



## Rachal Mills Lennon, M.A. (Arch. Hist.), CG, FASG

Certified Genealogist®

Fellow, American Society of Genealogists

*FindingSouthernAncestors.com*

2780 Hwy 31 E; Bethpage, TN 37022

lennonrm@comcast.net

DATE: 15 September 2020

REPORT TO:

REPORT NO: 1

SUBJECT: Henry Westbrook of Barnwell District, South Carolina

---

### BACKGROUND & METHODOLOGY

Client wishes to document the parentage of his ancestor Henry Westbrook (1775–1845), who emerges at his 1798 marriage to Mildred Smith in Barnwell District, South Carolina. He was enumerated there in 1800 and 1810, then moved to Amite County, Mississippi, where he and Mildred both died. According to an undocumented essay circulating among descendants, Henry was the son of Henry Sr. of Pittsylvania County, Virginia, a shipwright who, with a brother Allen, served on the First Continental Line during the American Revolution.

Client has asked me to assess the status of Virginia work and to restart South Carolina work if prudent. He provided the following material for my review:

- Two reports of Victor Dunn, CG., detailing Virginia and North Carolina research.
- Information about Mildred Westbrook, wife of Henry of Barnwell District, that includes her will and references to a court case involving her estate.
- Database-generated abstracts of 1800 and 1810 Barnwell District Henry Westbrook households.
- *FamilySearch* hosted essay on Henry Westbrook that included his 1810 Georgia-issued passport to travel through Creek Indian country and an 1811 Mississippi Territory petition he signed.
- Database-generated abstract of the 1820 Adams County, Mississippi, Henry Westbrook household.
- Undocumented lineage chart showing Client's descent from Henry Westbrook Sr. of Pittsylvania County.

- Revolutionary War records for Henry Sr. and Allen Westbrook of Pittsylvania.

#### INITIAL ASSESSMENT

Mr. Dunn's work in Pittsylvania and Amelia Counties was thorough and his conclusions well-reasoned. I agree with him that Henry Westbrook of Barnwell was not the son of Henry Westbrook Sr. of Pittsylvania County. I also see no links between that branch of the family and Barnwell. That said, Dunn presented three possibilities that have not been investigated:

- Henry Sr. of Pittsylvania (son of Charles Westbrook Sr. of Amelia County) had a nephew Henry, son of Charles Jr., who drops out of Amelia County record in 1783. Because that Henry has not been eliminated, he remains a candidate for Henry of Barnwell. However, I stress that pursuing him relies simply on the shaky "name is the same argument."
- Charles Sr. of Amelia County had other sons whose progeny were not studied, leaving the possibility that a Henry exists among them. However, pursuing those sons is, at this point, a "stab in the dark" because Dunn found no links between Charles Sr.'s branch of the family and Barnwell.
- Several Henry Westbrooks were in Southampton County, Virginia, who Dunn did not think were viable candidates based on his preliminary investigation. However, again, pursuing men based on same-name is risky at this stage.

In short, I agree with Dunn's recommendation that attention should return to Barnwell District. There simply is no evidence to justify continued prioritization of Virginia.

The status of Client's South Carolina research reflects a number of obstacles:

- Henry is on record in Barnwell for a short time and makes few appearances in standard records.
- There are no other visible Westbrooks there or in adjoining districts.
- Henry was firmly entrenched with his Smith in-laws throughout his documented tenure in Barnwell, which obscures clues to birth relatives.
- The overall research strategy and scope have been too limited.

These conditions require us to expand the Barnwell foundation, which we cannot do by simple name searches in "new" sources. Success in difficult identity cases hinges on identifying and researching *potential relatives and friends* in his Barnwell community – the people with whom Henry associated most frequently and among whom he lived *at his emergence*. Those people are our bridge to his birth family. Henry was in a specific community interacting with specific people for a reason. Young men simply did not appear "out of the blue" at the time of their marriage. If he was not born in Barnwell, he would have moved there with other people or he would have been drawn there by people

he already knew. This type of neighborhood study is time-consuming, but essential. Without documented bridges from Barnwell to Westbrooks in other communities, we will simply waste time and funds chasing unsupported theories.

Barnwell was a large and well-populated district that generated a sizeable amount of materials for study.<sup>1</sup> However, given Henry's particular circumstances and the absence of other Westbrooks in the region, the odds of finding relationship-specific documents in convenient materials are slim. There are indeed untapped colonial, state, and federal resources available to us. However, we must first broaden the foundation in order to identify and harvest the most promising of those materials – which is the objective of this installment.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This research installment has made considerable progress in understanding and documenting Henry's years in Barnwell. I have proven land ownership for him;<sup>2</sup> identified *two* communities in which he was active (he lived in only one); and uncovered potential kinsmen and critical associates. Although he remains the only visible Westbrook in the region, we now have a considerably better chance of linking them and his newly documented friends to an earlier time and place.

### DETAILED FINDINGS

The foundational task of this installment is to put Henry into his specific neighborhood[s]. Once that is established, we can begin to ferret out his closest associates there.

#### *Henry Westbrook's Communities*

The material provided to me contains no reference of Henry owning land. I therefore began by working colonial, district, and state land records, which showed that Henry did own property, albeit briefly. Consider the following abstracts:

14 February 1803

Barnwell District, S. C.

