

**WILLIAM HORSLEY and HANNAH RYAN**  
**Parents of**  
**THEOPHILUS T. HORSLEY, JOHN B. HORSLEY, and MARY HORSLEY PARTON**

by Joan Horsley  
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Revised and expanded from  
“Theophilus T. Horsley and John B. Horsley: Who Were Their Parents?”  
by Joan Horsley - 2010

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## FAMILY of WILLIAM HORSLEY and HANNAH RYAN Overview

Father: **WILLIAM HORSLEY** [aka "William Horsley of Burke"]

Born: Abt. 1770-1775, possibly in Maryland

Married: Abt. 1801, place unknown - **HANNAH RYAN**

Residence: 1808 Burke Co, NC - Tax List as "Wm. Hoslee" - 1 poll, no land, no slaves

*[Box: Tax for Burke Co. 1782-1894, Folder: 1808, Ref: C.R.014.703.2, NC Archives]*

He may be the "William Hasley" in Frederick Co, MD in the 1800 census with 1 male age 26-44, 14 slaves, which could indicate he was an overseer. *[US Census 1800, NARA M32, Roll 10, p. 224]*

No Frederick County deed record of land ownership was found *[Frederick Deed Book Index 1778-1803, MSA CE 455-2]*, but tax lists have not yet been checked. If William of Burke Co, NC was also an overseer, this could account for his owning no land or slaves on the 1808 Burke Co. tax list.

DNA testing supports the research evidence that William of Burke was not the son of James Horsley Jr. (b. 1731, Queen Anne's Co, MD), nor was he William N. Horsley of York Co, SC, a great-grandson of James Jr. The DNA tests show that the line of William Horsley of Burke Co, NC was related to the line of James Horsley Jr. The most recent common ancestor shared by the two lines most likely was within 11-13 generations ago, around 1600. (For more Horsley family research, see reports at: <[www.joanhorsley.org](http://www.joanhorsley.org)>)

Died: Abt. 1809, Burke Co, NC

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Mother: **HANNAH RYAN**

Born: 3 Apr 1780 in South Carolina (Charleston?)

Hannah's father was James Ryan who immigrated to the U.S. in 1780, then "was killed on a ship out of Bristol at Charleston that same year." Hannah's mother was also named Hannah. *[Ryan information from Maggie Laurenz post 30 Mar 2005 to RootsWeb Allison Mail List, citing Ryan Family Bible]* It is not yet known if, when, or where Hannah's mother re-married after James Ryan's death.

Married:

1) Abt. 1801, place unknown - **WILLIAM HORSLEY**

2) 2 Jan 1811, Burke Co, NC - **BURCH ALLISON**: b. 24 Feb 1764, Frederick Co, MD in the part that became Montgomery Co. in 1776 *[Rev War Pension File S6493]*; married 2nd (or 3rd?)

"Hannah Hostley" (sic, Horsley) by bond in Burke Co, NC; *[Burke County Marriage Bonds. compiled by W. D. Floyd for Burke County NCGenWeb Project]*; d. 1848, McDowell Co, NC, formed from Burke 1842.

Revolutionary War soldier, Pension File S6493, served from Maryland. Burch Allison and Hannah had at least one child, Anna Allison [*Ryan Family Bible*] who married John Parton Jr. (brother of Moses Parton, see below) in addition to Burch Allison's being the stepfather of William and Hannah Horsley's children.

Died: After 1850

Hannah, as Hannah Allison, last appears in censuses in 1850 in McDowell Co, NC, formed primarily from western Burke Co. in 1842.

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### Children of William Horsley and Hannah Ryan

All children were born in North Carolina according to censuses, presumably in Burke County, the only NC county found so far with an early Horsley family.

#### 1. THEOPHILUS T. HORSLEY

Born: Abt. 1803, of Burke Co, NC [*1850 census, Benton Co, AL*]

Married: Abt. 1824 - Jane (b. Abt. 1805, NC [*1850 census, Benton Co, AL*]; d. Aft. 1850, Benton/Calhoun Co, AL, last known residence)

Resided: GA by 1825 [*1850 census lists birth of eldest son 1825, GA*]; Habersham Co, GA by 1832 [*James F. Smith. Cherokee Land Lottery. p 283*]; Benton/Calhoun Co, AL by 1838 [*AL Land Grant Doc #3318, General Land Office Records, US-BLM*]

Died: Aft. 1850, Benton/Calhoun Co, AL (last known residence)

#### 2. JOHN B. HORSLEY

Born: 25 Jul 1806, of Burke Co, NC

[*Date from Amos R. Horsley Family Bible, copied in Scott and Horsley, Horsley Families of America (1986) p. 140*]

Marr: 22 Sep 1825, York Co, SC - Pamela "Permelia" Macaw HUFF, daughter of Jonathan & Agatha Huff (Pamela b. 27 Mar 1804, York Co, SC; d. 3 Apr 1888, Carroll Co, GA)

[*Dates from Amos R. Horsley Family Bible copied in Scott and Horsley, Horsley Families of America (1986) p. 136, 140*]  
Resided: York Co, SC 1825-1839 [*YDBM:489*]; Benton/Calhoun Co, AL by 1840 [*1840 census*]; Carroll Co, GA by 1850 [*1850 census*]

Died: Aft. 1860, Greene Co, AR (last known residence) [*1860 census*]

#### 3. MARY S. HORSLEY

Born: Abt. 1808, Burke Co, NC

Marr: 19 Feb 1828, Burke Co, NC - Moses PARTON [*Marriage Bonds, Box 3, NC Archives*], son of John Parton Sr. (Moses b. 1806, NC; d. Aft. 1880, Sevier Co, TN)

Resided: Burke Co, NC thru 1830; York Co, SC by 1840 in the same neighborhood where her brother John B. Horsley lived 1825-1839; Greene Co, TN by 1850; Sevier Co, TN by 1860 (only the 1870 census gives a middle initial - "S") [*Dates, places from US censuses*]

Died: Aft. 1880, Sevier Co, TN

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## Theophilus T. Horsley and John B. Horsley: Who Were Their Parents? The Question Is Answered

At last we can answer the question, "Who were the parents of Theophilus T. Horsley and John B. Horsley?" Their modern-day descendants have assumed they were brothers [*Scott and Horsley, Horsley Families of America (1986) p. 19*], which was supported by DNA tests in March 2011. Recent research has discovered that the brothers also had a sister, Mary Horsley, recorded as Mary Hasley when she married Moses Parton in Burke County, NC by bond of 19 Feb 1828. [*Burke Co, NC Marriage Bonds, Box 3, NC Archives; "Moses Partin" and "Marey Hasley" also spelled "Hosley"*]

The father of Theophilus T., John B., and Mary Horsley was named William Horsley. He lived in Burke County, NC by at least 1808, the approximate year Mary was born. [*Burke Co. Tax Lists 1782-1894, Folder 1808, Ref: C.R.014.703.2, NC Archives*] William's name on that year's tax list is spelled "Hoslee" for "Hosley," a commonly-found pronunciation and spelling of Horsley at that time. The family probably lived in Burke County when Theophilus and John B. were born c1803 and 1806 respectively, since censuses list each one as born in North Carolina. William may have come to Burke County, NC from Frederick County, MD, where a "William Hasley" is recorded in the 1800 census, age 26-44, unmarried, and apparently an overseer of 14 slaves. DNA testing confirmed the records research evidence that the siblings' father William Horsley of Burke County, NC was not the son of James Horsley Jr. (b. 1731, MD), nor was he William N. Horsley of York County, SC, a great-grandson of James Jr. However, DNA shows the line of William Horsley of Burke and the line of James Horsley Jr. were related. They most likely shared their last ancestor in common within 11-13 generations ago, or no more recently than James Horsley Sr.'s great-grandfather born about 1600.

