

## Source 895 – Inventory of the Estate of Abraham Wade, Robert Wade’s son

Dated August 28<sup>th</sup>, 1802

I have been trying to find out more about Robert Wade, but it is proving difficult. So I am going to try to learn as much as possible about his family (i.e., sons and daughters) to see if I can find anything that points me back in a good direction for information on Robert. I found this estate inventory on FamilySearch.org.

The following is regarding one of Robert Wade’s sons – Abraham Wade – so we will see where it leads and what I can learn. I should say that I believe Abraham is Robert’s son. Facts that support this assumption are:

- Robert had a son named Abraham
- The date of Robert’s death is about right
- Abraham lived in the right place – Carteret County, NC

However, I do not have any document at this time that says *this* Abraham Wade is the Abraham who was the son of Robert Wade and Mary Shackelford.

### **Summary of the Inventory**

First off, Abraham was a slave owner, owning 7 slaves at the time of his death. Sadly, I get to add another slave owner to my long list of slave owning ancestors. Dang! At least he wasn’t a direct ancestor. Small comfort, though.

It is amazing going through an inventory of someone’s possessions after their death. It’s sort of like being an archeologist in a dig.

First off, Abraham and his slaves were ranchers – what we could call them today. Abraham had 58 cattle, 2 mares and a colt, 2 horses, 25 sheep, chickens, 17 hogs and shoats, saddles, harnesses, and bridles. I didn’t see a cart, wagon, or buggy so he didn’t use the horses to pull a wagon or anything.

There are two guns listed in the inventory. But these may not be “guns” as we understand them today. Below I discuss the barrel-making tools and supplies, and once a barrel’s sides (staves) have been put together and the iron rings put around them to hold them in a barrel shape (but there aren’t lids on the tops or bottoms), and the barrel has dried, it’s called a “gun”.

It looks like when they butchered the cows, they used the hide to make leather. They sheared the sheep, spun that into wool, and made cloth on a weaver's loom. When they butchered the hogs, they made lard from the fat to cook with.

They were farmers also. They raised cotton, pumpkins, potatoes, corn, wheat, raised bees for honey, They made flour from the wheat and probably corn liquor. They made butter from the cow's milk. They spun the cotton into thread and turned that into cloth on a loom. They had plows, and ards (a type of plow) to work the land on hills and in flat lands. I am not sure what they pulled the plow and ards with. Maybe the horses, as I didn't see any oxen in the inventory.

They had pewter plates, dishes, and spoons (no forks though!). Pewter consists of tin (85–99%), antimony (approximately 5–10%), copper (2%), bismuth, and sometimes silver. In colonial times, it was probably contaminated with lead, whereas today's pewter is lead-free. Abraham also had a mold for making new pewter spoons. I guess that if something pewter broke, Abraham was able to make spoons out of them. He also had some amount of old pewter around.

The big thing noticeable in the inventory is all of the barrel-making tools and supplies. Someone – either Abraham or one or more of his slaves – made barrels. There's a great [website on barrel-making during the Revolutionary War](#). Almost all of the following discussion is from this website. The inventory contains:

- cooper's axes and adzes for cutting the staves to make up the sides of the barrels
- truss hoops - For bilge casks (barrels that are bigger in the middle than the top or bottom), the wood has to be pliable. Making the cask malleable requires a process called trussing. A metal cresset (small stove), fueled with pieces of wood, is placed in the center of the cask, the bottom head is



**Adze c/o Baker Block Museum**

not yet fitted, and is fired. A heavy iron truss hoop is lined up over the end of the barrel using a cooper's adze, giving a tighter fit than just using one's hand. A windlass and hemp rope pulls the staves together so that the truss hoop can be forced down over the ends. The cask is then flipped over so it is heated evenly. On average, the wood would take about twenty minutes to be pliable however,

experienced coopers know when the staves are ready to bend by the color of the smoke and the wood's sheen. Once the cask is dry and set, it was called a gun.

- doweling bits – to drill holes in the head material to put the head boards together
- compasses – for cutting the “heads”, the top and bottom of the barrels
- Heading material
- Staves
- Several types of saws for cutting all of these different parts of barrels, and probably everything else on the farm.

It looks like the family dyed their own material, made their own shoes, and probably dried their own salt from ocean water (unless having a bushel or 8 gallons of salt around was normal.) Abraham also had a sail boat and a dragnet, so he was used to going out into the bay and rivers.

And that's about all to glean from reading this inventory.