Peter Purnal and wife Elizabeth to Richard Creech and **Henry Westbrook**, all of Barnwell District, for \$200: 200 acres more or less on **Neds Branch of Steel Creek**, part of 400 acres granted to Christopher Carlile [*sic*] on 16 January 1772. Witnesses: Benajah Williamson and James Spears.<sup>3</sup>

15 February 1803

Barnwell District, S. C.

Samuel Dunbar to Richard Creech and **Henry Westbrook**, all of Barnwell District, for \$\_21.75 [first word of the sum is illegible]: 429 acres, being part of land granted

---

<sup>1</sup> Barnwell District existed from 1800 to 1868, when it became Barnwell County. It was within Orangeburg District until 1800, and was known Winton County from 1785 until 1800.

<sup>2</sup> Client's material does not mention Henry's lands in Barnwell.

<sup>3</sup> Barnwell Co., Deed Book E: 111-12; imaged on *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org>) > digital film 7856763 > images 50-51.

to Henry Bates in 1785; said Dunbar binds himself to warrant and defend the title. Witnesses: A. Nelson and George Dunbar.<sup>4</sup>

3 May 1804

Barnwell District, S. C.

**Henry Westbrook** of Barnwell District to Benjamin F. Lyon of same, for \$575: one half of all the tract of land containing 429 acres by resurvey, being part of a grant Henry Bates in 1785; also half of all a tract of 200 acres on **Neds branch of Steel Creek** that was granted to Christopher Corline [*sic*] on 16 January 1772. Witnesses: Benajah Williamson and Noah Marsh.<sup>5</sup>

24 May 1804

Barnwell District

Benjamin F Lyon, being indebted to **Henry Westbrook** in amount of \$575 payable 1 January 1806, to **Henry Westbrook**: one half of 429 acres by resurvey, being part of a tract granted to Henry Bates in 1785; also one half of 200 acres on **Neds branch of Steel Creek** that was granted to Christopher Corlile [*sic*] on 16 January 1772; and all right, title, claim or inheritances to a penal bond signed by George Dunbar and Samuel Dunbar to make titles to Richard Creech and **Henry Westbrook** for 200 acres, being part of said tract granted to the above Christopher Corlile dates 26 January 1803; also all right title, etc., to another bond signed by George Dunbar and Samuel Dunbar unto Richard Creech for 200 acres on Steel Creek dated 2 December 1803, which Lyons mortgages to said **Westbrook** to secure the payment of the within mentioned bond. Witnesses: Benajah Williamson and Noah Marsh.<sup>6</sup>

These are the only lands Henry owned in Barnwell. Yet, he did not purchase them until five years after his marriage; he held them for only fifteen months; and he bought them jointly with another person. All of these are important issues. Before addressing them, however, we must locate the lands. Figure 1 on the next page shows the original surveys run for Henry Bates and Christopher Corlile/Karline, which descriptions are as follows:

2 July 1771

Survey for Christopher Karline, 400 acres in Orangeburg District on Neds Branch of Steels Creek, waters of Savannah River, joining John Chavis.<sup>7</sup>

28 July 1784

Henry Bates, certification of 640 acres in Orangeburg District on Neds and Stamp Branches of Steel Creek, joining lands of Christopher Karline, Bartless Brown, and Stephen Smith, surrounding 150 acres of John Wood.<sup>8</sup>

---

<sup>4</sup> Barnwell Co., Deed Book E: 105-07; imaged on *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org>) > digital film 7856763 > images 47-48.

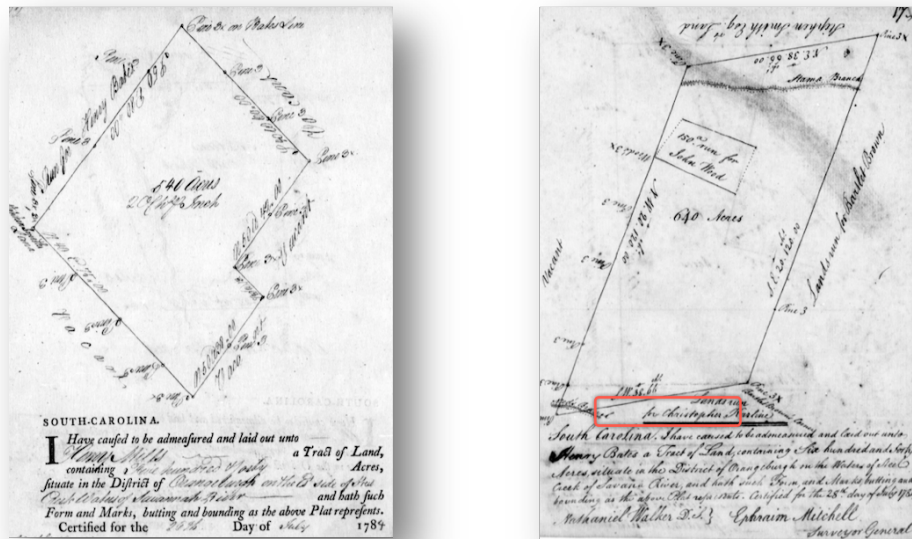
<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, 115-16; images 52-53.

