The Life of

John Stiles Sr.

(c1760–1844)

of

the New York Colony,

Blackwater Swamp, Surry County, Virginia,

Wayne County, North Carolina,

&

Franklin & Coffee Counties, Tennessee

by Timothy Dean Hudson[†]

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[†]I am grateful for the collaboration with my cousin, Kevin Stiles, on Stiles family research. Kevin willingly shared his Stiles information with me, thereby greatly improving this biography of John Stiles Sr.

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From New York to Surry County, Virginia

John Stiles was born in the early 1760s, probably around 1760–1762 but no later than about 1764 [1]. He appears to have moved from New York to southeastern Virginia after the Revolutionary War, but we have no record of precisely when he arrived in the Old Dominion. By late 1782, he had settled in Surry County, located just across the James River from the colonial capitals of Jamestown and Williamsburg. Since the time of Surry's 1652 creation, the river formed the county's northern border. During the colonial period, it constituted Virginia's major thoroughfare, bustling with all varieties of ships heading from the Atlantic Ocean into the Chesapeake Bay and then into the mouth of the James and on upriver to the important commercial centers of Petersburg and Richmond and other inland areas. Vast tobacco plantations lined the river and formed the basis for the region's wealth.

Far removed from the hustle of tobacco warehouses and high society of Surry's wealthy tobacco plantations along the James River, John Stiles settled in the extreme southern tip of the county, in the remote, backwoods region along the north side of the Blackwater Swamp. Itself an important transportation route until the late eighteenth century, the Blackwater Swamp (or River) parallels the James River to its south. Despite its proximity to the James, the Blackwater does not open into Chesapeake Bay. Instead, it drains southward into North Carolina's Albemarle Sound, thereby forming a gateway from the Chesapeake Bay settlements to the Albemarle settlements of early North Carolina.

On 9 December 1782, John Stiles obtained a bond in Surry County to marry Mary Sebrell, a *"Spinster"* [2]. The Surry County tax commissioner did not charge John Stiles Sr. a poll tax for the year 1783, so it is not clear if he and Mary lived elsewhere immediately after their marriage, or if this were an omission by the commissioner. However, he paid personal property taxes each year in Surry County beginning in 1784 [3].

After living in Surry County for about five years, on 25 September 1787, John Stiles appeared before the Surry County Court and after being sworn in, made a deposition. As recorded by the Court's clerk:

> *John Stiles a native of the State of New York (by trade a Shoe maker) came into Court and made oath that he intends to become a resident of this State, and on his motion the oath of fidelity was administered to him, and ordered to be Certified.*

Stiles' testimony before the Court was an unusual act and came during a period of active retribution against Loyalists and British sympathizers. Even though Stiles had married into a prominent local family in 1782 and thereafter lived amongst them, his deposition indicates that

questions regarding his political background and precise wartime activities lingered and caused concern among the staunchly Patriot Surry County populace. It suggests that he arrived in Virginia from New York as an adult, after the war. He must have learned the art of shoemaking while in New York, perhaps from his father or another close relative, or if an orphan, he may have served as a shoemaker's apprentice there [4].

Stiles' 1787 deposition directly referenced his New York background, suggesting that local residents may have learned details of his residence there during the Revolutionary War and questioned his political loyalties. This may indicate that John Stiles lived in British-occupied New York City during the conflict.

The New York Campaign of late 1776 saw the British Army engage Gen. George Washington's Continental Army in a series of five battles. On August 27th, they fought the Battle of Long Island, the largest battle of the war, followed by the Battle of Harlem Heights on September 16th. Even before the British began their occupation of New York City by storming the remaining Patriot forts in November, the residents who remained in the city began an attempt to ingratiate themselves to the British commanders, brothers Gen. William Howe and Admiral Richard Howe.

As the British Army made plans to complete their conquest of New York City in the fall of 1776, a large group of residents who remained prepared a resolution dated October 16th in which they expressed their *"true allegiance to our Rightful Sovereign George the Third as well as warm affection to his sacred person Crown and Dignity."* They claimed to *"Esteem the constitutional Supremacy of Great Britain over these Colonies,"* and that they *"sincerely lament the Interruption of that Harmony, which formerly subsisted between the Parent State and these her Colonies."* They expressed hope that the Howes would *"be pleased on these our dutiful representations to Restore this City & County to his Majesty's Protection and Peace."*

Several hundred residents of New York City signed the resolution, including a few wealthy residents but also many local government officials, storekeepers, etc. There is evidence that some were *"impressed into the questionable service of adding their names"* to the resolution under the threat of losing their livelihood or *"incurring prosecutions as a penalty of their refusal."*

John Stiles either signed or made his mark to this petition. The document gives no information on his occupation or age, and at this time, we have no means of determining with certainty whether this is our John Stiles who settled in southern Surry County, Virginia after the Revolutionary War. It is certainly possible they are the same person, although if born about 1760 as evidence suggests, our John Stiles would have been only about sixteen years old in late 1776 when he added his name

to the petition in support of King George. Had the document been discovered and publicized in the mid-1780s, this could explain his 1787 deposition [5].

John Stiles and Mary Sebrell married shortly after he secured a marriage bond on 9 December 1782. About a year later, probably in late 1783 or early 1784, Mary gave birth to their only known child, John, known formally as *"John Stiles Jr."* but casually known as *"Jack"* [6]. John and Mary had settled near her birthplace on the north side of the Blackwater Swamp in southern Surry County, Virginia. They probably lived on a portion of the 400-acre plantation owned by Mary's father, Nathaniel Sebrell Sr. [7]. Today located a few miles northwest of modern Dendron, Virginia, in the 1780s, this region was known as the Johnchecohunk Precinct. A 1784 census of the precinct shows the John Stiles family consisting of three white people. They lived in one dwelling house but had no other nearby buildings [8].

In 1784 and 1785, John Stiles paid taxes on one white male tithe for himself and on one *"Negro"* under sixteen years of age. Records do not indicate that he ever owned any slaves, and this was probably a young, enslaved person owned by his father-in-law. Beginning in 1786, Stiles only paid taxes on himself [9].

The 400-acre farm owned by John Stiles' father-in-law, Nathaniel Sebrell Sr., lay on the north side of the Blackwater Swamp and adjoined the land of William Rose Sr. [10]. On 16 March 1785, John Stiles joined Sebrell in witnessing the will of William Rose Sr. Sebrell's neighbor, Burwell Sharp, the man who had served as the security on Stiles' 1782 marriage bond, also witnessed Rose's will [11].

While wealthy tobacco plantations with numerous enslaved workers lay checkered across the northern half of Surry County along the south side of the James River, small-to-middling farmers who either owned no slaves or only a few dominated the swath of southern Surry along the north side of the Blackwater Swamp. The latter region lay in the backcountry, and although it had some upland areas perhaps well-suited for tobacco production, much of the region was dominated by rich, heavy, moldy soils typical of fertile lowlands. These soils proved ideal for the cultivation of *"Indian Corn"* (maize), wheat, cotton, and other grains, but not tobacco. Due to the fickle nature of the tobacco market, Indian corn and wheat became important and profitable components of Virginia's agricultural exports during the eighteenth century.

The opening of hostilities between the colonists and Great Britain in 1776 completely disrupted agricultural exports, causing the market to crash. This caused significant economic strain on many Virginia farmers, including Nathaniel Sebrell. He fell into debt, and by 1780, he had

borrowed money from his wealthy father-in-law, Nicholas Faulcon Sr. Even though Faulcon erased Sebrell's debt in his will written 6 January 1781, Sebrell's financial struggles continued [12].

At their 22 March 1785 session, the Surry Court heard arguments in the lawsuit in which Lawrence Smith sued Sebrell and John Stiles Sr. over a replevy bond. The Court issued a judgement against Stiles and Sebrell for £16 17s, agreeing to suspend judgement upon payment of £8 8s 6d plus interest from 26 October 1784 [13]. The Court issued a similar judgement in the case of Sarah Washington vs. Nathaniel Sebrell and his neighbor, Burwell Sharp, ordering Sebrell and Sharp to pay to Washington £142 7s plus court costs. The Court agreed to suspend judgement upon payment by Sebrell and Sharp of £71 3s 6d with interest from 15 September 1784. It is impossible to properly interpret these lawsuits, as the minutes give virtually no details of the specifics of the cases. The court minutes contain no further references to legal action in these cases, so it appears that Stiles and Sebrell paid the judgements [14].

Given that the John Stiles household consisted of three people in 1784, it appears Mary Sebrell Stiles survived the birth of their first child. However, she died by 1788, perhaps in her second childbirth. On 22 July 1788, John Stiles Sr. obtained a bond for his impending marriage to Jane Cooper [15], the daughter of George Cooper and Mary Ellis [16]. Jane appears to have been the youngest child of her parents to survive to adulthood, probably born in the 1760s or perhaps as late as the early 1770s.

Like John Stiles' first wife, in contrast to his own far-off family background in the northeastern British colonies, Jane's ancestral roots in Surry County, Virginia ran deep. Her paternal great-grandfather, James Cooper, arrived there by about 1700, and one of her maternal great-great-great-grandfathers, Edward Ellis, immigrated to Virginia in 1636 and settled in Surry County before 1655. Both of Jane's grandfathers, William Cooper and Caleb Ellis Sr., acquired farms along the Blackwater Swamp that they passed down to their sons, and Jane's only brother, Frederick Cooper, inherited William Cooper's old farm [17].

George Cooper wrote his will on 14 October 1781, and after leaving specific personal property to his wife, Mary, and older daughter, Emelia Cooper Collier, he made this bequest to Jane:

> *I give and bequeath to my Daughter Jane Cooper her Feather Bed and furniture, also the Filly at her Mothers death, & one Dish and Plate. I give her also the side Saddle, the remainder of the Slays and Harness and one Trunk.*

George left his lands and the remainder of his property after his wife's death to his son, Frederick Cooper, requiring that he continue *"maintaining my Daughter Agnes Cooper during her life."* This

suggests that Agnes had either a mental or physical disability. George Cooper probably died in early 1782. Fred Cooper filed his father's will with the Surry County Court on 26 March 1782 [18].

John and Jane Cooper Stiles continued to live on the north side of Blackwater Swamp for two decades after their 1788 marriage. Besides probably raising John's eldest child, John Stiles Jr. (Jack), Jane had two children of her own to survive early childhood, Leroy Stiles, born about 1788/1789, and Mary Elizabeth Stiles, born 11 July 1791 [19].

John and Jane may have continued to live on a portion of Nathaniel Sebrell's farm for a few years, but the farms of Jane's sister, Emelia Cooper Collier, and brother, Fred Cooper, both lay nearby. On 10 September 1792, John Stiles Sr. paid Randolph Jordan £50 *"current money of Virginia"* for a 70-acre tract of land that adjoined the Sebrell farm and the farm of the late John Collier, Emelia's husband and Jane's brother-in-law. Jane's nephew, Benjamin Collier, and Maj. James Kee witnessed the transaction [20].

The available records indicate that John Stiles Sr. did not engage in farming as his primary occupation. Between 1784 and 1805, he owned no cattle or horses, a clear indication that he earned his living by another means [21]. Given that he identified himself to the Surry County Court in 1787 as *"by trade a Shoemaker,"* he probably engaged in that occupation instead of farming. There is no known record of any small village in that vicinity until 1798, and so he may have operated a shoe shop at his house during the 1780s and 1790s [22].

John Stiles Sr. kept a relatively low profile throughout the nearly three decades that he lived in southern Surry County, Virginia near the Blackwater Swamp. He did not seem particularly active in politics, for the surviving voter records for this period show him as casting his vote in only two countywide elections. At the election for Surry County's representative in the Virginia General Assembly held at the *"Surry Court House"* on 23 April 1793, John Stiles joined his father-in-law, Nathaniel Sebrell Sr., and his brother-in-law, Michael Carsley, in casting their votes for Sheriff William Boyce [23]. Carsley was the husband of Elizabeth Sebrell, the sister of Mary Sebrell Stiles.

Neither Stiles nor his father-in-law cast votes in the elections of 1794, 1795, or 1796 [24], but in the countywide election at Surry Court House on 24 April 1798, John Stiles and his brother-in-law, Frederick Cooper, cast their votes for Caufield Seward and Nicholas Sebrell, another brother-in-law of Stiles, to represent Surry County in the General Assembly [25]. He did not vote in any of the later elections, even though Nicholas Sebrell ran for office continually during this period.

Stiles participated in a few other civic activities in his local neighborhood during the 1790s. On 25 November 1794, the Surry County Court ordered that three of John Stiles, brothers Michael and Edmund Carsley, and William Justiss appraise the estate of James Dewell. The court minutes do

not mention Dewell again, and it does not appear that any appraisement of his property was ever submitted to the Court. In 1793, James Dewell only paid taxes on three horses, mares, mules, or colts [26].

On 27 June 1797, the Surry County Court ordered that three of John Stiles, brothers Michael and Edmund Carsley, and John Tillott appraise the estate of Perry Jordan, a recently deceased neighbor. On July 15th, Stiles and the Carsleys appraised Jordan's estate, which they filed with the Surry Court on 27 February 1798 [27].

Later that same year, on 24 October 1797, Maj. James Kee, sitting as one of the justices on the Surry County Court, presented the will of the elderly William Rose Sr. to the Court and qualified as Rose's executor. Rose had written his will a dozen years earlier, but he had only recently died. John Stiles, together with his neighbor, Burwell Sharp, appeared in Court that day to attest that back in 1785, they had witnessed Rose's signature on his will [28]. The Court ordered that three of John Stiles, his brother-in-law, David Sebrell, and their neighbors, Edmund Carsley and John Tillott, appraise Rose's estate [29]. Four days later, on October 28th, John Stiles joined his neighbors, Edmund Carsley and John Tillott, in appraising the estate of William Rose Sr. They returned their appraisement to the Surry Court on 24 July 1798 [30].

As described earlier, tobacco production formed the basis of Virginia's economy during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. In such an agrarian society, laws regulating the distribution of land and protecting its possession held paramount importance to the colonial government. In 1662, the General Assembly passed the first laws requiring land *processioning* by officials in the presence of local residents to verify boundaries, and over the next two centuries, land processioning continued to evolve. The practice of processioning was well grounded in English law going back at least to Elizabethan times. By the early eighteenth century, Virginia required each Anglican parish to divide itself into precincts and conduct land processioning within each precinct every four years. The parish vestry appointed at least two freeholders in each precinct known as *procession masters* to supervise the processions with both the landowners and witnesses present. The parish vestries continued to regulate land processioning until October 1785, when the Anglican Church (the Church of England) was officially disestablished in Virginia. At that point, the county courts assumed the task of ordering land processioning. Virginia governmental officials designed land processioning laws to clarify land boundaries and reduce litigation regarding boundary disputes, although the process did not eliminate them entirely [31].

On Wednesday, 11 April 1804, Miles Burgess and John Velvin, Procession Masters for the Johnchecohunk Precinct, began their work of processioning the boundary lines for the lands in the

precinct. On this day, they walked the boundaries between the lands of Nathaniel Sebrell Sr. and his son, David Sebrell, Emelia Cooper Collier, James Kee, Edwin Rogers, Robert Ellis, Jesse Stewart, John Tillott, and John Watkins. A sizeable group of landowners and witnesses accompanied Burgess and Velvin as they processioned that day, including Nicholas and David Sebrell, Edwin Rogers, Jesse Stewart, and John Stiles. The record fails to clearly indicate if the elder or younger John Stiles went along with the group as a witness. John Stiles Jr. had by now reached the age of twenty, so either father or son could have observed the processioning that day [32].

Although only in his mid-forties, John Stiles' brother-in-law, Frederick Cooper, apparently became ill in early 1805, prompting him to write his will on April 22nd. After making provisions for his wife during her lifetime, Cooper's next bequest was to his nephew, Leroy, son of John Stiles Sr. Cooper wrote, *"I give to Leroy Stiles my gun to him and his heirs forever."* Next, Cooper left the remainder of his property to his only child, Rebecca Cooper, including his lands. However, he added this provision:

> *…but in case she should die without a child I give the whole of my land and plantation to Leroy Stiles.*

Cooper appointed *"my friend David Sebrell"* as his executor. He died during the first few days of December 1805 [33], and David Sebrell filed his will with the Surry Court on 28 January 1806 [34].

David Sebrell conducted a sale of Frederick Cooper's estate on 14 March 1806. His brother, Nicholas Sebrell, bought Cooper's black horse for £21, and John Collier, Jane Cooper Stiles' nephew, paid 16 shillings for Cooper's canoe. David Sebrell himself paid one shilling, two pence for a one gourd full of buckshot. John Stiles Sr. made one small purchase, paying five pence for one *"gun hammer"* [35].

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Maj. James Kee & The New Design

During the 1790s, John and Jane Stiles presumably lived on the 70-acre tract of land he had purchased on 10 September 1792. Their land adjoined the farms of Jane's older sister, Emelia Cooper Collier, the father of Stiles' first wife, Nathaniel Sebrell, and the late William Rose [1]. In 1796, Rose's land was purchased by Maj. James Kee, the son of Nathaniel Sebrell's neighbors, Doiley and Rebecca Kee [2].

James Kee became an influential local official, serving as an officer in the Surry County Militia during the Revolutionary War and in a variety of roles as a local governmental official. As political tensions with Great Britain intensified, James Kee served as a member of the Surry County Safety Committee upon its formation on 5 February 1776 [3]. On 25 March 1777, Surry County Court recommended that the Governor issue a commission to Kee as an ensign in Capt. Lemuel Cocke's Company of the Surry County Militia. A few months later, on August 26th, the Court recommended that James Kee be appointed a lieutenant in Capt. Cocke's Company [4]. The activities of Surry County's militia companies during the conflict are not well documented, so the precise details of Lt. Kee's military service throughout the war are unknown.

In April 1781, Capt. Lemuel Cocke's company activated in response to the threat posed by the British fleet as it sailed past Norfolk into the James River to pillage the region. One solder reported serving for three months under Capt. Cocke, during which time the men

> *…was employed in marching backwards & forwards in the Counties of Surry, Isle of Wight, & Nansemond for the protection of those counties against the depredations of the British fleet which was then in the James River.*

The soldier later enlisted in another Surry County militia company and stated that in September, the men crossed the James River, moving first to Williamsburg and then besieged Yorktown, where Lord Cornwallis had garrisoned his army [5]. Lt. James Kee served under Capt. Cocke throughout the Revolutionary War, so he likely participated in these activities.

On 27 May 1783, the Surry Court promoted Lemuel Cocke to lieutenant colonel of the 71st Battalion Virginia Militia for Surry County and James Kee to captain of his militia company. Kee was recommissioned as a captain on 24 April 1787. On 25 June 1793, the Court commissioned Kee as major of the regiment. He served at the rank of major through September 1794, when he resigned [6].

On 26 November 1776, the Surry Court appointed James Kee as *"Surveyor of the Road"* [7]. In January 1782, the Court recommended him as a Justice of the Peace for Surry County, and upon the Governor's approval, he was commissioned as a justice on May 28th. On July 28th, he was

appointed as a justice on the Surry Chancery Court, and he served as a justice on both the Surry County and Chancery Courts for the next two decades [8]. On 26 August 1783, the Court appointed Kee as Commissioner of the Land Tax. They reappointed him to that role on 28 March 1786, but he resigned that December 26th [9]. Beginning on 25 July 1800, James Kee served two terms as Surry County Sheriff, and on 25 November 1801, he was appointed as Surry County Tax Collector for 1801–1802 [10].

Between 1780 and 1808, Maj. James Kee was the largest landowner in the vicinity of southern Surry County along the Blackwater Swamp, owning 1295 acres of land in 1787, 1547 acres in 1799, and 1635 acres in 1806 [11]. He developed a thriving plantation on his lands, utilizing the labor of the twenty-seven enslaved people he owned in 1787. In addition, his plantation maintained the largest concentration of buildings in southern Surry County and formed something of a small village. In 1784, seventeen white people lived in two dwelling houses at the Kee compound that adjoined Nathaniel Sebrell's farm. Besides the dwellings, Maj. Kee had erected at least eleven other buildings, including one *"School House,"* two detached kitchens, one log barn, one *"Log Quarter,"* three *"Log Cribs,"* one *"Log Hen House,"* one log house *"covered with Cypress Bark,"* and one *"Camp House upon Wheels."* John Stiles' sons were literate, and as they lived next to Maj. Kee, the boys probably attended school at the schoolhouse on the Kee plantation [12].

