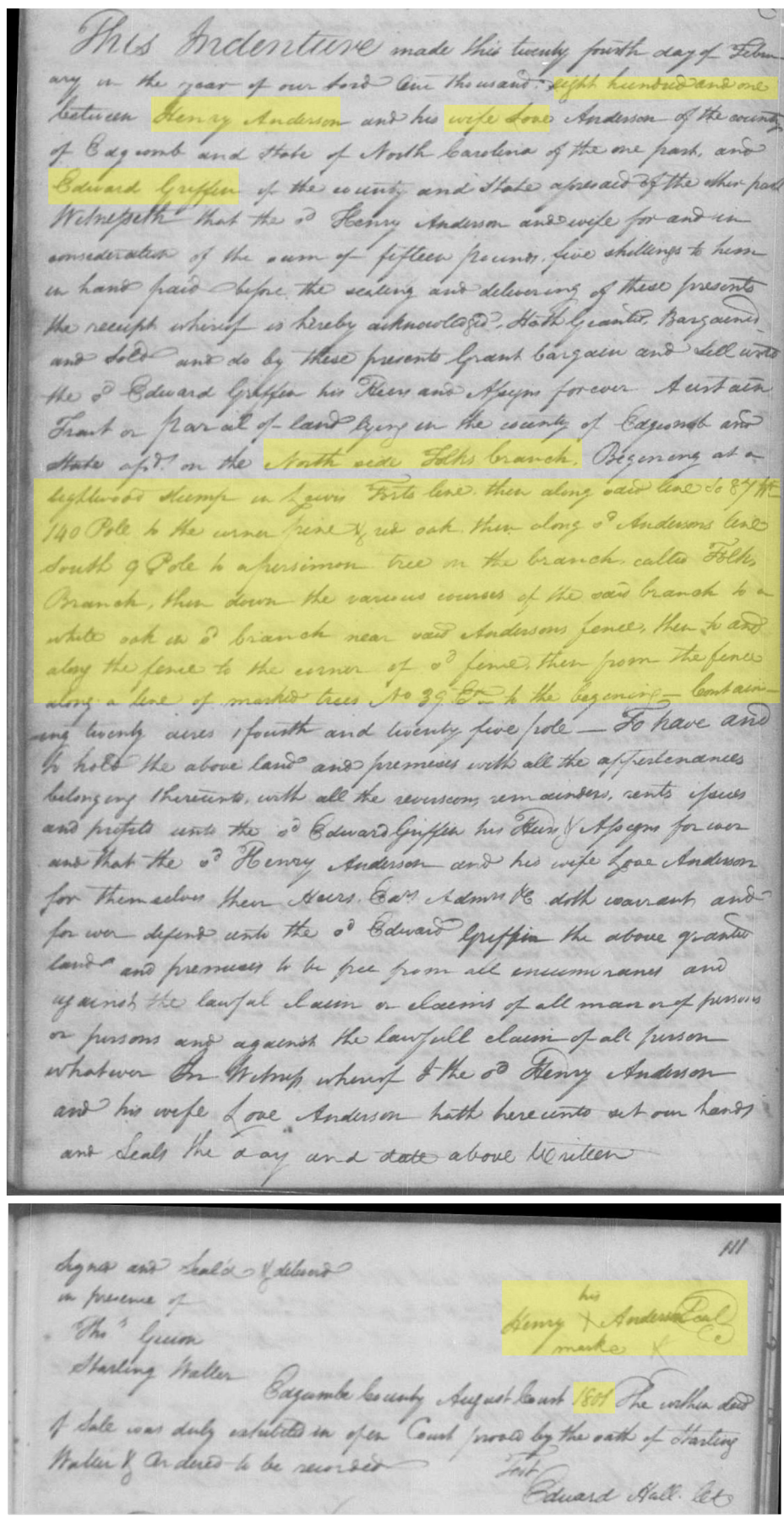
per David

1. Rachel (Anderson), daughter of "1789 William" Anderson. Born no later than about 1769, left "almost destitute" by her father's will. This is the central figure — first shows up as a landowner in 1819; on 1 May 1820 she deeded 20½ acres on the north side of Folks/Falks Branch to her daughter Elizabeth Anderson (DB 17/265, witnesses Joseph Armstrong and Francis L. Armstrong; she signed with her mark, so illiterate). Her land adjoined Henry Anderson, Henry Austin, James S. Battle, George Anderson, and Josiah Worrell through 1826, then George Anderson, James S. Battle, Henry Austin, and Burrell Hill. The name "Rachel Anderson" stops appearing in the records after 1826. David suspects an unrecognized relationship (common-law or otherwise) with a man named Ned Griffin, possibly not white, whose one tract of land — originally sold to him by Henry Anderson (wife Lovey) — ended up in Rachel's hands and then passed to daughter Elizabeth. Three grandchildren are named: Bennett, Carolus, and Geraldus (Geraldus later traced to Davie County, consistently recorded white).

2. Rachel Griffin / Griffiths, an adjoining landowner on the north side of Falks Branch through at least 1832. The whole "Rachels & land" thread is you three arguing over whether she's the same woman as #1 — i.e., Rachel Anderson became known as "Griffin" around 1826 for some unrecorded reason — or a genuinely separate person, possibly a widow or abandoned wife sitting on unrecorded dower land. The 1830 Edgecombe census shows only one Rachel head-of-household: "Rachel Griffin, white, age 60–69" (b. c. 1761–70), which fits either theory.

3. Rachel Jones, who married James Griffin (son of Zachariah Griffin) on 29 May 1825 — the Edgecombe marriage bond itself names the bride "Rachel Anderson," though David separately describes her as "Rachel Jones," James's second wife after Abna Brake. She inherited a share of the Allen Jones land through this marriage. Because the marriage didn't happen until 1825, Traci uses her to argue there must be at least three separate Rachels: this one is explicitly not the same woman who appears (alongside a separate "Rachel Griffin/Griffis") as a buyer at the Mary Price estate sale in 1822 — two Rachels present at once, neither of whom could yet be Mrs. James Griffin.

4. An unidentified Rachel from the 1800 or 1810 Edgecombe census — David recalled Traci having found two Rachels in one of those census years, one of them not white. This one was never resolved or tied conclusively to any of the above; it's an open thread. (Traci did briefly float the idea that Rachel Anderson herself might have been mixed-race, but David discarded that theory since Elizabeth and her known relatives are consistently recorded as white.)



Henry Anderson to Edward Griffin 20.25 acres 1801

begin x NS Folk's Branch in Lewis Forts line S 87 W 140 S 9 pole along sd Anderson line to Folk's Branch ...down sd Branch to sd Andersons fence then along sd fence to a corner N 39 E to 1st

per Traci

The first time I see Rachel Anderson as a landowner is 1819. In the deeds 1819-1826, the landowners adjoining her are Henry Anderson, Henry Austin, James S. Battle, George Anderson, Josiah Worrell (& then the string of owners after he loses it - Hadley/ Austin to David Barnes to Zachariah Griffin to Allen Jones to Elizabeth Anderson in 1828), & of course Falks Branch.

The land she sells to daughter Elizabeth in 1820 adjoins James S. Battle & Falks Branch.

In 1826 her land adjoins George Anderson, James S. Battle, Henry Austin, & Burrell Hill (& we still don't understand how he is here). No mention of Falks Branch

In 1859, Louisa Griffin's dower was allotted, described as adjoining Orren Bulluck & Cox.

In 1862, Elizabeth sells to William Summerlin land on the north side of Falks Branch beginning at William Griffins corner in William R. Cox's line & going south to Falks Branch, down the run of the branch, then northwest/northeast/northeast/northeast to W.R. Cox's line & to the beginning.

The 1869 description of the land of William Griffin does not mention Falks Branch, only adjoining landowners, & says it adjoins Elizabeth Anderson, W.R. Cox & wife, & the heirs of Orren Bulluck.

