

## 69. WELLS

1. **Burrell<sup>1</sup> Wells** was born about 1752, and died on 29 December 1827, in his 76th year. He is buried in the Abee–Wells cemetery in Belmont, Lincoln (now Gaston) County, North Carolina.<sup>[1]</sup> He seems first to have married **Susannah Featherstone**, daughter of William and Susannah (Grigg) Featherstone of Amelia County, Virginia, and she was the mother only of Burrell’s first child, Featherston Wells. Burrell was married secondly to **Mary \_\_\_\_** by 28 February 1788, when they executed and acknowledged a deed in Amelia County,<sup>[2]</sup> but it is not clear that all of his younger children were also hers, and she did not survive Burrell. He married at least once more, to **Mary Titmon**, by bond issued in Lincoln County, 25 February 1823.<sup>[3]</sup> She was born about 1775, and died 9 July 1844, aged 69 years. She is buried in the Goshen cemetery at North Belmont, same county.<sup>[4]</sup> She married second, by bond dated 23 October 1830 in Lincoln County, Isaac Henry.<sup>[5]</sup> On 8 November 1834, Isaac Henry and his wife Mary joined a deed in Lincoln County as heirs at law of John Titmon, deceased.<sup>[6]</sup>

William Featherstone’s ten children were the principal legatees of his will, dated 22 August 1767: William Grigg Featherston, Lewis Featherston, Charles Howell Featherston, Jesse Featherston, Richard Featherston, Burwell Featherston, Lucy Vaughan Featherston, Francis Still, Elizabeth Featherston, and Susannah Featherston.<sup>[7]</sup> The father’s landed property seems to have passed by two deeds. The first was dated 28 March 1788, from Jesse, Richard, Burwell, Charles, Lew Clark and his wife Elizabeth, and Jeremiah Stell, to John Vaughan. This land had been settled by William Grigg Featherston on the others.<sup>[8]</sup> Jeremiah was one of the two children and heirs of Frances Stell who were represented in the estate of Lewis Featherston, who had died testate; the other child was Martha Stell.<sup>[9]</sup> The second deed was executed on 5 January 1792, with John Vaughan and his wife Lucy, Lew Clark and his wife Elizabeth, Burwell Featherstone and his wife, Featherstone Wells, Jesse Featherstone, Jeremiah Stell, and Martha Stell as

---

<sup>1</sup> Pat Fite, “Burrell Wells,” memorial no. 14973676, *Find a Grave* ([www.findagrave.com/memorial/14973676](http://www.findagrave.com/memorial/14973676): added 18 July 2006), with three photographs of the marker, of which the most easily readable is by James E. Snyder, added 10 Oct. 2010.

<sup>2</sup> Amelia County, Virginia, Deeds, 18:220-1, *FamilySearch* ([www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/282005](http://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/282005), Salt Lake City: Intellectual Reserve, Inc., accessed 11 Nov. 2021).

<sup>3</sup> “Lincoln County Marriage Bond Abstracts, 1792–1868,” typescript, 2, microfilm C.060.60001, North Carolina State Archives, DGS 102371831, “North Carolina, Lincoln County, marriage records, 1779–1991,” *FamilySearch* ([www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/1923462](http://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/1923462), Salt Lake City: Intellectual Reserve, Inc., accessed 6–12 Sept. 2020). A handwritten note on the first page of this three-page summary explains that the 33 bonds listed there were filed in CRX—records that were not always in official custody, but returned at some point to the state archives.

<sup>4</sup> Kathy McCoy Robinson, “Mary ‘Polly’ Titman Henry,” memorial no. 135643303, *Find a Grave* ([www.findagrave.com/memorial/135643303](http://www.findagrave.com/memorial/135643303): added 9 Sept. 2014), with photograph by same contributor, added 9 Sept. 2014.

<sup>5</sup> Curtis Bynum, *Marriage Bonds of Tryon and Lincoln Counties, North Carolina* (1929; reprint, Newton, N. C.: Catawba County Historical Association, Inc.; Lincolnton, N. C.: Lincoln County Historical Association, Inc., 1962), 60.

<sup>6</sup> Lincoln County, North Carolina, Deed Book, 36:67-8, *Courthouse Computer Systems* ([lincoln.courtcompsys.com/lincolnnc](http://lincoln.courtcompsys.com/lincolnnc): accessed 6 Sept. 2020).

<sup>7</sup> Robert M. Clark Jr., *Abstracts of Records of the Featherstone Family in Southside Virginia*, typescript (Dallas, Tex., 1986), 46-8.

