

Christopher Brunk

That's Not a Washington County Name

Oh, but yes, it is! There were two early landowners with the surname, and it's impossible to discern between them. The surname "Brunk" has several variations on spelling, including Brunck, and Brinck. The one certainty is that the family immigrated from Germany. The given name, "Christopher" is one that was passed down through the generations, and when I did a basic search, there were, and are many Christopher Brunks out there!

Christopher Brunk, Sr. was born approximately 1730, was likely the original Brunk immigrant who came here from Germany. He settled for a time in South Carolina, before moving to Tennessee and finally, into Kentucky.

Christopher Brunk, Jr. was born 1760 in South Carolina, and is believed to be a son of Christopher Brunk, Sr. One of these men, if not both, passed through Tennessee, landing here in the 1780s. Christopher, along with John Brunk were both listed as "Dunkards" on the 1780 and 1781 tax lists.

What is a "dunkard?" It is the nickname of a religious denomination that originated in Germany. The term came from the practice of dunking believers three times forward during baptism. Dunkards were sometimes called the German Baptist Brethren. Their primary beliefs include adult baptism, and a generally conservative lifestyle.

In 1781, there are two separate entries for Christopher Brunk, and an entry for John Brunk, all three listed as Dunkards, in the Washington County tax lists.

✓ Chris' Brunk	To Land &c.	119	}	171 10
Dunkard	To Horse	52 10		

Chris' Brunk, 1781 Washington County Tax List

✓ Chris' Brunk	To Land &c.	800	882	}	120 21
Dunkard	To Horse	5	262		
	To Neat Cattle	6	60		

Another Chris Brunk, 1781 Washington County Tax List

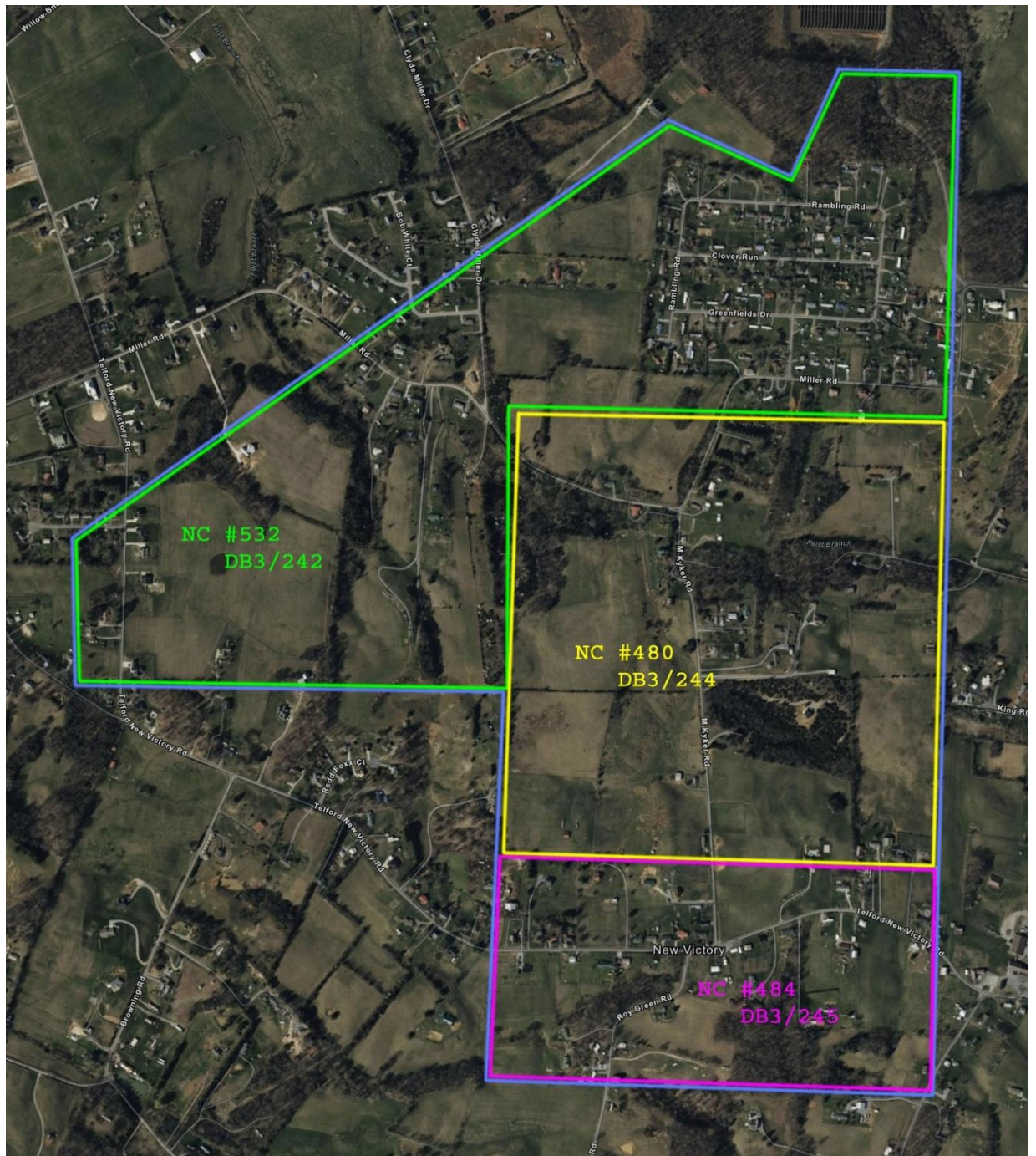
✓ John Brunk	To Land &c.	200	243	}	1321 10
Dunkard	To Horse	3	137		
	To Neat Cattle	1	10		

John Brunk, 1781 Washington County Tax List

As early as 1780, Christopher Brunk was listed as a member of Cherokee Church.

10 Nov 1784 Brunk received two land grants #480 (200 acres), "beginning at Samuel Weaver claim," and, land grant 532 (250 acres), "lying near the head of Weaver's Spring Branch, joining Weavers, Alexander Campbells and his own.."

A deed between Christopher Brunk, Sr., for 210 acres was sold to William Cloyd in 1786. [Deed Book 2, page 75]. A deed written in 1786 [Deed Book 2, page 80] between Christopher Brunk of North Carolina, and William Shannon of Washington County shows Brunk selling 210 acres.



In 1788, Christopher Brunk “of Rutherford County, South Carolina,” sold 130 acres land to George Bigart of Washington County. The sale was handled by Brunk’s attorney, a good sign that by that time, Brunk was not living in our county. [Deed Book 4, page 235]

These earliest Brunk settlers left Washington County, and moved to Grayson County, KY where Christopher, Jr. died on 1 Jul 1825, and is buried in the Petty Cemetery, Grayson County, KY.