

# **John Murphey of Butler County, Alabama: His documented History in Georgia prior to Migrating to Jones County, Georgia**

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Edited and Annotated by Wilda Murphy

## **Chapter 1: Introduction**

My ancestor is John Murphey of Butler County, Alabama. Prior to migrating with his family to Alabama, John Murphey can definitively be traced back to Jones County, Georgia. For an extensive treatment of John Murphey in Jones County, please refer to my earlier paper, "Establishment of the Origin of John Murphey of Butler County, Alabama, as Jones County, Georgia, and his History therein" found at the link below:

<http://theusgenweb.org/al/butler/pioneers/murphy/murpheyjohn-ga.htm>

In that paper, I demonstrated that there was only one John Murphey living in Jones County from 1807 until he left in 1815 to move to Alabama. Below is the abstract that I created from the microfilm image of John's first recorded deed in Jones County:

### **Abstract for buying land in Lot 114 of District 10:**

Jones County, Georgia, Deed Book A, pages 111 and 112

November 3, 1807 - From **Samuel Kitchens**, yeoman of Wilkinson County, Georgia, to **John Murphey, farmer of Hancock County, Georgia**, for \$100 sells 202.5 acres known as lot 114 in District 10 of Baldwin County, now Jones County, Georgia, originally granted to said Kitchens in 1807, lying on the waters of Cedar Creek, adjoining lots 115, 107, 113 and 129.

Signed: Samuel Kitchen

Witnesses: Allen Beckcom and Robert Rutherford

Sworn to A. Devereaux J.J.C. by Allen Beckcom: November 9, 1807

Recorded : November 5, 1808

This deed specifically names John Murphey's origin as Hancock County, Georgia. Given that fact, I will now take an unusual approach by jumping back in time and working forward until we end up again at the deed above. To know how far back in time we can go to find documentation related to John Murphey, we must know his date of birth to within a few years.

## **Chapter 2: Determining Year of Birth for John Murphey of Butler County from his Relationships and Federal Census Records**

It is important to determine John Murphey's birth year so as to know the date when he reaches the age of 21. This is the age at which John can legally enter into contracts, be called for jury duty, be listed on Tax Lists for a "poll tax" regardless of land ownership, and register for land grants and the Georgia Land Lotteries. By knowing approximately what years John turns age 21, then we know what types of documents we should research to find John's whereabouts. Prior to his being a legal adult, we can look for his name in Wills and Guardianship filings.

Let's look at the Census records for John Murphey in Butler County, Alabama. First is the 1830 Federal Census shown below listing him in the age range of 60 to under 70, corresponding to the



I submit that a proper aging of John Murphey would have been to increment his mark to the 70 to under 80 column, thereby reflecting his correct birth year as being between late 1760 to 1770. In either case, depending on the time of year of enumeration in Butler County for the 1830 and 1840 Census, the only year that could hold true for both Census would be 1770. Research revealed later in this paper confirms that John was at least age 21 when he is found in the 1794 Tax List of Hancock County, Georgia.

(No. 4.)<sup>12</sup> **SCHEDULE of the whole number of persons within the division allotted to** *Butler County*

NAMES OF HEADS OF FAMILIES	FREE WHITE PERSONS, INCLUDING HEADS OF FAMILIES																			FREE COLORED PERSONS																					
	MALES										FEMALES									MALES					FEMALES																
	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	
<i>Butler County</i>	492	380	310	240	321	241	141	95	38	10	4	475	322	324	234	320	191	130	64	27	7	4	1	2	6	1	1	3	2	5	2										
<i>John Murphey</i>																																									

In summary, by looking at the 1830 and 1840 Federal Census records for the John Murphey of Butler County, Alabama, we know that his birth year was between late 1760 and 1770. This means that John would have been between the ages of 13 and 23 at the end of the American Revolutionary War in 1783. As a note, I have never seen any claims made by John Murphey that he was a Revolutionary War veteran in his entries for Georgia's Land Lotteries or in filings for pension benefits, making it more likely that John was born in the mid to late 1760's. **(Note from Wilda Murphy:** *Though derived by different assumptions, our end results are about the same. I have always carried John Murphy as having been born roughly around 1770, give or take a few years. Any way we approach it, about 1765 to maybe 1770 seems reasonable to me.*)

**Chapter 3: John Murphey of Butler County may have been in Washington County, Georgia, prior to some areas being renamed as Hancock County**

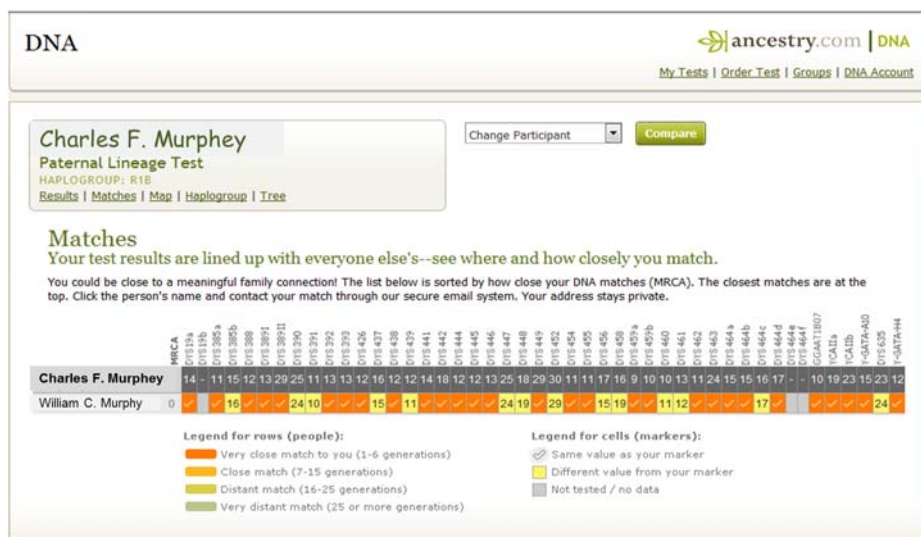
Now that we have established that John Murphey was born between late 1760 and 1770, we can find his first possible direct documentation in Georgia in the Headright Warrants of Washington County. In 1783, the Creek Indians ceded a large swath of land that was then organized into Washington County, Georgia, on February 25<sup>th</sup>, 1784. Headrights were granted to men aged 21 or older, who would appear before the land court of the county in which he desired land, and after making an oath as to the size of his family, including slaves, would obtain a warrant of survey. On or about April 6<sup>th</sup>, 1785, a John Murphey filed for a Headright Warrant of 200 acres, indicating that he was a single man with no wife or slaves. And again, on or about August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1785, the same or different John Murphey filed for another Headright Warrant of 200 acres, indicating the same status. (**Note from Wilda Murphy:** *If we place John as being born in the latter portion of the 1760s, he was likely too young to qualify for a headright in April 1785.*) Multiple filings for the same person were common, although it was not the original intent of the Headright process. Unfortunately, it is not known if John actually surveyed or ever received the grant for land covered by the Warrants. Few early Washington County deed or Court records are available due to the fact that the Washington County Courthouse was burned during the Civil War in General Sherman's "March to the Sea".

It is important to disclose at this point that my research of the records of Hancock County, Georgia, clearly demonstrates that there were two men living in Hancock County, Georgia, both named "John Murfey/Murphy/Murphey", from 1794 through 1806. I propose that the evidence argues that one of these Johns was the son of William Murfey Sr. of Edgefield County, South Carolina. We will refer to this son of William as "John Murfey" and can differentiate him with close ties to his brother, William Jr., and others from Edgefield County, South Carolina. However, the John Murphey who subsequently moves to Butler County, Alabama, was the other John. We will refer to him as "John Murphey". These two men were not related by blood and no documents support any relationship between the two. This paper supports the idea that the John Murphey named in the Hancock County, Georgia, 1794 and 1804 Tax Lists and then listed in the Jones County, Georgia, 1811 and 1814 Tax Lists is the same John Murphey who immigrated to Butler County, Alabama, in 1815. It is interesting and worthy of note that John Murphey of Butler County never had any Murphey relatives witness any of his documents in Georgia, contributing to the difficulty of uncovering his origins. The question that you may be asking is, "So, Charles, how do you definitively know that your ancestor, John Murphey, was not descended from William Murfey Sr. of Edgefield County, South Carolina?"

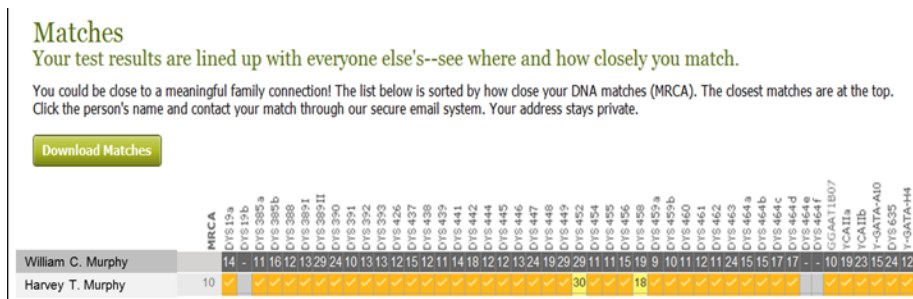
#### **Chapter 4: John Murphey of Butler County is NOT related to William Murfey of Edgefield County, South Carolina**

From the study of genetics, it is known that the Y-chromosome is what defines a male, as women only have X-chromosomes. DNA in the Y-chromosome is handed down basically unchanged, copied from father to son over many generations, pointing all the way back to the original "Genetic Adam". Every so many generations a small difference, known as a mutation, occurs to differentiate that man's sons. By looking at certain marker locations within the Y-chromosome, we can count the number of times the same pattern is repeated and can use these values to assess the degree of genetic closeness or relatedness between males. A number can then be calculated to state the statistical average of the number of generations back from two males to a common ancestor. This number is known as the MRCA which is short for "Most Recent Common Ancestor". DNA analysis has advanced quickly over the last 20 years, such that any male may present a cotton swab sample of his cheek cells and the distinctive marker locations within his Y-chromosome can be assessed for comparison with other males having known family histories.

Although my working hypothesis for the last several years had been that John’s father was William Murfey Sr. of Edgefield County, South Carolina, I can now state I am absolutely not related, and so my ancestor, John Murphey of Butler County, Alabama, also was not related to this William Murfey. This has been conclusively proven by a 46 marker Y-DNA test conducted by Ancestry.com and compared to two other individuals independently claiming descendency from William Murfey Sr. of Edgefield County, South Carolina. The first comparison shown below is a direct comparison assessing the match between my own DNA and that of one claimed descendant, William C. Murphy.



As denoted by the automated calculation of the MRCA (Most Recent Common Ancestor), the value of “0” means that we are not related to each other. I then had the good fortune to be contacted by another Murphy male, Harvey T. Murphy, who also claimed direct descendency from William Murfey Sr. of Edgefield County, South Carolina. The chart below compares the DNA results of the two claimed descendants.



The results between William C. Murphy and Harvey T. Murphy show a much closer relationship as those individuals possess almost the exact same Y-DNA marker profiles. Note that only 2 markers differ, and that the number of “Repeats” within those two marker locations vary only by a count of 1. The MRCA now is calculated to be 10 generations, which matches closely to the 7 or 8 generations shown in their family trees to get back to William Murfey Sr. These two comparisons serve to demonstrate that I am definitely not related to William Murfey Sr. of Edgefield County, South Carolina (and so neither is my forefather John Murphey), while a good DNA match is illustrated in the comparison of the two Murphy men who are related to William Murfey and so corroborates their claimed lineages.

Therefore, we can use proximity to known children of William Murfey Sr. and others from Edgefield County, South Carolina, as a means to identify and differentiate his son, John Murfey. In the Last Will and Testament of William Murfey Sr. dated 1794 and filed in Edgefield County, South Carolina, his nine children are named (in order from oldest to youngest) as William Murfey (Jr.), Drury Murfey, James Murfey, Mary Neeley, John Murfey, Martin Murfey, Elizabeth Ellis, Nancy Dobey and Lydia Lamar. I personally transcribed the preceding list of children's names from film of the original document, and it differs from the other published transcriptions where "Martin" was mistyped as "Martha". I was also able over several years to collect documents that allowed me to calculate the birth years for almost all of the children to within 2 years. The eldest son, William Murfey Jr., was born in about 1750 and his son John was born in about 1761.

William Murfey Jr. is the same William Murfey who lived in Hancock County, Georgia, from at least 1793 until his death just prior to July, 1818, when his Last Will and Testament was filed in the records of the Hancock County Inferior Court (from Murfey Family Researcher Vickie Stockham). While I have enough research materials to write another paper just on the life of William Murfey Jr., I will present just one deed filed in Edgefield County, South Carolina, which several years after his father's death, refers to William Murfey Jr. as living in Hancock County, Georgia. (William Murfey Sr. died after 1794 but prior to 1801 based upon his Estate Sale held that year after his wife relinquished her dowry interest with her death and freed William Murfey's estate for liquidation.) Below, please see this Deed of Gifts from William Murfey Jr. dated December 4<sup>th</sup>, 1810. I transcribed this directly from films of the original document as found in the Edgefield County, South Carolina, Deed Book 30, on pages 276 and 277 and kept the original spellings.