Below the inventory is the “bond” that had to be paid to the court to have the will probated. Elizabeth and Isaac Wade were the Administrators of Abraham's will, and Elizabeth, Isaac, Richard and Robert Whitehurst, and Samuel Chadwick had to pay a bond of Three Thousand Pounds (in today's money that would be equivalent to about \$430,000 dollars today. So this must have been a fairly well-off family.

### **Transcription**

I will insert the image of Abraham's estate inventory below, but here is what I can read:

Page 1:

*“An Inventory of the personal estate belonging to Abraham, deceased taken August the 28<sup>th</sup> 1802 by Elizabeth Wade and Isaac Wade administrators to s<sup>d</sup> estate:*

*58 head of cattle*

*7 Negros*

*3 Featherbeds and furniture*

*3 Bedsteds*

*2 mares and one colt*

*2 horses*

*25 sheep*

*2 tables*

*10 chairs*

*2 Cotton Wheeles*

*1 Linen Wheel*

*2 pair of Cotton cards*  
*1 safe and crockery*  
*4 weavers sleys*  
*3 D<sup>o</sup> Harnesses*  
*2 pewter dishes*  
*6 pewter plates*  
*4 pewter basons [John Note: "basins?"]*  
*6 pewter spoons*  
*2 Trunks*  
*1 Gin case*  
*1 Decanter*  
*3 Wine Glasses and 2 Tumblers*  
*2 Earthen Basons [John Note: "basins?"]*  
*1 Meat Sieve*  
*2 pair of Hilly ards [John Note: A "hilly ard" in colonial America refers to a simple, basic type of plow, called an "ard," which was particularly suited for use on hilly or uneven terrain due to its lightweight design and ability to maneuver easily compared to heavier plows of the time; essentially, a "hilly ard" was a small, adaptable plow for farming on hilly land.]*  
*2 Chests*  
*1 Weavers Loom*  
*1 Dutch Oven*  
*3 Iron Pots*  
*4 Basketts*

*Page 2*

*Continued*  
*5 Books*  
*1 pair of Brass candlesticks*  
*1 Iron D<sup>o</sup>*  
*2 Jointers stocks*  
*2 Coopers axes and dowlings bit [John Note: "doweling?"]*  
*1 pair of compasses*  
*1 set of Truss hoops*  
*1 pair of sheep shears*  
*1 Meal Tub*  
*3 Milk Piggins [John Note: A "pigging" is a small barrel or pail with straight sides rather than the bulging sides of a barrel. Also, one of the staves of the pigging is longer than the others so that it can serve as a handle. As we can see from the*

*inventory below, someone on Abraham Wade's estate was a cooper, whether it was him or one of his Negro slaves. See [here](#). ]*

*1 Butter churn*

*3 Butter pots*

*2 Earthen jars*

*1 Barrel of ashes [John Note: For lye making (soap), I presume]*

*2 Hot pots*

*400 Barrel staves*

*122 pieces of heading [John Note: "Headings" were the end of the barrels that sealed the bottom and top of the barrel]*

*One lot of old pewter*

*1 Large Bottle*

*2 Gourds with powder and shot*

*1 Lot of old Iron*

*One hone*

*One case of raisons [John Note: ?]*

### *Page 3*

*Continued*

*1 Frying pan, griddle, and skillet*

*2 pair of fire Thongs [John Note: "tongs"]*

*3 pair of pot trammels*

*1 Fleshfork*

*1 Saddle*

*1 Handmill*

*1 Side Saddle and bridle*

*1 Cross Cut Saw*

*1 Whip Saw*

*1 Horse & Bridle*

*3 Hoes*

*1 Axe*

*1 Iron tooth rake*

*1 Hilling hoe*

*1 Broad Axe*

*1 Grinding Stone*

*1 Hand saw*

*1 Coopers Adz [John Note: and something that appears to be scratched out.]*

1 Saw set [John Note: for setting the pitch of the saw blades]  
1 Drawing knife  
A small quantity of cotton  
77 lbs of wool  
1 Lot of old rope  
1 D<sup>o</sup> of Leather  
Some Shoemakers tools  
1 Jointer stock  
1 Coopers Iron  
1 Lot of case bottles  
1 Smoothing plane  
1 Marking Iron  
1 pair of Spoon moulds  
1 pair of Shoe D<sup>o</sup>  
1 Brush  
1 pair of Iron wedges  
1 plow  
1 Mawl  
1 gun

