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DATE: 2 July 2011
REPORT TO: Dr. Robert Harper; 303 Arkansas Street, Ruston, LA 71270
REPORT NO: 1
SUBJECT: Harper of Colleton County, South Carolina

ASSIGNMENT

Client has traced his ancestry to Solomon Harper who is thought to have died *ca.*1801 in Colleton County, South Carolina. From there, his children moved west, with Edward Harper, Client's direct ancestor, dying in Lauderdale County, Mississippi, in 1837. Client wishes to "find out as much as possible" about his "family history from South Carolina and find its migratory roots from North Carolina and Virginia."¹ This assignment begins that quest by

- analyzing the material Client has gathered to determine the status of the project,
- formulating the best means of proceeding, and
- initiating new research as a first step toward identifying kin and clues to origins.

This report is divided into two parts:

PART ONE: Analysis of Submitted Material

PART TWO: Methodology & New Research

Client authorized eighty hours for this initial segment.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This project restructures and expands Clients information on Solomon Harper(s) in South Carolina to provide greater insight into activities and residences. Critical issues to address in future projects and obstacles to surmount are highlighted. New findings correct erroneous assumptions made by other descendants and provide promising clues

¹ Email of R. Harper to R M. Lennon, 7 May 2011.

to follow through a difficult research environment. The following points will be emphasized:

- The numerous tracts of land associated with Solomon are now located and a pattern of ownership and residence on them has emerged.
- The Harper relationship to critical early associates is more clearly defined.
- The several communities to which the Harpers are connected have been placed and the core residents are identified for future investigation.
- The question of multiple Solomon Harpers is more easily addressed.

Suggestions for filling holes and advancing the lineage are offered in the final section.

PART ONE:
Analysis of Submitted Material

The material provided for analysis consists primarily of

- a report by a Brent Holcomb focusing on Colleton and Charleston Districts;
- family history reports of, and personal communications with, other Harper descendants; and
- copies of land, tax, and Bible documents; published church records; obituaries; memoirs; and historical essays.

Earlier researchers have consulted the convenient county and district resources, to varying degrees, and have documented important data points that serve as a base for expanded research. The most relevant of those documents follow, with comments as needed.

1 February 1769

Colleton County

Mary Dunn to **Solomon Harper**: 100 acres on the Little Saltkatcher.²

20 October 1770

Charles Town

“Brought to the W-H [meaning unexplained]. Two new negro wenches, who call themselves B and C: *Binsaw* is of the *Mon-dingo* country, says her master is dead, and both belong to one mistress; she is four feet nine inches high, of a black complexion, her country marks on each cheek, pot belly'd; has on a white negro cloth wrapper and petticoat: *Cumba* is of the *Congo* country; she is four feet nine inches high, of a yellow complexion a pitt or two in her face has on an old white

² Report of Brent H. Holcomb, 24 October 2009, pp.2-3, citing Charleston District Deeds W6: 13-14. Because numerous spellings exist for the waterway, it will be referred to as “Saltkatcher” in this report.

negro cloth petticoat. Taken up on the *Saltketchers*, by **Mr. Solomon Harper**, near the *Great Swamp*.”³

COMMENT:

Colleton County was replete with swamps, whose names changed over the years. “Great Swamp” is therefore hard to pinpoint during this time period. For example, one record describes a James Stobo grant at “the Head of Ashepoo River in the Great Swamp.”⁴ However, the above newspaper announcement places the Great Swamp near the Saltcatcher, which could imply the Big rather than the Little Saltcatcher because the latter was typically distinguished by the adjective “Little.” The referenced swamp could therefore be the one that extends from the Saltcatcher into Prince William Parish in Beaufort County.

20 & 21 September 1773

Colleton County

Henry Hyrne of St. Bartholomew Parish, Esquire, to **Solomon Harper** of Prince William Parish, planter £49.15: 620 acres in Colleton County adjoining Abraham Colson and Thomas Ford, originally surveyed 7 January 1737 and laid out to Stephen Nichols and on 2 May 1772 granted to sd. Hyrne. Signed Henry Hyrne and Mary Ann Hyrne. Witnesses: Richard Bohun Baker and Jno. Bellinger. Proved 23 August 1774 [*sic*] by John Bellinger in Charles Town District before William Nesbitt, J. P. Recorded 4 April 1774.⁵

COMMENT:

The recorded copy of the deed cites the acreage as “620.” Later documents reveal it was actually 670 acres. Such errors are common.

22 & 23 October 1773

Colleton County

Solomon Harper of Prince William Parish, Colleton [*sic*] County, planter, to Hannah McCants of St. Bartholomew Parish, widow, £1340: 670 [*sic*] acres adjoining land laid out for Thomas Ford. . . . Signed: **Solomon Harper** and **Elinor (+) Harper**. Witnesses: Jesse Day, Henry Van Bebber, and John Goodbe. Proven 23 November 1773 by Jesse Day before Charles Brown, J.P., in Beaufort District. Recorded 4 April 1774.⁶

COMMENT:

Prince William Parish was in Granville/Beaufort County, not Colleton.

28 February 1774

Colleton County

In possession of **Selomon [*sic*] Harper**, living on James Stobo’s Plantation, near Island Creek in Bartholomew’s Parish, a cream coloured grey gelding, about 13

³ Transcript provided by Client, citing *The South Carolina Gazette and Country Journal*, no issue or page number given.

⁴ Brent H. Holcomb, *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals*, vol. 1, 1734/5–1748 (Columbia, S. C.: SCMAR, 1986), 26–27.

⁵ Holcomb Report, p. 2; citing Charleston Deeds F-4: 433–38.

⁶ *Ibid.*, citing Charleston Co. Deeds F-4: 483–88. The deed clearly reads “Colleton” County instead of Beaufort. Boundaries between districts, counties, and parishes fluctuated in this era.

Hands high branded with three Hearts on the near Jaw and Shoulder. Any person claiming the said stray Gelding must prove the property before James Stobo.⁷

1778-79

Colleton County

List of Petit Jurors for St. Bartholomew Parish includes **Solomon Harper**.⁸

17 January 1785

Location not given

Issued to **Mr. Solomon Harper** for Three Pounds Six Shillings and Eight Pence three farthings Sterling for Beef Supplied the Continentals in 1782 as per Account Audited.⁹

COMMENT:

This is only the second use of "Mr.," the first being the Solomon who captured the two runaway slaves in 1770. That instance, fifteen years earlier, represented how he presented himself to the Charleston officials to whom he turned in the runaways. It would appear that he presented himself well in dress and manner. In the fifteen intervening years, the term "Mr." was not used in his community-based records. By 1785, he is a slaveholding landowner, not an employee of someone else.

14 March 1788

Colleton County

Solomon Harper to grandson Edward Bryan, son of daughter Elizabeth Bryan: a negro girl Beck. Witnesses: William Bryan and Edward Harper. Proved by William Bryan on 14 March 1788 before Wm Mills, J.P.¹⁰

9 August 1788

Colleton County

Tax list of upper St. Bartholomew district taken by Adam Ulmer, Esquire:¹¹

Solomon Harper	100 acres (75 pine & 25 oak)
	3 slaves

COMMENT:

This tax list included acreage, slaves, free negroes, and the amount of pine and oak land. It does not identify waterways. The only land Solomon is known to have owned at this time was the Mary Dunn tract he purchased in 1769.

⁷ Transcript provided by Client, citing *The South Carolina Gazette*, no publication data or page number.

⁸ Family History Report of William C. Hilles, "Descendants of Solomon Harper, Jr.," undated and uncited; provided by Client.

⁹ Photocopy provided by Client, citing A. S. Salley, Jr., *Stub Entries to Indents Issued in Payment of Claims Against South Carolina Growing Out of the Revolution Books L-N* (Columbia, South Carolina: The Historical Commission of South Carolina, 1910), 258.

¹⁰ Photocopy provided by client, citing "SCDAH, Miscellaneous Records, vol. OOO: 389."

¹¹ Photocopy provided by client, citing "Comptroller General, Tax Lists, 1787 St. Bartholomew Upper District, ST689."

1790-92

Colleton County¹²

Solomen Harper 3 white male 16+ 2 white females 1 slave

Edward Harper 1 white male 16+ 1 female 0 slaves

COMMENT:

The 1790 date for this census is deceptive. By the act of March 1790, enumerations were to begin 1 August and be completed by 1 May 1791. South Carolina did not finish in time.¹³ St. Bartholomew's list does not contain a certified date, which would help determine when the enumeration was actually taken. Therefore, Harper's household could have been counted anytime between August 1790 and February 1792.

18 October 1792

Colleton County

Survey for **Solomon Harper** of 100 acres on the northeast side of Little Saltcatcher adjoining Joseph Glover, Robert's Barony, and **Solomon Harper**. Certified 21 January 1793.¹⁴

23 October 1793

Colleton County

Survey for **Solomon Harper** for 565 acres between Buckhead and Little Saltcatchers.¹⁵

10 February 1797

Colleton County

Solomon and James **Harper** of St. Bartholomew's Parish Charleston District planters, to Richard Bryan: part of a tract containing in all 100 acres conveyed to the above Solomon Harper by lease and release by Mary Dunn, 1 February 1769, recorded in Book EEE: 142, on *Harper's [branch]* waters of Little Saltketchers, being northwardly and westwardly of said *Harpers Branch*, the run or middle of said branch to be the dividing line; also 42 acres adjoining the above, to the north, surveyed by surveyor John Millhouse deceased, 19 April 1794, and conveyed by indenture to said James Harper 29 August 1795 by the heirs of said Millhouse being John Millhouse, Darius [?] Millhouse, Samuel Milhouse, Charles Millhouse, and Stouton Smith. Signed Solomon Harper, James Harper, and Sally Harper. Witnesses: Urias Smith, Roadman Rideout[?], and William Rideout[?]. Proved by Urias Smith 21 February 1797 before John Smyly, J. P.¹⁶

¹² 1790 U. S. federal census, St. Bartholomew's Parish, Charleston District, p. 570, Ins. 31 & 31; National Archives and Records Administration microfilm publication M637, roll 11.

¹³ United States, Department of Commerce and Labor, Census Bureau, *Heads of Families at the First Census of the United States Taken in the Year 1790* (Washington, D. C.: Government Printing Office, 1908), 4.

