

< [Return to 1740 -1750](#) >
< [Return to Table of Contents](#) >
< [Corrections to this Section?](#) >

< [Next—1760-1770](#) >



THE YEARS 1750—1760



- ◇ **11 February 1750/51** - BIRTH: **Dorothy Baker**, third daughter and ninth child of **Thomas Baker** and his wife **Dorothy Davenport**, daughter of **Martin Davenport, Sr.**, born in **Culpeper County**. (*Baker Bible Data provided by Pearl Foster O'Donnell, Fort Wayne, Indiana, 1982*)

There is no record evidence of the date or place of Dorothy Baker's birth. Baker Family data notes only that Dorothy married James Baxter after January 1775 and died before 1830, provides no information as to locations.

- ◇ **6 March 1750/51** - DEED: John Waller the Younger, planter, wife Agnes, of Spotsylvania County, to David Smith, planter, of Louisa County, for £86 Virginia, 398 acres in **Louisa County** on waters of Little Rocky Creek, adjoining Robert Sims, Richard Wright, Henry Gambill, Thomas Wash, William Wash, said David Smith, **Richard Davenport**, and John Kimbrow—part of a 3,770-acre patent to Thomas Carr, Gentleman, Decd., on 22 February 1727. /s/ John Waller, Jr., Agnes Waller. Wit: John Pettus, James Overton, William Davis. (*Louisa County Deeds, A:417*)

The land description in this deed was identical to the Carr Executors to William Waller deed of 27-28 November 1749 (see above). David Smith was on the land for several years before he obtained title.

- 19 April 1750** – INVENTORY: The inventory of the Estate of Samuel Kennerly, which had been appraised by John Jones, Francis Strother and James Wade, was returned into Court and recorded. [**Culpeper County** Will Book A, p. 17]

Appraiser Francis Strother appears to have been the uncle of one of Samuel Kennerly's daughters-in-law. Catharine Kennerly was married to Jeremiah Strother, nephew [? Research and insert exact relationship] to Francis Strother.

- ◇ **17 April 1751** – LAST WILL & TESTAMENT: Francis Strother, of **Culpeper County**, made this date; probated 16 April 1752. Named wife Susannah, son John, son George, son Francis, son Robert, all my eight children: John, Anthony, George, Francis, Robert, Behethland, Elisabeth, and Susann, to share equally. Anthony and George to have liberty [have adult status] at said Strother's death. If wife remarries, sons Francis and Robert to be of age at sixteen. Executrix: Wife. /s/ Francis Strother. Wit: Jo. Lewis, John Strother, **Thos. Baker**. (*Culpeper County Wills, A:57*)

This was Martin Davenport, Sr.'s adjoining neighbor down the North Anna River in Hanover by 1730, and who moved to the East Slope of the Blue Ridge in Orange or Culpeper in the late 1740s, apparently taking with him Thomas Davenport, eldest son of

Martin, Sr.; Henry Gambill, married to Mary Davenport, eldest daughter of Martin, Sr.; and Thomas Baker, married to Dorothy Davenport, second daughter of Martin, Sr. Here, approximately a year before Francis Strother's death, Thomas Baker served in the key role of witness to Strother's last will and testament.

Circumstantial evidence in the form of record association such as this will suggest that there was some strong connection among and between the Strother, Davenport, Baker, Kennerly and related families beyond that of mere neighbors. One Davenport researcher suggests that the evidence could support a conclusion that Dorothy, wife of Thomas Davenport, was a Strother (and there is record documentation that the Strothers and Kennerlys intermarried). However, Strother genealogists firmly deny any such possibility. (Available evidence does not support a conclusion that Francis Strother's wife was a Davenport or Davenport in-law: Francis Strother's wife is identified by the Strothers as Susannah Dabney.) Still, there are obviously daughters missing in the Strother Family chart and there are several Strother females who married Brownings, a family likewise linked to the Davenports (two children – Martin and Dorothy – of Thomas, eldest son of Martin, Sr., also married Brownings).

There's surely a daunting challenge in the identification effort relative to the connections among and between these neighboring clans. We do not propose to meet this challenge in this document but only to flesh out what is known this far of the connections.

