

PART OF THE TREE RESEARCH SERVICES

# Interim Report, January 2014

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A timeline for the Wisener family in Craven/Lancaster County, SC based on documents from the South Carolina Archives and the Lancaster County Register of Deeds

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- 1756, 7 September:** William DeBrahm, Surveyor General of South Carolina, ordered a survey of 150 acres of land “on both sides of Flat Creek” in Craven County, South Carolina, bordered on the southeast by land belonging to Mathias Ardis, to be granted to Jacob Wysener.<sup>1</sup>
- 1756, 16 September:** John Wade, Deputy Surveyor, certified a plat he had surveyed for 150 acres of land in Craven County, South Carolina, “on both sides of Flat Creek,” bordered on the southeast by land of Mathias Ardis, to be granted to Jacob Wysener.<sup>2</sup>
- 1758, 8 May:** William Henry Littleton, Governor, granted 300 acres of land on “Flatt Creek” in Craven County, South Carolina, to Mathias Ardis.<sup>3</sup>
- 1758, 15 December:** Egerton Leigh, Surveyor General of South Carolina, certified the survey of 150 acres of land on Flat Creek in Craven County, South Carolina, to be granted to Jacob Wysener.<sup>4</sup>
- 1759, 4 June:** Governor William Henry Lyttleton granted 150 acres “on both sides of Flat Creek in Craven County,” South Carolina, bounded on the south by land belonging to Mathias Ardis, Jacob Wysener.<sup>5</sup>
- 1766, 5 August:** John Troupe, Deputy Surveyor General of South Carolina, ordered a survey of 200 acres of land “on the Waters of Fishing Creek in Craven County,” South Carolina, bordered on the west by land belonging to Jacob Wisener and on the southeast by land belonging to Mathias Ardis for Samuel Gay.<sup>6</sup>
- 1766, 4 September:** John Gaston, Deputy Surveyor, certified a plat he had surveyed for 200 acres of land on Fishing Creek in Craven County for Samuel Gay. Jacob Wisener and Mathias Ardis were mentioned as neighboring landowners.<sup>7</sup>
- 1769, 25 April:** According to Jacob Wisener, Robert and William Dowlan forced him off his plantation and illegally took possession of his land and his crops.<sup>8</sup>
- 1769, 1 June:** Robert Pringle, Justice of the Court of Common Pleas in Charlestowne, South Carolina, issued a writ of Trespass on the Case brought by Jacob Wisener against Robert and William Dowlan.<sup>9</sup> [Trespass on the Case: a suit for received injuries as a result of a wrongful act of another person]<sup>10</sup>
- 1769, 10 June:** Matthias Ardis, “lawful Deputy” of Robert Pringle, Justice of the Court of Common Pleas in Charlestowne, South Carolina, reported that he had served the writ of Trespass on the Case on Robert and William Dowlan. A note states that the defendants “made their escape from the Deputy.”<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> South Carolina Colonial Plat Books (Copy Series S213184), 1731-1775, Volume 6: 415, 16 September 1756; South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> South Carolina Conveyance Books (Series S372001), 1719-1776, Volume 4B: 294-8, Ardis to Wisnor; South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia.

<sup>4</sup> South Carolina Colonial Land Grants (Copy Series S213019), 1675-1788, Volume 9: 106, 4 June 1759; South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>6</sup> South Carolina Unrecorded Plats for Lands Not Granted (Series S213197), 1731-1882, Box 2, Item 439, 4 September 1766; South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>8</sup> South Carolina Judgment Rolls (Series S136002), 1703-1790, Box 83A, Item 100A, Wisener vs. Dowlan; South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>10</sup> *The Law Dictionary* (<http://thelawdictionary.org> : accessed 17 January 2014), “Trespass on the Case.”

**1769, 23 October:** The action by Jacob Wisener against Robert and William Dowlan was filed in the court.<sup>12</sup>

**1769, 1 November:** Robert and William Dowlan, through their attorney Egerton Leigh, plead not guilty to the charges brought against them by Jacob Wisener.<sup>13</sup>

**1770, 18 May:** Mathias Ardis, of Granville County, South Carolina, initiated a “lease and release” to Jacob Wisnor of Craven County, South Carolina, for 300 acres of land on “Flatt Creek” in Craven County surrounded by vacant land.<sup>14</sup>

**1770, 19 May:** Mathias and Christian Ardis, of Granville County, South Carolina, completed a “lease and release of 300 acres of land on “Flatt Creek” in Craven County, South Carolina to Jacob Wisnor.<sup>15</sup>

**1772, 1 December:** John Bremar, Deputy Surveyor General of South Carolina, ordered a survey of 50 acres of land “on N. side of Flatt Creek” in Craven County, South Carolina, to be granted to Jacob Wisener, near land already owned by Wisener.<sup>16</sup>