#### **Deed of Gifts:**

Two beds and furniture, one chest, one pot and oven, one table, one clothes basket, one wheel Inser cheese, some pewter and earthenware -- to all people to whom these presents shall come, I **William Murfey** do send greetings and that I the said **William Murphey of Georgia Hancock County** for and in consideration of the love goodwill and affection which I have and do bear towards my beloved grandson Ellis Murphey of South Carolina Edgefield district have given and granted and by these presents do freely give and grant unto the said Ellis Murphey his heirs Executors or Administrators all and Singular any Goods Chattel now being in his mother's dwelling house in the County aforesaid of Late before the signing of these presence, I have delivered him the said Ellis Murphey inventory signed with my own hand and bearing even date, to have and to hold all the said goods and chattels in the said premises or dwelling House to him the said Ellis Murphey his Heirs Executors or Administrators from hence forth as his property Goods and Chattels Absolutely without any manner of condition In witness whereof I have hereunto put my hand and seal this fourth day of December 1810.

(Signed) William Murfey

Signed sealed and delivered in the presence of us -- Richardson (x) Bartlett, Thomas Folk (CFM Note: Richardson Bartlett was a brother-in-law to William Murfey Jr. through his marriage to the widowed Nancy Dobey.)

Recorded 1 February 1811

In summary, Y-DNA evidence proves that my ancestor, John Murphey of Butler County, Alabama, was not related to the family of William Murfey Sr. of Edgefield County, South Carolina. Since we know that William Murfey Jr. lived in Hancock County, Georgia, from at least 1793 until his death in 1818, it is then logical to suppose that any John Murfey found living near him could be his brother. Further corroboration would be to find known Edgefield County neighbors listed near this same John Murfey in Georgia.

## **Chapter 5: John Murfey from Edgefield County, South Carolina, in documents prior to the formation of Hancock County, Georgia**



Georgia at the time of sale in 1789. John Spencer and John McCulloch are found just 10 lines above and 9 lines below, respectively, the listing for John Murfey in the 1793 Greene Tax List, giving us very high confidence that this is the same John Murfey from Edgefield County. In proof, please see below the abstract of the 1789 deed of sale from the book "Edgefield County, South Carolina, Abstract of Deed Books 1-12, 1786-1796 – Volume 1" by Ge Lee Corley Hendrix, C. G.

**Abstract for Deed of Sale from John Spencer to Phillip May Jr.:**

Edgefield County, South Carolina, Deed Book 4, pages 13 - 17:

2 Dec 1789: **John Spencer** & Mary, his wife, of Burke Co. GA to Phillip May, Jr. of Edgefield Co. SC for 100 pounds, sold 87 acres, being part of 100 acres originally granted 19 Jun 1772 unto John Spencer on the East of Chavers Creek, adj. land formerly held by Jinkins Harris; Rubin Rambo; part of original grant.

Signed: John Spencer, Mary Spencer.

Wit: Zackeria (+) James, **Jn<sup>o</sup>** (+) **Murphy, Jn<sup>o</sup>** **McCullo** who swore by oath 13 Apr 1790 before Russell Wilson, J.P.

In this deed, we have corroborating evidence that we are looking at John Murfey, son of William Murfey Sr., due to the fact that Phillip May Jr. and Zachariah James are neighbors to the Murfey family, being listed on the same page of the 1790 Federal Census in Ninety-Six District, Edgefield County, South Carolina. They are found in the same middle column of the Census page, between the listings for William Murfey's sons (namely, William Murfey Jr. and Drury Murfey as listed in the Last Will and Testament of William Murfey Sr. in Edgefield County, South Carolina, referenced in Chapter 4).



FIRST CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES.

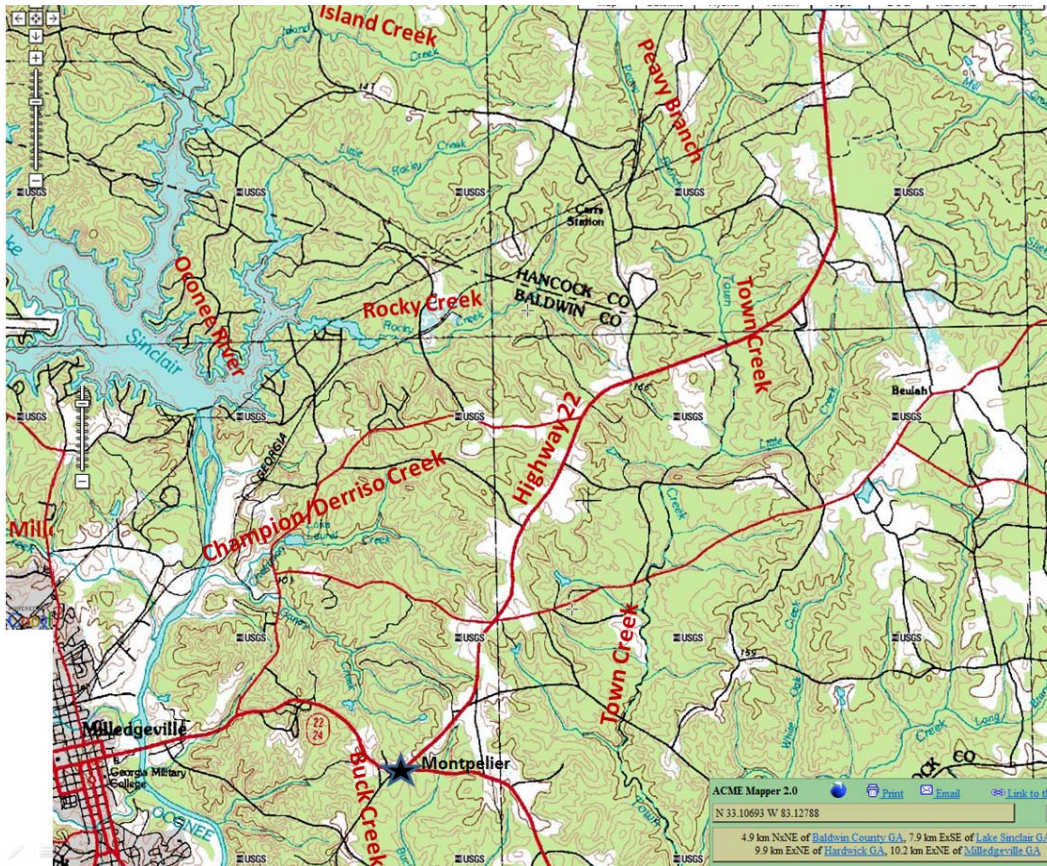
NINETY-SIX DISTRICT, EDGEFIELD COUNTY-Continued.

Table with multiple columns: NAME OF HEAD OF FAMILY, Free white males of 16 years and upward, Free white males under 16 years, Free white females including heads of families, All other free persons, Slaves, NAME OF HEAD OF FAMILY, Free white males of 16 years and upward, Free white males under 16 years, Free white females including heads of families, All other free persons, Slaves, NAME OF HEAD OF FAMILY, Free white males of 16 years and upward, Free white males under 16 years, Free white females including heads of families, All other free persons, Slaves.

Although it may be inconsequential, it is interesting to note that a person with an indirect connection to John Murphey of Butler County, Alabama, is found at the top of the 1793 Greene County, Georgia, Tax List on page 43 as shown previously; an entry for Abraham Womack is found with 4 slaves (also listed in the 1789 Greene County Tax List with 4 slaves). Abraham is the father of Jesse Womack, who appears later on the 1820 Butler County, Alabama, Voter List with John Murphey (see my other previously mentioned paper, "Establishment of the Origin of John Murphey of Butler County, Alabama, as Jones County, Georgia, and his History therein"). Jesse Womack was an early settler of Butler County, Alabama, who married Frances Carter, the daughter of the same John Carter mentioned above in Chapter 2. (Note from Wilda Murphy: I'm not so sure Womack's presence will turn out to be "inconsequential." No way to know right now, though. Time will tell.)

Chapter 6: John Murfey from Edgefield County, South Carolina in Hancock County Tax and Deed Records

In order to describe the Creek Area of Hancock County, Georgia, below is a map of the southwestern part of Hancock County showing the modern boundary between Hancock and Baldwin Counties. As mentioned previously, Hancock was created on December 17th, 1793 from Greene and Washington Counties. The land to the west of the Oconee River was under control of the Creek Indians until it was ceded in the Treaty of Fort Wilkinson in 1802. On May 11, 1803, Baldwin County was formed and given jurisdiction over the land on the west side of the Oconee River. Then on December 10, 1807, the boundary between Baldwin County and Hancock County was redrawn along Town Creek. This placed Buck, Derriso, and much of the Rocky Creek lands within Baldwin County after 1807. The map scale at the bottom shows that we are looking at an area of about 10 miles (N-S) by 12 miles (E-W).



Map above created from <http://mapper.acme.com/?ll=33.482671,-80.95968&z=15&t=T>.

I am defining the Creek Area as the area containing the following Creeks which flow into the Oconee River and listed from N to S:

- Log Dam Creek (not shown on map, but located to the north of Sandy Run)
- Sandy Run (not shown on map, but located just to the north)
- Little Island Creek
- Island (or Big Island) Creek
- Little Rocky Creek
- Rocky Creek
- Derriso (today named Champion) Creek
- Buck Creek (partially shown on map, located to the south)
- Town Creek (on the map, forming the eastern side of the Creek Area)



Name	Acres	Value	County	Notes
John Cook	20	455	Co. 20	Records
Do			300 Washington Buffets	Records
Do Co. 20				
Do Co. 20				
Do Co. 20				
William Williams	73	73	Hancock Co. 20	Talbot
Peter Magoon	3	200	Hancock Co. 20	Murphy
Benjamin Wood		108	Hancock Co. 20	Murphy
Thos. Norton	1	387 1/2	Do Island C.	Furman
John Hawkins		105 1/2	Do 20	Murphy
Joseph Vines		50	Do 20	Do
Arthur Murphey	26	175	Do Island C.	Furman
Green Williamson				
Abraham Smith				
Clam Hilliers	110	110	Do O.C.	Talbot
Abraham Fanchell				
Ed. Fiel				
James Fiel				
John Coleman	2	100	Do 20	Waller
Dr. James Franklin		50	Do Island C.	
John Phillips	2	72	Do 20	
James Franklin				

Then in 1797, we find two deeds (shown below) which list John Murfey as a neighboring landholder in this same area around Island Creek. (From "Land Deed Genealogy of Hancock County, Georgia", Abstracted and Compiled by Helen and Tim Marsh)

**Hancock County Deed Book B, Page 484 – March 11, 1797**

James Alford of Hancock County to Henry Butts of same place for \$300 for 143.75 acres in Hancock County on the waters of Big Island Creek adjoining Azariah Butts' line and John Thompson's line and **John Murphey's** line and George Gray's line.  
Wit: Benjamin Whitfield, J.P.

**Hancock County Deed Book D, Page 450 – November 18, 1797**

William Williams (CFM Note: he is listed on the second part of page 46 of 1794 Tax List shown above) of Hancock County to Wilson Housely of same place for \$200 for 108 acres in Hancock County on the waters of Rocky Creek adjoining James Felps' land and W(illegible)'s land, and by **Murphey's** land.  
Wit: Isam Brooks and Thos. Housely Registered: August 8, 1800

And what became of the John McCulloch who witnessed the 1789 Edgefield County deed with John Murfey and who also was listed on the same page of the 1793 Greene County Tax List with John Murfey and John Spencer? From "Land Deed Genealogy of Hancock County, Georgia" by Helen and Tim Marsh, we find him witnessing the 1794 deed below that mentions Azariah Butts and (George) Gray and the Felps, neighbors of John Murfey previously listed above in the two 1797 deeds:

**Hancock County Deed Book A, Page 125 – April 9, 1794**

David Felps and Sally, his wife, of Hancock County to Azariah Butts of same place for the sum of 100 pounds sterling for a tract of land containing 100 acres, being part of a bounty of land surveyed for William Horton and purchased by said Felps of said Horton. Land adjoining Widow L(illegible)'s line and Butt's line and Gray's line, and Abednego Wright's line and to a spring branch.

Wit: **John McCulloh** and John Butts

So, from the listing of same neighbors, we know that John Murfey and John McColloch were living near each other in 1794. Furthermore, while there is no identified listing for John McCulloch in the 1794 Hancock County Tax List, we can corroborate his location from the other people listed in the above deeds from that same 1794 Hancock County Tax List (below).

