

The Rachel Anderson Story

A Documentary Timeline — Edgecombe County, North Carolina, ca. 1789–1832

DRAFT — for review

Overview

This article assembles the surviving documentary record for Rachel Anderson of Edgecombe County, North Carolina — daughter of William Anderson (d. 1789) ¹ — into a single chronological timeline, from the earliest record located (1797) through the point at which her name disappears from the deed books (after 1826) and the last identified trace of a woman who may be the same person (1832). It draws on original county records located and read on FamilySearch, and on land, marriage, census, and cemetery evidence previously assembled by the research team. Wherever a fact in this timeline has not been independently re-examined against the original record during this pass of research, that is noted in the footnote so it can be checked before this article is finalized. The identity questions this record raises — principally, whether “Rachel Anderson” and “Rachel Griffin/Griffis” are the same woman, and what underlies a large debt judgment against her in 1804 — are addressed directly in the closing section rather than resolved in the narrative, since they remain open.

1789 — Background: The Death of William Anderson

Rachel Anderson was a daughter of William Anderson of Edgecombe County, who died in 1789. His will reportedly left Rachel “almost destitute,” and no record has yet been located of her owning land, or heading a household, for the following three decades.

1797 — A Bastardy Order

The earliest record located for Rachel in this period is a bastardy order entered in the Edgecombe County Court Minutes in August 1797:

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

¹William Anderson's will, Edgecombe County, N.C., proved 1789. Cited in family research compiled by the researchers; the will itself has not been independently re-examined for this article and should be pulled and cited directly before publication.

² Such orders were the standard mechanism by which North Carolina county courts assigned financial responsibility for an illegitimate child once the mother named the father, or the court otherwise determined paternity. The child has not been documentarily proven, but is believed to be Elizabeth Anderson, to whom Rachel later deeded land in 1820 and 1821, and whose gravestone at Antioch Church reads “daughter of George & Rachel Anderson” — read by the research team as a later, informal legitimization of the birth rather than a literal marriage record.

This identification, however, sits uneasily with the timeline. A photograph of Elizabeth's gravestone, examined directly for this article, reads in full: “ELIZABETH, Daughter of GEORGE & RACHEL ANDERSON, Born 1784, Died Jan[uary] 26, 188[0 or 9]; Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.” ³ The 1784 birth year is therefore confirmed on the stone itself, not merely reported secondhand — and it stands thirteen years before the August 1797 bastardy order above, which would make Elizabeth about thirteen years old, not newly born, when George Griffis was ordered to pay for “begetting a base born child” on Rachel. The death date cuts the other way on reliability: if the birth year is accurate, Elizabeth lived to roughly 96 (if she died in 1880) or 105 (if 1889) — an age remarkable enough that a family would likely know it precisely, which argues against simple carelessness in cutting the stone. Either the 1797 order concerns a different, otherwise undocumented child, or Elizabeth is not in fact the child named in the order at all. This discrepancy is unresolved and is carried forward as an open question below.

²Edgecombe County Court Minutes, August 1797 (Edgecombe County, N.C.): “George Griffis ordered to pay Rachel Anderson for begetting a base born child on her body.” As cited in family research materials; the original minute book entry has not yet been independently located and re-imaged on FamilySearch for this article. See also Marc Anderson, “It’s just a white lie...,” andersonnc.com, Feb. 12, 2022, <https://andersonnc.com/2022/02/12/its-just-a-white-lie/>.

³Elizabeth Anderson's gravestone, Antioch [Baptist] Church cemetery, Edgecombe County, N.C. Photograph examined directly for this article; the stone reads “ELIZABETH, Daughter of GEORGE & RACHEL ANDERSON, Born 1784, Died Jan[uary] 26, 188[0 or 9]; Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God” (cf. Matthew 5:8). The final digit of the death year is worn and could read either 1880 or 1889; on either reading Elizabeth would have lived into her late nineties or beyond. The stone's weathering, letterforms, and cemetery location have not otherwise been independently assessed for this article — in particular, no determination has been made as to whether it was cut at the time of death or as a later replacement marker.