**1772, 10 December:** Patrick Cain, Deputy Surveyor, certified a plat he had surveyed for 50 acres of land in Craven County, South Carolina on the north side of “Flatt Creek” to be granted to Jacob Wisener, near land already owned by Wisener.<sup>17</sup>

**1772, 10 December:** John Bremar, Deputy Surveyor General, certified the survey of 50 acres of land on the north side of Flat Creek in Craven County, South Carolina granted to Jacob Wisener.<sup>18</sup>

**1773, 12 February:** Henry Rugeley, Register of Deeds, recorded the lease of 300 acres on Flatt Creek in Craven County, South Carolina on 18 May 1770 from Mathias Ardis to John Wisener.<sup>19</sup>

**1774, 23 June:** Lieutenant Governor William Bull granted 50 acres “on North side of Flat Creek” in Craven County, South Carolina, to Jacob Wisener, near land he already owned.<sup>20</sup>

**1774, 13 December:** Jacob Wisener signed (it appears to be his own signature, Jacob M Wisener) the registration of his land grant of 10 December 1772.<sup>21</sup>

**1775, 15 February:** R. L. [?], Deputy Surveyor, certified the registration of the land grant to Jacob Wisener dated 10 September 1772.<sup>22</sup>

**1777[, before 22 April]:** Jacob Wisenor [the father] died.<sup>23</sup>

**1777[, 22 April]:** John Wisenor, of Craven County, initiated a lease and release of 100 acres On Flat Creek, part of the land held by “Jacob Wisenor [the father] lately deceased ... and bequeathed to his son Jacob Wisenor [the son].”<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> South Carolina Judgment Rolls, 1703-1790, Wisener vs. Dowlan.

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>13</sup> South Carolina Judgment Rolls, 1703-1790, Wisener vs. Dowlan.

<sup>14</sup> South Carolina Conveyance Books, 1719-1776, Vol. 4B: 294-8, Ardis to Wisnor.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>16</sup> South Carolina Colonial Plat Books, 1731-1775, Vol. 21: 572.

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>18</sup> South Carolina Colonial Land Grants, 1675-1788, Vol. 31: 188.

<sup>19</sup> South Carolina Conveyance Books, 1719-1776, Vol. 4B: 294-8, Ardis to Wisnor.

<sup>20</sup> *Ibid.* Also, South Carolina Memorial Books (Series S111001), 1731-1778, Volume 13: 150, 15 February 1775; South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia.

<sup>21</sup> South Carolina Memorial Books, 1731-1778, Vol.13: 150.

<sup>22</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>23</sup> Lancaster County, Deed Book B: 296, John Wisenor to Jacob Wisenor, lease, 1777; Register of Deeds Office, Lancaster. Jacob is listed as “lately deceased.”

<sup>24</sup> *Ibid.* Typically, the lease was granted on the day before the release. In this case, the lease was dated only “one thousand seven hundred and seventy seven,” and it is assumed that it was on the day before the release, which was dated the following day.

- 1777, 23 April:** John Wisnor of Craven Co. and wife Ruth completed the lease and release to Jacob Wisenor [the son] of 100 acres on Flat Creekin Craven County, part of the land held by “Jacob Wisnor [the father] decd ... at his death Bequeathed unto his son Jacob Wisenor [the the son].”<sup>25</sup>
- 1782, 19 Dec:** Henry Peebles of St. Marks Parish sold 150 acres on Flat Creek in Craven County adjoining land of Matthias Ardis, originally granted to John Wisener, to Edward Cannington by lease and release.<sup>26</sup>
- 1788, 19 March:** Jacob Wisenor [the son] of Lancaster County sold land [acreage not included in the abstract] on Flat Creek adjoining John Baker, John Cannington, and Catey Bridges, to William Denman. This was land originally “granted to ... Jacob Wisenor [the father, I think] and bequeathed to his son Jacob Wisenor [the son].”<sup>27</sup>
- 1794, 13 December:** James McDonald and wife Sarah of Lancaster County sold land on both sides of Great Lynches Creek in Chesterfield Co., Hills Creek, where James and Sarah now live, to Joseph Hough. The land was purchased from Jerry Miller and originally granted to Jacob Weidner on 5 October 1763.<sup>28</sup> [*I do not think that this Jacob Weidner is the same man as Jacob Wisener.*]
- 1795, 24 January:** Martin Wisiner witnessed a deed from William Wison of Pendleton County to James Taylor of Rockingham County, North Carolina, for land on High Rock Creek of the Haw River in NC.<sup>29</sup>
- 1796, 13 December:** Lease and release from John and Ruth Wisnor to Jacob Wisnor was recorded in Lancaster County, SC Deed book B.<sup>30</sup>
- 1799, 26 August:** John Wisenor of Lancaster County sold 50 acres of land on Flat Creek adjoining William Denman,, John Baker, and John Evans, to Richmond Terrell, part of 300 acres originally granted to John Hewit.<sup>31</sup>
- 1800, 29 September:** A sale of land on Flat Creek adjoining John Baker, John Kennington [Cannington] and Ferguson Hail, “the old tract possessed of Jacob Wisner decd.,” by William Brewer of Lancaster County to Richmond Terrell was proved in court.<sup>32</sup>
- 1800, 6 January:** William Denman sold 100 acres of land on Flat Creek adjoining John Baker, John Kennington [Cannigton], and Ferguson Haile, originally “granted to Jacob Wisner decd., 8 May 1758,” to William Brewer. A second tract unrelated to the Wisener land was also sold in the same deed.<sup>33</sup>
- 1802, 23 February:** John Wisnor witnessed a deed from Elisha White of Lancaster County to Amos Hough for 3 adjacent tracts of land on Flat Creek, none of which referred to any land previously belonging to any Wisener.<sup>34</sup>
- 1802, 8 December:** John Baker of Lancaster District sold 100 acres on the waters of “great linches creek ... which was bequeathed to Henry Wisener” and adjoining land of Richmond Terrell to William Baker.<sup>35</sup>