Page 4

Continued

142 Yards of Towcloth [John Note: Towcloth was a coarse, heavy linen fabric used in colonial America for clothing, sacks, and wrapping cloths. It was made from tow, the short, outer part of the flax plant that remained after the linen fibers were removed.]  
1 Gimbells  
1 Lot of Augers  
1 Beaufell [John Note: ?]  
13 lb of Candles  
5/4 lb of picked Cotton  
15 Empty Barrells  
1 Steel trap  
1 Coffee mill  
1 Table cloth  
1 Beehive  
1 Oilceg [John Note: "Oil keg?"]  
1 Dye tub

*3 Puncheons [John Note: There are several definitions for “puncheon” in Webster’s: “(1): a pointed tool for piercing or for working on stone, (2a): a short upright framing timber, (2b): a split log or heavy slab with the face smoothed” and an alternate meaning of “a large cask of varying capacity”. My bet is that the correct meaning here is the last, as this item is in a list of types of tubs in the inventory.*

*2 Chamber pots*

*2 sides of Leather*

*1 Puncheon*

*11 ¾ lb of Cotton*

*17 Hogs and shoats*

*2 Dye tubs*

*1 Mortar*

*3 Tubbs*

*1 Boat, Sail, and oars*

*One half of a dragnet*

*1 Roll of ribband [John Note: “ribbon”]*

*1 Gin Jug*

*1 Gridiron*

*1 Bag*

*1 ½ Bushels of Irish Potatoes*

*1 Wooden horse*

*2 Buckets and wooden pestle*

*1 Sheeps skin*

*1 Rope*

*12 Bushels of Wheat*

*1 Reaphook*

*A quantity of poultry*

*Page 5*

*Continued*

*Cash thirteen dollars and 5 cents*

*Notes to the amount of twelve pounds*

*Nine Barrels 2 ½ Bushels of Corn*

*189 lb of flour*

*12 ¾ lb of hogs lard*

*1 Bushel of Salt*

*4 Barrels of Corn*

*Potatoes Given in by the Row*

*17 Long Rows  
10 ½ Short D<sup>0</sup>  
25 Rows in another Lot  
542 lbs of Seed Cotton  
A small quantity of pumkins  
One gun*

*Isaac Wade  
Administrator*

*February Term 1803. The foregoing Inventory was then returned by Elizabeth and  
Isaac Wade Adm<sup>rs</sup> of A Wade on oath.*

*Geo. Read C. C.*



An Inventory of the personal estate belonging  
to Abraham Isaacson taken August the 28<sup>th</sup> 1802  
by Elizabeth Wade and Isaac Wade Administrators to  
said estate

58 Head of Cattle  
7 Negroes  
3 Feather beds and furniture  
3 Bedsteads  
2 Hares and one cat  
2 Horses  
28 Sheep  
2 Tables  
10 Chairs  
2 Cotton Wheels  
1 Linen Wheel  
2 pair of Cotton cards  
1 Sack and cruetary  
4 vacuous Slaps  
3 Do Harness  
2 pewter dishes  
6 pewter plates  
4 pewter Basins  
6 pewter Spoons  
2 Trunks  
1 Gin case  
1 Decanter  
3 Wine Glasses and 2 Tumblers  
2 Earthen Basins  
1 Metal Sieve  
2 pair of Milligades  
2 Chests  
1 Weavers Loom  
1 Tea Kettle  
1 Dutch Oven  
3 Iron pots  
4 Baskets

Continued

5 Becks

1 pair of Beaks and sticks

1 Iron ~~rod~~ <sup>rod</sup>

2 Jointers Stocks

2 Coopers axes and doubling bit

1 pair of Combs

1 Set of Truysheeps

1 pair of sheep shears

1 Meal tub

3 Milk piggins

1 Butter churn

3 Butter pots

2 Earthen jars

1 Barrel of Ashes

2 Fat pots

400 Barrel Staves

122 pieces of heading  
on lot of ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup>

1 Large ~~Red~~ Bottle

2 Goggles with powder and shot

1 Lot of ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup>

on ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup>

on ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup>

## Continued

- 1 Lying pan, Griddle and schille
- 2 pair of fire tongs
- 3 pair of poe tammels
- 1 Flesh fork
- 1 Saddle
- 1 Hand mill
- 1 Side Saddle and bridle
- 1 Crook Saw
- 1 Whip Saw
- 1 Horse & bridle
- 3 Hoes
- 1 Axe
- 1 Iron tooth rake
- 1 Killing hoe
- 1 Broad axe
- 1 Grinding Stone
- 1 Hand saw
- 1 Coopers adz and Haws
- 1 Snoset
- 1 Drawing knife
- Small quantity of Cotton
- 77 lb of Wool
- 1 Lot of Dr. Rope
- 1 L. of Leather
- Some Shoe makers tools
- 1 Joiners stock
- 1 Coopers Broom
- 1 Lot of case bottles
- 1 Smoothing plane
- 1 Marking Iron
- 1 pair of Spoon moulds
- 1 pair of Shoe L.
- 1 Brush
- 1 Pair of Iron wedges
- 1 Plow
- 1 Mawel
- 1 Gun



