

Harman Back, who had immigrated to America in 1738, and later settled in Little Fork, Virginia, had just one child who survived to adulthood, which was his son, Harman Back Jr. (born March 10, 1737).

However, a fraudulent genealogy book was published, back in 1994, which claimed that Harman Back had three more sons: John Back (1738-1794); Henry Back (1740-1809); and Joseph Back (1742-1832). However, that was not true; he never had those additional three sons.

This report proves that John Back, Henry Back, and Joseph Back were not Harman Back's sons, mainly through the Tax Lists; it also proves that Joseph Back was not his son, by the 1794 will of Harman Back Jr.

Furthermore, Joseph Back was actually born in 1756. He recorded his date of birth, himself, in his own Family Bible, as being April 9, 1756. Also, the 1830 Census Report shows that he was between the ages of 70 and 79, which means that he was born between 1751 and 1760. Apparently, the fraudulent genealogy book just backed up his year of birth, by fourteen years, to make it seem much more plausible that he was a son of Harman Back (born in 1708).

However, Joseph Back (1756-1832) was actually the son of Harman Back's only son, Harman Jr. Thus, he was actually the grandson of Harman Back.

The fraudulent genealogy book also altered the year of birth for Harman Jr., from March 10, 1737, to 1745. That was probably because they incorrectly stated that "the one child" who had immigrated with Harman and his wife was a daughter named Anna Ella. She was also born on March 10, 1737, and was Harman Jr.'s twin, but they obviously didn't know that she was a twin, nor did they know that she had died, shortly after birth. It was actually Harman Jr. who was "the one child," who had immigrated with his parents.

Despite these discrepancies in the year of birth for Joseph and Harman Jr., it must be strongly emphasized that there are no records from Little Fork, or from anywhere else, which show that Harman Back and his wife Anna ever had any other children, who survived past infancy, besides Harman Jr.

Even though there are quite a few old church records, still in existence, from Little Fork, and from its nearby "sister" settlement of Germanna, Harman Back is not mentioned in any them, as having any more children, or ever getting remarried. In fact, it is believed that Harman's wife Anna had died, sometime before August 25, 1748, because her name was not listed as being Harman's wife, on the land deed, that day, when he bought 100 acres in Little Fork; however, the seller's wife was named.

### **The Tax Lists**

In early America, two types of Tax Lists were prepared: the Personal Property Tax Lists (to count the number of males age 21 and older, who were "tithables," as well as the number and type of livestock they owned); and the Land Tax Lists (to list the names of the landowners, how many acres they owned, and often, the name of the nearest waterway).

A "tithable" was a man who was "able-bodied," and therefore, subjected to being called for duty in the militia, or doing road work. Men who were over the age of 50, or disabled, were not tithable, and so they were not counted. Also, ministers, government officials, and men who were in the military, were not tithable either. It should also be noted that, prior to 1782, a man was considered to be a tithable, when he turned 16; however, starting in 1782, that age was raised to 21, in most taxing districts. Also, women were not counted, unless they were the head of a household.

In Virginia, both the Personal Property Tax Lists, and the Land Tax Lists, started in 1782. Within each county, separate taxing districts were created, which were geographically defined. Each taxing district had its own tax commissioner, who generally lived in that taxing district, and who was responsible for creating the Tax Lists there. In this report, we shall focus on the Personal Property Tax Lists, because they provide the most insight.

## **Culpeper County**

In Culpeper County, Virginia, there were 19 separate taxing districts, in 1782. The names of the nineteen tax commissions were as follows: Robert Alcock, James Barbour, William Brown, Samuel Clayton, John C. Cocke, Henry Field Jr., Henry Hill, James Hord, Elijah Kirtley, William McClanahan, James Pendleton, Cadwalader Slaughter, James Slaughter, John Slaughter, French Strother, William Walker, John Waugh, Richard Waugh, and John Wigginton.