On 24 November 1795, Virginia's General Assembly authorized Surry County to begin holding court sessions at Robert McIntosh's *"Cross Roads"* as soon as McIntosh could erect a brick courthouse at his own expense [13]. This relocation of the Surry County Courthouse caused a ripple of changes to the southern portion of the county near the home of John and Jane Stiles.

Centered at the mouth of Crouch's Creek several miles inland from the James River, Cross Roads lay at the juncture of the main eighteenth century thoroughfares through the region: the road leading from the northwestern Surry County commercial center of Cabin Point southeastwards towards Isle of Wight County and on towards Hampton and Norfolk, and the road leading from old Cobham on the James River due south towards Sussex and Southampton Counties and on towards North Carolina. McIntosh had operated the tavern at Cross Roads since the 1780s, and the area made a prime location for the new courthouse [14].

On 26 January 1796, Robert McIntosh and Surry's justices agreed upon the general idea for the new courthouse at Cross Roads [15]. On March 23rd, in consideration *"of the friendly respect and attachment which they have for the said county,"* plus the sum of five shillings, Robert McIntosh and his wife gave the Justices of the Surry Court two acres, *"being a part of a tract of land known by the name of the Cross Roads"* [16]. On June 28th, McIntosh agreed to build both the new courthouse and

brick *"Gaol and Prison"* according to the specifications ordered by the justices. Maj. James Kee actively participated in the process, accepting the land from McIntosh for the county and serving as a commissioner to let out bids for the construction of the county buildings at Cross Roads, including letting out bids for *"a Pillory and Stocks to be erected near the Prison and Goal"* [17].

McIntosh completed the new Surry Courthouse by the end of March 1797, and the Surry Court held their first session in the new building *"at the Cross Roads"* on 25 April 1797 [18]. The increased business activity around the courthouse and jail caused a village to form at Cross Roads. The small settlement soon became known as *"Surry Court House,"* causing *"Cross Roads"* to fade as a Surry County geographical landmark within a few years. The village has remained the Surry's county seat until the present day, but by the early 1900s, residents shortened the village name from *"Surry Court House"* to *"Surry."*

Maj. James Kee's plantation some ten or twelve miles southwest of Cross Roads lay about a mile from where the road leading from the Birch Island Bridge to Cabin Point intersected with the road running from Cross Roads south towards Sussex County. Kee undoubtedly anticipated that moving the Surry Courthouse to Cross Roads would result in the development of a village at the county seat. He also must have recognized that establishing the county seat at Cross Roads would significantly increase the traffic on the road from there southward to Sussex County, and that the flat ground at the intersection point with the road leading from Birch Island Bridge across the Blackwater towards Cabin Point would make an ideal location for a public venue for Surry County locals living near him along the north side of the Blackwater Swamp. The land surrounding this intersection was part of that owned by the late William Rose Sr., land that adjoined both John Stiles Sr. and Nathaniel Sebrell.

Undoubtedly with the intent of capitalizing on this desirable location, on 31 August 1796, Maj. James Kee paid £100 *"current money of Virginia"* for the 120-acre tract of land adjoining his plantation that included the intersection of these roads [19]. Over the next eighteen months, he constructed a plantation house and other buildings on his new tract of land, naming it *"The New Design"* [20]. Kee's new plantation adjoined the 70-acre tract of land that John Stiles Sr. had purchased in 1792, formerly owned by Stephen Collier and Henry Jordan, with Stiles' land separating Nathaniel Sebrell's farm from The New Design [21].

At the time, The New Design lay both on the south side of *"Courthouse Road,"* the road leading to Surry Court House (formerly Cross Roads), and the road leading from the Birch Island Bridge across the Blackwater to Cabin Point. It appears that Kee's plantation lay right at the roads' intersection [22]. Today, this location lies to the north of Dripping Springs Road, the modern Surry

County Highway #614 and the northern boundary of Nathaniel Sebrell's plantation. Mid-twentieth century Surry County residents confirmed that locals referred to the intersection of Highways #615 (Carsley Road) and 616 (New Design Road), as *"The New Design."* Today, this location is roughly five miles northwest of the village of Dendron, a logging town formed in 1896 [23].

Soon after constructing his plantation house at The New Design, Maj. James Kee also erected several storehouses on a one-acre lot that adjoined his plantation house. Since we know that John Stiles Sr. owned the adjoining land and worked as a shoemaker, Stiles probably operated his shoe shop in one of the buildings at The New Design [24].

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Tavernkeeper at The New Design

On 24 April 1798, John Stiles Sr. signed a $150 bond to the Commonwealth of Virginia to secure his successful operation of an *"ordinary,"* or tavern, in one of the new buildings at The New Design. Maj. James Kee served as the security on Stiles' bond, which stipulated [1]:

> *…John Stiles hath obtained a license to keep an Ordinary at The New Design on the Lands of Jas Kee in the County of Surry, if therefore the said John Stiles doth constantly find and provide in his said Ordinary, good wholesome & cleanly lodging & diet for travellers* [sic] *& stableage* [sic]*, fodder & provender or pasturage & provender as the season shall require for their horses for and during the term of one year…& shall not suffer or permit any unlawful gaming in his house, nor on the sabath* [sic] *day suffer any person to tipple & drink more than is necessary – then this obligation to be void, otherwise to remain in full force.*

On October 23rd, six months after he officially became The New Design's first tavernkeeper, John and Jane Stiles sold their land to a neighbor, Jesse Stewart. This suggests that they had established permanent residence either in rooms adjoining the tavern or in a nearby house. John Stiles Sr. remained associated with The New Design Tavern for the next eight years [2].

Taverns served a multitude of purposes throughout the colonial and early American periods. As carefully regulated public institutions, they provided a setting where both travelers and the local populace could buy a few drinks, eat, spend the night, and watch entertainment. They served as the venues for political meetings, sessions of the local courts and assemblies, and for local elections. In most rural regions such as southern Surry County, Virginia, taverns often formed the only local meeting place, and thus they served as the scene for countless public and private functions [3].

Early in the eighteenth century, Virginia outlawed *"tippling houses"* or bars, requiring that sellers of intoxicating beverages by the glass also provide accommodations to travelers and their horses. This is evident in the wording of Stiles' 1798 tavern license that required him to provide *"…lodging & diet for travellers* [sic] *& stableage* [sic]*, fodder & provender or pasturage…as the season shall require…"* This mandated melding of liquor retailers with innkeepers evolved during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries as the moralistic philosophy of Puritan governments in both England and the colonies moved towards government-legislated morality [4].

In this era that pre-dated prohibition movements, taverns served a variety of distilled spirits, although rum, a liquor unique to British North America, formed the drink of choice throughout the Colonial and Early American periods [5]. The Surry County Court dictated the prices tavernkeepers charged on the common types of alcoholic drinks they provided. For the year 1798, the top-quality beverages included *"Good West India Rum,"* which cost £1 per gallon, Madeira wine,

a fortified wine made on Portugal's Madeira Islands off the African coast that sold for six shillings per quart, and *"Good Virginia Brandy,"* which sold for ten shillings per gallon. For mixed drinks, taverns sold a quart of *"toddy made of good rum and white sugar"* for two shillings, whereas one made with regular rum, including *"Continental Rum"* and tafia rum, cost only one shilling. A bottle of either *"strong beer"* or porter (a 1700s dark beer popular in London) cost two shillings, six pence, with a small bottle of cider or beer selling for only nine pence. The cheapest alcoholic drinks sold at Surry taverns went for four pence, including either unbottled cider or beer [6].

On particularly cold winter mornings, taverns along the mid-Atlantic east coast customarily served travelers *"a hearty draught"* of eggnog to fortify them against the severe weather. This eggnog was made with *"new milk"* beat together with eggs, rum, and sugar [7].

Ordinaries served three meals per day to both hungry locals and travelers, and in 1798, The New Design Tavern charged two shillings for breakfast and supper and two shillings, six pence for dinner, the midday meal [8]. Since the Stiles family lived at The New Design, we can expect that Jane Cooper Stiles oversaw the preparation of meals for the tavern's patrons.

Although no known first-hand accounts describing conditions at The New Design Tavern exist, in May 1797, Irishman Isaac Weld Jr. visited several taverns in nearby Nansemond County, writing that, *"The accommodation at the taverns along this road I found most wretched."* The New Design Tavern opened the year after Weld's journey through southeastern Virginia, and its accommodations would have been comparable to what he experienced in the taverns of rural Nansemond County, located just south of Surry.

Weld complained bitterly of the tavern fare he was served, writing,

> *nothing was to be had but rancid fish, fat salt pork, and bread made of Indian corn. For this indifferent fare also I had to wait oftentimes an hour or two.*

His European tastes had clearly not fully adapted to the ubiquitous use of corn, then termed *"Indian corn,"* in southeastern Virginia. However, he did admit that,

> *Indian corn bread, if well made, is tolerably good, but very few people can relish it on the first trial; it is a coarse, strong kind of bread, which has something of the taste of that made from oats. The best way of preparing it is in cakes; the large loaves made of it are always like dough in the middle.*

Writing for a European audience, Weld also commented about another common Southern dish made with corn and served in the rural taverns across the region that stood out to him [9]:

> *There is a dish also which they make of Indian corn, very common in Virginia and Maryland, called "hominy." It consists of pounded Indian corn and beans boiled together with milk till the whole mass becomes firm. This is eat* [sic]*, either hot or cold, with bacon, or with other meat.*

Taverns also served as inns, providing nightly accommodation for visitors traveling through the region as well as their horses. Guests in need of lodging at The New Design Tavern paid one shilling per night for themselves, while either pasturage or *"stableage"* for their horses cost six pence. Fodder for horses cost only 1½ pence, but those able to afford higher-qualify feed for their animals could pay six pence for a gallon of oats and bran, or splurge on a gallon of Indian corn for one shilling [10]. When Stiles became the tavernkeeper at The New Design, he had two young sons, Jack, about fourteen, and Leroy, about nine. The boys undoubtedly helped to care for the horses of the tavern customers and performed other chores at their father's tavern.

On his journey from Norfolk to Richmond, Virginia in May 1797, Isaac Weld commented on the provisions the Nansemond County rural taverns offered to his horses, writing, *"As for my horses, they were almost starved."* Europeans typically stored hay for their animals during the winter months, whereas Southerners cut fodder, the leaves and stalks of corn plants, to feed their animals. Weld complained [11]:

> *Hay is scarcely ever made use of in this part of this part of the country, but in place of it they feed their cattle upon fodder, that is, the leaves of the Indian corn plant. Not a bit of fodder, however, was to be had on the whole road from Norfolk to Richmond, excepting at two places; and the season having been remarkably dry, the little grass that had sprung up had been eat down every where by the cattle in the country. Oats were not to be had on any terms; and Indian corn was so scarce, that I had to send to one or two different houses before I could get even sufficient to give one feed each to my horses. The people in the country endeavoured to account for this scarcity from the badness of the harvest the preceding year; but the fact, I believe was, that corn for exportation having been in great demand, and a most enormous price offered for it, the people had been tempted to dispose of a great deal more than they could well spare…so that they were all reduced to want.*

Located at the intersection of roads leading to the county's two important villages, Cabin Point and Surry Court House, The New Design Tavern quickly became a regional landmark and the primary public gathering place for locals living along the north side of the Blackwater Swamp in southern Surry County. On 26 August 1800, Jesse Stewart, the man who bought John Stiles' 70 acres of land in 1798, and another local complained to a Surry County grand jury about the condition of *"the road leading from the new design to Mrs. Pettways."* In response, the grand jury ordered that the clerk issue a summons to the road surveyor, ordering him to appear before the Court *"for not keeping the same in good repair"* [12].

The tavern and storehouses that Maj. Kee built on the one-acre lot gradually became the site of a small village, with increased commercial activity over the decade following its 1797 construction [13]. In the early 1800s, that portion of southern Surry County fell into the Birth Island Precinct,

and within a few years of its opening, the Surry County Court began ordering elections for local county offices held at The New Design Tavern [14].

In 1799 and 1800, John Stiles Sr. renewed his *"license to keep an ordinary at The New Design,"* with Maj. James Kee serving as Stiles' security on his bond for both years [15]. In 1801 and 1802, Benjamin Cocke obtained the tavern license at The New Design, with Maj. Kee's son, Thomas Kee, serving as Cocke's security [16]. A Surry County native, Cocke served in the Virginia Militia in 1780–1781 during the Revolutionary War, seeing action at the Battles of Petersburg and Siege of Yorktown. He had also established residence at The New Design, and in 1803, the Surry County Court appointed Cocke as a constable [17].

We have no indication why Cocke obtained the ordinary license for The New Design Tavern in 1801 and 1802 instead of John Stiles, but Stiles remained affiliated with the tavern during the two-year period when Cocke held the ordinary license. On Saturday, 15 May 1802, Lt. Peter Jemm, a local merchant and Surry Militia officer, became drunk at The New Design Tavern. In his inebriated state, Jemm apparently became angry and pulled his pistol on Stiles. Local officials arrested Jemm, and a grand jury indicted him, but when the case came to trial on August 24th, the Surry Court dismissed the charges. Incidentally, Jemm died the following year, although the circumstances of his early demise are unknown [18].

Between 1803 and 1806, John Stiles Sr. again held the ordinary license for The New Design Tavern in his own name, which granted him the authority to *"keep an ordinary at the House of James Kee, at his Plantation called New Design"* [19]. Stiles continued to face occasional problems with drunkenness. On Thursday, 12 May 1803, several local residents gathered at The New Design, including William Hicks and Nathaniel Thompson. Both men apparently overconsumed alcoholic drinks, and while under the influence, they behaved in a manner that attracted attention of other patrons. Their actions led to a grand jury investigation, and on May 24th, they indicted Hicks *"for being drunk at the New Design"* and Thompson *"for prophane* [sic] *swearing at the New Design."* When the Surry Court heard their cases on August 23rd, Thompson appeared before the Court, pleaded guilty, and paid his fine of 83¢. Hicks pleaded not guilty and hired an attorney to argue his case, but the Court convicted him, assessing Hicks a fine of 83¢ plus court costs [20].

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Gaming Crackdown in Surry

Early in the eighteenth century, the Puritan influence spread throughout Virginia society, resulting in a moralistic trend prompting local politicians to discourage *"gaming,"* or gambling, on cards, billiards, and other games. Legislation restricting gaming began in 1705, when Virginia General Assembly forbid any gaming on Sundays. Additional gambling legislation passed in the 1740s required tavernkeepers to prevent games of cards or dice in their taverns, regardless of whether the games involved gambling. Those laws exempted certain games from the ban, including backgammon, billiards, bowls, chess, and checkers.

Virginia's antigaming legislation of the eighteenth century was vague and unevenly enforced, with travelers between 1777 and 1800 reporting widespread betting on card and billiard games, as well as cockfights, throughout the Commonwealth. Many leading citizens openly defied antigaming laws, including influential political officials, well-known planters, and clergymen [1].

In May 1797, Irishman Isaac Weld Jr. found gambling prevalent in the taverns along the roads between Norfolk and Richmond, Virginia, a short distance south of Surry County. He wrote, *"I had scarcely alighted from my horse at the tavern"* in Richmond, *"when the landlord came to ask what game I was most partial to."* The establishment had separate rooms for farobanks, a French card game commonly used in gambling before poker became popular, hazard tables, and billiard tables, and the tavernkeeper eagerly awaited Weld's preference before directing him to his room of choice. Weld wrote that,

> *Not the smallest secrecy is employed in keeping these tables; they are always crowded with people, and the doors of the apartment are only shut to prevent the rabble from coming in.*

Weld reported that throughout eastern Virginia, there was,

> *…scarcely a petty tavern without a billiard room…always full of a set of idle low-lived fellows, drinking spirits or playing cards, if not engaged at the table.*

He found cockfighting was a favorite diversion among *"the lower class of people that partake of these amusements at the taverns."* Weld complained that having taverns *"thus invested by such a set of people renders travelling extremely unpleasant."* Many times, he said that he traveled farther in a day than he had planned, just *"to avoid the scenes of rioting and quarrelling that I have met with at the taverns,"* which were *"impossible to escape as long as you remain in the same house where they are carried on"* [2].

The antigaming legislation left considerable ambiguity regarding the legality of most popular games, including billiard tables. Although specifically permitted by the 1744 law, a 1779 antigaming law prohibited *"cards, dice, billiards"* in any tavern operating in Virginia. County courts

openly violated this law by licensing billiard tables, and newspapers regularly published advertisements for taverns offering billiard stables to the public [3]. Clearly, the public routinely ignored the antigaming legislation with impunity.

During most of the 1790s, Surry County had only two taverns that operated near the two official tobacco inspection stations at Cabin Point and Cross Roads, which as described earlier, became known as Surry Court House soon after completion of the county's new courthouse there in April 1797. Richard Shackleford moved to Cabin Point in the early 1790s and soon began operating a tavern there [4]. In August 1795, Tax Commissioner John Cocke reported to the grand jury that Shackleford had failed to secure a license for his billiard table. The grand jury indicted Shackleford on August 25th, not for allowing the use of a billiard table in a tavern, but for failing to properly license it. A year later, the Court determined that the Grand Jury that indicted Shackleford had acted illegally, and they dismissed the charges against him [5].

On 19 January 1798, the Virginia General Assembly passed a strict anti-gambling law that made all billiard tables *"liable to be seized and publicly burnt or destroyed."* Moreover, the law gave any citizen the right to file a lawsuit against a tavernkeeper for allowing unlawful gaming, and, if convicted, the law subjected the tavernkeeper to a $150 fine. It also empowered county justices to enforce the new law *"for the purpose of suppressing gaming,"* and to constantly recite the act in the charge issued to every grand jury. Over the new few years, certain county courts periodically became preoccupied with enforcing these gaming laws [6].

Gaming remained a political issue across Virginia for the next few years. A certain segment of the population viewed the antigaming laws as oppressive, and when the Courts ruled some of the antigaming legislation unconstitutional, they created further ambiguity and confusion. By early 1806, the Commonwealth's leading newspaper, Richmond's *"The Enquirer,"* pointed out the ineffectiveness of the previous century of antigaming legislation. They urged the legislature to either tolerate gaming and make it a revenue source, or else pass laws stringent enough to entirely suppress it. Their article generated greater public interest, with some declaring gaming *"a vice and deserves punishment,"* whereas others urged that the General Assembly replace the existing inadequate laws with a heavy tax [7].

Prior to 1806, the Virginia General Assembly's attempts to eliminate gaming in the Commonwealth largely remained an issue outside Surry County, with no cases of unlawful gaming appearing on the local court dockets. Something prompted a crackdown in Surry that year, although precisely who or what is unclear. The ongoing discussions regarding the antigaming laws may have led a local government official or overzealous citizen to instigate an investigation. The

gambling crackdown began in late 1806 and involved the keepers of all three ordinaries then operating in Surry County: the taverns at Surry Court House, Cabin Point, and The New Design.

On Tuesday, 25 November 1806, based upon evidence submitted by William Randolph Jr. and John Justiss, a Surry County grand jury indicted John Stiles Sr. *"for suffering of unlawful gaming in his Tavern at the New Design on the night of the 19th."* They also indicated Constable Benjamin Cocke *"for unlawful Gaming at the New Design on the 19th."* One of the justices serving on the Surry Court that day was Stiles' brother-in-law, Nicholas Sebrell, brother of Stiles' first wife, Mary Sebrell. In addition to serving as a Surry justice of the peace, Sebrell also served in the Virginia General Assembly, representing Surry County citizens in the House of Delegates. The Surry County Court ordered the sheriff to summon John Stiles and Benjamin Cocke to appear the following Thursday, forty-eight hours later, to answer the charges.