George Griffis has been placed within the extended family of William Griffin and Oney Gosney, in the same Folkes Branch / Grassy Branch neighborhood as the Andersons ⁴, though this places him as a different individual from Edward Griffin, the man who purchased land from the Anderson family four years later (below).

1794–1816 — Who Was George Griffis?

Because the article's earliest record turns on a single name — George Griffis, named in the 1797 bastardy order — a separate search was conducted to establish who he was and whether he can be documented as a relative of Edward or Zachariah Griffin. The search confirms George Griffis as a real, recurring figure in the Edgecombe County court system over more than four decades, but does not establish a documented family relationship to either man.

Between at least 1788 and the 1830s, George Griffis appears repeatedly in Edgecombe probate records — not as an heir, but as an appraiser or witness on the estates of other, unrelated families. ⁵ The earliest of these roles found to date places him just seven months before the bastardy order: on 5 January 1797, George Griffis witnessed, by his mark, the will of James M. Pitt. ⁶ This confirms he was an adult, literate-enough-to-be-trusted

⁴George Griffis's placement within the family of William Griffin and Oney Gosney, and his residence in the Folkes Branch / Grassy Branch neighborhood, follows family research materials. An independent search of Edgecombe probate, will, and deed records conducted for this article (see the section “Who Was George Griffis?” below, and notes 5–9) did not locate any document placing George Griffis as a sibling or other relative of Edward or Zachariah Griffin. His relationship to the family therefore remains unconfirmed.

⁵George Griffis appears as an appraiser, list-witness, or bystander in at least fifteen separate Edgecombe County probate estate case files, estate inventories, and wills between 1788 and the 1830s, in each case for the estate of a family unrelated on its face to Edward or Zachariah Griffin (among them the estates of the Hines, Pitt, Bracewell, Cobb, Bell, Fort, Cotton, Dupree, and Bullock families). Compiled from FamilySearch full-text search results for “George Griffis” in Edgecombe, North Carolina, ca. 1770–1835, accessed Aug. 17, 2026; individual images have not all been pulled and cited separately for this article.

⁶James M. Pitt, will, dated 5 Jan. 1797, witnessed by William Jones, Jacob Battle, and George Griffis (signing by mark). “Edgecombe, North Carolina. Wills 1663–1978,” FamilySearch full-text search, <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q57-L9G4-SXMP>, image 1253 of 1,971. Accessed Aug. 17, 2026.

member of the Pitt family's circle in Edgecombe at the relevant time, though it says nothing about his own family connections.

A related search for the Griffin family patriarch referenced in family research — William Griffin, said to have married Oney Gosney — did not turn up a will or estate record for him in this period, but did surface a document showing both a “William Griffin Senr” and a “William Griffin Junr” active in Edgecombe by 1796: the two are recorded as purchasers, not heirs, at the November 1796 division and sale of the unrelated estate of Henry Hines.⁷ This establishes that a senior/junior William Griffin pair existed in the county at the right time to match the family research, without independently confirming that either was in fact the Griffin patriarch.

To test the George Griffis connection directly, every Edgecombe County document located by a full-text search for “Edward Griffin” between 1800 and 1810 was reviewed; none of them also name George Griffis.⁸ One of those documents does pair Edward Griffin with Zachariah Griffin in 1803, reinforcing the connection between those two men already established elsewhere in this article, but that connection does not extend to George.

Finally, a probate case file from 1813–1816 names both George Griffis and a “Wm H. Griffis” together.⁹ Rather than supporting a link to the Griffin

⁷Division and sale of the estate of Henry Hines, deceased, pursuant to an order of Edgecombe County Court, August Term 1796, exhibited on oath November Term 1796 (Edward Hall, C.C.). The order names six representatives (heirs) of Henry Hines: Catharine Hines, relict, and sons Peter, William, Henry, Benjamin, and Robert Hines. “William Griffin Senr” and “William Griffin Junr” are recorded among the purchasers at the estate's subsequent property sale — not among the heirs — confirming two William Griffins, evidently a senior/junior pair, as propertied Edgecombe residents by 1796. “Record of Estates: Edgecombe, North Carolina. Probate Estate Case Files 1795–1797,” FamilySearch full-text search, <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33SQ-LGC8-K1>, image 123 of 147 (Item 4). Accessed Aug. 17, 2026.