¹⁴ Photocopy supplied by Client, citing "South Carolina State Plats, vol. 30: 123."

¹⁵ *Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database and images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/onlinearchives/>); "Harper, Solomon;" citing Series: S213190 (State Plat Books, Charleston Series); Volume: 0030; Page: 188; Item: 001.

¹⁶ Photocopy provided by Client, citing Charleston Co. Deeds W-6: 13-14. Client comments that Brent Holcomb could not find the deed reportedly recorded in Book EEE: 142.

COMMENT:

Individuals did not typically sell land together unless they jointly owned it. It appears likely that the missing deed conveys partial or conditional ownership to James. However, drawing conclusions from missing records is speculative.

1798

Colleton County

"General Tax" return of upper St. Bartholomew's Parish, collected by John James Hughes, includes:¹⁷

Solomon Harper	750 acres
	0 slaves

COMMENT:

The return noted only acreage and location, number of slaves, stocks in trade, and town lots. Because it is rendered semi-alphabetically, neighborhood clues are lost. The acreage is difficult to read on the provided photocopy; it could be 700 or 750.

January 1801

Colleton County

Entry in journal of Richard Bryan, justice of the peace: "the Administrator had[?] appraisers of the estate of **Solomon Harper** deceased Qualified."¹⁸

Client wonders if all of these activities concern a single individual. The 1769–1801 period in which they occurred is the general study period, with a focus on the first decade. The individuals involved in these activities are the core study group around whom research will revolve.

The submitted files also contain significant information about Solomon's children and their families. This material is essential to understanding the make-up of the family, as well as Solomon's activities during their maturity. However, because the current focus is on Solomon's origins, his offspring are discussed in this report only to the degree to which they impact that focus.

Client is aware of several concerns in this material that must be addressed before the lineage can be extended. These will be expanded below, along with new observations that affect the course of research. We will begin with the fundamental, underlying question of how many Solomons are involved.

The Different Solomons

Serious discrepancies exist among descendants about the man who engaged in the above activities. Client believes a single man was involved: the husband of Elinor and

¹⁷ Photocopy provided by Client, citing "SCDAH Comptroller General Tax Lists, 1798 St. Bartholomew Parish, p.286 ST 689," dist. no. 3.

¹⁸ Photocopy of Richard Bryan's journal was provided by Client, citing p.107.

father of Edward who died in Colleton *ca.*1801. Conversely, another descendant proposes a different Solomon who was Edward's father:¹⁹

"Solomon (Jr), born in 1749 in SC or VA; married Mary Pouncey?? about 1765 in Charleston District, SC. He died in Baldwin Co., GA in 1815."

"Solomon (Sr) born probably in VA, but died about 1801 in St. Bartholomews Parish, Colleton Co., SC; wife unknown."

As Client notes, the descendant making these identifications was unaware of the 1801 reference to Solomon's death and the existence of Elinor in 1773. In a second version, the same descendant identifies the wife of Solomon "Jr." as Mary "[CUBSTEAD?]" rather than Pouncey, as above, while calling her "Ann" later in the same communication to Client. He attributes all of the known Colleton activities to this Solomon "Jr." and none to the man who died *ca.*1801.²⁰

Another descendant attempts to sort the Solomons as follows, attributing Client's ancestor Edward to "Solomon I:"²¹

Solomon I

ca. 1720/40–1800

m. 2) Elinor (first wife Mary?)

Children: Elizabeth, James A., John?, **Edward Sr.**

Solomon Jr., son of Solomon I

*ca.*1772 – 1/25/1818; d. Liberty County, GA

m. 1) ?; 2) Sally Cannon 5/12/1807 in Richmond County, GA

Settled in Liberty County, GA shortly after Solomon I's death in 1800. Served as juror in Liberty County in 1802. Drew land in the 1805 Ga. land lottery. Sued a man over an unpaid debt in Liberty County in 1806. "Appointed Justice of Peace to a militia company" 1808, 1809, 1811 in McIntosh County (which was formed from part of Liberty County)

Children: Solomon III

Solomon II, son of Edward, Sr.

b. *ca.*1792

m. Mary?

Settled in Wilkes Co., Georgia, by 1820. In Ga. Census of 1820, 1830, 1840.

Drew land in 1827 Ga. Land Lottery.

Children: (Mahala?, Adaline?)

¹⁹ William C. Hilles to Harper, email dated 1 July 2010.

²⁰ William C. Hilles, "Descendants of Solomon Harper Jr.," undated compilation shared with Client.

²¹ Sallie Helm, "The Solomons," 14 June 2003; unpublished essay shared with Client.

Solomon III, Son of Solomon, Jr.

b. ca.1809

m. Mary Ann Wooster (b. ca.1822)

Bought land in St. Peter's Parish, Beaufort County, SC in 1841. Listed in the 1830-50 census there.

Children: John H. (b. ca.1841), Catherine E. (b. ca.1842), Charles H. (b. ca. 1844), Mary I. (b. ca.1846), Eliza G. or Frances Elizabeth (b. ca.1848), Lydia A. (b. ca.1849), William Colcock? (b. ca.1853), Lucia Emily? (b. ca. 1854).

The muddled identity problem becomes more pronounced when land records are carefully scrutinized. The name "Solomon Harper" is connected to *seven* different locations before 1800:

- Purchase of 100 acres from Mary Dunn in 1769, on the Little Saltcatcher.
- Purchase and sale of 670 acres from Henry Hyrne in 1773; when he was said to be "planter" of Prince William Parish.
- Residence on James Stobo's plantation in 1774, St. Bartholomew's Parish, implying a lack of land ownership.
- Tax assessment on 100 acres in unknown location in 1784, but likely the tract of 1769.
- Survey of 100 acres in 1792, a new tract between Buckhead and Little Saltcatcher.
- Survey of 565 acres in 1793, a new tract between Buckhead and Little Saltcatcher.
- Tax assessment on 758 acres in unknown location in 1798, which is less than the total of the above tracts.

The following document (not found in Client files but uncovered in this project) complicates the situation even more:

15 January 1822

Charleston

"A Lease, not exceeding 7 years, of all that Plantation or Tract of Land, situate in St. Bartholomew's Parish, containing 400 acres, more or less, bounded on lands of Padgett and Smoke. To be sold as the property of the **estate of Solomon Harper** for General Taxes due the State of South Carolina for the year 1820. Amount of tax 84 cents."²²

This tract is unaccounted for. Feasibly, it could have been a part of the 750 acres that were taxed in 1798. But, the Solomon to whom it belonged is uncertain. The only one

²² "Historical Newspapers, 1690-2007," database with digital images, *GenealogyBank* (<http://www.GenealogyBank.com>); imaging the *City Gazette* (Charleston), p.3, col.4.

known to have died in Colleton before 1822 did so in *ca.*1801 – two decades before the land was seized and sold.

The question of how many Solomons were involved in these activities is critical because it directly impacts both the parentage of Edward (Client's direct ancestor) *and* how the ancestry should be pursued. Future research must therefore determine:

- How many Solomons were active in Colleton between 1769 and 1801 and who owned what property.
- Which one died *ca.*1801 (Colleton), in 1815 (Baldwin Co., Ga.), and in 1818 (McIntosh Co., Ga.)
- Which one was Edward's father.

Craven County Connection

Client notes that some Harper descendants believe Solomon hailed from Craven County (modern Chesterfield), where a man of the name acquired a land grant in the 1760s. However, they offer no proof of sameness. While timing suggests this could be the man who purchased the 1769 Colleton land, merging identities requires considerably more evidence. Craven County and its progenies, Cheraw District and Chesterfield County, have *not* been sufficiently studied. Despite severe record losses in that area, considerably more research can and must be done. The following discussion provides a more concrete foundation upon which to base that work.

Client is aware of one possible link between the Solomon Harpers of Craven and Colleton. In 1788, apparent brothers Solomon Jr., James A., and Edward Harper witnessed the will of Anthony Pouncey of Charles Town District (county not given).²³ Edward proved the will twenty-seven years later in *Colleton County*, but it was recorded in *Marlborough County*. Client's previous researcher rightly questioned if this association between Solomon's sons and Pouncey stemmed from an earlier one in Craven. That researcher consulted published Marlborough records, as well as some for Anson County, North Carolina, which once controlled that part of South Carolina, but found nothing else. Neither he nor the other researchers referenced in Client's submitted files located Solomon's Craven County grant.

Old Craven County included the modern counties of Marlborough, Chesterfield, and Darlington. (As well as others cut from Camden District, which was also part of Craven.) As shown below, Anthony Pouncey's land lay in the Marlborough portion, *not* Chesterfield, where Solomon Harper was issued a grant on Thomsons Creek in 1764.²⁴ Therefore, any assertion that the two men knew each other in 1764 depends heavily

²³ Photocopy of the original will was provided by Client, citing "Marlboro County State[?] Paper," Box 8, pkg 1, frames 356-58.

²⁴ Thomson Creek is also called Thompson Creek. For convenience, "Thomson" is used throughout this report except when quoted.

upon where in the adjoining counties they lived. Once residences are established, efforts can expand to seek connections between their neighborhoods.

- Solomon Harper's Residence

Client provided a copy of Solomon's grant on the north side of Thomsons Creek, a long waterway cutting through central and eastern Chesterfield County, fed by many branches on its route to the Pee Dee River. The grant does not reveal where Solomon's land actually lay along the creek or even whether the land was in North or South Carolina. Thomsons Creek ran through both states, and the border between them was not yet established. Clues to Solomon's location must come from his adjoining landowners. Consider the following sequence:

12 December 1764

Craven County

Certified plat to Solomon Harper for 250 acres on [north side] Thomson Creek bounding on the south by said creek, easterly on Thomas Richardson, and westerly on **Edward Bryant**, and northerly by vacant land.²⁵

22 February 1772

Craven County

Edward Bryan, planter, and wife Catherine to **John Mitchell**, merchant, £200: 250 acres in Craven County on both sides **Thompson's Creek and Bare Creek** adjoining William Johnston on the upper side, as per a plat for **Edward Sharpton**; granted John Dickens 17 April 1764 and sold by him to **Edward Brian** [*sic*]. Witnesses: James Wishart and Carney Wright. Proved before Thos. Wade, JP.²⁶

As shown in Figure 1 on the next page and abstracted below, The Sharpton land that Edward Bryant later owned next to **Solomon Harper** lay at the fork of Thomsons and Bare Creeks.