12 August 1751 – DEED: Francis Strother and wife Susanna and John Strother and wife Mary to John Minor of Spotsylvania County, 1688 acres, for £209.15 current money, on Kennerley's Mountain. Wit: Wm. Covington, Robert Covington, **Thomas Baker**. Acknowledged by John Strother on 15 August 1751 and proved as to Francis by the Covingtons and **Thomas Baker**. [**Culpeper County** Deed Book A, pp. 318-322]

William and Robert Covington were most likely brothers. Robert Covington was married to Francis Strother's daughter Margaret.

22 September 1751 - DEED: **William Davenport**, planter, wife **Ann**, of Spotsylvania County, to Robert Hester, of Louisa County, for £40/4, 225 acres in **Louisa County**, beginning at Hester's corner, adjoining John Kimbrow, Samuel Parrish, said Hester, John England; and 25 acres bounding Great Rocky Creek, adjoining David Richardson, said **William Davenport** ... /s/ **William Davenport, Ann "X" Davenport**. Wit: Dabney Pettus, William Rice, John Wash. (*Louisa County Deeds*, A:440)

This was William Davenport, son of Martin Jr., selling the land he bought from his brother-in-law Thomas Baker in 1748. The buyer, Robert Hester, is the man who had sold the land to Baker in the first place.

30 September 1751 – PRECINCT FOR PROCESSIONING: **St. Paul's Parish** divided into various precincts for processioning. Among them were Precinct 9, including "the lands of Matt. Pate, **John Baker**, Edwd. Langford, Sherwood Harris, John Ragland's orphans, Wm. Davis, Henry Hix, Widow Sidner, Barbary Winston, John Darracott." (*The Valentine Papers*, Vol. xx, p.1740)

◇ **15 October 1751** - DEED: Henry Gambill, wife **Mary**, of Louisa County, to Charles Kennedy, of Hanover County, for £80 Virginia, 175 acres in **Louisa County** on Little

Rocky Creek, adjoining the Creek [description all in metes and bounds]—being part of a tract of 3,770 acres patented to Thomas Carr 27 February 1727, said Carr conveying to said Gambill on 4 September 1735... /s/ Henry Gambill, **Mary "X" Gambill**. Wit: **William Davenport, David Davenport, John Davenport**. (*Louisa County Deeds A:445*)

When Henry Gambill bought this tract from Thomas Carr, Sr., in 1735, Martin Davenport was cited as an adjoining landowner. The grantor here was Henry Gambill, son-in-law of Martin Davenport, Sr., who had witnessed Martin, Sr.'s Will. The grantee Charles Kennedy was married then or later to Crotia Davenport, daughter of Martin, Sr. The three witnesses to this deed were all sons of Martin, Sr. They were all living in the same neighborhood (both sides of the Hanover-Louisa line or across the river in Spotsylvania) at this time. The Gambills were moving northwest to adjoining Culpeper County, where Thomas Baker, married to Dorothy Davenport and Thomas Davenport, daughter and son respectively of Martin, Sr., had moved earlier.

16 April 1752 – PROBATE: Estate of Francis Strother, late of **Culpeper County**, Decd. The will of the Decedent was proved by oaths of John Strother and **Thomas Baker**, whereupon Susanna Strother, executrix named therein, qualified. (*Culpeper County Wills, A:57*)

The exact date of Francis Strother's death does not appear of record, but here his last will and testament was admitted to probate and his widow qualified as executrix.

◇ **7 July 1752** - PROBATE: Estate of Francis Strother, late of **Culpeper County**, Decd. William Covington, Henry Gambill, and **Thomas Davenport** appointed by the Court to inventory and appraise the Decedent's estate returned their report, valuing the Estate at £485/6/4, including four Negroes valued at £160 . (*Culpeper County Wills, A:71*)

Shortly after Francis Strother's death, a panel of appraisers was appointed by the Culpeper County Court to appraise the estate. Two of those appraisers – Thomas Davenport and Henry Gambill – were brothers-in-law of Thomas Baker, one of the witnesses to the will (Thomas Davenport being the brother of Thomas Baker's wife Dorothy and Henry Gambill's wife Mary). Their appointment to the panel of appraisers was not coincidental, but whether the association with Strother was that of in-law or neighbor, or both, is enigmatic. Virginia Colonial Law permitted relatives to serve as appraisers of decedent estates.

Note that this record also proves the residence of Thomas Davenport and Henry Gambill at the time: only residents of the county where the property to be appraised was located would be named by the county courts to appraise an estate.

