

THE MATTHEW SPARKS FAMILY OF SURRY (NOW YADKIN) COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

by
Alvy Ray Smith, FASG

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Preface

This is a study I have undertaken to try to determine if Matthew Sparks's daughter, Nancy Sparks, married the Alexander¹ Smith of Buncombe Co., N.C., in my Smith family. We believe we know [Dec. 2018] that he married a Nancy, and the Nancy Sparks to Alexander Smith marriage in 1796 in Surry Co., N.C., occurred at just about the right time (if we ignore son William Berry² Smith's birth alleged to be in 1792). But the distance between Surry County and Buncombe County is far enough (four counties) that the two Alexanders are not obviously the same man.

A genealogical argument I am pursuing is this. If my ancestor Alexander¹ Smith was indeed married in 1796 to Nancy Sparks, daughter of Matthew Sparks, in Surry Co., N.C., then there is a possibility that my autosomal DNA carries segments of her Sparks autosomal DNA. Indeed GEDmatch shows a 10.5 cM (centiMorgan) shared DNA segment on chromosome 10 with Dylan Sparks.^[1] So the question becomes: Is Dylan Sparks a descendent of the Sparks family to which Nancy Sparks belonged?

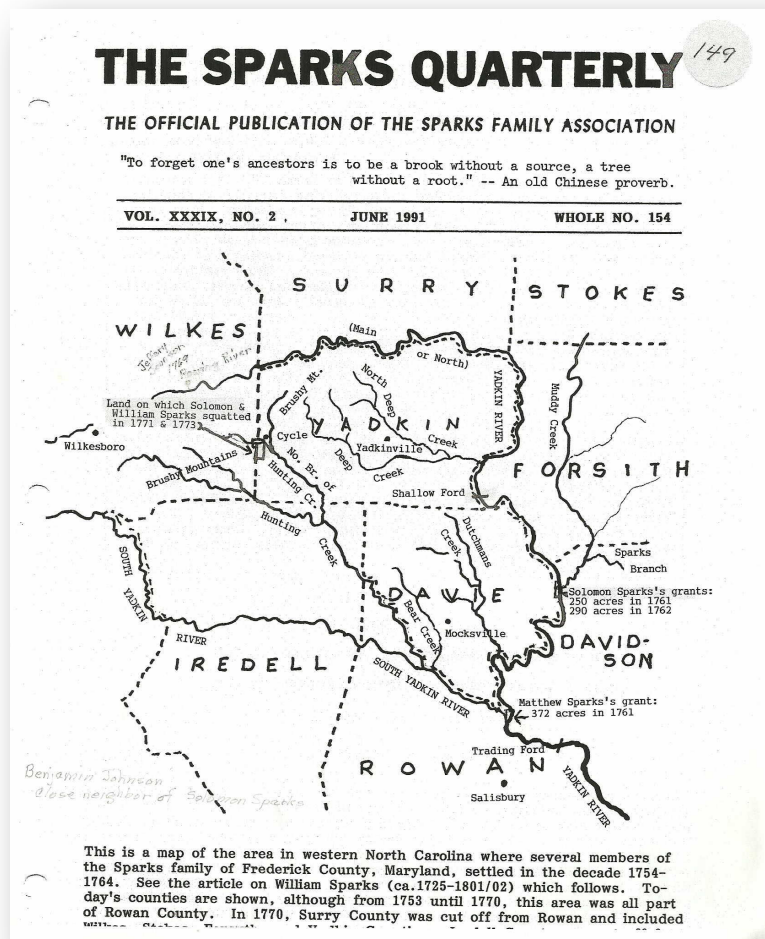
I got in touch with Dylan via email and got this response (9 Jan. 2019):

My name is Dylan Sparks, and I'm a direct descendant of the Sparks family of Wilkes County North Carolina. My 3rd great grandmother Martha Sparks was a daughter of Joel Sparks and Charlotte Durham. Martha's line traces back to John Sparks (1753–1840) and Sarah Shores, and the furthest it extends in western North Carolina is to John's father Solomon Sparks (1725–1790). After that, they can be traced back to Maryland.

This is promising because the part of Surry Co., N.C., where Matthew Sparks and his daughter resided is what is now Yadkin Co., N.C. and abuts the Wilkes Co. line. A bit of research online resulted in this map on

1. GETmatch Matching Segment Search–V2.1.2, my kit is T361863. Dylan's matches with me are summarized by this: "Kit Chr Start Position End Position cM SNPs Name Sex Email | ... | A523712 10 73,587,896 84,373,257 10.5 2,428 Dylan Sparks M Dwsparks112@gmail.com. I also share a 10.6 cM segment on chromosome 8 with a Howard Y. Sparks, hyarks@gmail.com.

the cover of an informative journal. Note that the location specified as “Land on which Solomon & William Sparks squatted in 1771 & 1773” is on the North Branch of the Hunting Creek at the Wilkes Co. line, but in Yadkin Co. This is where Matthew Sparks of this book was located. Appendix B is a well-documented article from this journal.



THE MATTHEW SPARKS FAMILY

EARLY GENERATIONS

The Sparks genealogy in appendix B is formatted here in the style of this book. Only the lines of interest to the main book are entered. I will check the genealogical facts occasionally as noted, but otherwise trust the sources cited in the appendix.

The Julian calendar was in use in Maryland until 1752. For Julian to Gregorian calendar conversions, I use the calculator at *Converting between Julian and Gregorian Calendar in One Step*, by Stephen P. Morse, <steve-morse.org/jcal/julian.html>

0. **THOMAS^A SPARKS** and his wife, **JOANA DAVIS**, resided in Fareham Parish, Co. Hampshire, England. They are believed to be the parents of the following two immigrants to Maryland in the 17th century:

- + 1 i ?**WILLIAM¹ SPARKS**, possibly the son of Thomas and Joana baptized on 6 Aug. 1646, Fareham Parish, Hampshire, married **MARY** —, and had at least four children. Immigrated to Maryland in about 1663.
- + 2 ii ?**JOHN¹ SPARKS**, possibly the son of Thomas and Joana baptized on 3 Dec. 1649, Fareham Parish, Hampshire. married **ELLENOR** —, and had at least two children. Immigrated to Maryland perhaps about the same time as brother William¹.

1. **WILLIAM¹ SPARKS** was born perhaps 1646 in England, immigrated to Maryland in 1662, and died (his will was proved) in 1709, Queen Anne's Co., Md. He married **MARY** —.

On 2[1?] June 1709 [Gregorian equivalent, assuming 21 June is correct, is 2 July 1709] "William Sparks" signed his will in Queen Anne's Co., Md., and it was proved 24 Oct. 1709. It mentions "my Son George Sparkes," "my Son George and his Wife and Children," "my Grandson Charles Hinson," "my GrandDaughter being the Daughter of my Son William Sparkes," "my loving Wife Mary Sparkes," "her Son William Sparkes," "my Son John Sparks," "my Sons William Sparkes and Joseph

THE MATTHEW SPARKS FAMILY

Sparkes,” “if my Son Joseph shall happen to Die before he comes to Age.”^[2]

Children (known sons):

- + 3 i **WILLIAM² SPARKS**, born about 1674 in Maryland, married (1) **MARGARET HAMILTON**, and had at least one child, married (2) **ANNE** —.
- 4 ii **GEORGE² SPARKS**, born about 1679 in Maryland, married, and had a family (from his father’s 1709 will).
- 5 iii **[DAUGHTER]² SPARKS**, died before her father’s 1709 will, married — **HINSON**, and had at least one child: (1) Charles³ Hinson born before his grandfather’s will of 1709.
- + 6 iv **JOHN² SPARKS**, born about 1679 in Maryland, married **CORNELIA** —, and had 10 children.
- + 7 v **JOSEPH² SPARKS**, born about 1689 (he was not of age in 1709, so born in or after 1688) in Maryland, married **MARY** —, and had 12 children.

2. **JOHN¹ SPARKS** was born perhaps 1649 in England. He also immigrated to Maryland. He died about 1701 (his will was proved 3 Jan. 1701[²]). He married **ELLENOR** —.

On 2 Sept. 1699 [Gregorian 12 Sept. 1699] “John Sparkes” signed his will, and it was proved 3 Jan. 1701[²] [Gregorian 14 Jan. 1702] in Kent Co., Md. It mentions “my beloved Wife Elinour Sparkes,” “I Give to my sons Jn^o and George Sparkes one hundred acres of Land Called Buck hill provided either off them Come to enjoy itt,” “My Wife Ellenor Sparkes.”^[3] So the sons were still in England.

2. Queen Anne’s Co., Md., Wills, 1706-1733, Liber SC:20-22, images 332-333/558 online at <www.FamilySearch.org>, FHL 14159/item 2, DGS 5079892, will of William Sparks, signed 2[1²] June 1709, proved 24 Oct. 1709; also transcribed on p. 1377 of *The Sparks Quarterly*, Mar. 1971, Vol. 19, No. 1, Whole No. 73a, 1372-1389, Sparks Families in Kent, Talbot, and Queen Anne’s Counties, Maryland.

3. Kent Co., Md., Wills, 1669-1734, Liber 1:83-84, images 70-71/567 online at <www.FamilySearch.org>, FHL 14157, DGS 5079890, will of John Sparks, signed 2 Sept. 1699, proved 3 Jan. 1701.

In fact, both were in Christchurch (formerly Twynham), Co. Hampshire (historically but now Co. Dorset), England, in a document of 23 Oct. 1716:

to whome these presents shall come John Sparks of the Burrough of Christchurch Twyneham in the County of Southson in the Kingdom of England Butcher Eldest Son and heire and devisee of John Sparks late of Chester River in Kent County in Maryland in Virginia decs'd and George Sparks of the Burrough of Christchurch Twyneham aforesaid Glover one other of the Sons and devisees of the said John Sparks deceased Send Greeting whereas the said John Sparks party to these presents and George Sparks are or one of them is lawfully constituted in and to one hundred acres of Land called Buckhill Lying in Chester River in Kent County afd to the use of them or one of them their or one of their heires and whereas by reason of the remoteness of the Said Land they the said John Sparks party to these presents and George Sparks are minded and intended to dispose of the Same^[4]

Known children (see *The Sparks Quarterly*, Dec. 1974, Whole No. 88):

- 8 i JOHN² SPARKS, still in England in 1716..
- 9 ii GEORGE² SPARKS, still in England in 1716.

3. WILLIAM² SPARKS (₁William¹) was born about 1674 in Maryland, and [died after 1734, Maryland](#). He married (1) MARGARET HAMILTON. He married (2) ANNE —.

Known child:

- + 10 i WILLIAM SAMPLE³ SPARKS, born [about 1705](#), Maryland, [married](#) probably RACHEL —, and had at least two children.

4. Kent Co., Md., Land Records, 1714–1718, Liber BC:181–183, FHL 14149/item 5, DGS 8218384, not visible from my home computer; but transcribed on p. 1379 of *The Sparks Quarterly*, Mar. 1971, Vol. 19, No. 1, Whole No. 73a, 1372–1389, Sparks Families in Kent, Talbot, and Queen Anne's Counties, Maryland. I have found no Co. Southson in England. Southson might be a corruption of Southampton.

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6. **JOHN² SPARKS** (¹William¹) was born about 1679 in Maryland, and died [19 Apr. 1737](#). He married [prior to 1704](#) **CORNELIA** —, who died [22 Dec. 1737](#).

On 28 Jan. 1731[/2] John Sparks signed his will, and it was proved 24 May 1737. It mentions: “I give & bequeath unto my five sonns, George, John Millington, absalom & Caleb my three Tracts of Land Viz^e one called Sparkes Incosure [sic, Inclosure] containing one hundred ninety & five Acres, Sparkes Choice, containing one hundred acres & one hundred acres of Land lyeing in his Lordships Mannor in Queen Ann’s Co^{ty} on y^e South East branch of Chester River the whole containing three hundred ninety & five acres to be equally divided between them,” “my Loveing wife Cornelia Sparkes,” “my Negro Man Will,” “my son Caleb,” “my nine Children Viz^e George, John, Millington, Absalum & Caleb, Sarah Mary, Rachel & Cornelia,” “my Grand Daughter, Sarah Sparkes Daughter of my son W^m Sparkes dec^d.” One of the three witnesses to the will was “Eliz^a [her E markel] Sparkes, referred to as “Elizabeth Sparks” in the proof on 24 May 1737. Their oath was taken “in y^e presence of George Sparkes Son & heir at Law of s^d dec^d w^{ch} same George Sparkes did not object to y^e probat of y^e said will.”^[5]

Children:

- 11 i **WILLIAM³ SPARKS**, born [about 1706](#), cousin to William Sample³ Sparks, died [15 Jan. 1730/1](#) before his father’s will of 28 Jan. 1731[/2], and had at least one child, mentioned in that will: (1) Sarah⁴ Sparks.
- 12 ii **GEORGE³ SPARKS**.
- 13 iii **JOHN³ SPARKS**.
- 14 iv **MILLINGTON³ SPARKS**.
- 15 v **ABSALOM³ SPARKS**.
- 16 vi **CALEB³ SPARKS**.
- 17 vii **SARAH³ SPARKS**.
- 18 viii **MARY³ SPARKS**.

5. Queen Anne’s Co., Md., Wills, 1734–1751, 1:42–44, images 38–39/237 online at <www.FamilySearch.org>, FHL 14306, will of John Sparks, signed 28 Jan. 1731[/2], proved 24 May 1737; also transcribed on p. 1700 of *The Sparks Quarterly*, Dec. 1974, Vol. 22, No. 4, Whole No. 88, 1700–1701, The Last Will of John Sparks of Queen Anne’s County, Maryland.

- 19 ix **RACHEL**³ **SPARKS**.
 20 x **CORNELIA**³ **SPARKS**.

7. **JOSEPH**² **SPARKS** (₁*William*¹) was born about 1689 (he was not of age in 1709, so born in or after 1688) in Maryland, died “intestate in the spring of 1749 in Frederick County, Maryland, and his wife, Mary Sparks, was appointed as his administratrix.”^[6] Thus he died before 1754 when the Sparks North Carolina Party departed Maryland for North Carolina. He married **MARY** —.

“The men named Sparks in the group [that set out for North Carolina in 1754] besides William Sample Sparks were his sons Matthew (about 34 years old) and James (who was still in his teens); there were also three sons of Joseph Sparks; Solomon Sparks (about 27), Jonas Sparks (about 20); and Jonathan Sparks (about 18).” I will call this group the **1754 Sparks North Carolina Party**.

On 22 Aug. 1750 a memorandum in the records of the Frederick Co., Md., county court (in its Aug. term of 1750) mentions an obligation made with Mary Sparks, Joseph’s widow and administratrix, to pay £150.1 “unto Solomon, Joseph, Charles, Jonas, Jonathan, William, George, Merum, Mary, Ann, Rebecka and Sarah Sparks . . . their respective parts or portions of Joseph Sparks, deceased, his estate.”^[7]

Children (sons before daughters in estate document order):

- + 21 i **SOLOMON**³ **SPARKS**, born about 1727 (about 27 in 1754), married **SARAH** —, and had at least one child. He was a member of the 1754 Sparks North Carolina Party.
- 22 ii **JOSEPH**³ **SPARKS**. He was possibly the Joseph “Sparkes” listed in the 1782 tax list for Surry Co., N.C., as was Matthew Sparks, both listed on the “waters Hunting Cr.”^[8]

6. Quoted from p. 2915 of *The Sparks Quarterly*, Sept. 1986, Vol. 34, No. 3, Whole No. 135a, 2914–2928, Joseph Sparks (ca. 1730–1809) of Frederick County, Maryland & Bedford County, Pennsylvania, by Paul E. Sparks.

7. Transcribed on p. 2915 of *The Sparks Quarterly*, Sept. 1986, Vol. 34, No. 3, Whole No. 135a, 2914–2928, Joseph Sparks (ca. 1730–1809) of Frederick County, Maryland & Bedford County, Pennsylvania, by Paul E. Sparks.

8. Surry Co., N.C., Lists of Taxables, image 656/700 online at <www.FamilySearch.org>, FHL 19957/item 4, DGS 7519203, tax list for 1782: “Joseph Sparks . . . 100 waters Hunting Cr. . . .

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- 23 iii **CHARLES³ SPARKS.**
- 24 iv **JONAS³ SPARKS**, born about 1734 (about 20 in 1754). He was a member of the 1754 Sparks North Carolina Party.
- 25 v **JONATHAN³ SPARKS**, born about 1736 (about 18 in 1754). He was a member of the 1754 Sparks North Carolina Party.
- 26 vi **WILLIAM³ SPARKS.**
- 27 vii **GEORGE³ SPARKS.**
- 28 viii **MERUM³ SPARKS.**
- 29 ix **MARY³ SPARKS.**
- 30 x **ANN³ SPARKS.**
- 31 xi **REBECCA³ SPARKS.**
- 32 xii **SARAH³ SPARKS.**

10. **WILLIAM SAMPLE³ SPARKS** (₃*William²*, *William¹*) was born about 1705, Maryland, and died [after 1764](#). He [married](#) probably **RACHEL** —.

“The men named Sparks in the group [that set out for North Carolina in 1754] besides William Sample Sparks were his sons Matthew (about 34 years old) and James (who was still in his teens); there were also three sons of Joseph Sparks; Solomon Sparks (about 27), Jonas Sparks (about 20); and Jonathan Sparks (about 18).” The latter three were sons of William’s uncle Joseph² Sparks, deceased. I will call this group the **1754 Sparks North Carolina Party**.

In 1771 Solomon Sparks and William Sparks resided in Surry Co., N.C., according to tax list for that year, Solomon with three polls and William with one. William might be William Sample³ Sparks, a member with Solomon of the 1754 North Carolina Party, and known to have died [after 1764](#). But he might be his son, William⁴ (*William Sample³*), known to have died in [1801, Surry Co., N.C.](#)

Known children of 12:

- + 33 i **MATTHEW⁴ SPARKS**, born about 1720 (about 34 in 1754), married **SARAH** —. He was a member of the 1754 Sparks North Carolina Party.

| ... | Matthew Sparks 400 ... waters Hunting Cr. ...”

