

THE GOSLIN FAMILY: A NEW PERSPECTIVE

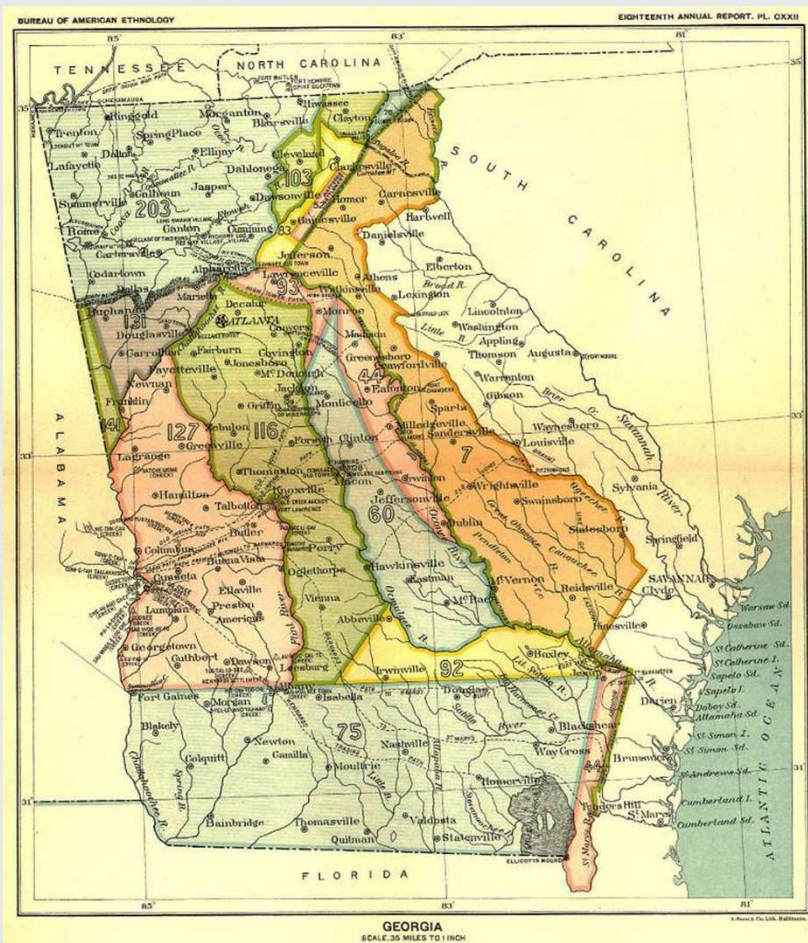
PART 1

*Written by sisters
Teresa Fortenberry
and
Adrienne Fortenberry Criminger*

*This work is dedicated to the memory of
Great Aunt Edna Simmons Campbell (1897 – 1978)
Look what you got us into!*

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United States Digital Library, Georgia Map 15: "Indian Land Cessions in the United States" ¹

What was thought to be true in the past concerning the family structure for Jane Goslin Simmons now appears to be unsubstantiated.

Previously thought to be true:

- 1. Jane was the daughter of John and Judith (Davis) Goslin who married in Rowan County, North Carolina.**
- 2. Jane was the daughter of John Goslin, son of Ezekiel and Elizabeth Masters Goslin who were members of the Moravian Community of North Carolina.**
- 3. Jane Goslin and Willis Simmons married in Lancaster County, South Carolina.**

In the last few years, previously undiscovered resources have been located that have added greatly to the scope of material relative to this research thereby bringing previous beliefs in question. It should be noted that when Aunt Edna passed away in 1978, our parents, Adrian and Wanda Fortenberry, inherited her entire genealogical collection including all her books, documents, and correspondences.

New questions to explore:

- 1. Are there any documents that would lead one to believe that John and Judith (Davis) Goslin were/were not the parents of Jane?**
- 2. Can it be proved/disproved that Ezekiel and Elizabeth (Masters) Goslin were the grandparents of Jane Goslin Simmons?**
- 3. Are there documents/events that could indicate where and when Willis Simmons and Jane Goslin meet and married?**



Edna Simmons Campbell was our grandmother's (Nellie Mae Simmons Fortenberry) sister. She is our great-Aunt Edna.

The purpose of this document is to take a look at the currently held opinions and to present a “preponderance of evidence” for a more logical and fact supported theory.

Why are we so interested in the story of Willis and Jane?

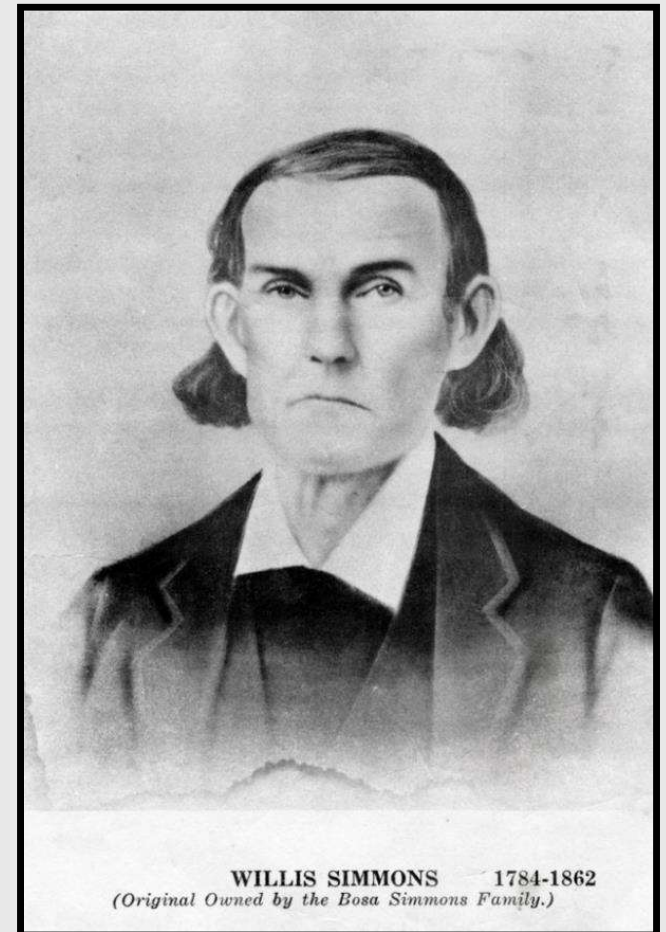
We are doubly interested in them because our grandparents (Ferman Fortenberry and Mae Simmons) were second cousins! That gives us two family lines back to Willis and Jane. In the world of genealogy this is called endogamy.

Lineage: us-Adrian Fortenberry-Ferman Esco Fortenberry-Canolia Ann Simmons-James Jackson Simmons-Willis and Jane (Goslin) Simmons (3X great grandparents)

Also: us-Adrian Fortenberry-Mae Simmons-William Eli Simmons-George Washington Simmons-Willis and Jane (Goslin) Simmons (3X great grandparents)

Willis and Jane (Goslin) Simmons are the ancestors of many descendants whose roots trace to Mississippi. Their family was originally researched and documented by Edna Simmons Campbell and Hansford Simmons.² Most descendants of Willis and Jane have accepted our heritage as presented in their book *The Silver Creek Simmons Family*. Based on their work, it has been accepted that the parents of Jane Goslin were John and Judith (Davis) Goslin.

A desire to prove or disprove the long held beliefs about Willis and Jane has lead us down a long and twisted path. Our research began by looking for the stories surrounding the early lives of Jane and Willis. Important questions included: Where and when were they born? How did they meet? Did Jane have any siblings? Was there evidence of a previously unknown Goslin family who could be Jane's parents? These questions piqued our curiosity and led to unexpected answers. With the discovery of new information, our perspective very slowly began to change. This document is a result of those changes.



What do we actually know about Willis and Jane's births?

All knowledge about their births has come from the 1850 and 1860 census records for Willis and just the 1850 census for Jane.

On 12 November 1962 a veteran's marker for Willis's War of 1812 service was requested. ³ The application was made by Hansford L. Simmons, co-author of *The Silver Creek Simmons Family* with Aunt Edna.

WW I		KOREA		ORIGINAL
1. NAME OF DECEASED - LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE (Print or Type) SIMMONS, WILLIS				14. NAME AND LOCATION OF CEMETERY (City and State) Private Cem., RFD Magnolia, Miss. (Near Progress, Miss.)
2. SERVICE NUMBER				IMPORTANT - Item 18 on reverse side must be completed. See attached instructions and complete and submit both copies.
3. PENSION OR VA CLAIM NUMBER				15. This application is submitted for a stone or marker for the unmarked grave of a deceased member or former member of the Armed Forces of the U. S., soldier of the Union or Confederate Armies of the Civil War or for an unmarked memorial plot for a non-recoverable deceased member. I hereby agree to accept responsibility for proper placement at the grave or memorial plot at no expense to the Government.
4. ENLISTMENT DATE (Month, day, year) April 10, 1814		5. DISCHARGE DATE (Month, day, year) October 9, 1814		16. This application is submitted for a stone or marker for the unmarked grave of a deceased member or former member of the Armed Forces of the U. S., soldier of the Union or Confederate Armies of the Civil War or for an unmarked memorial plot for a non-recoverable deceased member. I hereby agree to accept responsibility for proper placement at the grave or memorial plot at no expense to the Government.
6. STATE Mississippi		7. MEDALS Not shown Enlisted to Co. M		NAME OF APPLICANT (Print or Type) Hansford L. Simmons
8. GRADE OR RANK PVT		9. BRANCH OF SERVICE, COMPANY, REGIMENT, DIVISION Capt. Wm. Spencer's Co. Call Geo. H. Nixon's Regt. Miss. Militia		RELATIONSHIP Gr. Grandson
10. DATE OF BIRTH (Month, day, year) NOT shown		11. HOUSE OF DEATH (Month, day, year) May 31, 1862		ADDRESSES OF APPLICANT (Street address, City and State) 509 Caston St., McComb, Miss.
12. RELIGIOUS EMBLEM (Check one) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LATIN CROSS (Christian) <input type="checkbox"/> STAR OF DAVID (Hebrew) <input type="checkbox"/> NO EMBLEM		13. CHECK TYPE REQUIRED <input type="checkbox"/> UPRIGHT MARBLE HEADSTONE <input type="checkbox"/> FLAT MARBLE MARKER <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FLAT GRANITE MARKER <input type="checkbox"/> FLAT BRONZE MARKER		SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT Hansford L. Simmons
FOR VERIFICATION (Date) NOV 30 1962		DO NOT WRITE HERE ORDERED FEB 1 1963		DATE 11/12/62
B/L B 6274166		CONTRACTOR DAVE WILLIAMS & SONS INC. DALLAS, TEXAS		17. NAME OF CONSIGNEE WHO WILL TRANSPORT STONE OR MARKER Hansford L. Simmons, Judge
DD FORM 1330, 1 AUG 60		REPLACES DA FORM 1315		ADDRESS OF CONSIGNEE (Street address, City and State) 509 Caston St., McComb, Miss.
NMRN - and - 12-14-62		APPLICATION FOR HEADSTONE OR MARKER		18. FREIGHT STATION McComb, Miss.
				19. I HAVE AGREED TO TAKE THE STONE OR MARKER TO THE CEMETERY. SIGNATURE OF CONSIGNEE Hansford L. Simmons



<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/55255278/willis-simmons>



<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/58890424/jane-simmons>

He and Aunt Edna provided the information for his marker. It should be noted that Willis Simmons's current headstone was not placed at his grave until after the ordered date that is given as Feb 1, 1963. (100 years after his death).

If one looks at Jane's marker, it is obvious that it was not made at the same time that Willis's was. The granite on Jane's has been highly polished and the lettering is different. It would have been ordered separately as it could not come from the Veteran's Administration. What this means is that neither gravestone can be considered as a primary source of information as neither was placed at the time of death.

Both of these headstone images are from the website *Find a Grave*. ⁴ This cemetery is on private property and cannot be accessed without permission. Also, I was told that the location is so difficult to locate that the landowner must take you to it. Sadly, we have never visited this location.

Sunday Night.

Terry Dear,
How sweet of you to take the time to write me such a lovely letter. Indeed I remember you though I'm sure you've changed quite a bit. You and Jeff should make it down to Florida and come by to see me. I don't get very far from home - to church, to shop, then out with friends once in a while so just don't miss me should you come in this direction.

I am so glad you folks have started your family records while some of your older kin are still living. Some where back in my genealogical work I ran across the Lee family and having given away much of my material, I've backed my brain to know where I ran across the Lees.

Knowing that I have been working on genealogy of the several families since about 1950 and as you know haven't solved some of the riddles, I promise you that the more you work on the families, the more challenging it is.

The Silver Creek Simmons family Book had most of the direct descendants down to 1955 (time I first published the book) and since that time there must be thousands of descendants. But the book gives the hard part, doesn't it. We still haven't found out data back of Willis and Jane (Goslin) Simmons.

One Cornington family you look to Rutherford Co NC and a Simmons family that I

In a letter to her from Aunt Edna, Teresa shares the following: "This is the first page of a letter Aunt Edna wrote to me (Teresa) in response to one I had written to her. I did not keep the envelope and Aunt Edna obviously did not date the letter, so my best guess as to when this letter was written would be about 1976, twenty years after she first published her genealogy. I had started working on my husband's family tree for my children and immediately ran into "brick walls" when questioning descendants. I wrote to her asking for guidance in pursuing a family history others wanted left alone. Aunt Edna's letter was very encouraging!"

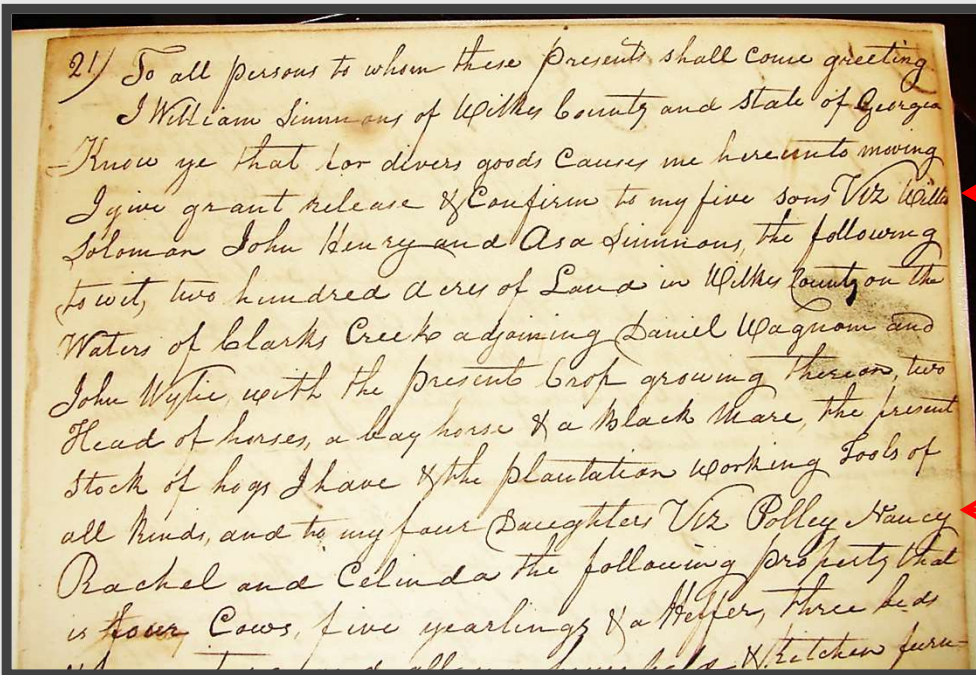
The quote noted below is a very important statement directly from Aunt Edna! Because of her statement in 1976 that she had not found definitive proof of a link to the parents of Willis Simmons or Jane Goslin, then what she published were theories based on information that seemed to fit at the time. These suppositions have become regarded by many as fact. With the records available to us today, it is imperative that we as researchers verify what has previously been written and locate any new sources of information.

"The Silver Creek Simmons family Book had most of the direct descendants down to 1955 (time I first published the book) and since that time there must be thousands of descendants. But the book gives the hard part, doesn't it. We still haven't found out data back of Willis and Jane (Goslin) Simmons."

Willis's location before moving to Mississippi

Based on the year Willis was likely to have been born, there were several Simmons men in Georgia who could have been his father. The problem was determining which one. (Note: We are aware that many researchers have discovered Willis's father in the Wilkes County, Georgia records. This discussion is added here for people new to this research and for continuity of content.)

In 1798, a "Deed of Gift" was recorded in Wilkes County, Georgia, by a William Simmons. He names his children, including a son Willis. Below is a close up of the original document from Wilkes County showing the children's names. This document provides the connection AND the proof that Willis was a child of this William Simmons, as well as the names of most of his brothers and sisters! This places Willis and the rest of his family firmly in Georgia before he married Jane Goslin.



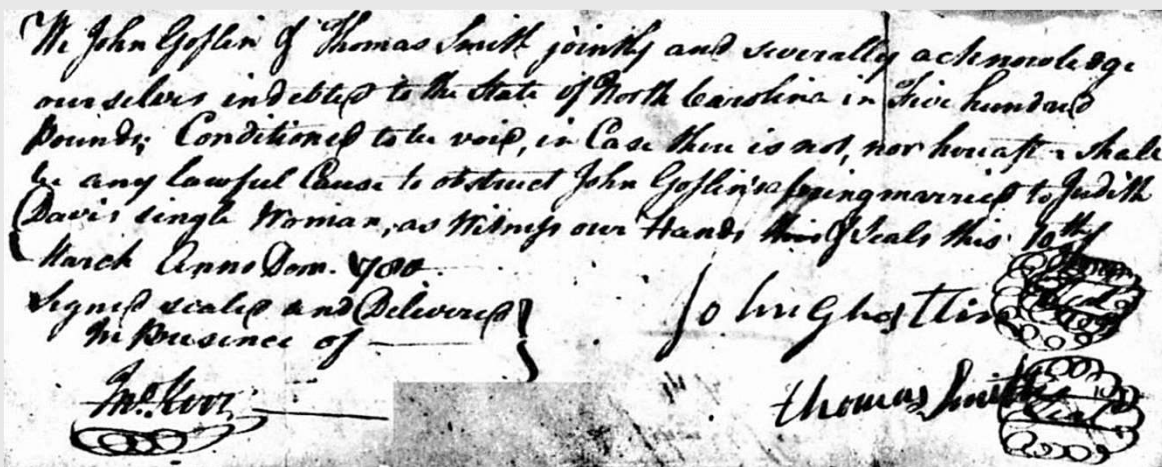
Washington, Georgia, Wilkes County Deed book R-R page 21 (1798 - 1805)
from original document. Photo by Teresa Fortenberry

Sons living at the time this deed was written: Willis, Solomon, John, Henry and Asa. Two sons not mentioned (not yet born) are William and Sanders W. Simmons. The name "Willis" has sometimes been transcribed as "William", perpetuating many errors as the writing is difficult to read since the lettering bends into the spine of the book. Having seen the original record, it is without a doubt Willis. ⁵

The daughters named are Polley, Nancy, Rachel and Celinda. Daughter "Celinda", named here, should read Melinda.

Jane's location before moving to Mississippi

In locating Jane and her family, it is important to establish where both Willis Simmons and Jane Goslin were living before and at the time they married. It should be remembered that during this period, people usually married locally. Someone living on a farm in middle Georgia would have almost no opportunity to meet someone living in another state. Travel was not taken lightly. Couples usually met by way of family connections or at their local church. Many believe that John and Judith (Davis) Goslin were Jane's parents. John and Judith married on 10 March 1780 in Rowan County, North Carolina.⁶ The timing of the marriage would fit with the appropriate year for Jane's estimated birth in the mid 1780s and is most likely the reason this John Goslin was accepted as our Jane's father.