The deputy assigned to deliver the summons to Cocke was unable to locate him, but he served the summons to John Stiles, who promptly secured the services of an attorney and appeared before the Surry Court on Thursday, November 27th. Stiles insisted that he was not guilty of the charges, while the attorney for the Commonwealth assured the Court that he had proof of Stiles' guilt. The Court ordered the case continued until the next court session.

After responding to the charge against him, John Stiles remained in the courthouse to serve as a juror in the case of Lightfoot vs. Cocke. John Justiss, one of the men who provided evidence to the grand jury that Stiles had allowed gambling in his tavern, served on the jury with him.

Later that same day, John Stiles reappeared before the Surry Court and testified that on November 19th, Richard Shackleford, the tavernkeeper at Cabin Point Tavern, German Ellis, Constable Benjamin Cocke, John Putney, John Justiss, William Mooring, and George Birdsong had engaged in *"Gambling in his Tavern, at the New Design."* Based upon Stiles' deposition, the Court filed gambling charges against each of them, and it issued summons ordering them to appear at the next court session to answer the charges [8].

John Stiles Sr.'s strong denial of the charges filed against him, his hiring an attorney to help fight them, and the information he provided to the Surry Court suggest that he had knowledge of gambling activities on the night of 19 November 1806 while he was not present. Regardless, as tavernkeeper, Stiles was responsible for events at his tavern anytime it was open, and the pending charges against him prevented his continued service as tavernkeeper. The Court did not consider the case against Stiles for another nine months, and yet Maj. James Kee needed business at his tavern to continue. On 24 February 1807, William M. Davis obtained a license from the Surry County Court allowing him *"to keep an ordinary at The New Design"* for the next year. Thus,

regardless of the legal outcome of the case against him, the gambling charges against him effectively ended the service of John Stiles Sr. as tavernkeeper at The New Design [9].

Several months after the grand jury had issued indictments for gaming at The New Design on that November evening in 1806, a different grand jury concluded their investigation into gaming at the Surry Court House Ordinary. On Tuesday, 24 March 1807, it issued indictments against the tavernkeeper, David Price, *"for suffering unlawful gaming in his house on or about"* 5 November 1806. They also indicted John Godwin of Nansemond County *"for keeping a Faro Bank at David Prices Tavern, and gaming at the same"* on the same day. Along with the charges against Godwin, the grand jury issued indictments against ten men from neighboring Isle of Wight County for *"gaming at Surry Court House in company with John Godwin"* that day. Stiles' brother-in-law, Nicholas Sebrell, sat on the court along with three other justices the day these indictments were issued [10].

The next day, March 25th, John Stiles and the others involved in the charges related to The New Design, including Constable Benjamin Cocke, appeared before the Court. With Nicholas Sebrell sitting as a justice that day, the Court ordered all cases continued until the next court session, without any of them entering a plea [11].

On 26 May 1807, the court session began without Nicholas Sebrell as justice, and after hearing three other cases, the Court postponed consideration of the charges against John Stiles until the next session. Nicholas Sebrell then came into Court and took his seat on the bench as justice while David Price and John Godwin came before the Court and entered pleas of not guilty. The Court continued the cases against them until the next day.

The Court next heard arguments in the case against Constable Benjamin Cocke. He entered a plea of not guilty, and the Court then impaneled a jury. Three men selected to serve on the jury had close ties to John Stiles, including David Sebrell, his brother-in-law, John Collier, Jane Cooper Stiles' nephew, and Jesse Carsley, a brother of Stiles' brother-in-law, Michael Carsley. After deliberations, the jury returned their verdict: *"We of the Jury find Benjamin Cocke guilty of Gambling, but not to* [a] *considerable amount."* The Court fined Cocke $100 plus costs [12].

Later that same day, May 26th, the Surry Court dealt with seven additional gambling cases, as six of the men from Isle of Wight County charged with gambling at David Price's Surry Court House Tavern on the previous November 5th appeared in court and entered pleas of not guilty. Just before the Court adjourned that day, Richard Shackleford, the tavernkeeper at Cabin Point and man that John Stiles reported for gambling at The New Design the night of November 19th, came into Court and entered a plea of not guilty [13].

The next day, May 27th, the Court spent considerable time on the gambling cases. First, the remaining four men from Isle of Wight County charged with gambling at Surry Court House appeared before the Court to enter their pleas of not guilty [14]. Next, Richard Shackleford appeared with four of the other men John Stiles charged with gambling at The New Design: John Putney, John Justiss, William Mooring, and George Birdsong. The Court again postponed Shackleford's case, but upon Putney's plea of not guilty, the Court impaneled a jury. After hearing arguments, the Commonwealth's attorney filed a *"nolle proseque"* in the case. The Court accepted the Commonwealth's petition and thus dismissed the charges against Putney. They postponed the cases against Justiss and Birdsong, but William Mooring's attorney claimed he was arrested illegally. The Court ruled against this and fined him $30 plus costs of $11.85 for this action, leaving the gambling charges pending [15].

On 25 August 1807, the Surry Court finally acted on the gambling charges against John Stiles that had lingered for nine months. With his brother-in-law, Nicholas Sebrell, sitting as a justice on the court that day, the court minutes merely recorded, *"For reasons appearing to the court,"* in the case of the Commonwealth vs. John Stiles on charges of gambling, *"this cause is dismissed."* Although the Court dismissed the charges against him for allowing gaming in the tavern, the mere accusation had a significant effect upon Stiles' life. In addition to terminating Stiles' nearly nine years of service as tavernkeeper at The New Design, the charges also appear to have prompted his emigration from Surry County, Virginia a few years later [16].

Legal wrangling over the gaming charges at The New Design and Surry Court House Taverns continued to clog the Surry Court docket for the next three years. After dismissing the case against Stiles on 25 August 1807, the Surry Court again postponed the pending cases against the others charged with gambling at The New Design [17]. Next, they postponed the case against David Price for permitting gambling at the Surry Court House Tavern located in his house, followed by a new grand jury report. The grand jury indicted Price *"for keeping a house of public entertainment, and selling mixed liquors without a license, contrary to the Act of* [the Virginia General] *Assembly"* [18]. The grand jury acted on a technicality, as Price's ordinary license to operate a tavern at his house in the village of Surry Court House had expired on 23 April 1807 [19]. The pending gambling charges prevented both him and Richard Shackleford from renewing their ordinary licenses, and Price had continued operation of his tavern near the courthouse without a license, prompting the grand jury indictment.

The next day, August 26th, the Court dismissed the indictment of Price for operating an ordinary without a license *"for good reasons,"* and they then renewed his ordinary license, making

it valid back to the previous April. This absolved Price of any legal issues associated with his continual operation of the Surry Court House Tavern, despite the pending legal charges against him for allowing gambling [20].

The Surry Court continued to delay consideration of the cases against those charged in the November 1806 crackdown on gaming at The New Design and Surry Court House Taverns. On 25 November 1807, the Court ordered another postponement, including that against Cabin Point tavernkeeper Richard Shackleford. As in Price's case, Shackleford's ordinary license had expired at the end of April 1807, and due to the pending gambling charges, the Court did not renew it. He had apparently continued operation of the Cabin Point Tavern without a license, and on 23 February 1808, the Surry Court renewed his license, making it valid back to April 1st, 1807. Benjamin Cocke, the man convicted of gambling at The New Design, served as Shackleford's security on his bond [21].

The charges for gaming at The New Design on the night of 19 November 1806 lingered for three years. On 23 August 1808, the Surry Court dismissed the cases against Richard Shackleford, German Ellis, William Mooring, and George Birdsong [22]. The final case was against John Justiss, one of the men who initially provided evidence to the grand jury that John Stiles had allowed gambling at The New Design. For an unexplained reason, his case did not come before the Surry Court until 28 March 1809, when they dismissed the charges against him for *"Information"* [23].

Like the charges against those accused of gambling at The New Design, the charges stemming from gambling sting at Surry Court House dragged on for several years. On 25 August 1807, the Surry Court continued the case against one of the Isle of Wight County men accused of gambling, Henry Harrison, but in the case against Francis Wrenn, a jury convicted him of gambling and assessed a fine of $20 plus $23.43 in court costs. Wrenn could not pay the fine, and so he was imprisoned in the county's jail [24]. The next day, the Court held jury trials for the gambling charges against three more of the Isle of Wight men: Joseph Jones, Joakim McKeil, and John Goodson. Three separate juries all returned verdicts of not guilty. The Court then postponed the cases against four more of the Isle of Wight men [25].

On 25 November 1807, the Court again postponed the remaining cases, and at the 25 May 1808 court session, they only considered the case against Thomas Hardy of Isle of Wight County. After impaneling a jury and hearing arguments, the jury returned a verdict of not guilty [26]. At the next session held on 23 August 1808, the court postponed the remaining cases, and these cases did not appear on the court docket again until 24 May 1809, when the court again postponed their consideration [27].

The Surry Court did not resolve the case against Surry Court House tavernkeeper David Price until 22 May 1810, when they finally heard the evidence presented by the Commonwealth's attorney against Price. Upon consideration, the Court dismissed the charges. Next, they continued the gambling cases against John Godwin, Henry Harrison, and George Brassel until the following day, and then impaneled three juries to hear the cases of Charles Wrenn, John Derring, and Robert T. Fulgham. The juries found Wrenn and Derring not guilty, but Fulgham's jury found him guilty and fined him $20 plus court costs of $27.65. Finally, the Court continued the case against Henry Harrison until the following day, but on the sessions of May 23rd and 24th, the Court death with other business [28].

The three remaining cases of the Surry Court House gambling sting had now lingered on the court docket for nearly four years, yet at their session of 29 August 1810, the Surry Court again ordered a postponement of the cases against John Godwin, Henry Harrison, and George Brassel [29]. At the next court session on 27 November 1810, the Court postponed Godwin's case until the next day, when they impaneled a jury and heard arguments presented by the Commonwealth's attorney. The jury found Godwin guilty of keeping a farobank at David Price's tavern. The Court fined Godwin $100 plus costs. He was unable to pay the fine, and so he was imprisoned [30].

The Court heard arguments in the final two gambling cases at their session of 26 March 1811. The Surry Court first impaneled a jury that included John Stiles' brother-in-law, David Sebrell, and their neighbor, John Watkins. After hearing arguments in the cases against both Henry Harrison and George Brassel, the jury found them guilty and fined them $20 each plus costs [31].

This last court action finally concluded the antigaming vendetta against Surry County's three tavernkeepers that began in November 1806. This crackdown saga appears to have accomplished little. Both Richard Shackleford and David Price owned their taverns and soon renewed their ordinary licenses and resumed normal operations. However, as an employee at The New Design, the charges permanently derailed John Stiles' career as tavernkeeper there. By the time the court finally wrapped up the criminal charges stemming from the gaming issues, Stiles had already emigrated from Surry County, Virginia.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Aftermath of the Antigaming Vendetta

Much changed at The New Design in the year after the 1806 Surry County gambling fiasco. William M. Davis, the man who obtained the ordinary license there after officials filed charges against Stiles for allowing gambling, only served as tavernkeeper for one year. On 23 February 1808, the Surry County Court issued the ordinary license for The New Design Tavern to Thomas Bailey Jr., and he renewed it each year through 1818 [1]. Bailey was Maj. Kee's son-in-law, having married Kee's daughter, Elizabeth, in December 1806 [2]. On 27 October 1807, Maj. Kee gave Elizabeth and Thomas Bailey 183 acres of land surrounding The New Design [3], and on 26 December 1808, for £200, Kee and his wife sold Bailey the 130-acre tract consisting of The New Design [4]. Kee then retired to an adjoining tract of his land with his wife, Jane Bailey Kee, leaving his son-in-law in charge of all affairs at The New Design [5].

By early 1812, it appears that Maj. James Kee's health declined, prompting him to write his will on February 1st. Although he had previously sold The New Design to his son-in-law, he apparently feared that his other heirs might question his remaining property there, specifically the tavern furnishings. This prompted Kee to include this specific provision in his will:

> *To prevent any disputes that might arise concerning property in the possession of my son in law Thomas Bailey, I desire that the beds and other things he has may remain his property.*

After finalizing his will, Maj. Kee remained concerned about his affairs after his demise, prompting him to add this codicil to his will on April 27th:

> *The store houses at the New Design and one acre lot, I give to Thomas Bailey Junr…hoping he will attend to the affairs of* [my] *loving wife in a friendly manner.*

Maj. Kee died a few months later, with his will filed in Court on August 25th [6].

By this time, The New Design had become southern Surry County's primary public venue, the site of elections, militia musters, and commercial activity, all centered at the tavern. Richmond newspaper advertisements referred to tracts of Surry County land for sale as lying on *"the public roads leading from Surry Courthouse to Cabin Point and the New Design"* [7]. The New Design evolved into the local political district, joining Surry Court House, Walls Bridge, and Cabin Point as Surry's political subdivisions [8]. By the 1840s when militia records begin, the local militia unit was the *"New Design Company,"* and the entire Surry County Militia Regiment regularly held general musters at The New Design [9]. The New Design remained the primary local gathering place for southern Surry until the latter 1800s, when the explosive growth of the logging industry led to the formation of the village of Dendron [10].

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

From the Surry Side Onward to North Carolina & Tennessee

After paying taxes on both his own white male tithe and that of his eldest son, Jack Stiles, for the three-year period 1803–1805, in 1806, John Stiles Sr. only paid taxes on himself and one horse or mule. This is the first time since his arrival in Surry County that Stiles paid taxes on a horse, perhaps giving an indication that he had begun growing a few crops. It appears that Jack had moved out of his father's house in late 1805 or early 1806, and thereafter lived with his grandfather, Nathaniel Sebrell Sr.

John Stiles Sr. did not pay 1807 Surry County personal property taxes as he had for the previous twenty-three years. It is unclear if this were merely an omission, or if he moved elsewhere after he ceased serving as tavernkeeper at The New Design in late 1806 [1]. In 1809, he paid taxes on two male tithes, presumably himself and his younger son, Leroy, and again on one horse or mule. Leroy married soon after obtaining a marriage bond on 17 April 1809, and in 1810, John Stiles Sr. paid taxes only on his own male tithe and one horse or mule, while Leroy paid his own tithe [2].

In 1810, Stiles' brother-in-law, David Sebrell, served as Assistant Marshal to Virginia's Marshal of the Federal Census. When Sebrell prepared the 1810 enumeration of Surry County, he included the household of *"John Stiles Senr."* Sebrell alphabetized the names on the census, preventing us from knowing Stiles' neighbors. The Stiles household included an older couple both aged forty-five or older, presumably Jane and John. It also included four younger people:

one male 16–26	one female 26–45
one male under 10	one female 16–26

The young male adult is presumably Leroy Stiles, while the two younger females are presumably his new wife, Anna, and his sister, Mary Elizabeth Stiles. The young male child is unidentified, but he is perhaps an infant son of Leroy and Anna's who died young. John's older son, Jack, still single, is probably one of the young adult males enumerated in his grandfather's household [3].

John Stiles Sr. left Surry County, Virginia soon after the census enumeration, as he did not pay taxes in Surry after 1810. John's elder son, Jack, remained in Surry County for another dozen years after his father's departure, apparently living with his elderly maternal grandfather, Nathaniel Sebrell, between 1806 and his marriage in 1812. Leroy Stiles performed militia duty in June 1810, patrolling for thirty-six hours along with his mother's first cousin, John Velvin, and neighbor, Edwin Rogers. The Surry Court paid each of Stiles, Velvin, and Rogers $2.25 for their services [4]. On 15 March 1811, Leroy Stiles paid his 1811 Surry County personal property taxes on his own white male tithe and one horse or mule [5]. This is the last known record of Leroy in Surry County, and it appears that soon after paying his 1811 taxes, he and Anna emigrated.

When John Stiles Sr. left Surry County in late 1810 or early 1811, he presumably moved to Wayne County, North Carolina. By early 1812, John and Jane lived on or near the plantation of Richard McKinne, a member of a relatively wealthy family who had settled in Wayne by the 1780s. Richard McKinne Sr. had written his will on 3 January 1800 and died by the following April. He owned multiple tracts of land, and it is unclear if the Stiles lived on his old plantation or on that of his son, Richard McKinne Jr. [6].

In early May 1812, someone informed Probert Collier, a local Justice of the Peace, that *"an infant child of couller"* had been left at Richard McKinne's plantation. The baby subsequently died, supposedly *"in consequence of ill treatment of some persons unknown."* On May 5th, Collier ordered the Wayne County Coroner to summon a jury of inquest to determine the cause of the infant's death. Collier issued a summons to John Stiles and two women to present testimony before the jury [7].

Leroy Stiles and his family either followed or moved with his parents to Wayne County, North Carolina after leaving Surry in late 1811 or early 1812, settling with them on the plantation of Richard McKinne. On 16 September 1812, Leroy attended the estate sale of Richard McKinne Sr. His executors sold a wide variety of McKinnie's personal property, including books, farm utensils, kitchenware, household furniture, a silver watch purchased by McKinne's son, Robert, *"1 negro boy"* purchased for £41 5s, as well as livestock that included horses, cows, sheep, geese, ducks, and turkeys. Leroy Stiles paid one shilling, 6 pence for *"1 Raw Cow Hide"* [8]. This purchase verifies that Leroy probably moved to Wayne County immediately after leaving Surry, and it corroborates the birthplace of his eldest son to reach adulthood, Henry P. Stiles, who reported his birth about 1814 in North Carolina [9].

On 9 November 1816, Leroy attended the estate sale of William Boykin, a wealthy man who owned twenty-four enslaved people in 1810. Stiles paid $8.18 for two barrels of corn at Boykin's estate sale. Richard and William McKinne made several purchases of livestock and farm tools, while Richard McKinne rented one of Boykin's enslaved young men for $28.00 [10]. The next year, on 22 September 1817, Leroy Stiles witnessed the signature of J. Handly on a note to Phillip Hooks, a Wayne County justice of the peace who had served as the assistant marshal who enumerated the 1810 Wayne County federal census. Handly acknowledged receipt of $1933.00 from John McKinne in full of a recent court judgement [11].

Several years later, on 15 November 1819, Leroy Stiles witnessed a transaction in which Robert G. Green mortgaged a 1000-acre tract of land on the Neuse River and seven slaves to Jesse Slocumb for $10,000 to guarantee Green's payment of a significant debt. Slocumb was a United

States Congressman, elected in August 1817 to represent the New Bern District in the House of Representatives as a member of the Federalist Party. At the February 1820 session of the Wayne County Court, Leroy Stiles appeared to attest that he had witnessed the transaction between Green and Slocumb [12].

By 1820, John Stiles Sr. had settled on a 130-acre tract of land in Wayne County owned by William McKinne Sr. and known as the *"Foly plantation {now Stiles place},"* which McKinne described as *"the plantation where John Stiles now lives."* It adjoined the land of the late Richard McKinne, James Bradbury, and Joseph Everett [13].

The 1820 enumeration of John Stiles' household on the federal census of Wayne County reflects what appears to be the combined families of John and Jane Stiles, and of Leroy, his wife, Anna, and their children:

one male 45 and over	one female 45 and over	two females under 10
one male 26–45	one female 26–45	none engaged in agriculture
one male under 10	one female 16–26	one engaged in commerce

This matches the 1810 family composition of John Stiles Sr. in Surry County, Virginia: an older couple, John and Jane Stiles, a younger couple, presumably Leroy and Anna Stiles, a young adult female, presumably Mary Elizabeth Stiles, and three children under ten, including a male the age of six-year-old Henry P. Stiles, Leroy and Anna's eldest known son. The lack of anyone in the household engaging in agriculture while one person engaged in commerce conforms with what we know of John Stiles: he did not earn his living by farming but worked as a shoemaker [14].

By late 1820, although only forty years of age, Rep. Jesse Slocumb experienced declining health while in his second term in the U. S. Congress. He wrote his will on November 20th, and in late December, he travelled to Washington, D.C. on official business. Slocumb became severely ill shortly after his arrival in Washington, and he died on December 20th of *"pleurisy"* [15].

