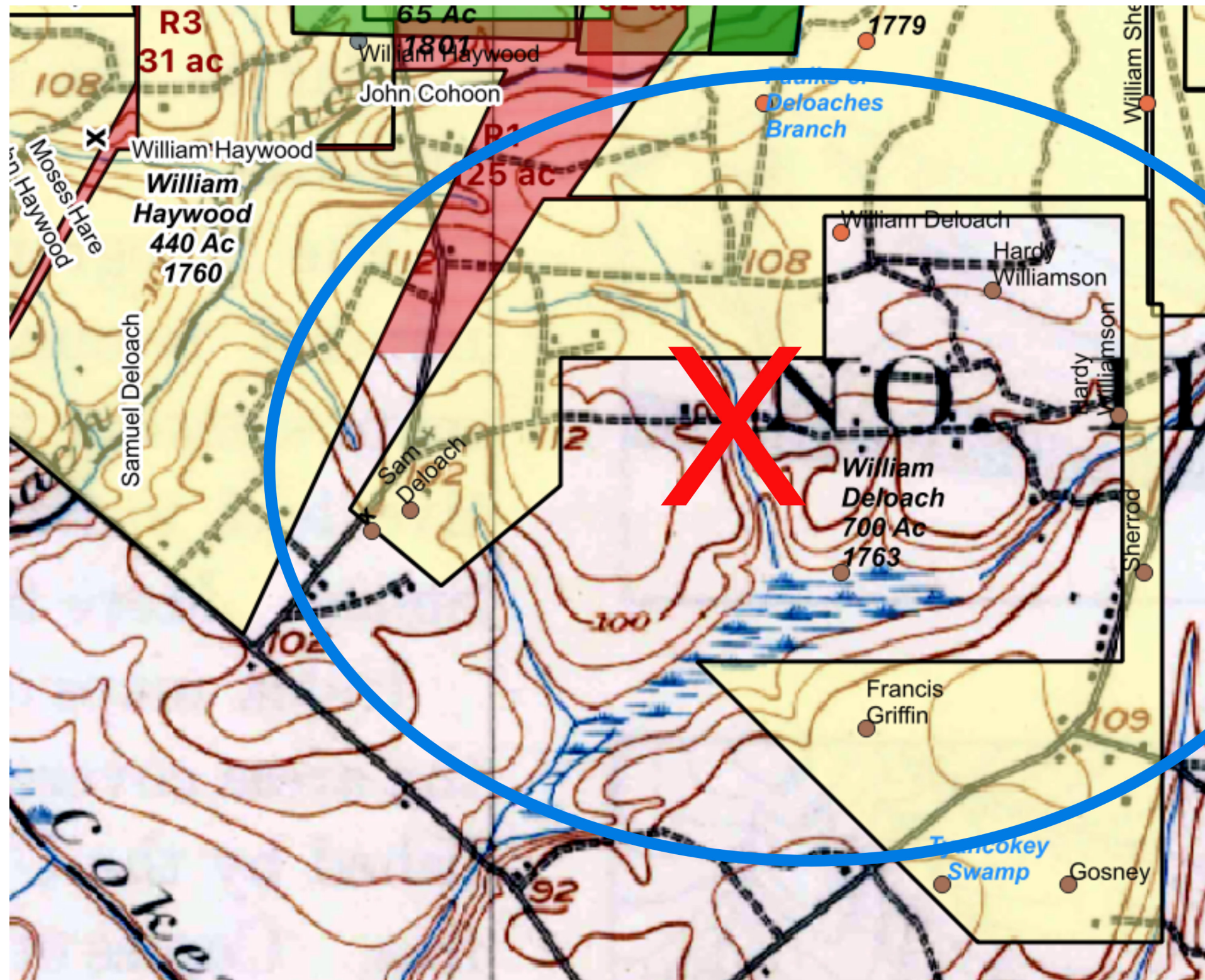


the MILL



Here's what the notes establish about the mill development specifically on Bilbry (Bilberry) Mill Branch — distinct from the Nobles family's later involvement as owner/miller, which is really the result of this development rather than its origin:

The branch itself predates any mill. The earliest instrument naming it, the 1838/39 John Griffin (decd) estate partition (FS ark 3QSQ-G9DK-LH9K), calls it simply **"Bilbry Mill Branch"** — already carrying the name — as Mary Griffin's and Bennett Bradly's lot boundary, tied explicitly and zoom-confirmed to Tyan Cokey Swamp itself. No mill or dam is mentioned yet; the branch was apparently already known by the Bilbry name at this point, likely from an earlier, still-unfounded Bilbry landholding.

The mill's actual construction is a single, dated act: 24 Jul 1866, Churchwell B. Killebrew sells Allen B. Nobles 2 acres straddling the branch for the express, stated purpose of Nobles erecting a *water grist mill and dam* there — the deed itself grants Nobles a flood easement "to get a head of wall, twenty feet in depth" onto Killebrew's adjoining land. This is doxa, read in full from the primary (FS ark 3QSQ-G9DK-L9C/3QS7-99DK-LQT). This deed is the origin of the mill and almost certainly the reason the branch keeps the "Mill Branch" name into this era.

Why a Killebrew is the one granting the site: Churchwell B. Killebrew's own middle name is **Bilbrey** — his mother was Frances Bilbery, daughter of Nathaniel Bilbery (per Nathaniel's own 1830 will, doxa), and George W. Killebrew (Frances's husband) is Churchwell's father. So the mill site sits on land that passed down through the Bilbery family into Killebrew hands by marriage, not a stranger's tract — Churchwell is essentially selling mill rights on his own maternal family's namesake branch.

Nobles's tenure continues after construction, evidenced by a second, later deed: 26 Feb 1886, J.B. Bradley releases a mortgage to Allen B. Nobles on 45¾ac adjoining "Bilberry branch," with Joshua Killebrew (a third, still-unplaced Killebrew) as a neighboring landholder — confirming Nobles still held the mill-branch property twenty years on.

Two open threads remain unresolved on this specific mill-development question: whether Bilbry Mill Branch is the same drainage as the separately-documented "Killebrew Mill Branch/Swamp" chased since 3 Jul 2026 elsewhere in the project (open question #2 in the note), and whether any Bilbry family member ever held title on the branch directly rather than just giving it their name (open question #3) — no deed has yet surfaced a Bilbry as landholder there, only Killebrews, Nobles, Griffins, Bradlys, and Edges.