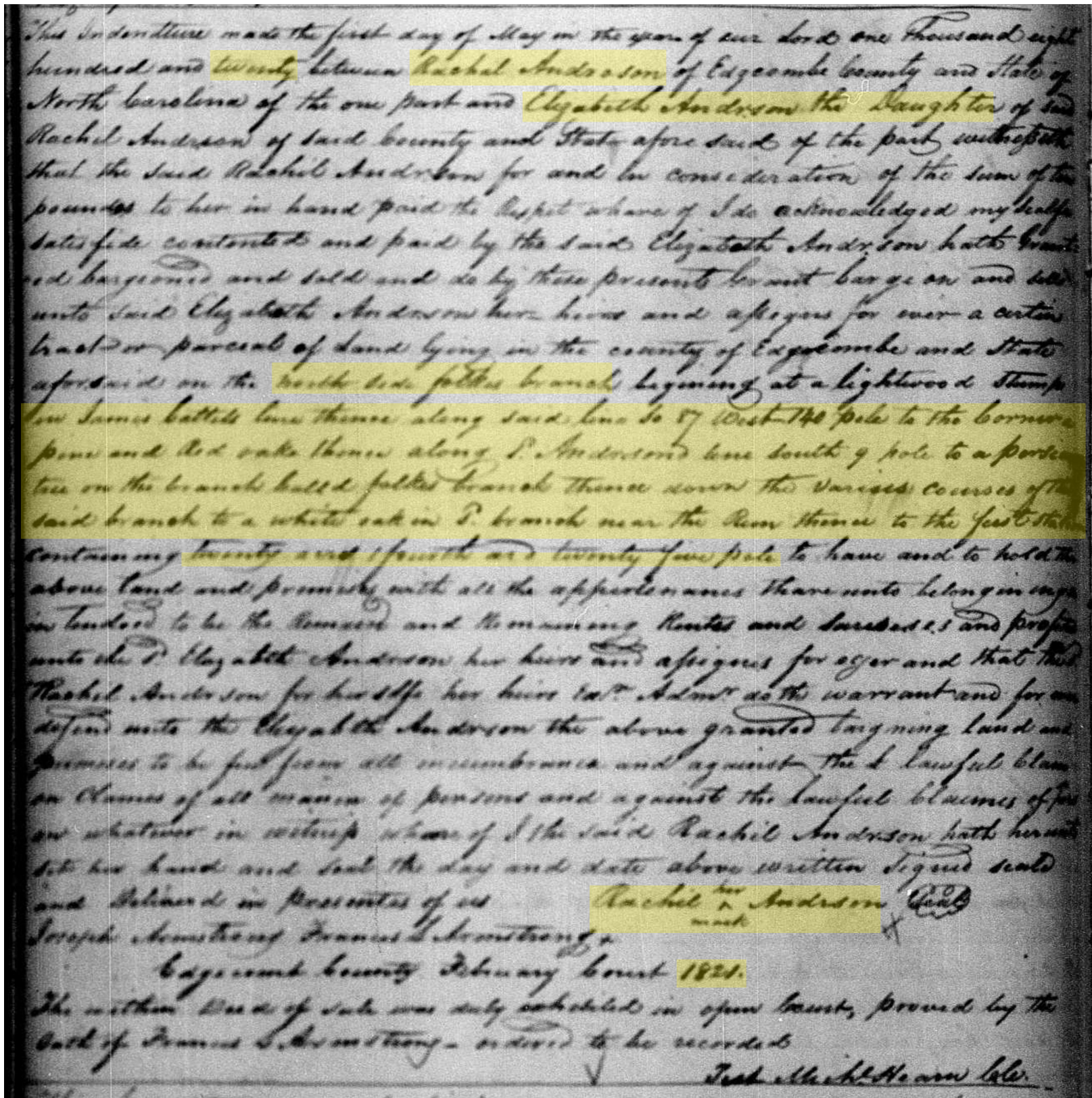
By the time the land is divided in 1870, the land is described as having Deloaches Branch go right through it, & it is adjoining William Sumner (apparently William Summerlin; one of his corners is directly on Delaoches Branch), William "Cocks" [W.R.Cox], Bulluck, & Richard Savage. In 1859 William Griffin had sold Savage land on the west side of Deloaches Branch & directly on the branch adjoining Elizabeth Anderson & Sally Jones; Savage already had land there that had been owned by Hawkins (this may be the land inherited from Zachariah Griffin, which we had suspected was south of Falks Branch).

I do not see how all this is possible unless what the division only calls Deloaches Branch also includes Falks! Both Elizabeth & William G. were clearly on the north side of Falks Branch. BUT by 1859 it would appear Griffin, Elizabeth Anderson, & the mysterious Sally Jones all own land on the SS of Falks - or is it really the WS of Deloaches??