⁸Every Edgecombe County record returned by a FamilySearch full-text search for “Edward Griffin,” 1800–1810, was reviewed for this article; none also named George Griffis. One such document, “Edgecombe, North Carolina. Probate Estate Case Files 1748–1917,” dated 1803, names Edward Griffin together with Zachariah Griffin — reinforcing the documented connection between Edward and Zachariah discussed above, but not extending it to George. Identified via full-text search results, accessed Aug. 17, 2026; the specific image has not yet been pulled and cited precisely for this article.

⁹“Record of Estates: Edgecombe, North Carolina. Probate Estate Case Files 1813–1816,” FamilySearch full-text search, naming both George Griffis and

family, this raises the possibility that “Griffis” represents a distinct surname line of its own — plausibly George Griffis's own descendants — running in parallel to, rather than interchangeably with, the “Griffin” surname carried by Edward, Zachariah, and James Griffin elsewhere in this record. Until a will, deed, or estate record is found that names George Griffis alongside Edward or Zachariah Griffin as kin, his family placement should be treated as unresolved.

1801 — Henry Anderson Sells Land to Edward Griffin

On 24 February 1801, Henry Anderson and his wife Love[y] Anderson, of Edgecombe County, sold Edward Griffin a tract of roughly 20¼ acres on the north side of Folks/Falk's Branch, for £15 5s. ¹⁰ The boundary ran, in part, along “and Anderson's line” and “said Anderson's fence,” indicating the tract adjoined land the Anderson family retained. Both Henry and Lovey Anderson signed by mark, witnessed by Thomas Guion and Starling Walter; the deed was proved in Edgecombe County Court, August Term 1801, on Starling Walter's oath, and recorded by Clerk Edward Hall.

1802 — Death of Edward Griffin and an Insolvent Estate

Edward Griffin died in 1802. Joseph Pitt was appointed administrator of his estate, which proved insolvent. ¹¹ Over the following two years, at least four creditors brought suit against the estate: Amey Stewart ¹²; John Wilson, for a debt of 10 shillings ¹³; Zachariah Griffin, also for 10 shillings ¹⁴; and Henry Anderson — the same Henry Anderson who had sold Griffin the Folks

a “Wm H. Griffis” in the same document. Identified via full-text search results, accessed Aug. 17, 2026; the specific image has not yet been pulled and cited precisely for this article.

¹⁰Henry Anderson and wife Love[y] Anderson to Edward Griffin, deed, 24 Feb. 1801, proved Edgecombe County Court, August Term 1801 (oath of Starling Walter), recorded by Edward Hall, Clerk. “Edgecombe, North Carolina. Deeds 1801-1803,” FamilySearch full-text search, <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QSQ-G983-DHH1>, images 113-114 of 565; Image Group No. 007513468. Accessed Aug. 17, 2026.

¹¹“Edgecombe, North Carolina. Probate Estate Case Files 1748-1917,” FamilySearch full-text search, folder “Griffin, Edward, 1802,” <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-L1QY-4PH>, images 459-467. Accessed Aug. 17, 2026.

¹²Writ, Amey Stewart v. Joseph Pitt, administrator of Edward Griffin, deceased, dated 3 July [1802 or 1803], Justice Lemon Ruffin. Same collection as note 11, image 461, ark 3:1:33SQ-G1QY-4JV.

¹³Writ, John Wilson v. Joseph Pitt, administrator, dated 16 Sept. 1803. Same collection as note 11, image 462, ark 3:1:33SQ-G1QY-4VP.