- + 34 ii **WILLIAM⁴ SPARKS**, born 1725 (before or in 1728), Frederick Co., Md., or Queen Anne's Co., Md., died in 1801, Surry Co., N.C., married 1749, Frederick, Md., **ANN** —, and had at least one child.
- 35 iii **JAMES⁴ SPARKS**, born about 1735–1741 (in his teens, 13–19, in 1754). He was a member of the 1754 Sparks North Carolina Party.

21. **SOLOMON³ SPARKS** (*Joseph², William¹*) was born about 1727 (about 27 in 1754). He married **SARAH** —. He was a member of the 1754 Sparks North Carolina Party.

On 2 Apr. 1761 Lord Granville granted to Solomon Sparks of Rowan Co., Province of North Carolina, 250 acres in the Parish of St. Luke, Rowan Co., “lying on the West Side of Yadkin River” [see the preceding map] at an annual fee rate of three shillings per hundred acres, paid twice a year, and with certain mineral rights reserved to the Lord.^[9]

On 28 Aug. 1762 Lord Granville granted to Solomon Sparks of Rowan Co., Province of North Carolina, 290 acres in the Parish of St. Luke, Rowan Co., “on S. side the Yadkin River” [see the preceding map] at an annual fee rate of three shillings per hundred acres, paid twice a year, and with certain mineral rights reserved to the Lord.^[10]

On 1 Jan. 1763 Solomon Sparks of Rowan Co., N.C., sold to Jonas Sparks of the same place 130.75 acres in Rowan Co. “on the south side the Yadkin River.” The transaction took place in the form of two adjacent deeds in the deed book called “Deeds of Lease & Release,” required presumably for proper sale of lands granted by Lord Granville in a way that preserved his fees and rights. The first of the two cost Jonas £5 and the second £20. Both were acknowledged in April Court 1763 in Rowan Co.^[11] Jonas was probably Solomon’s brother and fellow member of the 1754 North Carolina Party, both of them sons of Joseph² Sparks.

9. Rowan Co., N.C., Deeds, 4:389–391, images 398–400/953 online at <www.FamilySearch.org>, FHL 19777, DGS 7517720, grant of 372 acres by Lord Granville to Solomon Sparks.

10. Rowan Co., N.C., Deeds, 5:228–229, images 243–244/585 online at <www.FamilySearch.org>, FHL 19777, DGS 7517721, grant of 290 acres by Lord Granville to Solomon Sparks.

11. Rowan Co., N.C., Tax Lists, 1771, 5:275–276, images 290–291/585 online at <www.FamilySearch.org>, FHL 19777, DGS 7517721, sale of 130.75 acres by Solomon Sparks to Jonas Sparks.

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On 1 Jan. 1763 and immediately following the two deeds above in the deed book were two more in the same form but for the sale of 159.25 acres “on the south side of the Yadkin River” to Valentine Vanhouser. The two deeds of lease and release cost Valentine £5 and £30.^[12] These four deeds represent sale of the entire 290 acres granted to Solomon Sparks by Lord Granville on 28 Aug. 1762.

In 1771 and 1772 Solomon Sparks resided in Surry Co., N.C., according to tax lists for those two years, each time with three polls. William Sparks appeared in the 1771 tax list, with one poll, but no in the 1772 list. William might be William Sample³ Sparks, a member with Solomon of the 1754 North Carolina Party, and known to have died after 1764. Could he have died between the two tax lists of 1771 and 1772? But he might be William⁴ (*William Sample*³) known to have died in 1801, Surry Co., N.C.^[13]

On 3 May 1788 Solomon “Sparkes” and Sarah his wife, of Surry Co., N.C., sold for £150 to Jonas Sparks, of Rowan Co., N.C., 170 acres in Rowan Co. “on the South Side of the Yadkin River.” The deed was witnessed by Solomon Sparks Jr., David Sparks and Joseph Sparks. It was acknowledged in the May sessions 1788 of the Rowan Co. court.^[14]

According to my correspondent Dylan Sparks’s email, this Solomon³ Sparks was probably his ancestor. Solomon had a son, John⁴ Sparks (1753–1840), from whom Dylan descends, via Joel Sparks and then Martha Sparks, Dylan’s gggmother. Martha (Sparks) Gentry conceived a son, out of wedlock, who took the surname Sparks, which explains why Dylan’s surname is Sparks.

Known child:

12. Rowan Co., N.C., Deeds, 5:276–278, images 291–293/585 online at <www.FamilySearch.org>, FHL 19777, DGS 7517721, sale of 159.25 acres by Solomon Sparks to Valentine Vanhouser.

13. Surry Co., N.C., Lists of Taxables, images 596–597/700 online at <www.FamilySearch.org>, FHL 19957/item 3, DGS 7519203, tax lists for 1771 and 1772 (on left and right of each image), 1771: “Spark William 1” and “Sparks Solomon 3,” 1772: “Sparks Solomon 3.”

14. Rowan Co., N.C., Deeds, 11:436–437, images 459–460/884 online at <www.FamilySearch.org>, FHL 19784, DGS 7517727, sale of 170 acres by Solomon and Sarah Sparks (of Surry Co.) to Jonas Sparks, cites the deed on p. 420 for detailed description, apparently the deed actually at 11:421.

+ 36 i JOHN⁴ SPARKS, born 25 Feb. 1753, Rowan Co., N.C., married SARAH SHORES, and had at least eight children. *The Dylan Sparks line*.

33. MATTHEW⁴ SPARKS (₁₀William Sample³, William², William¹) was born about 1720 (about 34 in 1754), married SARAH —. He was a member of the 1754 Sparks North Carolina Party.

On 4 Apr. 1761 Lord Granville granted to Matthew Sparks of Rowan Co., Province of North Carolina, 372 acres in the Parish of St. Luke, Rowan Co., “lying in the forks of Yadkin River” [see the preceding map] at an annual fee rate of three shillings per hundred acres, paid twice a year, and with certain mineral rights reserved to the Lord.^[15]

On 10 Apr. 1765 Matthew Sparks and Sarah his wife of Rowan Co., Province of North Carolina, sold to William Sparks of the same place, for £50, 200 acres in Rowan Co., “Being part of a Tract of Land Lying & being in the Forks of Yadkin River which was Granted to the sd Mathew Sparks by a Deed from the Earl Granville &c,” the part right at the fork. It was entered at the April term 1765 of the Rowan Co. court and recorded.^[16] This William was probably Matthew’s brother who died in Surry Co., N.C. (q.v.).

He was possibly the Matthew Sparks listed in the 1782 tax list for Surry Co., N.C., as was Joseph Sparks, both listed on the “waters Hunting Cr.”^[17] But he **more likely** was Matthew⁵ Sparks (William⁴), the Matthew in the title of this book.

34. WILLIAM⁴ SPARKS (₁₀William Sample³, William², William¹) was born 1725 (before or in 1728), Frederick Co., Md., or Queen Anne’s Co., Md., died in 1801, Surry Co., N.C. He married 1749, Frederick, Md., ANN —.

15. Rowan Co., N.C., Deeds, 4:514–515, images 525–526/953 online at <www.FamilySearch.org>, FHL 19777, DGS 7517720, grant of 372 acres by Lord Granville to Matthew Sparks.

16. Rowan Co., N.C., Deeds, 6:139–140, images 152–153/621 online at <www.FamilySearch.org>, FHL 19779, DGS 7517722, sale of 200 acres to William Sparks by Matthew and Sarah Sparks.

17. Surry Co., N.C., Lists of Taxables, image 656/700 online at <www.FamilySearch.org>, FHL 19957/item 4, DGS 7519203, tax list for 1782: “Joseph Sparks . . . 100 waters Hunting Cr. . . . | . . . | Matthew Sparks 400 . . . waters Hunting Cr. . . .”

THE MATTHEW SPARKS FAMILY

Repeated from the sketch of William Sample³ Spark: In 1771 Solomon Sparks and William Sparks resided in Surry Co., N.C., according to tax list for that year, Solomon with three polls and William with one.^[18] William might be William Sample³ Sparks, a member with Solomon of the 1754 North Carolina Party, and known to have died [after 1764](#). But he might be his son, William⁴ (*William Sample³*), known to have died in [1801, Surry Co., N.C.](#)

Known child:

- + 37 i MATTHEW⁵ SPARKS, born [about 1752](#), married [about 1775](#), [Surry Co., N.C.](#), EUNICE —. This is identically the Matthew Sparks of the title of this book (q.v., for continuation of this line).

36. JOHN⁴ SPARKS (₂₁*Solomon³, Joseph², William¹*) was born 25 Feb. 1753, Rowan Co., N.C., died probably after his last pension payment in 3rd Quarter 1840 and before the next payment and First Quarter 1841 when the next payment was due.^[19] He married about 1777, Surry Co., N.C., SARAH SHORES, born about 1757 possibly, daughter of Reuben and Susannah Shores, and died between 1830 and 1840 in Wilkes Co., N.C.

His extensive Revolutionary War Pension Application file (claim S. 7580) contains several letters which summarize his service thusly:

John Sparks was born February 25, 1753, in Rowan County, North Carolina; the names of his parents were not stated. About 1772, he moved with his father to that part of Surry County which was later Wilkes County, North Carolina.

While residing in Wilkes County, North Carolina, John Sparks volunteered in 1775 or 1776 as a minuteman in Captain Jesse Walton's North Carolina company, and served from that period at various times until the surrender of Cornwallis, amounting in all to eight months twenty-one

18. Surry Co., N.C., Lists of Taxables, images 596-597/700 online at <www.FamilySearch.org>, FHL 19957/item 3, DGS 7519203, tax lists for 1771 and 1772 (on left and right of each image), 1771: "Spark William 1" and "Sparks Solomon 3," 1772: "Sparks Solomon 3."

19. Everything here, unless otherwise specified, is taken on the authority of William Perry Johnson, *The Genealogy of John Sparks Revolutionary War Pensioner of Wilkes County, North Carolina, The Sparks Quarterly*, Vol. 3, no. 4, Dec. 1955, whole no. 12a, 97-104, online at <www.sparksfamilyassociation.net/wn12a.html>, accessed 24 Jan. 2019.

days, as private and Indian spy under Captains Jesse Walton and Benjamin Cleveland, Colonels Martin Armstrong, Bewnjamin Herndon and Smith in the North Carolina troops, was in an expedition against the Cherokee Indians, burned their town, Wautauga, Cowee, Hiawassee, Tuckaseegee(?), Big Chota and others, and was in several engagements with the Indians. He state, also, that when Captain Walton was promoted to major, he (John Sparks) had command of the company until they were attached to Captain Benjamin Cleveland's company.

The soldier was allowed pension on his application executed October 30, 1832, while a resident of Wilkes County, North Carolina. At the time of his application for pension, he stated that ever since the Revolution he had lived in Surry and Wilkes Counties, North Carolina.

It is not stated whether John Sparks ever married.

In 1832, one Reuben Sparks was living in Wilkes County, North Carolina, his relationship to the soldier not shown. . . .

John Sparks
Certificate #16060
Issued June 25, 1833
Rate \$29 per annum
Commenced March 4, 1831
Act June 7, 1832
North Carolina Agency.^[20]

Known or possible child:

- + 38 i !JOEL⁵ SPARKS, born about 1784. *The Dylan Sparks line.*

20. This letter from images 28-29/43 online at <www.fold3.com/image/17536800>, Rev. War Pension File application S. 7580, John Sparks, N.C. The file begins at <www.fold3.com/-image/17536772>; his affidavit is transcribed in *The Sparks Quarterly*, Vol. 3, no. 4, Dec. 1955, whole no. 12a, 94-96, online at <www.sparksfamilyassociation.net/wn12a.html>, accessed 24 Jan. 2019.

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FIFTH GENERATION

37. **MATTHEW⁵ SPARKS** (₃₄*William⁴, William Sample³, William², William¹*) was born [about 1752](#), signed his will 26 Mar. 1819, Surry Co., N.C., and it was proved there in May 1819 (see appendix A).^[21] He married [about 1775, Surry Co., N.C.](#), **EUNICE “NICE”** —, who died perhaps before the 13 Dec. 1833 bond between heirs (q.v.).



North Little Hunting Creek, Yadkin Co., N.C. (Surry Co. before 1850)^[22]

Geography

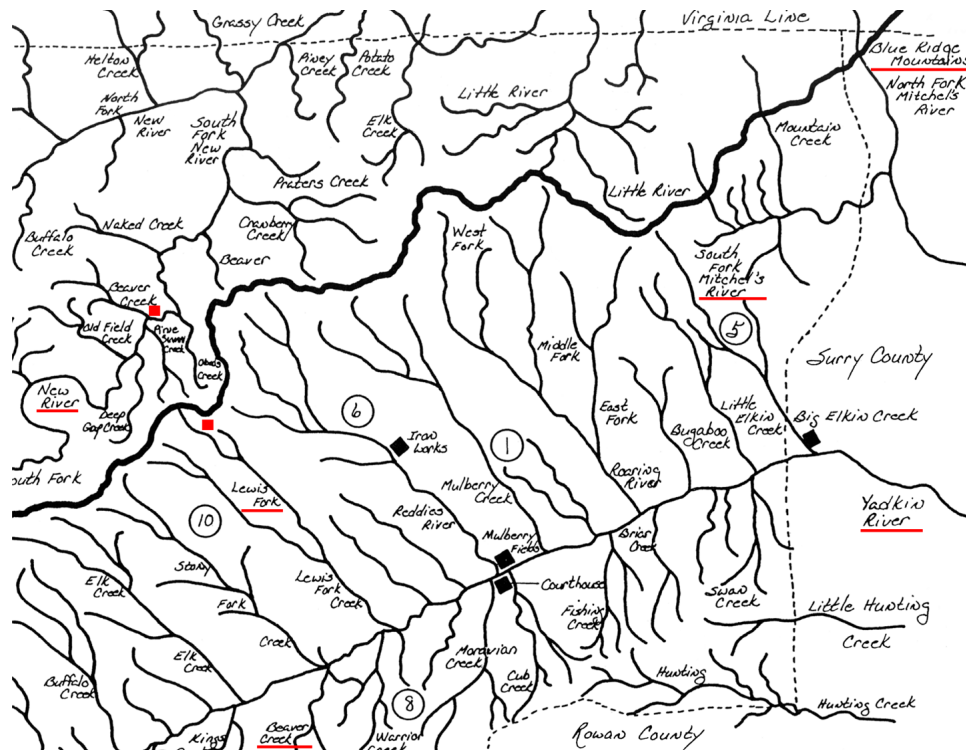
Surry Co., N.C., was divided into two counties in 1789, the left half still Surry Co., and the right half becoming Stokes Co. Then in 1849 and 1850 the lower half of Surry Co. became Yadkin Co., and the lower half of Stokes became Forsyth Co.

Hunting Creek in Surry Co., N.C., is often mentioned in the following deed work—in particular, the North Fork of Hunting Creek. It is located in what is now Yadkin Co., which was created out of the southwest quarter of the original Surry Co. in 1850, as described above.

My knowledge of Hunting Creek comes from this well-sourced writeup for a Sparks neighbor, Isaac Jones:

21. N.C. Wills, 3:140–141, image online at <www.FamilySearch.org>, FHL 19972, DGS 4772461, images 587–588/626; also another record image online at <Ancestry.com>, *North Carolina, Wills and Probate Records, 1665–1998*, Surry Co., Original Wills, Moreland, Joseph–Zinn, Margaretha.

22. *Will the Real Isaac Jone Please Step Forward?*, <therealisacjones.blogspot.com/2012/04/hunting-creek-surry-county-nc-1801.html>, accessed 8 Dec. 2018.



Little Hunting Creek, Yadkin (formerly part of Surry) Co., N.C. at lower right^[23]

The huge difference in cost between an undeveloped piece of land and one that had been “improved” is clearly illustrated in Isaac’s second land purchase in Surry County on December 12, 1804. Once again the land is located “on the waters of Hunting Creek” and bordering Benjamin Johnson, as well as, a man listed only as “Jeffries.” This would prove to be William Jeffrey Sr., the father of John and William Jeffrey who married Isaac’s daughters Jane and Lydia. This new parcel of land is being purchased from a man named Samuel Hicks, and whereas before Isaac had been able to purchase 142 acres for 70 pounds, this time around it is a mere 42 acres

23. I used this map in my book, *Elder Bethuel Riggs of Morris Co., N.J., and His Family*, Boston: Newbury Street Press, 2006, plate VI, caption: “Wilkes Co. N.C., 1786, with red squares at approximate locations of Bethuel¹ Riggs’s properties in 1779.” Note location of New River in Wilkes Co. north of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

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for 33 pounds! This large difference in price would be the sort of thing that would indicate these 42 acres most likely had a home and the necessary amenities for the time located on it. It is on this piece of land that I think Isaac actually lived during his years in Surry County.

This notion is further supported by the Surry County Court Minutes which state that on August 15, 1805 it was [I have inserted my own transcription here] “Ordered by the court that the following persons towit Isaac Jones, William Jeffery, Richard Messich, John Castevens, Isaac Minish, William Osborn, William Nixon Ambrose Chappel Esq^r Benjamin Johnson, Jesse Brewer, Jesse Sisk, Joshua Hicks, Nathan Pearson, and **Joseph Sparks** or any twelve of them be appointed a Jary [jury] to view and mark out a road from the old iron work road at William Nixons to the Wilks road at William Nixons to the **Wilks road at the flat rock** and make report thereof to next Court.”^[24] As mentioned in an earlier post, selection for this sort of thing would indicate you lived or owned land along the proposed route. Based on early maps of the area, the “old iron work road” ran from an important iron ore mine in present day Jonesville and basically followed the same route as today’s Highway 21 down through Hamptonville. The “Wilks road” that is mentioned ran the same course as today’s Highway 421 with the “flat rock” being a reference to the **Flat Rock Branch of Hunting Creek**. This would essentially place Isaac’s homestead somewhere right along or north of the section of Highway 421 between Brooks Crossroads and Swan Creek Road to the west.

