

THOMAS KENDRICK and FAMILY
of Halifax County, Virginia and York County, South Carolina

Research Report by

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OVERVIEW of the THOMAS KENDRICK FAMILY

THOMAS KENDRICK – b. c1730, Place Unknown; d. c1794, York County, SC
 married c1760, probably in Halifax County, VA to
 NANCY (LAWSON?) – b. c1742, Place Unknown; d. 1800-1810, York County, SC

CHILDREN of THOMAS and NANCY KENDRICK
 (All born in Halifax County, VA)

John – b. 17 Sep 1763; d. bef. 1785, Halifax Co, VA

Sarah – b. 11 (or 9) Jan 1766; m. Valentine Horsley, c1785, Halifax Co, VA; d. 31 Oct 1836,
 Upson County, GA

Anne – b. 26 Feb 1768; m. John Irby, 10 Mar 1789, Halifax Co.; d. 19 Sep 1846, Cleveland Co, NC

Thomas (Jr.) – b. 25 Jan 1770; m. Sarah Lambert (Lambeth), c1796, York Co, SC; d. 11 Nov 1855,
 Cleveland Co, NC

Anthony – b. 8 Jan 1772; m. Sarah Brandon, bef. 20 Aug 1799, York Co, SC; d. bet. 1820 - 1830,
 York Co, SC

William – b. 29 Nov 1774; m. Priscilla Brandon, aft. 20 Aug 1799, York Co, SC; d. bet. 1820 - 1830,
 York Co, SC

Michael – b. 6 Dec 1776; d. prob. before adulthood

Elizabeth – b. 1 Jan 1778; d. 11 Aug 1831, Lincoln Co, NC

Susan – b. 7 Nov 1780; d. unknown

Joseph – b. 26 Nov 1784; m. Lavinia Suggs, c1812, York Co, SC; d. 18 Aug 1834, Lincoln Co, NC

Lucy – b. c1787; m. Joseph Brandon, c1810, York Co, SC; d. 25 Dec 1833, York Co, SC

[Sources: Names and birthdates come from the research of Dr. Joseph T. Kendrick, citing "Draft Pedigree of Richard Thomas Kendrick, son of Thomas D. Kendrick (b. 1934)" [p. 13]. Marriage date for Anne is from Halifax Co, VA Marriage Bond Register 1, p. 44. Death date for John based on Halifax Co, VA personal property tax lists; death date for Sarah is from Dale Grammer Hopper's 29 Apr 1940 Horsley Family Bible affidavit, El Paso Co, TX; death date for Lucy is from her grave marker. Other full death dates and Joseph's full birth date are from the research of Rose Kendrick. Approximate marriage and death dates are from my census research.]

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## ***Introduction***

We first find records for Thomas Kendrick in 1761 in Halifax County, Virginia when he was about 30 years of age and apparently recently married to his wife Nancy. Thomas and his family lived near the Dan River between Byrds Creek and Double Creek in the southwest corner of Halifax, close to the North Carolina border and about 25 miles east of today's Danville, VA.

Thomas and his family's adjacent neighbors included James Horsley, whose son Valentine married Thomas' eldest daughter Sarah about 1785, and John Lawson, perhaps a relative of Thomas' wife Nancy. (Though not yet proved, researcher Rose Kendrick believes that Thomas' wife's family name was Lawson, as that name passed down through some descendants of Thomas and Nancy Kendrick's great-grandson Thomas L. Kendrick. This is discussed in more detail in the Timeline of Records for 1800.) Living in the vicinity of the Kendrick, Horsley, and Lawson families were the families of several Brandon brothers. Sarah Kendrick's brother-in-law Richard Horsley married Margaret Brandon, daughter of John N. Brandon, about 1781. Later in York County, SC, four children of John Brandon (son of William) and his wife Mary Lawson (John Lawson's daughter) married three children of Thomas and Nancy Kendrick and a daughter of Valentine and Sarah Kendrick Horsley. These are prime examples of the way neighbors often intermarried and friends and extended families frequently migrated together, continuing their close communal ties over time and place.

Judging from tax lists that began in 1782, Thomas Kendrick may not have been primarily a farmer, since during that time he did not own any land, yet still owned two to three horses and at one point two slaves. Thomas was also literate, as shown by his signing records by signature rather than mark, even though literacy was not common for men of Thomas' age and place outside of the aristocracy and other families of wealth. Notable exceptions were skilled craftsmen (e.g., coopers, blacksmiths, carpenters, saddlers, etc.) and some merchants or clerks, who had to be taught to read and write as part of their apprenticeships. While all people of that time farmed for their family needs, such skilled men did not have to depend upon owning and accruing land for their livelihoods.

Around 1790, Thomas Kendrick, then about age 60, moved his family to York County, SC with a number of their relatives and friends. They settled together with Horsley, Brandon, and Irby families, in the northeast part of York County near the Catawba River (now Lake Wylie), a few miles from the southern border of North Carolina. Charlotte, NC, first settled only 35 years before, was about 20 miles northeast and accessible from Virginia down the Great Wagon Road.

Records indicate that Thomas died in York County, SC about 1794, leaving his widow Nancy, about age 52, with four children still minors. Six years later in the 1800 census, Nancy Kendrick and the two youngest children, Joseph and Lucy, were living next to her sons Thomas Jr. and Anthony and close to son William in York County, where Nancy died apparently before 1810.

Some of Thomas and Nancy Kendrick's grown children soon moved a short distance north into what was then Lincoln County, NC, adjacent to York County, SC, and several later lived in Cleveland County, NC, formed in part from Lincoln County in 1841.

Although we know much of Thomas Kendrick's adult life and the course of his children's lives and descendants, Thomas' birth family and birthplace are still unanswered questions, as we explore next.

### ***Origins of Thomas Kendrick Explored***

We do not yet know the origins of Thomas Kendrick. Records show no other Kendrick families involved with or living near him in Halifax County. A John and Preston Kendrick were in early Halifax records from 1759, but they resided in an area further west that became Pittsylvania County (formed 1767 from western Halifax), and Henry County (formed 1777 from western Pittsylvania). There were also Kendrick families south of Halifax County, VA in Person County, NC (formed 1791). Research of Dr. Joseph T. Kendrick says that this Thomas Kendrick and wife Sarah Raven lived close to the earlier homestead of a William Kendrick (b. 1704, d. 1776, Bute Co, NC), and that those two families seem related. However, our Thomas Kendrick does not have apparent connections or involvements with any of these other Kendrick families.

Dr. Joseph T. Kendrick (d. 2003) spent many years researching Colonial Kendrick family lines. He apparently died before his intended three volumes were published, a great loss to other Kendrick researchers. However, Rose Kendrick graciously shared with me his draft report on Thomas Kendrick that contains clues for further research. Regretfully, I could not locate Dr. Kendrick's family to ask permission to use his information here, yet I feel it is important that his efforts are not lost to us.

Searching for Thomas Kendrick's family of origin, Dr. Kendrick writes:

It is possible that he is a distant relative of John Kendrick (b. 1670-80) of Gloucester County, VA, whose family seems to have been the progenitors of the southern Kendricks. It is not known if John Kendrick had brothers, who may have served as progenitors, but it is known that he had at least four children, one of whom [William, later of Bute Co, NC] founded a major line. John's children were: John b. 1695, William b. 1704, James b. 1706, and Mary b. 1709, all born in Gloucester County, VA...The line of William has been fairly well researched, but the lines of John [Jr.] and James have not been adequately established, and it is possible that Thomas Kendrick, Sr. is linked in some way to one of these branches. [p.1-2]

John Kendrick, son of the above-mentioned William (b. 1704, Gloucester Co, VA) lived with his wife Amy Fox in an area of Lunenburg County that became Mecklenburg County in 1765. This was adjacent to Bute County (later Warren Co.), NC where William Kendrick died testate in 1776. None of the people on records found for William Kendrick and his son John Kendrick had any apparent connection with our Thomas Kendrick.

Except for William Kendrick's son John, no other Kendrick has been found in the records of Brunswick and Lunenburg, parent counties of Halifax, prior to Thomas Kendrick's appearance in Halifax County. This seems unusual, since a number of Halifax friends and neighbors of Thomas Kendrick, including the Lawson's and Brandon's, were earlier in Brunswick and/or Lunenburg County records.

Dr. Kendrick also suggests there could be a relationship between Thomas Kendrick and a John Kendrick family of Stafford County in northeastern Virginia. Dr. Kendrick says that according to an undocumented LDS (Mormon) family file submission, this John Kendrick, married to a Sarah, died in 1778 and had six children, all born in Stafford Co, VA: John b. c1720, Edward b. c1722, William b. c1724, Samuel b. c1726, Thomas b. c1728, and Joseph b. c1730. Dr. Kendrick concludes, "It is possible that the Thomas Kendrick, born in 1728 in Stafford Co, was the same Thomas who later appeared in Halifax Co, VA."

However, I could not find this John Kendrick family in abstracts of the limited extant records of early Stafford County, nor could I find any information to verify this LDS listing. In fact, another LDS file gives contradictory information for the same person. (Such LDS information is highly unreliable, as it comes from submissions that do not require evidence or documentation and are often in error.) Some family websites say the Thomas Kendrick allegedly born c1728 in Stafford County was the one who married Rebecca Palmer and died in Pittsylvania Co, VA after 1789, although they give no evidence for their claim.

One of our Thomas Kendrick's earliest recorded associates in Halifax was Vardry McBee. The McBee family moved there from King George/Prince William Co, VA, which was adjacent to Stafford. While friends and neighbors often migrated to the same places, the McBee family was in the Halifax County area at least 18 years before Thomas Kendrick appears there, so that connection seems unlikely. I could not find other possible connections between our Thomas Kendrick and Stafford County, but further research might uncover useful clues.

Another possibility for Thomas Kendrick's origins stems from some Horsley family stories regarding Thomas' daughter Sarah Kendrick who married Valentine Horsley. First of all, *Horsley Families of America* by Scott and Horsley (1986) says that Sarah Kendrick was "of Wales" with no explanation or source, but I learned from one of the authors that the information came from some of Sarah's descendants. Since Sarah was born in 1766 and her father Thomas "and wife" were living in Halifax at least by 1761, Sarah was obviously born in Halifax County, VA, not Wales. However, is there anything that might indicate her father Thomas Kendrick was of fairly recent Welsh heritage?

A number of years ago Gerald Horsley, a descendant of Valentine and Sarah, interviewed an elderly family member who remembered Sarah. This woman told Gerald that Sarah "talked funny," which Gerald understood to mean Sarah spoke with an unusual and unfamiliar accent. Although some Virginians do have a distinct accent, it is not found in the Halifax County region. Could Sarah have learned English from a father who was "of Wales" or was Welsh-speaking?

*Horsley Families* also says that Sarah Kendrick's husband Valentine Horsley was born in "Monforth, Maryland," also based on a descendant's information. However, in extensive research I discovered that Queen Anne's County, MD (Valentine's proved county of birth) did not ever have any place—town, tax district, estate, etc.—called Monforth. Interestingly, though, there are several towns in Wales that sound like Monforth. There is also a Montford, Shropshire, England at the Welsh border with a history of significant Welsh population from at least the Early Middle Ages. Could a story about Sarah Kendrick's family beginnings have become confused with her husband's, as often happens through generations of oral history? Family stories passed down through the years are rarely factually accurate, but they often contain seeds of truth even though twisted by time. Taking all this together, it seems worth investigating whether Thomas Kendrick was Welsh from Montford, England or Wales.

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The following is a timeline of the records I have found to date for Thomas Kendrick and family. These include Halifax County deeds and tax records from the originals obtained at the Library of Virginia in Richmond, VA and the Halifax County, VA Courthouse in Halifax, VA. They also include court orders and other records from published abstracts, which like all secondary sources need to be verified from the original documents. Each record is followed by a discussion of its meaning and significance and identifies people named on the record with Thomas Kendrick. Building the Kendrick family's community of neighbors and friends expands our understanding of their lives and the heritage they passed down to us. In time they may lead us to find more about Thomas Kendrick's origins as well.