John B., Theophilus, and Mary's mother was Hannah Ryan, daughter of James and Hannah Ryan. James Ryan immigrated to the United States in 1780 and "was killed on a ship out of Bristol at Charleston that same year." His daughter Hannah was born 3 Apr 1780 in South Carolina, perhaps in or near Charleston. [*Ryan information from Maggie Laurenz post 30 Mar 2005 to RootsWeb Allison Mail List, citing Ryan Family Bible*] It is not yet known if, when, or where her mother re-married, nor is it known where Hannah married William Horsley, but they probably married about 1801.

William Horsley likely died about 1809, as he is not listed in the 1810 census. His widow Hannah then married Burch Allison by bond dated 2 Jan 1811 in Burke County. [*Burke County Marriage Bonds. compiled by W. D. Floyd for Burke Co. NCGenWeb Project; name spelled "Hostley"*] Burch Allison, a Revolutionary War soldier, was born 24 Feb 1764 [*Rev War Pension File S6493*] and had grown children from a previous marriage. Hannah and Burch had at least one child together, Anna Allison, who later married John Parton, a brother of Mary Horsley's husband Moses Parton.

The Allison family, including Burch's stepchildren John B., Theophilus T., and Mary Horsley, continued to live in Burke County, NC near Old Fort, just east of today's Asheville, NC. In 1842 that area became McDowell County, where according to online files Burch Allison died in 1848. Hannah Ryan Horsley Allison last appears in a U.S. census in 1850, still living in McDowell County, NC. (Online files give her death as 1880 when she would be 100 years old, but I have not found proof or evidence for that date.)

## The Evidence

For years, numerous North Carolina county and state records have been searched to try to locate the father of Theophilus T. Horsley ("T.T.") and John B. Horsley, both of whom were recorded in censuses as born in North Carolina. No early Horsley was found in North Carolina colonial land grants, state-wide or U.S. censuses, or in collections of county records. Certain counties were singled out for special investigation because they were next to or near where the James Horsley Jr. family was known to live during the relevant time on the borders of North Carolina in Halifax Co, VA and York Co, SC. The counties searched in particular included Mecklenburg, Lincoln, Rutherford, Halifax, Person, Caswell, and Granville. Again, there was no Horsley found.

Some descendants had assumed that John B. and T.T.'s father was James Horsley Jr.'s son William. By the time of the brothers' birth, James Jr. and family had moved from Halifax County, VA to York County, SC. York County was adjacent to North Carolina and was where John B. lived for a time when James Jr.'s son Richard was still living there. However, extensive primary records research found no connection or involvement between James Horsley Jr.'s family and John B.'s family or their relatives, children, or recorded associates, even while living in the same county. No records were found to support that James Jr.'s son could be John B. and T.T.'s father. Instead, records strongly indicated that James Jr.'s son William died about 1799 with no wife or children. Research also found that the William N. Horsley in York County in 1836 was a son of David Horsley and great-grandson of James Jr. William N. Horsley was born about 1812, so he could not be John B. and T.T.'s father either.

DNA testing confirmed the research evidence that John B. and T.T. were not sons of James Horsley's son William. Although DNA shows that the two Horsley lines are related, their most recent common ancestor most likely was born no later than around 1600. This could explain why over 200 years later they were not closely involved, but we were still left not knowing who John B.'s and T.T.'s parents were.

Finally, thanks to a lead from John B. descendant Roy D. Horsley, focus fell on Burke County, which at that time covered a large area in western North Carolina bordering on Tennessee. Examining the original 1828 Burke County, NC marriage bond for "Moses Partin" at the North Carolina Archives and discovering that his wife Mary is named there as both "Marey Hosley" and "Marey Hasley" provided the key. A common pronunciation and variant spelling of Horsley was "Hosley," and, although less common, "Hasley" was another proved variant. (Spelling at the time was not standardized, so clerks and other recorders spelled phonetically based on how they heard the name pronounced.) It then became apparent that "Hostley," as Hannah's name was spelled on Burch Allison's 1811 marriage bond also in Burke County, was yet another spelling for the "Hosley" variant of Horsley.

Burke is a "burned county" where many early records were destroyed by a courthouse fire in 1864. Tax lists, however, were filed at the state as well as county level. All early tax lists for Burke County were searched in the original papers at the North Carolina Archives. William Horsley was found in 1808 as "Wm. Hoslee," again based on the variant "Hosley." He owned no land or slaves at the time. Tax records for this time period are incomplete, and

some of the extant lists are unreadable due to deterioration, which probably accounts for this being the only record found so far for William Horsley in Burke. This is also the earliest record for a Horsley found so far in North Carolina, and no later Horsley found in the state could be the father of John B., T.T., and Mary.

Since the 1810 census listed no Horsley in North Carolina, it was previously assumed that the siblings' father died shortly before 1810. Based on the name of both John B.'s and T.T.'s first sons, it was thought that their father's name was William. Thus, with the marriage bonds for the Horsley variants Hosley, Hasley, and Hostley, the tax record for William Hoslee, and the record dates that fit the necessary time frame, the pieces of evidence began to fall into place.

The 1810 census lists a widow named Hannah in Burke County, NC who may be William's widow Hannah Horsley, then age 30. *[NARA Series M252, Roll 39, Page 224]* Although the last name in the census is sometimes indexed as "Hartly," comparing the handwriting with other entries on the page it seems the name could be "Hastly," similar to "Hostley" on Burch Allison's 1811 marriage bond. This is the only widow named Hannah in Burke County this year, and she is listed on the same page as Burch Allison's brother Posey and relatives George and Francis Allison. (Burch himself is missing in this census.) Hannah was head-of-house and has 2 males and 2 females under age 10 in her household, matching the ages of her three known children, Theophilus T. (b. c1803), John B. (b. 1806), and Mary (b. c1808). (The male age 26-44 could not be Hannah's husband or son, so probably was hired help, relative, etc.)

In the 1820 census, Burch Allison is named as an overseer by occupation. *[NARA Series M33 Roll 83 Page 55]* His and Hannah's Burke County, NC household includes a male the age group of Hannah's son John B. Horsley and a female in the age group of Hannah's daughter Mary Horsley. Hannah's son Theophilus T., who would be about age 17 this year, is missing. He may be living with and working for another family, as was commonly done, or he may have left for Georgia with others in the area who moved there about 1820. This does not seem unusual because John B. left home by at least age 18, since he married in York County, SC in 1825, less than two months after turning 19. Theophilus T. Horsley was in Georgia at least by 1825, when his first son, William, was born there. *[1850 census, Tallapoosa Co, AL]*

William and Hannah's daughter Mary Horsley married Moses Parton in Burke County on 28 Feb 1828, and they were still in Burke in the 1830 census. They then moved to York County, SC, and in the 1840 census, Mary and Moses Parton's family is listed in York County living immediately among the same recorded associates and neighbors where her brother John B. Horsley lived from 1825-1839 before joining his brother T. T. in Alabama. This evidence that they lived in such close proximity and shared the same neighbors in York County helped confirm the connection between John B. and Mary. As mentioned above, John B. and T.T. were long-believed to be brothers, which is now supported by DNA test results.