This deed, which is on the south side of Falks Branch as far as I can tell, reminds me that George Anderson, James S. Battle,

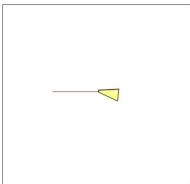
Edge. Co Db 21, page 597, date of deed 7 Mar 1837, date recorded May Ct. 1837, George Anderson, Jun., & George Anderson Sen, Edge. Co. to Ruben Johnston, Edge. Co. for \$300, a tract of land where George Anderson Sen now lives adjoining the lands of James S. Battle and others beginning at a maple and a bay tree in the fork of Brakes Branch then up the various courses of Brakes Branch to two white oaks John Anderson's, now Lott Stallings corner then the various courses up said branch to a water oak Lott Stallings other corner then near east course to a red oak Ruben Johnston's & said Stallings corner then north along Ruben Johnston's line to two black oaks on James S. Battle's corner then west to a corner pine Elizabeth Griffin's corner then south 45 west 33 poles to a pine stump in the head of a small drain then down the various courses of said drain to Falk's Branch a sweet gum the down said branch to Brakes Branch a sweet gum then up said Brakes Branch the various courses to the beginning, containing 156 acres, signed George Anderson, Jun, George Anderson, Sen, wit. S.L. Hart (proved), Robert A. Johnson. Abstracted 10-31-01, FHC film 0370237, CTC.

And, by the way, the initial estimate of William Griffin's acreage was around 280 acres; but the surveyor "after having run around the land of the said Wm. Griffin & finding the tract to contain three hundred & six acres [306]..."