THE SOUTH CAROLINA CONNECTION BEGINS

20 March 1753 – LAND GRANT PLAT: Plat for 300 acres on High Hill Creek, Amelia Township (**Berkeley County**), South Carolina, for Thomas Kennerly. [Online index, South Carolina Land Grants, Series: S213184 Volume - 0005 Page - 00472 Item - 02]

The first evidence of a South Carolina connection to the related Culpeper families comes in this step towards a Land Grant in Amelia Township in Berkeley County for

Thomas Kennerly, son of Samuel and Elin/Eleanor Kennerly. Land transactions in the same general vicinity would involve many persons from the Culpeper families, including Bakers, Gambills, Whites, Wisemans, Strothers and more. By roughly 1780, many of those who left for South Carolina had given up that venture, returning either to Virginia or relocating with the rest of the extended families to the Western Mountains of North Carolina.

See APPENDIX D – SOUTH CAROLINA LAND GRANTS

- 14 April 1753** – DEED: Joseph Cotten of **Culpeper County** to John Barns of Culpeper County, lease and release of 100 acres on Thornton's River adjoining Francis Thornton, for £ 15. Wit: **Thomas Baker**, John Barns, William White. Proved by **Thomas Baker** and John Barns, 20 September 1753; by William White 21 February 1754. [Culpeper County Deed Book B, p. 43-47]

Yet another family record association began with this deed and the following one, both witnessed by Thomas Baker and by William White. The Bakers, Whites and Davenports were closely associated thereafter, both in the records and by marriage. Thomas Davenport's daughter Sophia married William White. Several members of the White family including William, Sophia and their children moved to South Carolina with members of the Strother and Kennerly families. The Whites ultimately located in Burke County, North Carolina, with her parents, the Bakers and other relatives.

- 14 April 1753** – DEED: Joseph Cotten of **Culpeper County** to Robert Jones of Culpeper County, lease and release of 100 acres on Thornton's River, for £ 9. Wit: Robert Jones, **Thomas Baker**, William White. Proved by Robert Jones and **Thomas Baker**, 20 September 1753; by William White 21 February 1754. [Culpeper County Deed Book B, p. 39-43]

- 20 July 1753** – LAND PATENT: Thomas Satterwhite, for 153 acres in **Brunswick County** on both sides of Butchers Creek, being the same acreage patented to **Josias Baker** [Virginia Patents 23:964, 1 August 1745] where **Baker** failed to pay quitrents and make cultivation and improvements, so that Satterwhite sued and obtained grant. (Virginia Patents 32:208)

This 153-acre tract was originally patented to Josias Baker, brother of Thomas Baker, in 1745 (see 1 August 1745). But a land patent came with requirements: it was necessary that the patentee enter the land, cultivate it and make improvements, and pay a quitrent (a small annual payment to the Crown). Here, another individual noted that the improvements had not been made and quitrents not paid and sued to have the grant transferred to himself. The suit was successful and a new patent issued. Why Josias Baker failed to improve the land or pay the quitrents on one hand or sell the rights to the land to someone else on the other is a mystery on which, perhaps, further study of the records will shed light. One possibility, of course, is that Josias died. There is an indication in the Caroline County Court records of 1747 that such may have been the case (a lawsuit brought against the Estate of Josias Baker).

Note that the name Satterwhite comes up again in a Baker context when another Satterwhite – first name Mann – was selected to inventory part of the estate of one Thomas Baker of King William County, who died there in 1775. The possibility of a

connection between the two sets of Bakers cannot be discounted and requires further investigation.

- ◇ **22 October 1753** – DEED: Thomas Kennerly, wife Mary, of South Carolina, to Henry Gambill of Culpeper County for £140 Virginia, 900 acres in Brumfield Parish, **Culpeper County**, adjoining John Minor, Kennerly's Great branch, **Strother**, James Kennerly, south side of Rush River and Kennerly's Mountain – part of a patent to said Kennerly dated 19 June 1735 and by deed from Thomas Lord Fairfax dated 8 August 1749... /s/ Thomas Kennerly [No wife signs]. Wit: Pendleton [sic], Jas Kennerly, Danl Brown, Clayton, Jr. [sic]. (*Culpeper County, VA. Deeds B:70*).