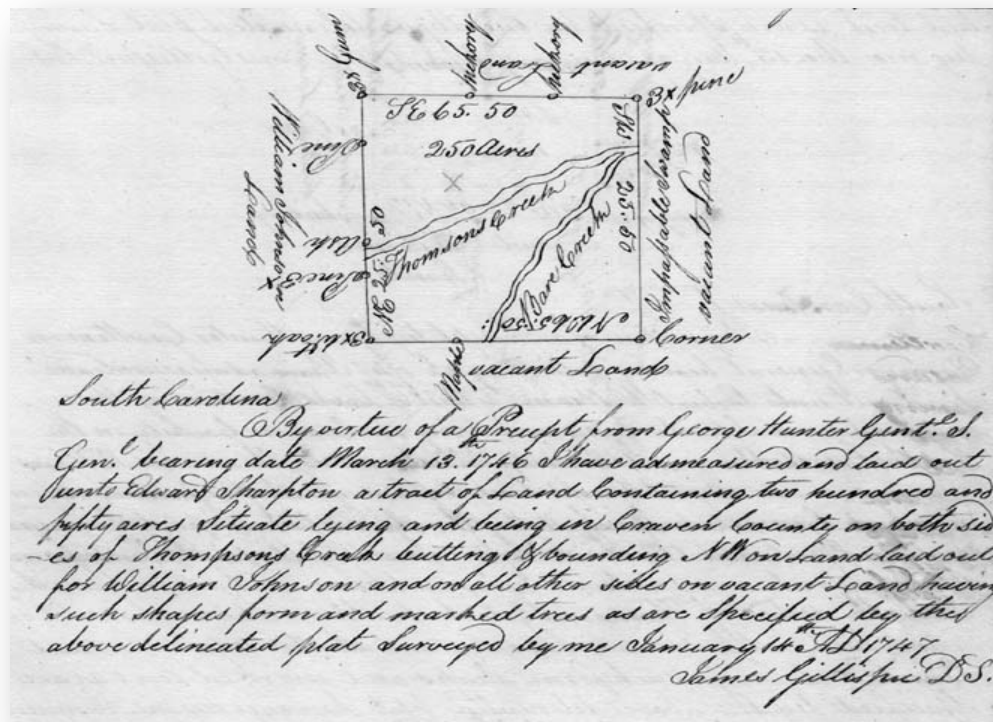
"By virtue of a Precept from George Hunter Gent^l S. Gen^l [Surveyor General] bearing date March 13, 1746 I have admeasured and laid out unto Edward Sharpton a tract of Land containing two hundred and fifty acres Situate lying and being in Craven County on both sides of Thompsons Creek butting & bounding NW on land laid out for William Johnson and on all other sides on vacant Land. . ." Surveyed 14 January 1747 by James Gillespie, deputy surveyor.

Bear [aka Bare] Creek flows into Thomsons Creek a few miles southeast of the county seat and about halfway between it and the Pee Dee River. Solomon would have lived very near this juncture but on the north side of Thomsons.

²⁵ SCDAAH; citing Series: S213184 (Colonial Plat Books Copy Series); Volume 0011; Page 00451; Item: 02.

²⁶ Clara Langley, *South Carolina Deed Abstracts, 1719-1772*, volume 4, 1767-1773 (Easley, S. C.: Southern Historical Press, 1984), 239; citing Charleston Deeds Z-3: 58-9.

FIGURE 1
Edward Sharpton Plat²⁷



With Solomon's immediate neighborhood isolated, work proceeded to identify his neighbors, only a few of whom are currently known:

NEIGHBOR	YEAR & ACTIVITY	LOCATION
Edward Bryant	1759 witness	Thomson Creek ²⁸
	1772 sale	Thomson & Bear Creek ²⁹
Thomas Boatright	1759 witness	Thomson Creek ³⁰
John Bone	1759 purchase	Thomson Creek ³¹
John Dickens	1764 grant	Thomson & Bear Creek ³²
John Pickens Jr.	1764 memorial	Thomson Creek ³³
Thomas Richardson	1764 survey	Thomson Creek ³⁴

²⁷ SCD AH; citing "Sharpton, Edward"; Series: S213184; Volume 0004; Page 00392; Item: 02.

²⁸ Charleston Deed Book W2: 267-68.

²⁹ Charleston Deed Book Z3: 58-59.

³⁰ Charleston Deed Book W2: 267-68.

³¹ Ibid.

³² Charleston Deed Book Z3: 58-59.

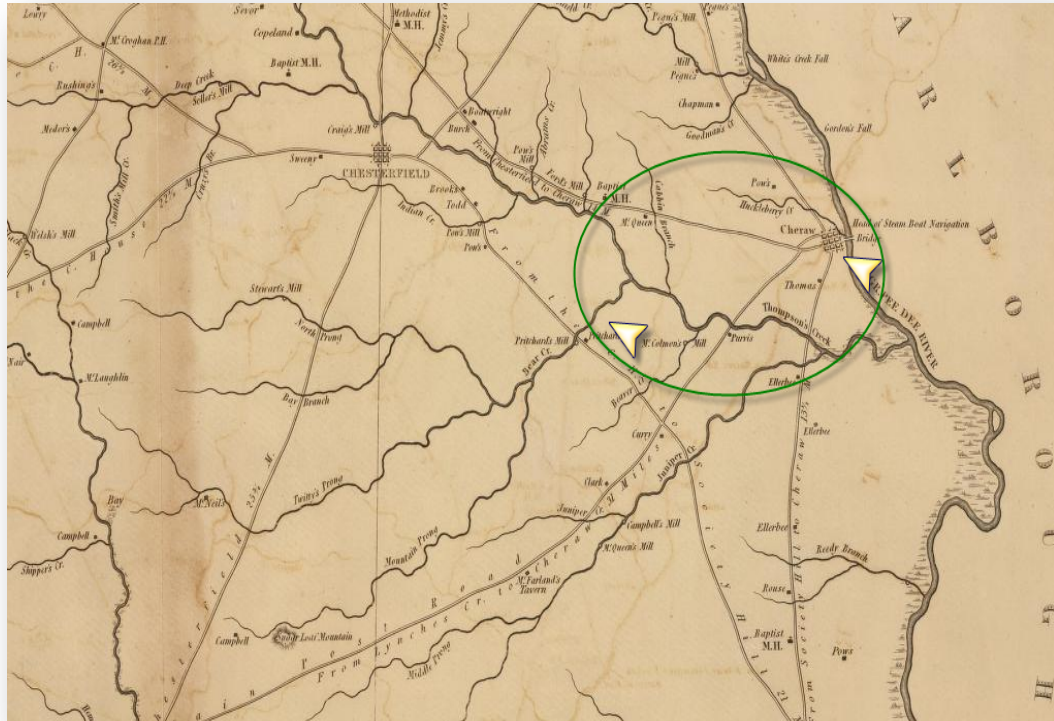
³³ SCD AH; citing "Pickens, John Jr."; Series: S111001; Volume: 0006; Page: 00277; Item: 004.

³⁴ SCD AH; citing "Harper, Solomon"; Series: S213184; Volume: 0011; Age: 00451; Item: 02.

William Johnson	1747 survey	Thomson Creek ³⁵
Edward Sharpton	1747 survey	Thomson & Bear Creek ³⁶
James Wishart	1772 witness	Thomson & Bear Creek ³⁷
Carney Wright	1772 witness	Thomson & Bear Creek ³⁸

Another individual who must be considered is the justice of the peace, Thomas Wade. He is said to have lived near the historic town of Cheraw on the Pee Dee River border with Marlborough County—just a few miles east of Bear Creek.³⁹ During this time period, justices served members of their own communities. Using Wade as a marker, Solomon’s extended community can now be established as the region between Bear Creek and Cheraw, highlighted on the map in Figure 2.

FIGURE 2
Solomon Harper’s General Community⁴⁰



³⁵ SCDAA; citing “Johnson, William”; Series: S213184; Volume: 0004; Age: 00391; Item: 02.

³⁶ Charleston Deed Book Z3: 58-59. SCDAA; citing “Sharpton, Edward;” Series: S213184; Volume: 0004; Page: 00392; Item: 02. Also, citing “Bremen, Francis”; Series: S213190; Volume: 0010; Page: 00213.

³⁷ Charleston Deed Book Z3: 58-59.

³⁸ Ibid.

³⁹ George Boatright, “St. David’s Episcopal Church, Cheraw, Chesterfield County, South Carolina,” *Our Boatwright/Boatright Family Genealogy* (<http://www.boatwrightgenealogy.com/church5.html>).

⁴⁰ “Chesterfield District, South Carolina; Mills, Robert, 1825,” *David Rumsey Map Collection* (<http://www.Davidrumsey.com>).

- Anthony Pouncey's Residence

The issue of Pouncey's relationship to the Harpers is problematic, given the presence of another will uncovered in this research installment. Anthony drafted a will four years before the one witnessed by the Harpers—and that will, abstracted below, identified his residence as *Cheraw* District (old Craven), not Charleston District or Colleton County:

15 July 1784

Cheraw District

Anthony Pouncey of the State of South Carolina and district of Cheraw. To brother Samuel Pouncey's four sons "William, Henry, Anthony, Thomas, and James" [sic] all that "I possess in lands, credits and goods of any kind." Appoints friend Nathaniel Sanders executor and trustee for the children until they come of age. Witnesses: Jesse More and James Booker. Recorded 6 August 1814 in Will Book A, p.73, case 1, box 5.⁴¹

The stipulations of this will are the same as the earlier one. Anthony left all of his property to four nephews, and Nathaniel Sanders was also one of the three executors named in the second will. Clearly, the same man created both documents. This particular Anthony Pouncey appears repeatedly in Craven County/Cheraw District throughout the 1770s, serving as deputy surveyor and juror as late as 1778–79.⁴² His self-identification as a Cheraw District resident in 1784 affirms he was still living there at that time.