The John Goslin of Thomas Smith jointly and severally acknowledge our selves indebted to the State of North Carolina in Five hundred Pounds; Conditioned to the wife, in Case there is not, nor hereafter shall be any lawful Cause to obstruct John Goslin's being married to Judith Davis's single Woman, as Witness our Hands this 10th March Anno Dom. 1780.

Signed sealed and Delivered
in presence of

John Goslin
Thomas Smith

Seen here is the original 1780 Rowan County, North Carolina record of when the marriage bond was made (not necessarily when the marriage occurred). See endnote 6 for a transcript.

We do know that Willis and Jane spent their early years of marriage in Jones County, Georgia before moving to Mississippi. See the blog article: "Simmons Family to Mississippi."⁷ The question that comes to mind is "If Jane's parents married and lived in North Carolina, how would Jane have meet Willis?" Logistically, it is not likely but must be considered.

A quick look at the early Rowan County, North Carolina records shows that the Davis surname was quite common. Several of them, like the Moravian Goslins, were originally from Maryland. This could possibly link Jane to the family of Ezekial and Elizabeth (Masters) Goslin.

Jane Goslin HAD to have a family, but who were they and where were they living? It would be logical that anyone named John Goslin should be considered. It was surprising that when looking at the entire state, we actually found more than one John Goslin!

Elizabeth and Ezekiel Goslin of Maryland - Previously thought to be Jane's grandparents

Our first search naturally began with a look at proving or disproving the idea that Jane Goslin was the daughter of John Goslin whose family descended from Ezekiel and Elizabeth Goslin. This family was originally part of a Moravian⁸ community in Maryland who later moved to a similar community near today's Winston- Salem, North Carolina. On a trip to the area to search for proof of Jane's parents, we located the graves of Elizabeth Masters Goslin, daughter Elizabeth Goslin, and son Ezekiel Gosling, obviously named after his father.⁹



All photos:
Teresa Fortenberry

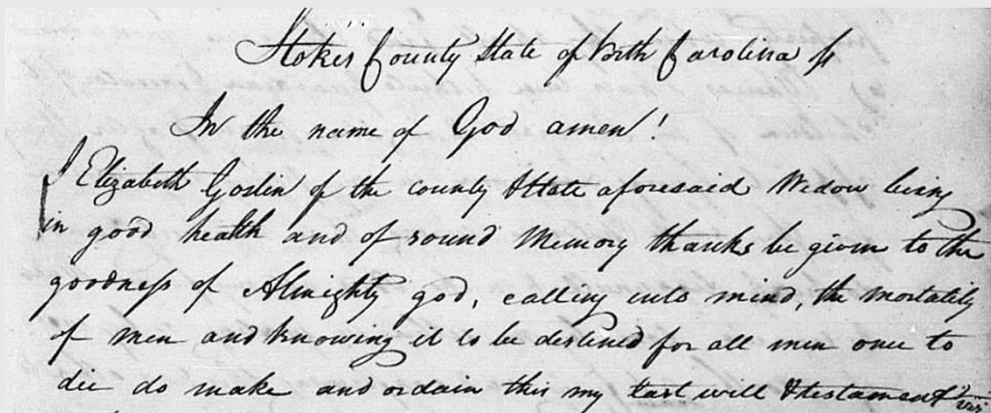
Both Elizabeth Masters Goslin and daughter, Elizabeth, are buried at the Hope Moravian Old (original) God's Acre cemetery in Forsyth County, North Carolina.

Ezekiel Gosling, son of Elizabeth Masters Goslin, is buried at Friedberg Moravian God's Acre in Davidson County, North Carolina.

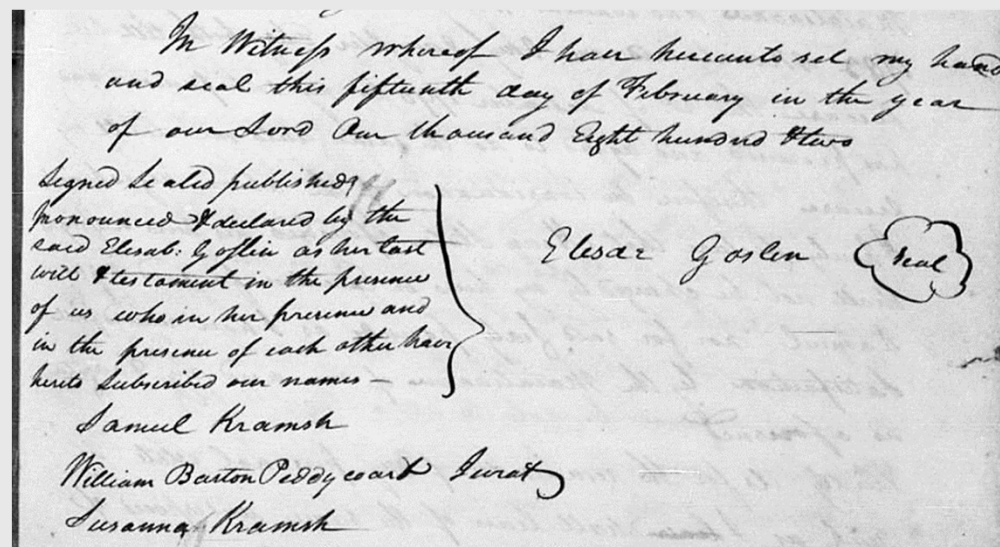
While at the Moravian Church Archives at Winston-Salem, North Carolina, we were able to locate some information concerning Elizabeth Masters Goslin and her family. In one of their family files entitled "Widow Elizabeth Goslin", it was noted that Ezekiel and Elizabeth Goslin were the parents of 10 children. Six children mentioned in that file included: Catherine, Elizabeth, John, Ezekiel, Tabina and Mary. We could not locate information about the other four children, but it is clearly noted that there were only two living sons at the time of the move – Ezekiel and John. From this file, we learned that Ezekiel Goslin, Senior died in Maryland and his remaining family moved from the Carrols Manor community in Maryland to the Moravian settlement at Bethabara, North Carolina in 1772.¹⁰

Could these Moravian Goslins be related to our Jane Goslin?

Below is the beginning and ending of Elizabeth Masters Goslin's will. Because she wrote her will 15 February 1802 and it was proved in Stokes County, North Carolina during the June term of 1802, she died between February and June, 1802. Obviously, she did not live long after writing the will. Elizabeth left portions of her estate to several friends, including someone who provided assistance to her and her daughter, also named Elizabeth. Additionally, she bestowed 5 pounds to her son-in-law, Daniel Smith; an equal portion to the children of her deceased daughter, Mary Young; an equal portion to her daughter, Catherine Smith, wife of Daniel; the son of her deceased daughter, Tabinas Eades; and, to her one remaining son John. ¹¹ Elizabeth (the daughter) contracted typhoid fever at the age of 4 and never fully recovered, therefore needed assistance for the rest of her life. Her illness was noted in the previously mentioned Moravian papers. ¹²




Stokes County State of North Carolina
In the name of God amen!
Elizabeth Goslin of the County of Stokes aforesaid Widow being
in good health and of sound Memory thanks be given to the
goodness of Almighty God, calling unto mind, the mortality
of men and knowing it to be destined for all men once to
die do make and ordain this my last will & testament



In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand
and seal this fifteenth day of February in the year
of our Lord One thousand Eight hundred & Two

Signed Sealed published
pronounced & declared by the
said Elizab. Goslin as her last
will & testament in the presence
of us who in her presence and
in the presence of each other have
hereunto subscribed our names -

Samuel Kramsh
William Barton Paddy, esq and Secy
Susanna Kramsh

Elesar Goslin 

Her son, Ezekiel, was not mentioned in the will because he died in 1774. The will makes no mention of a wife or family for John or of a granddaughter named Jane who would have been a teenager in 1802. Although this will does not seem to indicate a connection to Jane, she COULD still be a member of this family. The search needed to expand to locate any John Goslins in the North Carolina records.

John Goslins living in North Carolina

There are three different John Goslins enumerated in the 1790 North Carolina census. By researching these men, maybe it would be possible to identify one of them as a good candidate for Jane's father.

John Goslin #1 - The 1790 census of Jones County, North Carolina lists one John Goslin (on right). This record shows 7 females and 2 males in the household. The true family structure on this census cannot be ascertained and therefore leaves multiple possibilities. The 7 females **COULD** have been any combination of females (even unrelated) as they were all grouped together regardless of age or family connection. What this record **DOES** show is that a John Goslin was the head of a household in Jones County in 1790 with one additional male over 16 and seven females. ¹³

Technically, this could be the John Goslin who married Judith Davis in 1780. Jane could be enumerated among the 7 females. Maybe John and Judith moved from Rowan County to Jones County, North Carolina.

What about the other two John Goslins?

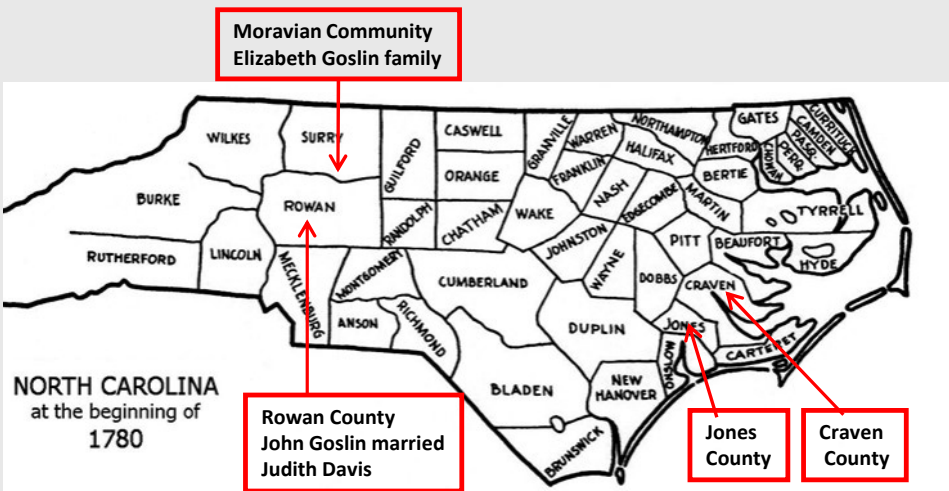
Schedule continued					Jones County				
Name of Head of Family	Free white Males 16 years and upwards including heads of families	Free white Males under 16 years	Free white Females including heads of families	All other persons	Slaves	Names of Heads of Families	Free white Males 16 years and upwards including heads of families	Free white Males under 16 years	Free white Females including heads of families
George Barger	2	2	4	7	21	Am. brought forward	99	103	147
George Stephens	2	3	3	1		Acubey Rob	1	1	3
John Bonds	1	3	1			John Perry	1	3	4
John Harris	1	1	1			Reuben Small	1	3	3
Benjamin Workon	1	1	1			William Perry	1	1	4
Wescent Remyth	1	1	5			William Perry	1	2	4
Wescent Remyth	1	2	1			Abner Beason	1	1	4
Clary Williams	1	1	1			Alexander Allshury	1	2	4
John Williamson	1	1	1			John Bryan	1	1	4
Samuel Bradshaw	1	1	1			John Brown	1	1	4
Benjamin Whitecock	1	1	1			Michael Jones	1	1	4
Abner Spragg	1	1	1			Wesley Waring	1	1	4
John Spragg	1	1	1			Spical Allgood	1	1	4
John Spragg	1	1	1			Spical Allgood	1	1	4
John Spragg	1	1	1			John Green	1	1	4
John Spragg	1	1	1			John Gilbert Junior	1	1	4
John Spragg	1	1	1			John Gilbert	1	1	4
John Spragg	1	1	1			Henry Jones	1	1	4
John Spragg	1	1	1			Matthew Stephenson	1	1	4
John Spragg	1	1	1			Clary Miller	1	1	4
John Spragg	1	1	1			John Bryan	1	1	4
John Spragg	1	1	1			Frederick Bryan	1	1	4
John Spragg	1	1	1			John Murray	1	1	4
John Spragg	1	1	1			John Gilbert	1	1	4
John Spragg	1	1	1			John Gilbert	1	1	4
John Spragg	1	1	1			John Tipton	1	1	4
John Spragg	1	1	1			Wesley Tipton	1	1	4
John Spragg	1	1	1			Agnes Blacksher	1	1	4
John Spragg	1	1	1			Abraham Blacksher	1	1	4
John Spragg	1	1	1			William Bryan	1	1	4
John Spragg	1	1	1			John Hill Bryan	1	1	4
John Spragg	1	1	1			William Harrison	1	1	4

Column Data:
 2 males 16 & over,
 No males under 16
 7 females of any age

John Goslin	2	2	7	7					
Adam Andrews	2	2	1	1					
Robert Edwards	2	2	1	1					

John Goslin #2 and #3 1790 North Carolina Census

On the same census, in the adjacent county of Craven County, we find TWO John Goslins... luckily listed as Senior and Junior. Like the previous John Goslin from Jones County, North Carolina, they were living near the coast.



North Carolina Counties in 1780 ¹⁶

Comparative locations for these John Goslins

In 1790, John Goslin, Sr. had a family of 1 male over 16, 3 males under 16 and 5 females. ¹⁴

John Goslin, Jr. is living alone not far from his father and over the age of 16. ¹⁵

1790 United States Federal Census for Aaron Arnold
North Carolina > Craven > Not Stated

Thomas Whiteford	1	2	3
John Goslin Sen	1	3	5
James Arque	2		2
John Hypoch jun	1	1	1
John Evernton	1		
Orchiel Evernton	1	4	1
John Goslin jun	1		
Joseph Arquin	1		3

Although it may look like the name is spelled Gaslin, it will become evident that their names were definitely Goslin.

It is apparent that John Jr. had recently established his own household but was not yet married as he was enumerated alone. He is not likely to be Jane's father because she was born before 1790. When the 1790 census was taken, the senior John Goslin was married and Jane would have already been born. Could she be among the five females in John Goslin, Sr.'s household? Luckily, the Craven County Court Records were able to help determine the answer to that question.

The Worshippful the County Court of Craven
now sitting.

The Petition of William Hampton in right
of his wife Sarah Hampton, humbly sheweth that
John Goslin late of the county aforesaid, died
intestate, seized and possessed of one certain tract
of Land containing by estimation two hundred
acres of Land, situate lying and being on British
Creek in the County aforesaid leaving five Children
to wit John Goslin Junior, Mary Goslin the present wife
of Curtis Merit at present absent, Jane Goslin the
present wife of William Wood, Sarah Goslin the present
wife of your Petitioner and Rodah Goslin still
single heir at Law, all of whom are now of age.
And your Petitioner further states that in consequence
of the absence of Curtis Merit the husband of Mary Goslin
one of the heirs at Law no satisfactory division of the
estate among themselves can possibly ensue, your
Petitioner being anxious that whatever he may be entitled
to in right of his wife may come into possession, prays
this worshippful court to appoint five commissioners
to allot and make such distribution of the said Land
as they are authorized to do by act of assembly in
such case made & provided & your Petitioner as in
duty bound will ever pray.

Sept^r Term 1799. W^m Hampton ^{his}
mark

John Goslin, Sr. – Craven County, North Carolina Estate Settlement

John Goslin

In a 1799 Craven County court case pertaining to the death of John Goslin, Sr. is a petition entered in court by William Hampton, husband of Sarah Goslin, a daughter of John Goslin, Sr. The petitioner is complaining that the heirs could not settle the estate of the deceased, John Goslin, and he would like the courts to force a settlement. John Goslin's five children involved with the settlement and named as heirs are clearly stated as:

John Goslin, Jr. (who was living alone in the 1790 census)
Mary Goslin, wife of Curtis Merit
Nancy Goslin, wife of William Wood
Sarah Goslin, wife of the petitioner (William Hampton)
Rodah Goslin, still single ¹⁷

Jane Goslin would have been a teenager when this document was filed but NO Jane is named in the petition as an heir of John, Sr. The obvious conclusion is that our Jane was neither a daughter of John Goslin, Sr. (since she would have been listed as an heir) nor of John Goslin, Jr. as he appears to have had no family in 1790.

Lancaster County, South Carolina?

Some sources (including Aunt Edna) state that Willis and Jane married in Lancaster County, South Carolina.¹⁸ Since documents show that Willis's family was definitely living in Georgia, this statement would infer that Jane Goslin was living in South Carolina and he traveled there to marry her. There are absolutely no Goslins in the early records of Lancaster County South Carolina. We know this because our Fortenberry (Falkenberry) family was from Lancaster County and we have spent many years researching within those records. Also, if one accepted that Jane Goslin and her family were from Lancaster County, South Carolina, how would Willis Simmons have met her? Willis Simmons would have had to travel about 250 miles (ONE WAY) to Lancaster County, South Carolina from Georgia. In 1804, whether by boat, carriage or horseback, that was still a VERY long trip! This particular story is simply wrong.

Evidence from the 1850 Pike County, Mississippi census

1850 United States Federal Census for Willis Simmons										
Mississippi > Pike > Police District 1										
Dwelling No.	Family No.	Name	Age	Sex	Race	Real Estate	Birthplace	Marri 1850	Attend	Can't Read and Write
288	289	Willis Simmons	66	m		Farmer	1500	Georgia	✓	✓
		Jane "	65	f			"	✓	✓	✓
		Matilda "	35	f			Mississippi	✓	✓	✓
		George M. "	14	m			"	✓	✓	✓
		Jackson J. "	14	m			"	✓	✓	✓
		Solomon "	8	m			Louisiana	✓	✓	✓
		Letitia M. "	6	f			"	✓	✓	✓
		Mason "	1	m			"	✓	✓	✓
		Wily Hughes	21	m		Farmer	Mississippi	✓	✓	✓

The first census to list a location of birth was the 1850. On that census (shown here), Willis and Jane are noted as BOTH born in Georgia.¹⁹ We do not know who gave the census taker the information. Because Jane died in June of 1851, we cannot look at the 1860 census to check for a comparison. Note about this census record: Matilda and the children following Jane's name on the list are the family of Willis and Jane's son, Willis, who had died sometime before this 1850 Mississippi census. Based on data collected by Edna Simmons Campbell, after Willis died, his wife and children lived for a while with Willis and Jane.²⁰ This census reflects that.

Is there any other way to verify the claim that they were both born in Georgia? Actually, there is! In 1880, the Federal Census contained several new pieces of information including the place of birth of both parents of each individual. So, what do their FOUR children still alive in 1880 say about where their parents were born?