<sup>8</sup> Nottoway County, Virginia, Deeds, 1:132-3, DGS 8190616, *FamilySearch* ([www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/370534](http://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/370534), Salt Lake City: Intellectual Reserve, Inc., accessed 11 Sept. 2019).

<sup>9</sup> *Featherston et al. v. Featherston’s Executors*, Amelia Co., chancery cause no. 1783-010, *Virginia Memory* ([www.lva.virginia.gov/chancery](http://www.lva.virginia.gov/chancery), Richmond: Library of Virginia, accessed 11 Nov. 2021).

grantors, and Isaac Holmes as grantee.<sup>[10]</sup> Featherstone Wells appears to have joined this deed as the sole representative of Susannah.

Burrell only joined a few deeds in Amelia County as grantor or grantee. On 23 March 1786, he was living in Bath Parish [Dinwiddie County] when he purchased 100 acres of land on Leath Creek from Joshua Simmons of Martin's Brandon Parish, Prince George County.<sup>[11]</sup> On 3 March 1786, Joel Grissle and his wife Sarah had made a deed to Burrell of land with the same description: "begining at a sweet Gum Tree Joining Simmonses line of Leath's Creek and Runing South up the said Creek to a Road known by the Name of Cocks Road and thence down the said Road to Wills'es line thence Down Simmons line to the said Creek to the Begining."<sup>[12]</sup> The acreage is the same as Burrell Wills and Mary his wife, now of Amelia County, conveyed to Richard Besbeach of Chesterfield County by their deed of 28 February 1788, but this deed does not mention the creek and the road as bounds, and instead names the adjacent owners: Benjamin Simmons, Amey Davis, Isaac Hardy, Joseph Smith, and Matthew Wills.<sup>[13]</sup>

Burrell Wells and Featherston Wells each purchased 100 acres in Lincoln County, on the west bank of the Catawba River, from George Oliver of Mecklenburg County on 11 December 1790. Both lots originally were part of the Samuel Young patent.<sup>[14]</sup> Burrell was not a party to any other Lincoln County deed. He made his will on 27 December 1825, and it was recorded at January sessions 1828 in Lincoln County.

In the name of God Amen I Burwell Wells of the County of Lincoln being in perfect health of body & mind thanks to Almighty God and Calling to mind the uncertainty of Life, and knowing that it is appointed unto all men once to die, make and ordain this my Last will & testament And first, I recomment my Soul into the hands of God who gave it, and my body I recomment to the earth to be buried in a decent & Christian Manner, and respecting the temporal things wherewith it has pleased God to bless & bestow unto me, I give & bequeath in the manner and form following

Item I give and bequeath to my Just debts & funeral Charges be first paid out of my estate.

Item I give and bequeath to my wife Polly, all the property remaining at my death which she brought herewith,

Item I give and bequeath to my son Featherston Wells one Negro Man at my death his choice which ever that may be & one Seventh part of all the property hereafter willed to be sold or valued only the Negroes

Item I give and bequeath to my daughter Martha Hoyl my negroe man Lewis. The Beast, Bridle, Saddle, Bed & furniture which she has received and the seventh part of all the property hereafter willed to be sold or valued only the negroes,

Item it is my will that all the remaining unwilled property of my estate be sold & divided as hereinafter Mentioned excepting My negro woman Abb, I wish her to go to her Choice of the Legatees at a moderate valuation, & furthermore it is my will that my three daughters Dorothy Hoyl Martha Hoyl & Nancy Fite, have my three remaining Feather beds, to each one a bed with an equal division of the furniture at a moderate valuation,

Item I give and bequeath to the Children of Anderson Wells, & his wife Nancy which she now have or may have the one seventh part of all my property willed to be sold or Valued with the deduction of four hundred & fifty dollars, This money I wish Kept at interest and equally divided among them when the be[c]ome of age

---

<sup>10</sup> Nottoway Co. Deeds, 1:210-2.

<sup>11</sup> Amelia Co. Deeds, 18:113-4. Bath Parish, formed in Prince George County in 1742, was set off entirely to Dinwiddie County at the formation of the latter in 1752 (William Meade, *Old Churches, Ministers and Families of Virginia*, 2 vols. [Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co., 1861], 1:469).

<sup>12</sup> Amelia Co. Deeds, 128-9.

<sup>13</sup> Amelia Co. Deeds, 18:220-1.

<sup>14</sup> Lincoln County Deed Book, 19:266-7 (Burrell), 268-9 (Featherston).