The location of Isaac’s homestead can be narrowed down even further based on another Surry County court record dated August 13, 1806. On this particular day, the court minutes indicate that it was [I have inserted my own transcription here] “Ordered by the court that James Whitlock be appointed overseer of the road begining [sic] at the pole bridge near Hamptonville to the Wilks line & that the following hands work on the same, towit, Joseph Salmons, Josiah Roughtons negroes Elisha Roughton **Joel Sparks**, Isaac Jones, James Perry, George Messick, John Brown, Richard Messick, Ashley Johnson, Thomas Elliott, Trestraim Coggsall, Joshua Tulbert, Thomas Whitlock, Joseph [H?]ogdon, James Menish, William Menish, Richard Green, James Parks’s Negroe: it is further ordered that

24. Surry Co., N.C., Minutes, Aug. 1802–Nov. 1816, image online at <www.FamilySearch.org>, FHL 345886, DGS 7842244, image 198/788.

the said overseer keep the said road in good order agreeable to law.”^[25] County tax records as late as 1819 indicate that many of these individuals did in fact own land adjacent to one another and provide an excellent picture of their geographic layout at the time. Even to this day the local names for the county roads attest to where many of these early families lived.

Earlier I had mentioned that Isaac’s homestead most likely lay somewhere along the section of Highway 421 between Brooks Crossroads and Swan Creek Road. If you narrow this section down even further and focus on the stretch of it running between Interstate 77 and Swan Creek Road you see Brown Road, Cheek Road, and **Sparks Road**. John Brown and his extended family lived next to George Messick and you can find the George Messick Cemetery just to the south of the eastern end of Brown Road. County land records indicate that on October 17, 1804, William Jeffrey purchased land from a Benjamin Hicks which lay adjacent to Isaac Jones and Samuel Hicks who were to the north, and adjacent John Brown who was to the west. If you look at the 1818 Surry County Tax List you’ll find William Jeffrey is listed as being adjacent James Denny who can be seen listed as adjacent to John Cheek. Isaac Jones is listed as being adjacent **Matthew Sparks Sr.**, his son **Joel Sparks**, and **Atha Elmore** who lived along the waters of South Deep Creek. John Cheek had married **Atha Elmore’s** daughter Mary in 1809, and **Matthew Sparks Sr.’s son Matthew had married Atha’s other daughter Sarah in 1808**. The Cheeks were neighbors to Isham Dickerson, whose land Isaac Jones purchased as seen in a deed dated May 27, 1809. The purchase was for 142 acres and bordered “**Sparks**.” This all seems to indicate that the location of Isaac Jones’ homestead was north of Highway 421 and west of Interstate 77, lying somewhere between the present day rural communities of Maler and Wagoner.^[26]

Zooming in on Google map for the area, one can find Flat Rock Branch going north from the South Yadkin River, eventually passing the Flat Rock Baptist Church. It appears to start just south of Hamptonville

25. Surry Co., N.C., Minutes, Aug. 1802–Nov. 1816, image online at <www.FamilySearch.org>, FHL 345886, DGS 7842244, image 248/788.

26. *Will the Real Isaac Jones Please Step Forward?*, <therealisaacjones.blogspot.com/2012/04/hunting-creek-surry-county-nc-1801.html>, accessed 8 Dec. 2018.

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and Brooks Crossroads. Another name (but not now accepted) for Hamptonville was Buck Shoals.

Further evidence for the location of the North Fork of Hunting Creek is this:

... the trail led southward to the river Yadkin, wherefrom there then existed but the semblance of a foot-path southwesterly to the site of the later-formed township of Buck Shoal, traversed by the "Bigg Branch of the North Fork of Hunting Creek" (the northern fork now called "Flat Rock Creek") in the southwestern corner of the then Surry county, now the county of Yadkin.^[27]

Deed Work

On 14 Sept. 1778 **Matthew Sparks** entered for survey 200 acres in Surry Co., N.C., "on the North fork of Hunting Creek adjoining of William Willcox, including the above place for QUantity for quantity." It was issued.^[28]

On 17 Sept. 1778 **William Sparks Jr.** entered for survey 350 acres in Surry Co., N.C., "on the top of the Brushy Mountain."^[29]

On 3 Apr. 1780 **Matthew Sparks** was granted 200 acres, at 50 shillings per hundred acres, in Surry Co., N.C., "on the Waters of Hunting Creek."^[30]

On 20 Jan. 1795 **Matthew Sparks** entered for survey 350 acres in Surry Co., N.C., "on the North Hunting Creek adjoining the Wilks line,

27. The Washington-Wright Connection, *Tyler's Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, Vol. 3-4, 265, book page images available online at Google Books.

28. Surry Co., N.C., Land Entries, image 185/700 online at <www.FamilySearch.org>, FHL 19957/item 2, DGS 7519203, No. 713, Matthew Sparks for 200 acres, 14 Sept. 1778, marginal note: "W. granted to H. S."

29. Surry Co., N.C., Land Entries, image 185/700 online at <www.FamilySearch.org>, FHL 19957/item 2, DGS 7519203, No. 734, William Spark Jr. for 350 acres, 17 Sept. 1778, marginal note: "W. granted to H. S."

30. Surry Co., N.C., Deeds, B:67-68, images 40-41/467 online at <www.FamilySearch.org>, FHL 944492, DGS 7538681; N.C. *Land Grant Files, 1693-1960*, image online, Surry Co., survey no. 713, grant no. 318, book 41:46, issued 3 Apr. 1780, Matthew Sparks, 200 acres, "on the north fork of Hunting Creek adjoining William Wilcox Including the above place for quantity," entered for survey 12 Feb. 1779.

Henry Speer's tract on the long branch & his Mill tract belonging to **Joseph Smith** & said Speer's own land for quantity." It was issued.^[31]

On 3 Dec. 1800 **Matthew Sparks** was granted 350 acres, at 30 shillings per hundred acres, in Surry Co., N.C., "on the North fork of Hunting Creek, beginning at a black Jack the Northwest corner of said Sparks' former survey [presumably the one above] . . . to a pine on **Smith's** line [see the May 1797 deed below] . . . to a pine on Henry Speers' line . . . to a stake in the Wilks [sic] County line . . . Entered 27th Jan^y 1795."^[32]

Smith Deed Work

These next items suggest that Joseph Smith, bondsman for the marriage of Nancy² Sparks to Alexander Smith (q.v.), was related to Edwin Smith and possibly also Thomas Smith:

On 23 June 1778 Benjamin Farmer entered 600 acres of land in Surry Co., N.C., on Crooked Creek and Middle Fork eventually joining Thomas "Joice's" line. But on 2 Aug. 1778 the entry was caveated by **Edwin Smith**. The court found in Farmer's favor.^[33]

On 5 Aug. 1778 **Joseph Smith** entered 200 acres of land in Surry Co., N.C., on Crooked Creek beginning opposite to the fork of said creek above **Thomas Smith**.^[34]

On 5 Aug. 1778 **Edwin Smith** entered 200 acres of land in Surry Co., N.C., on Crooked Creek beginning at Thomas Joyce's south corner.

31. Surry Co., N.C., Land Entries, image 568/700 online at <www.FamilySearch.org>, FHL 19957/item 2, DGS 7519203, No. 999, Matthew Sparks for 350 acres, 27 Jan. 1795.

32. Surry Co., N.C., Deeds, I:437, image 419/493 online at <www.FamilySearch.org>, FHL 1022742, DGS 7538491.

33. Winston, *Surry Land Entries 1778-1781*, 20, "206. Benjamin Farmer enters 600 acres in Surry Co. on Crooked Creek & Middle Fork beginning on or near the meadow and running down the said Middle Fork for complement and joining Thomas Joice's line on said creek - June 23, 1778. [August 2, 1778 - caveat entered by **Edwin Smith**, returned to court, jury found for Farmer. Warrant granted]."

34. Winston, *Surry Land Entries 1778-1781*, 36, "393. **Joseph Smith** enters 200 acres of land in Surry Co. on Crooked Creek beginning opposite to the fork of said creek above **Thomas Smith** joining of him and up the creek for quantity including my improvement - August 5, 1778. [Warrant granted to C. M.]."

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But on 28 Aug. 1778 the entry was caveated by Benjamin Farmer. The court found in Farmer's favor and the money was refunded to **Smith**.^[35]

On 1 Dec. 1778 **Joseph Smith** entered 100 acres of land in Surry Co., N.C., at or near the head of the North Fork of Crooked Creek above **Thomas Smith**. (He also entered 250 acres on Snow Creek the same day.)^[36]

On 30 Dec. 1778 **Edwin Smith** entered 500 acres of land in Surry Co., N.C., on the North Fork of Crooked Creek adjoining **Joseph Smith's** line.^[37]

In 1779 **Edwin Smith** entered 50 acres of land in Surry Co., N.C., on the Crooked Creek adjoining his former entry.^[38]

On 13 Oct. 1783 **Joseph Smith** was granted 200 acres, at 50 shillings per hundred acres, in Surry Co., N.C., "on Crooked Creek beginning on the South side . . . crossing said Creek to . . . the bank of the North fork of Creek then . . . to a Beach adjoining **Edwin Smith's** line then South . . . crossing Crooked Creek to the first."^[39]

35. Winston, *Surry Land Entries 1778-1781*, 36, "394. **Edwin Smith** enters 200 acres of land in Surry Co. on both sides of Crooked Creek beginning at Thomas Joyce's S corner then running to include the above quantity - August 5, 1778. [August 28, 1778 - caveated by Benjamin Farmer, returned to court. Jury found for Farmer, the money refunded to **Smith**]."

36. Winston, *Surry Land Entries 1778-1781*, 89, "1007. **Joseph Smith** enters 100 acres of land in Surry Co. beginning at or near the head of the N fork of Crooked Creek above **Thos. Smith's** down the said creek on both sides for quantity - December 1, 1778. [Warrant granted to C. M.]; also "1006. **Joseph Smith** enters 250 acres of land in Surry Co. beginning at or near Matt. Moore's West corner on a branch of Snow Creek thence along Moore's line and out for quantity - December 1, 1778. [Warrant granted to C. M.]."

37. Winston, *Surry Land Entries 1778-1781*, 103, "1176. **Edwin Smith** enters 500 acres of land in Surry Co. on the N fork of Crooked Creek adjoining **Joseph Smith's** line including his improvement for quantity - December 30, 1778. [Warrant granted]."

38. Winston, *Surry Land Entries 1778-1781*, 136, "1573. **Edwin Smith** enters 50 acres of land in Surry Co. on Crooked Creek adjoining his former entry on said creek including the vacant land - (no date given). [Warrant granted]." The dated listings surrounding this item are dated 8 May 1779 above and 24 Apr. 1779.

39. Surry Co., N.C., Deeds, M:325-326, images 355-357/756 online at <www.FamilySearch.org>, FHL 19962, DGS 7519382 (image 357 is a clearer version of image 356); *N.C. Land Grant Files, 1693-1960*, images online, Surry Co., survey no. 538, grant no. 537, book 53:90, issued 13 Oct. 1783, Joseph Smith, 200 acres, "On Crooked Creek, Beginning [Opeset? opposite?] to the fork of the Said Creek, above **Thomas Smiths**, Joining opt [opposite?] him, and up the Creek, Includ [sic] his Improv^r for Quantity," entered for survey 11 July 1779, survey notes mention "to a Beech ad-

On 13 Oct. 1783 **Edwin Smith** was granted 500 acres, at 50 shillings per hundred acres, in Surry Co., N.C., “on the [Nor]th fork of Crooked Creek beginning on a Chesnut [sic] on **Joseph Smith’s** [line] . . . to a Birch [sic] on **Joseph Smith’s** line.” **Joseph Smith** was one of the chain bearers in the survey of this property. The survey entry mentions “above **Thomas Smiths**.”^[40]

On 13 Oct. 1783 **Thomas Smith** was granted 20 acres, at 50 shillings per hundred acres, in Surry Co., N.C., “On the Yadkin River Beginning at his own Corner . . .”^[41]

On 3 Nov. 1784 **Joseph Smith** was granted 200 acres, at 50 shillings per hundred acres, in Surry Co., N.C., “on Crooked Creek beginning on the South side . . . crossing said Creek to . . . the bank of the North fork of Creek then . . . to a Beach adjoining **Edwin Smith’s** line then South . . . crossing Crooked Creek to the first.”^[42] Except for the date, this appears to be identical to the 13 Oct. 1783 grant of 200 acres to **Joseph Smith**.

In the May 1779 term, **Thomas Smith** is mentioned in the Surry Co., N.C., court minutes several times.^[43]

joining **Edwin Smiths** Line.”

40. Surry Co., N.C., Deeds, B:329, image 386/662 online at <www.FamilySearch.org>, FHL 19959, DGS 7519400; N.C. *Land Grant Files, 1693–1960*, images online, Surry Co., survey no. 1176, grant no. 501, book 53:78, issued 13 Oct. 1783, Edwin Smith, 500 acres, “on the North fork of Crooked Creek adjoining **Joseph Smiths** Line; Including his Improvement,” entered for survey 10 May 1779, chain bearers **Joseph Smith** and Benjamin Farmer.”

41. Surry Co., N.C., Deeds, B:282–283, image 363/662 online at <www.FamilySearch.org>, FHL 19959, DGS 7519400; N.C. *Land Grant Files, 1693–1960*, images online, Surry Co., survey no. 81, grant no. 443, book 53:59, issued 13 Oct. 1783, Thomas Smith, 20 acres, “on the Yadkin River,” entered for survey 15 Aug. 1778. The only earlier grant I found for Thomas Smith was A:361, image 197/662, for 400 acres “on Bentfront Creek,” granted 3 Apr. 1780. And he bought 8 July 1775 150 acres “on lovings Creek the middle fork of the Tararat River [A:200, image 116/662]. Also on 13 Aug. 1778 he bought 239 acres “on the North Side of the Yadkin River and both sides of Snow Creek [A:249–250, images 141–142/662]. Two other deeds I couldn’t find were supposedly at D:291 and D:313, but they were on pages missing from the digitized record.

42. Surry Co., N.C., Deeds, C:164–165, images 305–306/467 online at <www.FamilySearch.org>, FHL 944492, DGS 753861.

43. Surry Co., N.C., Minutes, May 1779–May 1802, images online at <www.FamilySearch.org>, FHL 345885, DGS 7900768, images 16, 21, 22, 24 (twice)/788.

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On 11 July 1784 **Edwin Smith** sold to John Farmer, both of Surry Co., N.C., for 678 pounds, 500 acres “on the North fork of crooked Creek. Beginning at a Chesnut [sic] on **Joseph Smith’s** Line . . . to a Beech on **Joseph Smith’s** line . . .” The deed was acknowledged in the Aug. 1784 Sessions of Surry Co. court by **Edwin Smith**.^[44]

These next two grants to Henry Speer, of several made to him, matter further here:

On 20 Dec. 1791 Henry Speer was granted 240 acres, at 50 shillings per hundred acres, in Surry Co., N.C., “on Hunting Creek. Beginning at a Dogwood . . . on the North bank of the North fork of Hunting Creek runs North . . . crossing said Creek . . . to the Corner pine on **Matt[cropped] Sparks** line South . . . crossing Hunting Creek . . . to his corner on the fork of said Creek and then up the meanders of the North fork to the Beginning.”^[45]

On 20 Dec. 1791 Henry Speer was granted 600 acres, at 50 shillings per hundred acres, in Surry Co., N.C., “on the big Long Branch of Hunting Creek.”^[46]

These deeds further establish the connection between Joseph and Alexander Smith, and Matthew Sparks:

On 22 Feb. 1794 Henry Speer sold to **Joseph Smith**, both of Surry Co., N.C., for 200 pounds, the 240 acres described above, including reference to the **Matthew Sparks** line. The deed was acknowledged in the May 1794 term of the Surry Co. court.^[47]

On 26 Oct. 1796 James Herring [or Herren] of Surry Co., N.C., sold to **Joseph Smith** of Surry Co., N.C., for 100 pounds, 200 acres of land

44. Surry Co., N.C., Deeds, C:79-80, image 261/467 online at <www.FamilySearch.org>, FHL 944492, DGS 753861

45. Surry Co., N.C., Deeds, E:194, image 294/676 online at <www.FamilySearch.org>, FHL 19960, DGS 7519395.

46. Surry Co., N.C., Deeds, F:3-4, images 337-338/676 online at <www.FamilySearch.org>, FHL 19960, DGS 7519395.

47. Surry Co., N.C., Deeds, E:194-195, image 294/676 online at <www.FamilySearch.org>, FHL 19960, DGS 7519395. Begins on same page as the grant to Henry Speer.

“on the West end of six hundred acres granted to Henry Speer on the Long branch bearing date [20 Nov. *[sic]* 1791].” The deed was witnessed by **Matthew Sparks** and **Alexander Smith**. It was proved by **Alexander Smith** in the Aug. 1797 term of Surry Co. court.^[48]

On 18 May 1797 **Joseph Smith** of Surry Co., N.C., sold to **Alexander Smith** of Surry Co., N.C., for 40 pounds, 130 acres of land in Surry Co. “on the South side of N^o [presumably North fork of] Hunting Creek.” The deed was also acknowledged in the Aug. 1797 term of Surry Co. court.^[49]

On 14 Aug. 1797 Henry Speer sold to **Joseph Smith**, both of Surry Co., N.C., for 50 pounds, 60 acres in Surry Co., N.C., “on the waters of Hunting Creek,” part of 300 *[sic]* acres granted 20 Dec. 1790 *[sic]* to Henry Speer. It was proved in the Aug. 1797 term of the Surry Co. court.^[50]

In May 1797 **Matthew Sparks** of Surry Co., N.C., sold to **Alexander Smith** of Surry Co., N.C., for 20 pounds, 100 acres of land in Surry Co. “on the waters of Hunting Creek.” It was witnessed by Thomas Wright and John Finch and proved in the Aug. 1798 term of Surry Co. court by Thomas Wright.^[51]

On 9 Oct. 1801 **Alexander Smith** of Surry Co., N.C., sold to Charles Worth of Stokes Co., N.C., for 115 pounds, two parcels of land: “the one deeded to him by **Matthew Sparks** containing one hundred acres bounded as p^r Deed registered in Book G page 81. The other other deed to him by **Joseph Smith** containing one hundred and thirty acres bounded as p^r Deed registered in Book G page 116,” a total of 230 acres in Surry Co., N.C. The deed was witnessed by Tristram Cogshall, John

48. Surry Co., N.C., Deeds, G:116, image 592/676 online at <www.FamilySearch.org>, FHL 19960, DGS 7519395.

49. Surry Co., N.C., Deeds, G:116-117, image 592/676 online at <www.FamilySearch.org>, FHL 19960, DGS 7519395. Begins on the same page as the preceding deed.