<sup>6</sup> Barnwell Co., Deed Book C: 78; imaged on *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org>) > digital film 7856762 > image 57.

<sup>7</sup> South Carolina Department of Archives and History [SCDAH], Series S213184: Colonial Plat Books, Copy Series, 1731-1775, Book 17: 378; imaged on *South Carolina Department of Archives and History* (<https://scdah.sc.gov>).

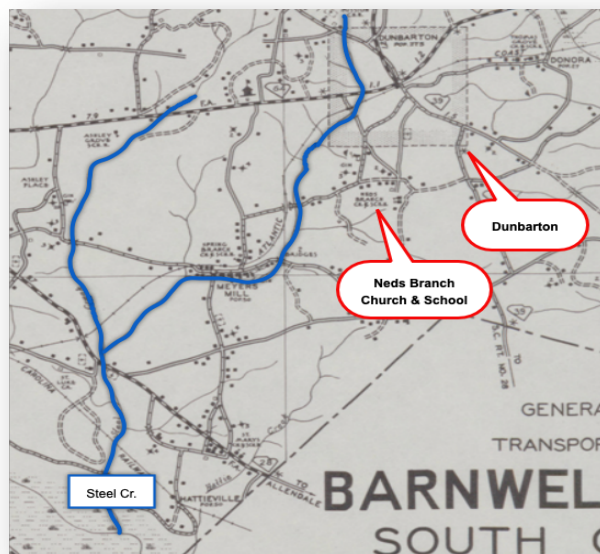
<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*; Series S213190: State Plats, Charleston Series, 1784-1860, Book 5: 17.

**FIGURE 1**  
Christopher Karline & Henry Bates Surveys



Neds and Stamp Branches are no longer known by those names. However, the defunct Neds Branch School and Church appear on a 1936 map near an unnamed feeder of Steels Creek, west of Dunbarton. We may conclude that that unnamed stream is Neds Branch.

**FIGURE 2**  
Steel Creek & Neds Branch<sup>9</sup>

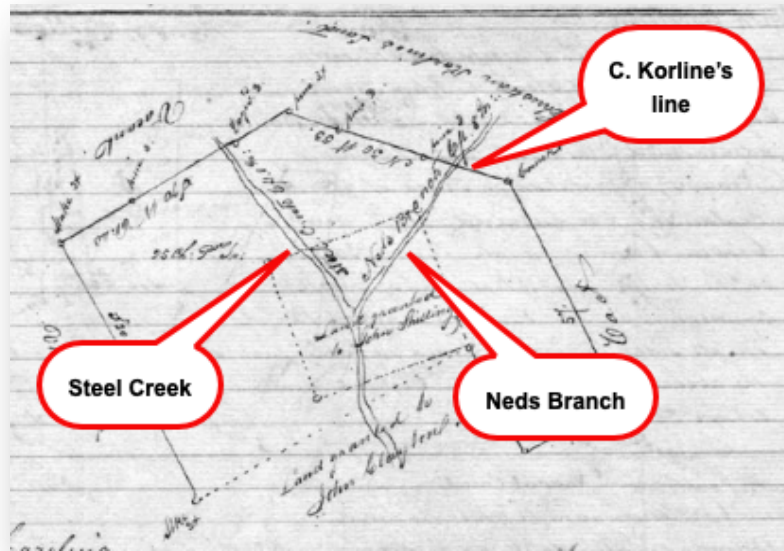


<sup>9</sup> "1939 Map of Barnwell County, South Carolina," *Carolana* ([https://www.carolana.com/SC/Counties/Barnwell\\_County\\_Road\\_Map\\_1939.html](https://www.carolana.com/SC/Counties/Barnwell_County_Road_Map_1939.html)).



Considering the length of Neds Branch, we must determine where Henry's land lay along it. The survey in Figure 3 was run for Bartlett Brown, who owned land next to the Karline and Bates tracts that Henry acquired. Brown's land lay exactly at the fork of Steel Creek and Neds Branch.

**FIGURE 3**  
**Bartlett Brown Survey, Fork of Steel Creek & Neds Branch<sup>10</sup>**



From all of this evidence, we can place Henry Westbrook's combined tracts just above the fork of Steel and Neds. (See Figure 4 on the next page.)

So, we now know the exact location of the lands that Henry held briefly in 1803 and 1804. However, we also now know that 1) he bought the land five years after marrying; 2) he stayed in Barnwell seven years after selling it; and 3) he owned it jointly with another person. These facts indicate he did not actually live at Neds Branch, and, consequently, it would not have been the critical "first neighborhood." Locating that community is the next task. We might assume that Henry lived relatively near Mildred Smith before they married. Client's material does not reveal where she lived or if her father John owned land. While I have not yet been able to locate it as precisely as Henry's Neds Branch properties, the following abstract shows that the Smiths were indeed landowners:

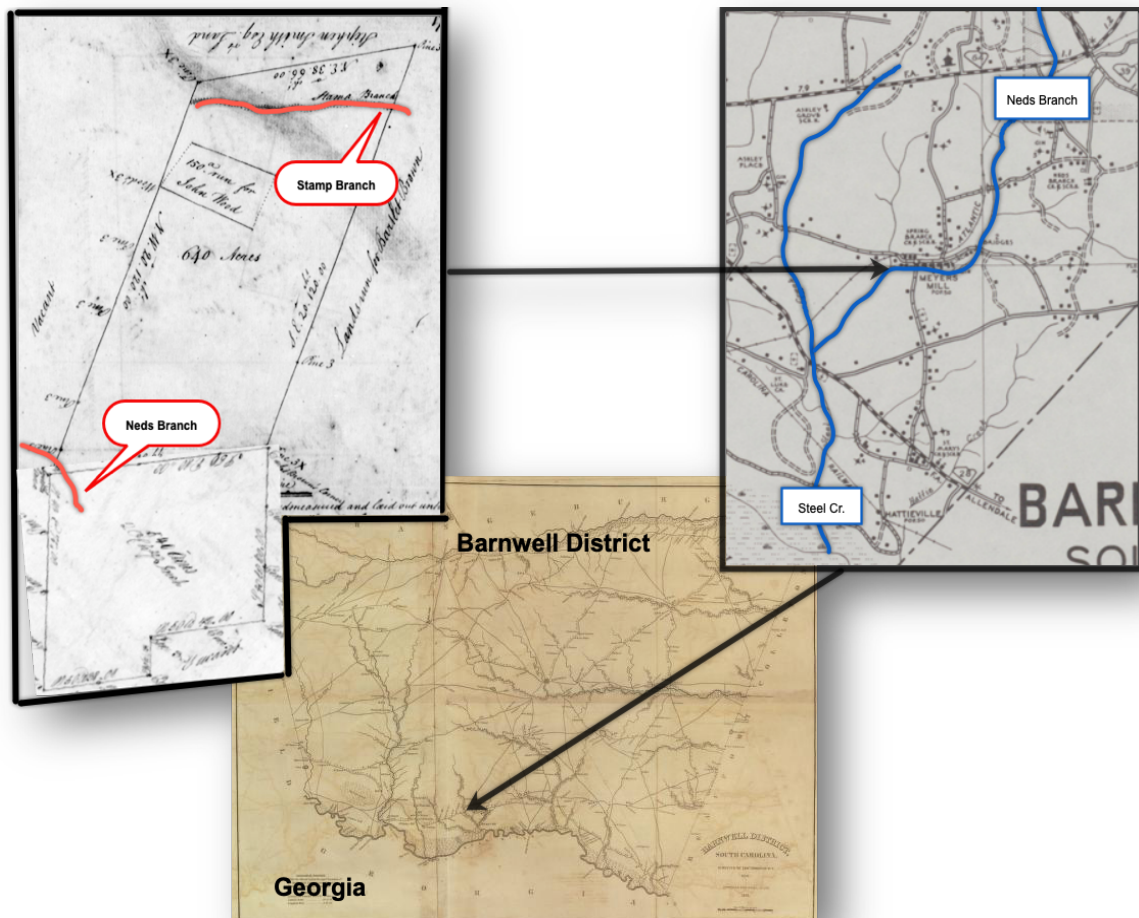
25 August 1810

Barnwell District

Andrew Gray to James Way, both of Barnwell, for \$90 in hand paid: 160 acres more or less on **Pen Branch**, waters of Savannah River, **bounded northwardly by**

<sup>10</sup> SCD AH, Series S213184, Book 13: 358; imaged on *South Carolina Department of Archives and History* (<https://scdah.sc.gov>). The survey surrounded an earlier one of John Shilling.

**FIGURE 4**  
**Henry Westbrook Lands, Old Barnwell District<sup>11</sup>**



lands belonging to the estate of John Smith, westwardly the western side of Swamp of Pen Branch, including said swamp, southward by the old line of the original tract granted to John Nelson, eastwardly by Jeremiah Woods lands, including all the lands enclosed at this time by "my fence," agreeable to the award of an arbitration between the said Andrew Gray and Jeremiah Wood Witnesses: J. E. C Stanphen and H. Westbrook.<sup>12</sup>

Pen Branch runs on the *west* side of Steel Creek, not on the east side where Neds Creek is located. Without full access to Barnwell land records, we must rely on the above identi-

<sup>11</sup> Robert Mills, "Barnwell District, South Carolina, Surveyed by Tho<sup>s</sup> Anderson, D.S., 1818, and Improved for Mills Atlas, 1825," *David Rumsey Map Collection* (<http://www.davidrumsey.com>).

<sup>12</sup> Barnwell Co., Deed Book E: 345; imaged on *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org>) > digital film 7856763 > image 166.

fied neighbors to determine where along the stream the Smith's lived. Although Smith is not mentioned in the following abstracts, they allow us to pinpoint the property referenced in the Gray sale via the landowning neighbors Nelson, Lark, Philput, Shaw, and Williams:

6 October 1857  
Granville County  
Survey for **Alexander Shaw**, 500 acres on **Pen Branch** joining Thomas Wright.<sup>13</sup>

19 January 1762  
Granville County  
Certification of survey plat for **Tho<sup>s</sup> Philput**, 100 acres below the mouth of the Run **joining Alexr Shaw's** line.<sup>14</sup>

6 October 1784  
Orangeburg District  
Certification of survey plat for **Ezekiel Williams**, 640 acres on unnamed branch, intersecting the "public road," joining land granted to Stephen Smith, and lands surveyed for **Dan<sup>l</sup> Phillput**.<sup>15</sup> [Later records identify the unnamed stream as **Pen Branch**.]