In subsequent years, there were also numerous taxing districts, in Culpeper County, and in all the other counties. The names of the tax commissioners, in each taxing district, also changed; sometimes they changed every year, and sometimes they changed every few years.

In 1782, up in Little Fork, in the far northern part of Culpeper County, the tax commissioner for that taxing district was John Wigginton (1741-1825). In fact, he was the tax commissioner there, from 1782 through 1786. He was well-documented as living in Little Fork, because he was a school-teacher, as well as a surveyor there. His name can be seen on all sorts of historical documents, in Little Fork.

In 1764, he married Elizabeth Botts, and their plantation was called, "Greenfield's." It was located on 400 acres, right along the Little Fork of the Rappahannock River. When he died, in 1825, he was buried near the town of Lakota, on Fred Garrison's farm. That cemetery was called, "The Wigginton Graveyard." Nowadays, it is called, "The Wigginton Cemetery." It is about 5 miles east of Little Fork, and about 16 miles northeast of the town of Culpeper.

EXTRACT FROM THE DIARY OF CAPTAIN  
PHILIP SLAUGHTER,  
BEGINNING IN 1775 AND CONTINUED TO 1849.

December 4th, 1849.—I am this day 81 years old. I was born in 1758 at my grandfather's, Major Philip Clayton's, who lived at Catalpa, where the Hon. J. S. Barbour now lives. My father, Col. James Slaughter, then lived on the Rappahannock River where Jones Green now lives. I went to school to John Wigginton, a first-rate English teacher in the Little Fork.

*History of St. Mark's Parish, Culpeper County, Virginia*, by Rev. Philip Slaughter, p. 106. Pub. 1877 by Innes & Company

From 1787 through 1801, the tax commissioner in Little Fork's taxing district was Aaron Lane (1735-1801). He had married Eleanor "Ellen" Green, in 1771, and he fought in the Revolutionary War. His will was probated on September 25, 1801, so he probably died a week or so before that, which was shortly after he had finished preparing his Tax List for that year, in Little Fork. It is not known where he was buried.

So, from the time that the Personal Property Tax Lists began, in Little Fork, in 1782, and the time that the Back family left Little Fork, and migrated to central Kentucky, in 1789, there were just two tax commissioners there: John Wigginton and Aaron Lane.

But, down in the far southern part of Culpeper County, along the Robinson River, 25 miles south of Little Fork, which was a different taxing district, there were five different tax commissioners there, between 1782 and 1789: Henry Field Jr.; Henry Hill; Goodrich Lightfoot; John Hume; and John Gibbs.

### **The 1782 Tax List in Little Fork**

John Wigginton was the tax commissioner, in the 1782 Tax List, in Little Fork, in the far northern part of the county. In his taxing district, the only men with the last name of Back were "Harman Back" and "Joseph Back" (see the next page).

Since men age 50 and older were not considered to be tithable, they were not counted on the Tax Lists. The man named "Harman Back" could not possibly have been Harman Back (born 1708), as he would have been 74 years old, in 1782. So, even if he was still alive, in 1782, he would not have been counted on the 1782 Tax List. The "Harman Back" on the 1782 Tax List must have been his only son, Harman Back Jr.

Harman Back Jr. (born 1737) was 45 years old, in 1782, so he was counted as a tithable. In the first column, over to the right, it showed that there were 2 men in his household who were tithables, meaning they were at least 21 years old, but not over 50 years old. The other man, "Joseph Back," was 26 years old, in 1782 (born 1756). Joseph was Harman Jr.'s oldest son.

Back in 1755, Harman Jr. had married a woman named Katherine. They lived on his father's farm. Harman Jr. and his wife Katherine had three sons: Joseph (born 1756); Harman (born 1764); and Jacob (born 1770).