50. Surry Co., N.C., Deeds, G:105, image 59/451 online at <www.FamilySearch.org>, FHL 344622, DGS 7548595. Begins on the same page as the preceding deed.

51. Surry Co., N.C., Deeds, G:81-82, images 574-575/676 online at <www.FamilySearch.org>, FHL 19960, DGS 7519395.

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Whitlock, and **Matthew Sparks**. It was proved in the Aug. 1808 term of Surry Co. court by **Matthew Sparks**.^[52]

On 20 Oct. 1801 **Joseph Smith of Rowan Co., N.C.**, sold to David Walker of Surry Co., N.C., for 200 pounds, 170 acres in Surry Co., N.C., “on the North fork of Hunting Creek . . . Beginning at a dogwood Bush on the South side of the North fork of Hunting Creek, **Alexander Smith’s** corner . . .,” being part of two land grants to Henry Speer of 20 Dec. 1790 [sic] and 20 Dec. 1791. The deed was acknowledged by **Joseph Smith** in the Nov. 1803 term of the Surry Co. court.^[53]

The following deeds establish Matthew’s children, many of them made as he neared death “for and in consideration of the natural love and affection that a parent has towards a child and for the better support and maintenance of the same”:

On 6 July 1810 **Matthew Sparks** sold to **William West**, both of Surry Co., N.C., for \$204, 170 acres in Surry Co., N.C., “on the waters of Hunting Creek.” It was witnessed by Thomas Wright and Benjamin Johnston and was proved in the May 1814 term of the Surry Co. court.^[54]

On 23 Jan. 1811 **Matthew Sparks Sr.** sold to **Matthew Sparks Jr.**, both of Surry Co., N.C., for five pounds, five acres in Surry Co., N.C., “on the waters of Hunting Creek.” It was witnessed by **William Sparks** and **William West** and was proved in the May 1819 term of the Surry Co. court.^[55]

For reference in the following deeds: On 26 Mar. 1819, Surry Co., N.C., Matthew Sparks (Sr.) signed his will, and it was proved in May 1819. Note that the following deeds (in record book order) bear the

52. Surry Co., N.C., Deeds, M:64–65, image 222/756 online at <www.FamilySearch.org>, FHL 19962, DGS 7519382.

53. Surry Co., N.C., Deeds, K:79–80, images 46–47/745 online at <www.FamilySearch.org>, FHL 344623, DGS 7548596.

54. Surry Co., N.C., Deeds, N:80, image 493/745 online at <www.FamilySearch.org>, FHL 344623, DGS 7548596.

55. Surry Co., N.C., Deeds, O:375–376, images 204–205/931 online at <www.FamilySearch.org>, FHL 344624, DGS 7548597.

same date as his will and were proved about the same time as his will was proved:

On 26 Mar. 1819 **Matthew Sparks Sr.** sold to **William Sparks**, both of Surry Co., N.C., for love and affection, 70 acres in Surry Co., N.C., “on the north side of hunting creek.” It was witnessed by **Matthew Sparks** and **George Sparks** and was proved in the May 1819 term of the Surry Co. court.^[56]

On 26 Mar. 1819 **Matthew Sparks Sr.** sold to **George Sparks**, both of Surry Co., N.C., for love and affection, 100 acres in Surry Co., N.C., “on both sides of Hunting Creek, beginning at a White Oak on the County line William Sparks corner . . .” It was witnessed by **William Sparks** and **Joel Sparks** and was proved in the May 1819 term of the Surry Co. court.^[57]

On 26 Mar. 1819 **Matthew Sparks Sr.** sold to **Matthew Sparks Jr.**, both of Surry Co., N.C., for love and affection, 90 acres in Surry Co., N.C., “on both sides of Hunting Creek.” It was witnessed by **William Sparks** and **Joel Sparks** and was proved in the May 1819 term of the Surry Co. court.^[58]

On 26 Mar. 1819 **Matthew Sparks** sold to **Joel Sparks**, both of Surry Co., N.C., for love and affection, 60 acres in Surry Co., N.C., “on the waters of Hunting Creek, Beginning at a[n] oak William Sparks corner . . .” It was witnessed by **William Sparks** and **Matthew Sparks** and was proved in the May 1819 term of the Surry Co. court.^[59]

On 26 Mar. 1819 **Matthew Sparks** sold to **John Sparks**, both of Surry Co., N.C., for love and affection, 50 acres in Surry Co., N.C., “on Hunting Creek.” It was witnessed by T. Wright and **William Sparks** and was proved in the May 1819 term of the Surry Co. court.^[60]

56. Surry Co., N.C., Deeds, O:370-371, image 202/931 online at <www.FamilySearch.org>, FHL 344624, DGS 7548597.

57. Surry Co., N.C., Deeds, O:372-373, image 203/931 online at <www.FamilySearch.org>, FHL 344624, DGS 7548597.

58. Surry Co., N.C., Deeds, O:373-374, images 203-204/931 online at <www.FamilySearch.org>, FHL 344624, DGS 7548597.

59. Surry Co., N.C., Deeds, O:376-377, image 205/931 online at <www.FamilySearch.org>, FHL 344624, DGS 7548597.

60. Surry Co., N.C., Deeds, O:398-399, image 216/931 online at <www.FamilySearch.org>, FHL

THE MATTHEW SPARKS FAMILY

Summary of the above 1819 deeds: **Matthew Sr.** sold portions of his land to sons **William, George, Matthew Jr., Joel, and John**, a total of 370 acres.

Reminder of the first item of Matthew's 1819 will:

I lend unto my beloved wife **Nice Sparks** the whole of my tract of land and plantation together with . . . During her Natural life after her de-
cease the said estate above mentioned to be sold and equally Divided
among **my children herein named that is to say Joel George Matthew
William John Nancy Smith Salley Bray** at the same time authorising my
said wife in her lifetime if she sees cause to give unto **my Daughter Peg-
gy West** of the above property put in her possession such sum or sums
not exceeding one hundred Dollars at her Discretion.

Only the daughters, Nancy Smith and Salley Bray (and possibly Peggy West), were not sold land on the same day as the will.

On 13 Dec. 1833 **Henry Bray** and John A. Bray were bonded to **Mat-
thew Sparks** (Jr.) for \$400. The condition of the bond was: "whereas the
said **Mathew** [sic] **Sparks** hath this day purchased of the said **Henry
Bray**, at two hundred dollars his interest as the representative of the
heirs, by right of wife **Sarah Bray**, formerly **Sarah Sparks** in the estate
both real & personal of **the late Mathew Sparks**, and of **Eunice Sparks**,
now if the said **Mathew Sparks** should get & peacibly enjoy the said es-
tate, more or less, and not be molested in the same forever, by the legal
heirs of the said **Sarah**, then the above obligation to be void . . ." The
bond was proved in the May 1834 term of the Surry Co. court.^[61]

Although Eunice is not described as "the late," this deal might be in
preparation for her death. Matthew Sr.'s will specified that at her death
his estate was to be divided equally among his children. The wording
appears to state that Matthew Jr. purchased the part that was to go to
daughter Sarah (Salley). It seems to imply that daughter Nancy was no
longer a contender. (And also neither was Peggy.)

Smith census work

344624, DGS 7548597.

61. Surry Co., N.C., Deeds, U:468, image 239/850 online at <www.FamilySearch.org>, FHL 19965, DGS 7519186.

Note that **Joseph Smith** in the above deeds was in Surry Co., N.C., until at least 18 May 1797, then of Rowan Co. in 20 Oct. 1801. He and a **John Smith**, of the same age range, are listed together (alphabetically by first letter of surname) in the next two items. There were other Smiths there too, including another Joseph Smith, over 45.^[62]

In 1800 **Joseph Smith**, 16–26 [born 1774–1784], resided in Salisbury, Rowan Co., N.C., with a woman, 16–26, and one male under 10.^[63] But there was a Joseph Smith in Rowan Co. in 1790, 16 or older.

In 1800 **John Smith**, 16–26, resided in Salisbury, Rowan Co., N.C., with a woman, 16–26, and one male under 10.^[64]

Edwin Smith married (bonded) 28 Sept. 1806, Stokes Co., N.C.^[65] (with **Joseph Smith** as bondsman), **Elizabeth Hickman**.

In 1810 **Edwin Smith**, 26–45 [born 1765–1784], resided in Peters Creek, Surry Co., N.C., with a woman 16–26, and one boy and one girl under 10.^[66]

Sparks census work

In 1771 and 1772 **Solomon Sparks** resided in Surry Co., N.C., according to tax lists for those two years, each time with three polls. **William Sparks** appeared in the 1771 tax list, with one poll, but not in the 1772 list.^[67]

A 1774 tax list for Surry Co., N.C., lists “**William Sparks 1**” (William Sparks with one poll), “**Solomon Sparks, John & Joseph Sparks**, in all

62. U.S. census, 1800, Salisbury, Rowan Co., N.C., r. 33, p. 412.

63. U.S. census, 1800, Salisbury, Rowan Co., N.C., r. 33, p. 429.

64. U.S. census, 1800, Salisbury, Rowan Co., N.C., r. 33, p. 429.

65. *N.C. Marriage Records, 1741–2011*, Stokes Co., Marriage Bonds, 1790–1870, image online (of a typescript), 282, “Smith, Edwin Elisebeth [sic] Hickman 28 Sept. 1806 [bondsmen] Edwin Hickman and Joseph Smith”; *N.C. Index to Marriage Bonds, 1741–1868*, Alexander Smith to Nancy Sparks, bond date 22 July 1796, bond no. 147423, N.C. Marriage Bonds, 1741–1868, image no. 7503, Surry Co., record no. 01 211, bondsman Joseph Smith.

66. U.S. census, 1810, Peters Creek, Surry Co., N.C., r. 43, p. 554, FHL 337916.

67. Surry Co., N.C., Lists of Taxables, images 596–597/700 online at <www.FamilySearch.org>, FHL 19957/item 3, DGS 7519203, tax lists for 1771 and 1772 (on left and right of each image), 1771: “Spark William 1” and “Sparks Solomon 3,” 1772: “Sparks Solomon 3”; also Johnson, *Surry-Wilkes Taxables* (see bibliography), 4, 5, and 10.

THE MATTHEW SPARKS FAMILY

3,” **James Sparks 1**,” **Will Sparks**, **Math Sparks 2**”^[68] So John and Joseph Sparks were sons of Solomon, and Math [Matthew] Sparks was son of Will.

A 1775 tax list for Surry Co., N.C., lists **Mathew Sparks Juner 1**,” **William Sparks Juner 1**,” **William Sparks Sener 1**,” **Matthew Sparks Snr.**, **John Sparks**, **Matthew Sparks Junr. 3**,”^[69]

John Sparks, **William Sparks**, and **William Sparks Jr.** were listed in the 1782 tax list for Surry Co., N.C., all listed on the “Brushy Mountain.”^[70]

In the Feb. 1786 state census of North Carolina is listed **Mathew Sparks**, 21–60 [born 1726–1765], one white male under 21 (or over 60), and three females.^[71]

In 1790 **Matthew Sparks**, over 16 [so born before 1774], resided in Surry Co., N.C., with three males under 16, and four females.^[72]

In 1800 **Matthew Sparks**, over 45 [so born before 1755], resided in Salisbury, Surry Co., N.C., with a woman over 45, three boys under 10, three males 10–16, and one girl 16–26, and one slave. On the same page were **James Sparks**, 26–45, and **Joseph Sparks**, over 45.^[73]

In 1810 **Matthew Sparks**, over 45 [so born before 1765], resided in Surry Co., N.C., with a woman over 45, one male 10–16, and two males 16–26, and three slaves.^[74]

In 1820 **Mathew**,” 26–45, **Joel**, 26–45, **William**, 26–45, **John**, 16–26, and **Unicy**,” over 45, and **George Sparks**, 26–45, are listed together

68. Johnson, *Surry-Wilkes Taxables* (see bibliography), “A List of Taxables taken for Surry County by Benjamin Cleavland (1774),” 19–22.

69. Johnson, *Surry-Wilkes Taxables* (see bibliography), “John Hudspeth his List of Taxes 1775,” 29–30, and “Benjamin Cleavelands [List of Tythes??] for the year 1775,” 31, 33.

70. Surry Co., N.C., Lists of Taxables, image 624/700 online at <www.FamilySearch.org>, FHL 19957/item 4, DGS 7519203, tax list for 1782: “John Sparks 200 in Brushy Mountain . . . | . . . | William Sparks 200 in Brushy Mount” . . . | . . . | William Sparks Jun^r 600 on Brushy Mountain . . .,” all in Capt. Martin’s Dist. (image 620/700).

71. N.C. *State Census, 1784–1787*, page image online, Surry Co., p. 1, col. 3, of “List of Capt. Wright’s Distr. Number of Inhabitants Taken by William Cook, Feby. 1786.”

72. U.S. census, 1790, Surry Co., N.C., r. 7, p. 516, FHL 568147.

73. U.S. census, 1800, Salisbury, Surry Co., N.C., r. 32, p. 692, FHL 337908.

74. U.S. census, 1810, Surry Co., N.C., r. 43, p. 663, FHL 337916.

in Capt. Dennies Dist., Surry Co., N.C., and so is **William West**, 26–45, on the next page.^[75] In particular:

In 1820 **“Unicy” Sparks**, over 45, [born before 1775], resided in Capt. Dennies Dist., Surry Co., N.C., with three slaves.^[76]

In 1830 **“Mathew,”** 40–50, **George Sparks**, 30–40, and **Eunice Sparks**, 70–80, are listed together in Surry Co., N.C.^[77] In particular:

In 1830 **Eunice Sparks**, 70–80 [born 1750–1760], resided in Surry Co., N.C., with two males 30–40 and one female 20–30.^[78]

Children (in 1819 will order: **“Joel George Matthew William John Nancy Smith Salley Bray . . . Peggy West”**):

- + 39 i **JOEL**⁶ **SPARKS**, born 1780–1790, married, and had children.
- + 40 ii **GEORGE**⁶ **SPARKS**, born 1790–1794, married, and had at least four children.
- + 41 iii **MATTHEW**⁶ **SPARKS**, born about 1788 or 3 Jan. 1793, Surry Co., N.C.,^[79] married **SARAH ELMORE**, and had children. They arrived in Oregon in 1851.
- 42 iv **WILLIAM**⁶ **SPARKS**.

In 1820 William Sparks, 26–45 [born 1775–1794], resided in Capt. Dennies Dist., Surry Co., N.C., with a woman 26–45, one boy and two girls under 10, one boy and one girl 10–16, and one male, 18–26.^[80]
- 43 v **JOHN**⁶ **SPARKS**, born 1794–1804.

In 1820 John Sparks, 16–26 [born 1794–1804], resided in Capt. Dennies Dist., Surry Co., N.C., with a woman 16–26, and one girl under 10.^[81]

75. U.S. census, 1820, Capt. Dennies Dist., Surry Co., N.C., r. 82, p. 674, 676.

76. U.S. census, 1820, Capt. Dennies Dist., Surry Co., N.C., r. 82, p. 674.

77. U.S. census, 1830, Surry Co., N.C., r. 125, p. 90.

78. U.S. census, 1830, Surry Co., N.C., r. 125, p. 90.

79. All information about Matthew Sparks, unless otherwise indicated, from *Early Oregonian Search*, <secure.sos.state.or.us/prs/profile.do?ancRecordNumber=90274>, accessed 7 Dec. 2018. His parents are given as Matthew Sparks and Eunice —.

80. U.S. census, 1820, Capt. Dennies Dist., Surry Co., N.C., r. 82, p. 674.

81. U.S. census, 1820, Capt. Dennies Dist., Surry Co., N.C., r. 82, p. 674.

THE MATTHEW SPARKS FAMILY

- + 44 vi NANCY⁶ SPARKS, married (bond date) 22 July 1796, Surry Co., N.C., 1796, Surry Co., N.C.^[82] (with **Joseph Smith** as bondsman), ALEXANDER SMITH.
- 45 vii SARAH “SALLY”⁶ SPARKS, married (see the 13 Dec. 1833 bond) HENRY BRAY.
- + 46 viii MARGARET “PEGGY”⁶ SPARKS, born about 1783, North Carolina, married WILLIAM WEST, and had children.

38. JOEL⁵ SPARKS (₃₆?John⁴, Solomon³, Joseph², William¹) was born about 1784.

Known or possible child:

- + 47 i ?JOEL⁶ SPARKS, born about 1784, married, and had at least one child. *The Dylan Sparks line.*

82. N.C. *Marriage Records, 1741–2011*, Surry Co., Marriage Bonds, 1784–1868, image online (of a typescript), 211, “Smith, Alexander Nancy Sparks 22 July 1796 [bondsman] Joseph Smith”; N.C. *Index to Marriage Bonds, 1741–1868*, Alexander Smith to Nancy Sparks, bond date 22 July 1796, bond no. 147423, N.C. Marriage Bonds, 1741–1868, image no. 7503, Surry Co., record no. 01 211, bondsman Joseph Smith.

SIXTH GENERATION

39. JOEL⁶ SPARKS (₃₇Matthew⁵, William⁴, William Sample³, William², William¹) was born 1780–1790. He and his family resided in Surry Co., N.C., for at least the period 1820–1840.

In 1820 Joel Sparks, 26–45 [born 1775–1794], resided in Capt. Dennies Dist., Surry Co., N.C., with a woman 26–45, two boys and three girls under 10, one boy and one girl 10–16, one female 16–26, and one male 18–26, and two slaves.^[83]

In 1830 Joel Sparks, 40–50 [born 1780–1790], resided in Surry Co., N.C., with a woman 40–50, one girl under 5, one male and one female 5–10, one male and one female 5–10, one male and one female 10–15, one female 15–20, and one male and one female 20–30, and one slave.^[84]

In 1840 Joel Sparks, 50–60 [born 1780–1790], resided in Surry Co., N.C., with a woman 40–50, one male and one female 10–15, one male and one female 15–20, and two males and two females 20–30.^[85]

40. GEORGE⁶ SPARKS (₃₇Matthew⁵, William⁴, William Sample³, William², William¹) was born 1790–1794. His family resided in Surry Co., N.C., for at least the period 1820–1842. He signed his will on 18 Nov. 1833, and it was proved in Nov. 1842, Surry Co.