Slocumb had extensive land holdings near the McKinne plantation where the Stiles lived. Beginning in mid-1821, Slocumb's executors sold his perishable property, and Leroy Stiles paid $90.60 on 13 September 1821 for fifteen *"Head Beef Cattle."* On 20 January 1822, Slocumb's executors reported additional payments to the Jesse Slocumb Estate by Leroy Stiles of $46.60 and $5.00. They did not record the purpose of those payments, but it appears that Stiles purchased additional items for these amounts at another estate sale held on that date [16].

Within a few years after January 1822, John Stiles Sr. and his two sons, Jack and Leroy Stiles, all moved their families to Tennessee, although we have no evidence to indicate precisely when they made the journey to the Volunteer State. While John Stiles Sr. and Leroy moved to Wayne

County, North Carolina shortly after 1810, Jack and his wife, Rebecca Cooper, the niece of Jane Cooper Stiles, remained in Surry County, Virginia for another dozen years. In preparation for leaving Surry, on 10 March 1824, Jack and Becca leased the land she inherited from her father for ten years to her first cousin, Edwin Rogers [17]. Jack and Becca had settled in Tennessee by about 1826, for their son, George Thomas Stiles, reported his birth there that year [18].

Family records indicate that John Stiles Sr. had also settled in Tennessee by 1826, for his only daughter to survive to adulthood, Mary Elizabeth Stiles, reportedly married on 23 November 1826 to Benjamin Nevill, a longtime resident of Franklin County, Tennessee [19]. Franklin County's earliest records do not exist, and the only known pre-1830 record documenting Leroy's residence in Tennessee is the birth of his daughter, Margaret, on 13 February 1829, although he probably arrived with his parents and brother several years earlier [20]. By 1830, John Stiles Sr. and his two sons all lived in Franklin County, Tennessee. The federal census there shows John Stiles Sr. living five households away from his son, John Stiles Jr. (Jack), with Leroy Stiles living nearby [21].

We know little about the lives of the extended John Stiles Sr. family after they arrived in Tennessee. There is no record that the Stiles owned any land in Tennessee, and they probably lived on and helped to cultivate land owned by Mary Elizabeth Stiles' husband, Benjamin Nevill. The Franklin County Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions met for their regular session at the courthouse in Winchester on 26 November 1832. Among the ordinances passed that day:

> *Ordered by the Court that John Stiles be appointed Overseer of the road of the second class it being that part of the road that Willis Kelly was formerly Overseer of and that he keep the same in good repair according to law & that he have the same hands that worked under the former Overseer.*

The court minutes give no indication if the overseer they appointed were John Stiles Sr. or Jr., but the elder man was then in his early seventies, generally well beyond the typical age of a road overseer. The man appointed overseer is probably the younger man, Jack, or John Stiles Jr. No further mention of Stiles in the court minutes has been found [22].

In 1836, part of Franklin was combined with portions of Bedford and Warren Counties to form Coffee County. Benjamin Nevill's land lay in the portion of Franklin that became Coffee, and he died there on 28 February 1838 [23]. In 1840, the household of the widowed Mary E. Stiles Neville adjoined that of Leroy Stiles in Coffee County. Mary's household included only herself, her young daughter, and a white male aged between seventy and eighty. This suggests that Jane Cooper Stiles died between 1830 and 1840, and afterwards, John Stiles Sr. lived with his daughter [24].

Jack Stiles and his family left Tennessee and settled in Union County, Arkansas by 1840, and Leroy followed him there about 1841–1842. John Stiles Sr. wrote his will on 6 November 1841,

after his sons had emigrated from Tennessee. He left John and Leroy leaving $5.00 each, and to his daughter, Mary E. Nevill, he left two beds and furniture, one bay mare, six head of cattle, and one still. He directed that his body *"be decently interred at Mary E. Neville's,"* presumably in her family cemetery, and he named Mary as his executrix. Joseph Fletcher and Jesse D. Nevill witnessed Stiles making his mark to the will.

John Stiles Sr. lived two more years, probably until January or February 1844. On 4 March 1844, Joseph Fletcher appeared before the Coffee County Court meeting at the courthouse in Manchester, the county seat. Fletcher presented the will of the recently deceased John Stiles to the Court, and he swore that he witnessed both Stiles and Jesse D. Neville signing the document and that he had made his own mark to it [25].

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Wives & Children of John Stiles Sr.

John Stiles Sr. married twice, with both of his known marriages occurring in the 1780s soon after his arrival in Surry County, Virginia. On 9 December 1782, he signed a marriage bond in anticipation of his impending marriage to Mary Sebrell [1]. Six years later, on 22 July 1788, Stiles signed a bond to marry Jane Cooper [2]. Presumably, these are Stiles' only wives. In his 1841 will, John Stiles Sr. named three children: his sons, John Jr. and Leroy Stiles, and daughter, Mary Elizabeth Stiles Nevill [3]. We have no other indication that he had any additional children who lived to adulthood.

In his will dated Christmas Day 1813, Nathaniel Sebrell Sr. first disposed of his lands among his two living children. Next, he divided his remaining estate into equal shares, one for each of his children still alive or who had left heirs prior to their demise. He named John Stiles Jr. as his grandson and left him one full share of his estate. This implies that Nathaniel's daughter, Mary Sebrell Stiles, had died leaving John Stiles Jr. as her only heir [4]. As for John Stiles Sr.'s only daughter, Mary Elizabeth Stiles, records show that her birth occurred in 1791, three years after John Stiles' marriage to Jane Cooper. Thus, clearly Mary Elizabeth Stiles was Jane's daughter [5].

Ascertaining whether Mary Sebrell or Jane Cooper was Leroy's mother proves more complicated, as he was not enumerated on the 1850 Federal Census. This leaves the 1860 census as the only source for his birth year, and that enumeration gives his age as 72 [6]. If accurate, this would place his birth about 1788. Since John Stiles Sr. married Jane Cooper in July 1788, then Mary Sebrell could potentially have died giving birth to Leroy earlier in 1788. On the other hand, Jane may have been pregnant with Leroy when she married John Stiles Sr., or as is frequently the case with ages on census records, the enumerator may have recorded his age incorrectly.

If Leroy Stiles were the son of Mary Sebrell Stiles, then Nathaniel Sebrell Sr. effectively disinherited Leroy in his will. This seems unlikely, given the meticulous manner in which Sebrell divided his estate among the living heirs of his deceased children, and the careful accounting made by his executor showing the share of his estate received by each of Sebrell's grandchildren.

Jane Cooper Stiles was the daughter of George Cooper, and George Cooper's will named Frederick Cooper as her brother [7]. In his 1805 will, Frederick Cooper's first bequest left specific personal property to his third wife, Elizabeth. His second bequest was:

I give to Leroy Stiles my gun to him & his Heirs forever.

As a woodsman and hunter, Cooper's gun was clearly one of his most prized possessions, and he specifically left it to Leroy before even mentioning his own daughter in his will. Cooper's final bequest named his only child:

> *I give to my daughter Rebeckah Coopper* [sic] *after the death of my wife all my Est* [estate] *both real & personal & of what nature or kind soever which has not been herein before particularly disposed of to her & to her Child or Children forever if any but in case she should die without a Child I give the whole of my land & plantion* [sic–plantation] *to Leroy Stiles to him & his Heirs forever…*

Frederick Cooper did not identify his precise relationship to Leroy Stiles, but clearly, he held the young man in high regard. Cooper's bequests are ones that a man would naturally made to a close blood relative [8].

Given that Nathaniel Sebrell Sr. left Mary Sebrell Stiles' entire portion of his estate to his grandson, John Stiles Jr., and that Frederick Cooper, brother of Jane Cooper Stiles, left specific bequests of his most valuable property to Leroy Stiles all indicate that Leroy was Cooper's nephew, making him the son of Jane Cooper Stiles.

The documented children of John Stiles Sr. by his two known wives include:

1. **John Stiles Jr.** [Jack] (c1784–1860/1869) signed a bond on 22 December 1812 in Surry County, Virginia to marry Rebecca Cooper (c1794–Oct 1869), daughter of Frederick Cooper (c1760–1805) and Elizabeth Dewell [Betsy] (1765/1775–c1797).
2. **Leroy Stiles** (1788/1789–c1865) signed a bond on 17 April 1809 in Surry County, Virginia to marry Anna Hickman (9 Apr 1786–1820/1825). Leroy Stiles married about 1825 or 1826, probably in Franklin County, Tennessee, to Mary Gibson (c1808–aft. 1880).
3. **Mary Elizabeth Stiles** (11 Jul 1791–24 Oct 1873) married on 23 November 1826, presumably in Franklin County, Tennessee, to Benjamin Nevill Sr. (8 Jul 1779–28 Feb 1838), son of Jesse Nevill Sr. (24 Sep 1746–1810) and Elizabeth Parke (1752–1846) [9].

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Surry County, Virginia Personal Property Tax Data

The charts in this section give transcriptions of Surry County, Virginia personal property tax records for John Stiles Sr. and the immediate families of his spouses, including Jane Cooper, her mother, Mary Ellis Cooper, brother, Frederick Cooper, and the father of John Stiles' first wife, Nathaniel Sebrell Sr. The brothers- and sisters-in-law of John Stiles are too numerous to list.

Surry County, Virginia Personal Property Tax Records

Year	Taxpayer	White Males Above 21 years	Slaves		Horses, Mares, Colts, and Mules	Cattle	Tax
			Aged over 16 Years	Aged under 16 Years			
1782	Frederick Cooper	1	--	--	1	3	£0 12s 9d
	Mary Cooper	--	--	--	1	2	£0 2s 6d
	Jane Cooper	--	--	--	1	--	£0 2s 0d
	Nathaniel Sebrell	2	6	6	7	6	£7 15s 6d
		Free white males above 21 years: *"Nathaniel Sebrell; David Sebrell"*					
1783	Frederick Cooper	1	--	--	1	4	£0 13s 0d
	Mary Cooper	--	--	--	1	--	£0 2s 0d
	Nathaniel Sebrell Senr	2	7	6	4	3	£7 18s 9d
1784	John Stiles	1	--	1	--	--	£1 0s 0d
	Nathl Sebrell Senr	1	6	5	5	3	£7 6s 9d
	Frederick Cooper	1	--	1	1	5	£1 3s 3d
1785	Frederick Cooper	1	--	--	2	6	--
	Mary Cooper	--	--	--	1	--	
	John Stiles	1	--	1	--	--	--
	Nathl Sebrell	1	6	6	6	6	--
1786	Nathaniel Sebrell Senior	1	5	5	2	8	--
	John Stiles	1	--	--	--	--	--
1787	Frederick Cooper	1	--	--	2	5	£0 15s 3d
	Mary Cooper	--	--	--	1	2	£0 2s 6d
	Nathaniel Sebrell Senr	1	5	6	5	12	£6 13s 0d
		White males above 16 and under 21: John Sebrell					
	John Styles	1	--	--	--	--	£0 10s 0d

Surry County, Virginia Personal Property Tax Records

Year	Taxpayer	White Males Tithes	Slaves		Horses, Mares, Colts, and Mules	Tax
			Aged over 16 Years	Aged 12–16 Years		
1788	Mary Cooper	0	--	--	1	£0 2s
	Frederick Cooper	1	--	--	2	£0 2s 6d
	Nathaniel Sebrell	3	5	--	4	£2 18s
		Nathl Sebrell Snr., Jno Sebrell, James Sebrell				
	John Styles	1	--	--	--	--
1789	Mary Cooper	-	--	--	1	£0 2s
	Frederick Cooper	1	--	--	3	£0 6s
	John Styles	1	--	--	--	--
	Nathaniel Sebrell Senr	3	7	--	5	£4 0s
		John Sebrell, James Sebrell				
1790	Frederick Cooper	1	--	--	2	£0 4s
	John Styles	1	--	--	--	--
	Nathaniel Sebrell Senr	1	8	2	6	£5 12s
1791	Frederick Cooper	1	--	--	2	£0 4s
	John Styles	1	--	--	--	--
	Nathaniel Sebrell	2	7	1	7	£4 14s
		Other white male tythe: James Sebrell				
1792	Frederick Cooper	2	--	--	2	£0 4s
		Other white male tythe: Henry Jordan				
	John Styles	1	--	--	--	--
	Nathaniel Sebrell, Senr	1	9	1	6	£5 12s
1793	Frederick Cooper	2	--	--	2	£0 0s 8d
		Other white male tythe: Henry Jordan				
	John Styles	1	--	--	--	--
	Nathaniel Sebrell Senr	1	8	2	6	£0 18s 8d
1794	*"Fredrick Cooper"*	1	--	--	2	£0 0s 8d
	John Styles	1	--	--	--	--
	Nathaniel Sebrell, Senr	1	9	2	8	£1 1s 0d

Surry County, Virginia Personal Property Tax Records

Year	Taxpayer	Free Tithes above 16 Years	Slaves		Horses, Mares, Colts, and Mules	Tax
			Aged over 16 Years	Aged 12–16 Years		
1795	Frederick Cooper	1	--	--	2	£0 0s 8d
	John Styles	1	--	--	--	--
	Nathaniel Sebrell Senr	1	10	1	7	£1 0s 8d
1796	Frederick Cooper	1	--	--	3	£0 1s 0d
	John Styles	1	--	--	--	--
	Nathaniel Sebrell Senr	1	10	1	6	£1 0s 4d
1797	Frederick Cooper	1	--	--	2	£0 2s 4d
	John Styles	1	--	--	--	--
	Nathaniel Sebrell Senr	1	7	1	2	£0 14s 0d
1798	*"Fedrick Cooper"*	1	--	--	2	53¢
	John Stiles	1	--	--	--	--
	Nathaniel Sebrell Senr	1	7	1	2	$2.98
1799	*"Fedrick Cooper"*	1	--	--	2	24¢
	John Stiles	1	--	--	--	$12.50
		1 Ordinary License				
	Nathaniel Sebrell, S^{r}	2	9	2	3	$5.20
		Free male Tithes: *"N. Sebrell S^{r}" "Nich^{s} Sebrell"*				
1800	*"Fedrick Cooper"*	1	--	--	2	24¢
	John Stiles	1	--	--	--	$12.50
		1 Ordinary License				
	Nathaniel Sebrell	2	8	2	3	$4.76
		Free male tithes: *"Nathl Sebrell S^{r}; Nich^{s} Sebrell"*				
1801	*"Fedrick Cooper"*	1	--	--	2	24¢
	John Stiles	1	--	--	--	--
	Nathaniel Sebrell, Senr	2	9	1	3	$4.76
		Free male tithes: *"Nathl Sebrell; Nich^{s} Sebrell"*				
1802	*"Fedrick Cooper"*	1	--	--	2	21¢
	John Stiles	1	--	--	--	--
	Nathaniel Sebrell	2	9	1	3	$4.76
		Free male tithes: *"N. Sebrell; Nich^{s} Sebrell"*				

Surry County, Virginia Personal Property Tax Records

Year	Taxpayer	Free Male Tithes	Slaves		Horses, Mares, Colts, and Mules	Riding Carriages with Two Wheels	Tax
			Aged over 16 Yrs	Aged over 12 Yrs			
1803	*"Fedrick Cooper"*	1	1	--	2	--	68¢
	John Stiles	2	--	--	--	--	$12.50
		1 Ordinary License Free male tithes: *"J. Stiles; Jno Stiles Jr."*					
	Nathaniel Sebrell Senr	2	9	--	4	--	$4.44
		Free male tithes: *"N. Sebrell; N^s Sebrell"*					
1804	*"Fedrick Cooper"*	1	1	--	3		80¢
	John Stiles	2	--	--	--	--	$12.50
		1 Ordinary License Free male tithes: *"John Stiles; John Stiles Jr."*					
	Nathaniel Sebrell	2	10	--	4	--	$4.88
		Free male tithes: *"Nathl Sebrell; N^s Sebrell"*					
1805	Frederick Cooper	1	1	1	2	--	68¢
	Nathaniel Sebrell	2	10	10	5	--	$5.00
	John Stiles Sen.	2	--	--	--	--	--
		1 Ordinary License					
1806	*"The Estate of Fred Cooper"*	0	--	--	1	--	--
	Nathaniel Sebrell	3	10	10	4	2	--
	John Stiles	1	--	--	1	--	--
1807	Nath. Sebrell	3	11	11	5	2	--
	[John Stiles Sr. omitted this year]						
1809	Nathaniel Sebrell	1	8	8	2	--	--
	John Stiles Jun.	1	--	--	--	--	--
	John Stiles Sen.	2	--	--	1	--	--
1810	Nathaniel Sebrell	1	6	6	2	2	--
	Leroy Stiles	1	--	--	--	--	--
	John Stiles Sen.	1	--	--	1	--	--
	[John Stiles Jr. omitted this year]						
1811	Leroy Stiles	1	--	--	1	--	--
	John Stiles Jr.	1	--	--	1	--	--
	Nathl Sebrell	1	8	8	2	2	--

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

1841 Will of John Stiles Sr.

Coffee County TN Will Book 1 (1833–1858), p. 40–41
Coffee County TN Will and Probate Records (original will)

*I, **John Stiles,** of the county of Coffee and State of Tennessee, do make and publish this, my last will and testament, hereby revoking and making void all former wills by me at any time heretofore made: And, first, I direct that my body be decently interred at **Mary E. Nevill's** in said county, in a manner suitable to my condition in life: and, as to such worldly estate as it hath pleased God to entrust me with, I dispose of the same as follows:*

First I direct that all my debts and funeral expenses be paid as soon after my decease as possible, out of any money that I may die possessed of, or may first come into the han[d] *of my executrix from any portion of my estate, real or personal.*

*Secondly. I give and bequeath to my Daughter **Mary E. Nevill** twoo* [sic] *beads* [sic] *and furniture, one bay mare, six head of cattle and one Still.*

Thirdly. I give and bequeath to my son John Stiles the sum of five dollars in money.

Fourthly. I give and bequeath to my son Leroy Stiles the sum of five dollars in money.

*And I do hereby make, ordain and appoint my Daughter **Mary E. Nevill** executrix of this my last will and testament. In witness whereof, I, **John Stiles**, the said testator, have to this my will, set my hand and seal, this sixt*[h] *day of November, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty one.*

John Stiles [his mark]

signed, sealed published in the present [sic]
of us, who have subscribed in the presence
of the testator and of each other.