<b>Name</b>		<b>District</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>Waterway</b>
Azariah	Butts	Sanford	47	Island Creek
Henry	Butts	Sanford	47	Island Creek
John	Butts	Sanford	47	Island Creek
David	Felps	Sanford	44	Island Creek
James	Felps	Sanford	44	Rocky Creek
William	Horton	Sanford	45	no land listed
John	Murphey	Sanford	46	Island Creek

We also see the same case with John Spencer, who was listed on Log Dam Creek in the 1793 Greene Tax List, now being found in the 1794 Hancock County Tax List on page 40 as shown below. See that in 1793 Greene Tax List, John Spencer had 6 slaves and 420.5 acres on Log Dam Creek, granted to James Comer, but that in the 1794 Hancock Tax List he now has 8 slaves, with just 125 acres on Log Dam Creek, also showing that it was granted to Comer. Did he sell his land in Burke and the newly districted Hancock County to buy more slaves? Another question relates to the number "79" written vertically inside of John Spencer's name. Was this possibly his age, and was it used to differentiate him from his apparent son who shows up later in the 1798 Greene Tax List on Richland Creek?

Benjamin Gilbert						
John Science	8		125		Do Log B	Carron
Richard Wilmore	1			50	Do Log B	Carron
Friedrich Kofe		118 1/2	118 1/2		Do Sandy P.	Carron
James Mitchell		100	100		Do Sandy P.	Talbert
Stephen Stephens			60		Do Sandy P.	Trainer
Ellington Hargis	7					
Alexander Fendoe						
Burrell Spaworth			45 1/2		Do Island C.	Talbert
James Garrett						
William Harrington			100		Do Sandy P.	Talbert
Henry Green			50		Do	Do
Lehnard Canford						
James Green						
Nathan Harrington						
George Brewer	2		424		Do Sandy P.	Mims
Poling Brewer						
James Yarbrough			100		Do Island C.	Hughes
Abraham Taylor			50		Do Sandy P.	Calland
Richard Taylor						
James Yarbrough			120		Do O C.	Hutcherson

It is also interesting to note that John Murfey's brother, James (or nephew, James Jr.?), is listed on the next page, page 41, of the 1794 Hancock County Tax List with no landholdings. James Murfey is surrounded by many of the same neighbors listed near John Murfey in the 1793 Greene County Tax List on Log Dam Creek, indicating that James moved into the same area that John had just vacated in 1793 before John moved to his Island Creek property in 1794.

Many of these observations point to the fact that we are looking at the same John Murfey enumerated in the same physical area in both the 1793 Greene County Tax List and in the 1794 Hancock County Tax List. In addition, the proximity to family and friends from Edgefield County, South Carolina, indicates that this John Murfey was the son of William Murfey Sr. and not the person of John Murphey who would later migrate to Butler County, Alabama.

## **Chapter 7: John Murphey of Butler County, Alabama, in Hancock County, Georgia, Tax, Deed and Court Records**

On December 17th, 1793, from parts of Greene County and the part of Washington County located just south of Greene, Hancock County was created. And in its earliest records, we can definitively identify John Murphey of Butler County in 1794 as living in the southwest part of Hancock County, Georgia, part of which today is under the jurisdiction of Baldwin County. From then until 1807, John Murphey's primary homestead was his farm on Derriso Creek in Hancock County.

John's first deed in Jones County, Georgia, was executed on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1807 (see the deed abstract on page 1 of this paper) and it clearly describes John as being from Hancock County. It appears from deeds and Tax Lists that John moved to Jones County in about 1807 to live on the purchased property. I have not found John listed in any Hancock County Tax Lists to suggest that he was there after 1807. Furthermore, I have reviewed the microfilmed copies of the 1807 and 1810 Baldwin County Tax Lists and have not found any entry for John Murphey even though this locale was moved to that jurisdiction as explained below. The 1807 end-date in Hancock

County is further corroborated by research by Murfey Family Researcher Vickie Stockham, where the January 26, 1807 Road Orders from the Inferior Court in Hancock County are the last to mention the John Murphey living on Derriso Creek as having responsibility for maintaining named roads located in the Creek Area on the east side of the Oconee River opposite Milledgeville.

In Chapter 6 we discussed John Murfey from Edgefield County as being found in an area of Greene County, Georgia, prior to its redistricting into Hancock County. We then looked closely at John Murfey's listing in the 1794 Hancock County Tax List on 50 acres along Island Creek. Below we now see that there are two "John Murphey" listings found in the 1794 Hancock County Tax List, which refer to two different men with the same name:

Name	Militia Dist.	Page	Watercourse	Deed information/Acreage
Murphey, John	Sanford's Dist.	Pg 46	Island Creek	Named as adjoining landowner in Deed 3/11/1797, 50 acres on List
Murphey, John	Rogers' Dist.	Pg 3	Derriso Creek	Deed 3/8/1797; Wit: Isaiah Eilands & Wm. Hutchinson, 107 acres on List

We know that these two listings refer to two distinct individuals since they both paid a Poll Tax. The Poll Tax is assessed to white males age 21 to 60, and if a man owns several pieces of property, even if located in different counties, all of his properties are clearly listed under his name in the tax district of his primary residence. This type of listing was seen previously with the John Spencer's landholdings in two counties on the 1793 Greene Co Tax List. The above Hancock County tax listings clearly define each landholding as the home of that "John Murphey" and then each was assessed a Poll Tax (seen in the total amounts assessed, although not visible in the film captures below). We know from Chapter 6 that the man referenced in the first listing on Island Creek is John Murfey, originally of Edgefield County, South Carolina, and the son of William Murfey Sr.

The second listing for "John Murphey" in the 1794 Hancock County Tax List refers to the subject of this paper, the John Murphey who eventually moves to Butler County, Alabama. He is found in this Tax List on page 3 in Captain Rogers' District with 107 acres located on Derriso Creek (indicated as today's Champion Creek). Virtually all records for this John Murphey in Hancock County between 1794 and 1807 indicate consistent residency on the same property along Derriso Creek while he raised his family. His children are known to be three, Sarah, Wilson and Eleanor (Ellen). Ellen was the youngest and was born about 1803. *(Note from Wilda Murphy: If John's wife was born about 1772, then she was barely 30 when her last known child was born. That was very unusual for a woman to end childbearing at such an early age unless she was dead. We have no way of knowing if there was only one wife. On the other hand, Sarah Murphey's Deed of Gift in Butler County, Alabama, in 1856 to her grandson Josiah Mullins does read as if Josiah were her "natural" grandson.)* Wilson was born in 1801 and while it is not readily apparent who his namesake was, it can be considered as a clue to be investigated later. The date of Sarah's birth is not known, but we do know that she was married in Jones County, Georgia, to Job Mullins on October 2, 1815. This would suggest a birth year of 1799 or earlier to make her age at least age 16 when wed. The fact that this eldest daughter was named Sarah can be used as an argument in favor of John's wife in Butler County, Alabama, being her mother as her name was also Sarah. Like today, children are often named after their parents and grandparents. A counter argument is that Sarah is a very common name and it could be that having the same name between his eldest daughter and her possible step-mother was purely coincidental.

The 1815 wedding date also coincides with the probable year of John's migration to Butler County, Alabama, when we know that he took his son, Wilson, if not also his wife and daughter

Ellen. If the family migrated to Alabama in 1815, Wilson would have been about 14 years old. Corroboration is found in this partial quote from Wilson Murphy's obituary (from "Butler County Alabama Obituaries" compiled by Marilyn Davis Barefield, p. 70 and "The Greenville Advocate, Vol. XIII, Number 39", Greenville, Butler County, Alabama, Thursday, August 8, 1878)

"Died at his home in Butler County, on the 28th of July last, Mr. Wilson Murphy, in his 78th year. Mr. Murphy was a native of Georgia, but emigrated with his father to this State and county **when but 14 years of age**, when Butler county was still in the hands of the Indians."

Below we see the film capture of the original 1794 Tax List, page 3 in Capt. Rogers' District, showing the enumeration of the second "John Murphey", who is the same John Murphey who moves to Jones County in 1807 and Butler County, Alabama in 1815.

(3)

Capt Rogers

Name	Age	Land	Value	County	Notes	Other	County	Value
Ransom	-	-	100	Hancock	Butch, Co.	10	Walker	-
John Parker	-	-	-	20	Town, Co.	-	Walker	-
Wm Embrew	-	-	175	20	-	-	Walker	-
Wm Carter	6	-	133	20	W. Home	Walker	for self	-
Frederick Parker	4	-	100	20	20	Walker	-	-
Wm H. Hedges	6	-	130	20	20	Walker	-	-
Wm Parker	-	-	130	20	20	Walker	-	-
Samuel Whitington	4	-	253	20	20	Walker	-	-
John	-	-	70	30	20	Walker	-	-
Elizah Lingo	-	-	150	Hancock	Shelby, Co. Long	-	for self	-
John	-	-	148 1/2	20	W. Home	-	-	-
John Whitington	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Thomas Andy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Robt. Wilson	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Samuel Wilson	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
John Murphey	-	-	107	20	Daniels	-	for	-
Wm McElhenny	3	-	297	20	W. Home	-	Walker	-
Wm S. Jackson	-	192 1/2	192 1/2	20	Hancock	Butch, Co.	Walker	-
James Dennis	-	-	100	Hancock	Butch, Co.	-	Walker	-
Charles Spencer	-	-	300	20	Town, Co.	-	for self	-



Name	Acreage	Value	Other	Notes
Levon Hunt	2	-	187 1/2	Q: Derriso R. Derriso
John Talbot	1	50	-	Q: Derriso R. Derriso
John Hunt	-	-	-	-
Levon Hunt	-	-	-	-
John Walker	-	-	187 1/2	Q: Derriso R. Derriso
Elijah Freney	7	-	-	-
Robert Blakney	1	-	87 1/2	Wishing Town C.
Thos. Hatcher	-	-	-	-
William Morgan	-	-	-	-
Samuel Roach	-	-	100	Hancock Town C.
William Hill	5	-	93 1/2	Liberty Town C.
John Mitchell	58	87 1/2	-	Hancock Town C.
Do	-	575	50	Town Creek
Do	-	1232	200	Do
Do	-	400	60	Do
James Mitchell	-	-	-	Self
Bedwell Jones	-	-	-	-
Do	-	-	-	-
Thos. Hatcher	-	-	-	-
John Hill	-	156	50	Wright
Joseph Mitchell	-	-	-	Horton

Carried to Page 50

John's land tract consisted of 107 acres of 2<sup>nd</sup> quality land where Greer was listed as the original grantee. John owns no slaves according to this 1794 Tax List. He has a number of neighbors who we can use to verify that we are looking at specific locations within the Creek Area and who we will see again later in Road Orders of the Hancock County Inferior Court. These neighbors include Ransom Lea, Elijah Lingo, Samuel Roach, and Joel McClendon.

Researching the deed record for this John Murphey in Hancock County, Georgia, I was only able to find the deed of purchase for the 107 acres on Derriso Creek. I compiled the abstract below directly from the image of the original document and retained the original name spellings:

**Hancock County Deed Book B, Page 421 – 8th March 1797**

Josiah Greer of Laurens County, South Carolina to **John Murphe** of Hancock County for thirty pounds sterling for a tract of land in Hancock County and waters of Derriso Creek containing 107 acres bounded eastwardly by Graves' land, southwardly by Seaborn Jones' land and westwardly by Call's land, same granted to said Josiah Greer on 10th February 1797. Signed: Josiah Greir

Wit: Isa Ilands (CFM Note: Isa is short for Isaiah, so it is "Isaiah Eilands") and W. Hutchinson (CFM Note: William Hutchinson)

Personally came before me and being duly sworn, said he was present and saw Josiah Greir sign and seal the within Indenture, and acknowledged the same to be his act and Deed and William Hutchinson was also present, and subscribed as a witness with himself. Signed: Joel McClendon J.P.