Placeholder: In 1800 George Sparks, 26–45 [born 1755–1774], resided in Salisbury, Surry Co., N.C., with a woman 26–45, one boy and one girl under 10, and one male 10–16.^[86] Joseph Smith, Sr. and Jr., are listed on the same page.

In 1820 George Sparks, 26–45 [born 1775–1794], resided in Capt. Dennies Dist., Surry Co., N.C., with a woman 26–45, two boys and one girl under 10.^[87]

83. U.S. census, 1820, Capt. Dennies Dist., Surry Co., N.C., r. 82, p. 674.

84. U.S. census, 1830, Surry Co., N.C., r. 125, p. 91, FHL 18091.

85. U.S. census, 1840, Surry Co., N.C., r. 1, p. 126, FHL 18098.

86. U.S. census, 1800, Salisbury, Surry Co., N.C., r. 32, p. 707, FHL 337908.

87. U.S. census, 1820, Capt. Dennies Dist., Surry Co., N.C., r. 82, p. 674.

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In 1830 George Sparks, 30–40 [born 1790–1800], resided in Surry Co., N.C., with a woman 30–40, one boy under 5, one boy and one girl 5–10, and one female 10–15.^[88]

On 18 Nov. 1833 George Sparks Sr. signed his will in Surry Co., N.C., and it was proved in the Nov. 1842 term of the Surry Co. court. It mentions “my son George Sparks Jun^r,” “my Daughter [sic] Franky that portion of my pewter furniture that my other married Daughters have had,” “my two grand children James and Wilson Edwards.”^[89]

Known children (will order), of at least four (including at least two other daughters):

- 48 i **GEORGE⁷ SPARKS**, was alive when his father signed his will 18 Nov. 1833, Surry Co., N.C.
- 49 ii **FRANKY⁷ SPARKS**, was alive, and apparently unmarried, when her father signed his will 18 Nov. 1833, Surry Co., N.C. **N.B. Franky was possibly Franky Allen who was in Surry Co. in both 1830 and 1840.**

41. MATTHEW⁶ SPARKS (₃₇Matthew⁵, William⁴, William Sample³, William², William¹) was born about 1788 (1850 census) or 3 Jan. 1793, Surry Co., N.C.,^[90] and died 1 Aug. 1854, Polk Co., Ore. Terr. According to Oregon records, he married 1 Mar. 1813, but the date does not fit the 1810 census. Probably instead he married 20 Feb. 1808 (bonded), Surry Co., N.C.,^[91] **SARAH ELMORE**, who was born 13 Feb. 1789, North Carolina,^[92] daughter of Athanasious and Susannah (Pinnix) Elmore, and died June 1880, and was buried in Harmony Cem., Buell, Polk Co., Ore.

88. U.S. census, 1830, Surry Co., N.C., r. 125, p. 90.

89. *N.C. Wills and Probate Records, 1665–1998*, Surry Co., Wills, Vol. 4–5, 1827–1867, image online of pp. 191–192.

90. All information about Matthew Sparks, unless otherwise indicated, from *Early Oregonian Search*, <secure.sos.state.or.us/prs/profile.do?ancRecordNumber=90274>, accessed 7 Dec. 2018. His parents are given as Matthew Sparks and Eunice —.

91. *N.C. Marriage Records, 1741–2011*, “Mathew” Sparks to Sarah Elmore, bonded 20 Feb. 1808, bondsman William West.

92. All information about Sarah Elmore, unless otherwise indicated, from *Early Oregonian Search*, <secure.sos.state.or.us/prs/profile.do?ancRecordNumber=56381>, accessed 7 Dec. 2018.

In 1810 Matthew Sparks, 16–26 [born 1784–1794], resided in Surry Co., N.C., with a woman over 16–26, and two boys under 10.^[93]

In 1820 “Mathew,” 26–45 [born 1775–1794], resided in Capt. Dennies Dist., Surry Co., N.C., with a woman 26–45, three boys and two girls under 10, two males 10–16, and one male 18–26.^[94]

In 1830 “Mathew” Sparks, 40–50 [born 1780–1790], resided in Surry Co., N.C., with a woman 40–50, one boy and two girls under 5, four boys 5–10, two males 10–15, one male and two females 15–20, and one male 20–30.^[95]

In 1850 “Mathew” Sparks, 62, a farmer born in North Carolina with \$1,500 real estate, resided in Cass Co., Mo., with Sarah, 61, born in North Carolina, and with “Matha” [Matthew], 30, Richard, 25, Isaac, 26, Henry, 24, Henry [sic, should be Hugh, perhaps Huey], 21, all male farmers born in North Carolina, Lucinda, 15, born in North Carolina, Katharine, 14, born in Iowa, Elizabeth Scott, 22, born in North Carolina, and “Mathew” Scott, 1, born in Missouri.^[96] See following obituary for more about Elizabeth Scott.

Buried in the Pleasant Hill Cemetery with her brothers by the name of Scott(e).

She married Shedrick Holcomb January 26, 1858 Cass County, MO. She first married Thomas Black April 10, 1853 Cass County, MO.

Almost A Centenarian Mrs. Elizabeth Holcomb was near 100 years She Passed Away Early This Week at Her Home in Pleasant Hill, Pleasant Hill’s oldest citizen, Mrs. Elizabeth Holcomb, who would have been 95 years old, October 13, next, died Monday at the home of her daughter, Mrs. John Satterfield. Funeral services were held at the Satterfield residence, Wednesday, by the Rev. C. R. Swofford, and interment was in Pleasant Hill Cemetery. Death was due to a general break-down brought on by age.

Mrs. Holcomb’s maiden name was Elizabeth Scott and she was born in North Carolina, October 13, 1827. With relatives she came to Missouri in

93. U.S. census, 1810, Surry Co., N.C., r. 43, p. 633, FHL 337916.

94. U.S. census, 1820, Capt. Dennies Dist., Surry Co., N.C., r. 82, p. 674.

95. U.S. census, 1830, Surry Co., N.C., r. 125, p. 90.

96. U.S. census, 1850, Dist. 16, Cass Co., Mo., r. 395, p. 92B, dw. 462, fam. 466.

THE MATTHEW SPARKS FAMILY

her early girlhood and had since made her home in this state, most of the time in Cass County.

April 10, 1853, she was married to Thomas Black and to this union two children were born—Jacob and Lizzie—both of whom survive. Jacob resides near Prescott, Kansas, and Lizzie (Mrs. Cary) now makes her home at Albany, Oregon. Mr. Black died January 26, 1856, and a year and a half later (June 30, 1857) the widow married again, the second husband being Shedrick Holcomb. Four children were born of the marriage—Nanna, Robert, Rhufus and Alice—of whom two survive: Robert, who resides at Carterville, Missouri, and Alice (Mrs. John Satterfield) of Pleasant Hill.

Mr. Holcomb died March 13, 1876. “Grandmother” Holcomb, as she was generally known, leaves a direct line of descendants composed of four children, 25 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren and 11 great-great-grandchildren!

Mrs. Holcomb united with the South Methodist Church when she was 14 years old and had been a devout Christian, actively affiliated with that church ever since, up to the time when age had so enfeebled her that she could not go about much, if an, more. But age did not dim her religious devotion and one who knew her—“knew her but to love her”—says he believes that “Grandmother” Holcomb, devoted, loved, pure in heart, has found her place in that celestial home as certainly as any cue on earth may earn an eternal home “over there.” A tribute from the heat of love, that was, but yet what a wonderful thing to say about a person!

Not only did Mrs. Holcomb rear her own family of children, but five step-children also came under her her motherly care—and she was a real mother to them. She, with her principles and her kindly character, could not have been otherwise.

Ninety-four years, four months and 14 days was her span on this earth. Kindly and thoughtful she had lived and gently, as befitting such a life, came the end. Ready as she was to go, and so full of years, it would not be fitting to mourn for her now that the race is ended. Yet there shall be gentle memories to linger and to inspire—to set, who knows, full many an example for those who follow on behind.

’Tis a sweet consolation, indeed, to us now,
To know that she is resting at last.

obit., Pleasant Hill, Missouri, Friday, March 3, 1922, from *Find a Grave*, no. 19866200, gravestone photograph, Pleasant Hill Cem., Pleasant Hill, Cass Co., Mo., “Elizabeth S. | Holcomb | 1827-1922.”

They arrived in Oregon in 1851.

On 26 Mar. 1853 Matthew Sparks signed his will in Polk Co., Ore. Terr., and it was proved in court there 3 Oct. 1854. It mentions “my daughter Lucinda Sparks,” “my Wife Sarah Sparks,” and “my two daughters Lucinda & Catharine.”^[97]

In 1860 Sarah Sparks, 71, born in North Carolina, resided in Willamina, South Fork Pct., Yamhill Co., Ore., in the household of Aaron Lynch, 32, a farmer born in Missouri, with \$3,000 real and \$1,125 personal estates, Melinda, 29, born in North Carolina, Martin, 22, born in Missouri, and Elizabeth Dickey, 58, born in Tennessee.^[98] **Implies that Aaron Lynch was a son of Elizabeth Dickey, and possibly that Melinda was a daughter of Sarah Sparks.**

In 1870 Sarah Sparks, 82, born in North Carolina, resided in Sheridan Pct., Yamhill Co., Ore., with Richard Sparks, 40, with \$4,500 personal estate, in the household of David Lynch, 36, and Lucinda (q.v.).^[99]

In 1880 Sarah Sparks, 86, a widow, born in North Carolina of North Carolina natives, resided in Jackson Pct., Polk Co., Ore., in the household of her son-in-law, John Lynch, 53, and his wife, Eliza, (q.v.).^[100]

Children:

- + 50 i **SUSAN[NAH]⁷ SPARKS**, born 1810, Surry Co., N.C., married (1) **THOMAS HOLCOMB**, and had at least four children, married (2) **WILLIAM DARLING**. The Holcombs arrived in Oregon in Sept. 1853.

97. *Ore. Wills and Probate Records, 1849-1963*, images online, Polk Co., Ore., Probate Case Files, 539-601, images 21-71/1644, with images 29-30 being the Matthew Sparks will, signed 26 Mar. 1853, proved 3 Oct. 1854.

98. U.S. census, 1860, Willamina PO, South Fork Pct., Yamhill Co., Ore., r. 1056, p. 592, dw. 4482, fam. 3445, FHL 805056.

99. U.S. census, 1870, Sheridan PO, Sheridan Pct., Yamhill Co., Ore., r. 1288, p. 540A, dw. 479, fam. 419, FHL 552787.

100. U.S. census, 1880, Jackson Pct., Polk Co., Ore., ED 103, r. 1083, p. 451D, dw. 68, fam. 69.

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- + 51 ii **MATTHEW⁷ SPARKS**, born about 1820, North Carolina. He was unmarried and had no children.
- 52 iii **ISAAC⁷ SPARKS**, born about 1824 (1850 census) or 11 Feb. 1820 (gravestone), North Carolina, died 1 Nov. 1867, buried Monroeville Cem., Butte City, Glenn Co., Calif.^[101]
- 53 iv **RICHARD⁷ SPARKS**, born about 1825, North Carolina. He resided with his mother and sister Lucinda in the 1870 census.
- 54 v **HENRY B.⁷ SPARKS**, born about 1826, North Carolina. Probably the Henry B. Sparks, 32, born in North Carolina, who resided with Matthew³ Sparks in the 1860 census (q.v.).
- + 55 vi **ELIZA NARCISSUS⁷ SPARKS**, born 9 Feb. 1828, Surry Co., N.C., married **JOHN FRANCIS LYNCH**, and had at least eight children.
- 56 vii **HUGH E.⁷ SPARKS**, born 15 Apr. 1829, North Carolina, died 20 Dec. 1858, buried Monroeville Cem., Butte City, Glenn Co., Calif.^[102]
- 57 viii **?MELINDA⁷ SPARKS**, born about 1831, North Carolina, married **AARON LYNCH**, born about 1828, Missouri, perhaps son of Elbert and Elizabeth (James [possibly Janes]) Lynch, and brother to John Francis Lynch above. Deduced from the one item, the 1860 census in the sketch above.
- + 58 ix **LUCINDA⁷ SPARKS**, born about 1835, North Carolina, married **DAVID LYNCH**, and had at least one child.
- 59 x **CATHARINE [KATHERINE]⁷ SPARKS**, born about 1836, Iowa.

44. NANCY⁶ SPARKS (₃₇Matthew⁵, William⁴, William Sample³, William², William¹) married (bonded) 22 July 1796, Surry Co., N.C.^[103] (with **Joseph Smith** as bondsman), **ALEXANDER SMITH**. See my *Alexander Smith of*

101. *Find a Grave*, no. 121764412, gravestone photograph, Monroeville Cem., Butte City, Glenn Co., Calif., "Isaac Sparks. | born | Feb. 11, 1820, | died | Nov. 1, 1867." Also another stone, "Sparks | Isaac | Feb. 11, 1820 | Nov. 1, 1847 | age 47."

102. *Find a Grave*, no. 121764375, gravestone photograph, Monroeville Cem., Butte City, Glenn Co., Calif., "Hugh E. Sparks. | born | April 15, 1829, | died | Dec. 20, 1858." Also another stone, "Sparks | Hugh E. | Apr. 15, 1829 | Dec. 20, 1858 | age 29."

103. *N.C. Marriage Records, 1741–2011*, Surry Co., Marriage Bonds, 1784–1868, image online (of a typescript), 211, "Smith, Alexander Nancy Sparks 22 July 1796 [bondsman] Joseph Smith"; *N.C. Index to Marriage Bonds, 1741–1868*, Alexander Smith to Nancy Sparks, bond date 22 July 1796, bond no. 147423, N.C. Marriage Bonds, 1741–1868, image no. 7503, Surry Co., record no. 01 211, bondsman Joseph Smith.

Buncombe Co., N.C. book for the possible (but not proved) continuation of this line.

Placeholder: **Joseph Smith** married (bonded) 21 June 1791, Surry Co., N.C.,^[104] **Elizabeth West**.

Placeholder: In 1800 **Joseph Smith**, over 45, resided in Salisbury, Surry Co., with a woman over 45, two boys and one girl under 10, two females 10–16, and three females 16–26. Listed next is **Joseph Smith Jr.**, over 45, with a woman over 45, one boy under 10, and one female 10–16.^[105] **George Sparks** is listed on the same page.

46. MARGARET “PEGGY”⁶ SPARKS (₃₇*Matthew*⁵, *William*⁴, *William Sample*³, *William*², *William*¹) was born about 1783, North Carolina. She married (bonded) 4 Jan. 1799, Surry Co., N.C.^[106] (with **Joseph Smith** as bondsman), **WILLIAM WEST**, who was born about 1780, North Carolina.

In 1800 William West, 26–45 [born 1755–1774] [sic], resided in Salisbury, Surry Co., N.C., with a woman 16–26 [born 1774–1784], and one girl under 10.^[107]

Placeholder: In 1800 **Joseph Smith**, over 45, resided in Salisbury, Surry Co., with a woman over 45, two boys and one girl under 10, two females 10–16, and three females 16–26. Listed next is **Joseph Smith Jr.**, over 45, with a woman over 45, one boy under 10, and one female 10–16.^[108] **George Sparks** is listed on the same page.

104. N.C. *Marriage Records, 1741–2011*, Surry Co., Marriage Bonds, 1784–1868, image online (of a typescript), 212, “Smith, Joseph Elizabeth West 21 June 1791 [bondsman] John Harvey”; N.C. *Index to Marriage Bonds, 1741–1868*, Joseph Smith to Elizabeth West, bond date 21 June 1791, bond no. 147453, N.C. Marriage Bonds, 1741–1868, image no. 8482, Surry Co., record no. 01 212, bondsman John Harvey.

105. U.S. census, 1800, Salisbury, Surry Co., N.C., r. 32, p. 707, FHL 337908.

106. N.C. *Marriage Records, 1741–2011*, Surry Co., Marriage Bonds, 1784–1868, image online (of a typescript), 243, “West, William Margerett [sic] Sparks 4 Jan. 1799 [bondsman] Joseph Smith”; N.C. *Index to Marriage Bonds, 1741–1868*, William West to Margerett Sparks, bond date 4 Jan. 1799, bond no. 148111, N.C. Marriage Bonds, 1741–1868, image no. 7502, Surry Co., record no. 01 243, bondsman Joseph Smith.

107. U.S. census, 1800, Salisbury, Surry Co., N.C., r. 32, p. 701, FHL 337908.

108. U.S. census, 1800, Salisbury, Surry Co., N.C., r. 32, p. 707, FHL 337908.

THE MATTHEW SPARKS FAMILY

In 1810 William West, 26–45 [born 1765–1784], resided in Surry Co., N.C., with a woman 26–45, one boy and four girls under 10, and one female 10–16.^[109]

In 1820 William West, 26–45 [born 1775–1794], resided in Capt. Dennies Dist., Surry Co., N.C., with a woman 26–45, two boys and one girl under 10, two girls 10–16, one male 16–18, and two females 16–26.^[110]

In 1830 William West, 50–60 [born 1770–1780], resided in Surry Co., N.C., with a woman 40–50 [born 1780–1790], one girl 5–10 [Rachel], one male 10–15, one female 15–20, and one male 20–30.^[111]

In 1840 William West, 60–70 [born 1770–1780], resided in Surry Co., N.C., with a woman 60–70 [born 1770–1780], one female 15–20 [Rachel], and one male 30–40.^[112]

In 1850 William West, 70, a farmer born in North Carolina, resided in the South Division, Surry Co., N.C., with Margaret, 67, born in North Carolina, and with Rachel, 29, born in North Carolina, with \$200 real estate.^[113]

Known child:

60 i **RACHEL³ WEST**, born about 1821, North Carolina.