Joseph Fletcher [his mark]
Jesse D. Nevill
Jesse P. Warren

Proven and ordered to be recorded 4 March 1844.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Notes

From New York to Surry County, Virginia

1. 1830 Franklin County TN Federal Census, p. 64, line #21: *"John Stiles Senr."* 1840 Coffee County TN Federal Census, p. 187, line #1: Mary Neville. The 1830 census gives John Stiles' age as 60–70. Records below show that when John Stiles Sr. wrote his will in 1841, he identified his daughter as *"Mary E. Neville,"* naming her as his executor. Her 1840 household includes a male aged 70–80, undoubtedly John Stiles Sr. These census records place Stiles' birth between 1760 and 1770. Assuming he was at least eighteen years old at his December 1782 marriage, his birth occurred in the 1760–1764 range.
2. Surry County VA Marriage Bonds, 1782, LDS Film #4129125, Images #40–41; Surry County VA Marriage Register (1763–1853), p. 11, LDS Film #7579167, Image 133 (John Stiles to Mary Sebrell, *"Spinster;"* 9 December 1782).
3. 1783–1800 Surry County VA Personal Property Tax List, LDS Film #8458765.
4. Surry County VA Order Book (1786–1789):
   p. 292: Court session of 25 September 1787
   p. 294: John Stiles, *"a native of the State of New York (by trade a Shoemaker),"* took the *"oath of fidelity"*
5. *New York City During the American Revolution: Being a Collection of Original Papers.* New York City: The Mercantile Library Association (private printing), 1861, pp. 117–119, 135.
6. Coffee County TN Will and Probate Records, LDS Film #4727878, Images 73–74. Coffee County TN Will Book 1 (1833–1859), pp. 40–41, LDS Film #4776229, Image #37 [original]. Coffee County TN Will Book 1 (1833–1860) [typed], pp. 34–35, LDS Film #4769001, Images 622–623 (Will of John Stiles, written 6 November 1841, proved 4 March 1844). 1803 Surry County VA Personal Property Tax List, LDS #8188299, Image #562, line #13: John Stiles. 1804 Surry County VA Personal Property Tax List, Image #594, line #14: John Stiles. In his will, John Stiles identified three children: Mary E. Nevill, John Stiles, and Leroy Stiles. On the 1803 and 1804 personal property tax lists, John Stiles paid the tax on two male tithes, identified on the 1803 tax record as *"J. Stiles"* and *"Jno Stiles Jr.,"* and on the 1804 tax list as *"John Stiles"* and *"John Stiles Jr."*
7. Proof that Mary Sebrell who married John Stiles in 1782 was the daughter Nathaniel Sebrell Sr. comes indirectly through Nathaniel identifying John Stiles Jr., documented as the son of John Stiles Sr., as his grandson. In his will written on Christmas Day 1813, Nathaniel Sebrell divided his slaves not specifically given to his two surviving children into six equal lots, leaving the lots to his two living children and the heirs of his deceased children, including this bequest: *"And the other lot I give to my Grand son John Stiles Jr. to him and his heirs forever."* On 1 January 1826, Sebrell's executor, his son, David Sebrell, recorded payment of $457.52 to John Stiles, describing it as *"By your Legacy from your Grandfather & Int. to this day."* On 1 May 1827, David Sebrell reported a balance due to John Stiles of $63.02 from the estate of Nathaniel Sebrell. References:
   Surry County VA Wills, Etc. Book 3 (1815–1821), pp. 140–142: Will of Nathaniel Sebrell, written 25 December 1813, filed 22 April 1816.
   Surry County VA Wills & Inventories (1797–1879), LDS Film #4124856, Images 1146–1147, 1323–1324: Will of Nathaniel Sebrell, written 25 December 1813, filed 22 April 1816.
   Surry County VA Wills, Etc. Book 4 (1822–1827), pp. 613–619: Nathaniel Sebrell Estate Account, filed 26 October 1826.
   Surry County VA Wills, Etc. Book 5 (1827–1830), pp. 208–214: Nathaniel Sebrell Estate Account, filed 22 October 1827).
8. Surry County VA Census of Persons and Buildings (1772–1785), LDS Film #4131664, Image #34: *"A List of white Persons and Buildings in Johnchecohunk Precinct in Surry County, taken by James Kee, 1784,"* #11: Nath. Sebrell; #32: John Stiles.
9. 1784, 1785 Surry County VA Personal Property Tax Lists, LDS Film #8458765, Images #38, 57.
10. These two documents prove that Nathaniel Sebrell's farm adjoined the land owned by William Rose Sr.:
    Surry County VA Deed Book 10 (1769–1778), pp. 348–349: William Rose Sr. to William Rose Jr., 28 September 1773. William Rose Sr. sold his son a 100-acre tract of land bounded by
    …a Corner Tree of Nathaniel Seabrells [sic] *& Parsons from thence along the said Seabrells* [sic] *Line to a Corner Tree a Scrub White Oak of Washingtons between Sebrell & Washington…*
    Surry County VA Deed Book 12 (1783–1787), pp. 241–242: Samuel Rose of Halifax County, NC to William Lamb of Sussex County, VA, 8 January 1787. Samuel Rose, *"as Heir at law to his Brother William Rose late of the County of Surry,"* sold a 75-acre tract of land to William Lamb, described as
    …beginning at Colliers line…to a corner tree a Scrub white Oak of Nathaniel Sebrell, thence along Sebrells line to a Corner Tree…
11. Surry County VA Will Book 1 (1792–1804), pp. 242–243 (Will of William Rose, 16 March 1785, filed in court 24 October 1797; witnesses: *"Nathl Sebrell,"* Burwell Sharp, John Stiles [his mark]). Surry County VA Wills, Inventories & Estate Inventories (1770–1825), LDS Film #4124947, Images 468–469 (Will of William Rose, written 16 March 1785, proved in court 24 October 1797).

12. Surry County VA Will Book 12 (1783–1792), pp. 17–19 (Will of Nicholas Faulcon Sr., written 6 January 1781, filed with the Surry County Court on 23 December 1783).
13. From the end of the Revolutionary War into the early 1800s, Surry County officials continued to use the standard American version of British currency system from the latter colonial period. This assessed monetary values in pounds (£), shillings (s), and pence (d), and so the value of £8 18s 6d represented 8 pounds, 18 shillings, and 6 pence, sometimes written as £8.18.6. Twenty shillings equaled one pound, while twelve pennies equaled one shilling. The abbreviation of *"d"* used for pence came from *"denarius,"* the Latin term for this coin. Beginning in 1798, Virginia law required county officials to assess taxes in dollars and cents, but the old British system lingered in most rural areas until the early 1800s.
14. Surry County VA Order Book (1775–1785):
    p. 403: Court session of 22 March 1785
    p. 404: Sarah Washington vs. Nathaniel Sebrell & Burwell Sharp; *"Laurence Smith, Plt., against Nathaniel Sebrell & John Stiles Defts, In debt on a replevy bond"*
15. Surry County VA Marriage Bonds, 1788, LDS Film # LDS#4129138, Images #28–29; Surry County VA Marriage Register (1763–1853), p. 23, LDS Film #7579167, Image 145 (John Stiles to Jane Cooper *"of full age,"* 22 July 1788).
16. Surry County VA Wills, Etc. Book 11 (1778–1783), pp. 229–230 (Will of George Cooper, dated 14 October [1781], filed in court 26 March 1782). Surry County VA Wills, Etc. Book 10 (1754–1768), p. 285 (Will of Caleb Ellis, written 10 August 1760, filed in court 17 May 1762). In his 1781 will, George Cooper named his wife, *"Mary Cooper,"* and his daughter, *"Jane Cooper."* In the 1762 will of Caleb Ellis, he named *"Mary Cooper"* one of his five children.
17. Surry County VA Deeds, Wills, Etc. Book 8, Part 1 (1730–1738), pp. 425–426 (Will of James Cooper, written 28 February 1729/1730, filed in court 20 November 1734). Surry County VA Wills, Etc. Book 10 (1754–1768), pp. 215–216 (Will of William Cooper, written 4 April 1756, filed in court 26 November 1759). Sheek, Ann Ellis. *History of Twelve Generations of the Ellis Family: 1636 to 1974.* Privately printed, 1974, pp. 5–19; LDS Film #7941119, Images #486–519. In his 1730 will, James Cooper named William Cooper as one of *"my four Children now living with me."* In his 1756 will, William Cooper left *"to my Son George Cooper the Plantation whereon he now Lives,"* containing 130 acres. This is the precise land that George Cooper left to Jane's brother, Frederick, in his 1781 will.
18. Surry County VA Wills, Etc. Book 11 (1778–1783), pp. 229–230 (Will of George Cooper, dated 14 October [1781], filed in court 26 March 1782).
19. Coffee County TN Will and Probate Records, LDS Film #4727878, Images 73–74. Coffee County TN Will Book 1 (1833–1859), pp. 40–41, LDS Film #4776229, Image #37 [original]. Coffee County TN Will Book 1 (1833–1860) [typed], pp. 34–35, LDS Film #4769001, Images 622–623 (Will of John Stiles, written 6 November 1841, proved 4 March 1844). In his will, the elder John Stiles identified Leroy Stiles and *"Mary Nevill"* as his children, along with John Stiles Jr. Census records place Mary's birth after John Stiles' marriage to Jane Cooper. Frederick Cooper made several bequests to Leroy in his 1805 will that imply a close familial relationship, presumably indicating Leroy was Jane's daughter. See Surry County VA Wills, Etc. Book 2 (1804–1815), p. 80; Surry County VA Wills, Inventories & Estate Accounts (1770–1873), LDS Film #4124979, Images 1000–1001 (Will of Frederick Cooper, dated 22 April 1805, filed in court 28 January 1806). See a later section for a detailed discussion.
20. Surry County VA Deed Book 1 (1792–1799), pp. 21–23; Surry County VA Indentures (1699–1796), LDS Film #4123079, Image #519 (Randolph Jordan to John Stiles, 10 September 1792; witnesses: J. Kee, Nathaniel Stewart, Benjamin Collier). The deed states that the land Stiles purchased lay *"adjoining the lands of John Collier deceased, the land of John Tillott, of Nathaniel Sebrell, of William Lamb and William Rose."* The 1781 will of George Cooper identifies Emelia Collier and Jane Cooper as his daughters, while John Collier's 1791 inventory identifies Emelia Collier as his administrator; see Surry County VA Wills, Deeds, Etc. Book 11 (1778–1783), pp. 229–230 (Will of George Cooper, written October 14th [1781], proved in Court 26 March 1782); Surry County VA Will Book 1 (1792–1804), pp. 92–94 (Inventory of John Collier Estate, Emelia Collier, administrator, taken 8 February 1791, filed in court 28 April 1795).
21. 1784–1805 Surry County VA Personal Property Tax Books, LDS Films #8574973, #8458765, #8188299.
22. Surry County VA Order Book (1786–1789):
    p. 292: Court session of 25 September 1787
    p. 294: John Stiles, *"by trade a Shoemaker,"* took the *"oath of fidelity"* to the Commonwealth of Virginia
23. 1793 Surry County VA Voter Election Results, LDS Film #4131899, Images:
    #15: *"A poll taken for William Boyce at an election for members to serve in the General Assembly at Surry Court House the 23 day of April 1793"*
    #19: *"Nathl Sebrell"*
    #21: *"Jno Stiles," "Michl Carsley"*

    In elections during this era, men cast their vote publicly, as secret ballots did not become standard until later. The county appointed a clerk to record the list of those voting for each candidate.

24. 1794 Surry County VA Voter Election Results, LDS Film #4131900; 1795 Surry County VA Voter Election Results, LDS Film #4131901; 1796 Surry County VA Voter Election Results, LDS Film #4131903. No voting records exist for 1797.
25. 1798 Surry County VA Voter Election Results, LDS Film #4131905, Images:
    #4: *"A poll taken for Mr Nicholas Sebrell for the County of Surry April 24th 1798," "Frederick Cowper," "John Stiles"*
    #14: *"A Poll taken for Mr Caufield Seward, for the County of Surry, April the 24 th. 1798"*
    #16: *"Fred Cooper"*
    #17: *"John Stiles"*
26. Surry County VA Order Book (1789–1794), p. 516 (Court session 25 November 1794); p. 520 (*"Ordered that Michael Carseley* [sic]*, Edmond Carseley* [sic]*, John Stiles and William Justiss or any three of them being first sworn before a Justice of the Peace for this county do appraise in current money the personal estate of James Dewell deceased and return an account of the appraisement to the next court"*). 1793 Surry County VA Personal Property Tax Book, LDS Film #8458765, Image #422, #4: James Dewell. He has a tax of one shilling on his own white tithe and three horses, mares, mules, or colts. James Dewell is not found in the 1794 Surry County Personal Property Tax Book.
27. Surry County VA Order Book (1795–1800), pp. 170–171 (*"Ordered that Michael Carseley* [sic], *Edmund Carseley* [sic], *John Tillott and John Stiles or any three of them…do appraise in current money the personal estate of Perry Jordan deceased,"* 24 June 1797); Surry County VA Will Book 1 (1792–1804), pp. 254–255 (Inventory of the Estate of Perry Jordan, taken 15 July 1797, filed in court on 27 February 1798; appraisers: Michael Carsley, Edmund Carsley, John Stiles).
28. Surry County VA Will Book 1 (1792–1804), pp. 242–243 (Will of William Rose, 16 March 1785, filed in court 24 October 1797; witnesses: *"Nathl Sebrell,"* Burwell Sharp, John Stiles [his mark]). Surry County VA Wills, Inventories & Estate Inventories (1770–1825), LDS Film #4124947, Images 468–469 (Will of William Rose, written 16 March 1785, proved in court 24 October 1797).
29. Surry County VA Order Book (1795–1800), p. 195 (*"Ordered that David Sebrell, John Stiles, John Tillott and Edmund Carsley…do appraise the personal estate of William Rose deceased,"* 24 October 1797).
30. Surry County VA Will Book 1 (1792–1804), pp. 281–282 (Inventory of the Estate of William Rose, taken 28 October 1798 [sic–1797], filed in court on 24 July 1798; appraisers: Edmund Carsley, John Stiles, John Tillott). Surry County VA Order Book (1795–1800):
    p. 258: Court session 24 July 1798
    p. 262: *"An Inventory and Appraisement of the Estate of William Rose dec^d^ was this day returned to Court, and was ordered to be recorded"*
31. Seiler, William H. "Land Processioning in Colonial Virginia." *The William and Mary Quarterly,* Vol. 6, No. 3, 1949, pp. 416–436.
32. Surry County VA Processioners Returns (1796–1828), LDS Film #8191627, Images #24–25, pp. 23–24 (Miles Burgess and John Velvin, processioning of Johnchecohunk Precinct, second Wednesday in April 1804).
33. Surry County VA Wills, Etc. Book 2 (1804–1815), pp. 104–105; Surry County VA Wills, Inventories & Estate Inventories (1770–1825), LDS Film #4124947, Images #610–611 (Estate Appraisement of William Justiss, made 29 November 1805, filed with Surry County Court 24 June 1806; appraisers: Frederick Cooper, John Velvin, Miles Burgess). In June 1806, John Velvin and Miles Burgess testified *"that Frederick Coopper* [sic] *acted with us* [in appraising the Justiss estate] *& that a few days after & prior to the making & assigning this return h*[e] *Deceased."*
34. Surry County VA Wills, Etc. Book 2 (1804–1815), p. 80; Surry County VA Wills, Inventories & Estate Accounts (1770–1873), LDS Film #4124979, Images 1000–1001 (Will of Frederick Cooper, dated 22 April 1805, filed in court 28 January 1806).
35. Surry County VA Wills, Etc. Book 2 (1804–1815), pp. 193–194 (Estate sale of Frederick Cooper, held 14 March 1806, filed in court 28 July 1807).

Maj. James Kee & The New Design

1. Surry County VA Deed Book 1 (1792–1799), pp. 21–23; Surry County VA Indentures (1699–1796), LDS Film #4123079, Image #519 (Randolph Jordan to John Stiles, 10 September 1792; witnesses: J. Kee, Nathaniel Stewart, Benjamin Collier). The deed states that the land Stiles purchased lay *"adjoining the lands of John Collier deceased, the land of John Tillott, of Nathaniel Sebrell, of William Lamb and William Rose."*
2. Surry County VA Deeds, Wills, Etc. Book 11 (1778–1783), pp. 40–41 (Rebekah Kee Widow of Doiley Kee Dower Lands, 6 March 1779). The commissioners appointed to *"lay off and ascertain the Dower of the said Rebekah Kee of the Lands & Slaves belonging to the Estate of the said Doiley Kee"* stated that *"we were particularly appointed and requested by Rebekah Kee Widow of Doiley Kee deceased late of Surry County, and James Kee, Heir at Law…"* They allotted her 150 acres adjoining the lines of James Kee and Nathaniel Sebrell.

3. Coleman, Charles Washington. "The County Committees of 1774-'75 in Virginia: II." *The William and Mary College Quarterly Historical Magazine.* Vol. 5, p. 249. The Surry County Safety Committee was formed on 5 February 1776 and included *"James Kee."*
4. Surry County VA Order Book (1775–1785):
   p. 34: Court session 25 March 1777;
   p. 37: *"Ordered that James Kee be Recommended to his Excellency the Governor, as a fit and able Person to execute the Office of Ensign of the Militia of this County in Captain Lemuel Cocke's Company."*
   p. 42: Court session 26 August 1777;
   p. 44: *"Ordered that the following Persons Recommended to his Excellency the Governor as fit and able to execute the several Offices of the Militia of this County in their respective Companies, namely…James Kee second Lieutenant & Stirling Hill Ensign in Capt. Lemuel Cockes Company…"*
   p. 44: Court session of 23 September 1777;
   pp. 45–46: *"…James Kee…came into Court and took the oath of Officers of Militia of this County and in their respective Commissions."*
5. Revolutionary War Pension Application #S7239, John Moring, Surry County, Virginia Militia, originally filed 12 November 1832, Chatham County, NC Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions.
6. Surry County VA Order Book (1775–1785):
   p. 236: Court session 27 May 1783;
   p. 239: *"Ordered that the following Persons be recommended to his Excellency the Governor as being fit and able to execute the Offices of their respective Commissions in the Militia of this County, to wit,…James Kee and Jesse Warren, Captains…"*
   p. 296: Court session of 25 May 1784;
   p. 299: *"James Kee Gen^{t} having been heretofore appointed a Captain in the Militia of this County, this day produced his Commission (dated May 27th 1783) and took the oath of Office.*

   Order Book (1786–1789):
   p. 219: Court session 24 April 1787;
   p. 220: *"James Kee, Jacob Faulcon, William Bailey, Stephen Sorsby, and Jesse Warren Gent. Being heretofore recommended to the Executive as fit and proper persons to execute the Office of Captain of Militia of this County, this day produced their Commissions and was sworn into Office accordingly."*

   Order Book (1789–1794):
   p. 429: Court session 25 June 1793;
   p. 430: *"The following persons being commissioned Officers in the militia of this county came into Court, produced their commissions and took the oaths prescribed by law, respectively, to wit., Lemuel Cocke Lieutenant Colonel Commandant…James Kee Major…"*
   p. 509: Court session 23 September 1794; *"Militia Officers recommended to his Excellency the Governor, to wit. Samuel Blow Major in the room of James Kee who has resigned."*
7. Surry County VA Order Book (1775–1785):
   p. 27: Court Session of 26 November 1776;
   p. 28: *"Ordered that James Kee be appointed Surveyor of the Road in the room of James Gilchrist who is discharged from that office & that he keep the same in lawful Repair with the Hands Subject to work thereon."*
8. Surry County VA Order Book (1775–1785):
   p. 134: Court session 23 January 1782; *"Ordered that the following persons be recommended to his Excellency the Governor in Council as being fit and able to execute the office of Justice of the Peace for this County…James Kee, John Watkins…"*
   p. 144: Court session 28 May 1782;
   p. 149: *"…James Kee, and John Watkins Gent. Being heretofore recommended as Justices of the Peace for this County came into Court and…took the oath of fidelity and the oath of Justice of the Peace for this County."*
   p. 155: Court session 23 July 1782;
   p. 156: *"…James Kee and John Watkins Gent. Named in the Commission of the Peace for this County and having respectively heretofore taken the oaths of Fidelity and of Justice of the Peace for said County came into Court and also took the oath of Justice in the County Court in Chancery."*

   The order books show Kee's service as justice on the Surry County Court through 1800, when he became sheriff.
9. Surry County VA Order Book (1775–1785):
   p. 255: Court session 26 August 1783;
   p. 258: *"John Watkins and James Kee Gen^{t} being appointed Commissioners of the Land Tax in this County, came into Court and took the oath of Office."*

   Order Book (1786–1789):

p. 8: Court session 28 March 1786;
p. 9: *"Ordered that James Kee and John Watkins Gen^{t} be continued Commissioners of the land Tax in this County."*
p. 171: Court session 26 December 1786;
p. 172: *"James Kee Gentleman being heretofore appointed a Commissioner of the land Tax in this County, came into Court and resigned the said Office…"*