Branch land the year before — who brought a warrant for Joseph Pitt's arrest on 15 October 1802, on a plea of debt of one pound.¹⁵

1803–1804 — Execution and Sale of Land

With the estate lacking sufficient personal property to satisfy its creditors, the court repeatedly ordered land executed and sold. On 11 March 1804, acting on John Wilson's judgment of 17 September 1803, the court ordered execution “for want of personal property,” levying one tract of Griffin's land.

¹⁶ A second execution, tied to a judgment of 15 October 1802 (the same date as Henry Anderson's warrant, though the judgment itself does not name the plaintiff legibly), was ordered on 10 February 1804, again levying a tract of land “for want of personal property.”¹⁷ No inventory of personal property and no record of the execution sale itself — in particular, no document naming the purchaser of the land — survives within this case file.¹⁸

1804–1806 — Final Settlement of the Estate

The estate's final account, rendered by administrator Joseph Pitt and exhibited in open court in February of 1804 or 1806, records the following credits to the estate:

By the whole amt of Sale — £7 14s. By a Judgment of Eight pounds against Rachel Anderson — £8 0s. By one pound eleven shillings [and] pence Rec'd by balance of a note against Henry Anderson — £1 11s. By six shillings and four pence Rec'd from Wm Anderson — 6s. 4d.

¹⁴Summons, Zachariah Griffin v. Joseph Pitt, administrator, dated 10 March 1803. Same collection as note 11, image 465, ark 3:1:33S7-91QY-41F.

¹⁵Warrant for the arrest of Joseph Pitt, administrator, on the complaint of Henry Anderson, in a plea of debt of one pound, dated 15 Oct. 1802, signed by Hardy Flowers. Same collection as note 11, image 466, ark 3:1:33SQ-G1QY-4JW.

¹⁶Judgment, 17 Sept. 1803, and order of execution, 11 March 1804, “for want of personal property,” levying one tract of land to satisfy John Wilson's judgment. Same collection as note 11, image 463, ark 3:1:33SQ-G1QY-4K8.

¹⁷Judgment of 15 Oct. 1802 (12s. 6d. plus costs) and order of execution dated 10 Feb. 1804, “for want of personal property,” again levying a tract of land, signed by R. Harrison. Same collection as note 11, image 467, ark 3:1:33S7-L1QY-4GG.

¹⁸Docket notation (verso of a folded writ), referencing the March 1804 execution. Same collection as note 11, image 464, ark 3:1:33S7-L1QY-4RX.

¹⁹ The account gives no further detail on what underlies the £8 judgment against Rachel Anderson — the largest single sum recovered by the estate, larger even than the proceeds of the land sale itself. No separate writ or suit record establishing the basis of this judgment has yet been located; it may lie in an unindexed civil action file, or it may not survive.

1819–1820 — Rachel Anderson as Landowner, and a Deed to Her Daughter

Rachel Anderson first appears as a landowner in the Edgecombe deed records in 1819. ²⁰ On 1 May 1820, she deeded 20¼ acres on the north side of Falk's Branch to her daughter, Elizabeth Anderson — recorded at Edgecombe County Deed Book 17, page 265, witnessed by Joseph Armstrong and Francis L. Armstrong, with Rachel signing by mark. ²¹²² The boundary calls of this tract — beginning on the north side of the branch, running “S 87 W 140” poles to a corner and “S 9” poles to the branch — match the 1801 Henry Anderson-to-Edward Griffin tract almost exactly, including the 20¼-acre figure. ²³ Taken together with the estate account

¹⁹“The Estate of Edward Griffin decd in Acct with Joseph Pitt Adm[inistrato]r,” final account. “Record of Estates: Edgecombe, North Carolina. Probate Estate Case Files 1801–1804,” FamilySearch full-text search, <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33SQ-LGCZ-9M92>, image 220 of 247 (Item 3 of catalog no. 004780012). Accessed Aug. 17, 2026.

²⁰Rachel Anderson's first appearance as a landowner in the Edgecombe deed records, 1819, per family research materials; not independently re-verified for this article.