47. JOEL⁶ SPARKS (₃₈?Joel⁵, ?John⁴, Solomon³, Joseph², William¹) was born about 1784, and married.

Known child:

+ 61 i **?MARTHA ANN⁷ SPARKS**, born Jan. 1854 or 19 Sept. 1853, Wilkes Co., N.C., had a child out of wedlock with **THOMAS SHEPHERD**, married **MADISON L. GENTRY**, and had four children. ***The Dylan Sparks line.***

109. U.S. census, 1810, Surry Co., N.C., r. 43, p. 641, FHL 337916.

110. U.S. census, 1820, Capt. Dennies Dist., Surry Co., N.C., r. 82, p. 676.

111. U.S. census, 1830, Surry Co., N.C., r. 125, p. 83, FHL 18091.

112. U.S. census, 1840, Surry Co., N.C., r. ?, p. 122, FHL 18098.

113. U.S. census, 1850, South Division, Surry Co., N.C., r. 646, p. 175B, dw. 218, fam. 219.

SEVENTH GENERATION

50. SUSAN[NAH]⁷ SPARKS (₄₁Matthew⁶, Matthew⁵, William⁴, William Sample³, William², William¹) was born 1810, Surry Co., N.C.^[114] She was bonded to marry 9 Oct. 1835, Surry Co., N.C.,^[115] and married (1) 15 Oct. 1835, Surry Co., N.C., **THOMAS HOLCOMB**, who was born 1810. She married (2) 26 Nov. 1861, bride's home, Polk Co., Ore.,^[116] **WILLIAM DARLING**.

The Holcombs arrived Missouri in 1833 and then in Oregon in Sept. 1853.^[117]

In 1860 Susan Holcomb, 50, born in North Carolina with \$1,000 real and \$770 personal estates, resided in Salt Creek, Jackson Pct., Polk Co., Ore., with "W^m," 20, farmer, born in North Carolina, Thomas, 15, farmer, "Elisabeth," 13, and Martha, 11, all born in Missouri.^[118]

In 1870 Susan Holcomb, 60, born in North Carolina with \$400 real and \$1,400 personal estates, resided in Grande Ronde, Polk Co., Ore., in the residence of Abraham H. Garrison, 38, a farmer born in Indiana with \$800 real and \$625 personal estates, Mary, 28, born in North Carolina, Abraham, 11, and Susan, 3, both born in Oregon.^[119]

114. All information about Susannah, or Susan, Sparks, unless otherwise indicated, from *Early Oregonian Search*, <secure.sos.state.or.us/prs/profile.do?ancRecordNumber=49087>, accessed 13 Dec. 2018.

115. N.C. *Marriage Records, 1741–2011*, Surry Co., N.C., Marriage Bonds, 1784–1868, image 1412/5732 online, "Tho" Holcomb to Susan Sparks, bonded 9 Oct. 1836 [possibly 1835], bondsman Leroy Holcomb.

116. Ore. *County Marriage Records, 1851–1975*, Polk Co., Ore., Marriages, 1849–1866, image 72/138 online, "Mr. W^m Darling to Mrs. Susan Holcomb," "in brides residence," 26 Nov. 1861, by G. B. Savery JP, witnesses Henry Garrison and R. R. Thornton, returned 27 Nov. 1861, recorded 12 Dec. 1861.

117. Ore. *Biographical and Other Index Card File, 1700s–1900s*, Pioneer Index, Holbrook, M.–Karr, image online, Mrs. Susan Sparks Holcomb, born N.C., Irish, settled in turn in Mo., 1833, married Thomas Holcomb, started to Ore. 1853 from Mo., Plains route, arrived Sept. 1853, first location Polk Co.

118. U.S. census, 1860, Salt Creek PO, Jackson Pct., Polk Co., Ore., r. 1056, p. 551, dw. 390, fam. 351, FHL 805036.

119. U.S. census, 1870, Grande Ronde PO, Polk Co., Ore., r. 1287, p. 314A, dw. 527, fam. 514, FHL 552786.

THE MATTHEW SPARKS FAMILY

In 1880 Susan Holcomb, 70, mother, widow, born in North Carolina of North Carolina natives, resided in Amity, Yamhill Co., Ore., in the residence of her son, Thomas Holcomb, 38, a laborer born in Missouri of North Carolina natives, his wife, Laura, 27, born in Oregon of Pennsylvania natives, and his daughter, Minnie, 4, born in Oregon.^[120]

Known children of the first marriage, to Thomas:

- 62 i **WILLIAM**⁸ **HOLCOMB**, born about 1840, North Carolina.
- 63 ii **THOMAS**⁸ **HOLCOMB**, born about 1845, Missouri, married before the 1880 census, **LAURA** —, born about 1853, Oregon, and had at least one child: (1) Minnie⁵ Holcomb, born about 1876, Oregon.
- 64 iii **ELIZABETH**⁸ **HOLCOMB**, born about 1847, Missouri, died 12 June 1925, Medical Lake, Spokane Co., Wash.,^[121] buried 12 June 1925, Spokane Co., Wash., married (1) 25 or 26 Jan. 1862, Polk Co., Ore.,^[122] **MARTIN V. LYNCH**, born 8 June 1838, Cass Co., Mo.,^[123] son of Elbert and Elizabeth (James [possibly Janes]) Lynch, brother of her uncle John Francis Lynch. She married (2) — **GODWIN**.
- 65 iv **MARTHA**⁸ **HOLCOMB**, born about 1849, Missouri.

51. MATTHEW⁷ **SPARKS** (₄₁*Matthew*⁶, *Matthew*⁵, *William*⁴, *William Sample*³, *William*², *William*¹) was born about 1820, North Carolina.

In 1860 “Mathew” Sparks, 37, a stock raiser born in North Carolina with \$6,000 real and \$15,000 personal estates, resided in Princeton, Monroeville Twp., Colusa Co., Calif., with [probably his brother] Henry B. Sparks, 32, a stock raiser born in North Carolina, and with C. C. D. White, 40, a laborer born in New York, Elizabeth White, 32, born in North Carolina, M. A. Scott, 12, male, born in Missouri, Daniel White,

120. U.S. census, 1880, Amity, Yamhill Co., Ore., ED 137, r. 1084, p. 463D, dw. 94, fam. 94.

121. Wash. *Select Death Certificates, 1907–1960*, Mrs. Elizabeth Godwin aka Mrs. Elizabeth Holcomb, female, 78, born about 1847, died 12 June 1925, Medical Lake, Spokane Co., Wash., buried 12 June 1925, Spokane, Wash., father “Thos.” Holcomb, mother “Susana” Sparks, FHL 2022255, no. 215.

122. All information about Elizabeth Holcomb, unless otherwise indicated, from *Early Oregonian Search*, <secure.sos.state.or.us/prs/profile.do?ancRecordNumber=59085>, accessed 13 Dec. 2018.

123. All information about Martin Lynch, unless otherwise indicated, from *Early Oregonian Search*, <secure.sos.state.or.us/prs/profile.do?ancRecordNumber=46379>, accessed 13 Dec. 2018.

5, Henry A. White, 4, J. C. White, 3, a daughter, all born in California, and Tip Sparks, 8, Indian, born in California.^[124]

In 1870 Matthew Sparks, 48, a farmer born in North Carolina with \$3,825 personal estate, resided in Colusa, Colusa Twp., Colusa Co., Calif., with two other probably single males.^[125]

In 1880 “Mathew” Sparks, 65, single, a farmer born in North Carolina of North Carolina natives, resided in Colusa Twp., Colusa Co., Calif., with two other single males.^[126]

55. ELIZA NARCISSUS⁷ SPARKS (₄₁Matthew⁶, Matthew⁵, William⁴, William Sample³, William², William¹) was born 9 Feb. 1828, Surry Co., N.C.,^[127] died 7 Feb. 1910, Yamhill Co., Ore., buried in Harmony Cem., Buell, Polk Co., Ore. She married 16 Nov. 1848, Cass Co., Mo.,^[128] **JOHN FRANCIS LYNCH**, who was born 1 Jan. 1827, Lafayette Co., Mo.,^[129] son of Elbert and Elizabeth (James [possibly Janes]) Lynch, and died 1 Oct. 1907, Salem, Marion Co., Ore., and was buried in Harmony Cem. They arrived 16 Sept. 1851 in Oregon.

Placeholder: Elizabeth Lynch married 17 Jan. 1842, Cass Co., Mo.,^[130] John Dickey.

124. U.S. census, 1860, Princeton PO, Monroeville Twp., Colusa Co., Calif., r. 57, p. 441, dw. 249, fam. 204, FHL 803057.

125. U.S. census, 1870, Colusa PO, Colusa Twp., Colusa Co., Calif., r. 71, p. 283B, dw. 190, fam. 173, FHL 545570.

126. U.S. census, 1880, Colusa Twp., Colusa Co., Calif., ED 13, r. 64, p. 445B, dw. 426, fam. 425.

127. All information about Eliza Narcissus Sparks, unless otherwise indicated, from *Early Oregonian Search*, <secure.sos.state.or.us/prs/profile.do?ancRecordNumber=59552>, accessed 13 Dec. 2018. Alternate birth date 9 Feb. 1823 (doesn't fit the 1850 census). Land claim, donation type, Polk Co., Ore. OC 3604. See 1860 census, Polk Co., Ore., dw. 441, and 1880 census, Polk Co., Ore.

128. Mo. *Marriage Records, 1805–2002*, Cass Co., Mo., Marriages, 1836–1890, image online, 138, “I William Ously a Minister of the Gospel do hereby certify that I Solemnized the rite of Matrimony between John Linch [sic] and Eliza Marcescy [sic] Sparks on the 16 day of November 1848 both of Van Buren County | William Ously. | Recorded this 5 day of January AD 1849 | H. Finny Recorder.”

129. All information about John Francis Lynch, unless otherwise indicated, from *Early Oregonian Search*, <secure.sos.state.or.us/prs/profile.do?ancRecordNumber=59555>, accessed 13 Dec. 2018. Cites death certificate for death, donation land claim Polk Co., Ore., OC 3604, 1870 census, Yamhill Co., Ore.

130. Mo. *Marriage Records, 1805–2002*, Cass Co., Mo., Marriages, 1836–1890, image online, 52,

THE MATTHEW SPARKS FAMILY

Placeholder: Mrs. Elizabeth James (Lynch) Dickey, born in Tennessee, settle in Missouri, married (1) Elbert Lynch, started to Oregon in 1853 from Missouri, via the Plains route, arrived in 1853 in Polk Co., Ore., housewife, died 1880, had 10 children. Mr. Lynch died in Missouri. She married (2) John Dickey.^[131]

Placeholder: Elizabeth James, born 28 Feb. 1802, Tennessee, died 25 June 1881, Polk Co., Ore., buried Harmony Cem., Buell, Polk Co., Ore., arrived in Oregon 3 Oct. 1853, married (1) about 1816, Tenn., Elbert Lynch, married (2) 17 Jan. 1842, Van Buren Co., Mo., John Dickey. See 1860 census, Yamhill Co., Ore., dw. 4482, and 1880 census, Polk Co., Ore., and Polk Co., probate file 353.^[132]

In 1850 Elizabeth Scott, 22, born in North Carolina, and “Mathew” Scott, 1, born in Missouri, resided in the household of “Mathew” Sparks, 62, in Cass Co., Mo. (q.v.).^[133]

In 1880 John Lynch, 53, a farmer born in Missouri of Tennessee natives, resided in Jackson Pct., Polk Co., Ore., with his wife, Eliza, 49, born in North Carolina of North Carolina natives, sons, Isaac, 21, Joseph, 20, Francis, 18, daughters, Colly, 17, Mary E. [or C.?], 15, Lilly, 12, son, Jeremiah, 8, daughter, Luella, 6, all born in Oregon, and his mother-in-law, Sarah Sparks, 86, a widow, born in North Carolina of North Carolina natives, and his mother, Elizabeth Dickey, 78, a widow born in Tennessee of Tennessee natives.^[134]

Known children:

66 v ISAAC⁸ LYNCH, born about 1859, Oregon.

67 vi JOSEPH⁸ LYNCH, born about 1860, Oregon.

68 vii FRANCIS⁸ LYNCH, born about 1862, Oregon.

“This is to certify that I Solemnized rite of Matrimony Between John Dickey and Elizabeth Lynch on the 17th January 1842. | Sion Bradley P. G. | Recorded this 18th day of February AD 1842 | James C. Jackson Recr.”

131. Ore. *Biographical and Other Index Card File, 1700s–1900s*, Pioneer Index, Davis, W. L.—Fix, image online, Elizabeth “Janes” Lynch Dickey.

132. All information about Elizabeth James, unless otherwise indicated, from *Early Oregonian Search*, <secure.sos.state.or.us/prs/profile.do?ancRecordNumber=46380>, accessed 13 Dec. 2018.

133. U.S. census, 1850, Dist. 16, Cass Co., Mo., r. 395, p. 92B, dw. 462, fam. 466.

134. U.S. census, 1880, Jackson Pct., Polk Co., Ore., ED 103, r. 1083, p. 451D, dw. 68, fam. 69.

- 69 viii COLLY⁸ LYNCH, born about 1863, Oregon.
- 70 ix MARY E./C.⁸ LYNCH, born about 1865, Oregon.
- 71 x LILLY⁸ LYNCH, born about 1868, Oregon.
- 72 xi JEREMIAH⁸ LYNCH, born about 1872, Oregon.
- 73 xii LUELLA⁸ LYNCH, born about 1874, Oregon.

58. LUCINDA⁷ SPARKS (₄₁Matthew⁶, Matthew⁵, William⁴, William Sample³, William², William¹) was born about 1835, North Carolina. She married after 26 Mar. 1853 (unmarried in her father's will of that date) DAVID LYNCH, who was born about 1834, Missouri. Brother of John Lynch above?

In 1870 David Lynch, 36, a farmer born in Missouri with \$4,000 real and \$1,645 personal estates, resided in Sheridan Pct., Yamhill Co., Ore., with Lucinda, 37, born in North Carolina, Mary, 14, born in Oregon, and Frank Reed, 10, born in Oregon, and Sarah Sparks, 82, and Richard Sparks, 40 (q.v.).^[135] She was possibly married first to a Mr. Reed and had son Frank.

Known child:

- 74 i MARY⁸ LYNCH, born about 1856. Oregon.

61. MARTHA ANN⁷ SPARKS (₄₇Joel⁶, Joel⁵, John⁴, Solomon³, Joseph², William¹) was born Jan. 1854 (1900 census) or 19 Sept. 1853 (death certificate), Wilkes Co., N.C., died 16 Apr. 1947, Edwards Twp., Wilkes Co., N.C.,^[136] and was buried 18 Apr. 1947 in Oak Level Baptist Church Cem., Roaring River, Wilkes Co., N.C.^[137] Martha had a son about 1875 out of wedlock with THOMAS SHEPHERD. She married 20 Mar. 1884,

135. U.S. census, 1870, Sheridan PO, Sheridan Pct., Yamhill Co., Ore., r. 1288, p. 540A, dw. 479, fam. 419, FHL 552787.

136. N.C. *Death Certificates, 1909–1976*, Wilkes Co., no. 30189, image online, Martha Ann Gentry, of Benham, Wilkes Co., N.C., died 16 Apr. 1947, Edwards Twp., Wilkes Co., N.C., aged 92 yrs. 6 mos. 28 dys., female, white, widowed, housewife, born 19 Sept. 1853, Wilkes Co., father J. Sparks, born Wilkes Co., mother Charlotte Durham, born Wilkes Co., informant Mrs. V. R. Gentry, of Benham, buried 18 Apr. 1947, Oak Level Cem., Wilkes Co.

137. *Find a Grave*, no. 39035476, gravestone photograph, Oak Level Baptist Church Cem., Roaring River, Wilkes Co., N.C., "Gentry | Madison | 1863–1905 || Martha Ann S. | 1853–1947."

THE MATTHEW SPARKS FAMILY

Edwards Twp., Wilkes Co., N.C.,^[138] **MADISON L. GENTRY**, who was born Aug. 1862 (1900 census) or 1863 (gravestone), North Carolina, son of Iredell and Elizabeth (–) Gentry,^[139] died 1905, and was buried with his wife.

In 1880 Martha Sparks, 24, single, resided in Antioch Twp., Wilkes Co., N.C., with William Sparks, 5, residing in the household of Elizabeth Mathews, 62, single, a farmer, all three born in North Carolina of North Carolina natives.^[140]

In 1900 Madison L. Gentry, 37, a farmer born Aug. 1862, resided in Trap Hill Twp., Wilkes Co., N.C., with his wife of 17 years, Martha “C.” 46, born Jan. 1854, and with his son, David C., 15, born July 1884, daughter Maudie V., 6, born Nov. 1893, and son Berry R., 2, born Sept. 1897, all born in North Carolina of North Carolina natives. Next door was Iredell Gentry, 75. Martha had had three children, with three surviving.^[141]

In 1910 Martha Gentry, 55, a widowed farmer, resided in Edwards Twp., Wilkes Co., N.C., with her son, David C., 24, daughter-in-law and David’s wife of three years, Mary J., 23, and her son, Berry R., 11, and daughter, Ada B., 7, all born in North Carolina of North Carolina natives. Martha had had five children, with five surviving.^[142]

Without proofs, I believe this is Dylan’s descent:^[143]

138. N.C. *County Marriages, 1762–1070*, Wilkes Co., N.C., Marriage Registers, 1870–1036, image 45/393 online, “[issued] 3–19 1884 Gentry, M. L. [age color] 20 W Martha Sparks [age color] 24 W.”; N.C. *Marriage Records, 1741–2011*, Wilkes, Marriage Register, 1874–1979, image 43/1265 online, “[issued] 3–19 1884 Gentry, M. L. [age color] 20 W Martha Sparks [age color] 24 W [by] W. F. Byrd, B. M. [married] 3–20 1884 [where] Edwards Township [witnesses] S. V. Gentry, T. S. Jolly, I. Gentry.”

139. U.S. census, 1880, Trap Hill Twp., Wilkes Co., N.C., ED 206, r. 987, p. 29B, dw. 174, fam. 176, lists Iredell Gentry, 52, born N.C., wife, Elizabeth, 51, born N.C., with four children including son, Madison L., 16, born N.C.