Because the nature and location of Anthony's property was not specified, other sources must be used to locate his Craven County community. The deed through which he sold Craven land after moving to Colleton provides a general location:

12 March 1796

Colleton County

Anthony Pouncey of Charleston District, Saint Bartholomew Parish, to Moses Pearson, Esqr., of Marlborough County, £100 sterling: 200 acres granted to Anthony Pouncey on 13 July 1770, in Marlborough County on the northeast side of the Great Pee Dee and bounding on the south by Isaac Nicholson's land, northeast and south by John Freeman's land, southwest by land granted to Andrew Sean, and northwest by land granted to Anthony Pouncey. Witnesses: Tabetha Derby, Anthony Pouncey, Ann Pouncey, and James Pouncey.⁴³

⁴¹ SCDAAH, "Pouncey, Anthony of Cheraws District, Will Typescript"; citing Series: S108093 (South Carolina Will Transcripts): 0018; frame: 00111.

⁴² For his activities as surveyor, see Katie-Prince Ward Esker, *South Carolina Memorials*, vol. 2, 1731–1776, *Abstracts of Selected Land Records from a Collection in the Department of Archives and History, Columbia, South Carolina* (New Orleans, La.: Polyanthos, 1977), 51, 56, and 179. For jury duty, see GeLee Corley Hendrix and Morn M. Lindsay, *The Jury Lists of South Carolina, 1778–1779* (Greenville, S. C.: Privately Published, 1975), 40–41.

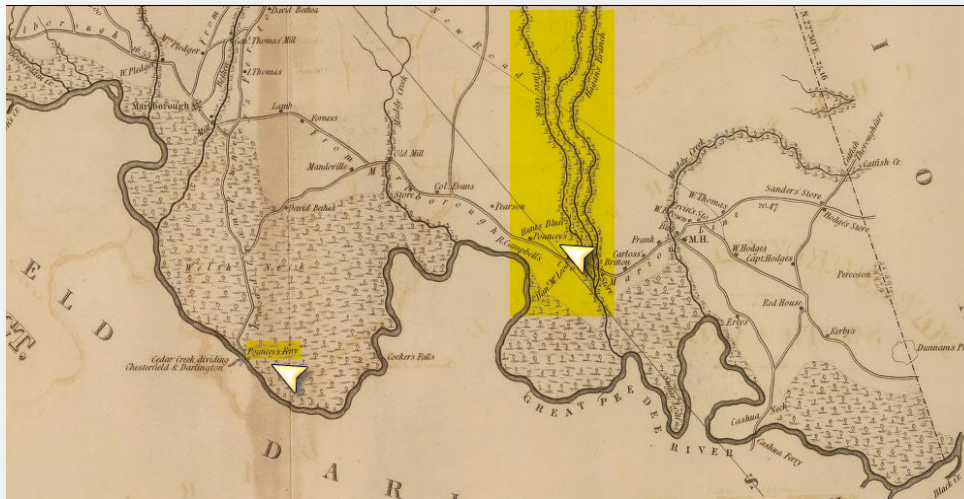
⁴³ Glenn Pearson, "Marlborough County, South Carolina, Deeds," *Marlborough County, South Carolina, Genealogy* (<http://sciway3.net/proctor/marlboro/deeds/pouncey01.html>). The original survey is not available online.

This abstract does not provide a location along the Pee Dee that would help place the tract. It reveals only that it was on the opposite side of the Pee Dee from the location just mapped for Solomon Harper. How far distant is still unknown. Therefore, Pouncey's adjoining neighbors—and their neighbors—were followed until a more precise location emerged:

- William Pouncey owned land on the **Three Runs Creek** and Swamp, Long Branch, and Horse Pen Branch.⁴⁴
- William Henry Mills owned land (that surrounded an Anthony Pouncey tract) on **Three Runs Creek** and Derby's Bay.⁴⁵
- Robert Blair owned land on **the Three Runs** and Poplar Branch.⁴⁶

The historical Marlborough map in Figure 3 of shows a "Three Creek" in the center of the county and running southeast to the Pee Dee River boundary with Darlington County. A "Pouncey's" homesite is noted just west of the creek and on the peninsula to the west is "Pouncey's Ferry," all in the Welsh Tract.

FIGURE 3
Pouncey Landmarks and Three Creeks⁴⁷



A Connection?

Solomon Harper's Bear Creek and the Pouncey sites were too far apart to promote a proximity-based relationship. Another possible link is church attendance. Anthony

⁴⁴ SCDAH; "Pouncey, William"; citing Series: S213184, Volume: 0019; Page: 00243; Item: 02.

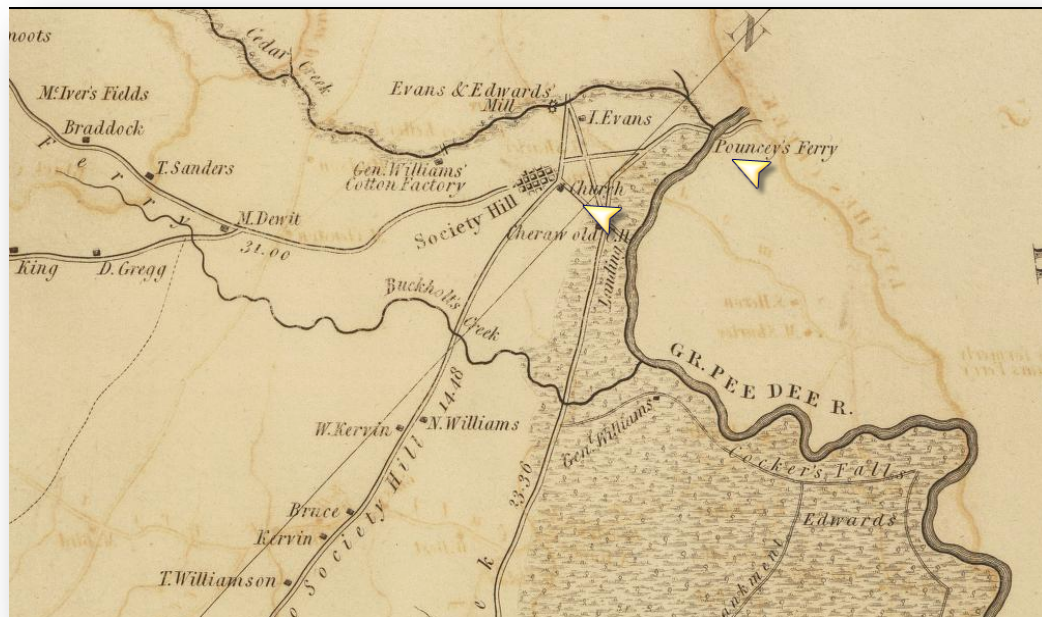
⁴⁵ Ibid., "Mills, William Henry"; citing Series: S111001; Volume 0014; Page: 00008; Item: 002.

⁴⁶ Ibid., "Blair, Robert"; citing Series: S213184; Volume: 0013; Page: 00293; Item: 01.

⁴⁷ "Marlborough District, South Carolina; Improved for Mills' Atlas, 1825," *David Rumsey Map Collection* (<http://www.davidrumsey.com>).

Pouncey's second will named three executors: Magnus Corgill [sic] and Nathaniel Sanders "of Pee Dee" in the Cheraw District, and Richard Bryan "of Saltcatchers." Either Pouncey was related to the executors, or the executors lived close enough to Anthony's properties to conveniently oversee them. This certainly appears to be the case with Richard Bryan, who lived immediately to Pouncey land on Hog Branch and Buckhead Creeks in Colleton in the 1780s and 1790s.⁴⁸ New evidence uncovered in this project shows that Nathaniel Sanders did indeed live near the Pounceys. Sanders had land surveyed in 1772 in the Welsh Tract on the southwest side of the Pee Dee next to Anthony Pouncey in Marlborough.⁴⁹ He also purchased land from Anthony two years later in the same area.⁵⁰ This vicinity was across the Pee Dee from the Pouncey homesite along Three Runs Creek and was undoubtedly around "Pouncey's Ferry." Magnus Corgill [Cargill], the second executor in the second will, also lived near the Pounceys of Three Runs Creek, on the east side of the Pee Dee.⁵¹ However, he attended Welsh Neck Baptist Church (along with a Sarah Pouncey who has not been identified) just across the Pee Dee near Society Hill in modern Darlington County:⁵²

FIGURE 4
Location of Welsh Neck Church



⁴⁸ SCDAAH; S. C. Surveyor General's Office, State Plat Books (Charleston Series), 1784-1860; Plat Book 17: 343; Book 12: 287; Book 30: 318. 1788 Tax List, St. Bartholomew Parish, photocopy provided by Client, citing "Comptroller General, Tax Lists, 1788 St. Bartholomew Upper District, ST689." 1790 U. S. census, St. Bartholomew's Parish, Charleston Dist., S. C., p. 57, Ins. 30 & 31.

⁴⁹ SCDAAH; "Sanders, Nathaniel"; citing "Series: S111001; Volume: 0012; Page: 00181; Item: 003.

⁵⁰ Charleston Dist. Deed Book 4-E: 225.

⁵¹ SCDAAH, "Corgil, Magnus"; citing "Series: S213190; Volume: 0008; Page: 00315; Item: 002.

⁵² For a detailed history of the church, see Leah Townsend, *South Carolina Baptists, 1670-1805* (Florence, S. C.: Florence Printing Company, 1935), 61-77.

The church was but a short distance up the Pee Dee from Pounceys Ferry in the “Welsh Neck” – the bend of the river at the merging point of Darlington, Chesterfield, and Marlborough Counties. Several Harpers can also be placed in this community.

- Mary Harper was baptized into the Welsh Neck Church in August 1779.
- Joseph Harper, eight years earlier, had surveyed 400 acres in the Welsh Neck along Crooked Creek (east side of the Pee Dee). Crooked Creek lay roughly half-way between Thompsons Creek (on the west side of the Pee Dee) and Pounceys Ferry just a few miles downriver.⁵³

While the distance between Solomon Harper and Anthony Pouncey on opposite sides of the Pee Dee was significant, the Welsh Neck Baptist Church could have been an intermediate gathering place. During this era, churches were few and far between. Furthermore, the presence of Mary and Joseph Harper so near Anthony Pouncey and his Welsh Tract associates is promising. Solomon, however, cannot yet be connected to either of them. Future research in old Craven County and Cheraw District may provide more evidence of a connection between Pouncey and all of these Harpers.