John Wigginton Gent. List					
Philip Arniss	1	2	3	0	14.9
Absalom Adams Gent.		1	3	0	2.9
Joseph Arniss, Sarah, Sarah, Daniel, Mary					
Winn, Hannah, Sal, Tab, Charles, Fanny, Mary					
Sarah, Aaron & Sam Child	1	14	6	8	8.4.0
Thomas Arniss	1	1	7	0	13.9
James Arniss, Charles	1	1	2	7	1.5.9
Absalom Adams, Parmelia	1	1	2	5	1.5.3
William Arniss	1	3	2	0	16.6
B					
William Bruce, Pamel, Patricia	1	2	6	15	2.5.9
William Butler	1	3	10	0	18.6
William Butler	1	2	8	0	16.0
James Bruce	1	1	8	0	14.0
George Buch	1	4	5	0	14.3
John Barber, Joseph, Phillis, Sarah, Mary					
Winn, Adams, Joe, Rob, Ann, Charles, Amy, Charity	1	12	9	18	7.12.6
William Butler, (son of Ben.)	1	1	5	0	13.3
James Burditt	1		2	0	10.6
James Blackwell	1	3	4	0	17.0
Harman Butler, Isaac, Mary	1	2	1	4	1.13.0
John Butler, Sarah, Sam, Milly	1	3	1	6	2.3.6
→ Harman Back, Joseph Back	2		4	9	1.10.3
C					
Joseph Conn, Thomas Hood	2	7	2	6	1.5.6
2 11 1 1					0.10.6

The 1782 Tax List, in Little Fork  
Harman Back Jr. was living with his son Joseph Back

In this Tax List, the second column showed that Harman Jr. and his son Joseph had no slaves. The third column showed that they owned 4 horses; and the fourth column showed that they owned 9 cattle.

It is important to notice that Harman Back Jr. was not listed as a "Jr.," in this 1782 Tax List. That would certainly tend to indicate that his father was dead by then, and so he was no longer considered to be a "Jr." It is even more important to notice that there is no man named "John Back," and no man named "Henry Back," living in Little Fork, in 1782. All tax lists were sorted by the first letter of the last name, and so, all of the (tithable) men, living in Little Fork, with a last name starting with the letter "B," are seen here, on this list.

In 1782, John Back (1738-1794) was 44 years old; and his brother Henry Back (1740-1809) was 42 years old. So, where were they?

They were living 25 miles away, down in the far southern part of Culpeper County, down by the Robinson River, in a different taxing district. Henry Field Jr. (1734-1787) was the tax commissioner down there. His parents had deeded him two large tracts of land along Crooked Creek (also known as Meander Run), near where it flows into the Robinson River. He eventually owned 1,008 acres there. He was an attorney, and highly respected.

Henry Field Jr. became a Justice of the Peace in 1762, and he was elected to the House of Burgesses in 1769, 1771, and 1774. He was also a captain in the local militia, and he represented Culpeper County, in all five of the Revolutionary Conventions, from 1774 through 1776. He held a variety of very important positions, most of which he was elected to. He was highly respected. His wife's first name was Mary, and they had fourteen children.

### **The 1782 Tax List, down by the Robinson River**

John Back and his brother Henry Back were listed in the 1782 Tax List, in Mr. Field's taxing district, next to each other (see the next page). This was in the far southern part of Culpeper County, 25 miles south of Little Fork.

In fact, John and Henry had grown up in the far southern part of Culpeper County. Their father was John Henry Back, who owned 786 acres along Crooked Creek (also known as Meander Run), near where it flows into the Robinson River. Around 1775, John Back had married Margaret Hoffman, and Henry Back had married Margaret's sister, Elizabeth Hoffman. The Hoffman family were close neighbors to John Henry Back's family.

Margaret and Elizabeth's father was John Hoffman (1692-1772). He was a very prominent man, and he had owned 3,525 acres along, and near, the Robinson River, in the far southern part of Culpeper County. In his will, he left land to each of his fourteen children. He left 150 acres to each of his four daughters, including Margaret and Elizabeth; and he left 292 acres to each of his ten sons (one of them got 297 acres that included a gristmill).