## ***TIMELINE of RECORDS for THOMAS KENDRICK and FAMILY***

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### **1761 (Apr) - THOMAS KENDRICK named in Road Orders of Halifax County, VA Court**

April Court 1761

Ordered that Robert Waters, William Hatfield, John Frederick Miller, Daniel Williams, Vardry MAGBY, Mathias MAGBY, James MAGBY, John Noble, Henry Terry, THOMAS KENDRICK, John Campbell, John CARTER, Talman HARBOUR, Francis KERBY, Daniel Obar, William Lankford, Ambrose Haley, James Keith, Benjamin Hancock and John Hancock, do lay open and clear a bridle way from this Courthouse to the Reedy bottom Foard, and afterwards return to their former stations. And it is further ordered that sd John Hancock be Surveyor thereof as far as Polecat Cr[eeek]. [Plea Book 3, p. 228]

[Source: *Halifax County Virginia Court Orders 1759-1762 (Plea Book No. 3)* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 1998) p. 102. Caps added.]

Note:

Road orders were given regularly by the court of each Virginia county. County officials would divide the county roads into segments and specify the landowners along each segment to be responsible for the repair and maintenance of the road. For each group or “gang,” the court also appointed a leader, called the “overseer” or “surveyor,” who was responsible to the court for the work being done satisfactorily and within the specified time. Each landowner was responsible for seeing that those in his household who were his “tithables” fulfilled their obligation to be part of the “gang.” Tithables at this time included free white males age 16 (later, age 21) and older, and male and female slaves, usually 14-16 or older, for whom the landowner paid their yearly tithe or tax. Certain categories of free blacks and Indians were also required to serve on road crews. Landowners could petition the court for new roads they desired in order to make travel more convenient, and if approved, the court appointed the landowners who would use the road to build it. Neither the building nor the maintaining of the roads was easy business. “Roads” were often no more than widened trails through dense woods, beset with tree stumps and boulders too large to remove and often a mire of deep mud.

Road orders are of particular use to family historians, in that the people named together on the “gang” lived along the same road segment. We thus can assume that these families knew each other, had interactions together, and some perhaps had migrated together. This helps us to build our family’s community and sometimes find clues to locate a prior residence. The names I give in caps on the various road orders are names we also encounter on other records relating to Thomas Kendrick.

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### **1761 (Aug) - THOMAS KENDRICK and “WIFE” witness in Halifax County, VA Court**

August Court 1761. William DOUGLASS is ordered to pay THOMAS KENDRICK AND HIS WIFE, witnesses for him at the suit of [Vardry] MACBE, for two days attendance. [Plea Book 3, p. 330]

[Source: *Halifax County Virginia Court Orders 1759-1762 (Plea Book No. 3)* (Miami Beach, FL : TLC. Genealogy, 1998) p. 144. Caps and comments in brackets added.]

Note:

This records shows that Thomas Kendrick and “his wife” were married by August 1761. Her name is not in any Halifax records, but after Thomas died, the 1800 census names her as Nancy Kendrick.

Court records show that this case for which Thomas and his wife gave testimony was William Douglas v. Vardry McBee. McBee was found not guilty, but the verdict did not name the charges. McBee's witnesses were William and Thomas Payne, who were on 1767 road orders with Thomas Kendrick, and Moses Ayers, from whom Thomas bought land in 1762. The other witness for William Douglas besides Thomas and his wife was Talman Harbour, who was on 1761 road orders with Thomas, as were Vardry McBee and his brothers Mathias and James. The McBee family has some interesting connections with both Thomas Kendrick and his later neighbor and in-law James Horsley.

Vardry McBee's parents were William McBee and Susannah Vardry. William McBee was born 22 Oct 1704, Prince George's County, MD, and died 1 Mar 1759, Halifax County, VA. Vardry McBee married Hannah Echols Dec 1758 in Bristol Parish, Dinwiddie County, VA. Hannah Echols was the daughter of William Echols (b. c1690 King & Queen Co, VA; d. 1771 Halifax Co, VA). William Echols' Halifax County will dated 8 Apr 1771, proved 16 May 1771, names one executor as Moses Hendrick.

*[The above information on the McBee family and deeds mentioned below are from Danny A. McBee's website at: <[www.birdsongfamily.com/genealogy/set4\\_mcbbee/mcbee0007.html](http://www.birdsongfamily.com/genealogy/set4_mcbbee/mcbee0007.html)>]*

James Horsley Sr. was living in Prince George's Co, MD by 1716/17 among people who were intermarried with the McBee family there (sp. Mockbee, Magva, McBean, etc.). By 1775, his son James Horsley Jr. lived near Thomas Kendrick in Halifax Co, VA after moving from Queen Anne's Co, MD, and Thomas' daughter Sarah Kendrick married James Jr.'s son Valentine Horsley c1785.

Vardry's father William McBee moved from Prince George's Co, MD to King George County, VA (later Prince William County) by 25 Jan 1717/18 when a deed names him as a bound near Marrs Run. (King George and Prince William County were adjacent to Stafford County, VA where a John Kendrick allegedly lived, as previously mentioned.) On 7 Apr 1752 William McBee, then of Lunenburg County, sold land on both sides of Midway River, later called Birch Creek, which was in the new county of Halifax formed later the same year. A witness to that deed was William Douglas, for whom Thomas Kendrick and his wife testified in the above 1761 case against Vardry McBee. (Also, Thomas' neighbor John Lawson was on Lunenburg County deeds with William Douglas in 1746.)

"Moses Hendrick" was named as an executor in the will of Vardry McBee's father-in-law. This Hendrick line was first in King William County, VA, and Moses Hendrick was in Halifax County by 1758. Moses and family are often listed as Hendrake, Kendrake, and Kendrick, and indeed on some original records the "H" and "K" are nearly indistinguishable. As we shall see shortly, Moses Hendrick and Vardry McBee were both Quakers, as were a number of others who lived near Thomas Kendrick in Halifax and found on his records there. Thus, I investigated whether Thomas Kendrick could have been a Hendrick himself, then just kept the name Kendrick with which Moses' family was sometimes recorded. However, there are extant wills for Moses Hendrick's line, and their lands can be tracked through several generations, so there is ample evidence that our Thomas Kendrick does not belong to that family. *[See: "The Line of Adolphus Hendrick" online at: <[www.genfiles.com/hendrick/Adolphus.pdf](http://www.genfiles.com/hendrick/Adolphus.pdf)>]*

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## **1762 – THOMAS KENDRICK buys land from Moses Ayers in Halifax County, VA**

### Abstract

19 Aug 1762 [recorded] - Moses AYRES of Halifax Co, VA to THOMAS KENDRICK of same  
For: £10 current money of Virginia

Description: 152 acres, Halifax Co., on the Branch of Dan River, adjacent to John LAWSON. No other names included. Metes and bounds as follows:



Beginning at an old black oak thence S45E 17 chain to a corner pine, thence S60E 120 chain, to a white oak in John LAWSON's line, thence along his line N73E 76 chain to a pine, thence N37W 90 chain to a pine, thence W 58 chain to a white oak thence S30W 33 chain to the beginning.

Signed: Moses Ayres [no wife's name or release of dower]

Witnesses: None

Recorded:19 Aug 1762

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 4, p. 48-50, Library of Virginia, Richmond, VA. Abstract by J. Horsley, caps and comments in brackets added. Note: Date of deed is per Index since the page is mutilated, obliterating date.]

Note:

This land from Moses Ayers is the earliest deed recorded for Thomas Kendrick in Halifax County, but the actual date the deed was signed is obliterated. Thomas sold this land in 1773, along with all his household goods, to John Lawson, who was also an adjacent neighbor and possibly Thomas' wife Nancy's relation. As discussed below, the sale to John Lawson may have been due to financial difficulties, since Thomas appears to remain living afterwards in almost exactly the same place.

Moses Ayers acquired this land three years before from William Byrd. Their deed shows that John Lawson was already residing in Halifax County. In fact, the Lawson and Brandon families were in this area by 1746 when it was still part of Lunenburg County, parent county of Halifax formed in 1752.

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18 May 1759 - William Byrd, Esqr. of Charles City Co, to Moses Ayres of Halifax Co, for £1/10, 152 acres on branches of Dan River, beginning at a black oak thence south, John Lawson's line. All trees, woods, etc. David Caldwell by power of Attorney for William Byrd. Signed: W Byrd. Rec. 18 May 1759 [Source: Marian Dodson Chiarito, *Halifax County VA Deed Book 1 1752-1759* (1985), p. 512; to me from Con Childress 23 Jul 2009 in response to my March 2009 inquiry on the Ayers Family Ancestry.com Message Board]

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The seller Moses Ayers was the son of Nathaniel Ayers, who was also a Quaker. We have no indication that Thomas Kendrick himself was a Quaker; however, a number of people, including Nathaniel Ayers, Vardry McBee, and Moses Hendrick who were on Halifax County records with Thomas and living around him (named in caps below) are mentioned in this Quaker record of 1758:

"On 16 Dec 1758, The Journal of Proceedings for the South River Monthly Meeting (which encompassed Bedford and Halifax counties in Virginia at that time) contains this entry on page 5:

"At a Monthly Meeting held at South River Bedford County the 16<sup>th</sup> of the 12<sup>th</sup> Month 1758 [16 Dec 1758]. The representatives being called appeared.

The Friends appointed to enquire into the failure of those before appointed to recommend such as they though[t] worthy to be received into Membership at Hallifax(sic) have rendered a reason to Friends satisfaction. [A]lso those formerly appointed think proper to recommend the following persons as worthy to come under the notice of Friends, To Wit, VARDRY MAGBA [McBee] and HANNAH MAGBA [McBee] his wife, Henry Farmer and Agness his wife, MOSES KENDRAKE [Hendrick] and RUTH his wife, RICHARD KIRBY and Elizabeth his wife, John KIRBY and Johanna his wife, RICHARD KIRBY JUN'R, John KIRBY, Elizabeth Cothrun, Mary PAYN [Payne], Isham Wammack, John COLDWELL [Caldwell], William PAYN [Payne] and Ruth his wife, & Nathaniel AYRS [Ayers] who are accordingly receiv'd as members..."

[Source: J. Patrick Childress, Childress/Mathis Family Tree at <<http://worldconnect.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=patchildress&id=I3957>> Caps and punctuation added by JH.]

## 1764 –THOMAS KENDRICK named in Road Orders of Halifax County, VA Court

May Court 1764

John CARTER is appointed Surveyor of the road from Nathaniel Terry's Ferry Road to IRBY'S CREEK, and it is ordered that the sd John with the male laboring tithables belonging to [blank] Ossenbrook, THOMAS KENDRICK, Thomas Caison [CARSON], William Caison [CARSON], Richard KERBY, Michael Glenbrook, Benjamin Bolling, William SEAL, John Hancock, Daniel AYERS, do clear and keep the same in repair. [Plea Book 4, p. 274]

[Source: *Halifax County Virginia Court Orders 1763-1764 (Plea Book No. 4)* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 1998) p.111. Caps and brackets added.]

Note:

John Carter, named here as the group leader or “surveyor,” and John Hancock were on the road orders with Thomas Kendrick in April 1761, prior to Thomas’ purchase of the land from Moses Ayers. This indicates Thomas is living in the same immediate area as he was when first found in Halifax. Carson and Kerby in this 1764 road order were also bounds on the land Thomas purchased in 1776.

The name of Irby’s Creek is interesting. Thomas Kendrick’s daughter Anne married John Irby (b. 1761) in Halifax County in 1789 (record below). John Irby did not move to Halifax County until just after the Revolution according to his pension application (record below), which did not mention any relatives in Halifax. However, there were Irby families in the area before 1746, when it was still Brunswick County, who may be relatives of John Irby.