Anson County, North Carolina

Among Client’s files was a reference to a Solomon Harper in Anson County, North Carolina, in the 1740s. He served in Capt. Samuel Cobrin’s company of militia from an unknown county.⁵⁴ Because he is listed among the company’s married men and not among the “young men,” it must be assumed that he was already married and heading his own family. Timing is therefore important to determining if this could be the Solomon of Colleton by 1769.

Although the Cobrin list is undated, historians generally agree that it was created during the so-called “Spanish Alarm,” of 1748, when Spanish privateers were invading Carolina coastal towns. Indeed, the published list appears amid a collection of other documents, some likewise undated, during that year and for that purpose. If true, then the militiaman Solomon does not appear to be the man of Colleton. The married Solomon of 1748 was likely producing children during that decade. None of the proposed children of the latter Solomon were born until the late-1760s, according to Client’s family reconstruction. However, if the Solomon of 1769–1800 Colleton was an older man than the one who fathered Edward Harper, then the age would fit:

- Born by 1727.
- Married and serving in the militia by 1748.
- Died *ca.*1801 at about seventy-four years of age.

⁵³ For Mary’s baptism, see Glenn Pearson, “Welsh Neck Baptist Church, Part Two,” *Marlborough County, South Carolina, Genealogy* (http://www.sciway3.net/proctor/marlboro/church/Welsh_Neck_Baptist2.html). For Joseph’s grant in the Welsh Tract, see SCDAH, “Harper, Joseph”; citing “Series: S213184; Volume: 0015; Page: 00163; Item: 001. That survey does not place him at the mouth of Crooked Creek but rather along it.

⁵⁴ William L. Saunders, editor, *State Records of South Carolina*, vol. 22 (1904; reprint; N. Y.: AMS Press, 1968), 281–82.

Additional research is required before any conclusions concerning the Anson County man can be made.

PART TWO:

Methodology & New Research

As Client is aware, because the Colleton County region has suffered severe record losses over the centuries, so many of the resources on which genealogists rely heavily simply do not exist. Furthermore, the inadequate legal framework, the harsh realities of colonial life, and social norms all hampered “due diligence” in the civic responsibilities that modern man takes for granted. Lacking adequate legal and physical infrastructure in their own communities, people were forced to traverse the arduous and expensive distance to Charleston to record their transactions and utilize the judicial system. Many settlers could not, or simply did not, do so regularly, if at all. Finally, because historic county, district, and state boundaries were fluid, a single neighborhood could find itself within different geographic dominions at different times, thereby expanding the areas to study. Basic research approaches typically will not circumvent these obstacles. Pushing the project beyond the current stalemate requires a great deal more. Neither Solomon nor his family can be treated in isolation because they did not live in isolation. Theirs was a world girded by extensive kinships and commonalities. The *community* must therefore become the research target.

Our expanded approach follows several basis steps:

- Geographically place the primary individuals within the community as precisely as possible.
- Identify and research near-neighbors, who typically include unknown kinsmen.
- Identify and research other people with whom the primary targets interacted, regardless of proximity.
- Place the target communities within their historical and social context to understand the influences on our ancestors’ lives.
- Look for links to other communities and follow the same steps.

The neighborhoods in this case are defined by the earliest locations to which the name “Solomon Harper” is tied:

- Thomson’s Creek in Chesterfield, old Craven County, South Carolina, where a Solomon Harper received a land grant in 1764 (discussed above).
- Mary Dunn tract in Colleton County, which a Solomon bought in 1769.
- Henry Hyrne tract in Colleton County, which a Solomon of Beaufort bought and sold in 1773.
- James Stobo’s plantation in Colleton County, where a Solomon lived in 1774.

These locations seem disjointed and random on the surface, particularly since their precise locations were unknown to previous researchers. However, as the discussions below demonstrate, they were all in the same general area, with one possible exception, and all were connected via associates. Consider each location.

1769 Mary Dunn Tract (Little Saltcatcher, northwestern Colleton)

As mentioned above, the deed recording Solomon's first land purchase has not been found but is identified at its sale three decades later:

10 February 1797

St. Bartholomew Parish

Solomon and James Harper of St. Bartholomew's Parish Charleston District planters, to Richard Bryan: **part of a tract containing in all 100 acres conveyed to the above Solomon Harper by lease and release by Mary Dunn, 1 February 1769**, recorded in Book EEE: 142, on Harper's [branch] waters of Little Saltketchers. . . .

Mary Dunn is important because she made the first documented contact with Solomon and could therefore be a relative. Any member of her community could be as well. Because this community comprises Solomon's earliest known associates and neighbors, it assumes priority for detailed study.

The question of a relationship between Mary and Solomon is answered through the following series of records, which also explain the circumstances of land transactions:

2 December 1767⁵⁵

Granville County

"The following petitions were presented and read setting forth that they were Protestants and had lately arrived from Great Britain and Ireland on the encouragement of the Bounty given by the Act of General Assembly of this province passed 25 July 1761 and therefore pray the same and also warrants for their land (all 100 acres):"

Hugh McGibbon

George Smith

Thomas Lowe

Robert Reid

Hugh McDougall

William Todd

David Duncan

David Mitchell

James Smith

John Smith

Alexander Hendrick

[continued next page]

Margaret Dougal

David Hewson

Mary Dirkie

Jane Manson

Ann Spradling

Barbara Sutherland

William Taylor

Daniel Prosser

Edward Bowling

Richard Lewis

Jane Jefferet

⁵⁵ Brent H. Holcomb, *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals*, vol. 6, 1766–1770 (Columbia, S. C.: SCMAR, 1977), 130–31. At this time Granville County encompassed all land from the westward side of the Saltcatcher west to the Savannah River and included Prince William Parish.

[continued from previous page]

Patrick Smily	Jeremiah Simmons
Alexander Campbell	Elizabeth Chamson
John Arbuche	Ann Gilbert
John Stuart	Junian [<i>sic</i>] Gilbert
Robert Wilson	Ann Barry
William McKewn	Mary Murry
Margaret Shelburne	Catherine Cotteral
Hannah Price	Mary Connolly
Margaret Summerville	Honor McGrath
Isabell Brown	Elizabeth Burk
Jane Voice	Mary Dunn
Isabel Taylor	Catherine Power
Barbara Cooper	Thomas Cunningham

12 December 1767

Charles Town

“The Clerk reported to His Excellency that agreeable to his Orders he had been on Board the ship *Pearl* Walter Buckanan Master and had sworn the passengers arrived here from Scotland and Ireland agreeable to a List he delivered into the Board. The following Petitions from the following Persons were presented and read setting forth that they were Protestants and lately arrived.... [same as above] . . . Ordered that the Secretary do prepare Warrants of Survey accordingly. And that the Public Treasurer do pay the Bounties of four pound sterling for each of them to Henry Laurens, Esq. on behalf of the owners of the ship they came over in towards payment of the passages and the remaining twenty shillings to themselves agreeable to the directions of the said Act on Mr. Laurens entering into Security to repay the Bounty he shall receive if he does not produce Certificates in favor of them as required by the said Act.”⁵⁶ *Same list of names as above.*

Mary was a recent immigrant. South Carolina passed the so-called “Bounty Act” of 1761 specifically to induce poor Protestants to settle and improve the Carolina wilds. After their indentures were served, they could petition for a land grant (bounty) and a cash allowance for tools and supplies for clearing land and building a home.⁵⁷ Mary located her 100-acre bounty, granted 12 December 1768, on the Little Saltcatcher.⁵⁸

The circumstances of Mary’s arrival and land transactions discount a genealogical connection to Solomon. Originally imported as servants by Charleston merchant Henry Laurens, Mary and her fellow transportees were very soon released from their obligation after abuse charges surfaced. They were given all the rights of newly arrived settlers. Released so abruptly into a strange society and land, they – and particularly the

⁵⁶ Jane Revill, *A Compilation of the Original Lists of Protestant Immigrants to South Carolina, 1763–1773* (Columbia, South Carolina Genealogical Publishing Company, 1939), 85–87 citing South Carolina Council Journal, 33: 306–11.

⁵⁷ For a detailed explanation of the Bounty Act and the immigrants who participated in it, see Revill, *A Compilation of the Original Lists of Protestant Immigrants To South Carolina, 1763–1773*.

⁵⁸ SCDAH; “Dunn, Mary”; citing Series: S213190; Volume: 0020; Page: 00153.

females – understandably sought to exchange their uncleared land for cash.⁵⁹ Mary disappears from record after the sale to Solomon.

One question, however, cannot be so readily answered: why Mary chose land in Colleton County. As the summary below shows, she obviously did not do so simply because her fellow immigrants chose Colleton. They did not concentrate their bounties in a single locale but scattered them throughout four counties (all surveyed in 1768):⁶⁰

Berkley County:

Ann Barry, Edisto River⁶¹
 Edward Bowling, Pon Pon River and Sandy Run⁶²
 Elizabeth Chamson, Sandy River⁶³
 Alexander Hendrick, between Broad and Saluda Rivers⁶⁴
 Richard Lewis, St. John's Parish⁶⁵
 William McKewn, Edisto River⁶⁶
 Barbara Southerland, Long [?] Branch⁶⁷
 William Todd, forks of the Edisto⁶⁸

Colleton County:

Ann Gilbert, near forks of Saltcatchers joining Julian Gilbert⁶⁹
 Julian Gilbert, forks of Saltcatchers joining Ann Gilbert⁷⁰
 Jane Jefferet, St. Bartholomew Parish⁷¹
 Mary Shelburne, Coosahatchie River⁷²
 John Smith, Stevens Creek⁷³
 James Smith, Saltcatchers⁷⁴
 Ann Spradling, Saltcatchers adjoining Roberts Barony⁷⁵
 Isabel Taylor, Mountain Creek and Savannah River⁷⁶

Craven County:

Alexander Campbell, Little Fishin Creek, Cattapaw River⁷⁷

⁵⁹ Philip M. Hamer, editor, *The Papers of Henry Laurens, 1765–1768* (Columbia, S. C.: South Carolina Historical Society, 1968), 513–14. Ian C. Graham, *Colonists from Scotland: Emigration to North America, 1707–1783* (Ithaca, New York: The American Historical Association, 1956), 100.

⁶⁰ Nine bounties could not be positively placed.

⁶¹ SCDAAH; "Barry, Ann"; citing Series: S213019; Volume: 0018; Page: 00042.