10. Surry County VA Order Book (1795–1800):
    p. 534: Court session 24 June 1800;
    p. 536: *"Ordered that James Kee, John Watkins, and Josiah Wilson be recommended to the executive as fit and proper persons for one of them to be commissioned Sheriff of this County for the year ensuing."*
    p. 544: Court session 22 July 1800;
    p. 545: *"James Kee Gent having been commissioned Sheriff of this County for the year ensuing, this day appeared in Court and entered into and acknowledged bonds with security according to Law…"*
    Order Book (1800–1804):
    p. 99: Court session 22 September 1801;
    p. 101: *"James Kee G^{t}* [gentleman] *Sheriff being recommissioned Sheriff of the County came into Court entered into bond and made oath agreeable to law which said bonds are ordered to be recorded."*
    Surry County VA Deed Book 2 (1799–1804):
    pp. 37–41: Bonds of James Kee, appointed Surry County Sheriff, 22 July 1800; securities included Thomas Kee, John Justiss, and John Tillott.
    pp. 174–178: Bonds of James Kee, appointed Surry County Sheriff, 22 September 1801; securities included Thomas Kee and John Tillott.
    pp. 210–211: Bond of James Kee, appointed Surry County *"collector of the county levy"* assessed on 27 October 1801, bond dated 25 November 1801; securities: Archibald Davis and Thomas Kee.
11. Surry County VA Land Tax Books (1782–1800), LDS Film #8742699, Image #37: 1787, James Kee; Image #286: 1799, James Kee. 1806 Surry County VA Land Tax Book, LDS #4121832, Image #10: James Kee. 1787 Surry County VA Personal Property Tax Book, LDS #8458765, Image #82: James Kee.
12. Surry County VA Census of Persons and Buildings (1772–1785), LDS Film #4131664, Image #34 (*"A List of white Persons and Buildings in Johnchecohunk Precinct in Surry County, taken by James Kee, 1784"*); Image #35, line #16: James Kee.
13. Shepherd, Samuel. *The Statutes at Large of Virginia, from October Session 1792, to December Session 1806, Inclusive.* Vol. I. Richmond: Samuel Shepherd, 1835, p. 378: *"An ACT to alter the place of holding courts in the county of Surry,"* passed 24 November 1795.
14. Surry County VA Business Licenses (1783–1856), LDS Film #4131659, Images:
    #4: Robert *"Mackintosh,"* license *"to keep an Ordinary at his house,"* 23 April 1788.
    #106: Robert McIntosh, license *"to keep an Ordinary at the cross roads,"* 27 March 1792.
    #292: Robert McIntosh, license *"to keep an Ordinary at his House in the County of Surry,"* 28 March 1786.
15. Surry County VA Order Book (1795–1800):
    p. 69: Court session 26 January 1796;
    p. 71: *"At the instance of Robert McIntosh the Court having taken under consideration the building a Court house at the Cross Roads for the use of this County, to be performed by the said McIntosh agreeable to an Act of the last General Assembly…are of the opinion that the said McIntosh should take a model of the present Courthouse, as well as to the size of it as to the form, except having two additional Windows, to be placed adjacent to the bench, which the said McIntosh agrees to put in at his own expense; it is thereupon ordered by the Court that the said Robert McIntosh govern himself accordingly."*
16. Surry County VA Deed Book 1 (1792–1799), pp. 350–351 (Robert and Martha McIntosh to Surry Justices, 23 March 1796). The McIntoshes gave the Surry justices the two acres of land *"so long as the said Cross Roads shall be the place of holding Courts for the said county of Surry."* It was described as lying *"…on the west side of the road, and near the granary."*
17. Surry County VA Order Book (1795–1800):
    p. 89: Court session 28 June 1796;
    p. 92: *"Ordered that Lemuel Cocke, James Kee,…let to the lowest Undertaker the building of a Gaol and Prison (under one roof) at the Cross roads on the log of ground conveyed by Robert McIntosh to the Justices of this County…"*). The justices gave precise specifications of the layout and materials used in the constructions, ordering it to be 20' long, 16' wide, 10' pitch, the walls, gable ends, and partition constructed of brick. They ordered one room for *"Debtors"* and a separate one for *"Criminals,"* with both rooms having a *"spout fixed in the wall and on the back side of it for the passage of Urine and Ordure."*
18. Surry County VA Order Book (1795–1800):
    p. 139: Court session 28 March 1797;

pp. 140–141: *"It appearing to the satisfaction of this court that the Court house built by Robert McIntosh at the Cross Roads for the use of this county…is ready for the reception of the court in April next, it is therefore ordered that when this court adjourn to the court in course, they adjourn to the said Cross Roads, there to hold a court, &c."*

19. Surry County VA Deed Book 1 (1792–1799), pp. 393–394 (William and Patty Ellis to James Kee, 31 August 1796). The 120 acres James Kee purchased in 1796 came from land owned by William Rose Jr. prior to 1786. That year, Rose sold 60 acres of his land to his son, John, and another 60 acres to his son, Benjamin, requiring them to post bonds agreeing to allow he and his wife, Elizabeth Rose, *"to remain on the land…unmolested in the full enjoyment as well of the houses, Orchards, and every thing thereon, as of the land during their natural lines."* The trail of land deeds that tract Kee's land since 1786:
    Surry County VA Deed Book 12 (1783–1787):
        pp. 217–218: Bonds of Benjamin Rose and John Rose for £500 each, 26 September 1786.
        pp. 235–236: William Rose to John Rose, 26 September 1786.
        pp. 236–237: William Rose to Benjamin Rose, 26 September 1786.
    Surry County VA Deed Book 1 (1792–1799):
        pp. 320–322: John and Celia Rose, and Benjamin and Lucy Rose to William Ellis, 26 October 1795.
20. In December 1808, James and Jane Kee sold their son-in-law, Thomas Bailey Jr., a 130-acre tract of land that constituted the heart of The New Design, although the Kees did not refer to it by that name in this document. The land tax records all described the 130-acre tract as *"New Design"* and adjoining the lands of John Collier and Rebecca Cypress. In 1818, Bailey mortgaged *"a certain tract or tracts or parcels of Land or Lands known by the name of the New Design,"* describing it as 283 acres. The land tax records show this as the total of the 130-acre tract identified as *"New Design,"* plus a 183-acre tract described as adjoining New Design. References:
    - Surry County VA Deed Book 3 (1804–1811), p. 450: James and Jane Kee to Thomas Bailey Jr., 26 December 1808. The Kees sold 130 acres adjoining Edwin Rogers, *"Rebk^{y} Cypress,"* and Robert Ellis, and described as
        *…one certain tract or parcel of Land on which he now lives called Roses…south of the Courthouse road…*on *the Birch Island Road, thence up said road to a pine at Jordans path…*
      The Kees described the land they sold as *"Roses,"* indicating that it was the tract he bought from William Ellis in 1796, who had obtained it from John and Benjamin Rose in 1795.
    - Surry County VA Deed Book 6 (1818–1823), pp. 67–68: *"Thomas Bailey jr in order to secure a debt due to Peter Booth Executor of the said John H. Washington"* of $1293.75, Bailey mortgaged land to Thomas B. Ellis, 23 June 1818. Bailey sold Ellis a total of 283 acres bounded by Augustin Carsley, Jesse P. Warren, Nathaniel Cockes, John Collier, *"and the land whereon Mrs Jane Kee now resides"* and described as
        …a certain tract or tracts or parcels of Land or Lands known by the name of the New Design…whereon the said Thomas Bailey jr now lives…
    - 1813 Surry County VA Land Tax Book, LDS Film #4121840, Image #08, #10: Thomas Bailey Jr.; 130 acres: *"New Design Adjoining John Collier & R. Cypress;"* 183 acres: *"West of Jordans path Adjoining N. Design"*
    - 1816 Surry County VA Land Tax Book, LDS Film #4124801, Image #07, #1: *"Thomas Bailey jun.;"* 100 acres: *"New Design adjoining John Collier & R. Cypress;"* 183 acres: *"Adjoining John Collier and New Design"*
    - 1817 Surry County VA Land Tax Book, LDS Film #4124808, Image #07, #9: *"Thomas Bailey jr;"* 100 acres: *"New Design adjoining R. Cypress;"* 183 acres: *"Adjoining John Collier and New Design"*
    - 1819 Surry County VA Land Tax Book, LDS Film #4124817, Image #08, #16: *"Thomas Bailey jr;"* 100 acres: *"New Design adj^{n} R. Cypress;"* 183 acres: *"Adjoining New Design & Jno Collier"*
21. The following records show that the 70 acres John Stiles bought in 1792 and sold in 1798 adjoined the 120 acres that James Kee purchased in 1796 and on which he then built *"The New Design."* One key is the reference to the *"land commonly called Rogers,"* which was the tract bought in 1787 by William Lamb, administrator of Thomas Rogers, and sold in 1795 to Edwin Rogers, Thomas' son:
    - Sussex County VA Will Book D (1782–1789), pp. 164–166: Account of Estate of Thomas Rogers, deceased; William Lamb, administrator, made 9 December 1778, filed with Sussex County on 19 June 1783
    - Surry County VA Deed Book 12 (1783–1787), pp. 241–242: Samuel Rose to William Lamb, 8 January 1787
    - Surry County VA Deed Book 1 (1792–1799), pp. 21–23: Randolph Jordan to John Stiles, 10 September 1792
    - Surry County VA Deed Book 1 (1792–1799), pp. 320–322: John and Celia Rose and Benjamin and Lucy Rose to William Ellis, 26 October 1795
    - Surry County VA Deed Book 1 (1792–1799), pp. 403–404: William Lamb to Edwin Rogers *"(surviving heir of Thomas Rogers),"* 25 November 1795
    - Surry County VA Deed Book 1 (1792–1799), pp. 627–628: John and Jane Stiles to Jesse Stewart, 23 October 1798

    The following is a chronology of the owners of the land that adjoined the 120-acre tract that James Kee purchased in 1796 on which he built The New Design:

1778: William Lamb began serving as the administrator of the estate of Thomas Rogers.
1786: William Rose sold 120 acres of his land to his sons, Benjamin and John Rose, described as adjoining the lands of James Kee, John Collier, *"Randal Jordan,"* and *"the line of Rogers."*
1787: William Lamb purchased 75 acres from Samuel Rose, *"Heir at law to his Brother William Rose,"* described as lying along Collier's line, *"on Jordans line,"* and adjoining Nathaniel Sebrell.
1792: John Stiles purchased 70 acres from Randolph Jordan, described as adjoining the lands of the late John Collier, Nathaniel Sebrell, William Lamb, and William Rose.
1795: John and Benjamin Rose sold their 120 acres obtained from their father, William Rose, to William Ellis, describing it as bounded by the lands of James Kee and the *"land commonly called Rogers,"*
1795: William Lamb sells the 75 acres he bought from Samuel Rose to Edwin Rogers, *"surviving heir of Thomas Rogers,"* with the land described as adjoining Collier's line, Jordan's line, and Nathaniel Sebrell.
1798: John and Jane Stiles sell their 70-acre tract, describing it as bounded by Edwin Rogers, James Kee, Nathaniel Sebrell, and *"the road leading from Birch Island bridge to Cabin Point."*

22. This series of Surry County, Virginia deeds describe the location of The New Design:
    - Deed Book 3 (1804–1811), p. 450: James and Jane Kee to Thomas Bailey Jr., 26 December 1808. The 130 acres the Kees sold was described as
      …lying and being in the county of Surry to the south of the Courthouse road…near a branch to a pine on the Birch Island road…thence by a line of new marked trees near said path to the Courthouse road to a pine…
    - Deed Book 3 (1804–1811), pp. 474–476: James and Jane Kee to Thomas Ellis Jr., 22 July 1809. The Kees sold an adjoining 388-acre tract described as lying *"on the road from the New Design to Birch Island."*
    - Deed Book 4 (1811–1815), pp. 223–224: John G. and Elizabeth Sharp to Joe Ellis, 2 March 1813. The Sharps sold a 47½-acre tract of land lying *"on the road leading from the New Design to Birch Island Bridge."*
23. Surry County, Virginia Historical Society Newsletter, December 2004 and March 2005.
24. Surry County VA Wills, Etc. Book 2 (1804–1815), pp. 486–488 (Will of James Kee, written 1 February 1812, codicil added 27 April 1812, filed in court on 25 August 1812). In his will, James Kee left to his son-in-law, Thomas Bailey Jr., *"The store houses at the New Design and one acre lot."* For an in-depth history behind the plantation and settlement there, see the article on The New Design.

Tavernkeeper at The New Design

1. Surry County VA Business Licenses (1783–1856), LDS Film #4131659, Image #192 (Bond of John Stiles for license to *"keep an Ordinary at The New Design on the Lands of Ja^s Kee,"* 24 April 1798). Surry County VA Order Book (1795–1800), p. 236 (Court grants John Stiles a license *"to keep an Ordinary at the New Design on the lands of James Kee Gentleman in this county for one year next ensuing,"* 24 April 1798).
2. Surry County VA Deed Book 1 (1792–1799):
   pp. 627–628: John and Jane Stiles to Jesse Stewart, 23 October 1798. The Stiles sold 70 acres of land adjoining lands of Edwin Rogers, James Kee, Nathaniel Sebrell, John Watkins, John Tillott, and *"the road leading from Birth Island Bridge to Cabin Point."*
   pp. 645–646: On 23 January 1799, Clerk of Surry County Court Jacob Faulcon signed an order for any two of Justices James Kee, John Watkins, and Archibald Cocke to receive the acknowledgement of Jane Stiles, wife of John Stiles, for the sale of a 75-acre tract of land:
   …whereas…Jane cannot conveniently travel to our Court of our said county to acknowledge the same therefore we do give unto you or any two of you more of you power to receive the acknowledgement.
   On 22 January 1799, John Watkins and Archibald Cocke made affidavit that, *"Jane Stiles came before us and renounced her right of dower there."*
3. Struzinski, Steven. "The Tavern in Colonial America." *The Gettysburg Historical Journal*, Vol. 1, Article 7, 2002, pp. 29–32. Thorp, Daniel B. "Taverns and Tavern Culture on the Southern Colonial Frontier: Rowan County, North Carolina, 1753–1776." *The Journal of Southern History,* Vol. 62, No. 4, 1996, pp. 661–663.
4. Yoder, Paton. "Tavern Regulation in Virginia: Rationale and Reality." *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography,* Vol. 87, No. 3, 1979, pp. 263–264, 266, 273–274.
5. Struzinski, p. 33.
6. Surry County VA Order Book (1775–1785):
   p. 296: Court session 27 April 1784;
   p. 298: *"Rates of Liquors, Diet &c for the present year."*
   Surry County VA Order Book (1795–1800):
   pp. 183–184: *"Ordered that the rates of Liquors, Diet, Lodging, Pasturage and so forth, stand rated as follows,"* 24 August 1797;
   p. 251: Court session 20 June 1798;
   p. 253: *"Ordered that the rates of Liquors, Diet, Lodging &c &c be rated as follows."*

All items and prices given come from the 1798 court order, although the prices were almost identical in 1797. Both the 1784 and 1798 rates described the top-quality alcohol as *"Good West India Rum,"* but the 1797 and 1798 rates only identified the lower-quality versions as *"All other Rum."* The 1784 rates identified the lower quality rums as *"Tafia and Continental Rum."*

7. Weld, Isaac Jr. *Travels Through the States of North America and the Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada, During the Years 1795, 1796, and 1797.* Vol. I. 2nd ed. London: John Stockdale, 1799, p. 98. On his journey from Baltimore, Maryland to Philadelphia, Weld described the customary eggnog that American travelers consumed before they left on cold winter mornings.
8. Surry County VA Order Book (1795–1800):
   p. 251: Court session 20 June 1798;
   p. 253: *"Ordered that the rates of Liquors, Diet, Lodging &c &c be rated as follows."*

   "Dinner" referred to the midday meal for Southerners of that era, and it constituted the largest meal of the day. Even in modern times, rural Southerners still refer to the midday man as *"dinner,"* with the evening one known as *"supper."*
9. Weld, pp. 178, 182–184.
10. Surry County VA Order Book (1795–1800):
    p. 251: Court session 20 June 1798;
    p. 253: *"Ordered that the rates of Liquors, Diet, Lodging &c &c be rated as follows."*
11. Weld, p. 184.
12. Surry County VA Order Book (1795–1800), p. 549 (*"We of the grand jury do present the Surveyor of the road leading from the new design to Mrs. Pettways for not keeping the same in good repair,"* 26 August 1800).
13. Surry County VA Wills, Etc.:
    Book 2 (1804–1815), pp. 486–488: Will of James Kee, written 1 February 1812, codicil added 27 April 1812, filed in court on 25 August 1812. In the codicil to his will, Maj. Kee left to his son-in-law, Thomas Bailey Jr., *"The store houses at the New Design and one acre lot."*
    Book 3 (1815–1821), pp. 9–10: *"Appraisement of the unadministered part of the estate of John Watkins decd at the new Design,"* made 7 January 1815; appraisers: *"Archd Davis,"* David Sebrell, Edwin Rogers. David Sebrell and the other appraisers went to The New Design to appraise the eleven slaves belonging to the estate of Capt. John Watkins following the death of his wife, Elizabeth, in 1813. This suggests that the Watkins heirs had rented the slaves to someone there.
14. Surry County VA Order Book (1801–1804):
    p. 621: Court session 29 February 1804;
    p. 625: *"Ordered that James Smith Lane do superintend the election of three discreet and fit persons being free holders of, and resident within Birth island precinct, to act within the said precinct as Overseers of the Poor…that he hold the said election at the New Design on the third Monday in March next."*
    pp. 625–626: *"Ordered that Josiah Wilson Gentleman Sheriff…advertise at the New design that an election of the Overseers of the Poor, of Birch island precinct…"*

    Surry County VA Order Book (1807–1811)
    p. 321: Court session 27 March 1810;
    p. 327: *"Ordered that Archibald Cocks do superintend the election of Overseers of the Poor in Birch Island Precinct at the New Design on Saturday the 21st Inst…"*
15. Surry County VA Business License (1783–1856), LDS Film #4131659, Images:
    #48–49: John Stiles, *"license to keep an Ordinary at the New design…,"* James Kee, security, 22 April 1800.
    #50–51: John Stiles, *"license to keep an ordinary at The New Design…,"* James Kee, security, 23 April 1799.
16. Surry County VA Business License (1783–1856), LDS Film #4131659, Images:
    #172–173: *"Benja* Cocks," *"license to keep an Ordinary at his house at the New Design…,"* Thomas Kee, security, 27 April 1802;
    #180–181: Benjamin Cocks, *"license to keep an Ordinary at his house called the New design,"* Thomas Kee, security, 28 April 1801.

    Surry County VA Order Book (1801–1804):
    p. 35: Court session 28 April 1801;
    p. 39: *"Leave is given Benjamin Cockes to keep an Ordinary at the house of James Kee Gt Known by the name of the New design."*
    p. 224: Court session 27 April 1802;
    p. 227: *"On the motion of Benjamin Cocks a license is granted him to keep an ordinary at his house."*
17. Revolutionary War Pension Application #S39351, Benjamin Cocks, Virginia. Surry County VA Order Book (1801–1804):
    p. 482: Court session 28 June 1803;

p. 487: Benjamin Cockes appointed constable; summoned to appear in July;
p. 508: Court session of 26 July 1803;
p. 514: Benjamin *"Cocks"* appointed constable, *"Thomas Cocks jun."* security.

Surry County VA Deed Book 2 (1799–1804), p. 416 (Bond of Benjamin Cocke as Constable, 26 July 1803; securities: *"Thoˢ Cockes,"* Moreland James).