*Continued*

*14½ Yards of Towcloth*

*1 Gimble*

*1 Set of Augers*

*1 Beaulen*

*13 lb of Candles*

*5¼ lb of picked Cotton*

*15 Empty Barrels*

*1 Steel trap*

*1 Coffee mill*

*1 Tablecloth*

*1 Beehive*

*1 Oilcog*

*1 Dyehub*

*3 Punchions*

*2 Chamber pots*

*2 Sides of leather*

*1 Punchion*

*10¼ lb of Cotton*

*17 ~~Shells~~ and Shells*

*2 Dye tubs*

*1 Mortar*

*3 Tubs*

*1 Boat, sail, and oars*

*One half of a dragnet*

*1 Roll of Ribband*

*1 Gin Jug*

*1 Gridiron*

*1 Bag*

*1½ Bushel of Irish potatoes*

*1 Wooden horse*

*2 Buckets and wooden pottle*

*1 Sheep skin*

*1 Rope*

*12 Bushels of Wheat*

*1 Acaphere*

*Quantity of poultry*

*Continued*

*Cash thirteen dollars and 5 cents*

*Notes to the amount of twelve pounds*

*Nine Barrels & 2 1/2 bushels of Corn*

*130 lb of Flour*

*12 1/4 lb of Hogs lard*

*1 Bushel of Salt*

*4 Barrels of Corn*

*Coltates given in by the Poor*

*17 Long Hoes*

*10 1/2 Short do*

*25 Hoes in another Lot*

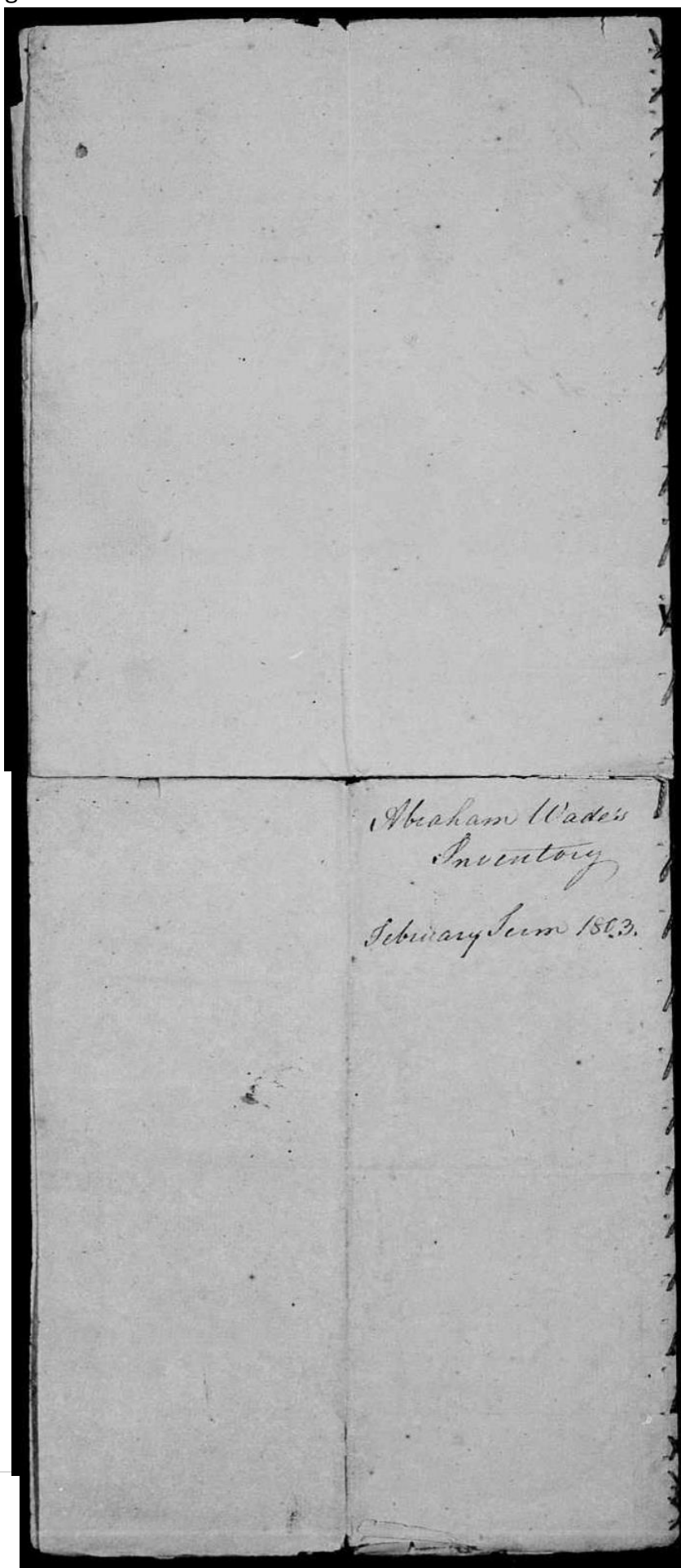
*5 1/2 A of seed Cotton*

*a small quantity of punkins*

*one Gun*

*Isaac Wade*  
*administrator*

*Carter & C. Court & February term 1863. The foregoing Inventory was then returned by Elizabeth and Isaac Wade Adm<sup>s</sup> of A. Wade on oath*  
*Geo. Mead C. C.*





STATE of NORTH CAROLINA, *Eastern* County.

**K** NOW all men by these presents, that we *Elizabeth Wade*  
*Isaac Wade, Richard Whitehurst*  
*and Robert Whitehurst & Samuel Chadwick*  
 are held and firmly bound unto *William Thomson* Esq.  
 Chairman of the Court of pleas and quarter sessions, of the county aforesaid, in the sum of  
*Two thousand pounds*  
 current money; to be paid to said Chairman, his successors or assigns: To the which payment  
 well and truly to be made, we bind ourselves, our heirs, executors and administrators, jointly  
 and severally, firmly by these presents; sealed with our seals, and dated this *sixteenth*  
 day of *August* A. D. 1802.

**T**HE condition of the above obligation is such, that if the above bounden  
*Elizabeth Wade & Isaac Wade*  
 Administrators of all and singular the goods and chattels, rights and credits of  
*Abraham Wade* deceased, do make, or cause to be  
 made, a true & perfect inventory of all & singular the goods and chattels, rights & credits  