Although all three siblings were small children when their father William Horsley died, each brother named his first son William, and Mary and Moses' second son was named William H. Parton. (Their first son was named John, the name of Moses' father and brother as well

as Mary's brother.) John B. Horsley's first child was named Mary Agatha Hannah Horsley, the names of his sister, his wife's mother, and his mother respectively.

It has always seemed curious that John B. Horsley, born in North Carolina, showed up at age 19 in York County, SC marrying a woman born and raised there. Research gave evidence that John B. had not lived near or been involved with the James Horsley family already living in York County, and research and DNA show they were not closely related. Also, John B.'s wife's family had not come from North Carolina. Why, then, did John B. go to York in the first place? Of course, York was a popular migration destination in its own right, and that could be reason enough. However, the Allison family into whom John B.'s mother married may give a better clue. There were several Allison families in early York County (for whom Allison Creek is named), and Hugh, Robert, and Thomas Allison were living there in the 1820 census four years or so before John B. arrived. I have not been able to learn what their relationship might be to Burch Allison, John B.'s stepfather. However, another Burch Allison died in York in 1825 at about 14 years old.*[Information from York County Historical Center]*, and "Burch" was the family name of Burch Allison's grandmother. Thus, the name alone seems to indicate a familial connection between these Allison lines, which may be one reason John B. went to York County.

Another interesting Allison-Horsley coincidence that still needs exploring is a possible Maryland connection. Burch Allison's Revolutionary War pension application says he was born in Montgomery County, MD in 1764. However, Montgomery was only formed in 1776 from Frederick County, where we find a "William Hasley" in the 1800 census who may be the same as William Horsley later in Burke. Some Allison families were still in Frederick and Montgomery County in 1800, and DNA indicates William Horsley's line probably goes back to Maryland. Could William have gone to Burke County because of an earlier family friendship with the Allisons in Maryland? The possibility deserves further investigation.

The evidence from DNA supports that Theophilus T. and John B. were brothers. Primary records evidence shows that the parents of Theophilus T., John B., and Mary Horsley were William Horsley and wife Hannah Ryan of Burke County, NC. Now that we have explored the answer to our question of who were the parents, we turn back to the beginning of the search and follow the research trail that led us there.

### **Background: The Research Trail**

The parents of Theophilus T. ("T.T.") Horsley and John B. Horsley have been a mystery for at least the twenty-five years since the 1986 publication of *Horsley Families of America* by Brenda Scott and Roy D. Horsley, descendants of John B. Horsley. The authors believed that T.T. and John B. were brothers since the 1850 census shows that both were born in North Carolina in 1803 and 1806 respectively, and beginning in the 1840's they lived near each other at the border of Alabama and Georgia. Some from each family later moved a short distance west into St. Clair County, AL. What was unclear was whether the similarities were because the two men were brothers or of another relationship, and whether the later residences in common came about by a family relationship or by mere chance of typical migration patterns for that time.

The authors also believed John B. and T.T.'s father's name was William, as each presumed brother named their first son William. The only William Horsley known at that time was James Horsley Jr.'s son William, whom the authors thought was the same person as William N. Horsley in York County, SC in 1836. Those assumptions based on coincidence of names and places were an important starting place, but much more evidence was needed to turn the speculations into viable statements of fact. (We now know that the father was named William, but he was neither James Jr.'s son William, nor William N. Horsley, who was a different person as we shall see.)

In the intervening years since the book's publication, primary records (meaning the original public records made at the time of the event, such as deeds, wills, and county tax lists) have become more widely available and more easily accessed in libraries, archives, and, in recent years, on the internet. Even more recently, DNA testing for genealogical purposes began to be offered commercially as an additional tool to help confirm or refute records research that by itself was not conclusive. During the same time, the standards for genealogical proof became more stringent and required either direct or indirect evidence from the primary records themselves to be credibly accepted. With both the new advantages and the added proof demands to set the course, the search for the siblings' parents based on primary record evidence began anew.

The most difficult problem in identifying John B. and T.T.'s parents was locating in which of North Carolina's 100 counties the family had lived. Unlike its neighbors Virginia and Georgia, North Carolina has surviving records for all U. S. censuses beginning with the first one in 1790, but no Horsley was found listed in North Carolina until 1860. Those 1860 Horsley families were known to be descendants of James Horsley Jr.'s grandson David who had lived in South Carolina from 1790 until 1855. David had no males in his household in the 1810 census, so he could not be John B. and T.T.'s father. Since censuses gave no direct leads for locating John B. and T.T.'s family in North Carolina, was there an indirect way to discover who and where they were?

The earliest record we have found for Theophilus T. ("T.T.") Horsley is at age 29 in the northeast Georgia mountains. T.T. was residing in Habersham County, GA in 1832 when he won land in that year's Cherokee Land Lottery [*James F. Smith. Cherokee Land Lottery. p 283*], which like all Georgia's land lotteries generally required a 3-year residency in the state to enter. T.T. had been in Georgia even earlier, by about age 22, because the 1850 census lists his eldest son as born about 1825 in Georgia. [*William Horsley, Tallapoosa Co, AL*] Families and friends often migrated together. However, Theophilus is missing in the 1830 U.S. census, so we could not learn of any neighbors who may have had common ties with him back in North Carolina. The 1850 census says T.T.'s wife Jane was born in North Carolina, but her maiden name is unknown, so we could not use her family to learn T.T.'s North Carolina home. (In any case, they may only have met in Georgia.) Furthermore, no other Horsley families were found living anywhere near Habersham County, GA in the 1820's and 1830's to provide us with possible relatives of Theophilus.

The first time we know of John B. Horsley is at age 19 when he married in York County, SC to Pamela "Permelia" Huff on 22 Sep 1825. [*Date from Amos R. Horsley Family Bible, copied in Horsley*

*Families of America*, p. 140; place from the residence of Pamela's parents] Pamela's parents Jonathan and Agatha Huff [*York Co, SC, Jonathan. Huff probate records*] had moved to York from Prince William County, VA in the 1790's [*Prince Wm. Co. Tax Lists, Jonathan's father Powell Huff family*] and lived in a part of York County some 35 miles from the North Carolina border but 200 miles from Habersham County, GA where T.T. had gone. Thus, the Huff family provided no helpful clues for John B.'s origins, since no Horsley was found in the Huff's former area of Virginia, and neither the Huff's nor their known relatives lived in North Carolina or Georgia. However, there was another Horsley family in York County at the time, who on first glance seemed to be the answer to why John B. moved there. Like many first glances, this one turned out to be deceiving.