## 1766 –THOMAS KENDRICK in Halifax County, VA Court debt suit

August Court 1766

John Wimbish and Co., plaintiffs, v THOMAS KENDRICK and Richard Smith, defendants. In Case. For reasons appearing to the Court, suit dismissed. [Plea Book 5, Pt. 2, p. 305]

[Source: *Halifax County Virginia Court Orders 1766-1767 (Plea Book No. 5, Pt. 2)* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 1999) p. 20. Caps and brackets added.]

Note:

Richard Smith, Thomas Kendrick's co-defendant in this suit, was added to the road "gang" of which John Lawson was then the “surveyor” in March 1760. Smith and three others were described as male tithables of John Carter [PB3:44], indicating they were employed by Carter (e.g., as overseers, craftsmen, farm laborers, etc.) and for whom Carter paid the tithe or head tax. Since Carter was in road orders with Thomas Kendrick and the 1760 road surveyor John Lawson was now Thomas' adjacent neighbor, we can assume that Thomas knew Richard Smith as a neighbor also.

In later Halifax County Court records for 1771 (below), a case involving the same parties was ruled against the defendants Thomas Kendrick and Richard Smith. In March 1774, Richard Smith had to sell livestock, horses, household and farm equipment to John Lawson for payment of debt. [HDB9:323]

Debt cases were common in Colonial courts, especially since their economy was based on credit. However, some years were worse than others for the majority who were farmers living mostly on a subsistence level and particularly vulnerable to weather and to monopolies of vital suppliers.

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### **1767 - THOMAS KENDRICK named in Road Orders of Halifax County, VA Court**

September Court 1767 - John Lewis, Gent, is appointed Surveyor of the road from to Terry's Foard on DANN(sic) RIVER to Burches (Birch) Creek, and it is ordered that he, with John MOORE and his male tithables, John CARTER and his, John KERBY, Richard KERBY and his, John LAWSON and his, John Mount, THOMAS KENDRICK, Thomas CARSON, John Hancock, Thomas PAYNE, John CALDWELL, Allen CALDWELL, William PAYNE Jr., Richard CARTER, William Russell, and William Scale [prob. SEALE], do forthwith clear and keep the said road in repair. [Plea Book 6, p. 17]

[Source: *Halifax County, Virginia Court Orders 1767-1770 (Plea Book No. 6)* (Miami Beach FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000) p. 13. Caps added.]

#### **Note:**

Here we see Thomas Kendrick living in the midst of families of Payne, Caldwell, and Kirby, who along with Ayers, McBee/Magba, and Moses Hendrick, were in the Quaker Monthly Meeting record above of 16 Dec 1758. John Mount and William Russell had been John Carter's tithables in 1760, as was Richard Smith, Thomas Kendrick's co-defendant against Wimbish's debt suits in 1766 and 1771.

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### **1770 (Apr) – THOMAS KENDRICK appointed surveyor in Halifax County, VA Road Orders**

April Court 1770. THOMAS KENDRICK is appointed Surveyor of the Road from the DOUBLE CREEK to TOBYS CREEK, and it is ordered that he, with the male laboring tithables belonging to John MOORE, William Hopson, John CARTER, William Boyd, Richard KERBY, John LAWSON, John Mount, John Hancock, William PATERSON, Joseph PATTERSON, and William SEAL, do forthwith clear and keep the said Road in repair. [Plea Book 6, p. 489]

[Source: *Halifax County, Virginia Court Orders 1767-1770 (Plea Book No. 6)* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000) p. 315. Caps added.]

#### **Note:**

Thomas Kendrick was this year's "surveyor" for his road group or "gang." That is, he was the landowner along this road segment held responsible to the court to organize the others for services owed and to see that the road work was completed in a satisfactory and timely manner.

The area between Double Creek and Tobys Creek is roughly between today's towns of Sutherlin and Paces in Halifax County. Between the two creeks is Byrds Creek, with all three flowing into the Dan River nearby. Thomas Kendrick's land from Moses Ayers was bounded by John Lawson, named on the above road order. The land that James Horsley buys Jan 1775 from the above-listed Joseph Patterson was on "branches of Byrd's Creek" and bounded by John Lawson and "Seal's old field." The next year, 1776, Thomas Kendrick bought land adjacent to James Horsley, John Lawson, and Richard Kirby, also named above. Thus, it is apparent that although Thomas sold his land from Ayers to John Lawson in 1773, he continued to live in the same place throughout his years in Halifax.

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## 1771 – THOMAS KENDRICK in Halifax County, VA Court debt suits

### August Court 1771

John Wimbish and Co., plaintiffs, vs. Richard Smith and THOMAS KENDRICK, defendants, in case. This day came the parties by Paul Carrington, their attorney, and thereupon came also a jury, to wit, Benjamin Boxley, James Smith, Simon Holt, James Echols, John Milner, James Owen, Jeremiah Keen, Benjamin Vaughan, Samuel Bentley, Alman Gwin, Jeremiah Stevens, William Powell, who say that the Plaintiffs have sustained damages by reason of the breach of the defendant's promise and assumption in the declaration supposed, besides their costs, to 13 pounds 2 shillings and 4 pence. Ordered that the plaintiffs recover against the defendants their damages aforesaid, and their costs. [Plea Book 7, Pt. 1, p. 224]

### September Court 1771

John Fisher and Co., Assignees of Benjamin Slayden, plaintiffs, vs. THOMAS KENDRICK, defendant, On a petition, the Sheriff having returned the defendant duly summoned, this day came the plaintiffs by Paul Carrington, their attorney, and the defendant not appearing, the plaintiffs produced the defendant's bill obligatory for 4 pounds 4 shillings, therefore it is ordered that the plaintiff recover against the defendant, his debt aforesaid, and his costs. But this judgment {except as to the costs} is to be discharged by the payment of 2 pounds 2 shillings, with legal interest from December 24, 1768. [Plea Book 7, Pt. 1, p. 260]

[Source: *Halifax County, Virginia Court Orders 1770-1771 (Plea Book no. 7, pt. 1)* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000) p. 138-139, 161]

### Note:

It appears from these suits that Thomas Kendrick was having some financial struggles and had been for several years, but he was far from alone. This year in particular there were numerous debt cases against individuals by companies, and a seemingly unusual number of such cases noted "defendant not appearing," as Thomas' second case did.

The first case against Thomas and Richard Smith involved the same parties as the case in 1766, which then was dismissed. Here, a jury ruled against the defendants. The lawyer for John Wimbish and Co. was Paul Carrington who was also Clerk of the Halifax County Court, a lifetime appointment that often passed through families. The next Clerk of Court was Paul's relative George Carrington.

Company owner John Wimbish owned the Pittsylvania County town of Peytonsburg (also called Wimbish Stores), about 25 miles north of where Thomas Kendrick lived. John Wimbish owned the stores, tavern and ordinary, lumber mill, etc., and later willed the town to his wife. Wimbish also owned land in Halifax and Pittsylvania, as well as in the Virginia counties of Charlotte, Lunenburg, Henry, and Prince Edward, and the names of his slaves covered 3 of his 8-page estate inventory. [Research of Connie Wimbish from Village of Wimbish, Eng, website at: <[www.wimbish.org.uk/new/history-surname.htm](http://www.wimbish.org.uk/new/history-surname.htm)>] When one family or a small group of families owned most or all sources for vital services and supplies, the area's residents were vulnerable by necessity to accruing debts they could not pay.

In the second suit, Thomas Kendrick owed Benjamin Slayden who assigned the debt to John Fisher and Co. as payment on Slayden's own debt to the company. By a deed recorded 16 Aug 1769 Slayden sold 80 acres on Tobys Creek (near where Thomas lived) to John Payne, on road orders with Thomas. [HDB6:428] A deed recorded the next day shows Benjamin Slayden of Rowan Co., NC, selling John Payne another 100 acres on "branches of the Dan." [HDB7: 413] Research of Clinton

Slayton shows that in 1765 Benjamin "Slaydon" was allowed by the Charlotte Co, VA court to operate an ordinary in his house [CCOB1:71], and in 1770 Benjamin Slayden was licensed to operate a public house in his house in Rowan Co, NC. [RCR3:227] An ordinary or public house was a public establishment for food and drink that sometimes included accommodations for travelers. It may be that Slayden operated the same in the Halifax Co, VA area where Thomas accrued a debt to him. Others in Halifax owing to Slayden were William Seal (on road orders with Thomas and with land adjacent to James Horsley), and Robert and Henry Terry (also on road orders with Thomas).

The court's order in the second suit that the debt be discharged by paying half the sum owed (plus interest and court costs) indicates that the court felt Thomas could not pay more. There was a credit economy where debt suits were common, and the vast majority maintained only a subsistence living. A year of bad crops, severe weather, business losses, or illness could be ruinous. By March 1773, it appears Thomas even had to sell his land and personal goods to cover loans or debts. However, three years later Thomas was again able to buy his own land (see records below).

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### **1772 – THOMAS KENDRICK named in Road Orders of Halifax County, VA Court**

April Court 1772

Ordered that the road above TOBYS CREEK be turned below John MOOREs Mill and that John LAWSON, Henry Hoopson and John Frederick Miller to mark off the same and that THOMAS KENDRICK, with the gang under his direction, do lay open the same. [Plea Book 7, Pt. 2, p. 303]

August Court 1772

William BOYD is appointed Surveyor of the Road whereof THOMAS KENDRICK was Surveyor. And it is ordered that the said William, with the gang belonging to the said Road, do clear and keep the same in repair. [Plea Book 7, Pt. 2, p. 453]

[Source: *Halifax County Virginia Court Orders 1771-1773 (Plea Book no. 7, pt. 2)* (Miami Beach, FL: TLC Genealogy, 2000) p. 25, 118]

Note:

New road "overseers" or "surveyors" generally were appointed by the court every year, since the responsibility could become burdensome for any one person to continue long-term.

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### **1773 (Mar) - THOMAS KENDRICK sells his Halifax County land to JOHN LAWSON**

Abstract

19 Mar 1773 - Deed from Thomas Kendrick of Halifax Co. to John Lawson of same

For: £65

Description: 152 acres in Halifax County, bounded by Thomas Casson [Carson], Joseph Patterson, John Lewis, Benjamin Redman, John Lawson. [No metes included]

Signed: Tho/s Kendrick [no wife's name included and no release of dower]

Witnesses: John Caldwell Jr., James Addams, Theo. [Theoderick] Carter, John Brandon, William Brandon, William Price

Recorded: Halifax County Court October 1773

Source: Halifax County Deed Book 9, p. 142. Abstract by Joan Horsley; comments in brackets added.

Transcription

This indenture made the nineteenth day of March in the year of our Lord Christ one thousand seven hundred seventy three [19 March 1773] between THOMAS KENDRICK of Halifax County of the one part and JOHN LAWSON of the same county of the other part witnesseth that for and in consideration of sixty five [65] pounds current money of Virginia to him in hand paid by the said John Lawson the receipt whereof the said Thomas Kendrick doth hereby acknowledge and thereof doth acquit and discharge the said John Lawson his heirs executors administrators forever hath granted bargained and sold and by these presents doth grant bargain sell unto the said John Lawson and to his heirs and assigns forever one certain tract or parcel of land scituate(sic) lying and being in the said county and containing by estimation one hundred and fifty two [152] acres be the same more or less and bounded by the lines of Thomas CASSON [Carson], Joseph PATTERSON, John LEWIS, Benj/m REDMAN, John LAWSON, together with the revisions and reversions [etc...]

Signed: THO/s KENDRICK

Wit: John CALDWELL Junr, James ADDAMS, Theo. CARTER, John BRANDON, William BRANDON, William PRICE. Recorded October Court 1773

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 9, p. 142, Halifax County Courthouse, Halifax, VA. Transcribed by J. Horsley. Caps and comments in brackets added, with minor spelling changes]

## Note:

The land Thomas is selling to his adjacent neighbor John Lawson is the same land Thomas bought from Moses Ayers in 1762. John Lawson may be a relative of Thomas' wife Nancy, whose family name is thought by some to be Lawson. As we discuss more in the notes for the next record, Thomas may have sold this land in order to pay debts or loans, although the deed does not mention that fact.