But if the woman or children should be in distress & need Relief the interest of the money must be used for their support

Item I give and bequeath to my daughter Sarah Patterson the one seventh part of all my property willed to be sold or Valued,

Item I give and bequeath to my Son Burrell Wells one seventh part of all my property will to be sold or Valued, with the deduction of three hundred & three dollars. Provided he combe a sober temperate man, othersie his part is to be equally divided amongst the other Legatees

Item I give & bequeath to my daughter Dorothy Hoyl One seventh part of all my property willed to be sold or Valued with the deduction of one hundred & sixty two dollars,

Item I give & bequeath to my daughter Nancy Fite, the one seventh part of all my property willed to be sold or valued,

Item it is my will that the amount of the above mentioned deduction be equally divided amongst the above Legatees & Made use of to the Legatees as is specified in the above Items,

Item I do Constitute and appoint my son Featherston Wells Adam Hoyl & Larkin Stowe my whole & sole executors

Lastly I do hereby disannul all former wills Bequeathments &c by Me heretofore willed and bequeathed &c Ratifying & Confirming this and no other to be my Last will & testament

Burrell signed by mark. The witnesses were Daniel F. Christenberry, Robert A. Ewing, and Burwell F. Wells,<sup>[15]</sup> among whom the latter was Featherston's son.<sup>[16]</sup> One-third of Burrell's 150-acre holding was laid off to Mary as her dower on 26 September 1828; Isaac Henry was one of the jurors.<sup>[17]</sup> However, on 12 December 1828, Featherston Wells and Larkin Stowe, as executors, sold the entire acreage to Whiten Stowe, "with the encumbrance of the widows dower of the said Featherston Wells & Larkin Stowe Executors as aforesaid."<sup>[18]</sup>

Burrell<sup>1</sup> Wells had one child with his first wife, Susannah (Featherstone):

- i. FEATHERSTON<sup>2</sup> WELLS, b. ca. Jan. 1772, d. 3 Nov. 1855, aged 83y 10m,<sup>[19]</sup> m. WILLMUTH \_\_\_\_, b. ca. 1765, d. 31 Jan. 1815, aged 53y, both bur. Abee-Wells Cemetery.<sup>[20]</sup> Featherston's will mentions children, but no wife. It was dated 25 Aug. 1854 and probated in Gaston Co. at Feb. sessions 1856.<sup>[21]</sup>

The younger children of Burrell<sup>1</sup> Wells, possibly by his second wife Mary (\_\_\_\_), all named in his will but in uncertain order of birth, are:

- ii. ANDERSON WELLS, b. say 1774, d. Lincoln Co. after 11 Mar. 1823,<sup>[22]</sup> apparently the only one of Burrell's children to die before Burrell made his will, m. (bond, Lincoln Co. 13 Jan. 1795) NANCY MATTOX,<sup>[23]</sup> one of the heirs of John Mattox of Lincoln Co., deceased, 18 Mar. 1800,<sup>[24]</sup> also named in Burrell's will.
- v. SARAH WELLS, b. say 1776, m. (bond, Lincoln Co. 30 July 1798) ALEXANDER PATTERSON.<sup>[25]</sup> He seems

---

<sup>15</sup> Burwell Wells will (1825), Lincoln County, North Carolina, Will Records, 1:82-3, DGS 4779124, *FamilySearch* ([www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/236139](http://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/236139)). There does not appear to be an original will extant.

<sup>16</sup> Lincoln County Deed Book, 32:313-4 (23 May 1817).

<sup>17</sup> Burrell Wells estate (1828), Lincoln County, "North Carolina Estate Files, 1663-1979," *FamilySearch* ([www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1911121](http://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1911121), Salt Lake City: Intellectual Reserve, Inc., updated 21 Nov. 2016).

<sup>18</sup> Lincoln County Deed Book, 33:44-45.

<sup>19</sup> Pat Fite, "Featherstone Wells," memorial no. 14973804, *Find a Grave* ([www.findagrave.com/memorial/14973804](http://www.findagrave.com/memorial/14973804): added 18 July 2006), with photograph of marker added by same contributor on same date.

<sup>20</sup> Pat Fite, "Wilmuth 'Willey' Wells," memorial no. 14973871, *Find a Grave* ([www.findagrave.com/memorial/14973871](http://www.findagrave.com/memorial/14973871): added 18 July 2006), with photograph of marker added by Terry Wagner, 16 March 2008.

<sup>21</sup> Featherston Wells will (1854), Gaston County, North Carolina, Wills, DGS 7639878, *FamilySearch* ([www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/456922](http://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/456922)).