This 900-acre tract apparently straddled the headwaters of the Rappahannock, for it took both a Virginia patent and a Fairfax deed, i.e., Northern Neck, to encompass the acreage being conveyed. Adjoining landowner Strother was Francis Strother, who had bounded Martin Davenport, Sr., downriver in Hanover. In this and many other transactions, the Kennerly family was closely associated with Davenport family members. Thomas Kennerly, son of Samuel and Elin/Eleanor Kennerly, appears here to be selling out his Culpeper property as part of his permanent relocation to South Carolina. Henry Gambill, of course, was married to Mary Davenport, sister of Thomas Baker's wife Dorothy Davenport.

- 28 October 1753** – EXECUTION OF WILL: Elin Kennerly of Brumfield Parish, naming as her children Thomas Kennerly, Elizabeth Vick (previously married to William Coleman), Kathrine Strother (wife of "Jeremy" Strother), and James Strother. Executors to be James Kennerly, John Strother and **Thomas Baker**. Witnesses George Strother, Francis Strother and James Barker. [**Culpeper County** Will Book A, p. 135-136]

Here And this my Last Will and Testament Revoked
all other Wills by me made I do constitute and
Appoint James Kennerly, John Strother and
Thomas Baker To be my Executors In Witness
Whereof I have here unto set my hand and Seal
this 28th Day of October 1753.

Witnesses present
George Strother
Francis Strother
James Barker

Elin Kennerly
her
mark

Samuel Kennerly, Elin (Ellender) Kennerly's husband, had died in 1748; his will was probated in September 1748. Here, his widow named her son James, John Strother (an in-law or relative of some degree since her daughter Catharine Kennerly was married to Jeremiah Strother), and Thomas Baker as the executors of her estate. Although no family relationship has yet been definitively established, it is unlikely that the Kennerly widow would name someone entirely unrelated to her family to serve as an executor of her estate unless he were someone of particular status or education – a description that there is no reason to believe would fit Thomas Baker. For that reason, among others, some family relationship is likely.

In the will, in addition to making specific bequests, the Widow Kennerly directed her executors carry the bequest made to him and a copy of her will to her son Thomas Kennerly. As reflected in the deed of 22 October 1753 (above), Thomas Kennerly was already "of South Carolina" and clearly was among the first of the related Culpeper Families to relocate to that colony.

- ◇ **23 December 1753** - BIRTH: **Richard Baker**, seventh son and tenth child of **Thomas Baker** and his wife **Dorothy Davenport**, daughter of **Martin Davenport, Sr.**, born in **Culpeper County**. (*Baker Bible Data provided by Pearl Foster O'Donnell, Fort Wayne, Indiana, 1982*)

There is no record documentation of the date or place of Richard Baker's birth. According to the pension application of his brother David, who was serving with him in the 3rd Virginia Regiment at the time, Richard died in the Battle of Trenton on 26 December 1776. He was unmarried.

- 29 January 1754** – LAND GRANT PLAT: Two plats, for 300 acres each, on the **Little Saludy River**, for Jeremiah Strother. [Online index, South Carolina Land Grants, Series: S213184 Volume - 0006 Page - 00086 Item - 03]

Note that Katherine, a daughter born around 1760 to this Jeremiah Strother, eventually married a Thomas Baker in South Carolina. The very real possibility that that Thomas Baker was our Thomas' nephew, son of his brother William, must be explored.

- ◇ **19 April 1754** - DEED: Henry Gambill, wife **Mary**, to John Minor, of Spotsylvania County, for £91 Virginia, 570 acres in Brumfield Parish, **Culpeper County**, adjoining said Minor, said Gambill, James Kennerly, Kennerly's Mill tract, tract formerly Francis Strothers, Decd.... /s/ Henry Gambill, **Mary "X" Gambill**. Wit: Clayton, Jr. [sic], **Thos Baker**, Wm Williams. (*Culpeper County Deeds, B:132*)

Henry Gambill's wife was Mary Davenport, daughter of Martin, Sr. The grantee was the Magistrate of Spotsylvania County. Witness Thomas Baker was Gambill's brother-in-law, husband of Mary Davenport Gambill's sister Dorothy.

- 9 May 1754** – SUMMONSES: On the petition of **Susannah Baker**, the Sheriff was directed to summon Colline Reddock and Robert Walker to the next court. [**Caroline County** Court Orders 3: 467]

This action began a series of court orders and directives that ultimately resulted in Robert Baker, presumably the son of Susannah Baker, being released from his indenture

to Colin Reddock and the Church Wardens of St. Mary's Parish directed to bind him out again to someone else (presumably as an apprentice). Neither Robert's father nor Susannah's husband is identified in the court actions; the possibility that Josias Baker was involved requires further examination.

