

William Watson From One Washington County to Another

William Watson might be one of our early settlers who removed here from what is now known as the Washington County area of Maryland! As we found while researching for America's 250th birthday, we were the second county to be named for George Washington, with Maryland being the first, beating our area by only a few months. There are very few sources listed for the information found for Watson, and I was unable to confirm, but it gave me an excuse to mention that we were the second Washington County.

William Watson was born around 1750. It is widely accepted by genealogists that his grandfather father was an immigrant from Scotland. He and his wife Nancy were the parents of seven children, William, Jonathan, Mary, Elizabeth, Hannah, Susannah, and Abigail. William was consistently listed on the Washington County Tax lists of 1779, 1790, 1791, 1793, 1794, 1795, 1796, 1801, and 1806.

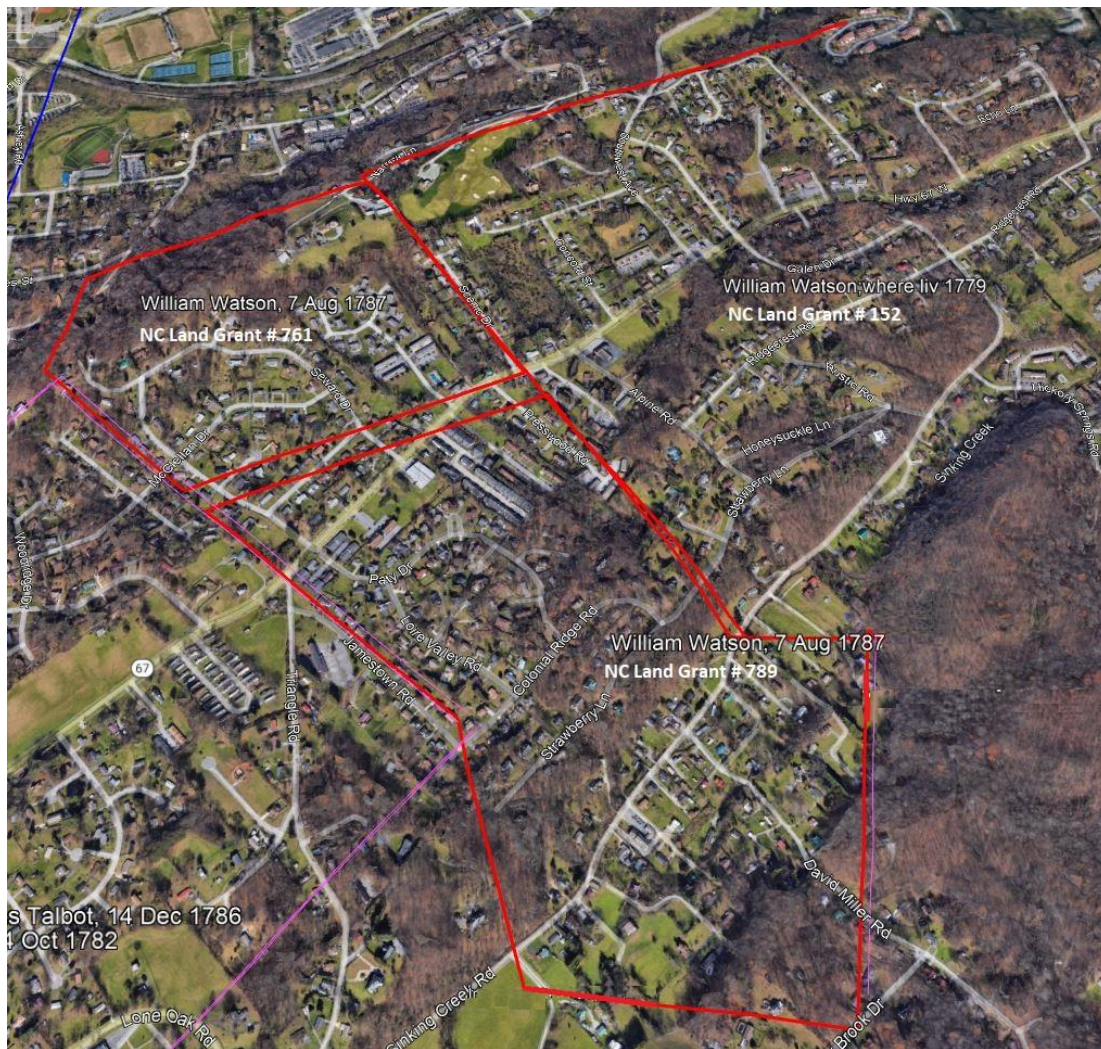
A photograph of a handwritten tax list from 1779 for William Watson. The document is written in cursive on aged paper. It lists property: '1 Entry of 400 Acres of land', '3 Mares', and '1 Cow'. To the right of these items are columns for monetary values. The land is valued at 300 0 0, mares at 500 0 0, and the cow at 100 0 0. Below these, there is a section for 'Ready Money' with a value of 0 2 8. A final total is calculated as 860 2 8. There are also some smaller calculations and corrections visible, such as '1.20-4' and '13.0.2' at the top right, and '17.2.0', '16.5', '34', and '14.2.6' at the bottom right.