<sup>22</sup> Lincoln County Deed Book, 31:29-30.

<sup>23</sup> Bynum, *Marriage Bonds of Tryon and Lincoln Counties*, 130.

<sup>24</sup> Lincoln County Deed Book, 19:517-9.

<sup>25</sup> Bynum, *Marriage Bonds of Tryon and Lincoln Counties*, 96.

not to be the son of James Patterson, who was joined in a deed of land inherited from James by his wife *Jane*, 14 Jan. 1803.<sup>[26]</sup>

- iv. BURRELL WELLS JR., b. say 1779, d. Lincoln Co. before 22 April 1828, when Lemuel Moorman and Featherston Wells entered a bond for Moorman to serve as guardian for Burrell Jr.'s orphan, James Wells,<sup>[27]</sup> perhaps m. (bond, Mecklenburg Co., N. C., 25 Aug. 1805) NANCY OWENS,<sup>[28]</sup> or (bond, Lincoln Co. 5 Nov. 1822) HANNAH WAGSTAFF.<sup>[29]</sup>
- + v. DOROTHY WELLS, b. say 1782, m. (bond, Lincoln Co. 4 Nov. 1805) JOHN HOYL,<sup>[30]</sup> b. say 1775, son of Michael and Margaret (Dellinger?) Hoyl<sup>[31]</sup> (see 17. *Hoyl*, 3), d. Lincoln Co. after 25 Jan. 1834.<sup>[32]</sup>
- vi. NANCY WELLS, b. say 1785, m. (bond, Lincoln Co. 13 Feb. 1806 JACOB FITE,<sup>[33]</sup> b. ca. 1784, d. 16 Dec. 1846 in 63rd y., bur. Goshen Cemetery.<sup>[34]</sup>
- vii. MARTHA WELLS, b. N. C., ca. 1794, m. (bond, Lincoln Co. 1 Feb. 1823) NATHAN M. HOYL,<sup>[35]</sup> stepson of her sister Dorothy, b. N. C., ca. 1804, son of John and Mary (Mendenhall) Hoyl<sup>[36]</sup> (see 17. *Hoyl*, 3, i.), both res. McDowell Co., N. C., 1850.<sup>[37]</sup>

<sup>26</sup> Lincoln County Deed Book, 21:182.

<sup>27</sup> Burrell Wells Jr. estate (1828), Lincoln County, "North Carolina Estate Files."

<sup>28</sup> "North Carolina, County Marriages, 1762–1979," *FamilySearch* ([www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1675514](http://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1675514), Salt Lake City: Intellectual Reserve, Inc., updated 7 Feb. 2020), from Mecklenburg Co. Marriage Bonds, 1783–1868, T-Z. This marriage occurred too late to account for the children of Burrell Sr., but early enough that Nancy's child might not have been a minor in 1828.

<sup>29</sup> "Lincoln County Marriage Bond Abstracts, 1792–1868," 2.

<sup>30</sup> Bynum, *Marriage Bonds of Tryon and Lincoln Counties*, 65.

<sup>31</sup> Laban Miles Hoffman, *Our Kin, Being a History of the Hoffman, Rhyne, Costner, Rudisill, Best, Hovis, Wills, Shetley, Jenkins, Holland, Hambright, Gaston, Withers, Cansler, Clemmer and Lineberger Families* (Charlotte, N. C.: Queen City Printing Company, 1915), 412-4, 427.

<sup>32</sup> Lincoln County Deed Book, 35:322-3.

<sup>33</sup> Bynum, *Marriage Bonds of Tryon and Lincoln Counties*, 45.

<sup>34</sup> "Marigay" and Pat Fite, "Jacob Fite," memorial no. 6910449, *Find a Grave* ([www.findagrave.com/memorial/6910449](http://www.findagrave.com/memorial/6910449): added 6 Nov. 2002), with photograph of marker by Richard Jordan, added 19 May 2013.

<sup>35</sup> Bynum, *Marriage Bonds of Tryon and Lincoln Counties*, 65.

<sup>36</sup> Hoffman, *Our Kin*, 427 (John and "Anne"); Lincoln County Deed Book, 36:679 ("Nathan M. Hoyl only son & heir of Mary Hoyl Dec<sup>d</sup>," 1 Aug. 1836).

<sup>37</sup> Nathan M. Hoyle household, 1850 U. S. census, McDowell County, North Carolina, population schedule, page 275, dwelling 35, family 35, micropublication M432, roll 636 (Washington: National Archives).