- ◇ **28 October 1754** - LAST WILL & TESTAMENT: John Minor of **Spotsylvania County**, made this date, proved for probate 2 September 1755. Named wife [unnamed in Will, but was Sarah Carr], son John, son William (land bought of Francis and John Strother adjoining Captain Compton in Culpeper County), son Thomas, son Garrett (land lately bought of Henry Gambill in Culpeper County), son James (land on James River in Louisa County), son Dabney (land lately bought of James Kavanaugh in Culpeper County), son Vivian (plantation in Orange County), son Peter (homeplace after "wife's death'), daughter Mary, daughter Elizabeth; friends John Carr, John Waller, Rice Curtis, and William Carr... /s/ John Minor. Wit: John Goodloe, **David Davenport**, Joseph Venable. (*Spotsylvania County Wills B:257*)

The Minors and the Davenports had a long association in Spotsylvania County records, but no kinship has been discovered. Minor's wife Sarah was a daughter of Captain Thomas Carr, Esqr., of Caroline. Here, David Davenport of Martin, Sr., witnessed the Will along with Joseph Venable, reportedly married to Lucy Davenport, a relative of undetermined degree (perhaps a sister or a niece or cousin).

- 21 November 1754** – PROBATE INVENTORY: The Estate of **Mary Baker**, having been taken by John Strother, William Covington and Robert Covington, items listed and valued at £ 6, 13, 9, was returned to court and ordered to be recorded. [**Culpeper County** Will Book A, p. 113, see image below]

Transcription:

Baker's Inventory, August 12th, 1754: Pursuant to an Order of this Court
We the Subscribers have appraised the Estate of Mary Baker dec'd.

To the bed & furniture	£ 2 14 6
To 1 Do	1 5 0
To one slate & a woollen wheel	0 10 0
To one chest and bible	0 11 0
To a pot & hooks	0 3 6
To pan & tongs	0 9 0
To a box iron & heaters	0 5 0
A parcel of old pewter	0 14 6
An old saddle & box	0 5 9
A flesh fork	0 1 0
	£ 6 13 9

John Strother
William Covington
Robert Covington

August 24th 1754. Returned into Court and Ordered to be Recorded.
Roger Dixon [Clerk of the Culpeper County Court]

August 12th 1751
 Pursuant to an Order of this Court the subscribers have
 Appraised the Estate of Mary Baker dec'd.
 To the Land & Furniture ----- 120 00
 To 1 Do ----- 1 00
 To one Hat & Woolen Wheel ----- 0 10 00
 To one Chest and Kettle ----- 0 11 00
 To a Set of Hooks ----- 0 02 00
 To Pan & Tongue ----- 0 02 00
 To a Box with 2 Keutons ----- 0 05 00
 A Parcel of old Buttons ----- 0 04 00
 An Old Saddle & Ring ----- 0 03 00
 A Stick Fork ----- 0 01 00
 ----- 2 04 00
 John Strother
 William Covington
 Robert Covington
 Witness my hand this 21st 1751 Retained into Court and Approved

 Roger Nicolson

Throughout the 1750s, only one Baker family appears of record in Culpeper County, the family of our Thomas Baker. Family tradition has it that his parents were William and Mary Baker. Only one of Thomas's sons was old enough to be married, and that son – William – is known to have married a Gambill cousin (Ann, according to land records; Elizabeth according to some family tradition; or, perhaps, Elizabeth Ann). Assuming that at least the first name of Thomas's mother as given by family history is correct, the likelihood is that this was Thomas' mother Mary.

That John Strother was selected as an appraiser of the estate again suggests some degree of kinship or close association beyond that of a mere neighbor. Note that William and Robert Covington were also associated as of record with Francis Strother, having witnessed earlier transactions including a 1751 deed for Francis and John Strother and their wives. William Covington was also an appraiser with Henry Gambill and Thomas Davenport of Francis Strother's estate.