When John B. Horsley first appears in York County, SC records buying 3.7 acres in 1830 [*YDBL:369*], there were other Horsleys living at the opposite side of the county. This family had come directly from Halifax County, VA between 1788 and 1791. Valentine Horsley, his brother William, and his brother-in-law and sister, Samuel and Susannah Horsley Matthews, moved to York County, SC about 1788. [*YDBC:264; 1788 Halifax Co, VA PP Tax Lists*] Several years later they were joined by Valentine's parents, James (Jr.) and Patience Horsley, and Valentine's brother Richard Horsley with his family, all also arriving from Halifax County, VA. [*HDB14:616, 16:396; YDBC:415-417*] As we discuss later in more detail, it is likely that James and Patience's son William Horsley died about 1799 in York County. The Horsley-Matthews family moved up the road to Lincoln County, NC about 1802. [*YDBF:291*] Censuses show James and Patience Horsley died in York County by 1820, and Valentine Horsley moved his family in late 1821 or early 1822 from York County to what was then central-western Georgia where some of his children were already living. [*YDBI:506*] Thus, the only Horsley families still in York County, SC in 1825-1830 when John B. married and bought his first land were Richard Horsley, his wife Margaret (*nee* Brandon), his daughter Susannah ("Susan") who never married, and his son David Horsley and family.

Because of the same last name and the proximity of York County, SC to North Carolina, it had long been assumed that John B. Horsley and, by default, Theophilus T. were part of this James Horsley Jr. family. Once again, while this assumption was a good starting place, sharing the same name and place are not sufficient alone to claim a relationship. York County was a popular migration area, and without further evidence of a relationship connection we could not rule out the possibility it was by coincidence that John B. Horsley and James Horsley Jr.'s son Richard and family lived for a time in the same county. Such coincidences are not uncommon even with a name as relatively rare as Horsley, as shown with Horsley families in Kentucky and Texas at that time.

In fact, John B. Horsley and Richard Horsley lived on the opposite side of York County from each other, and the records show no interaction or interconnections between John B. and the other Horsley families then in York County. Between 1830 and 1839, John B. Horsley bought and sold several pieces of property, all on Turkey Creek and Bullocks Creek in the southwestern part of York near the Broad River. [*See separate report for John B.'s deeds*] Richard Horsley's land, which he purchased in 1791, had originally had been adjacent to his father James Jr. and brother Valentine and just across the creek from his sister Susannah Matthews' family. These adjacent James Horsley Jr. family properties were all on Mill Creek

near the Catawba River at the far northeastern corner of York County. There are over twenty surviving deeds that pertain to Horsley lands in York in addition to survey, court, census, and other records, yet the James Horsley Jr. family's records and John B. Horsley's records name no associates or known relatives in common, and there was no apparent involvement between the two Horsley groups.

In late 1839 or early 1840, John B. Horsley moved his family to Benton (now Calhoun) County, AL [YDBM:489; 1840 census], nowhere near where anyone from James Horsley Jr.'s family lived at the time. Theophilus T. Horsley was already in the Benton County area by 17 Aug 1838 when he and one Newman Pounds jointly obtained an Federal land grant for 159.9 acres by assignment from Joseph Crook. [US-BLM, General Land Office Records, Doc. 3318, Acc. No. AL3050\_.208] The land is in today's Cleburne County formed in 1866 from parts of Benton/Calhoun, Randolph, and Talladega County. (Investigating Pounds and Crook gave no helpful leads for Horsley family connections.) By 1850, John B.'s family had moved east into adjacent Carroll County, GA, again not close to or associated with any of James Horsley Jr.'s family who were still in Georgia where they remained involved with each other.

Records and old family letters indicate that James Horsley Jr.'s family in Virginia and South Carolina and later his son Valentine's family in Georgia were a very close-knit family group who migrated and lived near each other along with extended families and several close friends for at least four generations. This included one branch of the family who moved to Texas but who continued to keep in close contact with the "folks back home." [1871 Letters of Sallie T.K. Horsley, copies at < [www.joanhorsley.org](http://www.joanhorsley.org)>] Thus, the apparent lack of contact and involvement between John B. and T.T. Horsley and the James Horsley Jr. family group, even while living for a time in the same South Carolina county, began to raise serious questions about the previous assumptions regarding John B. and T.T.'s father.

Based on a common name and York County residence, it was believed their father was James Horsley Jr.'s son William. This William also was assumed to be the same person as William N. Horsley named in a York County record in 1836. However, the only record that clearly refers to James Jr.'s son William is a 1798 deed from his father, and no middle name or initial is included. [YDBE:227] Middle names were not generally found in the South until the early 1800's and particularly following the War of 1812. This was long after James Jr.'s son William was born about 1767, and none of James Horsley Jr.'s other children had middle names or initials on their records. (As an aside, none of James Jr.'s 10 proved grandchildren had middle names either, which made the middle initials for both John B. and Theophilus T. highly unusual for that family line.) Assuming undocumented middle names or initials is a common problem that usually leads to misidentification, but that could only be proved by discovering who William N. Horsley really was.

The Horsley book authors say the name came from a boundary settlement in 1836. [Horsley Families of America, p. 19] Finally locating that York County deed record [YDBM:289] gave these particulars: A question arose regarding the proper boundary line between Richard Horsley's land that he had divided and gifted to his children David and Susan (elsewhere called Susannah) in 1830 [YDBL:33, 608] and the land that Mitchell Bradley had bought in 1832 from James L. Wright [YDBM:289] with a corner to land David Neely had bought from William Nolan.

The parties involved requested court arbitration to settle the problem, and the subsequent settlement was agreed to and signed 18 May 1836. The settlement record was witnessed by William N. Horsley. Although this was the source for the Horsley book authors' knowledge of his name, they found no other information about him and state they could not locate him in census records. That is no wonder.

Only in the 1870 census is he specifically named as "William N. Horsley." *[NARA Series M593, Roll 1559, p. 468b; HeritageQuest Online]* He was living then in Sevier County, TN, the same place he was living in the 1860 census that named him as "Wm. Horsely." Both censuses list him as being born in South Carolina between about 1809 *[1860 census]* and 1812 *[1870 census]*. The only South Carolina Horsley family in which he could fit was that of Richard Horsley's son David.

David Horsley married Rachel Mahew/Mayhew in York County, SC about 1803. Their first child was born about 1804 and last child was born about 1822, and all were born in York County, SC. In the York County censuses for 1820 through 1840, the eldest male child in David's household is in the age group that William N. Horsley would be in, which is not the age group for David's other sons. The 1850 census has no son of his age in David's household, and William N. appears to be "William Hosley," born SC, living in Knox County, TN, adjacent to Sevier. In addition to right age and birthplace, the names of some of William N. Horsley's children - Jane, Margaret and David - give additional evidence he was a son of David Horsley. David himself had a daughter Jane and a mother and a daughter both named Margaret. David's wife's father was named William, and the middle initial "N" could come from David's maternal grandfather John N. Brandon. David's wife's brother Reason Mayhew had a son named William N. Mayhew, called Newton, and William N. Horsley likewise had a son called by his middle name, Newton. Also, William N. Horsley is listed in 1860 as a miller, the same occupation as David's son Reason Horsley.

William N. Horsley's age, birthplace, and apparent father David also provided the evidence that he is the William N. Horsley who witnessed the boundary settlement in 1836. In both the 1830 and 1840 censuses, David Horsley still had in his household an adult male of this William N. Horsley's age, and this male has not been otherwise identified. Since the arbitrated boundary settlement involved Richard Horsley and his two children David and Susan, William N. Horsley, as David's eldest son, would also have a stake in the settlement by virtue of possible later inheritance. No other possibility for the witness William N. Horsley has been found.