John Lawson was the father of Mary Lawson who married John Brandon [*per John Brandon's 1799 York Co, SC will*]. Several of John and Mary Lawson Brandon's children later married Kendrick and Horsley children. William Brandon who witnessed this deed was John's father (d. 1778). William Brandon's will was witnessed by Samuel Matthews [*HWB1: 233*], likely the Samuel Matthews who married James Horsley's daughter Susannah in 1784. About 1781, James' son Richard Horsley married Margaret Brandon, a daughter of John N. Brandon (d. 1794) who was also of Halifax and obviously a relative of William Brandon and his son John.

Thomas Kendrick's wife is not named in this deed and there is no release of dower by her. The long-standing law of Virginia required the formal release by the wife of her dower share (1/3) of all real property sold by her husband. However, many of the newer frontier areas in the south and western parts of Virginia became very lax regarding the dower laws, and deeds frequently omitted the wife's signature or her dower release or both, as evidenced by many Halifax County deeds of this time period. Because of these common omissions, it is a mistake to conclude that Thomas was not married to Nancy at this time. Thomas does, indeed, seem to be married to the same mother of all his children, judging by the birth dates of those children beginning in 1763.

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## 1773 (Apr) - THOMAS KENDRICK sells his personal property to John LAWSON

### Abstract

26 April 1773 - Deed from Thomas Kendrick to John Lawson, both of Halifax County

For: £33.

Description: Livestock, horses, all household goods.

Signed: Thomas Kendrick

Witnesses: Robert Rakestraw[?], John Lovelace, Christopher Fitzgerald

Source: Halifax Deed Book 9, p. 48. Abstract by J. Horsley.

### Transcription

Know all men by these presents that I THOMAS KENDRICK of Halifax County for and in consideration of the sum of thirty three pounds current money of Virginia to me in hand paid by JOHN LAWSON of the same county and before the sealing and delivery thereof doth acquit the said John Lawson his heirs executors admns. and assigns freely by these presents have bargained sold and delivered unto the said John Lawson the following goods. Cattle & hogs viz, two sows and fourteen shotes mark'd with a crop in the right ear & a nick in left, two cows mark'd with a crop in the right ear & a nick in the left, two bay mares branded one with a D on the near shoulder the other branded with O on the near buttock. And all household furniture, beds, potts, pewter & any other thing now in the possession of the said Tho. Kendrick and in general all the goods household goods & implements of household goods now in my possion [sic] or in [interlined "the"] possession of any other for me or for my use behoof or benefitt of which goods household goods & implements of household. I have put the said John Lawson in full possession by delivering to him the above mentioned bay mare in the name of the above mentioned goods. In witness whereof I have set my hand & seal this 26th day of April 1773 [26 Apr 1773]

/s/ THOMAS KENDRICK

Sign'd seal & deliver'd the above bay mare to John LAWSON [on] behalf of the above mentioned goods in presents of us: Robert Rakestraw?[illegible], John Lovelace, Christopher (x) Fitzgerald Recorded 20th May 1773, prov'd by one witness, ordered to be recorded. Teste: P. Carrington

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 9, p. 48, Halifax Courthouse, Halifax, VA. Transcription by J. Horsley; caps and comments added; original spelling retained.]

### Note:

When I first discovered this deed and the deed for the sale of his land a month before, they seemed to indicate that Thomas Kendrick sold out completely and left the Halifax area. However, then I discovered from Thomas' debt suits in 1771 that he was having financial difficulties, and that the subsequent records we have for Thomas Kendrick in Halifax seem obviously to be for the same man living in exactly the same place with the same neighbors and associates. Thus, although neither deed states as much, the fact that Thomas sold all his land and personal property seems to be a case of his needing money to pay debts. Judging from other court cases and deeds during this time, such a necessity was not uncommon. Thomas apparently kept the use of his personal goods, except for the mare given as "good faith," which could indicate John Lawson was related to his wife. Thomas may have continued to live on his former land, since the next land he buys in 1776 is in the same location.

Christopher Fitzgerald who witnessed this deed is said to be the son of John Fitzgerald who was granted a Halifax land patent (later in Pittsylvania) on 25 Sep 1764 for 400 acres on the Lick Branch

of Sandy Creek, adjacent to John Caldwell, who witnessed Thomas Kendrick's 1773 land deed of sale and was on road orders with him. John Fitzgerald Jr. married Eleanor "Nelly" Dodson in Pittsylvania County on 9 March 1799 (bond secured by David Dodson). Her grandfather Elisha Dodson bought the Halifax land of James Horsley in 1789. Elisha's father was Thomas Dodson whose will was dated 17 Feb 1739 in Richmond County, VA, where Thomas Dodson had sold land to Charles Lovelace, father of John Lovelace who witnessed the above sale of Thomas Kendrick. (Richmond County, VA is where Thomas Kendrick's later son-in-law John Irby was born in 1761.)

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### **1775 (Jan) - JAMES HORSLEY buys land next to neighbors of THOMAS KENDRICK**

#### Abstract

28 January 1775 – JOSEPH PATTERSON of Halifax County to JAMES HOSLEY[sic] of same  
For: £30 current money

Description: 100 acres in Halifax County on the branches of BYRD'S CREEK, bounded by Capt. John LAWSON and Thomas CARSON, and also by the "Old Spring Branch it lying on the south side of the said branch and part of a larger tract." [No metes included]

Signed: Joseph Patterson, Frances Patterson [both by signature]

Witnesses: John BATES, William HUGHES, RICHARD (his mark) HOSLEY[sic], John LAWSON, William BRANDON

Recorded: Partly proved in Court of 16 Feb 1776. Fully proved and recorded 15 Aug 1776.

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 10, p. 90-91. Reel 4. Library of Virginia, Richmond, VA. Abstract by J. Horsley. Original spelling retained, caps and comments in brackets added.]

#### Note:

James Horsley, later in-law of Thomas Kendrick, arrived in Halifax County, VA from Queen Anne's County, MD a few years prior to this deed. Two bounds (i.e., adjacent landowners) on James' land, namely John Lawson and Thomas Carson, were also bounds on the land Thomas Kendrick sold to John Lawson in 1773, where Thomas may have continued living..

The seller here, Joseph Patterson, was another bound on the land Thomas sold in 1773. Nine months after selling this land to James Horsley, Joseph Patterson sold an adjacent tract to John Dameron of Surry County, NC. That was the tract Thomas Kendrick bought from Dameron four months later in Jan 1776, as we discuss below.

Witness William Brandon (who also witnessed Thomas' 1773 sale) was the father of John Brandon, whose children intermarried with Thomas Kendrick's children and a granddaughter of James Horsley. William Brandon's 1778 will was witnessed by James Horsley's later son-in-law Samuel Matthews.

Another witness to James' deed was his eldest son, Richard Horsley, who turned 21 this year. In Feb 1778, Richard bought Halifax land on Winns Creek, the mouth of which is opposite the mouth of Byrds Creek (where James Horsley and Thomas Kendrick lived) at the Dan River. The bounds on the land Richard Horsley bought included David Brandon, brother of William Brandon who also witnessed Richard Horsley's deed along with Richard's father James Horsley. About 1781, Richard married Margaret Brandon, daughter of John N. Brandon (d. 1794), another of the same Brandon family. (For more information on the Brandon and Horsley family connections, see my report on James Horsley Jr. at <[www.joanhorsley.org](http://www.joanhorsley.org)>)

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**1775 (Apr) - THOMAS KENDRICK and JAMES HORSLEY witness deed to JOHN LAWSON**

1 April 1775

To all Christian People to whom these presents shall come know ye that we William Patterson and Mary Patterson, wife of the said Patterson of the County of Halifax do sell unto Captain John Lawson of said County the one third part of 233 areas of land lying on Dan river joining to said Lawson's line, being the Dowry of said Mary Patterson, wife of said William Patterson, for the term of life for the consideration of 25 pounds... all the said Dowry of my wife Mary during the said term of her life from any person or persons whatsoever during... and the said Patterson is to give said Lawson quiet and peaceable possession on the first day of October 1775 and said Patterson, Patterson is to stay on the land until such time as he makes use of tother, that is the 1 April 1775.

Signed William (X) Patterson and Mary (X) Patterson.

Witnesses Thomas Whitan, THOMAS KENDRICK and JAMES HORSLEY[sic; signed by his mark]  
Halifax County, VA, Deed Book 10, p. 108

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A Deed between William Paterson and Mary his wife to John Lawson was recorded 19 Sep 1776.  
Halifax County, VA Court Orders, Plea Book 9, p. 168

[Source: Both records are from Carl L. Lawson's website "Halifax County, Virginia Lawsons" online at:  
<<http://lawsondna.org/Media/virginiacounties/Halifax.html>> Caps and comments in brackets added]

Note:

The seller William Patterson is on road orders with Thomas Kendrick, as was his possible relative Joseph Patterson who sold land to James Horsley in Jan 1775. It appears that William Patterson, like Thomas Kendrick (who also sold to John Lawson), was in financial difficulties. It is very unusual to see a wife's dower portion (1/3 of her husband's real property) sold separately as it is here, since her dower ensured that she would have some livelihood should she be widowed.

**1776 – THOMAS KENDRICK buys Halifax land adjacent to JAMES HORSLEY, JOHN LAWSON**Abstract

6 January 1776 - John DAMERON of Surry County, NC to THOMAS KENDRICK of Halifax  
For: £30 current money of Virginia

Description: 160 acres in Halifax County on branches of BYRD'S CREEK, beginning at Richard Kerby [Kirby] line thence along the sd line to John LAWSON's line, thence along Lawson's line to JAMES HOSLY's [Horsley's] line, thence along his line to Thomas CARSON's line thence along the CARSON's line to KERBY's [Kirby's] line again together. [No metes given.]

Signed: John Dameron [no wife's name or dower release included]

Witnesses: Flem[ing] BATES Jr., John MOORE, JAMES HOSLY (by mark), John BATES

Recorded: 15 Aug 1776 Teste: P. Carrington

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 10, p. 89-90. Reel 4. Library of Virginia, Richmond, VA. Abstract by J. Horsley, caps and comments in brackets added]

Note:

In 1773, Thomas Kendrick had sold to John Lawson his 152 acres adjacent to John Lawson, Thomas Carson, and Joseph Patterson. In Jan 1775, Joseph Patterson sold part of his land adjacent to

Lawson and Carson to James Horsley (as discussed above), and in Sep 1775, Patterson sold an adjacent tract to John Dameron, per this deed:

- - - - -

23 Sep 1775 – JOSEPH PATTERSON of Halifax Co. to JOHN DAMERON of Surry Co, NC

For: £50 “and for diverse good causes”

Description: “about” 160 acres, bounded by CARSON, Jeames Hosler [JAMES HORSLEY], JOHN LAWSON, Richard Karbey [KIRBY]

Signed: Joseph Patterson [no wife’s name or dower release included]

Witnesses: Smallwood Coghillmarlow [Coghill Marlin], JOHN LAWSON, JOHN LAWSON JR.

Recorded: 16 Nov 1775

Source: Halifax Deed Book 10, p. 30; abstracted in *Halifax County Deeds, Book 10, 1775-1778* (Miami Beach: TLC Genealogy, 1991), p. 5. Re-formatted and caps added by J. Horsley

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This is the same land that John Dameron now sells to Thomas Kendrick, with the same bounds of Lawson, Horsley (formerly Patterson), Carson, and Kirby. Since the land Thomas sold in 1773 was also bounded by Lawson, Carson, and Patterson, we can see, even though no metes are included in the various deeds, Thomas is buying almost exactly where he was living since at least 1762.

Witness James Horsley was Thomas’ later in-law, and witness John Bates also witnessed James’ deed of purchase in 1775. The Bates and Lawson families were intermarried (see my report on James Horsley Jr. at <[www.joanhorsley.org](http://www.joanhorsley.org)> for more details). Thomas Kendrick sold this tract of 160 acres in 1781 to John Moore, another witness to this deed to Thomas.