- ◇ **21 November 1754** - DEED: James Kennerly, wife Elizabeth, to Henry Gambill, all of Brumfield Parish, Culpeper County, for £10 Virginia, 200 acres in **Culpeper County**, beginning on Mount Delamore, adjoining Kennerly's Mountain... /s/ James Kennerly, [no wife signs]. Wit: None. Acknowledged in Culpeper Court same day. (*Culpeper County Deeds, B:216*)

This was Henry Gambill, husband of Mary Davenport, daughter of Martin, Sr., increasing his land holdings.

- ◇ **18 February 1755** - BIRTH: **James Baker**, eighth son and eleventh child of **Thomas Baker** and his wife **Dorothy Davenport**, daughter of **Martin Davenport, Sr.**, born in **Culpeper County**. (*Baker Bible Data provided by Pearl Foster O'Donnell, Fort Wayne, Indiana, 1982*)

There is no record documentation of the date or place of James Baker's birth. Baker Family records note only that James was single in 1790, but later married and moved from Burke County, North Carolina, ultimately to either Morgan or Overton County, Tennessee.

- ◇ **17 April 1755** - PROBATE: Estate of William Collins, late of **Culpeper County**, Decd. **Thomas Davenport**, John Strother and William Covington appointed to inventory and appraise the Estate. (*Culpeper County Wills, A:120*)

Thomas, eldest son of Martin, Sr., now in his late-40s, was emerging into the public records and being accorded status, although his lack of earlier public profile may be due to his previously having been a homebody in Hanover and the destruction of all of Hanover's Court records prior to 1865. Strother and Covington both had strong record associations with Thomas Davenport's brother-in-law Thomas Baker.

- 17 November 1755** – PRECINCT FOR PROCESSIONING: **St. Paul's Parish** divided into various precincts for processioning. Among them were Precinct 10, including “the lands of Matthew Pate, **Thomas Baker**, Edward Langford, Sherwood Harris, John Ragland's orphans, William Davis, Henry Hix, Robt. Sydner, Wm. Sydner, Fortunatus Sydner, William Grimes, Barbara Winston, and John Darracott.” (*The Valentine Papers, Vol. xx, p.1740*)

- 1756** – STORE RECORDS: **Thomas Baker** and **Martin Baker** were customers at the Thomas Partridge & Co. store, probably located in **Hanover County**. The records themselves were found at a general store located at Fredericks Hall, Louisa County, just to the east of what is present-day Mineral. It is unlikely that the store itself was located in Louisa County at the time the records were made; notations as to the locations of customers (indicating some as being from Louisa, for example) suggests a location in Hanover County. (Source: *Records of a General Store at Fredericks Hall, Louisa County*, Collection of the University of Virginia Library, Accession No. 4201)

daughter of which later became David Baker's first wife (James Crittenden Webb, John Crittenden Webb and William Crittenden Webb were all customers in 1756).

The identity of Martin Baker is unclear. It is not likely to have been Thomas' son, Martin, who was born in 1741. We harbor a theory that Martin Baker and our Thomas Baker were cousins, and hope eventually DNA evidence can be obtained to either establish or disprove the theory.

Other customers are of more general interest to us as historians. For example, one Patrick Henry bought powder and shot, pins, thread, ginger, pimienta, pepper, cloth of various types and bridles in 1756.

28 May 1756 - DEED: **Thomas Baker**, planter of Culpeper County, to Robert Hester, planter of Louisa County, 50 pounds, 516 acres; beginning on side of a great branch thence southwest, back and down branch. Wit: James Hester, William Hester, Frances (H her mark) Hester, Zary [Zachariah?] Hester, John Buley. Signed: **Thos. Baker**. Recorded 7 December 1756. (**Lunenburg County Deed Book 4:344-345**)

Thomas Baker acquired this 516-acre tract by land patent dated 30 August 1744. It may be that he and his brother Josias had planned to homestead there in southern Virginia, or, like many of his Davenport in-laws, Thomas was involved in land speculation. Certainly he never lived in Lunenburg County.

16 September 1756 - PROBATE: Last Will and Testament of Elin Kennerly, late of Culpeper County, Decd., dated 28 October 1753, admitted to probate before Roger Dixon, Clerk of the Court. **Thomas Baker** named one of three executors, along with George and Francis Strother. (**Culpeper County Wills, A:135-136**)

The relationship, if any, among Thomas Baker, the Strothers and the Kennerly family is yet to be established. Still, as noted above, it is unlikely that Elin (Ellender) Kennerly, a widow with many sons and daughters, would name an outsider as an executor of her estate.