Properly identifying William N. Horsley ruled him out as the father of John B. and T.T. since William N. was born about 1812 while they were born in 1806 and 1803 respectively. That still left the question of whether John B. and T.T. were sons of James Horsley Jr.'s son William.

By a York County, SC deed dated 3 Aug 1798, James Horsley (Jr.) sold to William Horsley 120 acres on Mill Creek at the northeast corner of the county. *[YDBE:227]* This was the same 120 acres that James had bought in 1791 from his son Valentine Horsley shortly after James arrived from Virginia. The land was adjacent to Valentine's own land and to James' son Richard and just across Mill Creek from James' daughter Susannah and her husband

Samuel Matthews. While Valentine, Richard, and Susannah already had families of their own, the youngest sibling, William, was still living with his parents, James and Patience Horsley. William, born about 1767 [*Halifax PP Tax List 1788*], was about 31 years old in 1798 when he bought this land where he and his parents were living on Mill Creek.

Strangely, though, just two years after purchasing the land where he and his parents resided, this William Horsley is not named as a head-of-house in the 1800 census in South Carolina or adjacent North Carolina, the only other nearby state with a surviving 1800 census. William is not indicated by age group in the household with any of his siblings or with his parents, yet James and Patience are still living on the land William purchased from them in 1798. In fact, no William Horsley in any census from 1800 through 1880 could be this one, and no other York County record for him has been found except for the 1798 deed.

So, what happened to James Jr.'s son William Horsley? Could he, like his sister Susannah Matthews' family, have moved over the state line into North Carolina around 1800? We have found no Horsley neighbor or close associate who moved northward from York (against the usual migration patterns) except for those who, like William's sister Susannah's family, went "next door" into Lincoln County, NC. Lincoln County and Mecklenburg County, NC were then adjacent to York, SC, just a few miles up the Catawba River or alternately just across the river from where William and the other Horsleys lived. However, the possibility of William's moving appeared unlikely.

First, William's absence in one census would not be unusual, but his missing in all subsequent censuses surely would be, unless he had died or was not living on his own land as head of his own household, which for this family would also be unusual. Besides, it seems that a man who had just purchased already-prepared farmland would have little reason immediately to move elsewhere where he had to acquire land anew..

Second, there is no York County deed record whereby William sold his land back to his father James Jr. or to anyone else, and William's parents continued to live on that same land. Also, William's father was then in his late 60's and may have depended on William to help farm their land.

Thirdly, no deed or other record has been found for William Horsley in nearby North Carolina counties. Surviving records from about 1770 to 1870 for the North Carolina counties then adjacent to York County, SC, namely Mecklenburg, Lincoln, and Rutherford (slightly further west), have been searched extensively. With the exception of a Lincoln County, NC sheriff's land sale to Valentine Horsley in 1810 [*LDB27:82*] and an 1816 Lincoln County deed [*LDB29:710*] witnessed by Valentine's son Thomas (whose wife and first child were born in Lincoln), no other deed in these three counties mentions any Horsley as buyer, seller, witness or bound. No wills in these counties are for a Horsley or have a Horsley included, e.g., as a witness, legatee, executor, etc. Likewise, surviving tax records list no Horsley, nor do any extant records of estates, administration, wards, and guardians.

Records were also searched in North Carolina counties near to where William and his family had lived in Halifax County, VA on the chance that William returned to that area for marriage

and then raised his family close to his wife's home. No records were found in deed, wills and estates, or court record abstract books for Granville, Person, Caswell, Halifax, Orange or Wake County, NC (the latter two counties being popular migration places from the other border counties of northern North Carolina).

If we could not find William himself, could we find evidence that he left any children? Since no will was found for William and no deed whereby he sold the Mill Creek land, then his children, if there were any, would have inherited that land equally by right of inheritance laws. If he died without children, the land would have been inherited by his siblings.

Again, no York County deed was found whereby any children or their legal guardian obtained or subsequently sold William Horsley's land. As we discussed above, John B. Horsley lived on the opposite side of York County from William's land. Surely had he been the rightful heir to 120 acres, he would have claimed it rather than buy a mere 3.7 acres across the county as his first land in York. John B.'s wife's Sutton relatives were a significant county family who had the influence and connections to help him obtain land due to him even had it already been wrongfully sold.

On the other hand, after extensive collection of deeds and platting the parcels as described in deeds relating to the Horsley lands on Mill Creek through 1844, it appears that William's brother Valentine ended up with William's land, as he would have if William had died without wife or children. Valentine sold the property where he resided (adjacent to James/William's land) on 17 Oct 1821 to Thomas Boyd [YDBI:506], then left for Georgia. Four months later on 28 Feb 1822, John Feares (Farris) sold to Thomas Boyd the James/William parcel [YDBI:472], and on 8 Nov 1825 Thomas Boyd sold the adjacent properties of Valentine and James/William as a single tract to his son Thomas J. Boyd. [YDBK:430] There is no surviving deed showing who sold James/William's land to Feares, but the inference is Valentine. Feares' 1822 deed to Boyd identifies the James/William land as "formerly the property of Valentine Horsley." Four months earlier, Valentine's deed to Boyd, whereby he sold the land he lived on, did not name a different owner ("line" or "bound") for the adjacent property that James sold to William as it normally would if Valentine himself was not the owner. One bound (John Lambeth) acquired his tract only three years before [YDBH:446-7], showing that the bounds named were recent ones. All these factors indicate that Valentine had possession of the land James sold to William after William died in York County with only his siblings as his legal heirs.

Also, in the twelve deeds subsequent to their 1798 sale deed that refer in some way to the land James sold to William, William is never named, even though James, Valentine, and Richard Horsley are all named as bounds or former owners in various deeds. Deeds frequently referenced land by the name of the owner who held it the longest or whom everyone would remember owning it. The five deeds after 1798 for William's parcel as a whole began in 1822 and were tracked through 1836. In each one it was Valentine Horsley who was named as the former owner, with mentions of where James Horsley's "old house" and "old orchard" stood. (There was also a one-acre grave yard on James/William's land.) These deeds give the definite impression that William had, indeed, owned the land only a

very short time and that his brother Valentine had obtained the land by the laws of inheritance. [All Horsley deeds pertaining to this land are included in my research report on James Horsley Jr., "The Road South From Maryland," online at <[www.joanhorsley.org](http://www.joanhorsley.org)>]

Combining all the evidence, there was no logical argument, much less evidence or proof, that James Horsley Jr.'s son William of York County, SC could be the father of John B. and Theophilus. Research found: 1) no records or censuses identified for James' son William after 1798; 2) no records or even indications that any children of William ever inherited his land, which apparently was inherited by his siblings instead; 3) John B. Horsley lived on the opposite side of York County from William's remaining relatives, and Theophilus never lived in York; and 4) there were no apparent connections or shared recorded associates between William's siblings' families and John B. or Theophilus in any place they lived, even during the 15 years John B. and William's brother Richard lived in the same county of York, which would be particularly odd for such a close family group as William's family was. Thus the evidence strongly indicated that James Horsley Jr.'s son William Horsley was not John B. and T.T.'s father and that William died in York County, SC about 1799, leaving no wife or children.