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### **1778 - THOMAS KENDRICK a bound on land from John Lewis Jr. to John Lewis**

#### Abstract

10 Apr 1778 - "John LEWIS Jr. (Mountain)" of Granville Co., NC, to John LEWIS of Halifax

For: £200

Description: “about” 1100 acres in Halifax Co. on and at the mouth of the Double Creeks, which said John Lewis purchased of Isaac Reed; bounded by Dan River on the south side, on the west by John CALDWELL and Thomas PAYNE’s land to the north, on the NE by the land of THOMAS KENDRICK, and on the east by the land of JOHN LAWSON.

Signed: John Lewis Jr. [no wife included]

Witnesses: -John Lewis, Bartlet Williams, Howell Lewis, Thomas Beach, Isabella Lewis, John Kennon, Ch. Kennon, William Richardson.

Recorded 17 Sep 1778

Source: Halifax Deed Book 11, p. 87. Abstract from Chandler Eavenson by personal e-mail. Caps and comments in brackets added.

#### Note:

The deed description says that Thomas Kendrick’s land was on the northeast side of the property being sold. This 1100-acre tract was at the mouth of Double Creek on the Dan River. To the northeast is Byrds Creek, and both Thomas’ land and that of his adjacent neighbor James Horsley were described as being on branches of Byrds Creek.

The Dan River became crucial in the Revolutionary War. With the British commander Cornwallis on his heels, American Gen. Nathanael Greene raced from South Carolina with his Patriot army to the “Crossing of the Dan” in February 1781. The troops crossed the Dan by a fleet of locals’ vessels at

Boyd's and Irwin's Ferry, not far from where Thomas Kendrick lived. Had Cornwallis succeeded in capturing Greene's troops before they reached safety across the Dan, the success of the Revolution would have been in jeopardy. [See more about this historic event and Greene's masterful strategy online at: <[www.prizery.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=139&Itemid=222#war\\_of\\_independence](http://www.prizery.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=139&Itemid=222#war_of_independence)>]

Other bounds of this land being sold were John Caldwell, Thomas Payne, and John Lawson, all found on other records with Thomas Kendrick.

### **1781 – THOMAS KENDRICK sells his land adjacent to JAMES HORSLEY & JOHN LAWSON**

#### Abstract

28 April 1781 – Thomas Kendrick to John Moore, both of Halifax County

For: £40

Description: 160 acres in Halifax County, bounded by Richard Curby [Kirby], Thomas Carson, James Horsley, and John Lawson [no metes given]

Signed: Thomas Kendrick [no wife's name or dower release included]

Witnesses: John Johns, Alexander Moore, John Lawson Jr., Thomas Lawson, Harmon Miller

Recorded: 15 Nov 1781

Source: Halifax County Deed Book 12, p. 163. Abstract by J. Horsley, comments in brackets added.

#### Transcription

This indenture made this twenty eight day of April one thousand seven hundred and eighty one [28 April 1781] between THOMAS KENDRICK of the County of Halifax of the one part and JOHN MOORE of the said county of the other part, witnesseth that the said Thomas Kendrick for and in consideration of the sum of forty [40] pounds current and lawful money to him in hand paid the receipt whereof the said Thomas Kendrick doth hereby acknowledge hath granted bargained and sold unto the said John Moore his heirs and assigns all that tract or parcel of land situate lying and being in the County of Halifax and containing one hundred and sixty [160] acres by estimation and bounded as follows: Beginning at a corner pine on Richard CURBYs [KIRBY] line, thence along his line to a corner on Thomas CARSONs line, thence along his line to a corner on JAMES HORSLEYs line, thence along his line to a corner on John LAWSONs line thence along his line to the beginning [&c]

Signed: Thomas Kendrick

Wit: John JOHNS, Alexander MOORE, John LAWSON [Jr], Thomas LAWSON, Harmon MILLER

#### Memorandum:

That quiet possession and seisen of the said land was taken by me within named John Moore of the within named Thomas Kendrick this date within written.

/s/ Thomas Kendrick [clerk's error; should be John Moore signing]

Wit: John JOHNS, John LAWSON JR, Alex.r MOORE, Thomas LAWSON, Harmon MILLER

Received in full of the sum within mentioned of the within named John Moore according to the effect of the within deed date as within.

/s/ Thomas Kendrick

[record continued next page]

At a Court held for Halifax County 15th day of November 1781 [15 Nov 1781] this indenture with the memorandum of livery of seizen and receipt hereon indorsed between Thomas Kendrick of the one part and John Moore of the other were proved by the oaths of three of the subscribing witnesses hereto to be the act and deed of the said Thomas and the same were ordered to be recorded.

Teste: Geo. Carrington CHC Truly worded: Geo. Carrington CHC

[Source: Halifax County Deed Book 12, p. 163, Halifax Courthouse, Halifax, VA. Transcribed by J. Horsley, caps and comments in brackets added]

Note:

The Memorandum of Livery of Seisen at the end of this deed is a remnant from the ancient English ceremony where the parties went to the land and the seller gave the buyer a "turf and twig of the ground" to symbolize and finalize the transfer of ownership. Over time, this practice was discontinued but remained in some deeds as a memorandum acknowledging possession by the new owner.

The land Thomas Kendrick sells here is the land he bought from John Dameron on 6 Jan 1776 (see deed record above). James Horsley and John Lawson are bounds on this land, and James Horsley and John Moore had witnessed Thomas Kendrick's 1776 purchase.

John Moore, now purchasing Thomas' land, posted security 4 Jan 1782 on the marriage bond for Hannah Fuqua and Thomas Lawson, son of John Lawson. John Lawson was Thomas Kendrick's adjacent neighbor to whom Thomas sold his land and personal property in 1773, and John's sons Thomas Lawson and John Lawson Jr. witnessed the above deed from Thomas Kendrick to John Moore. John's Lawson's daughter Mary married John Brandon in Halifax about 1772, and three of their children later married children of Thomas Kendrick.

Purchaser John Moore also participated in the inventory of Thomas Lawson's estate when he died in 1788, six years after his marriage. Thomas Lawson's widow Hannah Fuqua then married Elisha Dodson Jr., son of Elisha Dodson who purchased James Horsley's Halifax County land in 1789.

Richard Kirby, another bound on the land Thomas is selling, is one of the Richard Kirby's mentioned in the 1758 Quaker records of the South River Monthly Meeting in 1758. Richard Kirby is named on most road orders and deeds with Thomas Kendrick from 1761 on. There is also a Henry Kirby living in Halifax whose marriage and children's births were also recorded in the Quaker South River Monthly Meeting in Bedford Co, VA. Henry Kirby was a bound on land bought from John Lawson by Theoderick Carter in 1777. Theoderick, who witnessed Thomas Kendrick's land sale in 1773, became guardian of Thomas Lawson's orphans in 1790. Thomas Lawson had died in 1788, and Theoderick Carter recorded payment from Thomas Lawson's orphans guardian account to James Horsley in Sep 1791. (James Horsley and his family had moved to York Co, SC by then, so he likely received payment before leaving Halifax.)

This is the last deed record for Thomas Kendrick in Halifax County. However, Thomas continued to live in the same immediate area through 1789, when he is still on the Halifax County personal property tax lists that began in 1782 (see records below). Selling his land and subsequently leasing in the same place could mean that once again Thomas needed money from the sale. This also may indicate Thomas was not primarily a farmer needing to own land, since his personal property taxes show Thomas still had valuable assets in the years before moving to York County, SC around 1790.

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### 1783 – 1789 – THOMAS KENDRICK in Halifax Personal Property Tax & Census Lists

Yearly lists of land and personal property taxes began in 1782. (Since Thomas sold his land in 1781, he is not found in land tax records.) The items for which a person was taxed on the personal property lists included the “tithes” in his/her household, at this time meaning free white males age 21 and over [*Hening, X:504, XI:112*], slaves of varying age categories, horses, cattle (not taxed after 1787), sometimes studs, breeding mares, carriages, and various other items depending upon the year.

I did not find Thomas in the personal property tax lists in 1782 or 1786. This is not unusual, since some of these lists have not survived, and a person’s tax return could be lost or omitted by the recorder. Also, I may have overlooked his name, as these years’ lists were not alphabetized.

[The source for each Halifax County personal property tax list 1783-1789 below is:  
Halifax County Personal Property Tax 1782-1800. Reel 147. Library of Virginia, Richmond, VA]

#### 1783 - Halifax Co. VA Personal Property List

THOMAS KENDRICK - 1 free male over 21, 2 horses, 11 cattle, no slaves  
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#### 1784 - Halifax Co. VA Personal Property List

THOMAS KENDRICKS [sic] - 1 white male tithe 21+, 3 horses, 10 cattle, no slaves  
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#### 1785 - Halifax Co. VA Personal Property List

THOMAS KENDRICK – 1 white male tithe 21+, 3 horses, 9 cattle, no slaves  
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#### 1785 - Halifax Co, VA - Heads of Household - State Census Enumeration

THOMAS KENDRICK – 10 white persons, owned no dwelling and no outbuildings

[Source: List of Inhabitants 1782-1785. Miscellaneous Reel 1263. Library of Virginia, Richmond, VA]

#### Note:

Several special state-wide enumerations, sometimes referred to as censuses, were taken between 1782 and 1785 as part of the process whereby the Federal Government decided the proportion of taxes each state would pay, both to cover the nearly-ruinous costs of the Revolution and to keep the newly established central government functioning. The vast majority of these lists for Virginia counties did not survive even in part, although Halifax is more complete than most. The extant Virginia enumerations 1782-1785 were also used to compile a substitute 1790 Heads of Household census for the state, since Virginia was one of six states whose US census records for 1790 were destroyed when the British burned Washington, DC during the War of 1812.

Thomas Kendrick is missing in the 1782 enumeration, which counted whites and blacks per household, but is listed in the 1785 enumeration that assessed the value of improvements (i.e., houses and other buildings) on the land. The value of the land itself was determined by the yearly land tax records already in place.

In this 1785 enumeration, Thomas Kendrick’s household is comprised of "10 white souls" (the census wording). Thomas’ first son John (b. 1763) appears to be deceased by this time, since he is not

included in Thomas' tax lists as a second male 21 or above as he would be by at least 1785, and no records have been found for him. If Thomas' first daughter Sarah, who married about this time, was not in his household as of enumeration day, then the 10 persons matches Thomas, his wife, and their other 8 children born by this year. (Their last child, Lucy, was born about 1787.)

This enumeration entry also supports that Thomas was leasing property by this time, since he is not listed as owning his dwelling, and he is not found on land tax records that began in 1782. However, the personal property for which he was taxed indicates Thomas still was comfortably well-off relative to many others of his time and place, so farming may not have been his primary occupation.

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### 1787 - Halifax Co. VA Personal Property List

Person's name chargeable for the tax: THOMAS KENDRICK

Names of whites above 21: THOMAS KENDRICK

Number of whites above 16 and under 21: 1 [This is Thomas Jr., although not recorded by name]

Slaves over 16: 1

Slaves under 16: 1

Horses: 3

Cattle: 9

#### Note:

The laws of Virginia regarding personal property taxes were changed for this year, and then revised again for the next year. [*Hening, XII:243ff, XII:412ff*] This year's tax lists are often misunderstood, so I have included the category headings as they were specified by law and appear on Thomas Kendrick's list. (Unless heads-of-house, females were not included in any personal property tax lists.)

This shows Thomas Kendrick was responsible for the tax and was the only white male age 21 or over. He also had in his household one white male who was at least age 16 and under 21. None in this category were named, only enumerated. According to Thomas' children's birth dates, this male between 16 and 21 years old was Thomas Kendrick Jr., born 25 Jan 1770 [*from grave marker per RK*], thus age 17 this year. (The eldest son we have for Thomas was John Kendrick, born 17 Sep 1763, but he apparently died before 1785, since he is not included as a "tithe," 21 and over, in Thomas' household in that or subsequent years, and no records for John have been found.)