18. Surry County VA Personal Property Tax Books, LDS Film #8458765:
    1798, Image #654: *"A List of Persons Licenced* [sic] *to Retail Merchandise,"* #7: *"Peter Jemm & Cº."*
    1799, Image #697: *"A List of Persons Licenced* [sic] *to retail Merchandise,"* #5: *"Peter Jemm."*
    1800, Image #737: *"A List of Persons Licenced* [sic] *to Retail Merchandise in the Year 1800,"* #8: *"Peter Jemm."*

    Surry County VA Personal Property Tax Books, LDS Film #8188299:
    1801, Image #489: *"A List of Retail Merchants in Surry County in the Y⁴ 1801,"* #5: *"Peter Jemm."*
    1802, Image #527: *"A List of Persons Licenced* [sic] to *retail Merchandise since my last Return;"* Peter Jemm is not listed.
    1803, Image #570: *"A List of Persons Licenced* [sic] to *retail Merchandise since my last return;"* #1: *"Peter Jemm."*

    Surry County VA Order Book (1795–1800):
    p. 172: Court session 28 June 1797;
    p. 175: Peter Jemm recommended as *"Lieutenant in Captain David Cockes company"*

    Surry County VA Order Book (1801–1804):
    p. 289: Court session 24 August 1802;
    p. 291: *"The Commonwealth against Peter Jemm, deft. Upon a presentment of the Grand Jury for getting drunk and presenting a Pistol against John Stiles, at the New design on the 15th day of May 1802. This prosecution for reasons appearing to the Court is dismissed."*

    Surry County VA Administrators Bonds (1797–1815), p. 38 (James Stewart, bond as Administrator of the estate of Peter Jemm, 22 November 1803).
19. Surry County VA Business License (1783–1856), LDS Film #4131659, Images:
    #142–143: John Stiles *"a license to keep an ordinary at the House of James Kee at his Plantation called New Design,"* 23 April 1805;
    #144–145: John Stiles *"a license to keep an ordinary at the New Design,"* 24 April 1804;
    #174–175: John Stiles *"a license to keep an Ordinary at the New Design,"* 26 April 1803;
    #473: *"Recᵈ of Mr. John Stiles"* $12.50 *"in full for permission to obtain a Tavern license from the above date to 1807,"* 22 April 1806;
    #566: *"Received from Mr. John Stiles"* $12.*50 "in full of his Tavern License for the year 1805,"* 23 April 1805.
20. Surry County VA Order Book (1801–1804):
    p. 394: Grand jury indictments of Nathaniel Thompson and William Hicks, 24 May 1803;
    p. 516: Court session 23 August 1803;
    p. 519: *"The Commonwealth against Nathaniel Thompson, Upon a Presentment of the Grand Jury for profane swearing,"* appeared in court and fined 83¢.
    p. 520: *"The Commonwealth against William Hicks, upon a Presentment of the Grand Jury for getting drunk,"* after attorney arguments, fined 83¢ plus costs; Nicholas Hite and Benjamin Bilbo testified as witnesses against Hicks, each paid 53¢.

Gaming Crackdown in Surry

1. Yoder, pp. 265–268.
2. Weld, pp. 191–192.
3. Yoder, p. 266. *"Virginia Gazette and Weekly Advertiser"* (Richmond, VA), 8 November 1787, p. 3, column 2. *"The Virginia Independent Chronicle"* (Richmond, VA), 1 October 1788, p. 4, column 3.
4. Surry County VA Business License (1783–1856), LDS Film #4131659, Image #190 (Richard Shackleford *"license to keep an Ordinary at his New House at Cabin Point,"* Thomas Bailey, security, 24 April 1798). Shackleford did not obtain an ordinary license in his own name until 1798, but from the court minutes, he at least owned a billiard table that he had set up in one of the taverns, presumably at Cabin Point.
5. Surry County VA Order Book (1795–1800):
    p. 48: Court session 25 August 1795, Grand Jury *"do present Richard Shackleford for not listing his Billiard Table."*
    pp. 96–97: Court session 23 August 1796, *"The Commonwealth against Richard Shackleford, Presentment of the Grand Jury."*

    In this era, court officials used the terms *"present"* and *"presentment"* in the same manner that we use *"indict"* or *"indictment"* today.

6. Shepherd, Samuel. *The Statutes at Large of Virginia, from October Session 1792, to December Session 1806, Inclusive.* Vol. II. Richmond: Samuel Shepherd, 1835, pp. 75–76 (*"An ACT to amend the act, intitled, "An act to prevent unlawful gaming,"* passed 19 January 1798). Yoder, pp. 266–267.
7. *"The Enquirer"* (Richmond, VA), 2 January 1806, p. 3, column 4. *"Virginia Argus"* (Richmond, VA), January 10 (p. 3, column 3), 21 (p. 3, columns 3–4), and 28 (p. 3, column 4), 1806.
8. Surry County VA Order Book (1804–1807):
   p. 452: Court session 25 November 1806, present Nicholas Sebrell, *"Gentleman Justices."*
   p. 455: Grand jury indictments: John Stiles for *"unlawful gaming in his Tavern at the New Design"* and Benjamin Cocke for *"unlawful Gaming at the New Design,"* both *"on the night of"* 19 November 1806;
   p. 475: *"The Commonwealth against John Stiles;" "Lightfoot against Cocke adm,"* 27 November 1806/
   p. 477: *"John Stiles came into court and informed the court upon oath that Richard Shackleford, German Ellis, Benjamin Cocke, John Putney, John Justiss, William Mooring, and George Birdsong did on"* 19 November 1806, *"engage in Gambling in his Tavern, at The New Design."*
   Nicholas Sebrell did not sit on the Surry Court a justice on November 27th.
9. Surry County VA Business License (1783–1856), LDS Film #4131659, Image #40 (William M. Davis *"license to keep an ordinary at The New Design,"* 24 February 1807, William Bailey, security). Surry County VA Order Book (1804–1807):
   p. 493: Court session 24 February 1807;
   p. 500: William M. Davis *"On his motion he is Licenced* [sic] *to keep an Ordinary at the new design for twelve months,"* 24 February 1807.
10. Surry County VA Order Book (1804–1807), pp. 500–501: Court session 24 March 1807. Based upon evidence presented in court by Langley C. Wills, James Holt, and Thomas Perkins, the Grand Jury issued these presentments [indictments] for offences occurring on 5 November 1806:
    - *"David Price for suffering unlawful gaming in his house."*
    - *"John Godwin of Nansemond County, for keeping a Faro Bank at David Prices Tavern, and gaming at the same."*
    - Charles Wren, Henry Harrison, Francis Wren, Joseph Jones, Joakim McKeil, John Goodson, George Brassel, John Derring, Robert Fulgham, and Thomas Hardy of Isle of Wight County *"for unlawful gaming at Surry Courthouse in company with John Godwin…"*
11. Surry County VA Order Book (1804–1807):
    p. 505: Court session 25 March 1807, *"Gentleman Justices: William Boyce, Beverly Booth, Archibald Cocke, Nicholas Sebrell, Archibald Davis."*
    pp. 506–507: *"Commonwealth against Stiles, Summons. For reasons appearing to the court this cause is continued until the next court of quarter sessions."* The Court took similar action in the summons against Cocke, Shackleford, Ellis, Putney, Justiss, Moring, and Birdsong.
12. Surry County VA Order Book (1807–1811):
    p. 2: Court session of 26 May 1807, *"Gentlemen Justices"* included William Boyce, Robert McIntosh, Archibald Cocke, John H. Cocke.
    p. 3: *"The Commonwealth against John Stiles…the cause is continued until the next court;" "The Commonwealth against David Price;" "The Commonwealth against John Godwin."*
    p. 4: *"The Commonwealth against Benjamin Cocke: Summons for Gambling."*
    Both Price and Godwin entered pleas of not guilty.
13. Surry County VA Order Book (1807–1811), pp. 6–8 (Court session of 26 May 1807). Towards the end of their 26 May 1807 session, these men appeared before the Surry Court to enter pleas of not guilty in the gambling charges at Surry Court House Tavern against them: Joakim McKeil, John Goodson, George Brassel, John Derring, Robert Fulgham, and Thomas Hardy. Richard Shackleford, tavernkeeper at Cabin Point Tavern, appeared last that day, and entered a plea of not guilty in the charges against him for gambling at The New Design Tavern. After hearing their pleas, the Surry Court ordered all cases *"continued"* until the next court session.
14. Surry County VA Order Book (1807–1811), pp. 8–9, 12–13 (Court session appears to have been Wednesday, May 27th, but the date was omitted from the court minutes). These four men appeared before the Surry Court to enter pleas of not guilty in the gambling charges at Surry Court House Tavern against them: Charles Wrenn, Francis Wrenn, Henry Harrison, and Joseph Jones. After hearing their pleas, the Surry Court ordered all cases *"continued"* until the next court session. For some unknown reason, on pp. 12–13 of the court minutes, the gambling charges against David Price, John Godwin, and the ten men from Isle of Wight County were again entered in the minutes with the notation, *"For reasons appearing to the court this cause is continued until the next court of quarter sessions."* It appears that was merely a record of the court's actions in the cases, as all had already been noted in the minutes as continued.
15. Surry County VA Order Book (1807–1811), pp. 10–11 (Court session appears to have been Wednesday, May 27th, but the date was omitted from the court minutes). John Justiss entered his plea of not guilty, with his case

postponed. The Court continued the case against George Birdsong until the next session, and it does not appear that he entered any plea.

16. Surry County VA Order Book (1807–1811):
    p. 28: Court session of 25 August 1807; *"Present: William Boyce, Nicholas Sebrell, Beverly Booth, & William Scammell, Gentlemen Justices."*
    p. 30: *"The Commonwealth against John Stiles: Summons for Gambling. For reasons appearing to the court this cause is dismissed."*
17. Surry County VA Order Book (1807–1811):
    p. 28: Court session of 25 August 1807;
    pp. 30–31: The Court ordered the gambling cases against Richard Shackleford, German Ellis, John Justiss, William Mooring, and George Birdsong *"continued until the next court of quarter sessions."*
18. Surry County VA Order Book (1807–1811):
    p. 28: Court session of 25 August 1807;
    p. 31: *"The Commonwealth against David Price: Sum^s for permit^g Gambling in his Tavern;"* grand jury indictments: David Price.
19. Surry County VA Business License (1783–1856), LDS Film #4131659, Image #14 (David Price, *"license to keep an ordinary at his House,"* dated 27 May 1806, license valid *"for and during the term of one year from the 23rd day of April last"*).
20. Surry County VA Order Book (1807–1811):
    p. 33: Court session of 26 August 1807;
    pp. 37–38: *"The Commonwealth against David Price, Presentment* [indictment] *found against him at the present Term;" "On motion of David Price who gave Bond with Robert McIntosh his security, his Ordinary License is renewed for one year from April last."*

    Surry County VA Business License (1783–1856), LDS Film #4131659, Image #126 (David Price, *"license to keep an ordinary at Surry Court house,"* dated 26 August 1807, license valid *"for and during the term of one year from the first day of April last past"*).
21. Surry County VA Order Book (1807–1811):
    p. 60: Gambling cases against Richard Shackleford, German Ellis, William Mooring, and George Birdsong postponed, 25 November 1807;
    p. 89: Court session 23 February 1808;
    p. 91: *"Richard Shackleford came into court and gave Bond for his ordinary License from the first day of May last."*

    Surry County VA Business License (1783–1856), LDS Film #4131659, Images:
    #16: Richard Shackleford, *"License to keep an Ordinary at Cabin Point…for the term of one year from the first day of April last until the 1st May next,"* 23 February 1808; security: Benjamin Cocke.
    #327: Richard Shackleford, *"license to keep an ordinary at Cabin Point…for the term of one year from 23rd day of April last passed,"* 27 May 1806.
22. Surry County VA Order Book (1807–1811):
    p. 145: Court session of 23 August 1808;
    p. 147: Charges for gambling dismissed against Richard Shackleford, German Ellis, William Mooring, and George Birdsong;
23. Surry County VA Order Book (1807–1811), p. 206: Court session 28 March 1809:
    "The Commonwealth against John Justiss, Information, For reasons appearing to the court this cause is dismissed."

    This case for *"Information"* is presumably the gambling charge against Justiss. There is no other reference to any case against John Justiss in this time period.
24. Surry County VA Order Book (1807–1811):
    p. 28: Court session of 25 August 1807;
    p. 32: Gambling case against Henry Harrison continued;
    p. 33: Case heard: *"The Commonwealth against Francis Wrenn, Summons for Gambling."* The jury's verdict: *"We of the Jury find the defendant guilty and assess the fine to twenty dollars."* The minutes continued:
    > *"It is therefore considered by the court that the Commonwealth recover against the defendant the fine aforesaid in manner aforesaid assessed, amounting to the sum of twenty dollars and also for her costs in this behalf expended. The said defendant may be taken &c."*

    Wrenn's fine plus costs amounted to $23.43. The final phrase in the Court's order following Wrenn's conviction is not found after the verdicts in other cases. It implies that Wrenn was imprisoned, perhaps due to an inability to pay his fine.
25. Surry County VA Order Book (1807–1811):

p. 33: Court session of 26 August 1807;
pp. 34–35: Gambling cases against Joseph Jones, Joakim McKeil, and John Goodson; jury verdicts all not guilty
p. 36: Gambling cases against George Brassel, John Derring, Robert Fulgham, and Thomas Hardy all continued.

26. Surry County VA Order Book (1807–1811):
    pp. 60–61: Court session of 25 November 1807. The Court ordered the gambling cases against David Price, John Godwin, Francis Wrenn, Henry Harrison, George Brassel, John Derring, Robert Fulgham, and Thomas Hardy all continued. The reference to a pending case against Francis Wrenn is a clerical error, for he had been convicted and imprisoned at the previous court session in August. The pending case was against Charles Wrenn.
    p. 121: Court session of 25 May 1808. Case heard:
    "The Commonwealth against Thomas Hardy, Sum[s] for Gambling."
    Jury verdict: *"We of the Jury find the defendant not guilty."*
27. Surry County VA Order Book (1807–1811):
    p. 145: Court session of 23 August 1808;
    p. 148: Gambling cases against David Price, John Godwin, Charles Wrenn, Henry Harrison, George Brassel, and Robert Fulgham all continued (no reference made to the case against John Derring, presumably a clerical omission);
    p. 224: Court session of 24 May 1809;
    pp. 235–236: The Court ordered the gambling cases against David Price, John Godwin, Francis Wrenn [sic–Charles Wrenn], Henry Harrison, George Brassel, John Derring, and Robert Fulgham all continued.
28. Surry County VA Order Book (1807–1811):
    p. 339: Court session of 22 May 1810;
    p. 343: *"The Commonwealth against David Price, Information for Suffering Gambling; This cause this day came on to be heard and was argued by counsel whereupon it is considered by the Court that the same be dismissed."*
    pp. 343–344: Gambling cases against John Godwin, Henry Harrison, George *"Bassel"* [Brassel] all *"continued until to-morrow."*
    p. 344: *"The Commonwealth against Charles Wrenn, Sum[s] for Gambling,"* the jury *"returned their verdict for the defendant."*
    p. 345: *"The Commonwealth against John Derring, Sum[s] for Gambling,"* the jury *"returned their verdict for the defendant;" "The Commonwealth against Robert T. Fulgham, Sum[s] for Gambling,"* the jury verdict: *"We the Jury find the defendant guilty and asses his damages $20."*
29. Surry County VA Order Book (1807–1811):
    p. 406: Court session of 29 August 1810;
    pp. 408–409: Gambling cases against John Godwin, Henry Harrison, and George Brassel: *"On motion of the defendant and for reasons appearing to the court this cause is continued until the next court of quarter sessions."*
30. Surry County VA Order Book (1807–1811):
    p. 420: Court session of 27 November 1810;
    p. 423: John Godwin case *"is continued until to-morrow."*
    p. 426: Court session of 28 November 1810;
    p. 427: *"The Commonwealth against John Godwin, Information for unlawful Gambling;"* jury verdict:
    "We of the Jury find John Godwin of Nansemond County the defendant guilty of keeping a playing at a faro bank table at David Prices tavern on or about the fifth November 1806."
    The court minutes continued:
    "It is therefore considered by the court that the Commonwealth do recover against the defendant One hundred dollars his fine, and also her costs in this behalf expended and the said defendant may be taken &c."
    The last phrase seems to imply that Godwin was unable to pay his fine and was imprisoned. Although the minutes ordered a fine of $100, the clerk's notes in the margin recorded the fine as only $20. After adding court costs, the total assessed was $36.36. It is unclear if the mistake was caught.
31. Surry County VA Order Book (1807–1811):
    p. 451: Court session of 26 March 1811;
    p. 453: Case heard: *"The Commonwealth against Henry Harrison, Summons for Gambling."* The jury impaneled in the case included Stiles' brother-in-law, David Sebrell, John Watkins, who later married Sebrell's daughter, Elizabeth Faulcon Sebrell, and Sebrell neighbors Miles Burgess and John Velvin. The jury verdict: *"We of the Jury do find the defendant Harrison guilty."* The Court assessed him a fine of $20 plus costs, which brought the amount he had to pay to $31.52.

p. 454: Case heard: *"The Commonwealth against George Brassel, Summons for Gambling."* The same jury heard this case as Harrison's. The jury verdict: *"We of the Jury find the defendant Brassel guilty."* The Court assessed him a fine of $20 plus costs, which brought the amount he had to pay to $29.32.

Aftermath of the Antigaming Vendetta

1. Surry County VA Business License (1783–1856), LDS Film #4131659, Images:
   #12: *"Thomas Bailey jr hath obtained a License to keep an Ordinary at the New Design,"* 27 May 1816
   #20: Thomas Bailey Jr, *"hath obtained a license to keep an ordinary at the New Design,"* 23 February 1808
   #24: *"Thomas Bailey junior…a License to keep an Ordinary at his House (called New Design),"* 26 May 1817
   #28: *"Thomas Bailey Jr…a license to keep an ordinary at the New Design,"* 28 May 1811
   #34: *"Thomas Bailey jun^{r}…a license to keep an Ordinary at the New Design,"* 22 May 1810
   #114: *"Thomas Bailey jr….a License to keep an Ordinary at the New Design,"* 26 May 1812
   #399: *"Thomas Bailey Jr hath obtained a License to keep an Ordinary at New Design,"* 25 May 1818
   #405: *"Thomas Bailey hath obtained a license to keep an Ordinary at the New Design,"* 22 May 1815
   #423: Thomas Bailey Jr. *"hath obtained a license to keep an ordinary at New Design,"* 23 May 1814
   Surry County VA Order Book (1811–1815), pp. 198–199:
   "On motion Thomas Bailey who paid the sum of sixteen dollars and seventy five cents tax, his ordinary License is renewed for one year," 25 May 1813.
   There is no record of the New Design ordinary license for the year 1809.
2. 1806 Surry County VA Marriage Bonds, LDS Film #4129158, Image #38 (Thomas Bailey Jr. to Eliz^{a} Lassceles Kee, 17 December 1806).
3. Surry County VA Deed Book 3 (1804–1811), pp. 277–278 (James Kee to *"Thomas Bailey junior"* and Elizabeth Lasscells Bailey, 27 October 1807; *"all the Land lying North of my Mill Pond which I bought of Nathaniel Stewart and Stephen Stewart"*).
4. Surry County VA Deed Book 3 (1804–1811), p. 450 (James and Jane Kee to Thomas Bailey Jr., 26 December 1808; sells 130 acres of *"one certain tract or parcel of Land on which he now lives called "Roses"*). Numerous later documents show that this 130-acre tract was *"The New Design,"* including:
   - 1813 Surry County VA Land Tax Book, LDS Film #4121840, Image #08: Thomas Bailey Jr. 130 acres *"New Design adjoining John Collier;"* 183 acres *"West of Jordans path Adjoining N. Design"*).
   - 1816 Surry County VA Land Tax Book, LDS Film #4124801, Image #07: *"Thomas Bailey jun."* (130 acres *"New Design adjoining John Collier;"* 183 acres *"Adjoining John Collier and New Design"*).
   - 1817 Surry County VA Land Tax Book, LDS Film #4124808, Image #07: Thomas Bailey Jr. (130 acres *"New Design adjoining R. Cypress;"* 183 acres *"Adjoining John Collier and New Design"*).