Information directly from Willis and Jane's children

Mason Simmons was the FIRST child of Willis and Jane Simmons. This 1880 Caldwell Parish, Louisiana census record is nearly impossible to read but it was transcribed and can vaguely be read as Mason Simmons. In 1880, Mason's age is given as 75 and his birthplace as Georgia. He was born before the family moved to Mississippi. He gave BOTH his parents' birthplaces as Georgia. ²¹

1880 United States Federal Census for Mason Simmons

Louisiana > Caldwell > 4th Ward > 002

Street	House No.	Dwelling	Fami No.	Name	Race	Sex	Age	Birth Month	Relationship	Single	Married	Widow/D	Married C	Occupation	Mont Unerr	Sick	Blind	Deaf and	Idiotic	Insane	Disabled	Attended	Cannot re	Cannot w	Birthplace	Birthplace of Father	Birthplace of Mother
				Mason Simmons	W	M	75				1			Farmer											Ga	Ga	Ga
				Willis Simmons	W	M					1			Keeps Home											Ga	Ga	Ga
				Jane Simmons	W	F					1			Keeps Home											Ga	Ga	Ga

William Simmons was their SECOND child. On the 1880 Pike County, Mississippi census, he gives his age as 72 and his birthplace as Georgia. Like his older brother, he gave BOTH his parents' birthplaces as Georgia. ²²

1880 United States Federal Census for Wm. Simmons

Mississippi > Pike > Not Stated > 037

Street	House No.	Dwel No.	Fami No.	Name	Race	Sex	Age	Birth Month	Relationship	Single	Married	Widow/D	Married C	Occupation	Mont Unerr	Sick	Blind	Deaf and	Idiotic	Insane	Disabled	Attended	Cannot re	Cannot w	Birthplace	Birthplace of Father	Birthplace of Mother
		327	329	Simmons Wm	W	M	72				1			Farmer	✓									1	Ga	Ga	Ga
				Eliza M	W	F	29		Wife		1			Keeps Home											Ga	Ga	Ga
				Jesse W.	W	M	23		Son					Farmer	✓										Miss	Ga	La
				Samuel	W	M	10		Son		1			Helps in Field								t	1		Miss	Ga	Ga

Narcissa (Simmons) Fortenberry, (wife of Calvin Kennington Fortenberry) was the 4th child of Willis and Jane Simmons. She also states that **BOTH** of her parents were born in Georgia. She was born in Mississippi in 1813. ²³ Because the book was copied on a slant, please follow the red line for the correct data.

1880 United States Federal Census for Norcissa Fortinbery

Mississippi > Pike > Not Stated > 038

Street	House No.	Dwelling	Family No.	Name	Race	Sex	Age	Birth Month	Relationship	Single	Married	Widow/D	Married C	Occupation	Months U	Sick	Blind	Deaf and	Idiotic	Insane	Disabled	Attendec	Cannot re	Cannot w	Birthplace	Birthplace of	Birthplace of
621 574				Willis Fortenberry	W	M	25		Head															Mississippi	Geo	Geo	
627 574				Norcissa Fortenberry	W	F	66		Mother															Mississippi	Geo	Geo	

J. R. Simmons, 5th child of Willis and Jane, states that he himself was born in Mississippi (ditto marks) and **BOTH** parents were born in Georgia. ²⁴ Once again, please follow the red line for correct data.

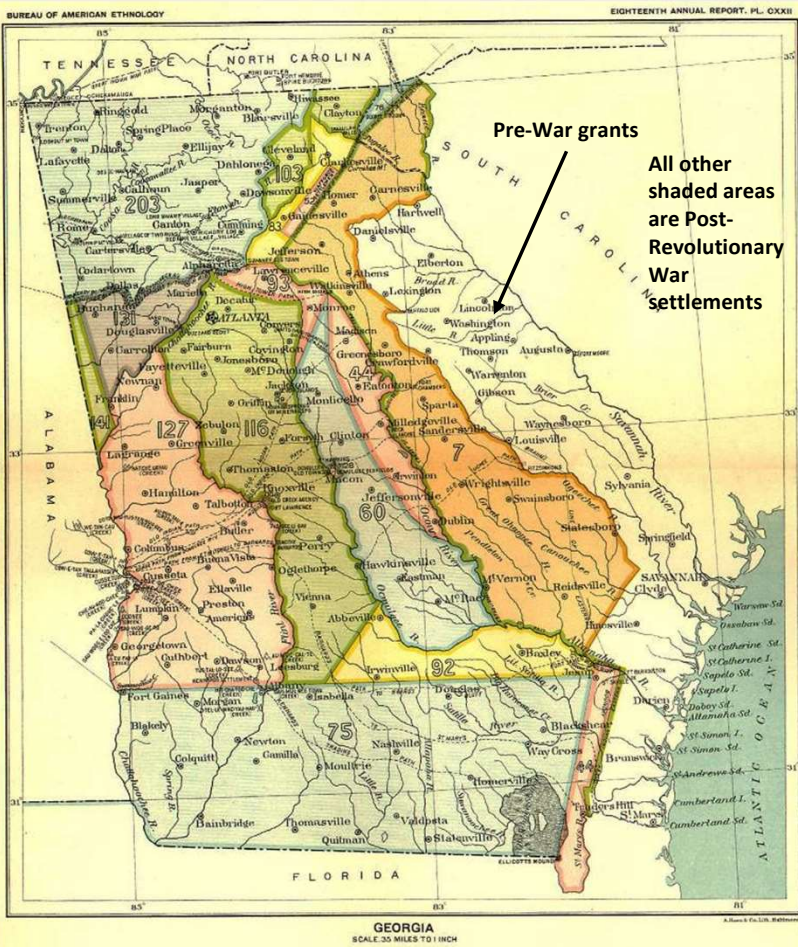
1880 United States Federal Census for J.R. Simmons

Mississippi > Pike > Not Stated > 037

Street	House No.	Dwell No.	Famil No.	Name	Race	Sex	Age	Birth Month	Relationship	Single	Married	Widow/D	Married C	Occupation	Montl Unem	Sick	Blind	Deaf and	Idiotic	Insane	Disabled	Attendec	Cannot re	Cannot w	Birthplace	Birthplace of	Birthplace of
623 325				Charles Simmons	W	M	32		Head																Geo	Geo	Geo
623 325				J.R. Simmons	W	M	42		Son																"	Geo	Geo

Confirmed by four of their children, this adds a solid foundation to the fact that both Willis Simmons and Jane Goslin were BORN in Georgia. The apparent conclusion from this data is that **NONE** of the three John Goslins living in North Carolina at the time of the 1790 census could possibly be Jane's family.

The obvious answer from their own children is that we should look for Jane's family in GEORGIA.



Post Revolutionary War Land Grants

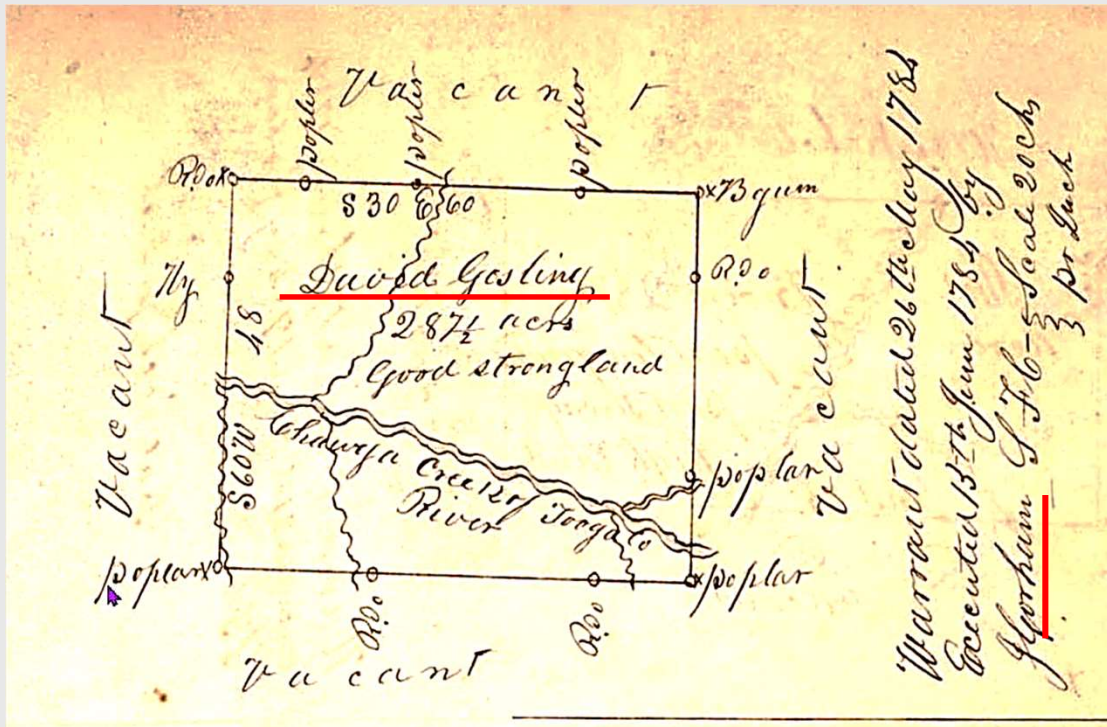
Before moving forward, the Georgia land grant system needs to be discussed. Immediately after the Revolutionary War, the state of Georgia was desperate for people to settle in their western areas (now middle and west Georgia). Of course, the plan was to push the Native Americans off the land and further west. In 1783, the state began issuing headright and bounty land grants. Headright grants were to be given to families who remained in Georgia during the final years of the war (1781 to 1782). The bounty land grants were initially to be issued to men who served in the war, regardless of location, as long as the person had proof from an officer that they had served. Immediately, the system was abused and the various laws were ignored. One of the worst offenders was Georgia's famous Revolutionary War general - Elijah Clarke. He and others began issuing statements for anyone who asked, even without evidence of service. Early document transcribers of these grants who were seeking to make records available for researchers assumed that all these grants belonged to "proven" Revolutionary War veterans. The validity of these lists was never checked. Sadly, over the years, more in depth research uncovered that many were not veterans or ever living in Georgia. It has been proven that many men, including Clarke, became land speculators who obtained thousands of acres under very questionable methods. ²⁶

Based on research done using existing documents of the area of Georgia being settled, two men named Goslin (Gauslin/Gosling) have been found who were mentioned in the records not long after the Revolutionary War. Remember, Jane and her family say she was born in Georgia. Her age given on the 1850 census suggests that her birth year was around 1785. ²⁷ This is exactly when families living further north were moving into Georgia.

The land being settled between 1780 and 1790 appears in orange on the map shown here. The areas along the Savannah River and the coast that appear in cream were settled prior to the War. Other shaded areas show the progression of settlement as the Georgia government displaced the Natives slowly westward. ²⁵

David Goslin

One of two Goslin men appearing in the early Georgia records was named David Goslin (Gosling/Gauslin). Because research indicates that it is extremely improbable that he is directly connected to our family, he will be discussed first. On 26 May 1784, a plat for 287.5 acres was laid out to David Gosling in Franklin County, Georgia. ²⁸



At this time, grants for 287.5 acres were designated to be granted to a large category of people, mostly privates in the militia, Georgia citizens, or deserters from the British. ²⁹ Most individuals who had some form of the Goslin surname and served in the war lived in Maryland, Pennsylvania, and New York. No David Goslin (any spelling) can be found anywhere actually fighting in the Revolutionary War. The one David Goslin who was located during this time period lived in New Jersey. He was identified as a fugitive after joining the British Army in 1776. In 1783, this family evacuated from New York City with other Tories fleeing to Canada when Washington retook the city. His family definitely did not move to Georgia. ³⁰

After the survey shown above was completed on 15 June 1784, nothing seems to have happened with this land. One year later on 6 May 1785, a document was recorded in the Franklin County records showing a man named Samuel Creswell was given this land "in lieu of" a county warrant of David Gosling." ³¹

David Goslin

Georgia Best Court of Justices of the County of Franklin
John Gorham Esq. County Surveyor for said County
If We are hereby authorized and required to admeasure and
lay out or cause to be admeasured and laid out unto
Gorham Samuel Creswell A tract of Land which shall contain
two hundred eighty seven & half acres in the said County
of Franklin in lieu of A county warrant of David
Gosling
that the same has not

“Georgia By a court of Justices of the County of Franklin to John Gorham Esq. County Surveyor for said county You are hereby authorized and required to admeasure and layout or cause to be admeasured and laid out unto Samuel Creswell A tract of Land which shall contain two hundred eighty seven & half acres in the said County of Franklin in lieu of A county warrant of David Gosling . . .” (continuing but not shown above)

“Taking especial care that the same has not heretofore been laid out to any person or persons and you are also hereby directed and required to record the platt of the same in your office and remit A copy there of together with this warrant to the Surveyor General given under my hand session justice of said Court the 6th Day of May 1785 Walker Richardson CFC” [Clerk of Franklin County] ³²

John Gorham, the surveyor of this plat and noted on this grant, was one of the worst offenders of land fraud along with Elijah Clarke. ³³ The man receiving the land (Samuel Creswell) received thousands of acres in his own name; and, he too is noted on other plats as a surveyor. Note: This legal term “in lieu of” appears in many grants and means “in place of.” On 6 May 1784, not only did Creswell receive David Gosling’s land but he had four other “in lieu of” grants transferred to himself for an additional 1312.5 acres. ³⁴ As there are no other records indicating that a David Goslin ever lived in Georgia, it would seem that if he was ever in Georgia at all, he left before being taxed or otherwise documented as existing. The two counties in the state involved with the most land fraud were Franklin and Washington Counties. David’s land discussed here was supposed to be in Franklin County.

The state could see that individuals were abusing the current grant process but it would take until 1803 before the Georgia Legislature would radically change the laws to remove the overwhelming corruption. What took so long to make a change? Many of the worst offenders were the influential people holding local offices. ³⁵

Although there are additional twists and turns concerning all these shady land deals, there is absolutely no compelling evidence to connect a man named David Goslin to our Jane Goslin.

State of Georgia
Washington County

Personally appeared before me
Simon Gauselin — and made oath that he joined
as a soldier in the continental line of this State in the
12 m service in Cap^t Tilman Dixons Comp^y and that he obtained
a discharge after his time expired, and after having obtain^d
such discharge — the same was lost or
otherways destroyed and was neither sold or Bartred
by himself or any other person for him by his authority
John Watts JP Given under my hand
this 28th May 1791
Simon Gauselin

1791

For Value received I do hereby
transfer and assign unto Nicholas Long Jun^r
all my right and title to the above for the services
aforesaid.
Simon Gauselin

Test
John Watts JP

Simon Goslin – 1791

Although Simon Goslin does not appear in the Georgia records as early as David Goslin, there are enough documents to track some of his activities. The very first record for him does not even appear in the Georgia records, but is instead found in the records of Caswell County, North Carolina.³⁶ How fortunate to find a record that immediately provides a previous residence and a definitive link to service in the Revolutionary War!

State of Georgia
Washington County

Personally appeared before me

Simon Gauselin — and made oath that he joined as a soldier in the continental line of this State in the 12 m service in Cap^t Tilman Dixons Comp^y and that he obtained a discharge after his time expired, and after having obtain^d such discharge — the same was lost or otherways destroyed and was neither sold or Bartred by himself or any other person for Him by his authority

John Watt JP³⁷

Given under my hand
this 28th May 1791
Simon Gauslin

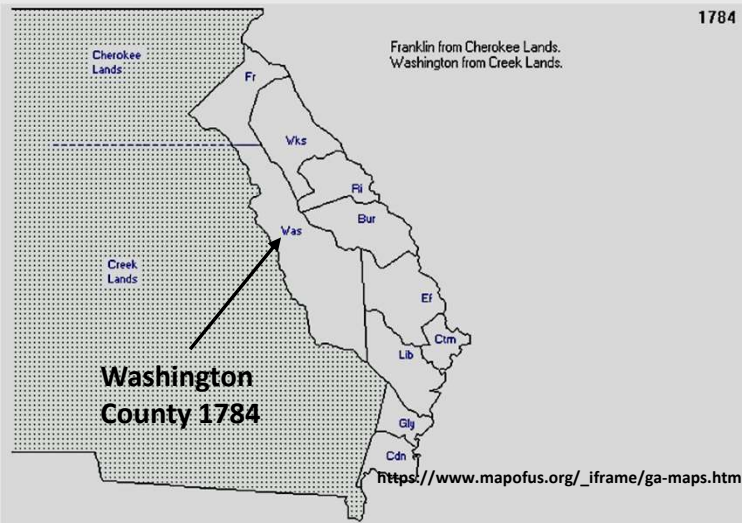
For value received I do hereby transfer and
assign unto Nicholas Long Jun^r³⁸ all my right and title to the above for the services
aforesaid

Simon Gauslin

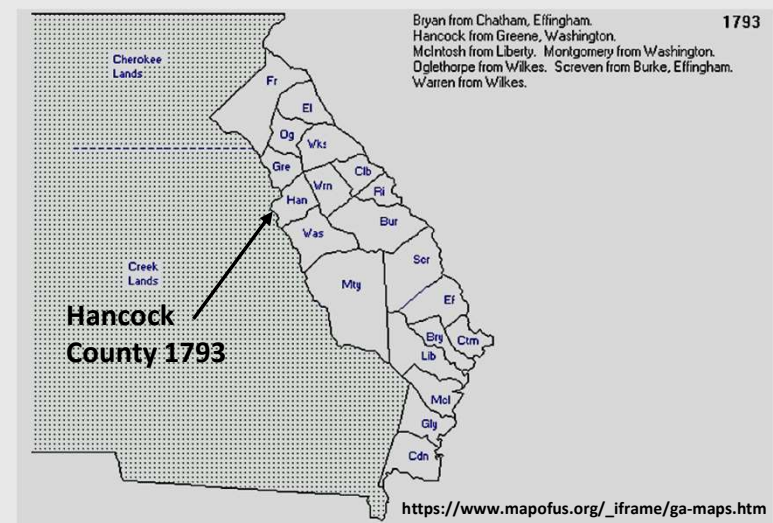
Test
John Watts JP

What this document is saying is that Simon was relinquishing his rights to payment by the state of North Carolina for his service in the Revolutionary War as he no longer lived there. Instead, he was assigning any payment he would have received to Nicholas Long, Jr.

The information concerning Simon Goslin's Revolutionary War service will be explained in great detail in a subsequent article. First, a logical link to Jane Goslin must be explored. This previous record from North Carolina is the first one linking Simon to Georgia. Washington County was organized in 1784 and would later be divided into seven other counties. It would help us greatly if the 1790, 1800, and 1810 census records for Georgia still existed, but sadly they are designated as "missing." This means one has to rely on the spotty court records that made it through courthouse fires, the Civil War, and general negligence of historical records.



These two maps show some of the changes in county formations. In 1784, Washington County was formed from Creek land and Franklin from Cherokee land. In 1786, Greene was formed from the northern part of Washington. By 1793, Greene County had been divided again to include the formation of Hancock. ³⁹



The previous document concerning Simon Goslin was signed by John Watts, Justice of the Peace for Washington County, Georgia before being sent to North Carolina meaning this document traveled north from Georgia. All subsequent records located for Simon Goslin appear in Hancock County, Georgia. As discussed above, he did not necessarily move; his location just got designated as being in a newly formed county. Three pages previous was a map of the "acquisition" of Native American land showing, in orange, the area later to include Hancock County.

The loss of records during this time period is devastating to family historians. Tax records before 1800 are scarce and poorly preserved, early plats are often loose papers, and time has not been kind to these old records. With that being said, the following is what has been discovered about Simon Goslin through extensive, diligent, and persistent research.