⁶² Ibid., "Bowling, Edward"; citing Series: S111001; Volume: 0008; Page: 00473; Item: 002.

⁶³ Ibid., "Chamson, Elizabeth"; citing Series: S213019; Volume: 0017; Page: 00402.

⁶⁴ Ibid., "Hendrick, Alexander"; citing Series: S213019; Volume: 0017; Page: 00570.

⁶⁵ Ibid., "Lewis, Richard"; citing Series: S213019; Volume: 0020; Page: 00098.

⁶⁶ Ibid., "McKewn, William"; citing Series: S213019; Volume: 0018; Page: 00065.

⁶⁷ Ibid., "Southerland, Barbara"; citing Series: S213019; Volume: 0020; Page: 00013.

⁶⁸ Ibid., "Todd, William"; citing Series: S213019; Volume: 0020; Page: 00113.

⁶⁹ Ibid., "Gilbert, Ann"; citing Series: S213019; Volume: 0020; Page: 00057.

⁷⁰ Ibid., "Gilbert, Julian"; citing Series: S111001; Volume: 0008; Page: 00352; Item: 003.

⁷¹ Ibid., "Jefferet, Jane"; citing Series: S213019; Volume: 0020; Page: 00266.

⁷² Ibid., "Shelburne, Mary"; citing Series: S213019; Volume: 0020; Page: 00163.

⁷³ Ibid., "Smith, John"; citing Series: S111011; Volume: 0008; Page: 00318; Item: 001.

⁷⁴ Ibid., "Smith, James"; citing Series: S213019; Volume: 0020; Page: 00302.

⁷⁵ Ibid., "Spradling, Ann"; citing Series: S213019; Volume: 0020; Page: 00157.

⁷⁶ Ibid., "Taylor, Ann"; citing Series: S111011; Volume: 0008; Page: 00319; Item: 004.

Barbara Cooper, Susaboles Creek⁷⁸
 Thomas Lowe, forks of the Edisto⁷⁹
 David Mitchell, forks of the Edisto joining Thomas Lowe⁸⁰
 Mary Murray, Twenty Five Mile Creek⁸¹
 Catherine Power, Dry Creek⁸²
 Margaret (Mary) Summerville, fork of Long Canes⁸³
 Jane Voice, waters of Tyger River⁸⁴
 Robert Wilson, Rocky Creek⁸⁵

Granville County:

John Arbutcke, Savannah River⁸⁶
 Elizabeth Burk, Reedy Creek⁸⁷
 Catherine Cottrell, Prince William Parish joining Stephen Drayton⁸⁸
 Thomas Cunningham, waters of Saltcatchers⁸⁹
 Mary Dirkie, Beaverdam Creek⁹⁰
 Margaret Dougal, Savannah River⁹¹
 David Duncan, near Cedar and Turkey Creeks⁹²
 Hugh McDougall, north side of Saluda⁹³
 Hannah [Honor] McGrath, Beaverdam Creek of Savannah River⁹⁴
 Hannah Price [Pride], Beaverdam Creek of Savannah River joining
 "Honor" McGrath⁹⁵
 Daniel Prosser, Long Cane Creek⁹⁶
 Robert Reid, Old Three Runs⁹⁷
 George Smith, Turkey Creek of Savannah River⁹⁸

Of these far-flung locations, only five were along the Saltcatchers. (Jane Jefferet's land could not be placed.) Three of these – Ann Spradling, Julian Gilbert, and Ann Gilbert – located lands close to Mary. She certainly could have been related to any of them, but that possibility is outside the scope of this project.

⁷⁷ Ibid., "Campbell, Alexander"; citing Series: S213184; Volume: 0036; Page: 00158; Item: 002.

⁷⁸ Ibid., "Cooper, Barbara"; citing Series: S213019; Volume: 0030; Page: 00449.

⁷⁹ Ibid., "Lowe, Thomas"; citing Series: S213019; Volume: 0020; Page: 00099.

⁸⁰ Ibid., "Mitchell, David"; citing Series: S213019; Volume: 0020; Page: 00119.

⁸¹ Ibid., "Murray, Mary"; citing Series: S213019; Volume: 0020; Page: 00171.

⁸² Ibid., "Power, Catherine"; citing Series: S213184; Volume: 0019; Page: 00257; Item: 03.

⁸³ Ibid., "Summerville, Mary"; citing Series: S213184; Volume: 0015; Page: 00366.

⁸⁴ Ibid., "Voice, Jane"; citing Series: S213019; Volume: 0020; Page: 00142.

⁸⁵ Ibid., "Wilson, Robert"; citing Series: S213019; Volume: 0017; Page: 00266.

⁸⁶ Ibid., "Arbutcke, John"; citing Series: S213019; Volume: 0020; Page: 00419.

⁸⁷ Ibid., "Burke, Elizabeth"; citing Series: S213019; Volume: 0020; Page: 00053.

⁸⁸ Ibid., "Cottrell, Catherine"; citing Series: S213184; Volume: 0014; Page: 00197; Item: 02.

⁸⁹ Ibid., "Cunningham, Thomas"; citing Series: S213019; Volume: 0020; Page: 00164.

⁹⁰ Ibid., "Dirkie, Mary"; citing Series: S213184; Volume: 0014; Page: 00408; Item: 02.

⁹¹ Ibid., "Dougal, Margaret"; citing Series: S111001; Volume: 0008; Page: 00192; Item: 005.

⁹² Ibid., "Duncan, David"; citing Series: S213019; Volume: 0017; Page: 00541.

⁹³ Ibid., "McDougall, Hugh"; citing Series: S213184; Volume: 0018; Page: 00172; Item: 03.

⁹⁴ Ibid., "McGrah, Hannah"; citing Series: S213184; Volume: 0018; Page: 00236; Item: 02.

⁹⁵ Ibid., "Pride, Hannah"; citing Series: S213019; Volume: 0018; Page: 00011.

⁹⁶ Ibid., "Prosser, Daniel"; citing Series: S213019; Volume: 0017; Page: 00583.

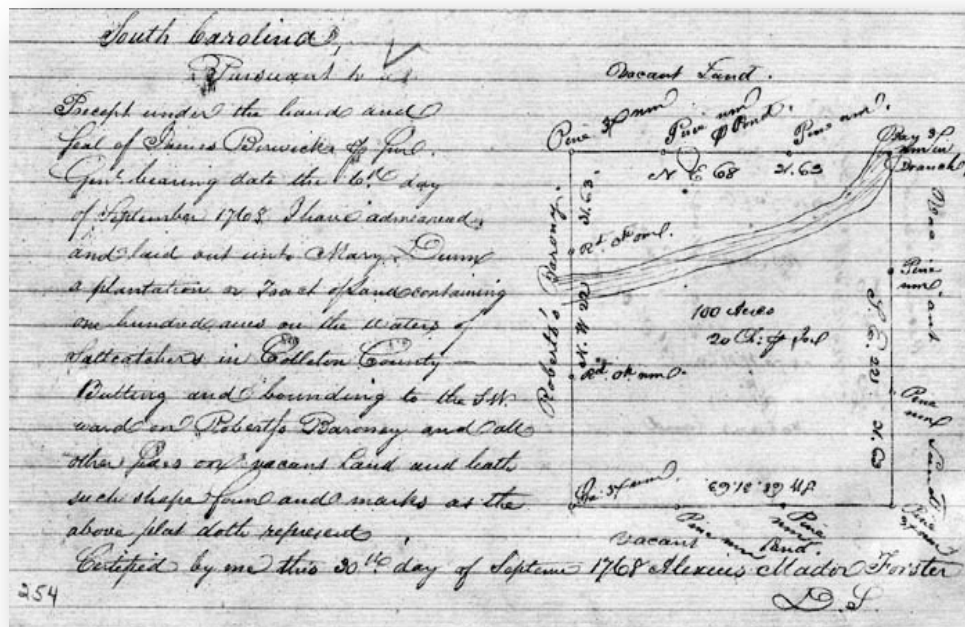
⁹⁷ Ibid., "Reid, Robert"; citing Series: S213184; Volume: 0020; Page: 00051.

⁹⁸ Ibid., "Smith, George"; citing Series: S213019; Volume: 0020; Page: 00250.

Although Solomon had no apparent kinship with Mary Dunn, he chose her land for a reason. Typically, that reason involved family or friends. Client believes Solomon's son Edward was born near Island [Irelandton] Creek in 1767. If true, Solomon was there two years before buying the Dunn land. *Who was already living there who could have induced him to settle among them, and who moved into that area at the same time?* Those individuals are the most promising candidates for kinsmen or associates who can be used to establish his pre-Colleton origins. Again, land work must provide answers.

Only one neighbor was referenced in Mary Dunn's survey and it was not a person but an entity: "Roberts Barony." John Roberts of Deans Court, County Middlesex, England, purchased six South Carolina baronies of 1200 acres each between 1731 and 1735, including the one joining Mary Dunn. The survey is shown in Figure 5.

FIGURE 5
Mary Dunn Survey Plat⁹⁹



12 March 1732

Granville County

"By virtue of a precept to me directed by James St. John Esq^r. his Majesties Suv^r General bearing date the 12th day of March 1732[,] I have admeasured and laid out unto John Gascoigne, Esq^r, Agent for John Roberts Esq^r., a plantation or tract of land Containing twelve thousand acres in Granville County upon the Eastern Branch of Saltcatcher River Butting and Bounding on all sides on Lands not laid out. . ." Signed John Andrew, Deputy Surveyor.

⁹⁹ See fn. 46.

An initial search of digitized plats identified thirty other people who surveyed land adjoining or very near Roberts Barony before and soon after (within five years) Solomon acquired Mary's land. Those individuals are considered to be his earliest core associates who must be included in future efforts to backtrack him.¹⁰⁰

Thomas Akin	1774	William Harvey	1739
Benjamin Boatright	1768	Rebecca Holmes	1770
William Buchannan	1743	David Jeffers/Jeffreys	1739
Miles Brewton	1760	Joseph Johnson	1759
Andrew Deveaux	1769	John Mitchell	1769
James Donnom	1768	John Pond	1768
Joseph Fidler	1739	Joseph Rhem	1770
George Ford	1767	William Sanders	1769
Tobias Ford	1774	John Smyley	1772
Edward Forshaw	1773	William Clay Snipes	1769
Alexis Mador Forster	1772	Ann Spradling	1769
Ann Gilbert	1768	William Starling	1771
Julian Gilbert	1768	James Stobo	1774
Joseph Glover	1758	James Wilson	1769
Joseph Horley/Harley	1739	George Whitley	1770

The following individuals surveyed tracts along the Saltcatcher about the time Solomon first arrived, but their proximity to Roberts's Barony has not been established.