Sworn to before me this 18<sup>th</sup> March 1797. Signed: Isa Eilands (CFM Note: Isa is short for Isaiah)

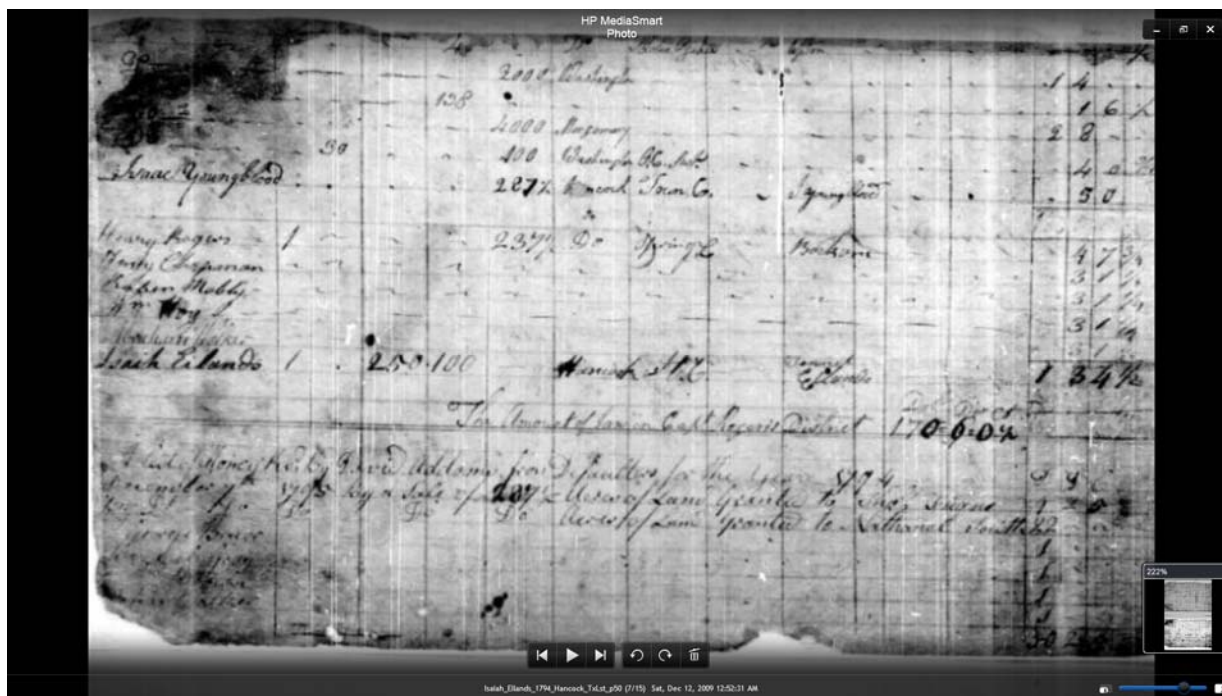
Registered the 5<sup>th</sup> October 1797

It is interesting that John Murphey is listed in the 1794 Tax List on this parcel of 107 acres and is responsible for paying the taxes on it, even though he was not the legal owner until the execution of this 1797 deed. I do not know the situation in this case, although there may have been a

contract for deed that was contingent upon Josiah Greer providing a clear title. Josiah could not do this until the land was legally granted to him on February 10<sup>th</sup>, 1797. Notice then that the deed of sale was executed within one month of Josiah receiving the land grant and that John had been living on this parcel of land for at least the preceding 3 years.

Now let's investigate the witnesses to John Murphey's deed of purchase for this 107 acres on Derriso Creek and see what these friends of John can tell us. If we can ascertain their origins, then they may point us to John Murphey's origin. Let us see what we can learn about Isaiah Eilands and William Hutchinson.

In the 1794 Hancock County Tax List, Isaiah Eilands was listed in the same Captain Rogers' District on the page (renumbered to page 50) following John Murphey's entry. As shown below, Isaiah's land is located on the Oconee River (abbreviated as "O.C.") and he has 1 slave. So it is quite likely that John Murphey knew Isaiah as a neighbor residing in the same Militia District.



We can find out more about Isaiah and his family origins. First, look at this Family Tree from Ancestry.com:

George Eiland - Ancestry.com - Windows Internet Explorer

http://trees.ancestry.com/owt/person.aspx?pid=18213685&st=1

George Eiland - Ancestry.com

Hi, cmurphey189 Log Out Messages My Account Help To-Dos Quick Links

Home Family Trees Search Collaborate Learning Center DNA Publish Shop Hire an Expert Add to Quick Link

You are here: Trees > OneWorldTree® > George Eiland

**PERSONAL INFORMATION** [See Pedigree View](#)

**George Eiland**  
 Born: 1715 Johnston, [county], North Carolina, USA  
 Died: abt 1776 [city], Johnston, North Carolina, USA  
[View person's info](#)

Richard Eiland  
 Elizabeth Heath  
 Richard Eiland  
 Esther Poole  
 James Heath  
 Anne

**PAGE TOOLS**

[View person's info](#)  
[Start a new tree with George Eiland](#)  
[Find famous relatives BETA](#)

**Family** **Historical Records** **Family Facts**

**Family Groups** [View alternate family members](#)

**Spouse**  
**Sarah James**  
 Born: abt 1717  
 Died:  
 Marriage: 1735 in Currituck Precinct, [county], North Carolina, USA [View Info](#)

Children	Sex	Birth
<a href="#">John Eiland</a>	M	1740 in Johnston, [county], North Carolina, USA
<a href="#">James Eiland</a>	M	1750 in Johnston, [county], North Carolina, USA
<a href="#">Absalom Eiland</a>	M	1750 in Farm Hill, Oglethorpe, Georgia, USA
<a href="#">Isaiah Eiland</a>	M	1759 in [city], Johnston, North Carolina, USA

**WHAT DO I DO NEXT?**

[Contact people](#) who submitted this information

**HISTORICAL RECORDS**

[30 User-submitted trees](#)  
[More info >](#)

We see that Isaiah was born about 1759, placing his age within just a few years of John Murphey's birth year in the mid to late 1760's. We also see that Absalom Eilands was an older brother to Isaiah, both being sons of George Eilands. On page 6 of the 1794 Hancock County Tax List (below), Absalom was shown to be quite wealthy owning 7 slaves as well as a number of landholdings on Buffalo and Derriso Creeks and in Washington County on the Oconee Island and along Spring Creek.

Name	Land	Slaves	Other
William Brown	125	0	
Jesse Carnest	200	0	
John Armstrong	700	700	Eilands
John Little	300	0	Cumby
John Little	240	0	baron
Thom Vickers	187 1/2	240	Self
George Martin			
Absalom Eilands	7	129	129
Do		600	0
Do		150	0
Do	97		
Do		800	Washington Buffalo
Do	130		O.C. Island
Do		287 1/2	Spring C.
Do		100	Buffelows
Do			
Do	585		
Do		297 1/2	Can
Do			
Do		100	Cogg Creek
Do		137	

**Absalom Eilands on Derisoe Ck., Granted to Graves**

And where did the family of George Eilands come from? From deeds we can see that George Eilands was a very early settler of Granville County (as early as 1749), later called the Ninety-Six District and today known as Edgefield County, South Carolina. So, it appears that the Eilands family arrived in Georgia from South Carolina via the route across the Savannah River through Augusta.

To refocus our attention to John Murphey's first deed of purchase in Hancock County, Georgia, it is repeated below:

**Hancock County Deed Book B, Page 421 – 8th March 1797** (from film image of original document)

Josiah Greer of Laurens County, South Carolina to John Murphey of Hancock County for thirty pounds sterling for a tract of land in Hancock County and waters of Derriso Creek containing 107 acres bounded eastwardly by Graves' land, southwardly by Seaborn Jones' land and westwardly by Call's land, same granted to said Josiah Greer on 10th February 1797. Signed: Josiah Greir

Wit: Isa Ilands (CFM Note: Isaiah Eilands) and W. Hutchinson (CFM Note: William Hutchinson)

Personally came before me and being duly sworn, said he was present and saw Josiah Greir sign and seal the within Indenture, and acknowledged the same to be his act and Deed and William Hutchinson was also present, and subscribed as a witness with himself. Signed: Joel McClendon J.P.

Sworn to before me this 18<sup>th</sup> March 1797. Signed: Isa Eilands (CFM Note: Isa is short for Isaiah)

Registered the 5<sup>th</sup> October 1797

Now let us investigate William Hutchinson to see what information he brings. Unfortunately, I have not been able to definitively track the origin of the Hutchinsons and cannot state if they came through Augusta or instead took the northern route into Georgia through Wilkes County. I first found William Hutchinson as a witness along with his brother Peter in a November 6, 1790 Deed of Purchase for his brother Benjamin who was buying land along Sandy Run Creek in then Greene County. Then he is listed in the 1793 Greene County Tax List on page 45 with one slave, along with his brothers Benjamin and Peter, with land beside Sandy Run Creek. This same area was redrawn into Hancock County and all three Hutchinsons appear on page 39 of the 1794 Hancock Tax List (see image below). William Hutchinson is in this Tax List still with one slave but now with an additional 116 acres on the Oconee River (abbreviated as "O.C.").

Hancock County. Ordinary  
Tax Digest  
1794

Page No. 883  
Positive  
Filed in \_\_\_\_\_

39	39	Acres	Value	Owner	County	Notes	County	Notes
Jesse Warren	4	280	Hancock Log B	Warren				
Benjamin Warren	4	200	Warren B.C.	Warren				
Valley Boice	6	237	Hancock Lady B	Sittabund				
William Boice	5	50	Do Log B.	Thoson				
Nathan Sanders	5	287	Do Lot C	Buckhalls				
Do			370 Washing	James C	Sealet			
Do		37	Hancock L. B	Sanders				
Spencer Mealand	6	533	Do Lot C	Boyle				
Anderson James	11	373	Do Log B.	Johnson				
Walt Collier	7	200	Do U. B.	James				
William Fulton	1	160	Do Lady B.	Pue				
Do		116	Do O.C.	L.H.				
Ben. Hutchinson		18	Do Lady B.	Pue				
John Thornton		143	Do Lot C	Blair				
George Stephens	4	208	Do Lady B.	Foster				
James Stephens			Do					
Debra Hutchinson	1	90	Do	Pue				

So, William Hutchinson had land along the Oconee and apparently moved his primary residence to that area as he is documented later as living in this same area as John Murphey. William is also listed in 1803 Road Orders of the Hancock County Inferior Court as being in the Creek Area, as well as when he registered for the 1807 Georgia Land Lottery. The documents shown can only substantiate that John Murphey and William Hutchinson both lived within the Creek Area, but John must have known William well enough that he trusted him to witness his Deed of Purchase.

So, while an earlier relationship between William Hutchinson and John Murphey cannot be documented, it may well have been deeper. Parr Hutchinson is shown on a number of family trees on Ancestry.com as the younger brother of William Hutchinson. Parr Hutchinson registered in late 1806 for the 1807 Georgia Land Lottery, just as did William Hutchinson and John Murphey, in Major Taliaferro's Battalion, which covered the Creek Area neighborhood. Later, Parr Hutchinson is listed on the same page as John Murphey in the 1840 Federal Census of Butler County, Alabama. *(Note from Wilda Murphy: All we can substantiate at this point is that both the Murpheys and the Hutchinsons were among the earliest settlers of Butler County, the Murpheys coming in 1817 (or 1815 or thereabouts) and the Hutchinsons in about 1818. The obituary of Levicy Hutchinson Waller, daughter of Parr Hutchinson and granddaughter of Lydia Seale and Abraham Peavy, reports that her family arrived in 1818 and she died in Manningham on the place where her father settled after his arrival. Lydia Seale was sister to James Seale, whose son Ransom married John Murphey's daughter Eleanor after they were all in Butler County. Other researchers report that Levicy Hutchinson Waller was born about 1806 in Hancock County, Georgia. These are indirect ties to John Murphey, not "significant" ones. We know that the Hutchinsons came from Hancock County and we are trying to establish the likelihood that John Murphey of Butler County is the same one whose deed in Hancock County was witnessed by a William Hutchinson.)*

## **Chapter 8: John Murphey in Hancock County on the same Derriso Creek property from 1802 through 1807**

We will now look at the Road Orders of the Hancock County Inferior Court and the 1804 Hancock County Tax List to identify John's whereabouts over the years from 1802 until 1807. Adding context is a newspaper notice stemming from a lawsuit that threatened his homestead on Derriso Creek.