   Kee's 1808 deed to Bailey referred to the 130-acre tract as *"Roses"* and not *"The New Design"* like later deeds did since it has originally belonged to the late William Rose Sr., a longtime local resident. Kee purchased the 130 acres on 31 August 1796 from William and Patty Ellis, land they bought from John and Benjamin Rose the previous year; see Surry County VA Deed Book 1 (1792–1799), pp. 393–395 (William and Patty Ellis to James Kee, 31 August 1796).
5. 1774 Surry County VA Marriage Bonds, LDS Film #4129116, Image #22 (James Kee to *"Jane Bailey Orphan of Thomas Bailey,"* 22 February 1774).
6. Surry County VA Wills, Etc. Book 2 (1804–1815), pp. 486–488 (Will of James Kee, written 1 February 1812, codicil added 27 April 1812, filed in court on 25 August 1812). In his will, James Kee left to his son-in-law, Thomas Bailey Jr., *"The store houses at the New Design and one acre lot."*
7. *"Richmond Enquirer"* (Richmond, VA), 21 March 1823, p. 1, column 2.
8. *"Richmond Enquirer,"* 13 October 1848, p. 2, column 6.
9. Surry County VA Militia Records (1840–1861), LDS Film #8742677, Images:
   #20: *"At a Court of inquiry and assessment of fines held for the 2nd Battalion 71st Reg^{t} at the New Design in the County of Surry on the 20th day of Oct 1842;" "8th day of Oct 1842. Adjutant Faulcon's return of N. Designs Company…"*
   #21: *"At a Court of inquiry and assessment of fines held for the 2nd Battalion 71st Reg^{t} at the New Design in the County of Surry on the 20th day of October 1842;" "Adjutant Faulcon's return of N. Design Company"*
   #28: *"At a Court of inquiry and assessment of fines held for the 2nd Battalion 71st Reg^{t} at the New Design in the County of Surry on the 18th day of November 1843"*
   #31: *"At a Regimental Court of inquiry and assessment of fines held for the 71st Regiment on the 8th day of Decr 1843"*
   #33: *"Ordered that Jacob Faulcon Adjutant to this Regiment be allowed four dollars per day for attending one day at the Regimental muster and three days at the training making 16 dollars, also four dollars for training*

the New Design company and returning a list of delinquents for the same amounting in the whole to the sum of $20."

10. For more details, see the article, The New Design.

From the Surry Side Onward to North Carolina & Tennessee

1. 1803–1807 Surry County VA Personal Property Tax Books, LDS Film #8188299, Images #562 (1803), #594 (1804), #619 (1805), #636 (1806), and #657 (1807). In 1806 and 1807, Nathaniel Sebrell Sr. paid three male tithes, whereas in earlier years, he had paid only two, identified in 1802–1804 as those for himself and his son, Nicholas Sebrell. Virginia did not collect personal property taxes in 1808.
2. 1809 Surry County VA Marriage Bonds, LDS Film #4129163, Image #28 (Leroy Stiles to Anna Hickman, 17 April 1809). 1809–1810 Surry County VA Personal Property Tax Books, LDS Film #8188299, Images #677 (1809), #695–696 (1810).
3. 1810 Surry County VA Federal Census, p. 615, line #13: *"Nathl Sebrell;"* p. 616, line #20: *"John Stiles Sen.;"* p. 621 (*"David Sebrell, Assistant to the Marshal of Virginia"*). Nathaniel Sebrell's household included two males, one aged 16–26 (probably John Stiles Jr.) and one aged 45 or older (Nathaniel). The identifications given are guesses, as the original document only gives the age brackets and gender.
4. Surry County VA Order Book (1807–1811), p. 386 (Court session of 26 June 1810); p. 389 (Surry County payments to John Velvin, Edwin Rogers, and Leroy Stiles of $2.25 each *"for 36 hours patrole"* [sic]). On 23 December 1800, John Velvin obtained a bond to marry Permelia Cooper, daughter of John Cooper, a brother George Cooper, making Permelia the first cousin of Jane Cooper Stiles. In 1817, Edwin Rogers would marry Leroy Stiles' first cousin, Lucy Collier, daughter of Emelia Cooper Collier. See 1800 Surry County VA Marriage Bonds, LDS Film #4129145, Image #60 (John Cooper to Permelia Cooper, 23 December 1800); 1817 Surry County VA Marriage Bonds, LDS Film #4129182, Image #65 (Edwin Rogers to Lucy Collier, 24 November 1817).
5. 1811 Surry County VA Personal Property Tax Books, LDS Film #8188299, Images #715.
6. Wayne County NC Original Wills, LDS Film #7640338, Images #1930–1934; Film #7640339, Images #6–10 (Will of Richard McKinne, signed 3 January 1800; recorded April Court 1800). Among his children, Richard made bequests to *"my son Richard"* and also named him as one of his executors.
7. Wayne County NC Superior Court Recording Docket Vol. 2 (1810–1812), p. 159 (Order for the Coroner to Summons a Jury of Inquest into the Death of *"an infant child of couller,"* P. Collier J.P., 5 May 1812). At the bottom of his order, Collier wrote: *"Summons John Stiles, Polly Starling and Elizabeth McKinne."* Probert Collier served many years as a Wayne County justice. He is buried in the Willow Dale Cemetery (Goldsboro, NC), Old Section Lot #59: *"Sacred to the memory of Probert Collier, Born June 22, 1765 & died Jan^{r} 19, 1835."*
8. Wayne County NC Superior Court Recording Docket Vol. 3 (1812–1816):
   p. 398: *"Terms of the Sale of the property of Rich^{d} McKinne dec^{d} is Six Months Credit with Interest from the date no property to be altered or changed until note with approved Security is Given. An Inventory and Ac^{t} Sales of the Property of Rich^{d} McKinne dec^{d} is sold 16th Septr 1812."*
   p. 403: *"1 Raw Cow Hide To Leroy Stiles -- 1.6."* This signifies that Stiles paid 1 shilling, 6 pence for the hide.
9. These federal and state census records document the birthplace of Henry P. Stiles as North Carolina:
   1850 Franklin County AR Federal Census, Middle Township, p. 131b, Dwelling #390, line #28: Henry Stiles (age: 35; Farmer; born: N.C.).
   1860 Franklin County AR Federal Census, Six Mile Township, P.O. Charleston, p. 406/166, Dwelling #1179, line #19: Henry Stiles (age: 46; Farmer; born: *"N. Carolina"*).
   1865 Anderson County KS State Census, Walker Township, P.O. Mount Gillead, Dwelling #233, line #25: H. P. Stiles (age: 49; Farmer; born: *"North Carolina"*).
   1870 Franklin County AR Federal Census, Short Mountain Township, P.O. Ozark, p. 79a/10, Dwelling #65, line #6: Henry Stiles (age: 54; Farmer; born: N. C.).
   1880 Franklin County AR Federal Census, Wittich Township, ED #63, p. 802b/3, Dwelling #29, line #44: Henry Stiles (age: 64; Farmer; born: N.C.; father's birthplace: Virginia; mother's birthplace: Virginia).
10. Wayne County NC Superior Court Recording Docket Vol. 4 (1816–1822):
    p. 24: *"An Ac^{t} Sale of the Property of William Boykin dec^{d} Sold…"* 9 November 1816. Leroy Stiles paid $8.18 for two barrels of corn, Richard McKinne bought three *"Sow & Pigs"* and *"1 Lot old Plows,"* while William McKinne bought three old *"Weeding"* hoes.
    p. 25: *"An Ac^{t} Hiring the Negroes belonging to the Estate of William Boykin dec^{d} for Twelve Months from 9th Novr 1816."* Richard McKinne paid $28.00 for renting of *"1 Negro Boy Luke."*
11. Wayne County NC Civil Action Papers Court Records (1818–1819), LDS Film #103209949, Image #25 (J. Handly to *"Philip Hooks Esqr,"* receipt of payment by John McKinne; witness: Leroy Stiles). 1810 Wayne County NC Federal Census, p. 846, line #3: Philip Hooks. This was the last household enumerated, with Hooks shown as a male aged 16–26 together with 9 slaves. Below this was the final statement of the Assistant Marshal:

I Philip Hooks Assistant Martial [sic] *for the County of Wayne, do hereby Certify that the foregoing enumeration…*

12. Wayne County NC Deed Book 11 (1818–1820), pp. 262–263 (Robert G. Green mortgage to Jesse Slocumb, 15 November 1819; witnesses: Leroy Stiles, Ann E. Sasser). *"The Carolina Federalist Republican"* (New Bern, NC), 28 June 1817, p. 1, columns 1–2. *"Raleigh Register and North-Carolina Gazette"* (Raleigh, NC), 29 August 1817, p. 3, column 2. Leroy Stiles appeared before the February 1820 term of the Wayne County Court to attest to his signature on the document as witness:

    …the within Mortgage from Robert G. Green to Jesse Slocumb duly proved in open Court by the Oath of Leroy Stiles one of the Subscribing Witnesses thereto…

    In the June 1817 article in the New Bern newspaper, Jesse Slocumb announced his candidacy for the House of Representatives as a Federalist. The August notice in the Raleigh newspaper reported that *"Jesse Slocumb is elected by a small majority over H. J. G. Ruffin, in the Newbern District."*
13. Wayne County NC Deed Book 12 (1820–1825), pp. 21–23 (William McKinnie Sr. mortgage to Joseph Everett Sr., 1 May 1820). To indemnify Everett for a debt of $3981 owed by McKinnie, he mortgaged a total of 320 acres in Wayne County described as

    Joining the line trees of Richard McKinne Dec^{d}, James Bradbury and Jos. Everett lines including the plantation where John Stiles now lives…

    The 320 acres consisted of *"three certain Pieces or Parcels of land"* described as:
    - 130 acres: *"Foly plantation {now Stiles place} original belonging to David Jernegan"*
    - 85 acres: *"one other place know*[n] *by the name of the Reuben Burket place or plantation patented by William McKinne Senr"*
    - 105 acres: *"patented by Stephen Jernigan adjoining the said Burket plantation"*
14. 1820 Wayne County NC Federal Census, p. 480, line #17: John Stiles.
15. Wayne County NC Superior Court Recording Docket Vol. 4 (1816–1822), pp. 419–420 (Will of Jesse Slocumb, dated 20 November 1820, filed with the Wayne County Court, May Term 1821). *"Daily National Intelligencer"* (Washington, DC), December 20 (p. 3, column 3) and 22 (p. 3, column 1). Congressional Cemetery (Washington, DC), Plot: Range 29, Site 29, tombstone of Jesse Slocumb: *"In Memory of the Hon. Jesse Slocumb; a Representative in the Congress of the U.S. From the State of North Carolina Died Dec 20th, 1820, Aged 40 Years."*
16. Wayne County NC Superior Court Recording Docket Vol. 5 (1822–1828):

    p. 3: *"Account of Sale of the property of Jesse Slocumb Decd 15th November 1821;"* column 2, #4: *"15 Head Beef Cattle: Leroy Stiles…$90.60"*

    p. 419: *"Ezekiel Slocumb and Charles Hooks exor^{s} of Jesse Slocumb dec^{d} in acc^{t} with the estate of said Jesse Slocumb dec^{d};"* list of debts due the Slocumb estate, #1–19.

    p. 420: [column 2, list of debts continued]

    "No. 36 By Leroy Stiles rec^{d}. 20th Jany 1822: $5.00"
    "No. 37 By Leroy Stiles rec^{d}. 13 Sept 1821: $90.60"
    "No. 38 By Leroy Stiles rec^{d}. 20 Jany 1822: $46.60"

    Wayne County NC Superior Court Recording Docket Vol. 4 (1816–1822), pp. 444–445 (*"An Inventory of the Estate of Jesse Slocumb Dec^{d} taken by Ezekiel Slocumb and Charles Hooks this 17th August 1821 as Executors to the last will of the said Dec^{d}"*). The inventory includes a detailed accounting of all notes due to Jesse Slocumb at the time of his death, and Leroy Stiles was not listed among those owing debts to Slocumb. Thus, it appears that the three payments Stiles made to Slocumb's executors are for items purchased at his estate sales. The account of the sale at which Stiles bought fifteen cattle for $90.60 was submitted to the court on 15 November 1821, but no subsequent estate sale was recorded in these record books. Presumably, the two payments that Leroy Stiles made on 20 January 1822 to Slocumb's executors are for items he bought at a later sale.
17. Surry County VA Deed Book 7 (1823–1826), pp. 186–188 (John and Rebecca Stiles to Edwin Rogers, 10 March 1824). For $50, John Stiles rented the tract of land known as *"Coopers"* to Edwin Rogers for the period of ten years.
18. These federal census records document the birthplace of George T. Stiles in Tennessee. The enumerator of the 1850 census mistakenly wrote George's initials as *"D. T. Stiles:"*

    1850 Union County AR Federal Census, El Dorado Township, p. 236b, Dwelling #419, line #31: Jack Stiles (age: 66; Farmer; born: *"V^{a}"*); #32: Rebecca Stiles (age: 56; born: *"V^{a}"*); #33: *"D. T. Stiles"* [sic] (age: 24; Farmer; born: Tenn).

    1860 Columbia County AR Federal Census, Mississippi Township, P.O. Palestine, p. 262/48, Dwelling #321, line #39: George Stiles (age: 34; Farmer; born: Tenn).

    1870 Columbia County AR Federal Census, Mississippi Township, P.O. Magnolia, Ark., p. 447b/19, Dwelling #115: George T. Stiles (age: 43; Farmer; born: Tennessee).

    1880 Columbia County AR Federal Census, Mississippi Township, ED #43, p. 207b/1, Dwelling #6, line #36: George T. Stiles (age: 53; Farmer; born: Tennessee).

19. 1820 Franklin County TN Federal Census, p. 43/84, #1104: *"Benjamin Nevels."* The early records of Franklin County, Tennessee do not exist. The date given for the marriage of Mary Elizabeth Stiles and Benjamin Nevill comes from family records.
20. This series of records documents the birth of Margaret Stiles, daughter of Leroy, in Tennessee:
    Union County AR Court Record Book B (1845–1849), p. 8: *"Lawson Swilly"* married to *"Margarett Siles* [sic] *daughter of Leroy and Mary Stiles,"* 19 July 1846.
    1870 Union County AR Federal Census, Jackson Township, P.O. El Dorado, p. 547b/9, Dwelling #63, line #9: Lawson Swilley (age: 46; Farmer); #10: Margaret Swilley (age: 40; born: Tennessee).
    1880 Union County AR Federal Census, Jackson Township, ED #274, p. 287b/13, Dwelling #113, line #36: Lawson Swilley (age: 56; Farmer); #37: Margaret Swilley (age: 51; wife; born: Tennessee).
    1900 Union County AR Federal Census, Jackson Township, ED #127, p. 156b/13, Dwelling #202, line #45: *"Margret Swilley"* (born: Feb 1829; widowed; born: Tennessee).
    Swilley Cemetery (Junction City, Union County, AR), tombstone of Margaret Swilley (13 Feb 1829–29 Sep 1904).
21. 1830 Franklin County TN Federal Census, p. 64, line #21: *"John Stiles Senr;"* #26: *"John Stiles;"* p. 96, line #1: *"LeRoy Stiles."*
22. Franklin County TN Court Minutes, Vol. 2, Part 1 (1832–1834); WPA Transcriptions, LDS Film #4769009, Image #607, p. 88 (Court session of 26 November 1832); Image #610, p. 90 (John Stiles appointed overseer).
23. 1830 Franklin County TN Federal Census, p. 70, line #17: *"Benj^{m} Nevill."* Benjamin Nevill's date of death comes from family records.
24. 1840 Coffee County TN Federal Census, p. 186, line #30: Leroy Stiles [last line on page]; p. 187, line #1: Mary Nevill.
25. Coffee County TN Will and Probate Records, LDS Film #4727878, Images 73–74. Coffee County TN Will Book 1 (1833–1859), pp. 40–41, LDS Film #4776229, Image #37 [original]. Coffee County TN Will Book 1 (1833–1860) [typed], pp. 34–35, LDS Film #4769001, Images 622–623 (Will of John Stiles, written 6 November 1841, proved 4 March 1844). Coffee County TN Court Minutes (1841–1849), LDS Film #7642763, Images #265–266, p. 97 (Court session 4 March 1844); p. 99 (Will of *"John Stiles Dec^{d}"* presented to the Court and proved on oath of Joseph Fletcher).

Wives & Children of John Stiles Sr.

1. 1782 Surry County VA Marriage Bonds, LDS Film #4129125, Images #40–41; Surry County VA Marriage Register (1763–1853), p. 11, LDS Film #7579167, Image 133 (John Stiles to Mary Sebrell, *"Spinster;"* 9 December 1782).
2. 1788 Surry County VA Marriage Bonds, LDS Film #4129138, Images #28–29; Surry County VA Marriage Register (1763–1853), p. 23, LDS Film #7579167, Image 145 (John Stiles to Jane Cooper *"of full age,"* 22 July 1788).
3. Coffee County TN Will and Probate Records, LDS Film #4727878, Images 73–74. Coffee County TN Will Book 1 (1833–1859), pp. 40–41, LDS Film #4776229, Image #37 [original]. Coffee County TN Will Book 1 (1833–1860) [typed], pp. 34–35, LDS Film #4769001, Images 622–623 (Will of John Stiles, written 6 November 1841, proved 4 March 1844).
4. Surry County VA Wills, Etc. Book 3 (1815–1821), pp. 140–142 (Will of Nathaniel Sebrell, written 25 December 1813, filed 22 April 1816); Book 4 (1822–1827), pp. 613–619 (Nathaniel Sebrell Estate Account, filed 26 October 1826); Book 5 (1827–1830), pp. 208–214 (Nathaniel Sebrell Estate Account, filed 22 October 1827). Surry County VA Wills & Inventories (1797–1879), LDS Film #4124856, Images 1146–1147, 1323–1324 (Will of Nathaniel Sebrell, written 25 December 1813, filed 22 April 1816). In his will written on Christmas Day 1813, Nathaniel Sebrell divided his slaves not specifically given to his two surviving children into six equal lots, leaving the lots to his two living children and the heirs of his deceased children, including this bequest: *"And the other lot I give to my Grand son John Stiles Jr. to him and his heirs forever."* On 1 January 1826, Sebrell's executor, his son, David Sebrell, recorded payment of $457.52 to John Stiles, describing it as *"By your Legacy from your Grandfather & Int. to this day."* On 1 May 1827, David Sebrell reported a balance due to John Stiles of $63.02 from the estate of Nathaniel Sebrell. This proves that Sebrell was the father of Mary Sebrell who married John Stiles in 1782.
5. 1850 Grundy County TN Federal Census, Civil District No. 8, p. 367a, Dwelling #84, line #26: Mary Nevill (age: 58; born: *"Va"*). 1860 Coffee County TN Federal Census, P.O. Hillsboro, pp. 91a/42–91b/43, Dwelling #297, line #2: May Neville (age: 69; born: *"Va"*). 1870 Coffee County TN Federal Census, P.O. Hillsborough, Civil District 12th, p. 122a/8, Dwelling #56, line #21: Mary E. Neville (age: 79; born: Virginia). Family records give Mary Elizabeth Stiles' precise dates of birth and death, but the precise source of these dates is unknown. The census records corroborate her year of birth.
6. 1860 Franklin County AR Federal Census, Six Mile Township, P.O. Charleston, p. 406/166, Dwelling #1180, line #33: LeRoy Stiles (age: 72; Farmer; born: Virginia).

7. Surry County VA Wills, Etc. Book 11 (1778–1783), pp. 228–230 (Will of George Cooper, dated 14 October [1781], filed in court 26 March 1782). In his 1781 will, George Cooper named his wife, *"Mary Cooper,"* his daughter, *"Jane Cooper,"* and his son, Frederick Cooper.
8. Surry County VA Wills, Etc. Book 2 (1804–1815), p. 80; Surry County VA Wills, Inventories & Estate Accounts (1770–1873), LDS Film #4124979, Images 1000–1001 (Will of Frederick Cooper, dated 22 April 1805, filed in court 28 January 1806).
9. Orange County NC Will Book D (1880–1822), pp. 263–265 (Will of Jesse Nevill Sr., written 11 September 1809, filed in court May 1810). The will proves that Benjamin was the son of Jesse Nevill Sr., but claims regarding Benjamin's mother come from Nevill family information. Mary's specific dates of birth and death, as well as the precise marriage date for Mary Elizabeth Stiles and Benjamin Nevill, all come from undocumented family records.

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