However, there was still the possibility that records had been missed or had not survived that would show contrary evidence. The only way to know with more certainty that the research conclusions were correct seemed to be by comparing the DNA of descendants from each line. The results of the subsequent DNA tests confirmed the records research that James Horsley Jr.'s son William would not be the father of John B. and Theophilus T. Horsley, although the lines were distantly related (as we discuss in more detail shortly).

It was while waiting for the DNA results that Roy Horsley, one of the authors of the 1986 *Horsley Families of America*, generously shared with me miscellaneous information he and his co-author Brenda Horsley Scott had received in connection with their book. Among the material was a mention of Moses and Mary Parton that led to Burke County, NC and ultimately to the discovery of William Horsley and his wife Hannah Ryan, the parents of John B., Theophilus T., and their sister Mary Horsley.

Identifying their father as William Horsley in Burke County, NC gave further evidence that William was not James Horsley Jr.'s son, as there is nothing in the records that could connect William in Burke Co, NC and William in York Co, SC as the same person. Moving from York to Burke is contrary to normal migration patterns, except perhaps in cases where relatives or friends drew them there. No family, friends or associates of James Horsley Jr.'s family from either Halifax County, VA or York County, SC were found in censuses or available records for Burke. Furthermore, William Horsley of Burke may be "William Hasley" living in Frederick County, MD, unmarried and apparently owning no land in 1800. Although James Horsley Jr.'s son William was born in Maryland, he was born on the opposite shore of the Chesapeake Bay in Queen Anne's County where his Horsley family had lived for three generations, and his parents had left Maryland before he was 5 years old.

Knowing now that the father of John B., T.T., and Mary was William Horsley of Burke County, NC who was not the son of James Horsley Jr. but was somehow related to his line, we return to the DNA results to see what else we might learn about William of Burke.

### **DNA Test Results**

In January of 2011, three males who carry the Horsley surname agreed to participate in testing for Y-chromosome DNA (referred to as Y-DNA), which is passed down through the male line from father to son. The participants included a fully-documented descendant from each Horsley line that we wanted to compare; that is, one each from John B., Theophilus T., and James Horsley Sr. (b. c1685-1690, MD; the earliest Horsley male in that line who is definitively proved so far). The testing company we chose was Family Tree DNA, the largest and one of the most widely-respected genealogical DNA testing services. The first tests were made on 37 markers (segments of the DNA chain), which is considered to be a sufficiently high enough number of markers from which to draw reliable conclusions for the initial questions we wanted to answer. The results were informative and intriguing enough that two of the participants continued testing at higher levels of markers for more precision, concluding with 111 markers comparing the line of William Horsley of Burke County, NC (who we had discovered by that time was John B. and T.T.'s father) with the line of James Horsley Sr.

This is a summary of what we have learned:

1. DNA test results support the previous assumption that John B. and Theophilus T. Horsley were brothers.
2. DNA test results show that their line is related to the line proved back to James Horsley Sr. (b. c1685-1690, MD).
3. DNA test results confirm the research evidence that the father of John B. and T.T. was not James Horsley Jr.'s son William, as some have previously thought.
4. DNA test results indicate that the most recent common ancestor shared by the two lines was most likely within 11-13 generations back from the William of Burke descendants tested, or no more recently than James Horsley Sr.'s great-grandfather. Based on records research to date, this common ancestor would probably be born around or before 1600. (Note: Time to Most Recent Common Ancestor is only a general estimation based on statistical probabilities that cannot pinpoint one particular person or generation.)

The complete DNA test results with the allele values (the number of Short Tandem Repeats or STR) for each marker used in the Family Tree DNA tests (by DYS#, the marker or segment identifier) are available online at Ysearch <[www.ysearch.org](http://www.ysearch.org)>. This is a publicly-accessible website that collects DNA data for use in genealogical research while protecting the privacy of the test participants. The codes to access our three Horsley participants are: 2S33Z, AW4GN, AW463

## Interpreting DNA Results Briefly Explained

Interpreting the DNA test results for genealogical purposes includes several considerations. First, the importance of the evidence from primary records research cannot be overstated. The research "paper trail" is the foundation and key factor for interpreting all DNA test results. As one professional DNA expert explains regarding DNA and pedigrees (ie, the ancestral line), DNA test results can help confirm or refute the pedigree built upon our research, but the DNA results cannot build a pedigree.

It follows that the higher the quality of the research and the more complete and direct the records evidence, the more dependable the paper trail. On the other hand, the earlier the time period, the more records are missing or lost. This means that not only are records missing for the people we are researching, but many people are missing entirely from the surviving records and, thus, are completely unknown. It is in such cases where the paper trail is not or cannot be either complete or conclusive that DNA testing is most useful. The results can support or contradict to varying degrees of certainty our conclusions based on incomplete records and can imply missing persons (e.g., unknown brothers of a known ancestor). Taken together with what records are found, the results can give clues for where and when to research for missing persons and for lineal ancestors further up the line.

A second consideration in interpreting DNA test results concerns the statistics used to compare two individuals' DNA profiles (called haplotypes) to predict their probable relationship. Y-chromosome DNA is passed down the male line relatively unchanged, so a man today will have basically the same Y-DNA as all his male ancestors of the same surname. Testing for genealogical purposes compares two men's Y-DNA to see if they are related and to predict how closely. This prediction is an estimation based upon statistical probabilities from large populations or groups of people, so the more men tested with the same surname, the better the prediction can become. The predictions of the time back to the most recent shared ancestor can be refined based on the number of generations where research shows they do not share the same ancestor. The probabilities are best understood as a range of generations rather than a particular point in time.

Not all markers or segments on the DNA strand are tested. Which markers are included at various levels (in our case 37, 67, and 111 markers) is based on what the science has found to be the most meaningful for genealogical purposes. Testing for additional markers refines the predicted time period back to when two related individuals last shared a common ancestor and eliminates unrelated matches from lower marker levels.

When the DNA profile of Person A is compared with the DNA profile of Person B using the same markers in order to find out if they are related, the answer is often given as the number of allele-value mismatches, called Genetic Distance. In our case, at the 111 marker level the descendant William of Burke and the descendant of James Sr. had 3 mismatches (108/111), giving a Genetic Distance of 3. Family Tree DNA classifies a Genetic Distance of 3-5 at 111 markers as "Related," as opposed to "Tightly" and "Very Tightly" Related or "Possibly Related" within genealogical time; that is, after the use of surnames was established.

Not everyone with the same Genetic Distance is necessarily related to the same degree. Certain changes (mutations) can occasionally occur in the Y-DNA at any generation, which then are passed down. Thus, the predicted probabilities take into account the number of generations (that is, chances for mutations) and the varying mutation rates for each marker tested. Since any one person can differ from the norm of the larger population and changes or mutations can occur at random places on the DNA strand and at any time down the generations, there is a statistical margin of error to consider.

In our case, the probabilities for John B. and T.T. to be brothers and for James Jr. not being William of Burke's father are straight-forward and of a strong likelihood, supporting what the records research previously indicated. However, the probabilities are more difficult for us to interpret when we try to arrive at our two related lines' most recent common ancestor (MRCA), particularly since we have few records from the indicated time period to guide us.