Some people have misread this tax list to mean Thomas Kendrick Sr. was deceased by this year, as did Dr. Joseph T. Kendrick (from whose research the others may have taken their information). Although generally a fine researcher, he was mistaken in this interpretation. Dr. Kendrick misunderstood the categories and thought the head-of-household, Thomas Kendrick, was age 16 to under 21. Instead, the list means that the person age 16 to under 21 (all of whom were unnamed) was in the household of Thomas Kendrick, who was age 21 and over. Dr. Kendrick himself acknowledged that his reading does not fit with the information in the later tax lists.

In fact, if Thomas Kendrick Sr. had been deceased by this year, the person responsible for the tax would have been Thomas' widow Nancy, not a son who was under 21, thus a minor. In cases where both parents were deceased and all children were minors, the administrator of the estate was responsible for the tax and the household was listed as "Estate of X, Dec'd."

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### 1788 - Halifax Co, VA Personal Property Tax

Person's name chargeable with tax - THOMAS KENDRAKE [sic]

Sons etc. [e.g., overseers, hirelings, apprentices] - "one son"

White tithes - 2 [sic]

Slaves - none

Horses – 3

[Cattle not taxed after 1787]

#### Note:

This year the tax list categories changed again, and were not as specific as in 1787. It is apparent from other entries on this list that the category "Sons, etc." was understood to mean other white males (besides the head) who were age 16 or over; however, by law only those age 21 or over were to be counted as tithes. In other words, the two 1787 categories of white males age 16-21 and age 21+ were combined into one category in 1788, and a column for the number of tithes was added. The column called "Sons, etc." listed the males by their positions in the household, not by their names, and included any white male for whom the head-of-house was responsible.

Thomas Kendrick is listed with one son who was also counted as a tithe, which presents two problems. First, Thomas had two sons age 16 or over this year, Thomas Jr. and Anthony. (As we have said, Thomas Sr.'s first son John, born 1763, appears deceased, as he is not listed as a tithe in any previous tax list, and no records have been found for him.) According to the birth date we have for Anthony, he turned 16 in January of this year. However, I have seen a number of cases where a son was not included in the household tax list for a year or even two after he turned 16, so Anthony's being left out is not unusual. Presumably the "one son" on this list is Anthony's elder brother Thomas Jr., who was age 18, although he (or Anthony) may have gone ahead to South Carolina with his sister Sarah Horsley's family who moved there this year. Whichever son was meant by "one son" age 16+, he was mistakenly included as a tithe, which should include only those age 21+. Since the "tithe" or head-tax for white males 21+ was repealed in late 1787, this error cost no one any money.

Tax lists, like censuses, sometimes contain errors. As we have seen, the tax categories were in flux for the years 1787 and 1788, and unlike in 1787 there is no separate category in 1788 for white males age 16 to under 21. Someone at the time could easily have misunderstood this year's wording and taken the "son" to be a tithe, especially since prior to the Revolutionary War it was white males age 16 and over who were tithable. This mistaken entry also could be simply an entry error.

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### 1789 - Halifax Co, VA Personal Property Tax List

THOMAS KENDRICK – 1 white tithe [ie, 21+], 3 horses [cattle no longer taxed]

#### Note:

Contrary to the personal property tax list of 1788, this list in 1789 with Thomas Sr. as the only white male tithe age 21 or over agrees with our knowledge of his children's birthdates. His oldest surviving son, Thomas Jr., was age 19 at this time, and his next son, Anthony, was 17, but the lists no longer included a category for "sons, etc." or for white males age 16 to under 21.

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### 1789 (Mar) – THOMAS and NANCY KENDRICK'S daughter ANNE marries JOHN IRBY

Halifax County, VA Marriage Bond Register entry:

7 Mar 1789 – Husband: John (x) Irby (his mark); Wife: Anne Kendrick; Bondsman: Joshua (x) Irby (his mark); Witnesses: William Kendrick, Benjamin[sic] Dawson; Signer of [Consent] Certificate: Anney Kendrick. Relationship: Self

Halifax County, VA Ministers Returns entry:

10 Mar 1789 – John Irby and Anne Hendrick [later struck through, with “Kendrick” interlined above] by William Moore [minister] Test: Geo. Carrington C [Clerk of Court]

[Source: Halifax Co, VA Marriage Bonds Register, No. 1, 1753 – 1889 (Contains Ministers Returns to 1912), p. 15, 44. Reel 82, Library of Virginia, Richmond, VA. Transcribed by J Horsley; comments in brackets added]

#### Note:

There are several items to notice in these records. First, the date of the marriage, 10 Mar 1789, is not the same date that Anne gave in her 1845 application for a Revolutionary War Widows Pension. She gave the date of her marriage as 12 Mar 1788 and was also off on her age by a year. Likely this was due to age and faulty memory, as Anne was 77 at that time and died only a year later. (See the pension record below.)

Secondly, online information says that Anne signed her name on her marriage bond, which proves she was literate. This is an inaccurate reading of the marriage bond record. No bride signed the marriage bond. The only people who signed the marriage bond were the groom posting bond (which would be forfeited to the State if the marriage did not take place), the man who secured the groom's bond (the surety or security), and the county clerk who wrote the bond. Sometimes, as in this case, there were other witnesses besides the clerk who also signed.

What Anne “signed” (meaning either by mark or signature) was not the bond but a certificate regarding her age and consent for the marriage. Virginia law required that anyone under age 21 needed formal permission to marry from the parent (usually meaning the father—the mother could sign alone only if she was a widow with guardianship) or other legal guardian. Such permission was given by a certificate of consent. Since Anne was age 21 or older, she could sign this certificate of consent herself. (Since Anne was born 26 Feb 1768, if she had married in 1788 as her pension application states, then her father would have been required to sign this certificate of consent.)

“Signing” a legal document was done either by mark or by signature, which can give us an indication as to whether the person was literate. However, this register entry does not tell us whether Anne signed by mark or signature. (The original documents, from which later clerks copied these register entries, should show mark or signature, but they are not available on microfilm.) From my examination of the register entries, the only persons who were designated as signing by mark rather than signatures were the grooms giving bond, the bondsmen, and the consenting parents/guardians. None of the witnesses or brides were so designated, and it is impossible to think that all females marrying at this time in Halifax County were literate, in fact quite the opposite.

Most females as well as many males of Anne's age were not literate, particularly in the South, where schools were not usually as accessible as in the North. In fact, Anne's husband John Irby signed his



marriage bond by mark, Anne's brother Thomas Jr. signed his will by mark, her sister Sarah signed deed documents by mark, and Anne herself signed her Revolutionary War pension application by mark. Thus in all probability, Anne, like most Virginia women her age, could not read or write.

Another interesting part of the marriage bond register is the two witnesses, William Kendrick and Benjamin Dawson. The only William Kendrick shown by records to be in Halifax County at this time was Anne's brother William. However, if our birthdate for him is correct, he would be only 14 years old at Anne's marriage. While traditionally minors 14 and older could serve as witnesses, legal adults (over 21) were often preferred, so it would be interesting to know the circumstances of William's being one of the two witnesses of record. Even more intriguing is the fact that I can find no information about the other witness, Benjamin Dawson, and no Dawson was on that year's Halifax County personal property tax lists or on the lists of any adjacent Virginia county.

Rev. William Moore, who married Anne and John, was a Methodist minister. He was a son of James Moore whose land was on Birch Creek north of where the Kendrick family lived. (I have not been able to learn if John Moore, to whom Thomas sold his land in 1781, was related.) Methodists at this time opposed slavery, and neither William Moore nor his father ever owned slaves. Rev. Moore was a Methodist minister by 1775, at a time when the Anglican Church was still the official church of Virginia. He was first an itinerant "circuit riding" preacher and was present in 1784 at the ordination of Francis Asbury, the first Bishop of American Methodism. However, like ministers of other "dissenting" religious groups such as Baptists and Presbyterians, Rev. Moore could not legally perform and register marriages until 1786 when Virginia passed its landmark Statute for Religious Freedom, designed and sponsored by Virginian Thomas Jefferson. About 1791, "Parson Moore" split from the Methodists and with Rev. James O'Kelly soon established a "Just Plain Christian" congregation, Pleasant Grove [Christian] Church. Rev. William Moore died in Halifax County in 1826.

[Biographical information about Rev. Moore based on the 7 Jan 2007 post to the Ancestry.com Moore Family Message Board by Roberta Estes, : <<http://boards.ancestry.com/surnames.moore/19249/mb.ashx>>]

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### **c1790 – THOMAS KENDRICK and family move to York County, SC**

Thomas Kendrick and his family probably left Halifax for York County, SC in late 1789 or early 1790. His neighbor and in-law James Horsley sold his Halifax land November 1789 and soon moved his family to York County, SC, where some of his children, including Valentine Horsley and wife Sarah Kendrick, were already living. John Irby, husband of Thomas Kendrick's daughter Anne, states in his 1833 pension application that he moved from Halifax to York County, SC in 1789 (see record below). Even though most of the dates we have are inexact, these families may have moved together, as was the common practice. (Undocumented online information says the John Brandon family, three of whom later married Thomas Kendrick's children, moved from Halifax to York about 1783. The John Brandon still in the 1789 Halifax personal property tax lists may be John N. Brandon, who died 1794.)

The families likely used the well-traveled Great Wagon Road to journey the 200 miles from Halifax Co, VA to York Co, SC. Most people moved south during winter months, after fall harvest and before spring planting. Depending upon the weather and other travails of travel, the trip to York could have taken about two weeks. The Kendrick, Horsley, Irby, Matthews, and Brandon families settled in the Mill Creek and Crowders Creek area of northeastern York County, SC. They were located about 20 miles southwest of today's Charlotte, NC, incorporated in 1768 as "Charlotte Town" thirteen years after its first settlers arrived.

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## 1793 – THOMAS KENDRICK has land surveyed for a grant in York County, SC

### Survey Plat Abstract

28 Jan 1796

Survey for: Stephen Brown

Plat for: 18 acres on Mill Creek, Camden District

Surveyed by: John Mccaw for THOMAS KENDRICKS [sic] on 10 DEC 1793

Names Indexed: Stephen Brown [grant applicant], John Mccaw [surveyor], Thomas Kendrick [former grant applicant], John Irby, Edward Mellon, Joseph Neel, Robert Patrick [probably the bounds]

Location: Camden District; Catawba River; Mill Creek; York County

[Source: Online Index to State Plat Books (Charleston Series) 1784-1860. Series: S213190 Vol. 32, p.567, Item 2. Website of the SC Dept. of Archives and History. (Caps and comments in brackets added.) Online at: <<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/onlinearchives/RecordDetail.aspx?RecordId=199772>>]

### Note:

This plat index shows that Thomas Kendrick previously had this land surveyed on 10 Dec 1793 as part of the process for obtaining a land grant. However, he never completed the land grant process to obtain title to the land, and here it is surveyed for someone else in 1796. At this time period, such situations usually occurred because the grant applicant had died or moved away, and the land went unclaimed. None of the Kendrick family moved away from York County until after the 1800 census.

Thus, it appears that the Thomas Kendrick for whom the original survey was made in 1793 was Thomas Kendrick Sr. and that he died about 1794 before completing the process to acquire the grant title deed itself. The original survey seems unlikely to be for Thomas Kendrick Jr. instead of his father, since in the 1800 census Thomas Jr., his mother, and his brothers were still living in this same Mill Creek area of York County. It makes little sense for Thomas Jr. to obtain a survey, then forfeit the inexpensive land grant in the same place where he continued to live for at least eight more years.

That the original survey was for Thomas Kendrick Sr. who died about 1794 is supported by Halifax Co, VA tax lists showing Thomas alive in 1789 and leaving by 1790, and the 1800 census for York Co, SC, where his widow Nancy is head-of-house (see census record below).

The plat abstract above indicates that John Irby was a bound on the land originally surveyed for Thomas Kendrick. John married Thomas and Nancy's daughter Anne Kendrick in 1789. The 1800 census shows John Irby living near James Horsley and his sons Richard and Valentine Horsley (husband of Thomas and Nancy's daughter Sarah Kendrick) who were also on Mill Creek.