Simon Gauslin – Hancock County Tax Records 1794

Capt Sanford District | Negroes | land 1st | 2nd | 3rd Quality | Pine land | County | Water Cors | Whome joining | To Whome Granted | Dollars Dimes Cents

Capt Sanford District		Negroes	land 1 st	2 nd	3 rd Quality	Pine land	County	Water Cors	Whome joining	To Whome Granted	Dollars	Dimes	Cents
Capt Sanford District (46)													
Henry Hall				42			Hancock Island					4	2 1/2
Shepherd Norton	1		2 1/2	2 1/2			Do Rocky C ^k		Walker		1	4	0 1/2
George Williams	1			88			Do Do		Falbert			7	3
Hyler Crocker				50			Do Blaine		Hancock			3	7 1/2
John Humphris					200		Do Do		Poling			4	5 1/2
Joseph Carr	5		430				Do Do				3	9	0 1/2
William Vines				60			Do Rocky C ^k					3	8 1/2
Simon Gauslin												3	1 1/2
Turner Harwood				50			Do Do		Anderson			3	7 1/2
Micajah Powell			50				Do Island					4	3 1/2
John Thomson	1			74			Do Do		Moore			7	1 1/2
Samuel Powell			83 1/2				Do Do		Wied			3	9
William Fairchild				150			Do Do					4	9 1/2
Joseph Dennis				100			Do Do		Smith			4	3 1/2
Washa Morgan												3	1 1/2

As previously mentioned, Hancock County was established in 1793 from what was originally Washington County. That would mean that this record from 1794 would be their first tax list as a new county. To the left is the page containing Simon Gauslin. ⁴⁰ Above the document, in very small type, is an attempt to transcribe the column titles. D^o means ditto.

Notice that Simon Gauslin has no data on any column except the last one. This is an indication that he owned no land and was required to pay only a poll (head) tax of just over 31 1/2 ¢. As with all tax collecting at the time, Capt. Sanford would have traveled along the easiest routes possible. This means that Simon lived near the men enumerated around him on the list. The man above him, William Vines owned sixty acres of 3rd quality land in Hancock County on Rocky Creek. He paid a little over 38¢ (poll plus tax on land). Below Simon is Turner Harwood who owned 50 acres, also on Rocky Creek, of 2nd quality land and he paid 37¢ tax. ⁴¹ Please remember Rocky Creek.

Simon Gauslin – Hancock County Tax Records 1796

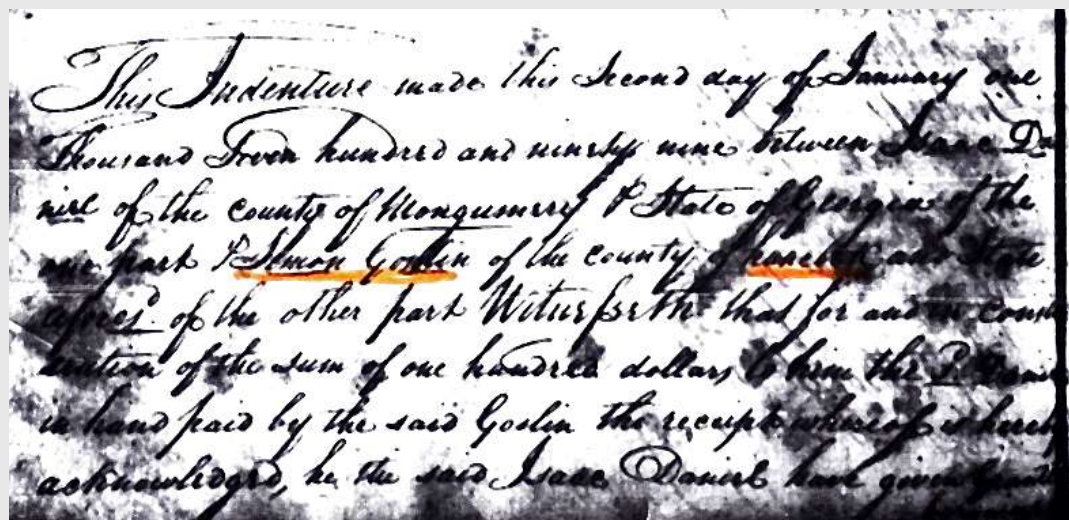
Person taxed	Counties	Oconee Swamp			Ogechee Swamp			Oak and Hickory			Pine
		1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	
Elisha Trice	Hancock										
Isaac Andrews	Ditto										
Ephraim Boon	Ditto									100	
Isaac Simmons	Ditto										
Richd Gamsley	Ditto										300
Francis Stubbs	Ditto									80	
John A. Scott	Ditto										
Thomas Armstrong	Ditto										
Joseph Howard	Ditto									269	
Simon Gauslin	Ditto										
Elisha Moran	Ditto										

Adjoining lands of	on the waters of	slaves		whites	Amount of each man's tax
		black	white		
J Booth	RC	1			75 00
J Simmons	D. C	1	1		135 00
J Booth	RC	2	1		1 29 58
J. Lamar	RC	1	1		37 50
		1	1		74 22
		1			37 50
		1			37 50

Two years later, Simon Gauslin is still living in Hancock County. Like before, he was only required to pay a poll tax, but there was a tax increase to 37½¢.⁴² By looking at the earlier pages of this tax list, RC on this document is referring to Rocky Creek near where he lived on the 1794 list. The man listed below Simon is Elisha Moran who was living nearby on the 1794 tax list (see last name on previous list). Like Simon, he paid only a poll tax and did not own any land. Elisha Trice, noted at the top of this list, also owned no land.⁴³ These three families (Goslin, Trice, and Moran) intermarried several times during this period. Yes, there is an Isaac Simmons on this list but his relationship to Willis's family has not been verified. These are the only two surviving tax lists for Hancock County before 1800.

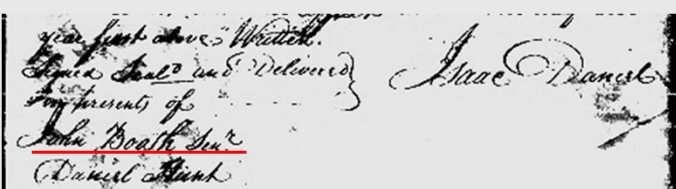
Simon Goslin purchases land - 1799

The first record indicating that Simon Goslin owned land was a deed dated 2 January 1799. The top portion of that deed is seen here. It states that “This Indenture made this Second day of January one Thousand Seven hundred and ninety nine between Isaac Daniel of the county of Montgomery [Montgomery] & State of Georgia of the one part & Simon Goslin of the county of hancock and state afores^d of the other part Witnesseth that for the consideration of the sum of one hundred dollars to him the said Daniel in hand paid by the said Goslin the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged” ⁴⁴



This Indenture made this Second day of January one Thousand Seven hundred and ninety nine between Isaac Daniel of the County of Montgomery & State of Georgia of the one part & Simon Goslin of the County of Hancock and State of Georgia of the other part Witnesseth that for and in consideration of the sum of one hundred dollars to him the said Daniel in hand paid by the said Goslin the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, he the said Isaac Daniel have given unto

As previously mentioned, Goslin’s two tax records were poll taxes which is a tax on an adult male without property. Because Goslin’s poll taxes were for Hancock County and this land purchased in 1799 was also in Hancock County, one might even make a reasonable assumption that he may have been buying the land he had already been farming, especially since the seller lived in a different county.



Witnesseth that for and in consideration of the sum of one hundred dollars to him the said Daniel in hand paid by the said Goslin the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, he the said Isaac Daniel have given unto

Witnesseth that for and in consideration of the sum of one hundred dollars to him the said Daniel in hand paid by the said Goslin the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, he the said Isaac Daniel have given unto

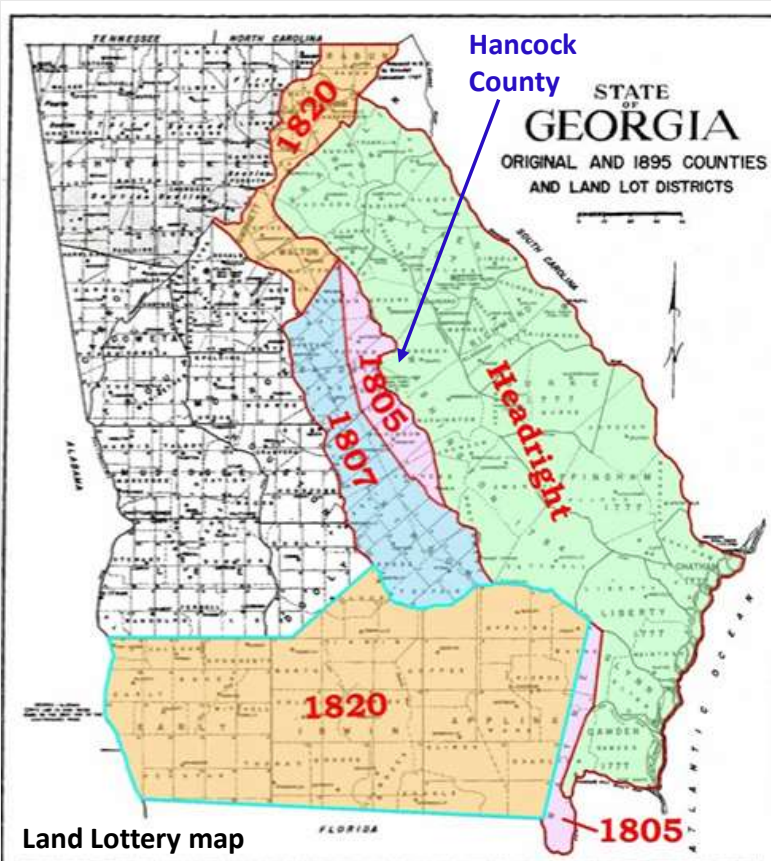
Witnesseth that for and in consideration of the sum of one hundred dollars to him the said Daniel in hand paid by the said Goslin the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, he the said Isaac Daniel have given unto

The land was identified as being on “Roka Creek.” This is believed to be in error since no creek in Georgia (then or now) has had that name. Instead, it should be Rocky Creek. As shown on the previous two tax records, Simon was living near Rocky Creek when he was paying his taxes. A John Booth, Sr., shown here as witnessing the deed, lived near Goslin on the 1796 tax list. (see previous page).

Information from the remaining part of the deed included: Goslin paid \$100 for 50 acres of land in Hancock County. His new land adjoined “on Simmons old line.” ⁴⁵ This is most likely Isaac Simmons listed six names above Goslin on the 1796 tax list. It is not likely that this Simmons is from our direct Simmons line, but he is probably related. There were quite a few Simmons men known to have lived in Hancock County. To learn more about the research of Simmons families living in early Georgia, follow the link in the endnotes. ⁴⁶

Goslins and the Georgia Land Lotteries

After the Revolutionary War, the Georgia government began an intensive effort to remove the Creeks and Cherokees from their native lands. By 1803, a law was passed for a lottery system to distribute the acquired land more equitably than the original grant system. The map on the left notes the progression of this process.⁴⁷ In the first (1805) lottery, citizens could register for a chance to win land they could take possession of for as little as 4 to 6 cents an acre. The names were placed in a large spinning drum and the land locations in another. When a name was drawn, so was a corresponding plot of land (or a blank paper). The 1805 lottery allowed men to have one draw (entry), widows were given two. People whose names were drawn with a plot of land were called fortunate draws. The lotteries relevant to the Goslin family are the ones held in 1805, 1807, and 1820. These were the first three drawings. Each time a land lottery occurred, the rules varied slightly.⁴⁸



Land Lottery map



The Georgia Studies Book

<http://georgiainfo.galileo.usg.edu/gastudiesimages/Land%20Lottery.htm>

Notice on the map that in 1805 two comparatively small areas were being distributed. One was near the coast and the other in what today is central Georgia. Also, note the arrow showing where Hancock County was relative to the land being distributed. Simon's family literally lived on the edge of the new land. Why not try to win some? Most people did!

Goslins in the 1805 Georgia Land Lottery

There were two Goslins living in Hancock County who entered the drawing for the land that would later be organized as Baldwin, Wilkinson, and Wayne Counties. Both were women – Mary Goslin and Omey Goslin. ⁴⁹

The lottery was authorized by the government of Georgia in May of 1803. People who wished to be in the drawing had to register at their county courthouse by September of 1803 but that date was later extended to 1 March 1804. Women were only allowed to be in the drawing if they were widows. As widows, they would get 2 draws (chances of winning). This means that Mary and Omey, both with the number 2 following their names, were widows. No other information was given except what you see here. ⁵⁰ No male named Goslin was registered anywhere on the 1805 lists within the state. The most logical explanation for this is that Simon Goslin, had died before 1 March 1804. Since these two widows are listed in Hancock County where Simon purchased land in 1799, then it would be reasonable to assume that one of them was Simon's wife. Neither Mary nor Omey Goslin had a fortunate draw. ⁵¹

Before moving on, we need to take a look at someone else who registered and is listed on the same page but 14 names down from Omey. John Bond Sen^r is noted as having two draws as a Hancock County participant. ⁵² He was a well known Revolutionary War veteran and he did get a fortunate draw. ⁵³ By 1808, he was living in Jones County, Georgia. This is the same county where Willis and Jane were living before 1809. This is noteworthy because John Bond and his family would be part of the traveling party to Mississippi with Willis and Jane when they left Georgia in 1809. Like Willis and Jane, Bond would spend the rest of his life in Pike County, Mississippi. The third man in their group traveling to Mississippi was John Mathews. There were also two men named John Mathews on the Hancock County list but it was not possible to prove if one of them was the John Mathews in their group.

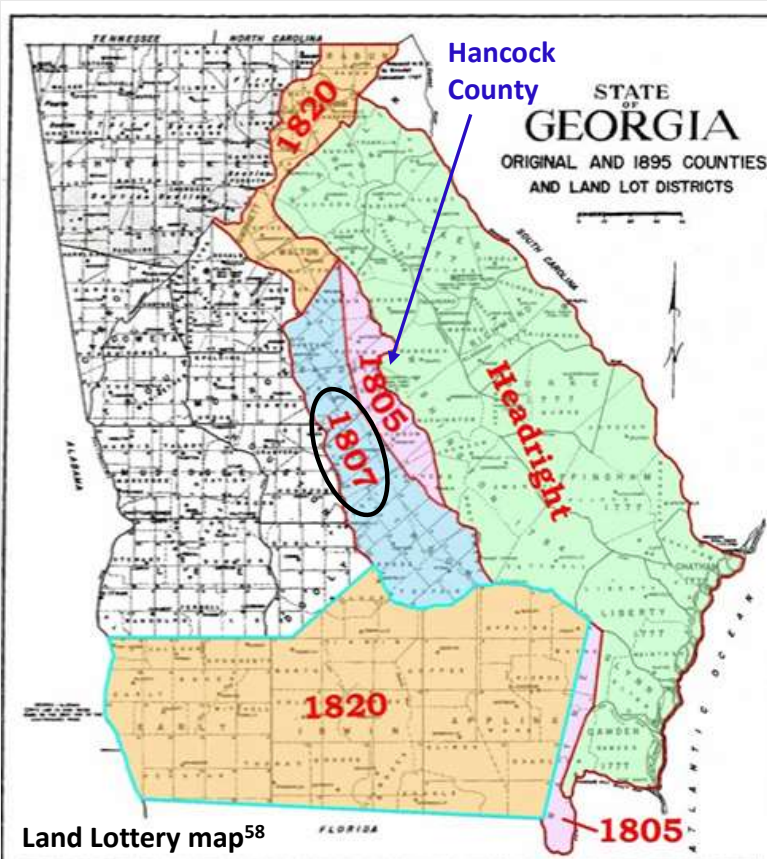
Hancock County registrants for the 1805 drawing

Littleton Reese	2
Mary Goslin	2
Nathan Barrington	2
Omey Goslin	2
John Shaw	1

John Bond, Senior

Joseph Candler	1
John Bond Sen ^r	2
John Felps	2

Goslins in the 1807 Georgia Land Lottery



The rules for the 1807 lottery were slightly different than those in 1805. The act was passed 26 June 1806 and registration was only open from 26 June to 26 September. Widows received one draw (instead of two). A family of orphans under 21 whose father was dead and mother living would get one (total two for the family).⁵⁵

There is an interesting story about the Hancock County records concerning this particular lottery. The Superior Court of Hancock County had a book in the courthouse entitled *Tax Digest 1806 Hancock County*. Inside was not a tax list, but the names of all the people who registered for the 1807 lottery. The contents of this book were published twice but both contained many errors and abbreviated lists. In 2002, Nathan Mathews provided an accurate transcription of these records for the *Georgia Genealogical Society Quarterly*. His intent was that the transcribed list be as accurate as possible. He notes that “One of the advantages of reviewing the registration list, versus having the fortunate drawers, is that often a widow is listed adjacent to the ‘Orphans of’ immediately following with the same surname.”⁵⁶ Mary Goslin was not listed this time, but we are indeed fortunate because the following was listed together:

Orphans of Simon Gosling 1
Omy Gosling 1⁵⁷

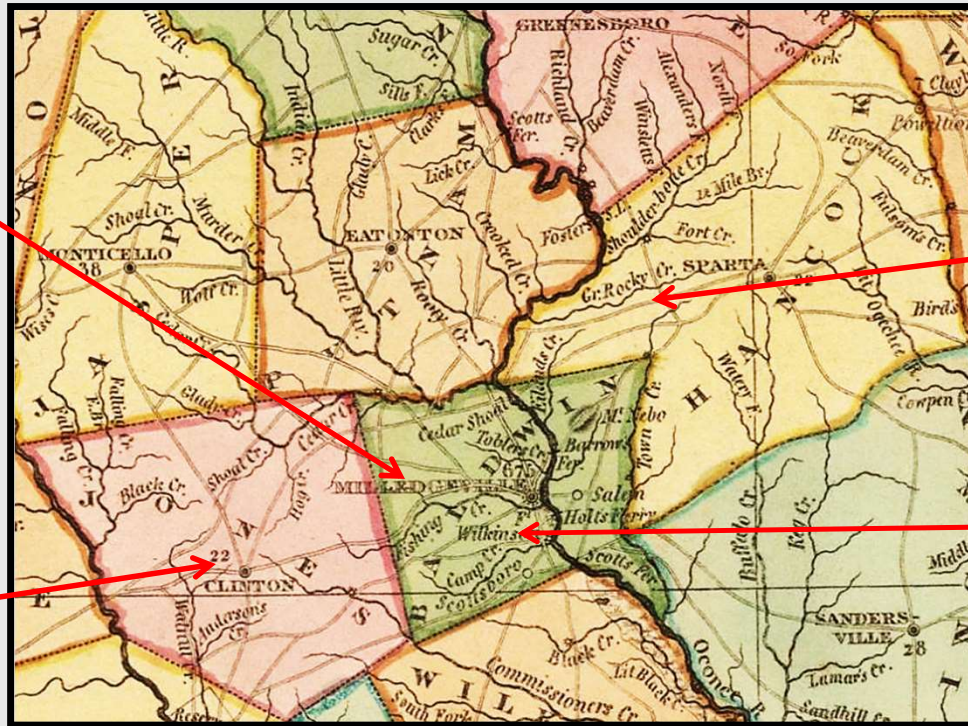
We now know without a doubt that Omy Goslin was the widow of Simon Goslin.

Why was the original document from Hancock County not shown here? Sadly, in 2014, the Hancock County Courthouse burned and we lost all these original records. The Georgia Archives knew these records were still in Sparta, Georgia and needed to be protected but digitizing the original documents was never done. Thankfully, researchers have this publication by Mathews as it is the only remaining complete and accurate source. Once again, the Goslin family did not have a fortunate draw.