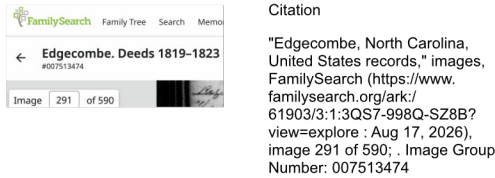


Rachel Anderson to Elizabeth Anderson her daughter 20.25 acres 1820

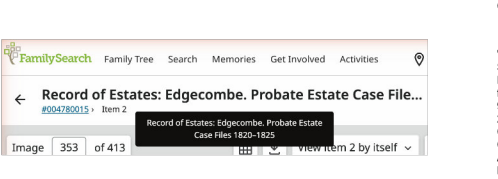
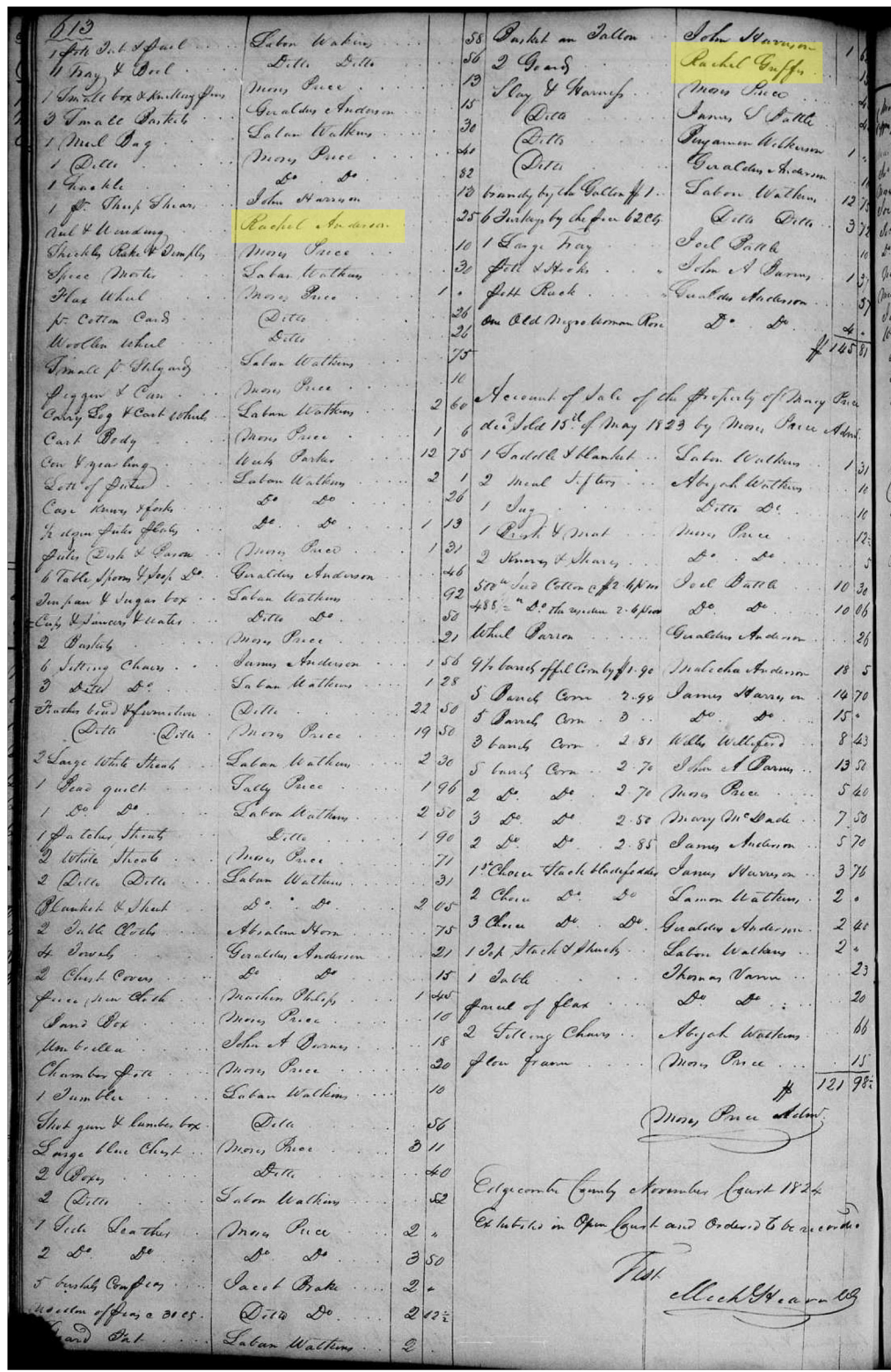