Murfey Family researcher Vickie Stockham investigated and shared her findings with me from the Road Orders of the Inferior Court of Hancock County. Below, Vickie Stockham graciously provided this copy of the film capture of the Road Order from the Court on June 7th, 1802. It says, "Ordered: That the following hands do work on the road from Montpelier Warehouse to Derriso Creek viz: (Note from Wilda Murphy: viz means "namely") Isaac Jackson, Thomas Tolar...**Isaiah Eilands**, Thomas Miles, Benjamin Catching, Shadrach Catching, Obadiah Morris, Elisha Brown, **John Murphey, William Bivens...**"

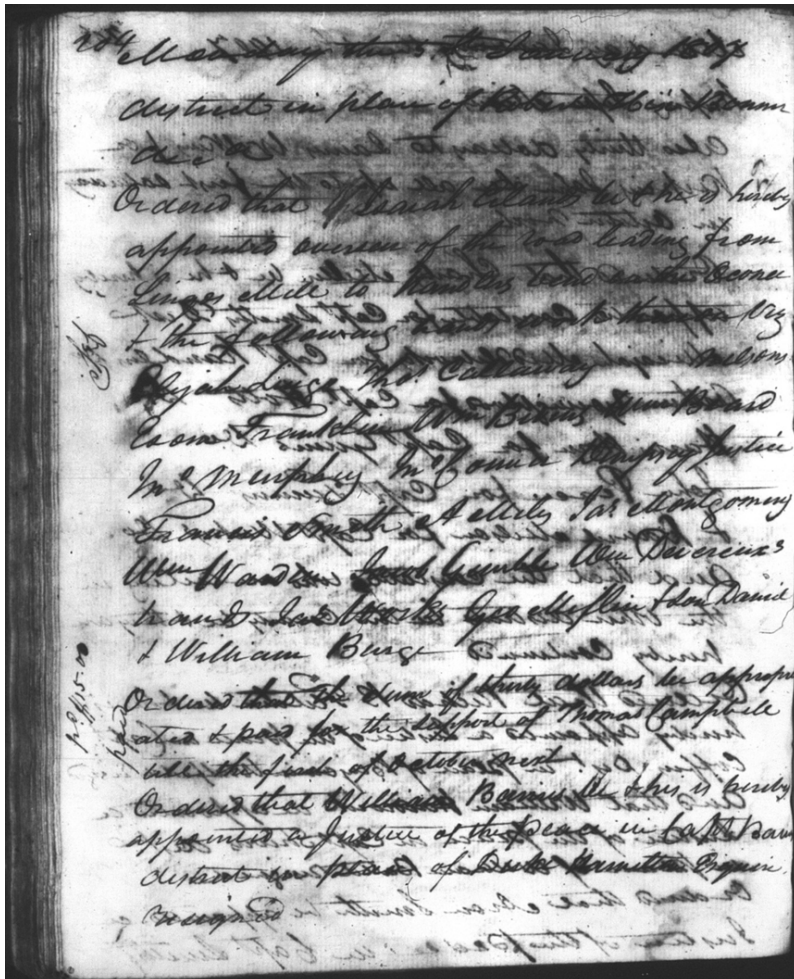
Monday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February 1806.  
 Ordered That the following should do work on the road  
 from Montpelier's Warehouse to Derris Creek viz.  
 Isaac Jackson, Tho<sup>s</sup>. Solar, Dan<sup>l</sup>. Co. or James Coopers  
 Farish Carter, Thomas Graham, John Co. or Mr. Bruce  
 Samuel McGehee, Jeremiah Walker Philip Cook, John  
 Keith, Moses Dugart, Mr. Robertson, Abraham  
 Miles, Dan<sup>l</sup>. Shaughter, Marvel McFadden  
 W<sup>m</sup>. Beard, James Kogg, John B. Devereux,  
 Simon Buckner, Lewis S. Johnson, John  
 Marcus, John Dugart, Lewis McLean, Mr. Swain  
 W<sup>m</sup>. Martin & ~~James~~ ~~Shaughter~~, ~~Coopers~~  
 Isaiah Eilands, Thomas Miles, Benjamin Galibing, John  
 Orlamius, Obasiah Morris, John ~~Conner~~ John  
 Murphey, William Bivens, ~~James~~ ~~Conner~~, ~~James~~  
 Beard, William Freeman, Jesse ~~Conner~~, ~~John~~ Buckner  
 Abraham & Miles, William Moore, Jeremiah Miles,  
 and David Herbert Coopers.

From Murfey Family researcher Vickie Stockham, below is copy of the film capture of the Road Order from the Inferior Court of Hancock County on February 3rd, 1806. Towards the bottom of the page it says, "... a road from Elijah Lingo's Mill to Candler's Bend on the Oconee River opposite Milledgeville and ... to work thereon, to wit: Elijah Lingo, John Lowe, Peleg Rogers, John Bivens, Shadrach Bivens, ... Esom Franklin, **William Bivens**, ... **Isaiah Eilands**, **John Murphey**, John Conner, Dempsey Justice, Francis Smith..."

February the 3<sup>rd</sup> 1806

Ordered that **Isaiah Eilands** be and he is hereby appointed overseer of the road leading from Lingo's Mill to Candler's Bend on the Oconee River and the following hands to work thereon viz: **Elijah Lingo**, **Thos. Callaway**, ... **Nelson**, **Esom Franklin**, **William Bivens**, **William Beard**, **John Murphey**, **John Conner**, **Dempsey Justice**, **Francis Smith** ...

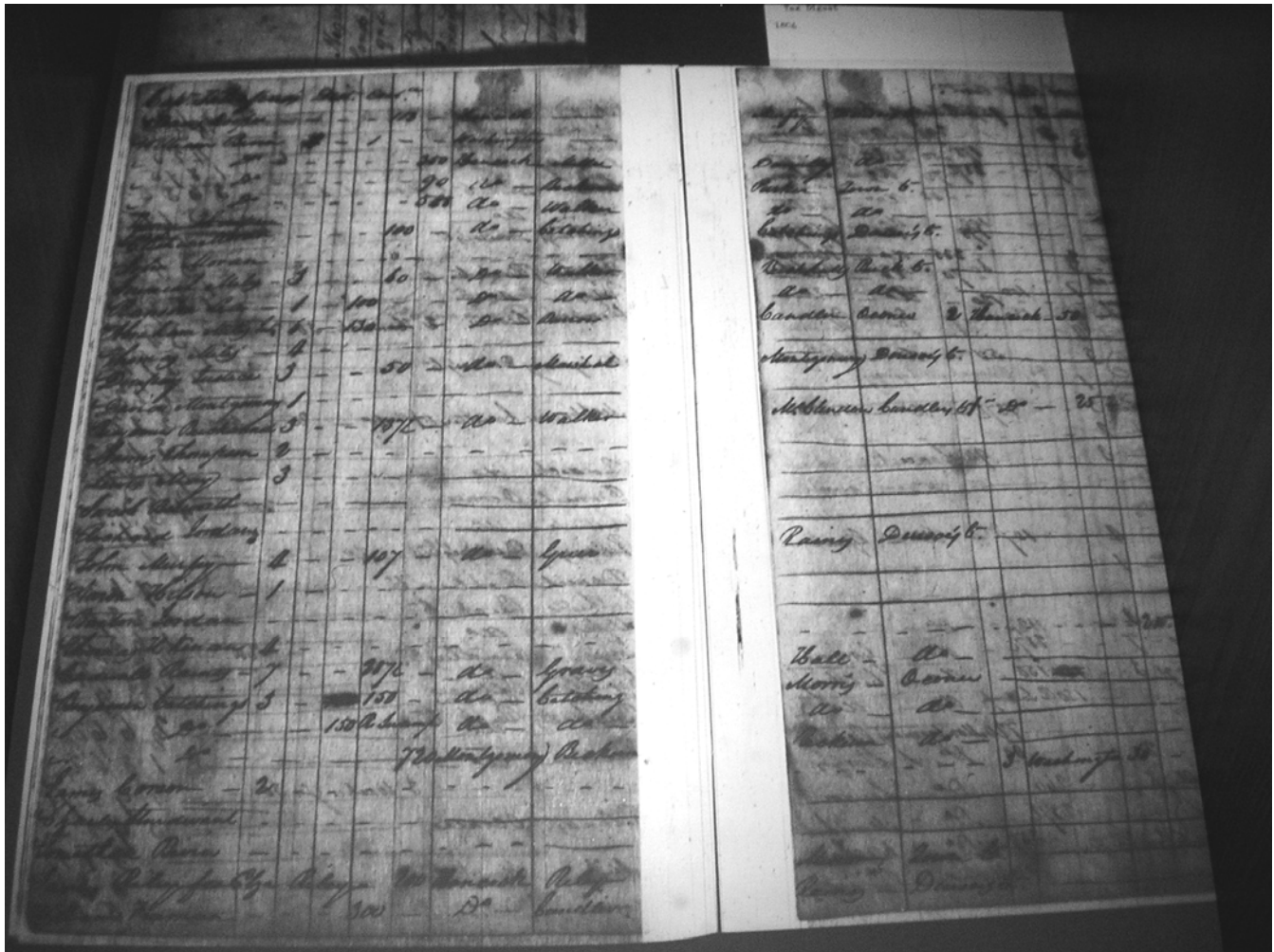
From Murfey Family researcher Vickie Stockham, below is copy of the film capture of the Road Order from the Inferior Court of Hancock County on Monday, January 5th, 1807. Towards the top of the page it says, "Ordered that **Isaiah Eilands** be and he is hereby appointed overseer of the road leading from Lingo's Mill to Candler's Bend on the Oconee River and the following hands to work thereon viz: **Elijah Lingo**, **Thos. Callaway**, ... **Nelson**, **Esom Franklin**, **William Bivens**, **William Beard**, **John Murphey**, **John Conner**, **Dempsey Justice**, **Francis Smith** ..."



By the physical description of the road location and by looking at the neighbors that are listed alongside him, we can verify that John Murphey is listed in succeeding years on the same Derriso Creek property. This methodology verifies through the Road Orders posted not only on June 7, 1802, but also on February 3, 1806 and January 5, 1807, that John Murphey maintained residence on his Derriso Creek property. The 1807 Road Order is the last documented evidence of John Murphey residing in Hancock County on this property. Afterwards, the land tract described in his November 3, 1807 deed of purchase in Jones County (abstract on page 1 of this paper) becomes his new place of residence as covered in my earlier paper, "Establishment of the Origin of John Murphey of Butler County, Alabama, as Jones County, Georgia, and his History therein".

Further confirmation of John's physical location in this timeframe from 1802 through 1807 comes from his listing in the 1804 Hancock County Tax List shown below. Our John Murphey is listed as "John Murfey" and now has 4 slaves. He is on the same tract along Derriso Creek that was described in the 1794 Tax List, which is 107 acres with the original grantee as "Greer". Please note that the listing for "Benjamin Catchings", as named in the 1802 Road Orders above, is just five lines away from the entry for John. Also note that "Aaron Hilson" is listed directly below John. He is the father of Pinkney W. Hilson who also settles in Butler County Alabama, and is listed directly above John Murphey in the 1840 Federal Census of Butler County, Alabama.



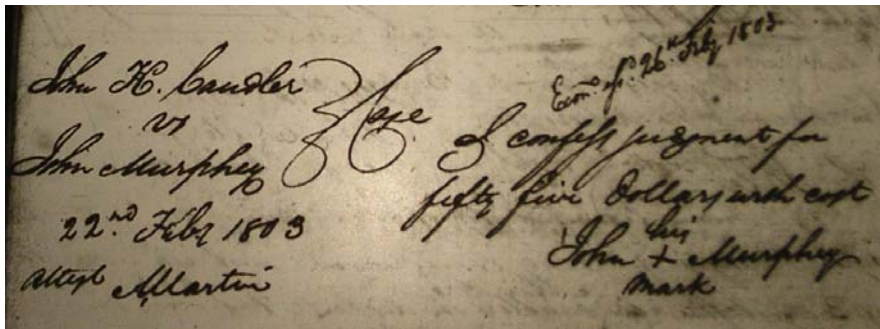


The fact that John has been living on the 107 acres by Derriso Creek since 1794 through 1807 is important as it gave him the stability needed to raise his family. John's wife, Sarah, is shown from Federal Census records in Butler County, Alabama, to have been born in about 1772 in Georgia. To repeat, the John Murphey of Butler County, Alabama, is known to have three children, Sarah, Wilson and Eleanor (Ellen). Ellen was the youngest and was born about 1803. Wilson was born in 1801. The date of Sarah's birth is not known, but we do know that Sarah was married in Jones County, Georgia, on October 2, 1815, arguing a birth year of 1799 or earlier to make her age at least age 16 when wed.

Another point to make is about the 4 slaves that John Murphey now has in this 1804 Hancock Tax List. When we jump forward to Jones County and see John's slave count in the 1811 and 1814 Jones Tax Lists, we see that the number remains at "4" in 1811 but grows to "5" in 1814. The point is that John had no slaves in 1794 but over ten years acquired four slaves. However, over the next ten years, up to 1814, he was only able to add one more slave. In the society at that time, the value of land was low while the value of a working slave was high (about \$400 from the records I have seen) and often used as a measure of wealth. In this respect, the evidence argues that John acquired more wealth between 1794 and 1804 than he did between 1804 and 1814. I submit that the inability to maintain the same pace of economic growth may have played a role in John's decision to leave Georgia in about 1815 and immigrate to the untamed wilderness of Alabama to repeat the success of his earlier experience by being an early settler, beating the crowds and cultivating fresh land.