29 March 1757 – LAND GRANT PLAT: Plat for 300 acres, in the **Welch Tract, Craven County**, for James Taylor White. [Online index, South Carolina Land Grants, Series: S213184 Volume - 0006 Page - 00256 Item - 02]

It is as yet unclear to this researcher exactly what the relationships were in the White Family. Clearly Reuben White and William White, husband of Sophia Davenport, daughter of Thomas Davenport and granddaughter of Martin Sr., were brothers. That is established from a 1773 deed of gift (see below). White Family researchers indicate that another brother, John, married Sarah Gambill, who may have been a daughter of Henry and Mary Davenport Gambill and, thus, Sophia Davenport White's cousin. Those researchers also indicate that yet another brother, James, married a Jerusha who was most assuredly a member of the Davenport clan, most likely a sister of Sophia Davenport White or, perhaps, another daughter of Henry and Mary Davenport Gambill.

Where this particular James Taylor White fits into the White line remains to be established. He may have been the father of William, Reuben, James and John.

14 July 1757 – SUMMONSES: On petition of **Susannah Baker**, the Sheriff was directed to summon Colline Reddock and Harry Beverly to the next court. [**Caroline County** Court Orders 4: 288]

The next round in the battle between Susannah Baker, apparently a widow, and those to whom Robert Baker (most likely her son) had been bound as an apprentice. The relationship of these Bakers to ours is purely speculative, but it is possible that they were Josias Baker's widow and child.

26 June 1757 – CULPEPER MILITIA: Among those reported from **Culpeper County** as armed and ready to march out for duty on the frontier were John Peyton Sr., **William Baker**, Francis Strother, John Strother and Anthony Strother. Among those reported as without arms were French Strother, James Browning, **Thomas Baker** and Francis Jacoby. [Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck, *Virginia's Colonial Soldiers*, Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co. (1988) at 93]

The French and Indian Wars raged throughout the 1750s and militia units were formed and called into service from many Virginia counties. In the summer of 1757, lists were submitted to the colonial authorities of those men armed and ready to march if called and those ready to march but not equipped with firearms. (Firearms were rare and expensive in the colonies.) William Baker, age approximately 22, was reported as ready and armed; his younger brother Thomas Jr., age approximately 20, was ready but not armed. Neighbors including several Strothers and a Browning were also on the militia lists.

The name Jacoby on a militiaman of Culpeper County raises an interesting question. The last name family anecdote ascribes to Thomas Baker's mother Mary was Corbee or Corbie. The record association of the Bakers with the Jacoby family (see below) at least raises the question – to be answered, if possible, by further research – that Mary was a Jacoby.

10 February 1758 – PETITION: On petition, **Robert Baker** was freed from the service of Collin Reddock. [**Caroline County** Court Orders 4: 338]

Susannah Baker, apparently a widow, won her battle to have Robert Baker (most likely her son) released from service to those to whom he had been bound as an apprentice.

9 March 1758 – INDENTURE ORDER: Ordered that the Church Wardens of St. Mary's Parish bind out **Robert Baker** according to law. [**Caroline County** Court Orders 4: 339]

Susannah having succeeded in having Collin Reddock hauled into court and Robert freed from his service, the Church was then ordered to bind him out again, presumably to a more acceptable master.

◇ **8 May 1758** - BIRTH: **John Baker**, ninth son and twelfth child of **Thomas Baker** and his wife **Dorothy Davenport**, daughter of **Martin Davenport, Sr.**, born in **Culpeper County**. (Baker Bible Data provided by Pearl Foster O'Donnell, Fort Wayne, Indiana, 1982)

There is no record documentation of the date or place of John Baker's birth. John married Urcilla White in Burke County, North Carolina, on 24 June 1787, and died 7 December 1806 in Jefferson County, Tennessee.