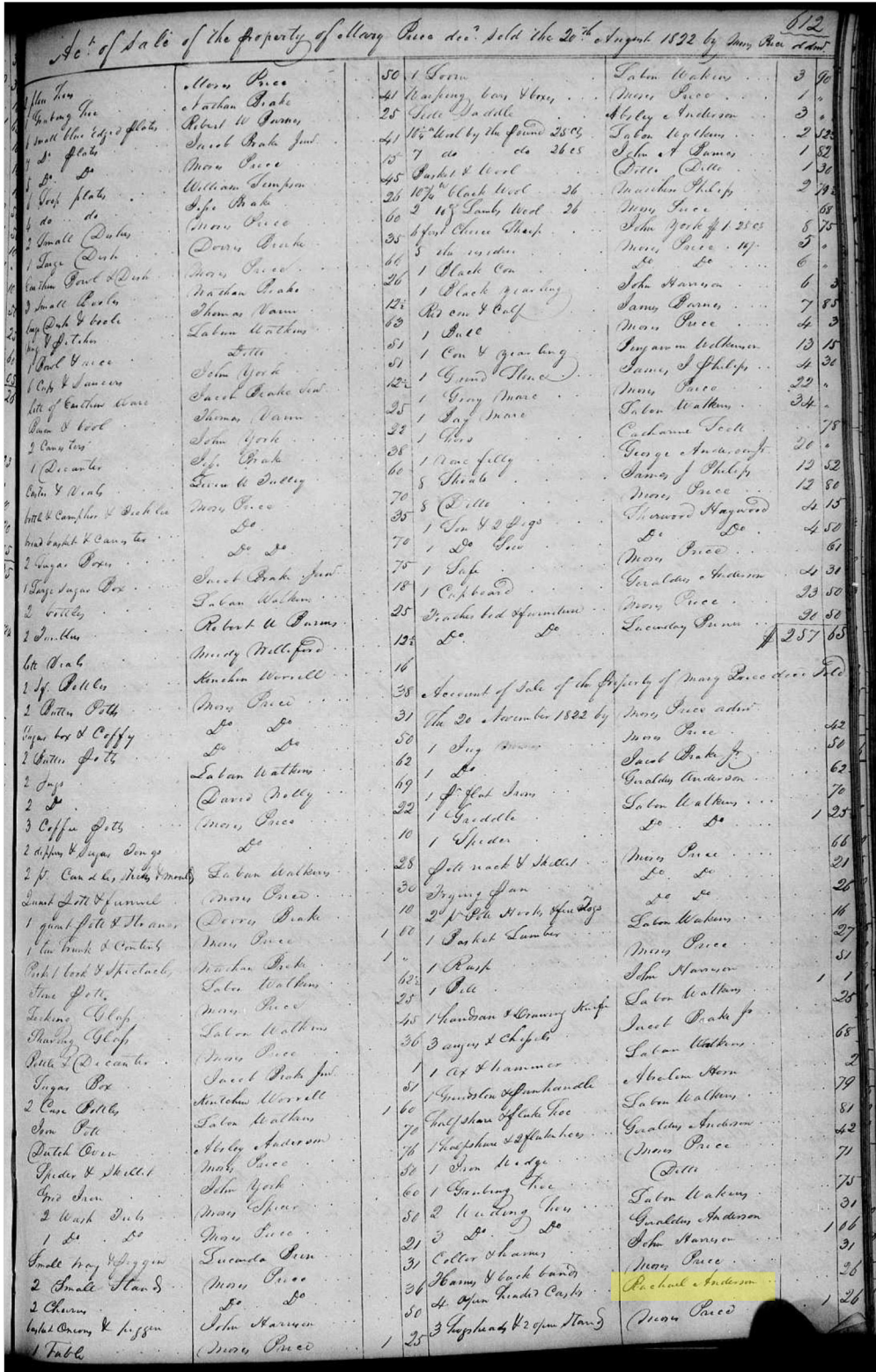
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Rachel Anderson to Elizabeth Anderson her daughter 20.25 acres 1820