29 October 1784  
Orangeburg District  
Certification survey plat for **Robert Lark**, 188 acres on **unnamed branch** joining **John Nelson, Alexander Shaw, Thomas Phillput, Daniel Phillput**, and Daniel Williams.<sup>16</sup> [Later records identify the unnamed stream as **Pen Branch**.]

2 November 1784  
Orangeburg District  
Certification of survey plat for **John Nelson**, 640 acres on **Pen Branch**; adjoining landowners **Robert Lark**, John Mason, Allen Robinson, Stephen Smith, Robison.<sup>17</sup>

15 March 1799  
Winton County  
Samuel Dunbar and William Lark of Winton County to Blunt Williamson, son of Benajah Williamson: 188 acres **above the mouth of Pen Branch** and joining land surveyed for **Ezekiel Williams** and **Daniel Philput**, lands of **Tho<sup>s</sup> Philput Snr.** and **Alexander Shaw**, and by lands surveyed for **John Nelson**, being granted to **Robert Lark on 21 January 1785**. Witnesses: **Rich<sup>d</sup> Creech** and **Alex<sup>r</sup> Campbell**.<sup>18</sup>

---

<sup>13</sup> SCDAH, Series S213184, Book 6: 359; imaged on *South Carolina Department of Archives and History* (<https://scdah.sc.gov>). Barnwell was part of Granville County before 1769.

<sup>14</sup> SCDAH, Series S213184, Book 7: 269; imaged on *South Carolina Department of Archives and History* (<https://scdah.sc.gov>).

<sup>15</sup> SCDAH, Series S213190, Book 5: 17; imaged on *South Carolina Department of Archives and History* (<https://scdah.sc.gov>).

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.*, Book 7: 123. The house drawn on the survey indicates this was a home tract.

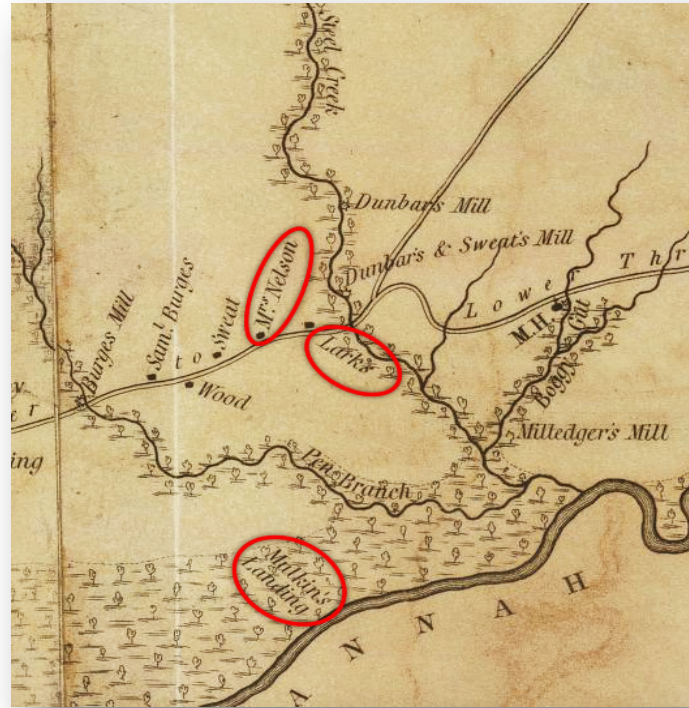
<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.*, Series S213212, Surveyor's General Office, Plan Books 1784–1873, Book 1: 101; imaged on *South Carolina Department of Archives and History* (<https://scdah.sc.gov>).

<sup>18</sup> Barnwell Co., Deed Book A: 204–05; imaged on *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org>) > digital film 7856761 > image 234.



This evidence suggests that John Smith's land lay closer to the mouth of Pen Branch rather than its headwaters. Indeed, as visible on the map in Figure 5, the homeplaces of John's neighboring Nelson, Lark, and Mulkey [Mulkin] families were still there in the 1820s:

**FIGURE 5**  
**Smith Neighborhood, Pen Branch & Steel Creek**

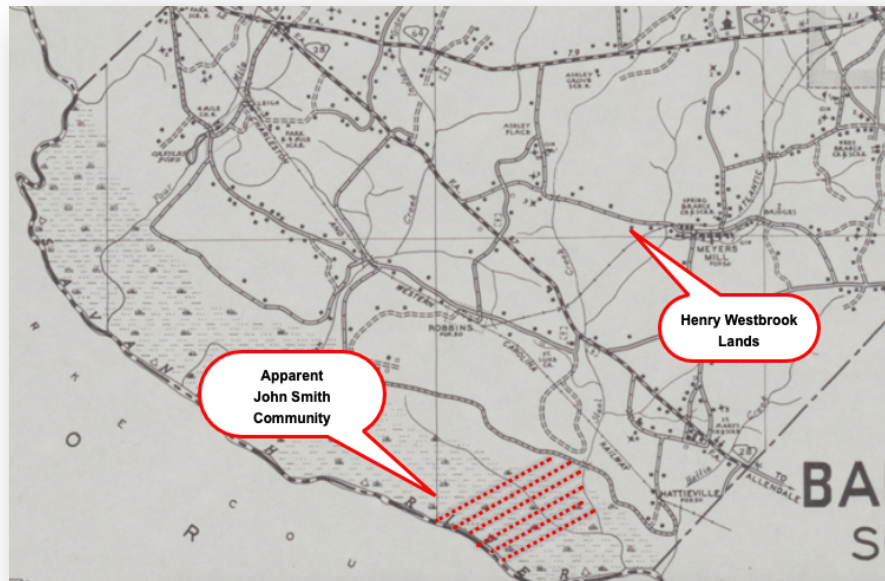


Until future research can precisely locate the John Smith home, we must proceed with current indications that his land lay in this Pen Branch community. As illustrated in Figure 6 on the next page, *this is not in the same area as Henry Westbrook's 1803–1804 land*. While not immediate to each other, Pen and Neds Branches were in the same part of Barnwell. So, Henry could actually have lived in either. To determine which was his homeplace at his earliest appearance, let us look at his 1800 census neighbors:

John Rountree  
John Darlington  
William Spears  
James Goodwin  
Jethro Wood  
Richard Creech  
Thomas Hightower  
Maryann Gilyard  
Andrew Grey  
**Henry Westbrook**

Elizabeth Coker  
Mary Roundtree  
Sarah Simmons  
Uriah Muns  
John Clayton  
Lydia Mason  
William Lark  
John Bates Jr.  
James Castalaw

**FIGURE 6**  
**Pen Branch and Neds Branch**



*These close census neighbors do not include the Neds Branch people identified in his land records. Moreover, as per the following examples, the properties owned by Henry's Creech, Darlington, Roundtree, and Spears neighbors, were all on Pen Branch:*

- The Roundtrees congregated around Pen Branch and several of their properties joined the Dunbar landmarks noted on historic maps.<sup>19</sup>
- Richard Creech owned land throughout Barnwell, but all of his Savannah River properties were at Pen Branch.<sup>20</sup>
- The Darlingtons (John Sr. and Jr.) owned land on the Savannah River at Pen Branch and nearby Four Mile and Indian Grave Creeks. One of their properties joined William Dunbar of Horse Pen.<sup>21</sup>
- William Spears owned land on Pen Branch joining John Darlington.<sup>22</sup>

<sup>19</sup> SCD AH, Series S213190, Book 9: 77 and Book 31: 148; Series S213192, Book 43: 180 and 319 and 555; imaged on South Carolina Department of Archives and History (<https://scdah.sc.gov>); Series S213212, Book 1: 10. Barnwell Co., Deed Book E: 272-73; imaged on FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org>) > digital film 7856763 > image 130.

<sup>20</sup> SCD AH, Series S213192, Book 936: 0 [sic], 104 and 145; Barnwell Co., Deed Book A: 289-90 ; imaged on FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org>) > digital film 7856761 > images 277-78; Deed Book E: 107-08; imaged on FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org>) > digital film 7856763 > image 48-49.

<sup>21</sup> SCD AH, Series S213190, Book 2: 43, Book 3: 29, and Book 19: 132; Series S213192, Book 36: 146; Series: S213212, Book 1: 49.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid., Series S213190, Book 27: 161.

This evidence leaves no doubt that in 1800, Henry was living at Pen Branch and not Neds Branch, even though he owned no land in the former. *Pen Branch, therefore, is his first neighborhood and the one most important for our purposes.* With that established, it is time to begin investigating the community residents to extract Henry's closest associates.

### *Henry Westbrook Associates*

Henry's *first* associates remain his Smith in-laws. However, they are not necessarily the best conduits to his origin. We are more interested in the other people with whom he shared close bonds and had repeated contact. For current purposes, let us consider three of them (time constraints did not permit me to focus on more).

### *Richard Creech*

Richard Creech is by far the most important of Henry's associates. The two men were close enough on a personal level to purchase land together in 1803—which is a strong indicator of kinship. The following abstracts show that Richard was known as Richard Jr. early in his adult life when living in the Salkehatchie River region of old Barnwell and Orangeburg Districts:

25 June 1784

Certification of plat for Richard Creech for 150 acres on the Big Cypress, waters of Saltcatchers River, joining Loveless's land.<sup>23</sup>

8 June 1785

Certification of survey plat for Richard Creech for 100 acres on Creeches Branch of the Salkehatchie River.<sup>24</sup>

18 October 1786

County Court. "Ordered that a road be laid out the nearest and Best way from Parkers Bluff to Williamses ford on the Saltcatcher, then to continue the nearest way to the Green Pond on Edisto; that Bartlett Brown Senr., John Wyld, Esqr. (stricken), Richd. Creech Jr., Robert Jordon, James Bradham, and Arthur Jenkins be Commissioners for the said Road.<sup>25</sup>

27 April 1787

County Court. The Court hath taken into consideration that the Road which was granted by order of Court from Perkins [*sic*] Bluff, to widow Wills [Williams] ford, be altered, and that said Road be carried the nearest and best way from Thos<sup>s</sup> Burton's ferry on Savannah River to the said Widow Williams' ford on Big Saltketcher. Capt. Wm Weekley is appointed overseer of the road in the place of Capt. Richard Creech Junr. who has moved out of the settlement."<sup>26</sup>

<sup>23</sup> Ibid., Book 9: 353.