Comparative locations of the Goslin and Simmons Families

William Simmons had a fortunate draw in the 1807 Land Lottery. The land was in Baldwin County. He, along with his sons, Willis and Solomon appeared on the Baldwin 1807 tax list.⁶⁰

Jones County was formed in December of 1807 FROM part of Baldwin County. Jones County is where Willis and Jane spend the first years of their marriage. His father, William died prior to August of 1814 and his estate was probated in Jones County.⁶¹



1823 map of Georgia and Alabama by H. S. Tanner⁵⁹

Simon Goslin appeared on the 1794 and 1796 tax list in Hancock County. Then in 1799 he purchased land on Rocky Creek.⁶²

Several members of the Goslin family live and marry in Baldwin County in the early 1800s.⁶³

Although one might not completely accept Simon Goslin as the father of Jane Goslin at this point, we will proceed in that direction. As their history unfolds, it will become quite obvious that this is the correct ancestry for Jane. Just the fact that both were in Georgia would improve the likelihood of Willis meeting Jane than if she was born and living in North or South Carolina and Willis was in Georgia. What might be a reasonable scenario of Willis and Jane meeting and marrying in Georgia?

Marriage of Willis Simmons and Jane Goslin

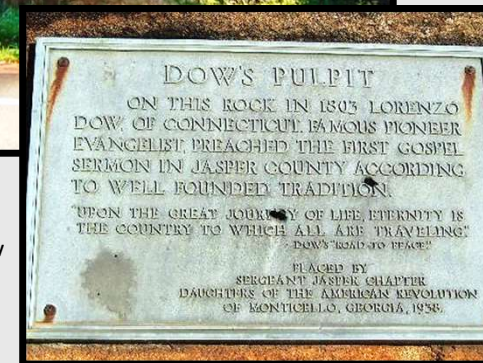
There are several counties in the area with existing marriage records, but none have a marriage record for Willis and Jane. Only a small percent of marriages in the first few decades after the Revolutionary War were ever recorded in Georgia. Many were preformed at small churches or by itinerate preachers and, consequently, never documented. What about Willis and Jane? Some “thinking outside the box” was necessary (and fun). Often, the best place to cultivate a friendship which might lead to courtship and marriage would be through neighbors, nearby churches, and family friends. A suggestion on our part involves events surrounding the early 19th century non-denominational camp meetings conducted as evangelical revivals. These were multi-day religious events attended by thousands of people from many miles around. People slept in tents and wagons. Several preachers would take turns preaching. ⁶⁴

The first recorded camp meeting known to have been held in Georgia was in 1803 at Shoulderbone Creek in Hancock County (map on next page). ⁶⁵ Information about this camp meeting was recorded by one of the most colorful ministers there, the Reverend Lorenzo Dow. In his journal, he described some of his travels around Georgia in 1803 and 1805. In addition to converting members of the congregation, many marriages occurred at these events. The birth of Mason Simmons, Willis and Jane’s oldest child, has always been used as an estimate for when they married. Mason was born 5 May 1805 in Jones County, Georgia. ⁶⁶ This certainly fits in the time period of these great revivals being conducted near them.

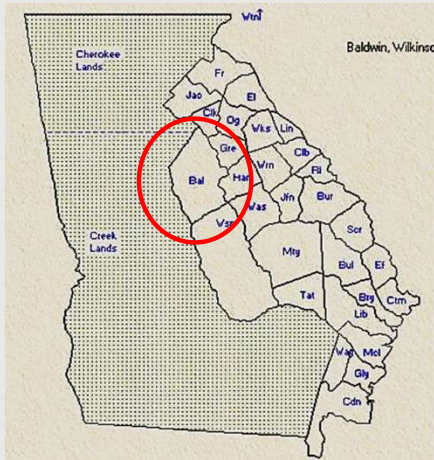
While researching these camp meetings, an interesting fact about Lorenzo Dow was discovered. We were amazed to find that he had a “Pulpit Stone” marked for him not very far from where the Simmons and Goslin families were living. This stone served as a raised pulpit from which ministers delivered their fiery sermons while in the area. ⁶⁷ In any case, this makes for a good story, doesn’t it? Also of note is that Willis Simmons was known to be an extremely religious and devout man. Once in Mississippi, he and Jane were founding members of Silver Creek Baptist Church established in 1814 in Pike County. ⁶⁸ When one reads the minutes of the church transcribed by Bevin J. Creel, the only person appearing in their early minutes more than Willis was their minister, Rev. Jesse Crawford. ⁶⁹ Evangelical camp meetings would have been of great interest to Willis and Jane!



Photos by
Teresa
Fortenberry

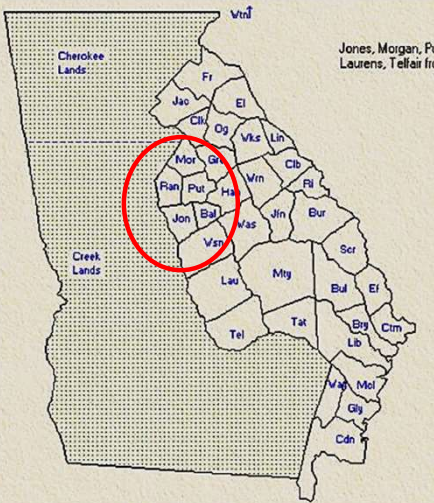


Relevant locations about the time Willis and Jane would have met and married



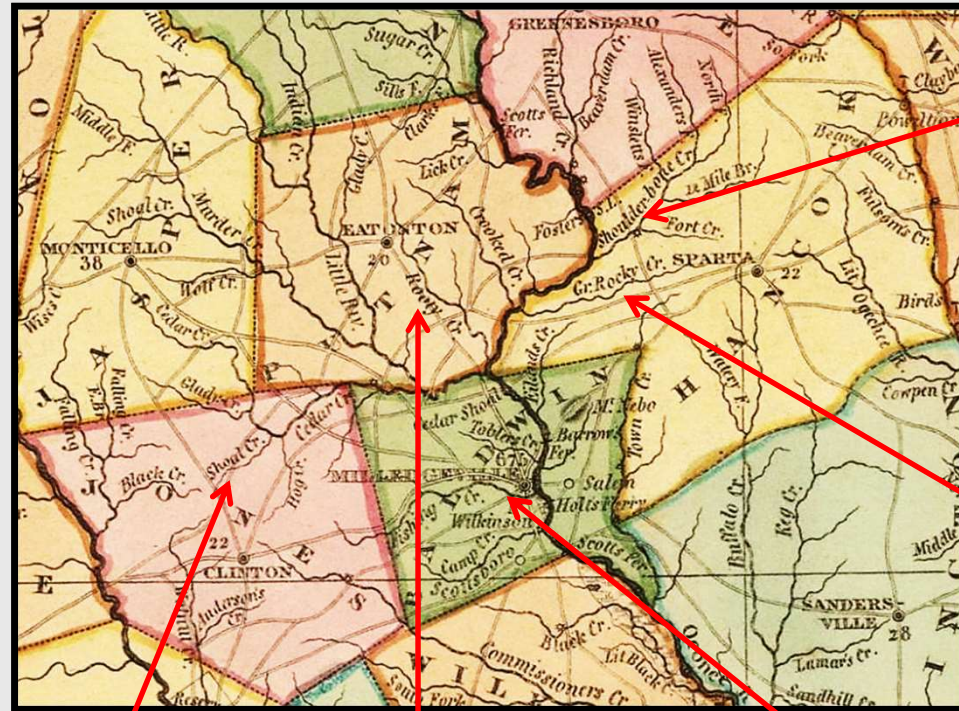
Changes in county lines 1805 - 1807

In 1805, Baldwin County was formed from the Creek lands. (Bal) Notice that the original shape of the county remains the same once it is divided. ⁷⁰



In 1807, Baldwin was divided into five counties to include Baldwin, Morgan, Putnam, Jones and Randolph (later renamed Jasper). When divided, William Simmons's land draw in Baldwin later fell in Putnam. ⁷¹

1823 map of Georgia and Alabama by H. S. Tanner ⁷²



1803 – first recorded camp meeting in Georgia on Shoulderbone Creek – Hancock Co.

Goslin family living near Rocky Creek by 1794.

Willis and Jane were living on Shoal Creek in Jones County at the time they moved to Mississippi in 1809.

Willis's father, William died while living in Putnam County but his will was probated in Jones County.

Several Simmons and Goslin families connected to Willis and Jane were in Baldwin in the early 1800s.

Next, a hunt began for possible siblings for Jane. Soon, many interesting possibilities arose.

Discovery of an obvious candidate for inclusion in Jane's family

Many researchers and family members of the Willis Simmons family are aware that Willis and Jane's first son was named Mason Simmons. He was born 5 March 1805 before Willis and Jane moved to Mississippi in 1809. Where did the name Mason come from? It is not a common given name and never used in the William Simmons family before 1800. Interestingly, in researching Georgia and Federal military records, a young man named Mason Goslin (not Simmons) was located. Below is a copy of the first page of the information about his Army enlistment. This single source comes from a compilation of various records located at the National Archives. ⁷³

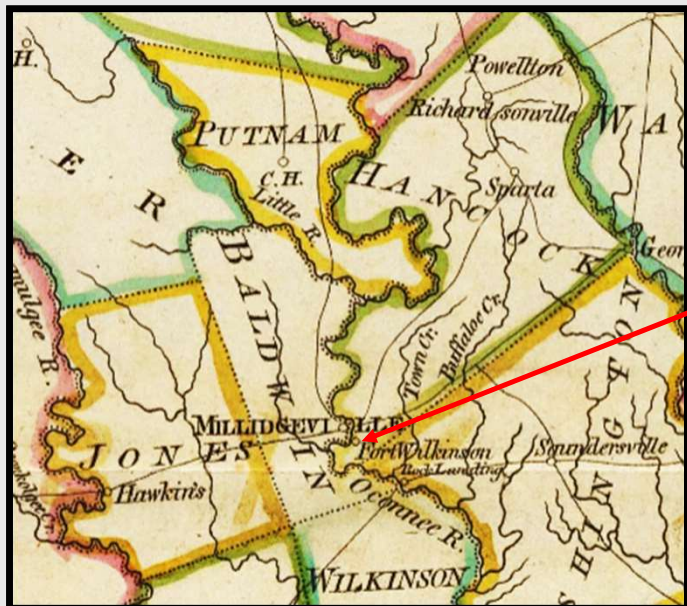
RECORDS OF MEN ENLISTED IN THE U. S. ARMY														
No.	NAME.	ORGANIZATION.			DESCRIPTION.						WHERE BORN.		WHEN.	
		RANK.	REGIMENT.	COMPANY COMMANDER.	HEIGHT.		EYES.	HAIR.	COMPLEX-ION.	AGE.	OCCUPATION.	TOWN OR COUNTY.		STATE.
					FEET.	INCH'S.								
2338	Gordon Moses	Pri	25 US Infy	Lt. Ford										June 18/13
2339	Goslin Mason	Pri	2 US Infy		5	10	bro.	dk	fair	18	Farmer	Orange Co.	N.C.	Dec 2/03
2339	Goslin Mason	Pri	2 US Infy		5	10	bro.	dk	fair	18	Farmer	Orange Co.	N.C.	Dec 2/03

Mason Goslin was noted as a Private in the 2nd U.S. Infantry. He was described as 5'10", 18 years old, and having brown eyes, dark hair, and a fair complexion. He stated that he was a farmer who was born in Orange County, North Carolina. He enlisted on 2 December 1803 (more about his enlistment was given on the next page of the document). This would make his year of birth some time in 1785. His 1803 enlistment was between the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. There was only one major purpose of a military presence in Georgia during this time – interfacing with the Native Americans. Remember, during this time, Georgia was forcing the local tribes off their ancestral lands as quickly as possible to make way for “white settlers.” There were continual disagreements and skirmishes between the two ethnic groups as each fought for control of the land. ⁷⁴

Additional military information about Mason Goslin

PRIOR TO THE PEACE ESTABLISHMENT, MAY 17, 1815.

ENLISTMENT.			REMARKS.
WHERE.	BY WHOM.	PERIOD.	
		1 year	U.S. Capt. Wilkesborders Co. Dec. 30/13. Det. 289 April 30/14. present. Ret. dead & discharged men Craney Island, Va. Oct. 18/14. Discharged June 18/14.
Ft Wilkinson Ga	Lt. Miller	Dec. 1 1808	Capt. N. K. Boothe's Co. Book 1805 & 110, Co. comd. at Ft Stoddart, Jan'y 1/05 - Transfd to Capt. Sparks' Co. Mar. 24/05 - Present in Capt. Schuyler's Co. June 9/10-1805.



First, look at the information outlined in red box above. The “remarks” section will take a bit more explanation. Mason Goslin was enlisted at Fort Wilkinson, Georgia by Lt. Miller for a term to last until 1 December 1808.⁷⁵ Since he enlisted 2 December 1803, that would be exactly five years.

Notice on the map that Fort Wilkinson was located near Milledgeville at the 0 symbol indicated by the red arrow.⁷⁶ The squiggly line beside the fort represents the Oconee River. (This map actually has the fort on the wrong side of the river as additional research has shown that it was on the west side in Baldwin County.) What this map does show is that the fort literally sits between all the locations where records for the Goslin and Simmons families have been found – Hancock, Baldwin, Putnam, and Jones. This location for his enlistment would add weight to the likelihood that Mason Goslin would be the son of Simon Goslin of Hancock County.

Now, let us look at the remarks noted concerning his early military service.

*Capt. W. R. Boote's Co. Book 1805 & 10, On com'd at Ft Stoddart, Jany 1/05 - Transf'd to
Capt. Sparks' Co. Mar. 24/05 - Present in Capt. Schuyler's Co. June 9 & 10 1805.*

**Capt. W. R. Boote's Co. Book 1805 & 10, On com'd at Ft Stoddart, Jany 1/05 – Transf'd to
Capt. Sparks' Co. Mar. 24/05 – Present in Capt. Schuyler's Co. June 9 & 10 1805.⁷⁷**

As noted below, Capt. W[illiam] R. Boote was the Captain at Fort Wilkinson in 1805.⁷⁸ He listed Mason Goslin in his Company Book indicating that Goslin's military life began at Fort Wilkinson. This is logical as it was a fort close to where his family most likely lived. Because Boote's company record did not start until 1805 and Mason joined in December of 1803, Mason may have served his first 13 months there. No known records for men stationed there during the first part of Mason's enlistment have been located.

By 1 January 1805, Mason was present at Fort Stoddart (Stoddard, Stoddert). This fort was built in 1799 on a bluff on the Mobile River 30 miles north of what is now Mobile, Alabama and was commanded by Capt. Peter Schuyler. At the time of its construction, Alabama was part of the Mississippi Territory.⁷⁹ The record above indicates that by 24 March 1805 Goslin was moved to Capt. [Richard] Sparks' Company stationed at Fort Adams for a period of 2 ½ months. This fort was built on the international border (31st parallel) between U.S. and Spanish Territory on the east bank of the Mississippi River specifically to protect and defend our territory.⁸⁰ By 9 June 1805, he was back with Captain Schuyler at Fort Stoddart. Although he had three more years to serve, this was his last record. There are no discharge records.

**A List of Officers in the Regiments of Infantry, as arranged
to Companies and Stations, 1 January, 1805.**

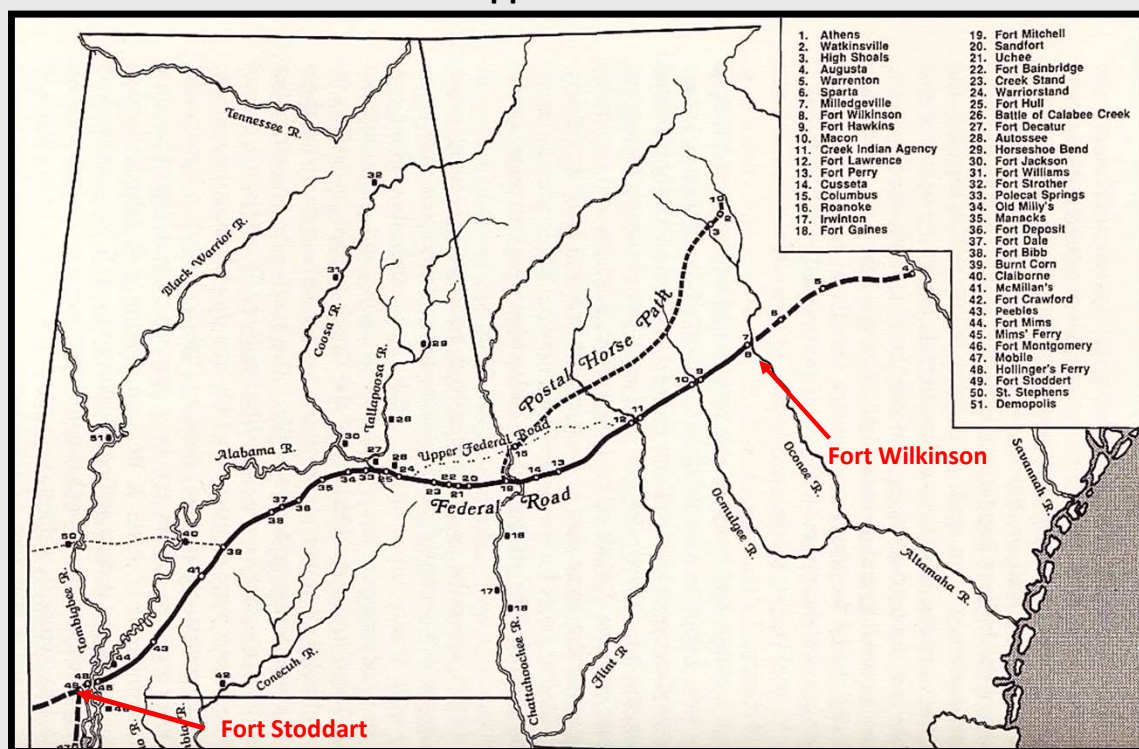
Captains.

Richard Sparks, Fort Adams.
Edward D. Turner, Natchitoches.
John Bowyer, Attakapas.
Hugh McCall, Fort Wilkinson.
Francis Johnston, Natchitoches.
William R. Roote, Fort Wilkinson.
Thomas Swaine, Fort Stoddert.
John Campbell, Fort Adams.
Peter P. Schuyler, Fort Stoddert.
Joseph Bowmar, Natchitoches.

In 1881, a book was compiled of the history of the Department of War by Thomas H. S. Hamersly. The images on the left are from that publication and contain a list of officers for the 2nd U.S. Infantry as of 1 January 1805. Sadly, none of the original sources used in compiling this document were noted.⁸¹ As you can see, the officers match those mentioned above. Captain Peter Schuyler spent his military career a long way from home. He was born in Albany, New York in 1776 of Dutch ancestry. He was stationed at Fort Stoddart for many years and settled in Mississippi. He was also appointed as the Treasurer of Mississippi. His grave is in Natchez, Mississippi.⁸²

Mason Goslin's duties while in the Army

In 1805, a treaty was signed between the United States and the Creek Nation. That treaty, usually referred to as the First Treaty of Washington, was to give the Federal government permission to develop a horse path through the Creek land for access to the areas along the Gulf of Mexico. The purpose behind the project was to provide a route for faster communication between Washington, D.C. and New Orleans, Louisiana. This route would follow the old Native American trails from Fort Wilkinson on the Oconee River in Baldwin County, Georgia to Fort Stoddart on the Mobile River. ⁸³ It began as a horse path but over time, became a well traveled road used by settlers to access the Louisiana and Mississippi Territories.