### **Ancestors of William Horsley of Burke and DNA**

The DNA test results indicate that the line of William of Burke and the line of James Horsley Sr. most likely share their most recent common ancestor within 11-13 generations back from the William of Burke descendants tested. Based on records research to date, this common ancestor would be born around or before 1600, and James Horsley Sr.'s great-grandfather was born about 1600. One possible scenario might be that James Horsley's grandfather, who apparently immigrated to Maryland about 1660, could have come with a brother or cousin, or one may have joined the other shortly thereafter, but this is merely a speculation in order to give perspective.

We need to keep in mind that the Time to Most Recent Common Ancestor is only an estimation based on DNA science and statistical probabilities from a large population. These estimations cannot tell us exactly who that shared ancestor was or in exactly which generation back in time. That is the task of records research. However, research has not been able to follow possible Horsley ancestors by name that far back, as we do not yet have crucial records to guide us. (We discuss further records research later in this report.)

William Horsley of Burke, born probably 1770-1775 and possibly in Maryland, is the earliest ancestor so far proved for his line. Our research to date is able definitively to prove the James Horsley line as far back as James Horsley Sr., who was likely born in Maryland about 1685-1690 and died there about 1748. (His son James Jr. did not leave Maryland until the early 1770s.) Although not yet proved completely, the records also show James Sr.'s possible father and grandfather. The DNA probabilities estimate it would be within the next three generations back, beginning with James Horsley Sr.'s great-grandfather, where we most likely would find the most recent shared ancestor of the two Horsley lines.

Relatives frequently immigrated together into the American colonies and then continued to live near each other for some time. Therefore, information about James Horsley Sr.'s possible father and grandfather may be useful in researching for ancestors of William of Burke, even though DNA indicates these are not likely William's ancestors but related to his.

The research indicates that James Sr.'s grandfather may be James Horsley of Calvert County, MD (b. c1630, d. after 1663). [*Maryland Patents 1633-1681, Book AA, p. 428*] This James of Calvert County appears to be a fairly recent immigrant to Maryland in 1663. He probably was born in England, as no evidence of his father has so far been found in the Colonies. James Horsley Sr.'s father may be Richard Horsley of Talbot County, MD (c1660-1718). [*F. Edward Wright. Maryland Eastern Shore Vital Records 1648-1725, p. 84*] The records found so far are too few and too uninformative for our purposes to definitively prove these relationships, but there is good indirect evidence to support the possibility.

(Note: Because of repeating family names, we identify these as "James Horsley of Calvert" and "Richard Horsley of Talbot," while "James Horsley Sr." is the traditional name used for the earliest one in Queen Anne's County, MD and the proved ancestor of James Jr. and his son Valentine Horsley, a Revolutionary War soldier. For records and discussion of the research to date on all early Maryland Horsleys, see my report *James Horsley Sr. of Maryland (c1685-c1748) and Our Horsley Family Beginnings* at: <[www.joanhorsley.org](http://www.joanhorsley.org)>)

The records research indicates that in addition to possible son James Sr., Richard Horsley of Talbot probably had a son Richard Horsley (Jr.) of Dorchester County, MD, by wife Mary Vickery whom Richard Sr. married in St. Peter's Parish, Talbot County, MD on 9 May 1697. [*Edward Wright. Maryland Eastern Shore Vital Records 1648-1725, p. 62*] Mary Vickery would not be James Horsley Sr.'s mother, but Mary could be Richard Sr.'s second wife, in which case Richard Jr. would be James Horsley Sr.'s half-brother.

Richard Horsley of Talbot County died there in 1718. After his likely son Richard Horsley Jr.'s death in Dorchester County about 1760, no other records were found on the Eastern Shore of Maryland for any Horsley other than James Horsley Sr.'s line in Queen Anne's County. No unidentified Horsley was found in the 1700's on the Western Shore either, but those county record searches were not as exhaustive and did not extend beyond the Revolution. However, in the 1800 census there was a "William Hasley" in Frederick County, MD on the Western Shore who may be William Horsley later in Burke, as we discuss in the next section.

Several early Maryland Horsleys are known so far primarily just by their names. One was recorded as Lewis Hosley (a common variant for Horsley) in 1664 at the same time as James Horsley of Calvert County. [*see James Sr. report, p. 10*] Lewis, a recent immigrant, appears to be about the same age as James of Calvert, so possibly a brother or cousin. A Ralph Horsley was in Somerset County, MD in 1675 and may be the same as the Ralph Horsley who in 1696 owed to an probated estate in Talbot County, adjacent to Somerset. [*see James Sr. report, p. 12-13*] Ralph Horsley could be in the same generation as Richard of Talbot County, but there is no evidence at this point to indicate they were brothers. However, both Ralph and Lewis seem to be somehow related to the other early Horsleys and could be possible ancestors of William Horsley of Burke.

Other than for the line of James Horsley Sr., these are the only confirmed Horsleys found so far in early Maryland records (with the exception of Joseph Horsley of Calvert County, who is proved to have no children but does seem somehow related to James Horsley of Calvert).

Some transcribed abstracts include Horsley or similar-sounding names that upon examination of the original record turned out instead, to be a name such as Handley, Henley, Hansley, Hanslap, Horsey, Hawley, Housley, etc.

A possible Horsley was transcribed as “William Harsley” in a 1742 probate record for a Kent County, MD estate, which we discuss in the next section, although the name has not yet been confirmed by the original record. As with others named above, only one record has been found for him, but if he was a Horsley, he, too, may be related to James Horsley Sr. and Richard Horsley Jr. who were in the same area at the same time. There also could be early Horsleys whose records have not yet been found and many who left no records at all, since the majority of non-landowners are absent from Colonial records that have survived. No other Horsley except for James Horsley Sr. and Jr. has been found in deed indexes for Kent, Talbot, Dorchester, or Queen Anne’s County, MD.

In summary, the DNA results indicate that the related lines of William of Burke and James Horsley Sr. most likely last shared a common ancestor within the time frame of James Sr.’s great-grandfather to two generations before. Relatives often immigrated to the Colonies together. James Horsley Sr.’s possible grandfather James Horsley of Calvert County, born about 1630, apparently immigrated to Maryland about 1660. William Horsley of Burke County, NC may have been in Frederick County, MD in 1800, and some of James Horsley Sr.’s line were still living in Maryland in 1800. Thus, the research on James Horsley Sr.’s possible ancestors in Maryland may give clues where to look for records about the line of William of Burke. However, DNA test results cannot build the ancestral line up from William of Burke. That is the task of primary records research

### **Ancestors of William Horsley of Burke and Records Research**

The only reliable research method to find the ancestors of William Horsley of Burke County, NC, is to begin with William himself and learn all we can from what records can be found. Then using that information, we search the records to discover his line back one generation at a time. This is by far a more dependable and respected approach than picking a name further back in time and trying to guess at or force the connection down the missing generations to William of Burke.

What do we know for certain about William Horsley of Burke? As discussed above, the only Burke County record found for him so far was the 1808 tax list. He may be in Burke County by about 1803 when his first child, Theophilus, was born (although North Carolina could just be the first home that T.T. remembered and gave as his birthplace in the 1850 census), but William was not listed in Burke or anywhere in North Carolina in the 1800 census.