<sup>24</sup> Ibid., Book 8: 395.

<sup>25</sup> Brent H. Holcomb, *Winton (Barnwell) County, South Carolina, Minutes of the County Court and Will Book 1, 1785–1791* (Bowie, Md.: Heritage Books, 2011), 4; citing Minutes Book 1: 6.

<sup>26</sup> Ibid., 9; citing p. 22.

Although Richard Jr. left his place of residence in 1787, he did not yet move to Pen Branch. Instead, he continued appearing in Saltcatcher region until 1797, when he began acquiring Pen Branch properties, as per the below abstracts.

24 August 1797

Survey for Maj. Richard Creech, 140 acres on Savannah River, joining Charles Brown and Ezekiel Williams.<sup>27</sup>

2 December 1797

Certification or survey for Richard Creech, 148 acres in Savannah River Swamp, originally surveyed for William Henry Castelaw in September 1796; other names on plat are Charles Brown, Pricilla Castelaw, Benjamin Harris.<sup>28</sup>

The timing of Richard's move to Pen Branch is critical: *the year before Henry Westbrook emerged*. We must consider the possibility that the two men arrived together, from the Salkehatchie. We have two other important points supporting that relationship: Henry named his first son Richard Creech and his fourth son James Harley. As documented in the following abstracts, James Harley was Creech's son-in-law:

6 January 1808

Barnwell District

"Word of mouth" will of Richard Creech, Esquire. Wife Mary Creech is to be supported free from want. Capt. McMillan is to have slaves Jim and Jeff. Balance of estate real and personal to James Harley. Attested by Elizabeth Harley Senr., Rebekah Harley, and Elizabeth Harley. Presented in court on 12 January 1808.

5 January 1809

Barnwell District

Mary (M her mark) Creech and James Harley, legal representatives of Richard Creech, Esq., dec'd, to William Barker: 236 acres on waters of Saltcatcher and 150 acres adjoining it on the Big Cypress, which were granted to Richard Creech; and 75 acres on Big Cypress joining the above, sold to Richard Creech by John Williams.<sup>29</sup>

27 February 1809

Barnwell District.

Mary (M her mark) Creech, widow of Richard Creech, Esqr., to daughter Jane Ann Harley: four slaves Dinah and her three children, all household and kitchen furniture, five cows and calves, all of which property shall remain in Mary's possession for her natural live.<sup>30</sup>

---

<sup>27</sup> SCDAH, S213192, Book 36: 106; imaged on *South Carolina Department of Archives and History* (<https://scdah.sc.gov>).

<sup>28</sup> *Ibid.*, 145.

<sup>29</sup> Barnwell Co., Deed Book G: 220-21; imaged on *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org>) > digital film 7856763 > image 517.

<sup>30</sup> *Ibid.*, Deed Book D: 437-37; imaged on *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org>) > digital film digital 7856763 > image 514.

There is no doubt that Henry Westbrook had a close personal relationship with the extended Creech family. That relationship must be studied in greater detail.

### *Andrew Gray*

We know that Andrew Gray married Sarah Smith, Henry's widowed mother-in-law. The families moved to Mississippi together and Henry named one of his sons Andrew Gray. It might be assumed that the relationship sprang from Andrew's marriage to the widow Smith. However, this may not be the case when we consider the following points:

- Andrew and Henry were enumerated next to each other in 1800 – before Andrew married the widow Smith. The two men clearly knew each other beforehand.
- Andrew (born c1777) was considerably younger than Sarah Smith (b. c1760) but almost the same age as Henry Westbrook (b. c1775). The extremely unusual age difference between Andrew and Sarah suggests the possibility that the couple met through Henry, rather than Henry meeting his wife through Andrew – further suggesting the two young men knew each other before their marriages.
- Andrew's first documented appearance in Barnwell coincides with Henry's.

Client's material contains no information about Andrew's birth family or origin. Both should be pursued in the event he and Henry were kinsmen.