## Chapter 9: The Lawsuit and the Threat to John Murphey's Derriso Creek Landholding

Now we can experience a very interesting twist in the history of John Murphey of Butler County in Hancock County, Georgia. John K. Candler was a wealthy landowner in the neighborhood. One of his properties was used as a landmark in the previous Road Orders of 1806 and 1807, referred to as "Candler's Bend on the Oconee opposite Milledgeville". It appears from the Superior Court records that he filed a number of similar lawsuits against various neighbors at about the same time related to property line disputes. John Murphey apparently was caught in this quarrel between adjacent landowners. A consistency that allows us to track our John Murphey is the fact that John always used a "mark" instead of signing his name. By 1812, John's deeds of sale in Jones County, Georgia, always used a variation on a "c". Interestingly, in his acknowledgement of the court judgment against him on February 22, 1803 in the Hancock County Superior Court, John Murphey signed with a "+" as reproduced by the Court Recorder. Please see the document of the judgment from the film record below.



The image shows a handwritten document, likely a court judgment, on aged paper. The text is written in cursive. On the left, it reads "John K. Candler" and "John Murphey". Below that, the date "22<sup>nd</sup> Feb 1803" is written. At the bottom left, there is a signature "Attest Allerton". In the center, there is a large, stylized signature that appears to be "John Murphey" with a "+" mark. To the right of this signature, it says "I confess judgment for fifty five dollars with cost". Below that, it says "John + Murphey" and "Mark". At the top right, there is a date "22<sup>nd</sup> Feb 1803".

The land tract along Derriso Creek that John had paid taxes on in 1794 was listed as 107 acres, and 107 acres was enumerated in his Deed of Purchase in 1797. The boundaries of his property had been laid out almost 10 years before the filing of this suit and I believe that he did not agree that his property lines were misplaced. So, while it is possible that John may have had a cash flow problem, I believe that he determined to wait until the last minute to pay the judgment of "fifty-five dollars with cost". Remember that in the next year's 1804 Hancock County Tax List, John is listed as having 4 slaves worth somewhere between \$1000 and \$1600, demonstrating that he had more than the means to cover the settlement. A consequence of his decision to withhold payment was the Court's threat to sell his homestead on Derriso Creek, as we can see below from a local newspaper announcement in the "Hancock County, Georgia, Supplement to Early Newspaper Abstracts: "Farmer's Gazette" 1803-1805" abstracted by Faye Stone Poss:

(Note: Below, the date of sale below was set on the first Tuesday in August of that year, which was August 2, 1803.)

Published on June 23, 1803:

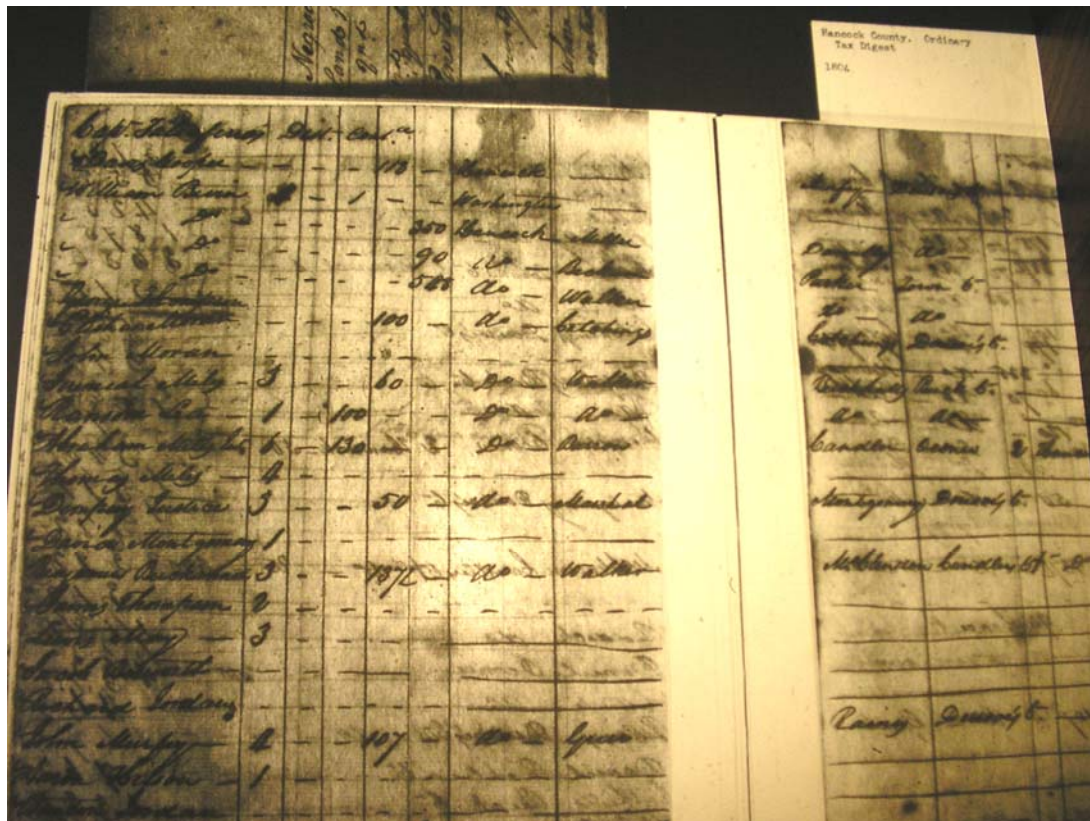
"Sheriff's Sale. On the First Tuesday in August next, at the Court House of Hancock County, at the usual hours, Will Be Sold:

100 Acres of Land, more or less, on the waters of Deresou, adjoining Raines, whereon lives John Murphy; executed as the property of said Murphy, in favor of John K. Candler."

"The above lands are in Hancock County."

However, this Sheriff's Sale apparently did not happen and John paid the settlement without losing his land. We know this as he is listed on the same 107 acres on Derriso Creek in the 1804 Hancock County Tax List. Repeated below is the 1804 Hancock County Tax List showing the

only landholding for John Murphey as the 107 acres on Derriso Creek adjoining Raines, as described in the newspaper announcement. According to the schedule of dates for collecting the list of taxable property in the 1804 Hancock County Tax List, this tax list was compiled from March 12<sup>th</sup> through May 19<sup>th</sup> of 1804, which is definitely after the threatened sale of John's Derriso homestead on the County Courthouse steps in August of 1803. So, it would appear that John did finally pay the judgment after a game of brinksmanship and held onto his property. Interestingly, I have never been able to find a Deed of Sale for the Derriso Creek property.



In summary, between the Road Orders of the Inferior Court of Hancock County on June 7, 1802, February 3, 1806 and January 5, 1807, the 1794 and 1804 Hancock County Tax Lists and the lawsuit that threatened to sell the Derriso Creek homestead on the Courthouse steps in the summer of 1803, it has been conclusively shown that John Murphey maintained ownership and primary residency on his 107 acre Derriso Creek property from 1794 through 1807.

## **Chapter 10: John Murfey of Edgefield County, South Carolina, in Hancock County, Georgia**

While we have clearly located John Murphey of Butler County as living on the same Derriso Creek property from 1794 until 1807, we will now look at other listings in the Hancock County records that refer to another John Murfey, the son of William Murfey Sr. of Edgefield County, South Carolina. We will also investigate the 1805 and 1807 Georgia Land Lottery registrations and see that these records also confirm that there were two different John Murpheys living in Hancock County during those times. There are a number of clear documented references between 1803 and 1807 that allow us to track the other "John", that is John Murfey, the son of William Murfey Sr. of Edgefield County, South Carolina.

From the newspaper listing below, taken from "Hancock County, Georgia, Early Newspaper Abstracts 'Farmer's Gazette' 1803-04, 1806-07" by Faye Stone Poss, we see that John Murfey is listed as a Tax Defaulter for the 1803 Tax Year:

Article posted on February 11th, 1804:

"A List of persons in Hancock County, who have neglected to give in a list of their taxable property for the year 1803  
Capt. Williams' District: Martin Speed, John Hudson, Thomas Johnson, **John Murfey**, James Mullens, Garot Hudman, Henry Pelt, Emanuel Petegrew, Richard Strother"

How do we know that this is not our John Murphey living along Derriso Creek? I have looked for locations associated with the other people on this list from Capt. Williams' District, and have been able to pin down a consistent location only for Richard Strother. He is listed in both the 1794 and 1804 Hancock County Tax List with 110 acres granted to Reddick on Fulsom's Creek, which is centrally located on the eastern side of Hancock County. To be more definitive about Richard Strother's location, the next two deeds name Richard Strother's neighbor, Isham Hogan, from the book entitled "Land Deed Genealogy of Hancock County, Georgia" abstracted and compiled by Helen and Tim Marsh.

Hancock County, Georgia, Deed Book "D"

page 186: September 6, 1799

John Strother and Hannah Strother, his wife, of Hancock County to William Harper of same place for the sum of \$200 for a tract of land containing 40 acres in Hancock County on the waters of Fulsom's Creek and adjoining **Hogan's** line and **Richard Strother's** land and by Harper's and Jackson's land, it being part of a tract of land **Isham Hogan** now lives on.

Signed by John Strother and Hannah Strother

Witness: Isham Hogan and **Richard Strother**

Registered: November 3, 1799

Hancock County, Georgia, Deed Book "D"

page 184: August 13, 1799

Henry Jones and Polly, his wife, of Hancock County to William Harper of same place for the sum of \$500 for a tract of land containing 260 acres in Hancock County on the waters of Fulsom's Creek and Dry Creek adjoining **Isham Hogan's corner.**

Witness: Presley Spink and **Isham Hogan**

Registered: November 3, 1799

These deeds clearly place Richard Strother in the eastern part of Hancock County near Dry Creek, along which William Murfey Jr. lives. Since Richard Strother and John Murfey were listed in the same District in the 1803 Tax Defaulters List, we can also locate John as living near Dry Creek by his brother William Murfey Jr. Next, we see that the pattern is repeated for John Murfey in the 1804 tax year in yet another newspaper listing.

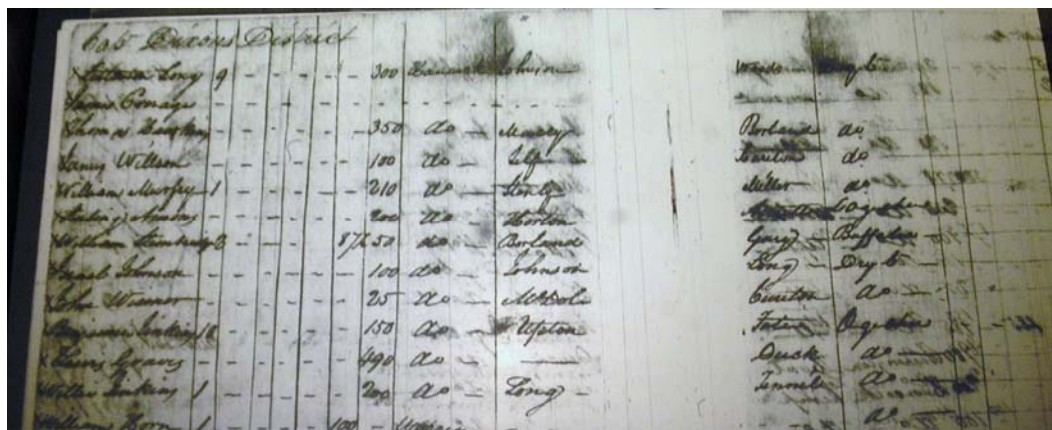
(From: "Hancock County, Georgia Early Newspaper Abstracts "Farmer's Gazette" 1803-04, 1806-07" by Faye Stone Poss)

Article posted on December 15th, 1804:

"A List of persons in Hancock County, who have neglected to give in a list of their taxable property for the year 1804:

**Capt. Dixon's district:** George Cader, Jarred Christmas, Jacob Hollon, William Johnson, Daniel McCook, Thomas Miller, Robert McCook, Moses Maxwell, **John Murphy**, Ecabud Nelson, Frederick Tilmon"

It is easier to fix this location, however, as we have the 1804 Tax List and know the exact area covered in Capt. Dixon's District. It is the same area of eastern Hancock County where William Murphey Jr. lives. Below is the image of the 1804 Hancock County Tax List with "William Murfey" listed with one slave in Capt. Dixon's District on Dry Creek (noted as "Dry C.").