George Beasinger	1769	John Irvine	1769
George Bee	1769	Thomas Jones	1772
Thomas Bee	1768	Hugh Lewis	1774
Moses Bennett	1768	Christopher Peters	1774
Wm. Blake	1769	John Roberts	1770
Benjamin Bootrite/Boatright	1768	William Smith	1774
Elizabeth Day	1768	Henry Wilson	1768
Daniel Dreaze	1767	George Warren	1767
Thomas Ford	1768		

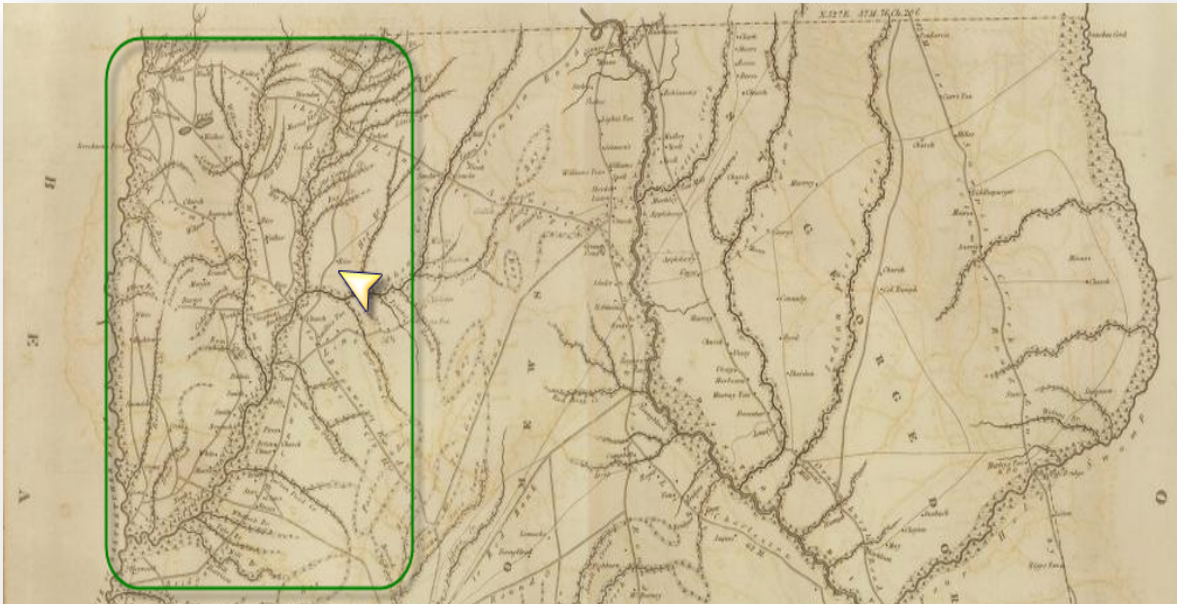
This community ran generally from the forks of the Great and Little Saltcatcher north and northeast past Buckhead Ford toward the county line. The region is highlighted in Figure 6 on the next page, with an arrow denoting the location Client previously identified as Solomon Harper's Buckhead land. As evidenced in the above surveys, settlement in the region accelerated in the 1760s, when Solomon appears.

1773 Henry Hyrne Land (unknown location, Colleton County)

Four years after purchasing the Mary Dunn land, a Solomon Harper bought and sold a larger tract:

¹⁰⁰ For these and other community plats, see SCDAH; Series: 213190 and S213184.

FIGURE 6
Saltcatcher Region With Solomon Harper Land ¹⁰¹



20 & 21 September 1773

Colleton County

Henry Hyrne of St. Bartholomew Parish to **Solomon Harper of Prince William Parish**, planter £49.15: a tract of 620 [*sic*] acres in Colleton County adjoining Abraham Colson and Thomas Ford, originally surveyed 7 January 1737 and laid out to Stephen Nichols and on 2 May 1772 granted to sd. Hyrne. Signed Henry Hyrne and Mary Ann Hyrne. Witnesses: Richard Bohun Baker and Jno. Bellinger. Proved 23 August 1774 [*sic*] by John Bellinger in Charles Town District before William Nesbitt, J. P. Recorded 4 April 1774.¹⁰²

22 & 23 October 1773

Prince William Parish, Colleton County

Solomon Harper of Prince William Parish, Colleton [*sic*] County, planter, to Hannah McCants of St. Bartholomew Parish, widow, £1340: a tract of 670 acres adjoining land laid out for Thomas Ford. . . . Signed: **Solomon Harper and Elinor (+) Harper**. Witnesses: Jesse Day, Henry Van Bebber, and John Goodbe. Proven 23 November 1773 by Jesse Day before Charles Brown, J.P. Beaufort District. Recorded 4 April 1774.¹⁰³

¹⁰¹ "Colleton District, South Carolina. Surveyed By Saml. A. Ruddock, 1820," *David Rumsey Map Collection* (<http://DavidRumsey.com>).

¹⁰² Holcomb Report, citing Charleston Co. Deeds F-4: 433-38.

¹⁰³ *Ibid.*, citing Charleston Deeds F-4: 483-88.

These documents challenge conclusions by previous researchers. First, they identify Solomon as a resident of Prince William Parish (Beaufort County), not St. Bartholomew (Colleton County), where he was thought to be living at the time. Second, the location of this land was unknown. Third, the circumstances of its quick turnaround, and the extreme profit he made, are curious—and usually involve a genealogically significant circumstance. Each of these points needs closer examination:

- Residence

Both documents identify Solomon as a Prince William resident, lessening the possibility that it was a recording mistake. Furthermore, two of the witnesses to the October sale belonged to Prince William families (both witnesses of the first document were Hyrne associates). The Van Bibbers lived at Pocotaligo, where Jacob Van Bibber's tavern served as a center of the community. The residence of the Days could not be pinpointed, but Jesse proved the document in *Beaufort County*, where Prince William is located.¹⁰⁴ The justice of the peace, Charles Brown, owned land near the forks of the Saltcatcher River and on Saltcatcher Swamp in Prince William.¹⁰⁵ Both locations are in the same extended neighborhood just across the Great Saltcatcher River from Solomon's 1769 community.

Even though the Solomon Harper of 1773 was a Prince William Parish resident, he was not living far from the Dunn tract. Except in rainy seasons, the river boundary between the two parishes was no obstacle to the people who daily crossed it and to the families who lived on both sides of it. However, it cannot be claimed at this point that the two Solomons are the same man.

- Location

Where was the Hyrne land that Solomon of Prince William Parish chose to purchase? The deeds do not provide enough details to identify it. The original survey of this land, which had been granted to Stephen Nichols (see abstract below and Figure 7 n next page) notes an unnamed creek running through the bottom of the property.

"Pursuant to a precept to me directed by James St. John Esqr Surveyor General I have admeasured and Laid out unto Mr Stephen Nickols a Plantation or tract of Land Containing Six hundred and Seventy acres Situate lying & being in Colleton County Butting & bounding to the South Westward & South Eastward on Vacant land N. W ward on Abraham Colsons Land NE ward part on Vacant land & part on land laid out to Mr Thomas Ford. . ." 7 January 1737. Nathaniel Dean, Deputy Surveyor.

¹⁰⁴ Members of the family attended Stoney Creek Presbyterian Church at Pocotaligo. See George Howe, *History of the Presbyterian Church in South Carolina*, volume 1 (Columbia, South Carolina: J. W. Duffie, 1883), 392. Jacob witnessed a 1777 transaction between John Audebert of St. Peters Parish to William Bower of Prince William for land on a branch of Coosawhatchie Swamp in the same area. See Holcomb, *Deeds Abstracts, 1776-1783*, 164; citing Deeds E-5: 36.

¹⁰⁵ Holcomb, *Deed Abstracts 1776-1783*, 77-8, citing Deeds B-5 37-40. Nothing further has been found on John Goodbee.

Ashley River in modern Dorchester County. By the time he sold the land to Solomon, he was living on the Ashpoo River in Colleton, west of Willtown, in the vicinity of “Bellingers,” highlighted in Figure 8.

FIGURE 8
Henry Hyrne Community¹⁰⁹



Henry Hyrne owned several tracts of land in Colleton:

27 May 1777

Colleton County

Henry Hyrne of St. Bartholomew, planter to James Parsons of Charlestown, Esquire, 10 shillings: tract in St. Bartholomew on south side of the southern branch of Ashepoo River at Hyrnes Landing. Witnesses: John Dilgare, Jacob Dilgare, and James Ballentine.¹¹⁰

1 March 1778

Colleton County

William Atkins of St. Bartholomew's Parish, planter, residuary devisee of James Atkins of said parish, deceased planter, to **Henry Hyrne** of same, Esquire, planter, £7000 South Carolina money: 330 acres on Cuckolds Creek

¹⁰⁹ "Colleton District, South Carolina," *David Rumsey Map Collection* (<http://DavidRumsey.com>).

¹¹⁰ Brent H. Holcomb, *Deed Abstracts, 1773-1778*: (Columbia, S. C.: SCMAR, 1993), 239, citing Charleston Deeds X-4: 82-3.

adjoining Thomas Hutchison and William Gardner. Witnesses: Robt. Testard, Aedims Burke, and John Mouatt.¹¹¹

20 & 21 August 1778

Colleton County

Henry Hyrne of St. Bartholomews Parish Esquire, to Edmund Massenbird Hyrne of same, Esquire, £12350 South Carolina money: 147 acres in St. Bartholomew's Parish joining land lately in possession of James Atkins, Cuckolds Creek, and land of Thomas Hutchinson, and William Gardner. Witnesses: J. Ladson, Isaac Weatherby and Willm. Holiday.¹¹²

Assuming Hyrne would have purchased land in the same Colleton area, it could be concluded that the tract he sold to Harper lay in the region between his home on the Ashpoo and Cuckold Creek, to the west, on the Prince William Parish border. If this is the correct location, this would be the first instance of a Solomon Harper acting so far south of the Mary Dunn tract.