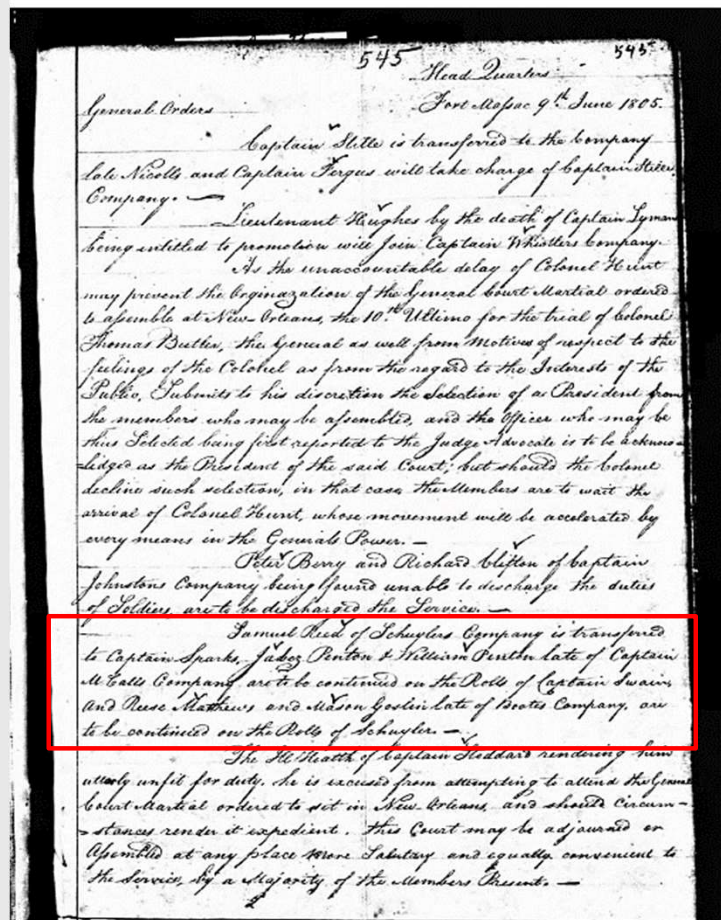


Map of the Lower Creek Trading Path and Old Federal Road ⁸⁵

When one considers where Mason Goslin's military service placed him, it becomes obvious that he was very likely involved with this road's development. He enlisted in 1803 at Fort Wilkinson and by 1805 was stationed at Fort Stoddart. What is amazing is that this is very likely the exact route Willis and Jane Simmons used in 1809 to get to the Mississippi Territory. Their move occurred only one year after Mason's enlistment would have ended. One has to wonder what they thought as they traveled the same path.

This is also the route that William Jasper Fortenberry (3X great grandfather) and his family used when they left Lancaster County, South Carolina in 1819. ⁸⁴ By then, their destination had become a state – Mississippi. Once in Mississippi, these two families lived near each other in Pike County. My family is a result of each of these families (and others) choosing to travel hundreds of miles down a primitive road to begin a new life.

The Military journal of General Wilkinson



U.S., General James Wilkinson's Order Book, 1796-1808

One last record for Mason Goslin

James Wilkinson was the Commanding General of the entire U.S. Army from 1786 until 1808. He was a prolific correspondent and many of his papers still exist. His whereabouts can be tracked through his correspondences as he not only gave the date of the order but also his location.⁸⁶ On 9 June 1805, Wilkinson was commanding the 2nd U.S. Infantry from Fort Massac.⁸⁷ This fort was located in the southern part of Illinois on the Ohio River not far from Paducah, Kentucky.⁸⁸ He was a long way from the southern forts, but in his orders that day, he mentioned Mason Goslin. Of course, the entire document on the left is too small to read, so the important part is enlarged below.

Samuel Reed of Schuyler's Company is transferred to Captain Sparks, Jabez Penton & William Penton late of Captain McCall's Company, are to be continued on the Rolls of Captain Swain, and Reese Matthews and Mason Goslin late of Bootes Company, are to be continued on the Rolls of Schuyler. —
"And Reese Matthews and Mason Goslin late of Bootes Company, are to be continued on the Rolls of Schuyler."

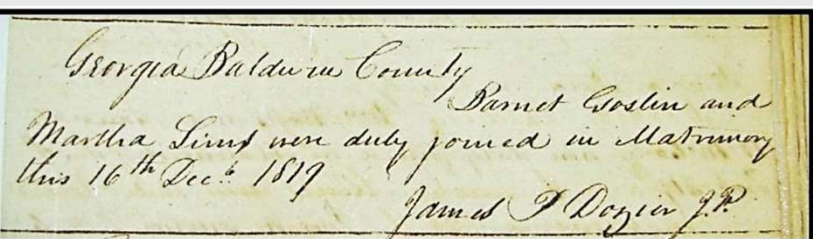
Since Reese Matthews appeared in the same sentence as Mason Goslin, a little research on him was done. It was surprising to learn that not only was his enlistment information the same as Mason's but so were the details of his service.⁸⁹ They obviously joined together.

5840	Matthews Reese	Pvt.	2 ^d U.S. Infy	Capt. W. R. Boote
------	----------------	------	--------------------------	-------------------

Reese's father, Jeremiah, mentioned Reese in his will written in 1808 which was later proved in the Baldwin County court in 1814.⁹⁰ This would mean that Reese most likely made it through the five years of service. Sadly, there is no indication that Mason did. Other than these records, no documents have been located for someone named Mason Goslin. It is very likely that he died while in service.

Three Baldwin County marriage records for additional siblings for Jane Goslin

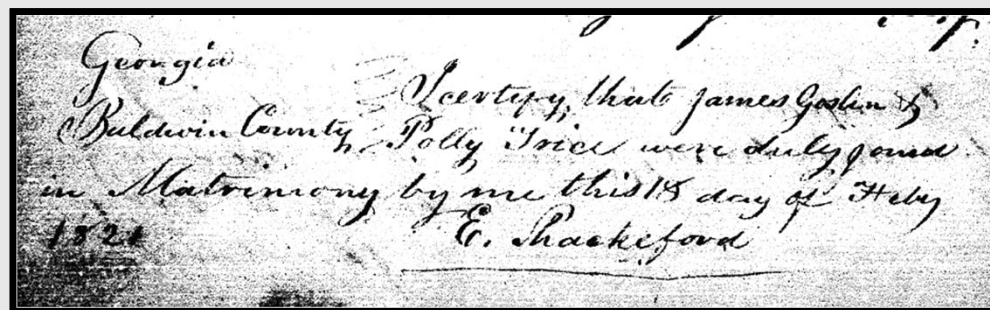
The following contains only a sketch of these individuals. As the scope of this research is already rather broad, an in-depth investigation on these families was not possible at this time; so, members of these additional Goslin lines will need to continue the research. We used these marriage records along with census records to come up with our best estimate as to year of birth. Even then, they could still be off by several years.



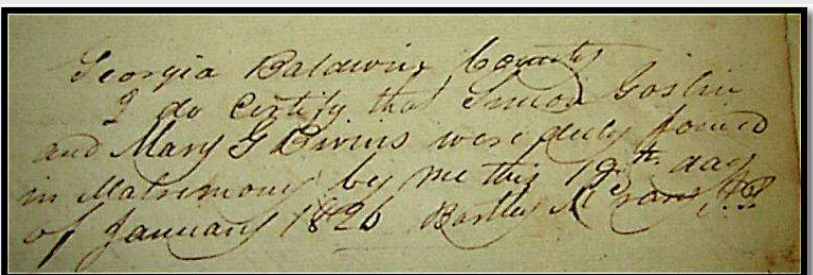
Photos taken by Teresa Fortenberry, Baldwin County courthouse, Milledgeville, Georgia.

Barnet Goslin and Martha Sims married December 16, 1819 (on left).⁹¹ On the 1820 Baldwin census his household consisted of 2 males ages 16-25, giving an estimated year of birth 1795-1804.⁹² (Other male is likely his brother, Simon) From various records, both Barnett and his wife were quite young when they married. Best guess of his birth - about 1800.

James Goslin and Polly (Mary) Trice were married February 18, 1821.⁹³ The Trice family was mentioned previously. On the 1820 Baldwin County census, James T. Goslin was living alone. He gave his age category as 16 to 25. This would mean that like his brother, Barnett, he was born between 1795 and 1804.⁹⁴



Simon Goslin and Mary G. Bivins were married January 19, 1826 in Baldwin County, Georgia.⁹⁵ In 1850, Simon Goslin was living in Russell County, Alabama, listed as 55 years old and born in Georgia. That would make his year of birth about 1795. Living in his household is a dependent named Oma Goslin, age 25 years old.⁹⁶ The logical implications of this would be that the Simon born in Georgia about 1800 named a daughter after his mother, Omey/Oma. And obviously, Simon was named after his father, Simon.



Photos taken by Teresa Fortenberry, Baldwin County courthouse, Milledgeville, Georgia.

Temperance Goslin Moran

1860 United States Federal Census for William Moran

Georgia > Baldwin > Salem

Dwellin No.	Family No.	Name	Sex	Color	Occupation	Real Estate	Personal Estate	Birthplace	Married I	Attended	Cannot R	Condition
690	636	Thomas C. Zetts	44	M	Gen Smith	✓	2000	"				
		Anne "	40	F				"				
		Frank J. "	16	F				"				
		Elliot F. "	12	F				"				
641	634	William Moran	70	M	Tanner	✓	800	9000				
		Temperance "	60	F				"			1	
642	638	Phonick J. "	34	M	Tanner	✓	800	2650				

	County	Money Sworn	By which Person				
		1	2	3	1	2	3
Elisha Trice	Hancock						
Joseph Trice	Ditto						
Ephraim Boon	Ditto						
James Simmons	Ditto						
David Gansley	Ditto						
Travis Stubbs	Ditto						
John Basso	Ditto						
Thomas Hancock	Ditto						
Joseph Hancock	Ditto						
Simon Gauslin	Ditto						
Elisha Moran	Ditto						

Hancock County Tax Records 1796

William Moran and wife, Temperance (Goslin) are noted on several census records. Above is the listing for the 1860 Baldwin County, Georgia census. As can be seen, Temperance gives her age as 60 which would place her year of birth at about 1800. In the above record, the "Birthplace" ditto marks indicate Georgia.⁹⁷

Although there is no marriage record for them, according to the Moran genealogy, William Moran and Temperance Goslin were married in 1807 or 1808. They list William as the child of Elisha Moran, Revolutionary War veteran. The Moran genealogy states that the couple had no known children.⁹⁸ On the 1860 census shown above, they are living alone, William is 70 and Temperance is 60. In 1850 their ages are noted as 60 and 50 years old respectively. Based on a located obituary which can be found on Find a Grave, Temperance was 63 when she died in 1862. She was buried at the Moran Family Cemetery (also known as the William Moran Cemetery) in Baldwin County, Georgia.⁹⁹ Based on the fairly consistent ages for her on census records, it would appear that the estimated year of her marriage is incorrect as she would have been only 8 or 9 years old. The reasonable estimate of her year of birth would be 1799 as her death occurred in mid April of 1862.

Above is a previously discussed 1796 tax record for Hancock County.¹⁰⁰ Notice the last two names. These two names together should leave absolutely no doubt as to the connection between Temperance and William. Their families were neighbors! Simon Gauslin is noted just above Elisha Moran. Notice the top name on this list is Trice. Temperance's brother James married Mary (Polly) Trice. There are also records of Morans and Trices marrying. Obviously, these three families were close friends.

Best estimate of the configuration of Simon Goslin's family

Since no will exists for Simon or Omy Goslin, the following is an attempt to deduce the structure of their family. All birth years are very tentative even Mason's. Although he gave his year of birth as 1785, he very well could have been under 18 at the time of joining the Army but gave that year of birth to make his enlistment acceptable. Men throughout history have done exactly that.

Simon Goslin - Died before March, 1804 in Hancock County, Georgia. ¹⁰¹ More about Simon's life will appear in a subsequent article.

Omy (last name unknown) Death unknown.

Mason Goslin - Born 1785 Orange County, NC. Likely died after June, 1805 during final years of his military service. ¹⁰²

Family moved from North Carolina to Georgia between these two births.

Jane Goslin - Born about 1785/86 GA. Died 6 May 1851 Pike County MS. ¹⁰³

James Goslin - Born about 1793 GA. In 1830 was living in Upson County. Nothing about his death has been discovered. ¹⁰⁴

Temperance Goslin - Born about 1799 GA. Died 18 April 1862 Baldwin County, GA. Married William Moran. ¹⁰⁵

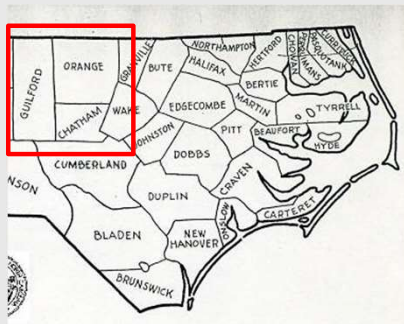
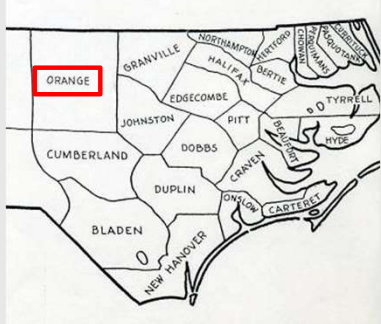
Barnett Goslin - Born about 1801 GA. ¹⁰⁶ Died Taylor Co. in 1861. Published notice in newspaper concerning his estate. ¹⁰⁷

Simon Goslin - Born about 1803 GA. Moved several times and died in 1856 in Russell County, Alabama. ¹⁰⁸

As any researcher knows, without a birth record, it is hard to ascertain exactly when someone was born. It becomes a lot of guess work and logical thinking. Looking at the time span between some of these births, it is quite possible that Simon had a wife before Omy or they may have had some babies who did not make it to adulthood. Also, Jane's year of birth shown here may be a little different than the "accepted" year of birth which was based completely on the 1850 census. It does appear likely that the family moved between the births of Mason and Jane. This is exactly the time period when the people of the Carolinas were flooding Georgia for the free headright and bounty land. ¹⁰⁹

Problem raised by Mason Goslin stating he was born in Orange County

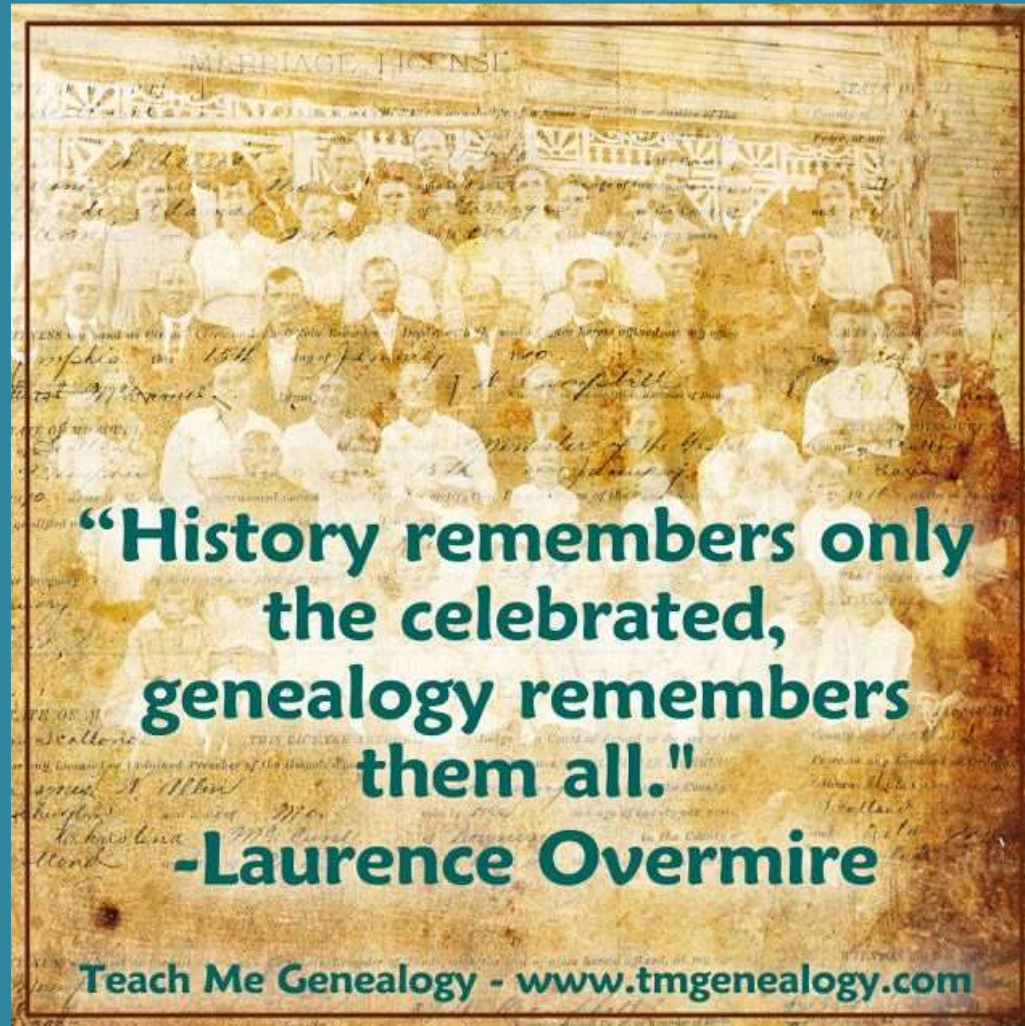
As mentioned on page 16, Simon Goslin served during the Revolutionary War from Caswell County, North Carolina. His son, Mason, stated that he was born in Orange County, North Carolina. This is not necessarily a contradiction. Orange County was originally a huge county. As populations increased, it always became imperative that counties be divided so that business at the county courthouse did not take a massive amount of travel time to get there (deeds, marriages, taxes, lawsuits, probate, to name a few). As soon as it was feasible, a state would divide a large county and establish a new, centrally located town as the new county seat. By 1780, the original Orange County had been divided into an additional four more counties with the creation of Guilford, Chatham, Caswell, and Randolph.¹¹⁰



Sadly, Simon Goslin does not appear on any records in either Orange County or Caswell County. Orange has marriage, land, and probate records from the mid 1750s. Caswell County (formed in 1777 from Orange) has similar records. No Goslins are found in either.