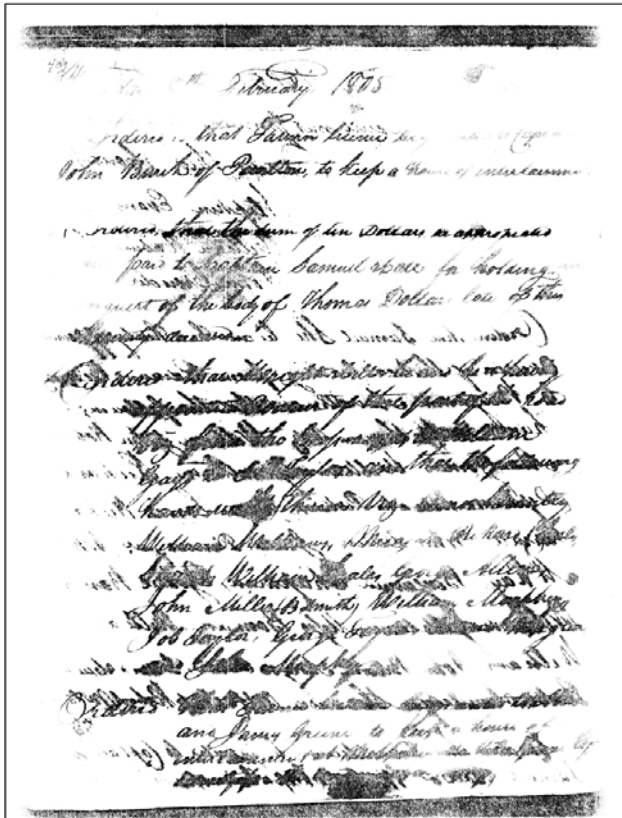
Now let us look at the registrants for the 1805 Georgia Land Lottery according to this listing from the book, "1805 Georgia Land Lottery, Persons Entitled to Draws" by Paul K. Graham.

Name of Registrant	County of Registration	Registrant Number	# of Draws- Results
William Murphey (Jr.)	Hancock	#939	2-NN
John Murphey (Murfey)	Hancock	#943	2-NN
John Murphey	Hancock	#1140	2-NN

So, we clearly see from the 1805 Georgia Land Lottery registrations that there are two John Murpheys in Hancock County. By looking at the eligibility requirements and the timing of registration, we can draw even more information from the information presented above. That is, both John Murpheys have two draws, which means that they are white men, at least 21 years old, citizens of the United States, and residents of Georgia from May 1802, who are not single but have a wife and, possibly, children under age 21. We also know according to Paul K. Graham's book, "that the residence of participants reflects their location between May 1803 and 1 March 1804, and not where they resided during the Lottery in the summer of 1805." The last bit of information that we can glean is from the number given to the Murphey men. The numbers were allocated according to the order of registration by the first letter of their last name within their County of registration. I propose that it was John Murfey who listed following three other "M" named people after William Murfey Jr. Since we know that John Murfey was living in the same area of Hancock County as William Murfey Jr., it would make sense that this John would have gone to register at about the same time as his brother. Knowing that two John Murpheys registered in Hancock County for the 1805 Land Lottery and taken in conjunction with the Tax Defaulters Lists, we can definitively state that this John Murfey living in the eastern part of Hancock County by William Murfey Jr. is **different** from the John Murphey living on the 107 acres on Derriso Creek.

The next chronological record of John Murfey by William Murfey Jr. in eastern Hancock County is found in the Road Orders from the Inferior Court of Hancock County, Georgia. In the Road Order

dated February 8th, 1805, John Murfey is named in the same list with William Murfey Jr. I have transcribed the text of this 1805 Road Order as: "Ordered that Henry Graybill is the hereby appointed Overseer of that part of the road viz: from the ... of William Gay (*last Name?*) to Job Taylor and that the following hands work thereon viz: (unknown name), William Williams, Miles Rochel (*last Name?*), (unknown name), William Seales, George Allens (*last Name?*), John Miller (B. Smith), **William Murphey**, Job Taylor, George Taylor, (unknown name), and **John Murphey**." This particular film is rather difficult to read due to the bleed-through of the writing from the back of the page, as can be seen in the film image below.



There are no more court records after this 1805 Road Order that we can definitely pin to this John Murfey living in the eastern part of Hancock County near Dry Creek and William Murfey Jr. However, in about September of 1806 came the registration for the second, or 1807, Georgia Land Lottery. I have found more extensive information about this registration which was conducted according to Militia Districts. In 1806, we find registered for the 1807 Lottery in Captain Thomas' District, William Murfey, John Murfey and also James Murfey (another proposed brother as he was named as a son in the Last Will & Testament of William Murfey Sr. of Edgefield County, South Carolina, as discussed in Chapter 4). This Militia District is populated with known Dry Creek, Fulsom Creek and Little Ogechee residents. This John Murfey has 2 draws, consistent with his registration for the 1805 Land Lottery, meaning that he is married. So, we can find records of John Murfey living near William Murfey Jr. from 1803 through late 1806, but there are no land deeds for him in that area, only those earlier along Island Creek.

In summary, John Murfey, the son of William Murfey Sr. of Edgefield County, South Carolina, can be identified in the 1793 Greene County Tax List on the same page with documented South Carolina neighbors, John Spencer and John McColloch. He is then listed as living on a 50 acre tract along Island Creek in the 1794 Hancock County Tax List. His friend, John McCulloch is

found in the Hancock County deed record to also be on or near Island Creek in 1794. No land deed records have been found of John Murfey's purchase or sale of that 50 acres, although his Island Creek residence is corroborated in 1797 when he is named as an adjoining landowner in at least two deeds. This same John Murfey can be identified as missing in the 1804 Hancock County Tax List, but can be found in the newspaper listings for Tax Defaulters in the County for the 1803 and 1804 tax years. In those Tax Defaulters lists, he is enumerated with men that can be definitively placed in the same Militia District where his proposed brother William Murfey Jr. is located, along Dry Creek in eastern Hancock County. Furthermore, John Murfey registered in late 1803 to early 1804 and again in late 1806 for two Georgia Land Lotteries (the 1805 and 1807 Lotteries) in ways indicating close proximity in time and space again with William Murfey Jr. and his other proposed brother James Murfey (for the 1807 Lottery).

## **Chapter 11: Summarizing the Hancock County documentation related to John Murphey of Butler County, Alabama, in Hancock County, Georgia**

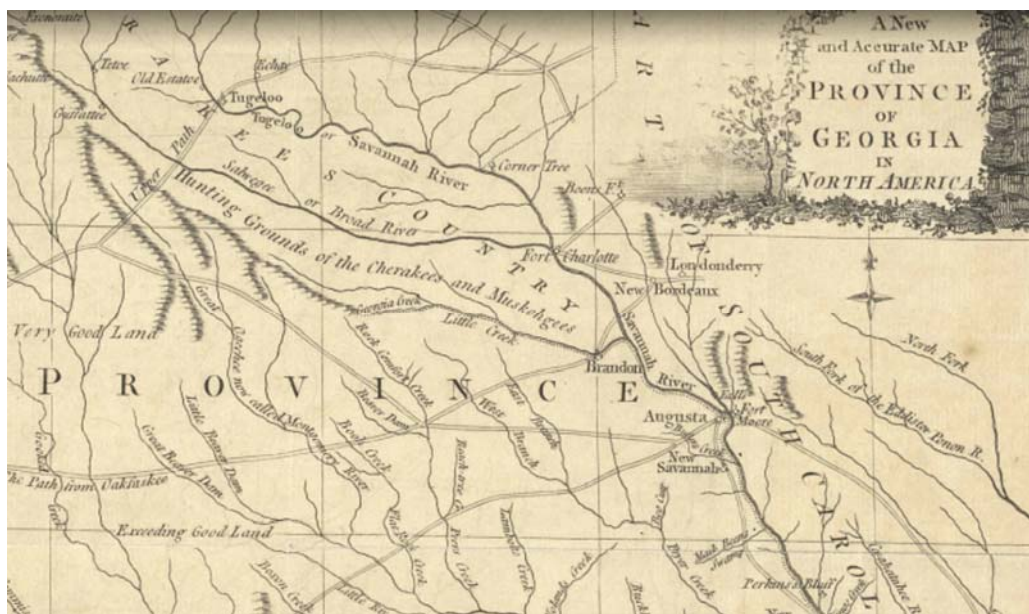
The other John Murphey in Hancock County who eventually becomes John Murphey of Butler County, Alabama, clearly was present in Hancock County, according to the 1804 Tax List, for his registration in the 1805 Georgia Lottery as John Murphey, registrant #1140, in late 1803 to early 1804. He definitively registers in late 1806 for the 1807 Georgia Land Lottery in Major Talliaferro's Battalion, Captain Candler's District, associated with the residents along Derriso Creek, Buck Creek and the Oconee River. He is married at that time as demonstrated with his 2 draws, just as was found in his registration for the 1805 Georgia Land Lottery about two years earlier. For the years of 1803, 1804 and 1805, the John Murphey living along Derriso Creek cannot be found listed in the Road Orders of Hancock County. Although we do know that John is living in Hancock County as he signs the judgment against him on February 22, 1803, and then places his homestead on Derriso Creek at risk. John obviously pays the judgment since he is listed as still living on the same 107 acre property in the 1804 Hancock County Tax List. From Chapter 8, we know that this is the same John Murphey who is named in the Road Orders of the Inferior Court of Hancock County dated June 7, 1802, February 3, 1806 and January 26, 1807 as well as in the 1794 and 1804 Hancock County Tax Lists. All of these documents consistently place him in the neighborhood of or directly on Derriso Creek. At the earliest, it is possible that this John Murphey may have been issued a Washington County Headright Warrant in 1785, although no direct evidence proves it. After the 1807 Road Orders (dated as "Monday, 26 January 1807"), there is no further record of any John Murphey in Hancock County for many years, indicating that both he and the other John Murfey no longer reside in Hancock County.

As covered in my earlier paper, "Establishment of the Origin of John Murphey of Butler County, Alabama, as Jones County, Georgia, and his History therein", I worked backwards from known relationships in Butler County, Alabama, to conclusively show that the property described in his November 3, 1807 Deed of Purchase in Jones County, Georgia, (see the deed abstract on page 1 of this paper) was the first residence in Jones County for John Murphey of Butler County, Alabama, and his family. It can be argued that since John Murfey and John Murphey both left Hancock County in 1806 or 1807, either one of them could have moved into Jones County, Georgia. So how do I know that it is the John Murphey who lived along Derriso Creek that moved to Jones County? In this paper, I have made the case that John Murfey of Edgefield County, South Carolina, can be positively identified by his associations with John Spencer and John McCulloch in the 1793 Greene County Tax List. After that we have tracked him along with John McCulloch in 1794 in Hancock County by Island Creek and then moving close to his brothers, William Murfey Jr. and James Murfey near Dry Creek in eastern Hancock County by 1803.

Referring to Chapter 4, Y-DNA evidence proves that my ancestor, John Murphey of Butler County, Alabama, was not related to the family of William Murfey Sr. of Edgefield County, South Carolina. And so, since John Murfey could not have been in my genetic lineage, it must be the John Murphey along Derriso Creek who left Hancock County in about 1807 to take up residence in Jones County along Cedar Creek, as this John Murphey is the same man who eventually migrated with his family to Butler County, Alabama in 1815.

## Chapter 12: Investigating a close family connection for clues to the origin of John Murphey of Butler County

It is a fact that John Murphey of Butler County, Alabama, was an early settler of Georgia and that many of his neighbors were recent immigrants from South Carolina or early Georgia settlers from the Augusta, Georgia area (old Richmond County). There were two dominant pathways into Georgia from South Carolina feeding immigrants into the area that became Hancock County; one in the north coming into old Wilkes County through the old town of Brandon, and the one a little farther south through Augusta, Georgia. See below the historical map of Georgia from the Rucker Agee Map Collection, as taken from "The Universal Magazine", v.64, April 1779, where the Savannah River forms the boundary between Georgia and South Carolina.



As I tracked down many of John Murphey's neighbors and friends, I noticed that many appeared to have taken the southern route through Augusta, Georgia. There was one family in particular that caught my attention, the Wilson family. Samuel Wilson Sr. had immigrated to Georgia by 1770 and was an original grantee in the old Quaker settlement of Wrightsborough. Referring to the 1794 Hancock County Tax List (shown previously and below), we can see that Robert and Samuel (written as Sam'l) Wilson Jr. are listed directly above John Murphey on page 3 in Capt. Rogers' District.



(3)

Capt. Rogers	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	County	Measure	Other	Other	Other	Other	Other	Other
Ransom ...	-	-	100	-	Hancock	Book, Co.	10	Walker	-	-	-	-
John Parker	-	-	-	-	20	Book, Co.	-	Shuffle	-	-	-	-
Wm. Emberson	-	-	-	-	20	Book, Co.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dr. Carter	6	-	133	-	20	Book, Co.	Walker	for self	-	-	-	-
Frederick Parker	4	-	100	-	20	20	-	Walker	-	-	-	-
Saml. M. G. ...	6	-	130	130	20	20	-	Wright	-	-	-	-
Saml. Parker	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Comline Whittington	4	-	-	253	20	20	-	Walker	-	-	-	-
1/2	-	-	70	-	20	Book, Co.	-	for self	-	-	-	-
Edw. King	-	-	-	150	Hancock	Book, Co.	Long	-	-	-	-	-
1/2	-	-	-	-	20	Book, Co.	-	-	-	-	-	-
1/2 Whittington	-	-	-	143 1/2	20	Book, Co.	-	-	-	-	-	-
John Whittington	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Benjamin Rudy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Robt. Wilson	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Saml. Wilson, Junr	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
John Murphy	-	-	107	-	20	Various	-	Junr	-	-	-	-
John M. ...	3	-	-	297	20	Book, Co.	-	Walker	-	-	-	-
Edw. ...	-	-	192 1/2	192 1/2	Junr	Book, Co.	-	William	-	-	-	-
James ...	-	-	-	-	Hancock	Book, Co.	-	Finini	-	-	-	-
Charles ...	-	-	-	-	20	Book, Co.	-	for self	-	-	-	-

Their father, Samuel Wilson Sr., is seen below listed on page 2 of the same Capt. Rogers' District in the 1794 Hancock Tax List as owning 287.5 acres granted to him in Hancock County on the Oconee River ("O:C") with one slave.