²¹Rachel Anderson to Elizabeth Anderson, her daughter, deed, 1 May 1820, Edgecombe County Deed Book 17, p. 265, witnesses Joseph Armstrong and Francis L. Armstrong, Rachel signing by mark. “Edgecombe, North Carolina, United States records,” FamilySearch full-text search, <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-998Q-SZ8B>, image 291 of 590; Image Group No. 007513474. Accessed Aug. 17, 2026.

²²“Edgecombe, North Carolina. Grantor Records 1759–1920, Grantee Deed Indexes 1759–1920,” FamilySearch full-text search, <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-L98Y-2WRN>, image 39 (surname “Anderson”). Accessed Aug. 17, 2026. The index confirms a deed from Rachel Anderson to Elizabeth Anderson at Deed Book 17, p. 265, consistent with note 21.

²³Compare the boundary calls of the 1820 deed (note 21) with those of the 1801 deed (note 10): both describe a tract beginning on the north side of Folks/Falk's Branch, running “S 87 W 140” poles to a corner, then “S 9” poles to the branch, then down the branch — identical courses and distances, and the same 20¼-acre figure. This is offered as the compiler's

above, the surviving records permit — without fully proving — a continuous chain for this tract: Henry Anderson to Edward Griffin (1801); Griffin's insolvent estate, executed for debt (1803–1804); into Rachel Anderson's hands by 1819; and from Rachel to Elizabeth Anderson (1820).

1822 — Two Rachels at the Mary Price Estate Sale

At an 1822 estate sale for Mary Price, both a “Rachel Griffin” or “Rachel Griffis” and a second, separately recorded Rachel appear as buyers.²⁴ Because this predates the 1825 marriage discussed below, neither of the two Rachels present at this sale could yet have been “Mrs. James Griffin” — evidence that at least one “Rachel Griffin/Griffis” was already using that surname independent of any marriage in 1825.

1825 — Marriage Bond: Rachel [Anderson] and James Griffin

A marriage bond dated 27 August 1825 records James Griffin's application for a license to marry “Rachael,” with Burrell Hill standing as bondsman.²⁵ James Griffin signed by mark; the bond was witnessed by N. Mathewson. James Griffin has been identified in family research as a probable son of Zachariah Griffin (d. 1837).²⁶ Burrell Hill's role as bondsman here also explains his otherwise unexplained appearance as an adjoining landowner on Rachel's tract the following year (below): the two households were evidently already connected by 1825.

observation rather than a sourced claim, and should be checked against the full deed text and plat, if any, before publication.

²⁴Mary Price estate sale, 1822, at which both a “Rachel Griffin/Griffis” and a second, distinct Rachel are recorded as buyers. Per family research materials; not independently re-verified for this article.

²⁵Marriage bond, Burrell Hill (bondsman) and James Griffin, for the marriage of James Griffin to Rachael, dated 27 Aug. 1825, witness N. Mathewson, James Griffin signing by mark. “Edgecombe, North Carolina. Marriage Bonds 1741–1868,” FamilySearch full-text search, <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:939K-TGF4-5>, image 294 of 3,051. Accessed Aug. 17, 2026. The bond itself gives the bride's given name only; the identification of the bride as “Rachael Anderson” follows FamilySearch's indexing of companion marriage-record compilations for the same county and year, which list “Rachael Anderson” alongside witness “N. Mathewson” — consistent with, but not a certain match to, this specific bond.

²⁶James Griffin's identification as a probable son of Zachariah Griffin (d. 1837) follows family research materials; not independently re-verified for this article.