This leads one to believe that Simon did not own land but rented from someone. Sadly, both counties have only a few tax lists, but again, no Goslins. All Simon's records from the Revolutionary War are noted as being connected to service from Caswell County.¹¹¹ We know from the document on slide 19 that Simon was in the "12 month service." These enlistments were a result of a law passed by the General Assembly of North Carolina in early 1781 enacting a draft. By this law, men drafted could pay a substitute to go in their place.¹¹² The pension records of men in Simon's company indicate that many of them were substitutes (including Goslin).¹¹³ A soldier did not have to be from the same county to serve as someone's substitute. It is beginning to appear that Simon may have lived in Orange County but was hired as a substitute for someone in Caswell County. There is still quite a bit of research to do but here is an example of one tantalizing fact to support Mason's statement of being born in Orange County. The Goslin and Trice families were connected in Georgia. Between 1782 and 1797 there were 10 Orange County marriage records for members of the Trice family.¹¹⁴ The Elisha Trice on the 1794 tax list with Simon Goslin was born in Orange County and died in Jones County, Georgia.¹¹⁵

*Until
next
time - -*



**“History remembers only
the celebrated,
genealogy remembers
them all.”**

-Laurence Overmire

Teach Me Genealogy - www.tmgenealogy.com



Following Random Clues

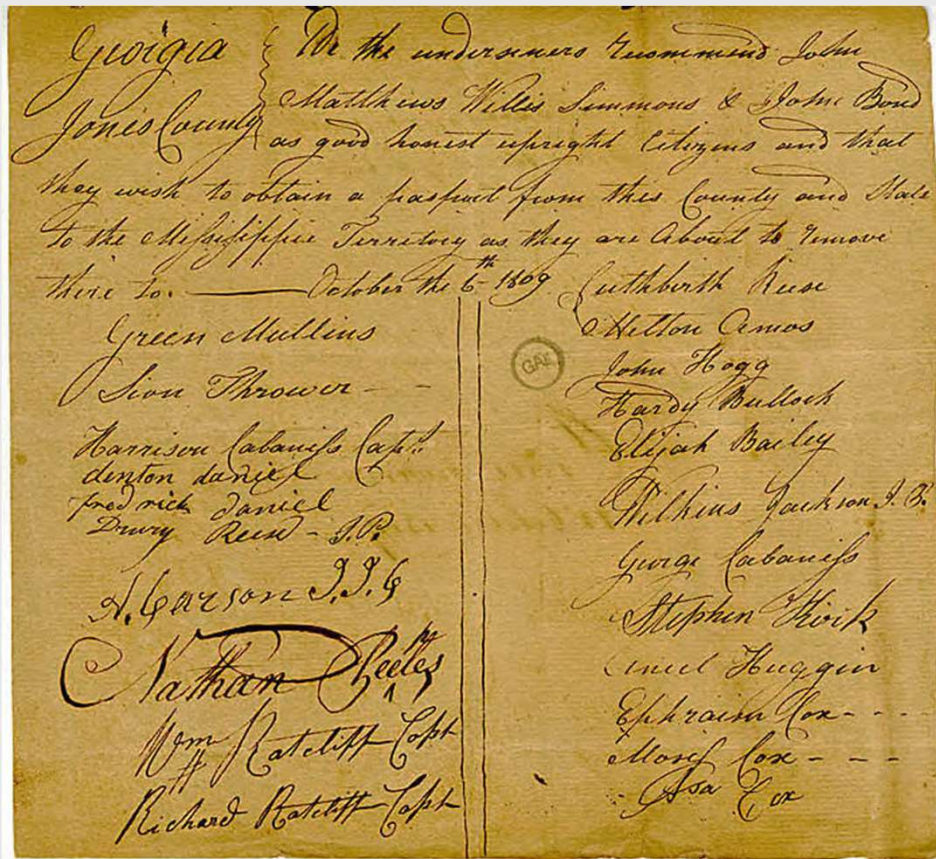
By Adrienne Criminger

As any family historian knows, we often slip down the rabbit hole when we allow our research to become too open-ended. That has happened frequently with this Goslin article. While examining people mentioned in various documents, facts were uncovered that made me look beyond the obvious link. It is a known fact that families did not live in isolation, especially before the 20th century. Even when homes were far apart, people formed communities. Although these bonds would develop in new places, pioneer families and friends often moved to their new locations as a unified group. I have found that this is more often the case than one would think.

After some serious thought, I have concluded that I cannot write the following information as a cohesive narrative since the connections are like a spider web. Also, the information will not appear in any specific order and it may be a bit confusing. It was for me! What all these seemingly random facts has led me know is that Jane Goslin was, without a doubt, the daughter of Simon Goslin.

One of the most interesting things I came across was how often surnames were used as given names. It seems that for whatever reason, many of the families connected to us in middle Georgia did this. As you read the following, you will notice that I am going to go against my own obsession with documenting sources of information. I will NOT give any references for this section as it would add too many endnotes. Just trust me this time – all this information can be found in family genealogies and documents. Anyone seeking information about these people can find them as easily as I did.

In 1809, Willis and Jane (Goslin) Simmons had to request a passport from the state of Georgia to travel through the Creek Indian land to the Mississippi Territory. These passports were required in order to know exactly who had permission to be there. As mentioned previously, the Federal Road was allowed by the 1805 First Treaty of Washington. Before the treaty, there were “bad” people of every culture taking advantage of any unprotected travelers. This made it an incredibly dangerous place. Below is the document written for Willis, John Bond, and John Mathews to travel through the territory. Several of these men (noted with a *) will be discussed below.



Georgia *We the undersiners recommend John Matthews Willis*
Jones County *Simmons & John Bond as good honest upright citizens*
and that they wish to obtain a passport from this County and State to the
Mississippi Territory as they are About to remove there to _____ October the
6th 1809

Green Mullins *	Cuthbirth Reese *
Sion Thrower *	Hilton Amos
Harrison Cabinefs (Capt) *	John Hogg
denton daniel *	Hardy Bullock
fredrick daniel *	Elijah Bailey
Drury Reese J.P. *	Wilkins Jackson J.P.
H. Carson I.I.Q.	George Cabinifs *
Nathan Peeples	Stephen Kirk *
Wm Ratcliff Capt	Amel Huggins
Richard Ratcliff Capt	Ephraim Cox
	Moses Cox
	Asa Cox

1. The young man who joined the Army with Mason Goslin in 1803 was named Reese Mathews. (See pages 30 to 32.) When Willis and his family traveled to Mississippi in 1809, two other men traveled with him – John Mathews and John Bond. Sadly, with the common given name of John, I have not been able to clearly identify John Mathews as having arrived in Mississippi with John Bond, Sr. and Willis Simmons. He may have dropped off along the way in the part of the Mississippi Territory that would later become Alabama or he may have been their guide and returned to Georgia. In any case, I do feel the surname of Mason Goslin's Army buddy is significant. This site has information about Reese Mathews. https://southernmathews.com/1700s-1850s_desc_jamesjr.html
2. How did Reese Mathews get his surname? Imagine my surprise when confirming the spelling of John Mathews's name on Willis's passport request to Mississippi - two men with the surname of Reese signed as character witnesses for Willis Simmons. They were Drury Reese and Cuthbert[h] Reese. Cuthberth Reese was the postmaster for Hillsborough, Georgia (Jasper County) in the early 1800s. Both Jasper and Jones Counties were formed on the same day (10 December 1807) from Baldwin County. Drury Reese was the Justice of the Peace in Jones County. Drury attested to a land grant in 1784 for a man named William Simmons. Aunt Edna indicated that this was Willis's father. Some sort of connection must have existed between the Mathews and Reese families.
3. Cuthbert[h] was the son of Ishman Reese who died in Jones County, Georgia between October of 1815 and July, 1816 as indicated by the dates of his will and probate. Drury Reese was not named an heir of Ishman, so he was most likely a cousin.
4. I found it strange that documents not only show there was an Ishman Reese but also an Ishman Mathews. With the Reese and Mathews connected in other ways, one has to wonder about both families with men having a given name of Ishman. I was not able to find the connection with a family named Ishman.

5. Recall from page 23 that *Simon Goslin* purchased land in 1799 from Isaac Daniel. There were two Daniel men who signed as character witnesses for *Willis Simmons*. They were Denton Daniel and Fredrick Daniel. Denton Daniel and Isaac Daniel were both sons of Fredrick Daniel. This means that *Simon Goslin* and *Willis Simmons* both have direct links to the Daniel family.
6. There are several other ties between people who were character witnesses for Willis. There are two Cabiness men, George and Harrison Cabiness. George Cabiness married Palatia Harrison and they named a son Harrison Cabiness. Harrison and his father, George were character witnesses.
7. Harrison Cabiness, mentioned above, was married to Sarah Kirk, the daughter of Stephen Kirk, also a character witness.
8. Drury Reese, Nathan Peebles, Sion Thrower, and Green Mullins all traveled the Federal Road and took up land in Alabama. (Green Mullins was named after his mother's family, the Greens!)
9. As we know, Willis and Jane named their first son Mason Simmons. This was obviously in honor of Jane's brother, Mason Goslin. Mason is also a surname. My research is beginning to indicate that the Mason family was in the same area of North Carolina as the Goslins. As the research for part two of the Goslin family continues, there will most likely be the same magnitude of overlap with North Carolina families as we see in the Georgia records.

Endnotes

1. "Indian Land Cessions, Map 15 Georgia," *USGenWeb Archives Project*, United States Digital Map Library
<http://usgwarchives.net/maps/cessions/ilcmap15.htm>
2. Campbell, Edna Simmons and Simmons, Hansford L. *The Silver Creek Simmons family descendants of Willis and Jane Goslin Simmons* (1955: self-published).
3. Ancestry.com. *U.S., Headstone Applications for Military Veterans, 1861-1985* [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2012. Record source: National Archives at Washington DC; Washington DC, USA; *Applications for Headstones For U.S. Military Veterans, 1925-1941*; NAID: 596118; Record Group Number: 92; Record Group Title: *Records of the Office of the Quartermaster General*.
4. *Find a Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/55255278/willis-simmons>: accessed 06 September 2023), memorial page for Willis Simmons Sr. (1784–31 May 1862), Find a Grave Memorial ID [55255278](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/55255278), citing Simmons Home Place Cemetery, Simmonsville, Pike County, Mississippi, USA; Maintained by SnL Roots (contributor [46780348](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/55255278/willis-simmons)).
5. Wilkes County Georgia, Deed Book RR (1798-1805) page 21, photographed from the original at the Wilkes County Courthouse in Washington, Georgia by Teresa Fortenberry.
6. "North Carolina, County Marriages, 1762-1979 ", database with images, *FamilySearch*. Entry for John Ghostlin and Judith Davis, 10 Mar 1780. Located at <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XF9F-VZP> Please note that this document was listed as John Goflin although it shows the name as Ghostlin and Goslin in the handwritten original copy. It was difficult to find the original as it was necessary to go through them one by one. The link shown here goes directly to the original record, not to an index.
"We John Goslin & Thomas Smith jointly and severally acknowledge ourselves indebted to the State of North Carolina in Five hundred pounds Conditioned to be void in Case there is not nor hereafter shall be any lawful cause to obstruct John Goslin's being married to Judith Davis single woman as witness our hands here and Seals this 10th March Anno Dom 1780 delivered in presence of
Jno Kerr
John Ghostlin (seal)
Thomas Smith (seal)"
7. See the Blogroll article written by Adrienne at <https://wordpress.com/view/fortenberry.wordpress.com> See article listed on right on homepage named "Simmons Family to Mississippi."
8. The Moravian religion was an early Protestant denomination that originated in the Kingdom of Bohemia sixty years before Luther's Reformation. To learn more, see "A Brief History of the Moravian Church" at the Moravian Church website: <https://www.moravian.org/2018/07/a-brief-history-of-the-moravian-church/>

9. The day we visited the Hope Moravian Old God's Acre Cemetery in Forsyth County, North Carolina was very cold and there was a little bit of snow on the ground. All the graves were covered by a layer of dirt, moss and ice. It took us about three hours of peeling back the material covering a lot of different graves in order to find the two Elizabeths. Once we did, we had to put one back together but even then, a small part was missing. The three images on Find-A-Grave are the ones we took that day. Ezechiel's grave is located at the Friedberg Moravian God's Acre in Davidson County, North Carolina. His grave was in a better maintained cemetery and was easy to locate. Both these cemeteries are in beautiful locations. When we visited the two, we were under the assumption that we had found Jane's grandmother, aunt, and uncle since at that point, Elizabeth Masters Goslin's son, John Goslin, was thought to be Jane's father.

10. File Title: *Widow Elizabeth Goslin*, Archives, Moravian Church in America, Southern Province located at 457 South Church Street, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, 27101.

11. "North Carolina Probate Records, 1735-1970," images, *FamilySearch*, Stokes > Wills, 1801-1816, Vol. 2 > image 23 of 184; county courthouses, North Carolina. <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:2:77TG-L14D?i=21&wc=32LX-RM7%3A169994001%2C170045201&cc=1867501>

12. File Title: *Widow Elizabeth Goslin*, Archives, Moravian Church in America, Southern Province located at 457 South Church Street, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, 27101.

13. The National Archives in Washington, DC; *First Census of the United States, 1790.*; Year: 1790; Census Place: *Jones, North Carolina*; Series: M637; Roll: 7; Page: 425; Family History Library Film: 0568147 John Goslin. Ancestry.com. *1790 United States Federal Census* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Images reproduced by FamilySearch.

This John Goslin also appeared in the 1787 State Census of North Carolina living in Jones County having the same family structure as the 1790 census but with 6 females instead of 7 meaning the couple probably had an additional daughter. This record does not exist for several counties including Craven County where the other two John Goslins lived. Alvarett Kenan Register, *State Census of North Carolina 1784-1787: from records in the North Carolina Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, N.C.* (Norfolk VA: Self Published, 1971) 85.

14. The National Archives in Washington, DC; *First Census of the United States, 1790.*; Year: 1790; Census Place: *Craven, North Carolina*; Series: M637; Roll: 7; Page: 134; Family History Library Film: 0568147 John Goslin. Ancestry.com. *1790 United States Federal Census* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Images reproduced by FamilySearch.

15. John Goslin, Jr. appears five entries below his father on the 1790 census cited above. Note: Neither of these men are enumerated on the 1787 State Census of North Carolina because the records from Craven County were lost.

16. L. Polk Denmark, "Map of North Carolina Counties in 1780" for the State Library of North Carolina. Access through <https://www.ncpedia.org/>.

17. *Wills and Estate Papers (Craven County), 1663-1978*; Author: North Carolina. Division of Archives and History (Raleigh, North Carolina); Probate Place: Craven, North Carolina Author: North Carolina. Division of Archives and History (Raleigh, North Carolina); Probate Place: Craven, North Carolina. Folder title: Goslin, John, Estate 1799. This folder contains 56 pages of documents and includes papers from as late as the 1830s. John Goslin, Sr. had a massive estate for the time. Accessed through Ancestry.com. *North Carolina, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1665-1998* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2015.

18. Campbell and Simmons, 3. We are surprised that this was published in their genealogy as there were no papers in Aunt Edna's files from Lancaster County, South Carolina.

19. The National Archives in Washington D.C.; Record Group: *Records of the Bureau of the Census*; Record Group Number: 29; Series Number: M432; Residence Date: 1850; Home in 1850: *Police District 1, Pike, Mississippi*; dwelling 288, house number 289. Roll: 380; Page: 22b. Willis Simmons. Ancestry.com. *1850 United States Federal Census* [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2009. Images reproduced by FamilySearch. It is interesting to note that both Willis and Jane are noted as cannot read or write. This was not unusual at that time period, especially since they grew up in newly formed counties in rural Georgia.

20. Campbell and Simmons, 110-112.

21. Year: 1880; Census Place: *4th Ward, Caldwell, Louisiana*; Roll: 450; Page: 39C; Enumeration District: 002. Original data: Tenth Census of the United States, 1880. (NARA microfilm publication T9, Roll 450). Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29. National Archives, Washington, D.C.

22. Year: 1880; Census Place: *Pike, Mississippi*; Roll: 662; Page: 351D; Enumeration District: 037 *dwelling 327, house 329. William Simmons*. Tenth Census of the United States, 1880. (NARA microfilm publication T9, 1,454 rolls). Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29. National Archives, Washington, D.C.

23. Year: 1880; Census Place: *Pike, Mississippi*; Roll: 662; Page: 386C; Enumeration District: 038 *dwelling 373, house 457. Narcissa Fortenberry*. Ancestry.com and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. *1880 United States Federal Census* [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2010. Narcissa is living alone not far from two of her sons, Burrell Franklin Fortenberry and Jesse Crawford Fortenberry.

24. Year: 1880; Census Place: *Pike, Mississippi*; Roll: 662; Page: 351C; Enumeration District: 037 *Dwelling 324 House 326 J.R. (John Richard) Simmons*. Ancestry.com and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. *1880 United States Federal Census* [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2010. Tenth Census of the United States, 1880. (NARA microfilm publication T9, 1,454 rolls). Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29. National Archives, Washington, D.C.

25. "Indian Cessions, Map 15 Georgia" see endnote 1.

26. Hitz, Alex M. "Georgia Bounty Land Grants." *The Georgia Historical Quarterly*, vol. 38, no. 4, 1954, pp. 337–48. *JSTOR*, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/40577543> Between 1780 and 1785, emigrants from other states were encouraged to come to Georgia for free land. At this time, the process Georgia used for granting land was very inconsistent and often exploited. Many past researchers believed that any grant for 287.5 acres was for Revolutionary War service. Current research has proven that was not the case. This means that many names were listed as veterans but never served in the war. It has now been determined that about twenty men (including Elijah Clarke) issued many [fraudulent](#) vouchers for warrants. This fraud was so pervasive that these early records cannot now be used as evidence of much of anything!

27. See 1850 Pike census endnote 19.

28. Plat for David Goslin for 287 ½ acres located at the Georgia Archives Virtual Vault. Specific document located at: <https://vault.georgiaarchives.org/digital/collection/adhoc/id/9082/rec/5> (Franklin County, Georgia, Plat Book, 1784-1791, bulk 1784-1787) The Georgia Archives notes the following about this series of plat: "Land in Franklin County was distributed under the Headright system, where each qualifying male citizen was entitled to 200 acres free with the payment of a nominal recording fee. Under the law he was entitled to an additional 50 acres for his wife, each child, and each slave, up to 1000 acres. Revolutionary War Bounty grants of 287 ½ acres were also distributed to Revolutionary War veterans, refugees, and citizens who had not harassed their neighbors. This book appears to be a clean copy of the 1784-1785 and 1785-1787 books. The plats show the name of the grantee, the number of acres surveyed for the grant, the geographic boundary markers, the names of the adjoining landowners, the date the warrant of survey was issued, the date the survey was made or executed, and the name of the surveyor. Grantees were responsible for conducting the surveys for their own land grants. Grants are recorded in rough chronological order. The date span reflected is the date the warrant of survey was issued by the county land court. There is an index at the back of the book." The grants in Franklin and Washington Counties are where the majority of the fraudulent claims were made.

29. Hitz, 339.

30. Nelson, William, editor. *Documents relating to the revolutionary history of the state of New Jersey, Volume 3, 1779*. (Trenton, N.J.: The J. L. Murphy Pub. Co., printers, 1906) 63, 322, 435. Accessed through Hathi Trust at <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=wu.89058450602&seq=9> For additional information about the Tory named David Goslin, please see: Alexander Fraser, *Second Report of the Bureau of Archives for the Province of Ontario 1904*, part 1. Also known as *United Empire Loyalists: enquiry into the losses and services in consequence of their loyalty*. (London: Cameron, Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty, 1905) 178-180. This document can be accessed through FamilySearch at <https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/520063?availability=Family%20History%20> In 1786, David was dead and his wife and children moved to Ontario. She was seeking restitution for their losses during the war and stated that the family evacuated with the British when the American forces took over New York in 1783.

31. "Georgia, Headright and Bounty Land Records, 1783-1909," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9YMM-V9D?cc=1914217&wc=M617-5P8%3A200590801> : 2 February 2022), Headright and bounty documents 1783-1909, Crawley, Thomas-Crouch, William > image 77 of 683; Georgia State Archives, Morrow. This is the citation given by Family Search but it will not take you to the correct place. To find these documents, please use the 'browse all 157,979 images.' Then search for the alphabetical folder for Crawley – Crouch. This is the only way to get to these records. For some reason, one cannot locate these records by using their "search record" feature. The URL given above will go directly to the document.

32. Headright and bounty documents 1783-1909, Crawley, Thomas-Crouch, William > image 77 of 683; David Gosling land to Samuel Criswell, 6 May 1785. See endnote 31.

33. Hitz, 338.

34. Headright and bounty documents 1783-1909, Crawley, Thomas-Crouch, William folder. See endnote 31. The following "in lieu of" grants to Samuel Criswell on 6 May 1785 in Franklin County, Georgia includes:

450 acres original warrant to Samuel Rutherford (image 69).