Mary Price Estate Sale... 1822... showing two Rachels



Primary Document

Edgecombe County Court Minutes, August 1797 (Edgecombe County, NC):

"George Griffis ordered to pay Rachel Anderson for begetting a base born child on her body."

This is the direct court-ordered bastardy support record. In colonial/early American North Carolina, such orders were the standard legal mechanism when a mother named the putative father (or when the court determined paternity). The phrasing is explicit and typical of bastardy proceedings from the period.

Context in the Griffin/Anderson Family (Edgecombe County)

Rachel Anderson was the daughter of William Anderson (d. 1789) and Mourning Price. She appears in the 1800/1810 censuses as head of household with young children and later made deeds of gift to her daughter Elizabeth Anderson and grandsons (Bennett, George, and Gralhdes Anderson) in 1820.

The child in question was almost certainly Elizabeth Anderson (born c. 1790s). Rachel deeded land to her in 1820 and 1821. Elizabeth's tombstone (Antioch Church area) later reads "daughter of George & Rachel Anderson"—a common 19th-century "white lie" to legitimize an illegitimate birth after the fact.

George Griffis/Griffin was part of the same Griffin family line you've been tracing (descendants of the William Griffin who married Oney Gosney, through Zachariah Griffin, etc.). He lived in the same Folkes Branch / Grassy Branch neighborhood as the Andersons.

Later Connections

Rachel Anderson married James Griffin (likely a relative of George) on 29 August 1825 in Edgecombe County. James was probably a son of Zachariah Griffin (d. 1837), whose will references land bought from James Griffin and ties into the same network. After the marriage, deeds begin referring to "Rachel Griffin" and show the families intermingling (e.g., sales involving Allen Jones, Nancy Jones, and the Griffin/Anderson land on Folkes Branch).

Marc covers this exact case (including the 1797 court order and the tombstone cover-up) in his post "It's just a white lie..." on andersonnc.com:

https://andersonnc.com/2022/02/12/its-just-a-white-lie/

This fits perfectly with the Griffin research you've referenced (the 1840 Falks Branch land sale, Catherine Williams marriage, Zachariah's 1837 will, etc.). No other Griffin is named in connection with Rachel's bastard child in surviving Edgecombe records.

This is roughly where the tombstone is located...