15 March 1758 – DEED: **Thomas Baker Sr.** to “my loving son” **Thomas Baker Jr.**, both of Brumfield Parish, **Culpeper County**, 100 acres part of the 309-acre 1749 Fairfax grant, for “love, good will and affection.” Wit: Henry Gambill, William Gambill, John Strother. Proved by all three witnesses 16 March 1758. [Culpeper County Deed Book C, p. 96-97]

15 March 1758 – DEED: **Thomas Baker Sr.** to “my loving son” **William Baker**, both of Brumfield Parish, **Culpeper County**, 100 acres part of the 400-acre 1749 Fairfax grant, for “love, good will and affection.” On Kennerly’s Mountain near Manifee’s Corner. Wit: Henry Gambill, William Gambill, John Strother. Proved by all three witnesses 16 March 1758. [Culpeper County Deed Book C, p. 98-99]

These two gifts were to Thomas and Dorothy’s first and second sons, William the oldest (born 1735) and Thomas Jr. the second (born 1737). Witnesses Henry and William Gambill were related to the younger Baker men, whose aunt Mary Davenport had married Henry Gambill. Although Mary Davenport Gambill’s son Henry was old enough to have witnessed this transaction, it is far more likely that the witness Henry was her husband.

19 September 1758 – LAND GRANT: Grant for 300 acres, in **Craven County**, South Carolina, for Reuben White. [Online index, South Carolina Land Grants, Series: S213019 Volume - 0008 Page - 00444 Item - 00]

This is the first identified land grant in South Carolina for Reuben White, the brother of William White (husband of Sophia Davenport, daughter of Thomas Davenport and granddaughter of Martin Sr.).

24 April 1759 – DEED: William Harris and Henrita his wife to **Martin Baker** of St. Martin’s Parish, Hanover County, 350 acres in Fredericksville Parish, £325 current money. /s/ William Harris, Henrita Harris, who acknowledged the same at Louisa Court that day. [**Louisa County** Deed Book A:298-300]

The relationship, if any, between the Hanover and Louisa County Bakers and the Bakers of Culpeper County remains to be established.

◇ **26 April 1759** - SUITS FILED: John Green filed two petitions in **Orange County** Court for Debt: one each against (1) **David Davenport**, and (2) Henry Gambill. (*Orange County Order Book*, 6:455)

This was David, son of Martin, Sr., who apparently was residing in Orange County at this time or he would not have been sued there. Henry Gambill, married to Mary Davenport, daughter of Martin, Sr., was a resident of Culpeper County. This may have involved Henry Gambill, Jr., son of Henry and Mary, who married Charlotte Jouett and ultimately settled on Jouett land in Louisa County. David was a carpenter and Henry was a millwright. This may have involved a joint construction contract they had undertaken for which they owed for materials.

28 April 1759 – LAND GRANT PLAT: Plat for 100 acres, on the Black Creek and Pee Dee River in **Craven County**, for William White. [Online index, South Carolina Land Grants, Series: S213184 Volume - 0007 Page - 00054 Item - 03]

This appears to have been the first land grant transaction in South Carolina for William White, husband of Sophia Davenport (daughter of Thomas Davenport and granddaughter of Martin Sr.).

10 October 1759 – WILL: Robert Covington of Brumfield Parish, **Culpeper County**, giving to sons Francis Covington and William Covington “this tract of land I now live on” and to daughters Ann and Susanna a certain tract of land Edward Price now lives on, and to wife Margaret a life estate in the rest. Executors to be John Strother, William Covington and Anthony Strother. Witnesses: John Clayton, Richard Covington and **William Wiseman**. [Culpeper County Will Book A, pp. 432-434]

Yet another instance of the record entanglements of these Culpeper families, here we have William Wiseman, son-in-law of Thomas Davenport, witnessing the will of Robert Covington, along with members of the Strother family. The Strothers and Covingtons were intermarried to a great degree at this time and hereafter. What remains unclear is the link between these families and the Baker and Davenport families. It surely exists, and beyond that merely of good neighbors, but more research is required to figure out just what the nature of the relationship was.

Note that William Wiseman was absent, most likely in South Carolina, when the will was admitted to probate in after Covington's death in 1766.

19 November 1759 – PRECINCT FOR PROCESSIONING: **St. Paul's Parish** divided into various precincts for processioning. Among them were Precinct 10, including “the lands of Matthew Pate, **Thomas Baker**, Edward Langford, William Allen, Sherwood Harris, John Ragland's orphans, William Davis, Henry Hix, Robt. Sydner, Fortunatus Sydner, Wm. Sydner, &c.” (*The Valentine Papers*, Vol. xx, p.1740)

The relationship, if any, between the Hanover and Louisa County Bakers and the Bakers of Culpeper County remains to be established.

[< Return to 1740 -1750 >](#)

[< Next—1760-1770 >](#)

[< Return to Table of Contents >](#)

[< Corrections to this Section? >](#)