Robert Patrick, another bound, was probably the husband of the later widow "Mrs. Patrick" who was a bound on Mill Creek land surveyed in 1821 for Thomas' son Anthony Kendrick (record below). That survey included bounds of "Horsley," meaning either Thomas' daughter Sarah Kendrick Horsley's husband Valentine or his brother Richard Horsley, whose lands were adjacent. In the 1800 census Robert Patrick was listed near James, Richard, and Valentine Horsley and James' son-in-law Samuel Matthews. (John Matthews, who married John Brandon's daughter Elizabeth, was a close relative of Samuel Matthews, possibly a son by a marriage prior to Samuel's marrying James Horsley's daughter Susannah in 1784.) When Valentine Horsley sold the last of his Mill Creek land in 1821 prior to moving to Georgia with wife Sarah Kendrick and family, Sarah's brother William Kendrick witnessed the deed (see record below).

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### 1800 - KENDRICK families in York County, SC census, including NANCY KENDRICK

THOMAS KENDRICKS [Jr.] - Males: 1(26-44); Females: 2(under 10), 1(16-25) [wife Sarah Lambert]

ANTHONY KENDRICKS - Males: 1(16-25); Females: 1(under 10), 1(16-25) [wife Sarah Brandon]

NANCY KENDRICKS - Males: 1(10-15); Females: 1(10-15), 1(45+); 1 slave

These "Kendricks" names are adjacent in this non-alphabetized list. Listed 12 households below is:

WILLIAM KENDRICKS - Males: 1(16-25) [the rest of this entry is obliterated in online census images, but William married Priscilla Brandon about this year]

#### Note:

This census shows that a widow Nancy Kendrick, age category 45 years and over, is living next to Thomas Kendrick Sr.'s sons Thomas Jr. and Anthony and close to Thomas Sr.'s son William. She has in her household two children in the age groups of Thomas Kendrick Sr.'s youngest two children, Joseph and Lucy. By this evidence, Nancy Kendrick is surely Thomas Kendrick Sr.'s widow, especially since there is no other Kendrick family in York County whose relation she could be. "Nancy" was the usual nickname for Anne, the name of Thomas Sr.'s second daughter. (Anne Kendrick and John Irby named their first son for John's father, their second son was *Thomas Kendrick* Irby, and their first daughter was *Nancy* Irby, according to their original family record.)

By my reckoning based on the birth dates of Thomas Kendrick's children, Nancy was born c1742 and thus was about age 58 in 1800. Although her name does not appear in any Halifax Co, VA record for Thomas, we know by the court record in 1761 that Thomas was married by then. Since there are no obvious breaks in the pattern of Thomas' children's births, Nancy would be the mother of all Thomas' children. Nancy Kendrick is not listed by her own name in the 1810 census, nor is she living in the households of her sons. Nancy's youngest two children, who were living with her in 1800, were living separately by then. In 1810, her youngest son, Joseph, appears to be living in the household of his brother William, and her youngest daughter, Lucy, married Joseph Brandon about that same year. Thus, Thomas' wife Nancy Kendrick apparently died in York Co, SC between 1800 and 1810.

The alleged name of Thomas Kendrick's wife that is currently wide-spread on the internet is Dolly Lawson. The name Dolly came to researcher Rose Kendrick from a Kendrick descendant who gave no evidence or documentation for that name. After years of searching for more information, Rose wrote me several years ago that she no longer believes Thomas' wife's name was Dolly. Rose was correct in her conclusion, since the 1800 census clearly shows Nancy Kendrick to be Thomas' widow.

As mentioned previously, Rose Kendrick believes Nancy's family name may be Lawson, a name passed down through some descendants of Thomas Kendrick Jr. and wife Sarah Lambert. Since Thomas Sr. "and wife" were in Halifax records in 1761 and their first child was born in 1763, it seems they probably married in Halifax. So far, the only Halifax County Lawson I have found who might be Nancy Kendrick's father is John Lawson's brother Francis, but this is only speculation based on the elimination of other Halifax County possibilities rather than on any positive evidence.

John Lawson's mother Mary Lawson's Lunenburg County will dated 15 Oct 1749 [LWB1:36] names her sons Francis, John, William, and David. John Lawson and his brother David Lawson left Halifax County wills (dated 14 Oct 1776 and 15 Nov 1774 respectively), and Nancy Kendrick was not

included. John Lawson's brother William left a will in Hancock Co, GA dated 30 Apr 1799 [HWBAAA:20] but named no daughter Nancy Kendrick. (Although I have seen in rare cases that a child living out-of-state may not be named in a will, such a situation needs other strong evidence to prove, which in this case I have not found.) John's brother Francis Lawson left no extant will, but died by 11 Jul 1755 when an inventory and appraisal of his estate was filed. [HWBO1753-1772:17] According to other sources, Francis had a son John, born c1740, and a daughter Mary, but he might have had other children as well. This leaves open a possibility that Nancy could be Francis Lawson's daughter. One factor to consider, though, is that neither the name Francis nor his wife's name Isabel is found in Nancy Kendrick's children or grandchildren, although that in itself does not rule Francis out.

According to the research of Carl L. Lawson, there were two other Lawson family groups living in the Halifax County area when John Lawson's family lived there, but their relationship to each other, if any, is not known. One group lived on the Pigg River in the northwestern part of today's Pittsylvania County, quite a distance from where Thomas Kendrick lived. The other Lawson group lived near Bradley Creek in northwest Halifax, about 30 miles north of Thomas Kendrick's residence. Some of this group moved to Surry Co, NC, and some later moved to Stokes Co, NC. I have not researched wills or children for these two Lawson groups, but from the online information I have found, so far neither seems a likely family for Nancy Kendrick, although more research is needed.

With no firm possibilities as yet for Nancy Kendrick's parents, the speculation that her family name was Lawson is far from proved, especially since a descendant's given name does not always refer to a direct ancestor. Thomas Kendrick Jr. and wife Sarah Lambert's line began using the name Lawson presumably with their grandson Thomas L. Kendrick who had a son named Lawson Kendrick. (Some give Lawson's father's name as "Thomas Lawson Kendrick," but Thomas' father's handwritten list of children names him simply as "Thomas L.") Thomas L. Kendrick, second son of John Kendrick (b. 7 Dec 1799) and Elizabeth Cherry, was born 12 Aug 1827. At that time it was common practice in the South for children's middle names to come from outside the family line, such as close friends, favorite relatives, significant personages whom the parents' family admired, or people who played an important role in the family's history, rather than from a direct ancestor. Once introduced into the family names and then passed down, its original meaning or reference can be lost. Although in earlier times it had been popular among aristocratic families to give the family name of a mother or grandmother as a middle name, that was not the general case. Thus we need to be cautious and avoid making assumptions based on the name alone.

Thomas and Nancy Kendrick apparently had close dealings with John Lawson, their relatively wealthy and influential adjacent neighbor for thirty years. Three Kendrick children and a granddaughter (Anna Horsley) married children of John Lawson's daughter Mary Lawson Brandon. John Kendrick gave his son Thomas L. Kendrick the first name of John's father (Thomas Kendrick Jr.) and grandfather (Thomas Kendrick Sr.), so it seems feasible that the middle name could come from John's grandmother. Whether the circumstantial evidence means Nancy Kendrick was a Lawson is a question not yet definitively answered, but the possibility warrants further investigation,

Living near the four Kendrick families in 1800 and listed together on the next census page are John Irby (with wife Anne Kendrick), the three Horsley families (including Valentine and wife Sarah Kendrick), and Samuel and John Lambeth. Samuel's daughter and John's sister Sarah Lambeth/Lambert married Thomas Kendrick Jr. in York County about 1796. Also on this census page is the family of Samuel and Susannah Horsley Matthews and his possible son John Matthews, whose wife was Elizabeth Brandon. Elizabeth, like Kendrick wives Sarah and Priscilla Brandon, was a daughter of John Brandon and Mary Lawson. John Brandon died in this area of York County shortly

before May 1800. His sons John Jr. and Francis Brandon are in the 1820 census in this immediate area, but I have not found John Brandon Sr.'s sons in the earlier censuses. His son James Brandon with wife Anna Horsley, daughter of Sarah Kendrick and Valentine Horsley, moved to Jasper Co, GA about 1818. (See my report on Valentine Horsley and family at <[www.joanhorsley.org](http://www.joanhorsley.org)> for details.)

These Kendrick and related families lived in the area of Mill Creek and Crowders Creek near where the creeks flowed into the Catawba River (now Lake Wylie) east of today's town of Clover, SC. This area was only a few miles from the North Carolina border and was then adjacent to Lincoln Co, NC, where some Kendrick families soon moved.

### 1810 Onward – CHILDREN of THOMAS and NANCY KENDRICK

1810 Census: York County, SC:

ANTHONY KINDRICK [sic] - Males: 2(<10), 1(26-44); Females: 4(<10), 1(10-15), 1(26-44); 1 slave  
CAPT. WM. KINDRICK [sic] - Males: 3(<10), 1(16-25), 1(26-44); Females: 2(<10), 1(16-25)

Note:

The male age 16-25 in William Kendrick's household is probably his younger brother Joseph, then age 25. Joseph married Lavinia Suggs in York County about 1812, according to their children's ages in later censuses. She appears to be the daughter of George Suggs of York Co, SC who had a female in her age category in the 1810 census.

Anthony Kendrick and William Kendrick were in York County, SC in the 1820 census. Both were still in York County in 1821 as shown by records below, but apparently died in York County by 1830.

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1810 Census: Lincoln County, NC

THOS. KINDRICK[sic] - Males: 1(under 10), 1(10-15), 1(26-44); Fem: 3(under 10), 1(10-15), 1(26-44)

Note:

In 1810, Lincoln County, NC was adjacent to York County, SC. A number of York County families moved to Lincoln, including Samuel and Susannah Horsley Matthews. Others owned land in both counties, including Susannah's brother Valentine Horsley and wife Sarah Kendrick who lived in York.

It is not clear from the censuses in which area of Lincoln County Thomas first resided. In the 1840 census, he was in the "Upper Regiment" of Lincoln. In 1850, he was in Cleveland County, formed 1841 from the southwestern part of Lincoln County and the southeastern part of Rutherford County, NC. Thomas died 11 Nov 1855 in Cleveland County. According to researcher Rose Kendrick, his grave marker is in the cemetery of Waco, NC, which is about 40 miles west of Charlotte.

1820 Census: Lincoln County, NC – West of the South Fork of the Catawba River

JOSEPH KINDER [sic]: Males: 1(<10), 1(26-44), 1(45+); Females: 2(<10), 1(26-44)

Note:

This entry may be for Joseph Kendrick, who is definitely in Lincoln Co, NC by the 1830 census with children whose age categories match this 1820 census. (I found no other "Kinder" families.) Joseph died 18 Aug 1834 in Lincoln County, NC. *[Date from Rose Kendrick's research]*

1821 (Mar) – ANTHONY KENDRICK land grant survey in York County, SC

5 March 1821 - Survey made for ANTHONY KENDRICK

Plat for 125 acres on MILL CREEK. Catawba River, York District

Names indexed: [Grant applicant] Anthony Kendrick; [Bounds, etc] William Biggers, Zadock Darby, George Duff, HORSLEY[sic], John Kincaid, Mrs. Patrick, John Rooker; [Surveyor] John Jackson

[Source: Online Index to State Plat Books (Columbia Series) 1796-1868. Series S213192 Vol. 46, p. 527, Item 1SC Archives Online at:<<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/onlinearchives/RecordDetail.aspx?RecordId=220646>>]

Note:

This survey was made for Anthony Kendrick for a land grant on Mill Creek, where his father Thomas Kendrick had land surveyed in 1793. The bounds here included "Horsly," referring at this time to either Richard Horsley or his brother Valentine Horsley (husband of Anthony's sister Sarah Kendrick), who lived on adjacent properties. Valentine and Sarah moved to Georgia the next year (see record below). Another bound, Zadock Darby, was a witness with Richard and Valentine Horsley to the 1799 York County, SC will of John Brandon Sr., father of Anthony Kendrick's wife Sarah Brandon.