 of the deceased, which have or shall come to the hands, knowledge or possession of the  
 said *Elizabeth Wade & Isaac Wade*  
 or into the hands or possession of any person or persons, for *them* and the same so  
 made, do exhibit or cause to be exhibited, to the court of the county aforesaid, within  
 ninety days from the date of these presents; and the same goods, chattels and credits, &  
 all the other goods, chattels, and credits of the deceased, at the time of his death, which  
 at any time hereafter shall come into the hands or possession of the said  
*Elizabeth and Isaac*  
 or into the hands or possession of any person or persons, for *them* do well and  
 truly administer according to law, and further do make or cause to be made a true & just  
 account of *their* said administration within *the limited time*  
 after the date of these presents, and all the rest and residue of the said goods, chattels &  
 credits which shall be found remaining upon the said administration *and* account, the  
 same being first examined and allowed by the court of said county, shall deliver and pay  
 unto such person or persons, respectively, to which the same shall be due, pursuant to  
 the true intent and meaning of the act in that case made and provided: and if it shall ap-  
 pear that any will or testament was made by the said deceased, and the execut therein  
 named to exhibit the same into court, making request to have the same allowed and ap-  
 proved of accordingly:

If the said *Elizabeth and Isaac*  
 above bounden, being thereunto required, do render the said letters of administration (a  
 probation of such testament, being first had and made in the said court) then this obligati-  
 on to be void and of no effect, otherwise to remain in full force and virtue.

Signed, sealed and delivered }  
 in presence of

*Georgehead*

*Elizabeth Wade* Seal  
 mark

*Isaac Wade* Seal

*Richard Whitehurst* Seal

*Robert Whitehurst* Seal

*Samuel Chadwick* Seal

for ~~the~~ said

Elysebeth & Isaac Wade

Admin. bond

Abraham Wade's estate

Aug<sup>r</sup>. term 1802

Eliz<sup>th</sup> Wade } Admin<sup>r</sup>  
Isaac Wade } Bond on  
Abraham Wade's estate

Aug<sup>r</sup>. term 1802,