140. U.S. census, 1880, Antioch Twp., Wilkes Co., N.C., ED 218, r. 987, p. 164B, dw. 33, fam. 33.

141. U.S. census, 1900, Trap Hill Twp., Wilkes Co., N.C., ED 158, r. ?, p. 217, sh. 7B, dw. 137, fam. 134, FHL 1241224.

142. U.S. census, 1910, Edwards Twp., Wilkes Co., N.C., ED 164, r. 1134, p. 242, sh. 2B, dw. 39, fam. 40, FHL 1375147.

143. Email from Dylan Sparks, 9 Jan. 2019, “My name is Dylan Sparks, and I’m a direct descend-

John⁴ Sparks, born c1753.

?Joel⁵ Sparks, born c 1784.

?Joel⁶ Sparks, born c1822.

?Martha⁷ Sparks (₄₇?Joel⁶, ?Joel⁵, ?John⁴, Solomon³, Joseph², William¹), Dylan's ggggmother, had William Matthew⁸ Sparks out of wedlock with Thomas Shepherd.^[144] So she carried Sparks autosomal DNA but not Sparks YDNA (assuming the descent list is correct).

William Matthew⁸ Sparks, Dylan's gggfather. He carried Sparks autosomal DNA but not Sparks YDNA. He carried Shepherd YDNA but used the Sparks surname.

9th generation: [male]⁹ Sparks, carried Shepherd YDNA but Sparks autosomal DNA.

10th generation: [male]¹⁰ Sparks, carried Shepherd YDNA but Sparks autosomal DNA.

11th generation: [male]¹¹ Sparks, carried Shepherd YDNA but Sparks aDNA. He married Dylan's mother, Donna Mills.^[145] She and I also share 10.5 cM. Most likely she doesn't carry Sparks autosomal DNA, *so she and I match some other way*. Let's call what we share Mills autosomal DNA.

12th generation: Dylan¹² Sparks [Shepherd], born about 2000, my correspondent.^[146] He carries (if the descents above are correct) Sparks autosomal DNA, but not YDNA. He carries Shepherd YDNA and Mills autosomal DNA. *Dylan and I match autosomally but it could be via Mills not Sparks autosomal DNA*.

Child out of wedlock with Thomas Shepherd:

75 i **WILLIAM MATTHEW⁸ SPARKS [SHEPHERD]**, born 1875, North Carolina. *The Dylan Sparks line*.

ant of the Sparks family of Wilkes County North Carolina. My 3rd great grandmother Martha Sparks was a daughter of Joel Sparks and Charlotte Durham. Martha's line traces back to John Sparks (1753–1840) and Sarah Shores, and the furthest it extends in western North Carolina is to John's father Solomon Sparks (1725–1790). After that, they can be traced back to Maryland."

144. Email from Dylan Sparks, 10 Jan. 2019, "My great great grandfather, William Matthew Sparks, was born out of wedlock to Martha when she had a fling with a man named Thomas Shepherd. Since Thomas and Martha never married, William took the Sparks surname."

145. Email from Dylan Sparks, 10 Jan. 2019, "Did you mention the test Donna Mills? If so, that is my mother, and she has no connection to the Sparks family."

146. Email from Dylan Sparks, 9 Jan. 2019, "I've been active with genealogy since 2013, when I was around 13 years old."

THE MATTHEW SPARKS FAMILY

My correspondent Dylan Sparks posted the following to <Ancestry.com> on 25 Mar. 2017, titled "William M. Sparks life details and family:"

William was the son of Thomas Shepherd and Martha Sparks. They were unmarried at the time of his birth, and he lived his childhood with his mother Martha. I believe that at one point they lived with his grandfather Joel "Doak" Sparks. There is a story in the family that when William was about 7 or 8 Martha took him to live with his father Thomas Shepherd because she was very poor, and felt like he would have a better life with his father's family. As soon as they got there and William knew what was happening he cried so bad that he almost broke Martha's heart. She decided to keep them, and he stayed with his mother.

It is known that when he was fairly young William married Mary Billings, a daughter of John Harrison "Hack" Billings. They had several children together, and they lived on a farm he owned in Wilkes. Mary Billing's niece Maude Billings remembered her "Uncle Bill" very well. She said that he would come to their house and visit sometimes, and as a girl she would sit in his lap. Jerry Gentry also remembers his "Uncle Bill," who was a half brother to his grandfather. William's mother Martha married Maddison Gentry later in her life and had several kids by him. Jerry always thought a lot of his uncle, and he said that people in the family were always impressed by how well he took care of his family. They would come to Danville sometimes to visit William and his children.

William's wife Mary died during an operation on her neck in the late 20s, and he married a widow named Lillie Rich as his second wife. Both were in their 50s when they had their son Rayford Sparks, who was in many ways William's favorite. William also deeply loved his other kids and grandkids though, and his home was always open to them. My grandmother Anne Sparks, who married William's grandson Marvin, remembers visiting. She said that he would always hug her before they left. William's house on school field was a very nice one, and he had fairly nice things to go along with it. He worked as a carpenter for the Dan River Mills, which was likely a very good paying job.

His children are as follows.

With Mary Billings:

1. John Sparks.
2. Stella Sparks. She married a barber named John Flynn, who loved to talk politics according to members of the family.
3. Della Sparks. She was referred to as a “flapper,” which was a term used to describe energetic and socially active young women in the 1920s. She enjoyed dancing, drinking, and good times. She had one child, but he died when an outbreak of fever swept the area.
4. Wheeler Sparks. I have written a great deal about Wheeler in a story posted on his profile. He lived to be 102.

With Lillie Rich:

1. Rayford Sparks. Rayford was very charismatic and charming. All the ladies liked him, and he was well known around town. He went into the Navy as a young man, and later he worked at Goodyear.

In his elder years William walked with a cane. His grandson William said that he chewed tobacco, and he often wore a Dick Tracy hat. In his later years he had a stroke which rendered him unable to speak, so he found a way to play with his grandkids that didn’t require words. He would sit with his cane, and he would try to hook them with it and catch them. They loved him a lot, and he always did what he could for them. William died around 1964, and he is buried in Highland Cemetery in Danville Va. His first wife Mary Billings is buried to the left of his tombstone, and he shares his stone with his second wife Lillie Rich Sparks.

Children of her marriage to Madison Gentry:

- 76 ii **DAVID CLENSE⁸ GENTRY**, born 8 July 1881 (death certificate) or July 1884 (1900 census) or 8 June 1885 (gravestone), Wilkes Co., N.C., died 8 June 1966, Wilkesboro, Reddies River Twp., Wilkes Co., N.C.,^[147] buried 10 June 1966, Oak Level Baptist Church Cem., Roaring River, Wilkes Co., N.C.,^[148] married about 1907

147. *N.C. Death Certificates, 1909–1976*, image online, Wilkes Co., no. 24781, David Clense Gentry of Elkin, Wilkes Co., N.C., died 8 June 1966, Foster-Richardson Rest Home, Wilkesboro, Reddies River Twp., Wilkes Co., N.C., aged 84 yrs., male, white, married (spouse Mollie Johnson Gentry), farmer, born 8 July 1881, father “Matt” Gentry, mother Martha Sparks, informant Mrs. R. F. Bledsou, of Dobson, N.C., buried 10 June 1966, Oak Level Baptist Church Cem. Wilkes Co., N.C.
 148. *Find a Grave*, no. 66734706, gravestone photograph, Oak Level Baptist Church Cem., Roar-

THE MATTHEW SPARKS FAMILY

MOLLIE JOHNSON (death certificate) or **MARY JANE MORRISON**, born 24 Jan. 1886 (gravestone and death certificate), North Carolina, daughter of J. S. and Mary (Hudspeth) Morrison, died 31 July 1955, Winston-Salem, Middlefork Twp., Forsyth Co., N.C.,^[149] buried 2 Aug. 1955 with her husband. Note that his parents married 20 Mar. 1884. Also note that a Social Security document states that a David C. Gentry, born 6 July 1886, Wilkes Co., N.C., son of “Mathew” Gentry and Mary Colbert, died 15 June 1966.^[150] But another has “Clenze David” Gentry, born 6 July 1885, Wilkes Co., N.C., son of “Matison” L. Gentry and Martha Sparks.^[151] **Were there two David C. Gentrys?**

- 77 iii **MAUDIE V.⁸ GENTRY**, born Nov. 1893, North Carolina.
- 78 iv **BERRY R.⁸ GENTRY**, born Sept. 1897 (1900 census) or 12 Sept. 1898 (gravestone), North Carolina, died 19 June 1970, buried in Oak Level Baptist Church Cem., Roaring River, Wilkes Co., N.C.,^[152] married **JOCIE M. —**, born 8 Jan. 1898 (gravestone), died 13 Dec. 1983, and buried with her husband.
- 79 v **ADA B.⁸ GENTRY**, born about 1903, North Carolina.

ing River, Wilkes Co., N.C., “Gentry | David C. | June 8, 1885 | June 6 [sic], 1966 || Memory | Lane || Mary J. | Morrison | Jan. 24, 18xx | July 20, 19xx.”

149. N.C. *Death Certificates, 1909–1976*, image online, Forsyth Co., no. 16508, Mary Jane Morrison Gentry, died 31 July 1955, Winston-Salem, Middlefork Twp., Forsyth Co., N.C., aged 69 yrs., female, white, married (spouse D. C. Gentry), domestic, born 24 Jan. 1886, N.C., father J. S. Morrison, mother “Mary Hudspeth/Hus: D. C. Gentry,” informant Mrs. H. J. Lanier, of Winston-Salem, N.C., buried 2 Aug. 1955, Oak Level Cem. Wilkes Co., N.C.

150. U.S. *Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936–2007*, David C. Gentry, male, born 6 July 1886, Wilkes Co., N.C., died 15 June 1966, father “Mathew” Gentry, mother Mary Colbert, SSN 245–82–7197.

151. U.S. *Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936–2007*, “Clenze David” Gentry, male, born 6 July 1885, Wilkes Co., N.C., father “Matison” L. Gentry, mother Martha Sparks, SSN 246–05–9619.

152. *Find a Grave*, no. 66431636, gravestone photograph, Oak Level Baptist Church Cem., Roaring River, Wilkes Co., N.C., “Berry R. | Sep. 12, 1898 | June 19, 1970 || Jocie M. | Jan. 8, 1898 | Dec. 13, 1983 || Beyond the sunset | Gentry.”

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A. WILL OF MATTHEW⁵ SPARKS, 1819

This is my transcription of the will of Matthew⁵ Sparks (₃₄William⁴, William Sample³, William², William¹), signed 26 Mar. 1819 and proved in May 1819:

In the Name of God Amen I **Matthew Sparks** of the County of Surry and State of North Carolina being weak in in [sic] Body but of sound mind and memory Blessed be God Do this 26th Day of March in the year of our Lord 1819 make and publish this my last will and testament in manner following that is to say

First I lend unto my beloved wife **Nice Sparks** the whole of my tract of land and plantation together with my household furniture and plantation tools the whole of my stock of every description and two stills also three Negros to wit Cate Stephen & Isaac During her Natural life after her decease the said estate above mentioned to be sold and equally Divided among **my children herein named that is to say Joel George Matthew William John Nancy Smith Salley Bray** at the same time authorising my said wife in her lifetime if she sees cause to give unto **my Daughter Peggy West** of the above property put in her possession such sum or sums not exceeding one hundred Dollars at her Discretion

My will and Desire is that the ballance [sic] Nigro [sic] property not already named shall after my Decease be sold and the proceeds of such sale to be equally Divided among my children above named To wit Joel George Matthew William John Nancy and Salley

I make and ordain my sons Joel Sparks and Matthew Sparks Executors of this my last will and testament

And I do hereby revoke all other wills by me made and acknowledge this only to be my last will and testament in testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the Day and Date above writen [sic] signed sealed and acknowledged in presents of

T. Wright

J. B. Hampton

[signed] Matthew Sparks [seal]

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State of North Carolina
Surry County May Session 1819

Thomas Wright one of the subscribing witnesses to the foregoing last will and testament of Matthew Sparks Dec^d made oath in open court that he saw Matthew Sparks sign publish and Declare the same to be his last will and Testament that he was of sound disposing mind and memory that he did it freely and without compulsion and that he saw John B. Hampton at the same time sign the same as subscribing witness thereto whereupon it was ordered to be recorded.

Recorded accordingly
[?] Jo Williams CC^[153]

153. N.C. Wills, v. 1-3 1771-1827: 3:140-141 (images 587-588/626), FHL 19972, DGS 4772461. I was helped in this by another record online at <Ancestry.com>, *North Carolina, Wills and Probate Records, 1665-1998*, Surry Co., Original Wills, Moreland, Joseph-Zinn, Margaretha, which will appears to be the will actually signed by Mathew Sparks.

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B. ANCESTRY OF MATTHEW⁵ SPARKS

From an article by Russell E. Bidlack in the *The Sparks Quarterly*, Dec. 1989, Vol. 37, Whole No. 148, pp. 3483–3501.^[154]

(Dr.) Paul E. Sparks and this writer (Dr. Russell E. Bidlack) are now convinced that we have identified the parentage of William Sample Sparks, as well as his siblings and three of his children. We have to admit, however, that our proof for these relationships is based on what in the law is called “a preponderance of evidence” rather than upon a primary source document containing this information. In part, our conclusions have been reached through a process of elimination based on years of study of all members of the Queen Anne’s County Sparks family. Much of our difficulty in this research results from the repeated use of the forename “William” by members of this branch of the family. Not only was the grandfather of William Sample Sparks named William (we have his 1709 will probated in Queen Anne’s County that same year), but this first William Sparks named his oldest son William, and in turn, not only did that son (William Sparks, Jr.) name a son William, but each of the other three sons of this first William Sparks (who died in 1709) also named a son William, apparently to honor their father. Fortunately, William, son of William Jr., was either given a middle name at his birth or, what is more probable, adopted the middle name “Sample.” This helps greatly to distinguish him in the records of the time from his father and from his three first cousins named William Sparks. Unfortunately, there were occasions when “Sample” was omitted from his name when a clerk recorded it in an official record.

Until about a decade ago, we thought that the William Sparks who died in Surry County, North Carolina, in 1802 was William Sample Sparks. We gradually came to realize, however, that this William Sparks who died in 1802 was actually a son of William Sample Sparks, who had died some 35 years earlier. Unfortunately, this erroneous identification was given in several early issues of *The Sparks Quarterly*. A citation for each of these errors will appear at the end of this article.

154. Online at <www.sparksfamilyassociation.net/wn148a.html>, accessed 11 Jan. 2019. I’ve reformatted slightly.

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In the *Quarterly* of March, 1971, Whole No. 73, pp. 1371-1389, appeared a study of the early Sparks families of Kent, Talbot, and Queen Anne's Counties, Maryland. On pages 3881-3889, we presented a biographical record of the first William Sparks to live in that area and who wrote his will in June 1709 in Queen Anne's County. This will was probated in the County Court when the justices met the following October, which means that he had died in the summer or early autumn of 1709. There we presented documentary proof that this first William Sparks had come to Maryland from the county of Hampshire in England. These same records prove that he had a brother named John Sparks who lived near William Sparks in Maryland, dying in 1700. In his will, John Sparks referred to two sons named John Sparks and George Sparks still in England. Another document proves that in 1716 John and George were living in Christchurch Parish in Hampshire County. From information recently provided us by Susan Sparks LeDuc of Ft. Wayne, Indiana, who also descends from this branch of the family, we believe that the above William and John Sparks may have been sons of Thomas and Joane (Davis) Sparks who were married in Fareham Parish in Hampshire County, England on October 19, 1635. Among their children baptised in that parish were William Sparks, baptized on August 6, 1646, and John Sparks, baptized on December 3, 1649. While the ages of these two children appear to fit those of William and John Sparks who later appeared in Maryland, we must beg our readers to treat these relationships as speculative until more extensive proof can be obtained. (Thomas Sparks of Fareham Parish had two other sons: Francis Sparks who was baptized on July 20, 1641, and Richard Sparks who was baptized on December 10, 1658.) Baptisms in England in the 1600s were usually performed soon after a child's birth.

William Sparks (died 1709), the first American ancestor of this branch of the Sparks family, came to the colony of Maryland in or about 1663. During the next 45 years, he accumulated a good deal of property which he passed on to his wife, Mary, and to his children under his will. As noted earlier, one of his sons was named William, and while the elder William Sparks was living, this son was called William Sparks, Jr., in official records. We believe that William Sparks, Jr., was the eldest son of William Sparks and that he was born about 1674. He was married twice, his first wife being Margaret Hamilton, daughter of Josiah Hamilton, to whom he had been married no later than March 1696 and who was the

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mother of William Sample Sparks. (Margaret Hamilton was identified as the wife of William Sparks and the daughter of Josiah Hamilton in a New Castle County, Delaware, deed dated March 31, 1696, and recorded in Deed Book B-1, pp. 101-02; Josiah Hamilton had died by this date and property in New Castle that had been inherited by Margaret was sold in this deed.) (JS Note: It was later determined that there was no such person as Josiah Hamilton. That deed referred to Josyn Hamilton, formerly Josyn (Boyer) Sample, Widow of William Sample, who were William Sample Sparks' grandparents. See the December 2000 issue of the *Quarterly*, Whole No. 192, pp 5443-5461.)

Sometime prior to 1729, Margaret (Hamilton) Sparks died, and William Sparks, Jr., then married Anne —, who died on December 16, 1730. (The Julian Calendar was still used by England and her colonies in 1730, and Anne's date of death under the Gregorian Calendar adopted by England in 1752 would have been on December 27, 1730, according to today's reckoning.) Anne Sparks' death was recorded in St. Luke's Parish Register in Queen Anne's County, Maryland. William Sparks, Jr. died about 1735, we believe, but no probate of his estate has been found among Queen Anne's County records.

William Sparks, Jr. had three brothers who, along with himself, were named in their father's will of June 1709. They were George Sparks, born about 1679; John Sparks, born about 1684; and Joseph Sparks, born about 1689. The elder William Sparks also mentioned a deceased daughter in his will, who had married a man named Hynson.