1826–1832 — The Land Passes from View

By 1826, the landowners adjoining Rachel's tract were recorded as George Anderson, James S. Battle, Henry Austin, and Burrell Hill.²⁷ The name “Rachel Anderson” does not appear again in the Edgecombe deed records after this year. A “Rachel Griffin” or “Rachel Griffis,” however, continues to appear as an adjoining landowner on the north side of Falks Branch through at least 1832.²⁸ The 1830 federal census for Edgecombe County lists only one Rachel as head of household: “Rachel Griffin,” recorded as white, age 60–69 (born about 1761–1770) — a birth range consistent with the Rachel Anderson of this timeline.²⁹

1837–1870 — Later Land History

The tract's later history is less clear-cut, and is included here for completeness rather than as settled fact. A 7 March 1837 deed from George Anderson, Jr., and George Anderson, Sr., to Ruben Johnston (Edgecombe DB 21/597, 156 acres) references “Elizabeth Griffin's corner” among its boundary calls³⁰ — a name that may or may not refer to Elizabeth Anderson under a married surname. Subsequent records — the 1859 allotment of Louisa Griffin's dower, an 1862 deed from Elizabeth [Anderson] to William Summerlin on the north side of Falks Branch, an 1869 description of William Griffin's land adjoining Elizabeth Anderson, and an 1870 division of William Griffin's 306-acre tract referencing “Deloaches Branch” — raise the

²⁷Adjoining-landowner data for Rachel Anderson's tract through 1826 (Henry Anderson, Henry Austin, James S. Battle, George Anderson, Josiah Worrell, and later Burrell Hill), and the observation that the name “Rachel Anderson” does not appear in Edgecombe deed records after 1826, follow family research materials compiled from the Edgecombe deed books; not independently re-verified for this article.

²⁸A “Rachel Griffin” or “Rachel Griffis” appears as an adjoining landowner on the north side of Falks Branch through at least 1832. Per family research materials; not independently re-verified for this article.

²⁹1830 U.S. Census, Edgecombe County, N.C., listing “Rachel Griffin,” white, age 60–69 (b. c. 1761–1770), as the only Rachel head-of-household in the county that year. Per family research materials; not independently re-verified for this article.

³⁰George Anderson, Jr., and George Anderson, Sr., to Ruben Johnston, deed, 7 March 1837, recorded May Term 1837, Edgecombe County Deed Book 21, p. 597 (156 acres; boundary references “Elizabeth Griffin's corner” and “James S. Battle's corner”), witnesses S. L. Hart and Robert A. Johnson. FHC film 0370237. Per family research materials; not independently re-verified for this article.

further, unresolved question of whether “Deloaches Branch” and “Falks/Folks Branch” are the same watercourse under different names.³¹

Open Questions

This timeline resolves some points and leaves others open. It is presented here as a draft precisely so those open points can be reviewed and, where possible, closed:

Is Elizabeth Anderson actually the child named in the 1797 bastardy order? A photograph of Elizabeth's gravestone (note 3) has now been examined directly and confirms, in the stone's own words, a birth year of 1784 — thirteen years before George Griffis was ordered in August 1797 to pay Rachel Anderson for “begetting a base born child on her body.” This is no longer a secondhand or possibly mistranscribed date: it is what the stone itself says. If it is accurate, Elizabeth cannot be the child named in the 1797 order, which would mean the identification running through the rest of this timeline — that Elizabeth is Rachel and George Griffis's daughter, and that her gravestone's “daughter of George & Rachel Anderson” is a late, informal acknowledgment of the 1797 order — rests on a mistaken pairing of two unrelated records. The stone's own death date (1880 or 1889, the last digit being worn) would put Elizabeth's age at death in the high nineties to low hundreds, an age a family is more likely to have gotten right than wrong, which if anything makes the 1784 birth year harder to dismiss as a simple error. The likelier resolution, on current evidence, is that the 1797 order concerns a second, otherwise undocumented child of Rachel and George Griffis — not Elizabeth — and that identification should be checked before Elizabeth's placement in this timeline is treated as settled.