### *Benajah & Blunt Williamson*

Benajah Williamson witnessed all of Henry Westbrook's deeds for the Neds Branch lands. However, Benajah and his son Blunt lived at Pen Branch, not Neds Branch. As the following abstracts show, they emerge on record about the same time as Henry and bought land in the immediate cluster of Henry's other documented associate there:

15 March 1799

Winton County

Samuel Dunbar and William Lark of Winton County to Blunt Williamson, son of Benajah Williamson: 188 acres above the mouth of Pen Branch and joining land surveyed for Ezekiel Williams and Daniel Philput, lands of Tho<sup>s</sup> Philput Snr. and Alexander Shaw, and land of John Nelson, granted to Robert Lark in 1785. Witnesses: Rich<sup>d</sup> Creech and Alex<sup>r</sup> Campbell.<sup>31</sup>

14 February 1803

Barnwell District

Peter Purnal and wife Elizabeth to Richard Creech and Henry Westbrook, all of Barnwell District, for \$200: 200 acres more or less on Neds Branch of Steel Creek granted to Christopher Carlile on 16 January 1772 for 400 acres, being half of said

---

<sup>31</sup> Barnwell Co., Deed Book A: 204-05; imaged on *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org>) > digital film 7856761 > image 234.



grant. Witnesses: Benajah Williamson and James Spears.<sup>32</sup>

25 March 1803

Nathan (x his mark) Nelson and his wife Tabitha (x her mark) to Benajah Williamson, all of Barnwell District: 100 acres bounded by Pen Branch, lands surveyed for Ezekiel Williams, for said Williams and Robert Lark Esqr., dec'd, and for Edward Telfer, Esqr., being part of a survey for John Nelson Senr., dec'd. Witnesses Peter Parnal, James Castellaw, and John Nelson. Dower release before Richard Creech, JP, on 10 March 1806.<sup>33</sup>

3 May 1804

Barnwell District

Henry Westbrook to Benjamin F. Lyon, both of Barnwell, for \$575: one half of 429 acres by resurvey, being part of a tract granted to Henry Bates in 1785; also one half of 200 acres on Neds Branch that was granted to Christopher Corline. Witnesses: Benajah Williamson and Noah Marsh.<sup>34</sup>

Benajah's 1820 estate inventory reveals the family was rather wealthy (as were most of Henry Westbrook's associates).<sup>35</sup> James Harley was one of the appraisers, which links the Williamsons to the Creeches. It is important to note that Jourdan Roundtree bought the family bible at the estate sale, which suggests he was Benajah's kinsman. (As Client knows, members of the Roundtree family moved to Mississippi with Henry.) Early indication suggest Benajah was from Edgecombe, North Carolina, which is now a place of interest.

### *Peter Parnal*

Peter Parnal sold Henry Westbrook and Richard Creech the 200 acres on Neds Branch in 1803. We might suspect that this act defined their relationship. However, it may go deeper. The following abstracts show that Peter was not a longtime Barnwell resident and, like Henry and Richard, lived at Pen Branch and not Neds Branch.

14 May 1801

Barnwell District

Peter Parnal of Bedford County, Virginia, to Elizabeth Lark of Barnwell District, for an in consideration of their intermarriage: all her property both personal and real now in her actual possession. Witness: John Darlington.<sup>36</sup>

---

<sup>32</sup> Ibid., Deed Book E: 111-12; imaged on *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org>) > digital film 7856763 > images 50-51.

<sup>33</sup> Ibid., Deed Book B: 403-04; imaged on *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org>) > digital film 7856761 > image 506.

<sup>34</sup> Ibid., Deed Book E: 115-16; imaged on *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org>) > digital film 7856763 > images 52-53.

<sup>35</sup> "South Carolina, Wills and Probate Records, 1670-1980," *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com>) > Barnwell > Probate Records, Case No. 32-37, 1787-1958 > images 215-224.

<sup>36</sup> Barnwell Co., S. C., Deed Book B: 151; imaged on *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org>) > digital film 7856761 > image 392.

25 March 1803

Barnwell District

Nathan (x his mark) Nelson and his wife Tabitha (x her mark) to Benajah Williamson, all of Barnwell: 100 acres on Pen Branch bounded by lands of Ezekiel Williams, lands of Ezekial Williams and Robert Lark Esqr., dec'd, and lands of Edward Telliher, Esqr., being part of a survey for John Nelson Senr., dec'd. Witnesses: Peter Parnal, James Castellaw, and John Nelson. Dower release before Richard Creech, JP, on 10 March 1806.<sup>37</sup>

11 April 1808

Barnwell District

Dr. Peter Purnal of Barnwell District to Benajah Williamson of same: 40.25 acres part of a grant to Thomas Proctor dated 3 Oct. 1785, bounded by Back Pine Swamp and Dr. Purnal's land.<sup>38</sup>

Peter therefore is a member of Henry's intimate Pen Branch circle. Peter appears on the Bedford County personal tax roll annually from 1790 until 1800, then resurfaces in Barnwell in 1801. His wife Elizabeth née Darlington was the widow of John Lark. Both the Larks and Darlingtons were longtime residents of Pen Branch and repeated associates of Henry Westbrook and Richard Creech. Therefore, although Peter arrived in Barnwell two years after Henry's marriage, he remains in contention for a kinsman.

### CONCLUSION

I recommended proceeding with detailed study of Barnwell District, with the next phase to incorporate records housed at the South Carolina Department of Archives and History in Columbia. Continuing work will not only seek additional Westbrook information, but will include the important neighbors and associates. I would be happy to schedule the trip as soon as current Covid restrictions are eased.

Rachal Mills Lennon, CG, FASG

---

<sup>37</sup> Barnwell Deed Book B: 403-04; imaged on *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org>) > digital film 7856761 > image 506.

<sup>38</sup> *Ibid.*, Deed Book D: 79-80; imaged on *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org>) > digital film 7856762 > image 336.