William Sparks, Jr. and each of his brothers had several children, resulting in at least 35 Sparks grandchildren for the elder William Sparks (died 1709). As mentioned earlier, four of these grandchildren were named William in his honor. Dr. Paul E. Sparks, as has been noted, has spent many years studying the records pertaining to this branch of the Sparks family, and in the *Quarterly* of June 1988, Whole No. 142, pp.3229-31, he presented a list of these 35 probable grandchildren, with notes identifying each as best he could. The William Sparks shown as number 32 on this list was, we are convinced, the William Sample Sparks who is the subject of this article. "Middle names were very rarely used before the 19th century, and we suspect that "Sample" was added by our subject to help distinguish himself in official records from his father and his three cousins who were also named William Sparks. When it was that he

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may have added "Sample" to his name, we do not know, nor do we know why the name "Sample" was chosen. This was a Maryland surname, and it is possible that there was some connection between the Sparks and Sample families. Each time that a record was made that had been initiated by William Sample Sparks, whether in Maryland or later in North Carolina, his full name appeared, but when a clerk recorded his name in a court or church record, his middle name was usually omitted. This was probably because middle names were so rare in the 17th and 18th centuries. (See note above re Whole No. 192 revealing the source of the name Sample.)

In the several instances where William Sample Sparks signed a document which has been preserved, he signed by mark, as did his father and grandfather. Not everyone in those days who signed by mark, however, was illiterate, and even if they could not write, they could often read.

Prior to the creation of St. Luke's Parish in Queen Anne's County, the parish which included the area where the Sparks family lived was St. Paul's Parish, the records for which, unfortunately, have not been preserved. In 1728, a petition addressed to the Upper and Lower Houses of the Assembly of the Province of Maryland was circulated for signatures. It requested that a new parish be created because "many souls have to travel as much as twenty to thirty miles to keep the Lord's Day." Among the signers of this petition was "William Sparks, Senr." "This was surely the William Sparks born about 1674 who had been called "William Sparks, Jr." until his father died in 1709. In 1728, with his father having been dead for nearly 20 years and his own son, also named William, having come of age, it was logical that he now be called "Senior."

Also among the signers of this 1728 petition were two other men whose names appeared simply as "William Sparks." We are confident that one of these was our William Sample Sparks—someone probably obtained his permission to add his name and omitted the middle name "Sample," or it is possible that he had not yet begun using it. The second William Sparks on this petition was probably the son of John Sparks and a first cousin to William Sample Sparks. (William Sparks, son of John, was born about 1706.) John Sparks also signed this petition, as did two men named George Sparks. One of these was doubtless the George Sparks, born about 1679, who was a son of the elder William Sparks who had died in 1709; the other was either George's son or a nephew.

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The petition was successful, and St. Paul's Parish was divided to form St. Luke's Parish. The Sparks family was included in the new parish. The marriage dated August 24, 1732, which was recorded in St. Luke's Parish register (pg. 41) of a William Sparks and a Mary Courmon (or Corman) may have been that of our William Sample Sparks, but, if so, it must not have been his first marriage. Our reason for believing that there had been an earlier marriage date for William Sample Sparks is the fact that his son, William Sparks (died 1801 in Surry County, North Carolina) obtained his first grant of land in Frederick County, Maryland, on July 11, 1749. He must have been at least 21 years old in order to qualify for a land grant, which would place his birth at least as early as 1728.

A map showing where the Sparks family of St. Luke's Parish in Queen Anne's County, Maryland, lived, appeared on the cover of the *Quarterly* for March 1971, Whole No. 73.

We have found no record of William Sample Sparks ever owning any land. He must have been a tradesman, perhaps an inn keeper. (As will be noted later, there are records of his having had a license to operate an "ordinary," a term used for an inn or tavern, after he moved to Rowan County, North Carolina.)

From our brief records pertaining to William Sample Sparks found in Queen Anne's County and Frederick County, Maryland, it appears that he had both financial and health problems at different times in his life. For example, on page 236 of the register of St. Luke's Parish (this was copied about 1899 from earlier records now in the Library of the Maryland Historical Society in Baltimore), there is a record dated 1736 indicating that he had moved out of the parish without paying his church tax. In fact, he was called a "Runaway Insolvent" in the parish record. At that time, every adult white male, regardless of his personal religious convictions, was required to pay a yearly tax to the Church of England. William Sample Sparks' tax for 1736 was 6 pence, but he left the parish without paying it. (In this parish record, his middle name was used.)

It was in or about 1736 that William Sample Sparks left Queen Anne's County with his family and moved to the western part of the Province of Maryland. To do so, he would have crossed the Chesapeake Bay and probably traveled near, or possibly through, the small town of Baltimore, which had been laid out in 1730, to reach the western edge of what is now Carroll County, although at the time it was part of Prince George's Coun-

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ty. He settled in the area of Big Pipe and Little Pipe Creeks, perhaps close to where they join to become Double Pipe Creek, which, after about a mile, flows into the Monocacy River just above today's Millers Bridge, about 5 miles north of the town of Woodsboro. (Little Pipe Creek, which flows north and west, now forms the boundary between Carroll and Frederick Counties for several miles.)

The area in which Sparks settled, which is drained by the Monocacy River and its tributaries, was then commonly called "Monocacy," as the Indians had called it before the appearance of the white man. This area comprised most of what is now Frederick County along with part of today's Carroll County. This area called Monocacy was a true frontier in the 1730s, and William Sample Sparks and his family were true pioneers. He doubtless built his own cabin after his arrival. Record keeping was very limited, except for recording the granting and selling of land. Because Sparks was not a land owner, nor did he become involved in any major lawsuit, his name was rarely recorded during the nearly two decades that he lived there. No church existed there in the 1730's except a small Quaker meeting-house. He did not join this group, nor did he join the Lutheran Church established later by German settlers.

A map showing the Big and Little Pipe Creeks, along with the other streams flowing into the Monocacy River, is given below. (p. 3488)

When Frederick County was cut off from Prince George's County in 1748, it contained all of the western portion of the province, including Washington County (which was cut off from Frederick in 1776), as well as Allegany County (which was cut off from Washington in 1789), and Garret County (which was cut off from Allegany in 1872). To the east, Frederick County also included, until 1776, Montgomery County, and from 1748 until 1837, a portion of Carroll County was included in Frederick.

This large area that became Frederick County in 1748 had been part of Prince George's County from the time that Prince George's County had been cut off from Charles and Calvert Counties in 1695. Between 1695 and 1748, Prince George's County adjoined Baltimore County and comprised the entire western half of the province.

Our earliest reference to William Sample Sparks among court records of Prince George's County is in the probate file of a man named Allen Farquhar who died in December 1738. Allen Farquhar (he signed his will on November 30, 1738, as "Allen Farquer"), was a miller. He had moved

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from Chester County, Pennsylvania, sometime after 1726 and settled on either the Big or Little Pipe Creek. He was a man of some means, and his mill served the early settlers for several miles around. Most business was conducted on credit in those days, but all bills came due when a creditor died. As part of the inventory of Allen Farquhar's estate, a list was made of all of those who, according to his account book, were in his debt for milling services. Over 60 names were listed, including several Indians. The fourth name on the list was that of William Sparks in the amount of one pound and 14 shillings. It is not surprising that this middle name was omitted in Farquhar's account book since he was the only Sparks in the neighborhood. (The inventory of Farquhar's estate is preserved in the Hall of Records in Baltimore, Prince George's County Inventories, Vol. 24 , pages 8-10; we are grateful to George J. Horvath of Eldersburg, Maryland for discovering this record for us.)

At some point following his settling in the Monocacy area, William Sample Sparks was joined there by his uncle, Joseph Sparks, with his family. We know that Joseph Sparks was still in Queen Anne's County, Maryland in the spring of 1738 when, on April 27, 1738, his son was baptized in St. Luke's Parish church. Joseph and his wife, Mary, named this son William. It was some time during the decade that followed that Joseph Sparks and his family joined William Sample Sparks in the Monocacy area, and it was there that he died in 1749.

Joseph Sparks, uncle of William Sample Sparks, died the year following the creation of Frederick County. He was a relatively young man when he died, somewhere in his 50s, and he left his wife, Mary, with a large family. He did not leave a will, which may suggest that he died suddenly. The records pertaining to the settlement of his estate are in the Maryland Hall of Records. As was customary, a detailed inventory of Joseph Sparks' possessions was taken. It was a Maryland law that two relatives of the deceased should certify the accuracy of such an inventory by signing their names to it; the two chief creditors of the estate were also supposed to sign. The children and spouse of the deceased rarely signed such a document, since they would be heirs, so other close relatives were expected to perform this service. So, after the inventory of Joseph Sparks' belongings was completed by two of his neighbors in June 1749, William Sample Sparks signed it (by mark). His full name was given. The other signer was "Rachell Sparks," who likewise signed by mark. In-laws were permitted to sign Maryland in-

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ventories and, while we cannot be certain, it would appear that Rachel may have been the wife of William Sample Sparks.

If, indeed, the Rachel Sparks who signed with William Sample Sparks as kin of Joseph Sparks in 1749 was the wife of William Sample Sparks, we must conclude that she was either a third wife or that the marriage record cited earlier for a William Sparks and a Mary Courman was not that of William Sample Sparks. It may well be that his one and only wife was named Rachel. There was not a great deal of difference in the ages of William Sample Sparks and his uncle, Joseph Sparks. The latter was born about 1689 while William Sample Sparks was born about 1700. While Joseph's children were first cousins of William Sample, they were nearly a generation younger than he.

The widow of Joseph Sparks was named Mary—we have found no clue to reveal her maiden name. She became administratrix of her husband's estate. The two disinterested parties who prepared the inventory were Joseph Wood and William Carmack. From a recent book entitled *Pioneers Of Old Monocacy, The Early Settlement Of Frederick County , Maryland, 1721–1743*, by Grace L. Tracey and John P. Dern, we know that Joseph Wood lived on Lingamore Creek about a half-mile south of present day Unionville. William Carmack (1716–1776) had moved to the Lingamore Creek area after 1733 from Cecil County, Maryland. The two creditors who signed the inventory of the estate of Joseph Sparks in 1749 were David Young, who claimed that Sparks had owed him “one pound and four pence,” and Osborn Sprigg. The amount owed to Sprigg was not specified, although in the final settlement he was identified as “Sheriff” and was paid in tobacco valued at 3 pounds, 14 shillings, and 4pence.

Recalling that the mother of William Sample Sparks was Margaret (Hamilton) Sparks, it is interesting that a John Hamilton was one of the 1749 creditors of Joseph Sparks in Frederick County. (We have not succeeded as yet in tracing the ancestry of Margaret Hamilton other than knowing her father's name was Josiah Hamilton.)

The children of Joseph and Mary Sparks were identified in a Frederick County court record dated August 1750 in which Mary was ordered to give to each of her children his/her proper share of Joseph's estate. The children were named as” Solomon, Joseph, Charles, Jonas , Jonathan, William, George, Merum, Mary, Ann, Rebecka, and Sarah.

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Our next record pertaining to William Sample Sparks is dated 1750. This was a petition submitted by him to the Frederick County Court at its June 1750 sitting. As recorded in Liber 1748-50 of the Frederick County "Circuit Court Judgments," Folio 557, this petition reads: To the worshipful the Justices of Frederick County Court, now setting, the petition of William Sample Sparks, Pipe Creek One Hundred, humbly sheweth that your petitioner has been afflicted many years with a sore leg that renders him very incapable to maintain his family; that if ye worships would please make an order to set your Petitioner Levy free, your Petitioner as bound shall pray, etc. Upon reading which petition and consideration thereof had, it is ordered by the Court here that the Petitioner be levy free for the future.

From this petition, it appears that William Sample Sparks still had children to support who were still living at home in 1750.

A key source for genealogical research in Maryland are the land records, which are, in some ways, different from those of any other American colony. The period in Maryland's history with which we are concerned here, fell into what is known as the "Second Period of Proprietary Rule, 1716-1776." Prior to 1683, land had been granted to individuals who paid the transportation costs to bring settlers, including themselves, to the province, but after 1683 individuals could obtain land grants without bringing in settlers. Because the colony was governed by a "Proprietor," however, annual rent had to be paid to him even though an individual held title to his land. This all ended, of course, with the American Revolution. Another peculiar feature of landownership in Maryland was the custom of naming each piece of land when it was initially granted. The first owner chose the name for it by which it would usually be known thereafter, even when sold to another party. This makes tracing of land ownership much easier in Maryland than in other states. Sometimes the names chosen for the land had genealogical significance. When land was plentiful, as it was when William Sample Sparks moved to what became Frederick County in 1748, individuals often "squatted" on vacant land until they or another party obtained an official grant. This is probably what was done by William Sample Sparks. Joseph Sparks probably did the same, but had he not died in 1749, it is likely that he would have tried to obtain a land grant following the creation of Frederick County in 1748.

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William Sparks, son of William Sample Sparks, (we feel certain that he was the oldest son), began acquiring land in Frederick County in 1749. He left Frederick County in 1764 to join his father and brothers in Rowan County, North Carolina.

Another son of William Sample Sparks was named Matthew and was born about 1730. We believe he was his father's second son. According to a descendant, he married Sarah Thompson, but whether this marriage took place in Maryland or after he moved to Rowan County, North Carolina, in or about 1754, we do not know. An article devoted to Matthew Sparks and his family appeared in the *Quarterly* of June 1961, Whole No. 34, pp.556-566. At that time, however, we had not identified him as a son of William Sample Sparks and stated simply that the two men were somehow related. We know now that he was the same Matthew Sparks who was shown as a creditor in the inventory of the estate of one Matthew Hopkins who had died in Frederick County a year or two following the death of Joseph Sparks. Although undated, this inventory was taken sometime in 1751; it showed that he owed Matthew 475 pounds of tobacco when he died. (See Frederick County Inventories , Book A, No. 2, p. 187.) Tobacco was a common medium of exchange, and this probably meant that young Matthew Sparks had performed some kind of labor for Hopkins for which he had not yet been paid when he died. The other Frederick County record pertaining to Matthew Sparks is a court record dated November 1752 describing a proposed road in the area of Beaver Dam Branch, Great Pipe Creek, and Little Pipe Creek which "has been lately marked by Matthew Sparks." The person advocating that this road be built, Dr. Charles Carroll, indicated that Matthew Sparks had performed this task at his "instance and charge." It would appear that Matthew Sparks had acquired some surveying skills in order to perform this service for Dr. Carroll. The court rejected the proposal, however; Dr. Carroll died in 1755. (See Frederick County Court Judgments, November 1742.)

Solomon Sparks, son of Joseph Sparks and a first cousin of William Sample Sparks, obtained a grant of 93 acres of land on the east side of Beaver Dam Creek on March 20, 1750. Because, under the old Julian Calendar, the new year did not begin until March 25, it was on March 31, 1751, that Solomon made his purchase according to today's calendar. (England and her colonies adopted our present Gregorian Calendar in 1752 which changed the New Year to January 1 and moved the reckoning

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of days ahead by eleven.) Solomon Sparks was required to pay a yearly “Rent of Three Shillings and nine pence Sterling in Silver or Golde.” (See Frederick County Liber GS #1, Folio 116-118.) He chose the name “Cold Friday” for his tract of land. On June 30, 1753, Solomon Sparks, with the approval of his wife, Sarah, sold this tract for 35 pounds to Matthew Howard. (See Frederick County Deeds, Liber E , Folio 194-95.)

We believe that the reason Solomon Sparks sold “Cold Friday” in November 1753 was that he, along with several other members of the Sparks family, including William Sample Sparks, were preparing to move from Frederick County, Maryland, to the newly formed county of Rowan in North Carolina. They probably made the journey in the spring of 1754. “The destination of these Sparks emigrants was a the land called “Lord Granville’s Domain between the Yadkin and the Catawba Rivers” in North Carolina. North Carolina had been established originally as a proprietary colony belonging to eight English lords. In 1729, however, seven of these lords sold their rights to the colony to the King, but one, Earl of Granville, refused to part with his share which , in 1744, was set apart with specified boundaries. Part of his “domain” consisted of a vast area which had been organized in 1749 as Anson County, but from which Rowan County had been cut off as a separate county in 1753. Shortly after Rowan County had been created, the county seat was established and named initially Rowan Court House, but this was changed later to Salisbury. By 1754, the year in which we believe that William Sample Sparks ,with two of his sons and three of his cousins (sons of his deceased uncle, Joseph Sparks), set out for North Carolina, a great many other settlers had already made the journey. Agents for Lord Granville had advertised the virtues of this new land, particularly in Ireland and Germany. Thus, many of the early pioneers were Irish and German immigrants. How it was that William Sample Sparks and his sons and cousins learned of “Lord Granville’s Domain” we shall probably never know, and we can only guess why they were attracted to it. A possible reason was a growing fear that there would be warfare between England and France and that this would result in Indian uprisings in western Maryland. Indeed, what would be called the French and Indian War in America was about to commence. There was also the fact that desirable vacant land was much less plentiful than had been the case a few years earlier, and owners of good land in Frederick County were demanding high prices. There was the pleasing prospect of being able not

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only to obtain new land in North Carolina at a much lower cost, but also there were reports that the soil there was unusually rich and that the climate was more mild than in western Maryland.

Whether other Frederick County families joined the Sparkses in their pioneering venture, we do not know, but it seems likely. The men named Sparks in the group besides William Sample Sparks were his sons Matthew (about 34 years old) and James (who was still in his teens); there were also three sons of Joseph Sparks; Solomon Sparks (about 27), Jonas Sparks (about 20); and Jonathan Sparks (about 18). One or more daughters of William Sample Sparks may also have been included as perhaps, also, one or more of the daughters of Joseph Sparks (died 1749).

We can only speculate on the route followed by these pioneers. The following paragraphs from James S. Brawley's *The Rowan Story, 1753-1953* (Salisbury, N.C., 1953, pp. 12-13), helps us to imagine what their path may have been.

At the time Granville's survey was run (1746) people were beginning to fill the valley between the Yadkin and Catawba Rivers. The first settlers seem to have followed the river courses from South Carolina, principally the Pee Dee and Santee, and picked up lands in the southern part of what is now Rowan. Others poured in from Pennsylvania and traveled down the "Great Wagon Road" that led them through the Shenandoah Valley into the North Carolina Piedmont. A record of one German, John Ramsour, showed that he traveled 502 miles from Lancaster, Pennsylvania, to Salisbury.

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ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS

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