- Sale to Hannah McCants

Hannah McCants, who purchased the Hyrne tract from Solomon, can help understand where the tract was located. She is also important given the curious nature of the transaction. Solomon purchased the tract for £49 in September (roughly \$6,977 modern value). The next month, he sold it to Hannah for £1340 (roughly \$190,720). His profit margin was staggering. Until the land can be precisely located and more thoroughly researched—and the original deeds consulted to ensure the accuracy of the published abstracts—an explanation cannot be offered.

Some descendants believe Hannah Andrews married William McCants about 1753 in Williamsburg Township, Craven County. She may have been the widow of another man, surnamed Murphy, at the time. Colleton research supports William as her husband. A man of the name owned land in the vicinity of Jacksonboro, a few miles up the PonPon River from Willtown. He is also said to have lived in the vicinity of Parker's Ferry on the Edisto River, north of Jacksonboro, where he operated a successful tannery and died in 1763.¹¹³

Depending upon precise locations, which are not currently known, the McCants appear to have lived between twelve and eighteen miles from the Mary Dunn tract. Additional

¹¹¹ *Ibid.*, 233; citing Charleston Deeds W-4: 504-7.

¹¹² Brent H. Holcomb, *South Carolina Deed Abstracts, 1776-1783, C-4 through H-5* (Columbia, S. C.: SCMAR, 1994), 28; citing Charleston Deeds Y-4: 426-9.

¹¹³ See posting titled "William McCants, came to South Carolina in 1718," *MyFamily* (<http://boards.ancestry.myfamily.com/surnames.mccants/132/mb.ashx>). Also, Josephine L. Bass and Becky Bonner, "Hannah Andrews," *My Southern Family* ([#11061](http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mysouthernfamily/myff/d0021/g0000014.html)). Josie Bass, "Re: [SC] McNISH - GOTEA? DANNELLEY - MUNNERLYN," *SC-Genealogy-L Archives* (<http://newsarch.rootsweb.com/th/read/SC-Genealogy/2000-11/0974903525>).

research is required to more precisely locate the Hyrne–Harper–McCants land and explain Solomon’s brief involvement with it.

1774 James Stobo Plantation (northwestern Colleton)

Four months after “Solomon Harper, planter” sold the Hyrne tract, a “Selomon Harper” was living on the property of another person:

28 February 1774

Colleton County

In possession of **Selomon Harper**, *living on James Stobo’s Plantation*, near Island Creek in Bartholomew’s Parish, a cream coloured grey gelding, about 13 Hands high branded with three Hearte on the near Jaw and Shoulder. Any person claiming the said stray Gelding must prove the property before James Stobo.¹¹⁴

If these are one and the same man, then residency on Stobo’s property is curious because “Solomon Harper, planter” still owned the Mary Dunn tract. If they are the same man, then why he was not living on his own land and what was the nature of his relationship to Stobo are essential questions to answer—particularly given the possibility of different Solomons operating in the county.

James Stobo belonged to another prominent Colleton County family, headed by the Scottish immigrant Archibald, who had moved to Willtown from Charleston in 1704. As Client is aware, Willtown was located on the east side of the South Edisto River about thirty miles from Charleston. Founded in the 1690s and first known as New London, Willtown served as a buffer between the coastal settlements and the Indians and was heavily involved in trade with the Indians. The Stobos played a central role in its development in the first half of the 18th century, during which Archibald ministered the Presbyterian Church and James acquired large tracts throughout Colleton and into surrounding counties. James was particularly noted for his rice operation and high-quality indigo. He died in 1780, leaving a substantial estate that included 124 slaves.¹¹⁵

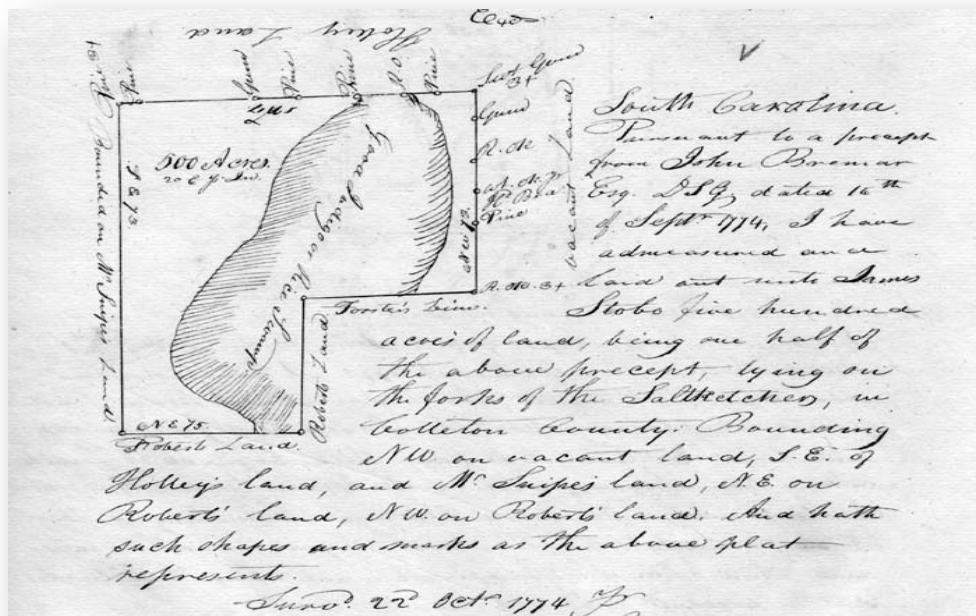
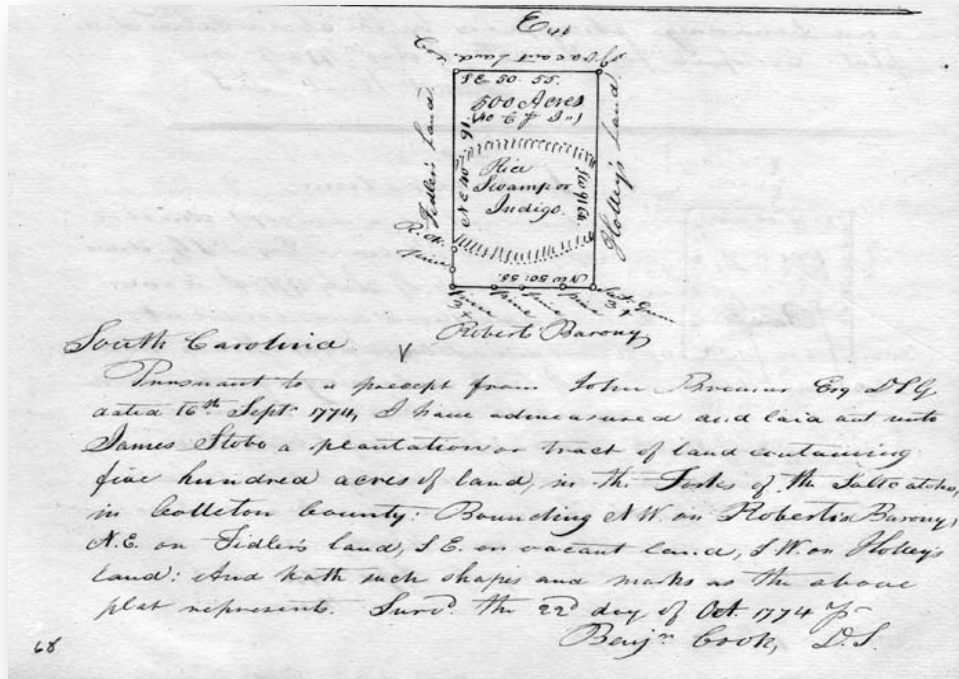
By the time Solomon Harper appeared in Colleton, James owned almost 4,400 acres there and in adjoining Granville on which he ran his enterprises.¹¹⁶ On which one Solomon lived in 1774 is unclear at this point. However, Stobo did own two tracts in the Saltcatcher region, as per the following surveys in Figure 9 on the next page.

¹¹⁴ Transcript provided by Client, citing *The South Carolina Gazette*, no publication data or page number.

¹¹⁵ Frederick Lewis Weis, *The Colonial Clergy of Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina* (Boston, Massachusetts Descendants of the Colonial Clergy, 1976), 91. Martha Zierden, Suzanne Linder, and Ronald Anthony, *Willtown; an Archaeological and Historical Perspective* (Charleston, S. C.: The Charleston Museum, 1999).

¹¹⁶ Zierden, Linder, and Anthony, *Willtown*, 133.

FIGURE 9
James Stobo Plats, 1774¹¹⁷



¹¹⁷ SCDAB; "Stobo, James"; citing "Series: S213184; Volume: 0021; Page: 00135; Item: 02. Ibid; citing Series: S213184; Volume: 0021; Page: 00132; Item: 02.

These land descriptions—between the forks of the Saltcatchers and adjoining Robert’s Barony—place the tracts very near the Mary Dunn land. The notation “Rice Swamp or Indigo” on the first survey indicates the land was under the cultivation of crops for which Stobo was so well known. Odds are good that the Solomon who lived on Stobo’s plantation lived on that particular plantation.

SUGGESTIONS FOR CONTINUED RESEARCH

The following path for continuing research is recommended:

1. The apparent differences among the Solomon references must be properly sorted before efforts can successfully track Client’s lineage out of Colleton County. The task will require work in the Georgia counties in which the 1815 and 1818 Solomons died, as well as study of nineteenth-century Colleton records that have not been consulted. Because the project covers so much geographic ground, a minimum of eighty hours will be required.
2. The three primary communities—Thomsons Creek, the Mary Dunn tract of Little Saltcatcher, and the uncertain Hyrne tract—must be reconstructed. This is the most promising means of identifying the intimate Harper neighbors who are likely to be kinsmen and pre-Colleton associates. Each should be worked separately, with the Dunn community assuming a priority. The work on James Stobo could be included with the Hyrne work. Because county-level records are so sparse, this phase will rely heavily upon lesser-used resources such as survey plats, military pension files, and personal papers. Each community would require eighty or so hours to fully investigate.

The information generated by these projects will more precisely direct the work beyond Colleton and South Carolina.

— Rachal Mills Lennon, CG

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