287 ½ acres original warrant to Wm Flatcher (image 73)

287 ½ acres original warrant to Wm Hatcher (image 75)

287 ½ acres original warrant to David Gosling (image 77)

There was an additional "in lieu of" grant for Criswell in Wilkes County for 350 acres (image 71). The original warrant was to Nath' Bullock dated 16 October 1784. This is just a fraction of the land granted to Criswell during the post-Revolutionary War period.

35. Nichols, David A. "Land, Republicanism, and Indians: Power and Policy in Early National Georgia, 1780-1825." *The Georgia Historical Quarterly*, vol. 85, no. 2, 2001, pp. 212-213. *JSTOR*, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/40584408>

36. File: Gauslin, Simon. Revolutionary War Final Settlements, 1776-1792, Treasurers and Comptrollers Records, North Carolina Archives, Raleigh, North Carolina. Photo of original document taken by John Criminger.

37. John Watts was the Justice of the Peace in Washington County, Georgia. He too served in the Revolutionary War. To read more see: WikiTree contributors, "John Long (c. 1752-1803)," WikiTree, <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Watts-8296> (accessed 4 February 2022).

38. Malone, E. T. "Long, Nicholas." *NCpedia*, www.ncpedia.org/biography/long-nicholas . Accessed 21 July 2023. Col. Nicholas Long, Sr. was quartermaster under George Washington. His son, Nicholas Long, Jr. is the man mentioned in this document as the person Simon Goslin designated to receive all outstanding claims he might make to North Carolina for his military service.

39. *Rootsweb: Finding Our Roots Together* Website at <https://sites.rootsweb.com/~gatttp/maps/formationmap.htm> Note: This website shows the progression of county formation in Georgia. What is important is seeing how a large county, such as Washington County, gets divided into smaller counties over time (sometimes just a couple of years).
40. Simon Gauslin, Georgia, 1794 Hancock County, Georgia Tax can only be located through the Georgia Archives Virtual Vault documents <https://vault.georgiaarchives.org/digital/collection/tax/id/9157> which has been placed online or from their microfilm reel 883. Note: The amount of the tax is by columns of dollars, dimes, cents, partial cents.
41. See endnote 40.
42. Simon Gauslin, 1796 Hancock County Tax List accessed through the Georgia Archives Virtual Vault documents <https://vault.georgiaarchives.org/digital/collection/tax/id/12659/rec/18> which has been placed online from their microfilmed records. Note: The amount of the tax is by columns of dollars, dimes, cents, partial cents.
43. Elisha Moran, 1796 Hancock County Tax List. See endnote 42.
44. Deed of Isaac Daniel selling 50 acres to Simon Goslin, Hancock County Deed Book E, pages 288-289 accessed at the Georgia Archives from Hancock County microfilmed records, drawer 106, reel 49.
45. See endnote 44.
46. "Simmons families of early Georgia counties" at WikiTree contributors, https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Space:Wilkes_County%2C_Georgia%2C_Assorted_Simmons (accessed 8 July 2021)
47. Corbin, Charles C., Jr. and Corbin, Tripp. *Georgia Land History*, pages 16 to 21, map shown from page 19. PDF accessed Sept. 19, 2023 from https://www.iaao.org/Proceedings/GIS_16/T3-Best_Practices/Corbin.PDF a presentation at the 20th Annual GIS/CAMA Technologies Conference, February, 2016, Savannah, Georgia.
48. Jim Gigantino. "Land Lottery System." *New Georgia Encyclopedia*, last modified Sep 28, 2020. <https://www.georgiaencyclopedia.org/articles/history-archaeology/land-lottery-system/>
49. Hancock County Land Lotteries 1805, 1820, 1823, 1827. Accessed through the Georgia Archives Virtual Vault documents <https://vault.georgiaarchives.org/digital/collection/tax/id/68624/rec/9> page 44.
50. "Georgia Land Records Research Guide," *Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness* website: <https://raogk.org/georgia/ga-land-lottery/>
51. "Successful Drawers 1805 Georgia Land Lottery," *Rootsweb: Finding Our Roots Together* Website at https://sites.rootsweb.com/~gatroup2/georgia_1805landlottery2.htm This list is based on several sources. Please see above site for complete information.
52. See endnote 49.
53. See endnote 51.

54. See endnote 49 for source. To learn more about John Bond see WikiTree contributors, "Col John Bond II (1749-1837)" WikiTree <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Bond-660> (accessed 8 May 2022).
55. See endnote 50.
56. Mathews, Nathan. "1807 Land Lottery Registrants of Hancock Co. Georgia," *Georgia Genealogical Society Quarterly*, Volume 38, Number 2, 2002, pages 74-111.
57. Mathews, 91.
58. See endnote 47.
59. "Georgia and Alabama" by H.S. Tanner. Published by H.S. Tanner, Philadelphia. Engraved by H.S. Tanner & Assistants. Entered ... 20th day of August 1823, by H.S. Tanner... Pennsylvania. American Atlas. *David Rumsey Historical Map Collection* accessed at <http://www.davidrumsey.com/maps5114.html>
60. WikiTree Contributors "William Simmons (c.1753-1814)" <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Simmons-1136>
61. See endnote 60.
62. See endnotes 40 and 42.
63. See endnotes 88 through 95. In 1807, Baldwin County (formed in 1803) gained land from Hancock County when new county lines were drawn. It is possible that some of the Goslin family's land in Hancock County was reassigned to Baldwin when county lines changed. As mentioned previously, this was a common occurrence. See https://digital.newberry.org/ahcb/documents/GA_Individual_County_Chronologies.htm#BALDWIN
64. Deviney, Caludia H. *From Spirit to Structure: A Study of Georgia's Historic Camp Meeting Grounds*. This Master's thesis was written in 1972 and in 2002 was added to the Master of Historic Preservation at the University of Georgia. This article provides an in-depth look at these amazing gatherings that later resulted in the Southern States being designated as the "Bible Belt." Access this excellent paper at https://getd.libs.uga.edu/pdfs/deviney_claudia_h_200212_mhp.pdf
65. Shakelton, Paula. "Revivals and Camp Meetings." *New Georgia Encyclopedia*, 05 December 2002, <https://www.georgiaencyclopedia.org/articles/arts-culture/revivals-and-camp-meetings/>
66. Campbell and Simmons, 14.
67. WikiTree contributors, "Lorenzo Dow (1777-1834)," WikiTree, <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Dow-1037> (accessed 22 March 2022). Also, that is me (Adrienne) standing on the stone. There was not another single rock of this size and shape anywhere within the immediate area.
68. WikiTree contributors, "Silver Creek Baptist Church" https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Space:Silver_Creek_Baptist_Church (accessed 22 March 2023).
69. Creel, Bevin J. *19th Century Baptist Church Records of Marion and Pike Counties, Mississippi*. Self-published, 2013. Silver Creek records pages 1-37. These minutes even give us the exact day both Willis and Jane died. Jane's death – 6 May 1851 (page 10) and Willis's on 13 May 1862 (page 31).

70. Smith, George Gilman. *The Story of Georgia and the Georgia People 1732 to 1860* (Macon, GA: George G. Smith Publisher, 1900)230.
71. Smith, George Gilman. *The Story of Georgia and the Georgia People 1732 to 1860* (Macon, GA: George G. Smith Publisher, 1900) 261-262. To know more about William Simmons, please see his WikiTree page noted in endnote 60.
72. See endnote 59.
73. Ancestry.com. *U.S., Army, Register of Enlistments, 1798-1914* [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2007. Specific location is Book F-G, 1798 May 17 to 1815, pages 188-189. *Register of Enlistments in the U.S. Army, 1798-1914*; Microfilm Publication M233, 81 rolls; NAID: [1184717](#), [575272](#) and [1223563](#); Records of the Adjutant General's Office, 1780's-1917, Record Group 94; The National Archives in Washington, D.C. Ancestry link at: <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/1198/>
74. For a complete understanding of these event, the Georgia Archives has placed one of their "Lunch and Learn" programs online. The video, "Georgia's Land Lotteries and Native Americans" is part of the Virtual Presentation Series. It can be accessed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EzY4ia3wb-8>
75. *U.S., Army, Register of Enlistments, 1798-1914*, page 189.
76. Cary, Mathew. "1814 Map of Georgia," *Carey's General Atlas, Improved And Enlarged; Being A Collection Of Maps Of The World And Quarters, Their Principal Empires, Kingdoms, &c. ... Philadelphia*: Published By M. Carey. 1814. T.S. Manning, Printer, N.W. Corner of Sixth & Chestnut Streets. *David Rumsey Historical Map Collection* accessed at <https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~629~50068:The-State-of-Georgia--Gridley-sc->
77. *U.S., Army, Register of Enlistments, 1798-1914*, page 189.
78. Hamersly, Thomas Holdup Stevens. *Complete regular army register of the United States for one hundred years (1779 to 1879) : together with the volunteer general staff during the War with Mexico, and a register of all appointments by the President of the United States in the volunteer service during the rebellion, with the official military record of each officer ; also, a military history of the Department of War, and of each staff Department of the Army ; with various tables relating to the Army and other important military information, compiled from the official records.* (Washington, D.C.: T.H.S. Hamersly, 1880) 52-53. Accessed at Hathi Trust <https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/008592048>
79. Porter, Bruscie. "Fort Stoddert," *Encyclopedia of Alabama* website located at <https://encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/fort-stoddert/>
80. In 1802, Richard Sparks was transferred to the 2nd U.S. Infantry and was immediately sent to Fort Adams (located in the Mississippi Territory about 20 miles east of the Mississippi River near today's state boundary between Louisiana and Mississippi). For more about Fort Adams, see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort_Adams,_Mississippi Sparks remained connected to that fort until 1810 when he was sent to Fort Stoddart as Lieutenant Colonel. After he retired from service in 1815, he lived in Claiborne County, Mississippi until his death. Source: Sparks Family Association Website at <https://www.sparksfamilyassn.org>

81. Hamersly, 52-53.
82. Hamersly, 52-53. A brief article about Peter Schuyler can be found at WikiTree Contributors, "Col. Pieter Philip " 'Peter' Schuyler (1776-1825)," WikiTree, <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Schuyler-400> (accessed 20 December 2022).
83. Maloney, Christopher (Auburn University), "First Treaty of Washington (1805)," *Encyclopedia of Alabama* accessed at <https://encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/first-treaty-of-washington-1805/> .
84. Criminger, Adrienne Fortenberry. *The Fortenberry Families of Southern Mississippi* (Easley, South Carolina: Southern Historical Press, 1984) 36.
85. "Old Federal Road," *The Historical Marker Data Base* accessed at <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=15477>
86. Ancestry.com. *U.S., General James Wilkinson's Order Book, 1796-1808* [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2013. Ancestry location at: <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/2975/> This collection was indexed by [Ancestry World Archives Project](#) contributors. Original data: *General James Wilkinson's Order Book, December 31, 1796– March 8, 1808*. Microfilm publication M654, 3 rolls. Records of the Adjutant General, Record Group 94. National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C. Wilkinson was a major General during the War of 1812. He was later recognized as having shady and often illegal political dealings including being a spy for Spain! WikiTree contributors, "Brig Gen James Wilkinson (1757-1825)," WikiTree, <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Wilkinson-3608> (accessed 16 November 2022).
87. General Wilkinson's Order Book, page 545.
88. Brown-Trogdon, JoAnn. "Fort Massac," *Discover Lewis & Clark* website <https://lewis-clark.org/a-military-corps/fort-massac/>
89. U.S., Army, Register of Enlistments, 1798-1914, page 203-04. Enlistment of Reese Mathews.
90. Jeremiah Reese wrote his will in 1808 and it was probated in 1814. Because Reese was still alive in 1808 when his father's will was written, it seems likely that he may have lived through his military service. The family history referenced here does not give any other data about Reese, so it is possible that like Mason, he disappeared from all records too. https://southernmatthews.com/1700s-1850s_desc_jamesjr.html This website has quite a bit of information about this Mathews family. About this time and place, it appears that surnames were often used as given names. Also, see Appendix for additional information related to connections between the Goslin, Simmons, and Mathews families.
91. Marriage record Barnet Goslin and Martha Sims. Photo from Baldwin County Courthouse, Milledgeville, Georgia, Marriages Volume A, page 9 taken by Teresa Fortenberry.
92. Barnet Gosling, *Fourth Census of the United States, 1820*; Census Place: *Baldwin, Georgia*; Page: 24; NARA Roll: *M33_6*; Image: 26 Ancestry.com. *1820 United States Federal Census* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Images reproduced by FamilySearch. Martha Sims must have been very young. They were married just a few months before the census. There is only one female listed and she is noted as being 10 to 15 years old.

93. Marriage of James Goslin and Polly (Mary) Trice from Ancestry [Ancestry.com] in the [Georgia, U.S., Marriage Records From Select Counties, 1828-1978](#) Original Source: Georgia Archives; Morrow, Georgia; *County Marriage Records, 1828–1978*, Volume A, page 17 of Baldwin County Georgia. Note: Polly's surname in the index has been transcribed as Soice instead of Trice. If you use James Goslin in the search, it is easily located. Somehow when visiting the Baldwin County courthouse, we missed photographing the original document.

94. Jas F Goslin, *Fourth Census of the United States, 1820*; Census Place: *Baldwin, Georgia*; Page: 42; NARA Roll: *M33_6*; Image: 26 Ancestry.com. *1820 United States Federal Census* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Images reproduced by FamilySearch. No one else is listed in the household but one male.

95. Marriage record Simon Goslin and Mary G. Bivens. Photo from Baldwin County Courthouse, Milledgeville, Georgia, Marriages Volume A, page 56 taken by Teresa Fortenberry.

96. Simon Gosslin, Seventh Census of the United States; The National Archives in Washington D.C.; Record Group: *Records of the Bureau of the Census*; Record Group Number: 29; Series Number: *M432*; Residence Date: 1850; Home in 1850: *Beat 4, Russell, Alabama*; Roll: 14; Page: 33b Ancestry.com. *1850 United States Federal Census* [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2009. Images reproduced by FamilySearch.

97. William Moran, 1860 Census, Baldwin County, Georgia, page 23. Ancestry.com. *1860 United States Federal Census* [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2009. Images reproduced by FamilySearch. Original data: 1860 U.S. census, population schedule. NARA microfilm publication M653, 1,438 rolls. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.

98. Allen, Sarah Cantey Whitaker. *Our Children's Ancestry*. Family edition. (Milledgeville, GA: S. C. W. Allan, 1935) 414.

99. Moran Family Cemetery. Her information on Find a Grave includes Temperance's obituary. According to her gravestone, she was born in 1800 and died 18 April 1862. Her obituary is from the Southern Federal Union Newspaper (Milledgeville, GA) *Find a Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/106697999/temperance-moran>: accessed 02 July 2023), memorial page for Temperance "Tempy" Goslin Moran (1800–18 Apr 1862), Find a Grave Memorial ID [106697999](#), citing Moran Family Cemetery, Baldwin County, Georgia, USA; Maintained by Our Families (contributor [49958349](#)).

100. Simon Gauslin and Elisha Moran, 1796 Hancock County Tax List. See endnote 42 and 43.

101. See endnotes 56 and 57.

102. It is obvious that Mason Simmons was named after Mason Goslin. Although I have not found any evidence, some researchers say that Mason's full name was Mason Goslin Simmons.

103. Overwhelming evidence from the census records of her children indicate that Jane Goslin was born in Georgia. If this is indeed a fact, then she would have been born after the family moved from North Carolina to Georgia. With the estimated 8-year gap between the birth of Jane and James Goslin, it is probable that Simon's last four known children were from a second wife. If this is the case, the first wife would have gone to Georgia with him in order for Jane to have been born there. Of course, it is just as likely that Simon was married only once and they had children who died before adulthood.

104. See endnotes 92 and 93. James Goslin had a fortunate draw in the 1820 lottery for land in what later became Upson County, Georgia. He was living there in 1830. ["United States Census, 1830", database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XHGB-VZP> : Wed Oct 04 16:02:09 UTC 2023), Entry for Jas F Goslin, 1830.] James married Polly Trice. Before moving to Georgia, many members of the Trice family lived in Orange County, North Carolina. Between 1782 and 1797, there are ten marriage records in Orange County for members of the Trice family. See "North Carolina, County Marriages, 1762-1979", ["database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSZ9-FQD2-Q?cc=1726957> : 28 November 2018), > image 1 of 1; North Carolina State Archives Division of Archives and History.] Families did not move to new locations alone. It is likely that the Trices and Goslins were connected in Orange County, North Carolina before moving to Georgia.

105. See endnotes 96, 97, and 98. Even today, many people with the surname Moran can be located using a simple Google search for Orange County, North Carolina.

106. See endnotes 90 and 91.

107. Barnett Goslin received a fortunate draw in the 1820 lottery. The land fell in what would become Talbot County, Georgia. He was enumerated there in both the 1830 and 1840 census records. Notification about the Sale of his estate (on right) was printed in the following: Southern Federal Union (Milledgeville GA) 1861-1862, April 1, 1862 Image 4, Georgia Historical Newspapers online at the Digital Library of Georgia. Website:

<https://gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu/lccn/sn87062317/1862-04-01/ed-1/seq-4>

The date at the bottom of the April 1, 1862 notice identifies it as a copy of one placed on February 4, 1862.

108. See endnotes 94 and 95.

109. Cadle, Farris W. *Georgia Land Surveying History and Law* (Athens, Georgia: The University of Georgia Press, 1991) 64-65.

110. Corbitt, David L. "The Formation of Counties 1663 – 1934" located at *USGenWeb Archives* accessed through <http://usgwarchives.net/nc/ncmaps.html> , above maps for 1760, 1775, 1780.

111. See endnote 36. Records of pay notices due Simon Goslin will be discussed in detail in the following article about this family. All were noted in the Caswell County records.

112. Transcription of the Colonial and State Records of North Carolina located at website *Documenting the American South*. Acts of the North Carolina General Assembly, January 18, 1781 - February 14, 1781, Volume 24, Pages 358-383. An Act to regulate and establish a Militia in this State. Accessed at <https://docsouth.unc.edu/csr/index.php/document/csr24-0010>

Administrator's Sale,

BY VIRTUE OF AN ORDER from Taylor Court of Ordinary—will be sold before the court-house door in Butler, Taylor county, on the first Tuesday in April next, during the usual hours of sale one lot of land, number one hundred and eighteen (118) in the fifteenth district of Taylor, also one three acre lot (improved) at Prattsburg, being a part of lot No 75 in the 24th district of said county; also at the same time will be sold in Talbotton, Talbot County, one improved lot at Prattsburg, containing one and a half acres, being a part of lot number fifty-seven of the 24th district of Talbot county, sold as the property of Barnet Goslin deceased, for the benefit of the heirs and creditors. Terms on the day of sale.

H. DRANE Adm'r.

Feb. 4, 1862. 38 ids

113. This statement is made based on research of records at the website *Southern Campaigns Revolutionary War Pension Statements and Rosters*. <https://revwarapps.org/> This is an incredible site where applications made by Southern Revolutionary soldiers for pensions have been transcribed. It has an amazing amount of information about the war in the south and what the soldiers experienced while serving.

114. Ancestry.com. *Marriages of Orange County, North Carolina, 1779-1868* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2006. Original data: Holcomb, Brent H. *Marriages of Orange County, North Carolina, 1779-1868*. Baltimore, MD, USA: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2001. <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/49250/> Enter the surname Trice.

115. "Pedigree Resource File," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/2:2:36J3-K23> : accessed 9 November 2023), entry for Elisha /Trice/; "RF Pickett" file (2:2:2:MM63-CMK), submitted 18 July 2017 by Richard Floyd Pickett Family.