Robert Wilson	8	362	D.	D.	
James Parker		75	Hancock	Wm. C.	
Robert Gray		50	D.	D.	fine
Samuel King	2	20	D.	D.	
John Quinlan	7	260	D.	Hazle	Market
Wm.		227 1/2	D.	Dermott	Lesson
Wm.		250	D.	D.	Market
Wm.		200	Washington	and Hill	Lesson
Spencer MacLean					
Levian MacLean					
John Wilson	1	287 1/2	Hancock	D. C.	for self
John MacLean	1	97 1/2	D.	D. C.	Living
James Owens		100	D.	Bush	Lesson
Wm.		10	D.	D. C.	rather
Wm. Henry Combs		287 1/2	D.	D. C.	for self
George Down					
John Down		100	D.	Bush	Lesson
James G. Green					
John K. K. K.	2				
John K. K.	1	100	D.	Dermott	for self
John K. K.	1	100	D.	Dermott	Lesson
John K. K.		200	D.	Dermott	Lesson

According to online Wilson Family histories, Samuel Sr. received this land, described as being in Washington County prior to being renamed as Hancock County, as a bounty for his service in the Revolutionary War at the Siege of Augusta. Samuel Wilson Sr. is found earlier listed as a resident and landowner in the 1790 Wilkes County, Georgia, Tax List along with the same 287.5 acre grant in then Washington County. In addition to his Wilkes County holdings, his original grants near the old town of Wrightsborough are listed as located in Richmond County. In 1792, Samuel Wilson Sr. and his wife, Ann, file a Deed of Gift in Wilkes County. As mentioned before, by 1794 Samuel Wilson Sr. and two of his sons, Samuel Jr. and Robert, are all living in Hancock County according to their entries on that County's Tax List. On October 11, 1799, Samuel Wilson Sr. writes out his Last Will and Testament, naming his three sons, John, Samuel Jr. and Robert, and grandson, Levi Wilson (Robert's son). This Will is proven and filed in Hancock County on January 15, 1803, where the 287.5 acre tract on the Oconee River is split between Samuel Wilson Jr. and Levi Wilson. Since Levi was born between 1790 and 1794 (based upon Federal Census records), he was still a minor in 1803 and so a bonded Guardianship was required to secure his rights to his share of his grandfather's estate. John Murphey was undeniably close to this family to act as surety for \$1500 in this Guardianship filing on August 27, 1803 in the Hancock County, Georgia, Court of Ordinary (seen below from film of the original document).

Robert Wilson guardian for  
Levi Wilson and John  
Murphy security bond  
for \$1500 dated 27<sup>th</sup>  
August 1803.

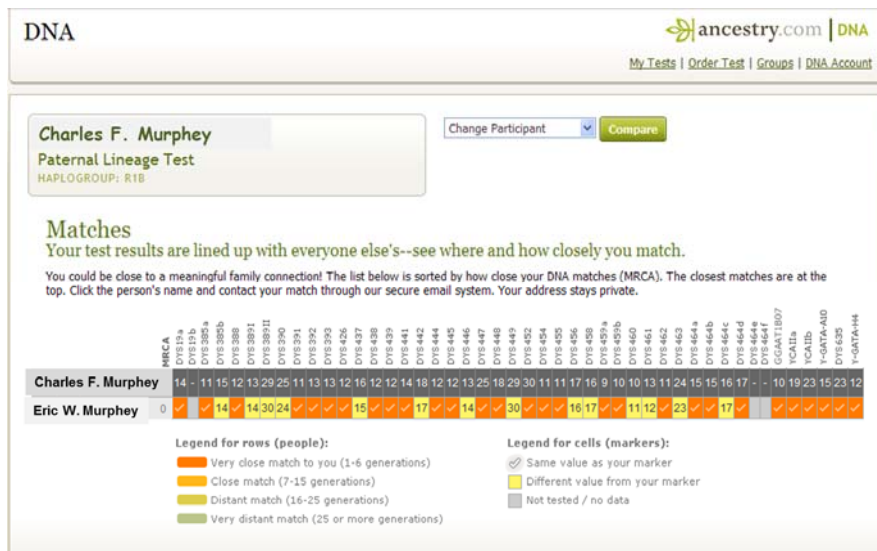
It is also evident that John Murphey of Butler County, Alabama, was close to the Wilson Family such that he named his only son “Wilson”. I had hypothesized that John Murphey’s wife, Sarah, may have been a Wilson. And while the Last Will and Testament of Samuel Wilson Sr. names his daughter as Sarah, she is listed as being married to Robert Buchannon. Nonetheless, when all of this documentation is considered, John Murphey’s relationship with the Wilson Family was strong and deep, opening an avenue of investigation into John’s origins that could lead all the way back to the early Georgia settlement of Wrightsborough.

## Chapter 13: The Family of Nicholas Murphey of Augusta, Georgia

With so many of John Murphey’s neighbors, including the Wilson Family, taking the southern route through the Richmond County area around Augusta, Georgia, I felt compelled to investigate one other Murphey family of prominence from that area.

Nicholas Murphey most likely migrated to Georgia in 1738 on Governor James Oglethorpe’s third voyage. Nicholas was brought as a soldier in His Majesty’s Troop of Rangers to protect this nascent colony of settlers in the New World. His son, Edmond, was born about 1745 and was considered the first white child to be born in Augusta, Georgia. A number of his descendants still live in the area today.

Eric W. Murphey can trace his paternal heritage in an unbroken line back to Nicholas Murphey. Eric consented to provide a sample of cheek cells for Y-DNA analysis so that we could assess our familial relationship. The results are seen below.



Clearly, 14 markers are different out of the 46 markers investigated and so the MRCA calculation yields a value of “0”, meaning that there is no discernible family relationship. When Eric Murphey’s Y-DNA results are compared to descendants of William Murfey Sr. of Edgefield County, South Carolina, the conclusion is similar with 14 mismatches and an MRCA calculation value of “0”. So based upon the Y-DNA test results of 4 men, I have scientifically proven that the family of John Murphey of Butler County, Alabama, is not related to either William Murfey Sr. of Edgefield County, South Carolina, or Nicholas Murphey of Augusta, Georgia.

## Chapter 14: Conclusion

We have reviewed Greene and Hancock County, Georgia, documents including Wills, Tax Lists, newspaper listings, a Guardianship filing, Road Orders and a court judgment, as well as the 1805 and 1807 Georgia Land Lottery registration listings. From this research, it has been established that there were two different men named “John Murphey” living in Hancock County from 1794 until 1807. In this paper we have tracked the John Murphey of Butler County, Alabama, back in time from his residences in Jones County, Georgia, by using his listed county of origin in his first Jones County land deed. The John Murphey who moves his family to Jones County, Georgia in 1807 and then to Butler County, Alabama in 1815, lives on the same 107 acres located in Hancock County, Georgia, on Derriso Creek from 1794 through 1807. The other, named John Murfey, is proposed to be the son of William Murfey Sr. of Edgefield County, South Carolina. He is first identified as living by old Edgefield County neighbors in the 1793 Greene County, Georgia, Tax List and then in the 1794 Hancock County Tax List on 50 acres along Island Creek. This John Murfey gravitates towards his brother William Murfey Jr. by 1803, located along Dry Creek in the eastern part of the County. Below are timelines to summarize the reviewed documents listing the two men named “John Murfey/Murphy/Murphey” in Hancock County, Georgia.

### **John Murfey of Edgefield County, South Carolina – Timeline Summary**

#### **Documents for John Murfey in Washington County, Georgia - ?**

1785 Files two Headright Warrants for 200 acres each – possibly this John Murfey

#### **Documents for John Murfey in Edgefield County, South Carolina**

1789 Witnesses Deed of Sale from John Spencer to Phillip May Jr. – John Murfey

#### **Documents for John Murfey in Greene County, Georgia**

1793 Tax List with no land in neighborhood of Log Dam and Sandy Run Creeks – John Murfey

#### **Documents for John Murfey in Hancock County, Georgia**

1794 Tax List with no slaves and 50 acres on Island Creek – John Murfey

1797 Named as adjoining landowner in two deeds on Island and Rocky Creeks – John Murfey

1803 Named as Tax Defaulter in neighborhood of William Murfey – John Murfey

1803-1804 Register in 1805 Georgia Land Lottery – John Murfey

1804 Named as Tax Defaulter in neighborhood of William Murfey – John Murfey

1804 Georgia Land Lottery (1805) Registration – John Murfey

1805 Road Orders by William Murfey – John Murfey

Late 1806 Register for 1807 Georgia Land Lottery – John Murfey

1808 & later - No further documentation in Hancock County – John Murfey

### **John Murphey of Butler County, Alabama – Timeline Summary**

#### **Documents for John Murphey in Washington County, Georgia - ?**

1785 Files two Headright Warrants for 200 acres each – possibly this John Murphey

#### **Documents for John Murphey in Hancock County, Georgia**

1794 Tax List with no slaves and 107 acres on Derriso Creek – *John of Derriso Creek*

1797 Deed of Purchase for 107 acres on Derriso Creek – *John of Derriso Creek*

1802 (June 7) Road Orders by Derriso neighbors – *John of Derriso Creek*

1803 Loses lawsuit; threatened with Sheriff's Sale of Derriso Homestead – *John of Derriso Creek*

1803-1804 Register in 1805 Georgia Land Lottery – *John of Derriso Creek*

1804 Tax List with 4 slaves and 107 acres on Derriso Creek – *John of Derriso Creek*

1804 Georgia Land Lottery (1805) Registration – *John of Derriso Creek*

1806 (Feb. 3) Road Orders by Derriso neighbors – *John of Derriso Creek*

Late 1806 Register for 1807 Georgia Land Lottery – *John of Derriso Creek*

1807 (Jan. 26) Road Orders by Derriso neighbors – *John of Derriso Creek*

1808 & later - No further documentation in Hancock County – *John of Derriso Creek*

### **Documents for John Murphey of Butler County, Alabama in Jones County, Georgia**

1807 Deed of Purchase for Lot 114 in District 10 in Jones County – *John of Derriso Creek*

1808 Deed of Purchase for Lot 75 in District 12

1810 Deed of Purchase for Lot 69 in District 9 on Wolf Creek

1811 Tax List on Wolf Creek

1812 Deed of Sale for Lot 69 in District 9 on Wolf Creek

1814 Deed of Purchase for Lot 76 in District 9 on Hog Creek

1814 Tax List on Hog Creek, listed after “Job Mullens”

1815 Deed of Sale for Lot 76 in District 9 on Hog Creek

1815 John Murphey’s daughter, Sarah, marries Job Mullins

1815 Proposed emigration from Georgia to Butler County, Alabama

1816 & later - No further documentation for John Murphey in Jones County

### **Documents for John Murphey in Butler County, Alabama**

1820 Voter List with John Murphey and Job Mullins in Butler County, Alabama (research by Woody F. Murphy)

It is a fact that John Murphey was an early settler of Georgia and while a number of his neighbors were recent immigrants from South Carolina, many others were earlier Georgia settlers hailing predominantly from Richmond County. I have exhaustively searched the historical record to find clues of John’s origins prior to his being definitively identified in the 1794 Hancock County, Georgia, Tax List. Indications are strong that John Murphey may have been in the old Washington County, Georgia, prior to the formation of Hancock County. But the lack of early records from Washington County hampers further research. The Wilson Family connection has led me to open an investigation of the people involved in the Wrightsborough settlement, and while that work is still early, it is encouraging. I still harbor suspicions that John’s purchase of the 107 acres on Derriso Creek from Josiah Greer of Laurens County, South Carolina may perhaps point to his place of origin, but I have not found any “smoking gun” documents from Laurens County. Recently, I decided to employ Y-DNA technology to ascertain John’s family origins as the documentation trail has thinned considerably. Two Murphey Families have contributed samples to compare with my DNA, but so far these have only proven the negative case, which is useful although not entirely gratifying. The truth of where John Murphey came from prior to living in Hancock County, Georgia, and who his father was, is still left to be uncovered as of the date of this paper - July, 2011.