Ready Money	100 0 0	1.20-4
William Watson	92 8 0	13.0.2
1 Entry of 400 Acres of land	300 0 0	
3 Mares	500 0 0	860 2 8
1 Cow	100 0 0	17.2.0
Ready Money	0 2 8	16.5
William Watson		34
		14.2.6

The first tax list (1779) showing William Watson with 400 acres of land, three mares, one cow, and two shillings, and eight pence cash.

There were only a few court records in the archives that mentioned Watson. The most interesting was a suit by the State of Tennessee vs. Horatio Ford in 1797. The suit alleges that William Watson had been assaulted by Ford, but the case file gives no details.

He had three North Carolina Land Grants, #152, dated October 24, 1782, and #761, dated August 7, 1787. The grants totaled 600 acres, for land on Sinking Creek. Grant #152 states that it is property "where W^m Watson now lives," shown on the map below. This particular grant was located near present-day Southwest Avenue, and south past the Monterey Hills area to Sinking Creek in Johnson City.



William Watson's original will, dated March 9, 1800 may be found in the Washington County Archives. It reads,

"In the name of God amen I William Watson of the County of Washington and State of Tennessee being weak in body but in of a sound mind and perfect memory and considering the uncertainty of this life and being of sound mind and of perfect memory blessed be god I do make and publish this my last will and testament in the folloing [following] manner that is to say. [words were repeated in original will]

First of all I recommend my soul to god who gave it and my body to be desontly [decently] buried and all honest debts to be paid.

Secondly I give and bequeath to my beloved wife Nancy Watson two hundred acres of my land taking it of the lower end also I leave to my beloved wife one bedstead, bed and furniture also I leave to my beloved wife her choice of two of my horse creature and her choise [choice] of two of my cows, also I leave to my beloved wife all my household furniture during her life and then to be eaquly [equally] divided

among my children.

Thirdly I will to my son William Watson one hundred acres of my land to be taking of the uper [upper] end joining Prices and Borings serveays {surveys}.

Fourthly, I will to my son Jonathan Watson the two hundred acres of land that I left to my beloved wife after her deacease [decease] Fifthly I will to my daughter Mary one hundred acres adjoining the land that I left to my beloved wife. Sixthly I will to my daughter Elizabeth one hundred acres of land lying between my son William and my daughter Mary. Seventhly I will to my daughter Susannah one hundred acres of land joining Robert Young in a survay [survey] by it self. Eighthly My will is that the remainder of my estate is to be sold and the money arising from the same to be paid to my daughter Hannah and Abigal to the value of the land that is left to my daughters Mary and Elizzabeth if there is anougf [enough] if not Mary and Elizabeth is to pay Hannah and Abigail up as much as will make them eaqual [equal] with themselves, if there is any over to eaqualy [equally] divided amongst my children, I do hereby constitute and appoint my loving wife and Joseph Young and Jonathan Tullis executors and executrix of my last will and testament in witness whereof set my hand and seal this 9 day of March one thousand eight hundred

Test

John Parker

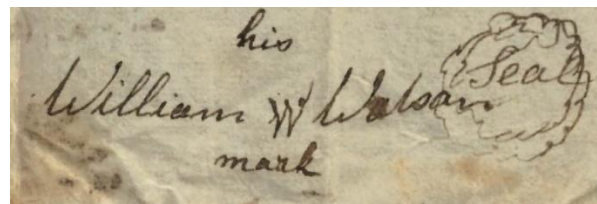
Thomas Linvil

Robert Casiday (his mark)

his

William W Watson (seal)

mark



signature from his will