<sup>25</sup> Lancaster Co., S.C., Deed Book B: 297.

<sup>26</sup> Brent H. Holcombe, abstractor, *Lancaster County, SC Deed Abstracts 1787-1811* (Easley, South Carolina: Southern Historical Press, 1981), 28-9; citing Lancaster County Deed Book B: 88-89.

<sup>27</sup> *Ibid.*, 58; citing Lancaster County Deed Book B: 298-9.

<sup>28</sup> *Ibid.*, 60-1; citing Lancaster County Deed Book B: 298-9.

<sup>29</sup> Brent H. Holcombe, editor, “Some Migrations from Rockingham County, North Carolina, to South Carolina,” *The South Carolina Magazine of Ancestral Research* 9 (Winter 1981): 29.

<sup>30</sup> Lancaster Co., S.C., Deed Book B: 297.

<sup>31</sup> Holcombe, *Lancaster County Deed Abstracts*, 109; citing Lancaster County Deed Book D: 200.

<sup>32</sup> *Ibid.*, 126, citing Lancaster County Deed Book F: 70-1.

<sup>33</sup> *Ibid.*, 130, citing Lancaster County Deed Book F: 105.

<sup>34</sup> *Ibid.*, 151, citing Lancaster County Deed Book F: 209-10.

<sup>35</sup> *Ibid.*, 148, citing Lancaster County Deed Book F: 197-8.

**1802, 8 December.** John Baker sold “part of land that did belong to Martain Wisenor” to Joseph Baker with “Richmon” Terrell and Benjamin Deason as witnesses. The previous deed on the page from John Baker to Joseph Baker involved land on the east side of Flat Creek.<sup>36</sup>

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<sup>36</sup> Holcombe, Lancaster County Deed Abstracts,, 150, citing Lancaster County Deed Book F: 207.

**Some conclusions and suggestions for further research:**

Matthias and wife Christian Ardis, living in Granville County/District in 1770, sold 300 acres on Flat Creek to Jacob Wisener.

- Was there a closer relationship between the Ardis family and the Wisener family, other than their being neighbors in Craven/Lancaster County?

Jacob Wisener (the father) was dead by April 22, 1777.

- Search through court documents and court records around this time to see if there was any mention of Jacob's death. Records might be found at the SC Archives or at the Lancaster County courthouse.
- Examine the churches of the area during this time period in an effort to see if the Wisener family was involved in a church community. SC Historical Society in Charleston may have books about the churches, or might be able to suggest where to find such records.

Jacob Wisener bequeathed land to his son Jacob Wisener, apparently appointing John Wisener (an older son?) to lease and release the land to Jacob after his death.

- Why was John an intermediary in this transaction?
- Was Jacob the son an "infant" in terms of the law?
- What exactly were the laws of land ownership in South Carolina at this time?
- Consultation with staff at the SC Room of the Charleston County Public Library could identify sources to help answer these questions.

John Wisener was still alive and apparently living in or near Lancaster County on 23 February 1802 when he witnessed a deed there.

- Continue to examine land records in Lancaster County and search for other deeds, especially those pertaining to John.
- Search for a will or estate papers for John Wisener.

Other Wisener men, notably Henry and Martin, were apparently bequeathed land by Jacob Wisener (the father).

- Search for children of Henry and Martin, as well as John. Sources to be searched are numerous.
- Look in Pendleton County, SC for any mention in records for Martin.
- Look at Laurens County records for any mention of Jacob. Also look in Abbeville County for court records. According to the FamilySearch Wiki, "Laurens County was a part of the Ninety-Six District from 1785 -1800 and the records of the Ninety-Six District courts are housed in Abbeville County with the Clerk of Court."