Is Rachel Anderson the same woman as Rachel Griffin/Griffis? The two names cannot yet be fully merged or fully separated. The 1830 census shows only one Rachel head-of-household in the county, under the Griffin surname, with a birth year consistent with Rachel Anderson; the 1822 Mary Price sale shows two women using variants of “Griffin/Griffis” and “Rachel” present at once, which argues for at least one of them being a genuinely

³¹Later land-history entries — the 1859 allotment of Louisa Griffin's dower (adjoining Orren Bulluck and Cox); the 1862 deed of Elizabeth [Anderson] to William Summerlin, north side of Falks Branch; the 1869 description of William Griffin's land (adjoining Elizabeth Anderson, W. R. Cox, and the heirs of Orren Bulluck); and the 1870 division of William Griffin's land (306 acres, referencing Deloaches Branch, adjoining William Sumner/Summerlin, William Cox, Bulluck, and Richard Savage) — follow family research materials; not independently re-verified for this article.

separate person from any Rachel who only became a “Griffin” by marriage in 1825.

Age adds a further complication. James Griffin, the probable son of Zachariah Griffin who married “Rachael” in 1825, was most likely about 23 to 25 years old at the time — an estimate built from Zachariah's documented legal adulthood by 1803 and typical Edgecombe first-marriage ages, not from a direct record of James's birth. Rachel Anderson, already an established landowner deeding property to an adult daughter in 1820, would by contrast have been roughly 55 to 64 — a gap on the order of 30 to 35 years, and close to, or beyond, a simple “twice his age.”³² A gap that size is not unheard of for the period, but it sits uncomfortably with a straightforward reading of Rachel Anderson as the 1825 bride, and it reinforces, rather than resolves, the possibility that the “Rachel Griffin” of the marriage bond, the 1822 sale, and the 1830 census is a younger, distinct woman from Rachel Anderson of this timeline.

What underlies the £8 judgment against Rachel Anderson in Edward Griffin's estate (1804–1806)? This is the single largest sum in the estate's final account and the clearest documented financial link between Rachel and Edward Griffin specifically, as opposed to Henry Anderson. No underlying writ has yet been located.

Who is the “fourth Rachel”? An unidentified Rachel appears in the 1800 or 1810 Edgecombe census, in a household once thought possibly not white. That identification was set aside, since Elizabeth Anderson's known descendants are consistently recorded as white in later records, but the entry itself remains unexplained.

³²James Griffin's birth year is not directly documented. This estimate is derived from his identification as a probable son of Zachariah Griffin (note 26), who was already transacting as a legal adult — appearing as a plaintiff suing Edward Griffin's estate for a debt — by 1803 (note 14), and from typical first-marriage ages for Edgecombe County grooms of this period, generally the early-to-mid twenties. That places James's birth at roughly 1795–1805 and his age at the 1825 marriage at roughly 20–30, with 23–25 the best single estimate. Weighed against Rachel's birth range of about 1761–1770 per the 1830 census (note 29) — making her roughly 55–64, midpoint about 60, at the same marriage — the resulting gap is on the order of 30 to 35 years, consistent with, or even somewhat larger than, a simple description of Rachel being “about twice” James's age. This is a reasoned estimate built on two independent approximations, not a documented fact, and both approximations should be tightened (or the age of a different candidate James Griffin substituted) before this comparison is relied upon.

Is “Rachel Jones,” who married into the Griffin family separately, related to this Rachel at all? The 1822 Mary Price sale record, showing two Rachels present three years before the 1825 marriage bond discussed above, suggests she is a distinct individual, but this has not been conclusively demonstrated.

Are Falks Branch and Deloaches Branch the same watercourse? This affects how several deeds from 1859 to 1870 should be read against the earlier record.

Is George Griffis, named in the 1797 bastardy order, related to Edward or Zachariah Griffin? A broad search of Edgecombe probate, will, and deed records (see “Who Was George Griffis?” above) confirms George Griffis as a real, recurring, propertied Edgecombe resident from at least 1788 into the 1830s, but did not locate any document placing him as a sibling or other relative of either man. A “Wm H. Griffis” paired with him in an 1813-1816 probate record may indicate that “Griffis” was a distinct surname line rather than a spelling variant of “Griffin.”