The adjacent landowner "Mrs. Patrick" is likely the widow of Robert Patrick who was named as a bound on the Mill Creek land surveyed for Thomas Kendrick in Dec 1793. George Duff, another bound on this survey, witnessed Valentine Horsley's 1808 deed to his and Sarah Kendrick's son Joseph Horsley. That land to Joseph was also on Mill Creek with a bound of "Biggers (now Rookers)," both named in Anthony Kendrick's survey. The above-listed John Kincaid witnessed the 1798 York County deed of Valentine's father James Horsley to Valentine's brother William Horsley, along with Samuel Matthews, husband of Valentine's sister Susannah Horsley.

John Rooker, also named as a bound above, was a Baptist minister who established Flint Hill Baptist Church, among others in the area, and who had a particular mission to the Catawba Indians still living in the vicinity. Rev. Rooker was also the clergy witness for Valentine's brother Richard Horsley's application in 1832 for a Revolutionary War pension.

Anthony Kendrick appears to have died in York Co, SC by 1830, as I have not found him in the census for that year or later.

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1821 (Oct) – WILLIAM KENDRICK witnesses deed of his brother-in-law Valentine HORSLEY

17 Oct 1821 - VALENTINE HORSLEY of York District, SC to Thomas Boyd of same

Description: 200 acres, York Co. Formerly conveyed to Robert Leeper to Andrew Armour to John Oliver to Valentine Horsley. For: \$900

Bounded by: North and South banks of MILL CREEK "a branch of Catawba River," John LAMBETH, Richard HORSLEY, Samuel MATTHEWS (formerly conveyed by Valentine HORSLEY), John Armour

Signed: Valentine Horsley [wife did not sign or release dower]

Witnesses: Aaron Wood, WILLIAM KENDRICK Rec: 22 Oct 1822

[Source: York County Deed Book I, p. 506. York County Courthouse, York, SC. Abstract by J. Horsley.]

Note:

Here Valentine Horsley, husband of William Kendrick's sister Sarah, is selling the remainder of his

York County properties at Mill Creek in preparation to move to Georgia. Sarah and Valentine's children Joseph, Thomas, James, and Anna (Brandon) had moved to Jasper Co, GA c1818.

Sarah and Valentine's residence being sold here includes bounds of Valentine's brother Richard Horsley; John Lambeth, brother of Sarah Lambeth/Lambert who married Thomas Kendrick Jr.; and Samuel Matthews, related to John Matthews who married Elizabeth Brandon, a sister-in-law of Anthony, William, and Lucy Kendrick. (Samuel had sold his land back to Valentine in 1802 prior to moving to Lincoln Co, NC. Deeds often show the earlier recorded bounds and are not current )

William Kendrick, like his brother Anthony, appears to have died in York Co, SC by 1830, as I have not found him in the census for that year or later.

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1833/1845 –JOHN IRBY and later widow ANNE KENDRICK apply for Revolutionary War pensions

#### Abstracts

22 Jan 1833 – Court of Lincoln County, NC – Revolutionary War Pension Application Statement

JOHN IRBY was born in Richmond Co, VA on 5 Aug 1761, then lived in Dinwiddie Co, VA. At about age 13 or 14, he moved with his father to Charlotte Co, VA where he was first drafted Aug 1777 at age 16. He served in Capt. J[ames] Morton's company and was sent to guard Williamsburg. Gen. Muhlenberg was commander. In 1778 or 1779 he was again drafted and served for 3 months as a cooper making canteens for the United States Service under a cooper named John Gill. In Sep or Oct 1780, his father sent him on a visit to his uncle Joseph Irby at Little River of Saluda in South Carolina, where he found his uncle had been killed by the Tory Capt. ["Bloody Bill"] Cunningham and his party. John and others fled to the army of [Gen. Daniel] Morgan for protection. There were many refugees there in a similar situation. They formed a volunteer company of 60 or 70, and John was elected Captain. His company fought at Cowpens where Tarleton was defeated, then they were pursued by Cornwallis. They joined with Gen. Greene and continued the retreat until they crossed the Dan River at "Irvins ferry" [Irwin's Ferry] (John joined Morgan's army in Nov 1780 and was commissioned by Gen. Pickens of South Carolina shortly after the Battle of Cowpens fought 17 Jan 1781.) After crossing the Dan, John was sent by Gen. Greene on express to Col. Wooden [Robert Wooding] of Halifax County. He delivered the express, and Wooden [Wooding] then raised two companies. John was attached to the company of Capt. McDaniel, whose lieutenant was William Irby [no relationship stated]. They re-crossed the Dan River and in turn pursued Cornwallis and gave him battle in Mar 1781 at the Guilford [NC] Courthouse. John Thompson, captain of the other company Wooden [Wooding] raised, was killed at the battle of Guilford. John Irby was discharged at Ramsey's Mill [Chatham Co, NC] in April of that same year. His discharges and commission are now lost. In all his service was 11 or 12 months. He moved from Halifax Co, VA to York Dist, SC in 1789 and moved to Lincoln Co, NC in 1807. His statement is supported by an affidavit by Richard Griffin.

Signed: JOHN IRBY [by signature]

5 Jun 1845 – Court of Lincoln County, NC

ANNE IRBY, a resident of Lincoln County, then age 78 [should be 77], applied for Revolutionary War pension as the WIDOW of pensioner JOHN IRBY, a private and captain in the War of the Revolution who died 9 May 1743. They married 12 Mar 1788 [should be 10 Mar 1789].

Signed: ANNE (x) IRBY (her mark)

*[record abstracts continued next page]*

Isack[sic] Holland, who said he had been well-acquainted with John and Anne Irby for the last thirty years, testified to their being husband and wife and that Anne was then John's widow.

Signed: I. Holland

ANNE KENDRICK IRBY included in her application the family record of their children, which Joseph K. Irby verified was the original family record and in the handwriting of his father John Irby.

Signed: JP K. Irby [by signature]

Joshua Mason Irby – b. 9 Nov 1790

Thomas Kindrick Irby – b. 30 Apr 1793

Nansey Irby – b. 7 May 1796

Betsey Irby – b. 9 Dec 1800

William Irby – b. 26 Jan 1804

Joseph Irby – b. 10 May 1808

5 Oct 1852 – Court of Cleveland County, NC

ANNE KENDRICK IRBY [d. 19 Sep 1846] was deceased by this date when her son JOSEPH K. IRBY applied in Cleveland County [formed 1841 from Lincoln County] for a Revolutionary War pension as son of Revolutionary War pensioners John Irby and Anne Irby.

Signed: JP K. Irby [by signature]

[Source: John Irby and Anne Irby Revolutionary War Pension File W-5003, Film M804, Roll 1393, NARA, Washington, DC. Complete file images online at <[www.footnote.com](http://www.footnote.com)> Abstract by J. Horsley. Caps and comments in brackets added.]

Note:

Anne Kendrick's marriage date and age are incorrect in her application, likely due to the faulty memory of age. According to the Halifax Co, VA marriage register, Anne and John Irby were married 10 Mar 1789, not 12 Mar 1788, with a marriage bond dated 7 Mar 1789 (see records above), and Anne was 77 years old, not 78, in June 1845, according to her birthdate of 26 Feb 1768. Inaccuracies are commonly found in the Revolutionary War pension statements, particularly since applicants under the pension acts of 1832 and later were elderly and the events took place many decades before.

Interestingly, John Irby's 1789 marriage bond is recorded in the Halifax County register as his signing by mark. However, his 1833 pension application statement as entered into the court record shows him signing by signature. Also, his son Joseph Irby testified that the family birth record his mother Anne submitted with her application was in his father John's handwriting. With the gradual rise of literacy in the decades following the Revolution, John Irby had learned to write, at least in a limited way, and possibly to read in the intervening years.

Among the many noteworthy events John Irby experienced during his Revolutionary War service was his participation in the Crossing of the Dan, a little-known event in the Revolutionary War but of great significance. Gen. Nathanael Greene's masterful retreat strategy enabled the Patriot troops of the Southern Campaign to avoid being captured by the British commander Lord Cornwallis, who was in hot pursuit at times just a few miles behind, and to avoid being forced into a battle certain to be a loss for the Patriots. The story of the Race to the Dan through mud, snow, and rain is a dramatic one, especially since the outcome of the Revolution could have been quite different had Gen. Greene's strategic retreat not succeeded.



Of particular interest to Kendrick, Horsley, Lawson and Brandon family history is the fact that Gen. Greene's troops crossed the Dan River at Irwin's (sometimes called Irvine's) and Boyd's ferries, just downriver from where the Kendrick and other families lived, and the entire county joined forces to aide Greene in his efforts. The success of this endeavor was far from certain beforehand, and the danger of Cornwallis' forces gaining hold of the Patriot troops and the area was real.

For a comprehensive description of the events before and during the Crossing of the Dan, see the information from the permanent exhibit at the Prizery in South Boston (Halifax County) VA, online at: <[www.prizery.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=139&Itemid=222](http://www.prizery.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=139&Itemid=222)>

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31 Oct 1836 – SARAH KENDRICK, wife of VALENTINE HORSLEY, dies in Upson County, GA

[Source: Dale Grammer Hopper, Horsley Family Bible Affidavit, notarized 28 Apr 1940, El Paso County, TX. Copy of original to me from Gerald Horsley.]

Note:

By the 1830 census, Sarah Kendrick and her husband Valentine Horsley were living with their son James Horsley's family in Upson Co, GA, where Sarah died six years later at age 70. Valentine continued to live with his son James' family until his death 18 Sep 1843 *[date from his obituary]* Their graves are in the Horsley Cemetery about 8 miles south of Thomaston, Upson Co, GA.

For detailed reports on the family of Thomas and Nancy Kendrick's daughter SARAH KENDRICK and her husband VALENTINE HORSLEY, as well as further records and information about the Kendrick and Horsley families' neighbors in Halifax and York counties, see the following reports on my website "Joan Horsley's Genealogical Research" at: <[www.joanhorsley.org](http://www.joanhorsley.org)>:

***James Horsley Jr. (1731-c1815) and Descendants: The Road South From Maryland (Rev. Ed.)***

***Valentine Horsley and Sarah Kendrick Family: The Georgia Years (Rev. Ed.)***

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***End of Timeline of Records***

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### **General Research Notes**

#### Note on Punctuation:

In my research papers I use an apostrophe with an "s" (i.e., Kendrick's) as the plural form of a proper name, a usage that in today's American English is deemed archaic. The advantage for our research purposes is that this form clearly delineates the core surname in a way that simply adding "s" or "es" often does not. Although I find this outdated form very useful for research clarity, I hope other grammar-sensitive readers do not find it overly irritating or distracting.

#### Note on Relationships Among Kendrick Family Associates:

Information on the Kendrick and Horsley families' relationships is from my own research based upon primary records, which I attempt to hold to current standards for evidence and proof (or specifically note when that could not be done). However, relationships within families associated with them often are based chiefly on the most reliable secondary sources to which I had access, some of which have more documentation than others. These auxiliary and associated family relationships could not be held to the same proof standards of the primary families in this report due to limitations of time and resources. They are included in this report only as reference points, not necessarily as proved or fully documented relationships.

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Acknowledgements

My thanks go especially to Rose Kendrick and Chandler Eavenson for the information they shared and the assistance they provided for my research of Thomas Kendrick's life and family. Phyllis Harrison's contributions continue to be vital to my research and to the final version of this report.

I also greatly appreciate the efforts of all those whose public information has contributed to this research. If I have neglected to give proper credit for material used in this paper, please let me know so I can correct the inadvertent omission.

Research on the Thomas Kendrick family continues. Questions, documented corrections and additional information are welcome. Any changes to this report will be posted on my website at: www.joanhorsley.org

Joan Horsley

March 2011

Contact: JHGenResearch-Horsley@yahoo.com

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