There was, however, a “William Hasley” in the 1800 census in Frederick County, MD, who may be William Horsley of Burke County, NC and has not been otherwise identified. William’s daughter Mary’s name was spelled “Hasley” on her husband’s 1828 marriage bond in Burke. Proved Horsley names in Virginia and New England were also recorded as “Hasley” in some early censuses, as was James Jr.’s son Valentine Horsley in an 1810 deed. [LCDB27:82] All William Horsley’s family’s early records in Burke County, NC were forms

of the “Hosley” pronunciation. In addition to Mary’s marriage bond, William’s name in the 1808 Burke tax record was spelled “Hoslee;” and his widow Hannah’s name is spelled “Hostley” in her second husband’s 1811 marriage bond in Burke. William’s son John B. was even recorded in 1840 in Benton Co, AL as “Hosley.” Given the DNA evidence that William was related to the Horsley line that came from Maryland, this 1800 “William Hasley” in Frederick County could well be the William Horsley later in Burke, or perhaps even his father.

The 1800 Frederick County, MD census lists “William Hasley” as a male in the age group 26-44 and the only white person in the household, plus 14 slaves. *[Caution: the summary of the entry given with the Ancestry.com census image mistakenly takes data from the line below Hasley’s on the right side of the census page.]* This kind of entry is commonly found for overseers who lived on land owned by someone else and supervised the owner’s slaves who worked the land, even though “William Hasley” is not specifically named as an overseer in the census. The Frederick County, MD Deed Book Index from 1778-1803 lists no Horsley or related spelling as buying or selling land during this time period *[MSA CE 455-2]*, which supports that someone else owned the land and slaves where “William Hasley” was living in 1800. The 1808 Burke County tax list shows “Wm. Hoslee” owned no land or slaves, which would also fit with someone working as an overseer as well as someone leasing land from another, perhaps because he recently moved there. (Interestingly, Burch Allison, who married William Horsley’s widow, was named as an overseer in Burke County in the 1820 census.)

The best evidence for land and slave ownership as well as confirming William Horsley’s residence in Frederick County would be in the land and personal property tax lists that began in 1782. *[Available on microfilm at the Maryland Archives and through the LDS Family History Library system.]* These tax records are important to search for any county of interest, especially since the personal property taxes includes non-landowners, who frequently left no other kind of public record (wills, deeds, court records of jurymen, etc). Searching Frederick County tax lists for Horsley, Hasley, Hosley, Harsley or like variants should give an idea of how long “William Hasley” had lived in the county after he came of legal age (21 years old). If “William Hasley” was in his mid-20’s and born and raised in Frederick County, these tax lists should lead us to his father as well. There may also be estate probate records for a father or other Horsley relative that could yield valuable information.

If a Horsley or like name is found in Frederick as early as 1782, then records that existed prior to the Revolution should be searched and the leads followed from there. Frederick County was formed in 1748 from Prince George’s County, where James Horsley Sr. lived for several years around 1715-1720. This county would be another logical place to search records for later Horsley names, as well as Montgomery and Washington County, both formed from Frederick in 1776. (Care needs to be taken not to confuse Horsley and its variants with family names like Horsey, Housley/Howsley, Husley, Hawley, Hensley, Handley and their variant forms, who were different Maryland families from Horsley.)

In addition to the 1800 census entry and the DNA evidence of a relationship with the James Horsley family earlier Maryland, there are clues in Burke County of Maryland connections. Burch Allison, who married William’s widow Hannah Ryan Horsley in Burke in 1811, was

born in 1764 in the part of Frederick County, MD that became Montgomery County in 1776. Allison family members were still living in Frederick and Montgomery in the 1800 census.

Another Maryland connection was John Burgin (b. 1774) who witnessed the Burke County marriage bond for William Horsley's daughter Mary and Moses Parton. John's brother Benjamin Burgin Jr. was listed in the 1810 census in Burke County next to a Burch Allison, a younger relation of Mary Horsley's stepfather. Their father Benjamin Burgin was born in 1741 in Kent County, MD at a time when the James Horsley Sr. family was living in adjacent Queen Anne's County and James Sr.'s possible half-brother Richard Horsley (Jr.) was living in nearby Dorchester County. (These counties were all on Maryland's Eastern Shore of the Chesapeake, while Frederick and surrounding counties were on the Western Shore.) Benjamin Burgin was a carpenter, as was James Horsley Sr., and moved to Burke County, NC 1765-1770, about the same time that James Horsley Jr. left Queen Anne's to move to Halifax County, VA. *[Burgin family information by Raymond Burgin online at <[www.theburginfamily.org/pioneer.html](http://www.theburginfamily.org/pioneer.html)>]*

Interestingly, there is a 1742 Prerogative Court record for the probate of a Kent County, MD estate in which there is a possibility of an otherwise unknown Horsley in a this time period. *[V. L. Skinner. Abstracts of the Administration Accounts of the Prerogative Court of Maryland 1737-1744 (1995), p. 119]* A "William Harsley" owed to the Kent County, MD estate of James Wallace, born in Somerset County where at least one Ralph Horsley lived about the same time. James Wallace died in Kent County in 1740. *[Find A Grave website, Memorial# 36135058]* The name "Harsley" is only from transcription and the original needs to be examined to verify it could not be a variant of another name such as Hawsley (for Housley) or Harsey (for Horsey). The "Harsley" spelling for Horsley usually is only found later in the Deep South, but I did find it used once in Maryland for James Horsley Jr.'s 1766 quit rent record in Queen Anne's County (adjacent to Kent). "William Harsley's" residence is not given, and this kind of record means he did not have to be living in Kent County, but under usual circumstances he would be living nearby. I found no other William Horsley of any spelling in records for Eastern Shore counties up to the Revolution, and none up to 1800 in Queen Anne's where the James Horsley family lived. I also could not find any connection between the family of James Wallace and the other Eastern Shore Horsleys. However, if this record is verified for a William Horsley, he likely would be related to James Horsley Sr. and Richard Horsley (Jr.) of Dorchester, both in the vicinity of Kent County at the time.

From the DNA testing and various evidence found so far, there seems to be good reason to think that William Horsley of Burke County, NC came originally from Maryland. Based on the 1800 census, Frederick County records seem to be the logical first place to try to find records for his family one generation back at a time.

### Conclusion

We began this phase of our Horsley family research with the question, "Who were the parents of Theophilus T. Horsley and John B. Horsley?" Having found the answer we were seeking, we have now arrived at the next question to research: "Who were the parents of William Horsley of Burke County, NC?"

Just as primary records, diligent digging, and shared family information, supplemented by DNA testing, finally revealed the answer to our first question, methodical records searches in relevant Maryland counties going backward in time from William hopefully will be able to answer our new question, too. In time we may be able to fill in the missing generations to the early ancestor shared between James Horsley Sr.'s line and the line of William and Hannah Ryan Horsley of Burke County, NC, parents of Theophilus T. Horsley, John B. Horsley, and Mary Horsley Parton.

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For research to date regarding the early Horsley families in Maryland, see my report on *James Horsley Sr. of Maryland (c1685-1748) and our Horsley Family Beginnings* online at <[www.joanhorsley.org](http://www.joanhorsley.org)>

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