So, when John Back married Margaret Hoffman, they moved onto her 150 acres of inherited land; and when Henry Back married Elizabeth Hoffman, they moved onto her 150 acres of inherited land.



Both 150-acre parcels were along, or near, the Robinson River, and a very short distance from Crooked Creek, where John and Henry had grown up.

Persons names	No. of white Males	No. of Slaves	No. of Horses	Cattle	Wheels & Horses	Tax
<i>But. son</i>						
Mary Walker			2	3		0.4.9
Amber Willis Two Negroes	1	2	6	9		2.4.3
James Willis Bob back back. Hahn. Miles	1	5	4	12		3.11.0
John White John. Peter. Sal. Tannah	1	4	3	7		2.17.9
William White Mary	1	1	2	2		1.4.6
John White. Ambrose. Vicht.	1	2	2	6		1.17.6
<i>of</i>						
Henry Vinson	1		1	2		0.12.6
<i>Henry Tinto Jr. Gent. List</i>						
John Alverson	1		4	6		0.19.6
Silvanus Allen	1		2	7		0.15.9
<i>B</i>						
Michael Burk	1		2	5		0.15.3
Isahua Browning	1		2	7		0.15.9
Benjamin Bingham	1		1	7		0.13.9
Stephen Bingham Henry	1	1	4	8		1.10.0
John Brown, Simon	1	1	1	4		1.3.0
Enoch Burson, Henry son	1	2	1	7		1.13.9
Edward Burk's Estate, In. I think As. with						
Amber Daniel. M. L. B. H. N. L. S. L.						
Isaac. S. L. M. S. M. S.	1	12	4	11		7.2.9
John Back	1		2	5		0.15.3
Henry Back	1		1	5		0.13.9
Edmund Barlow - York	1	1	3	10		1.8.6
<i>C</i>						
Amos Bonner, and Daphne						

The 1782 Tax List, down by the Robinson River  
John Back was listed next to his brother Henry Back

For John Back, in the first column, over to the right, it showed there was 1 man who was a tithable, in the household, meaning that John was at least 21 years old, but not age 50 or older (John was 44). John had two young daughters who were under the age of 5, and so he had no sons who would have been tithables.

The second column showed that John had no slaves. The third column showed he owned 2 horses; the fourth column showed he owned 5 cattle.

For Henry Back, in the first column, it showed there was 1 man who was a tithable, in the household, meaning that Henry was at least 21 years old, but not age 50 or older (Henry was 42). Henry had two young sons who were under the age of 6, and so he had no sons who would have been tithables. The second column showed that Henry had no slaves. The third column showed he owned 1 horse; the fourth column showed he owned 5 cattle.

### Margaret and Elizabeth Hoffman's siblings

It is important to look for Margaret and Elizabeth's siblings, in the 1782 Tax List, because they inherited their father's land as well. Of course, they were living in the far southern part of Culpeper County, along, and near, the Robinson River, on their inherited land, very close to John Back and his brother Henry Back. None of them ever lived way up in Little Fork.

Nine of Margaret and Elizabeth's ten brothers (and one sister's husband) were listed on the 1782 Tax List (see below, and on the next page). You will notice that the spelling of their last name on this list is "Huffman." (The spellings of "Hoffman" and "Huffman" were interchangeable.)

	1	2	3	4	5
<i>Amos Huffman</i>	1	2	10	0	14.6
<i>John Huffman Daniel Huffman</i>					
<i>James Huffman</i>	3	4	7	1	19.9
<i>William Henderson Frank Phillips</i>					
<i>Will. Bristol</i>	1	4	8	10	3.8.6
<i>Joseph Hildgen</i>	1	4	8		1.0.0
<i>John Haybark</i>	1	2	7		0.15.9
<i>Charles Hill</i>	1	2	2		0.14.6
<i>W<sup>m</sup> Margaret Harrison</i>		2	2		0.14.6
<i>William Hill. Siffney Harry Wing</i>					
<i>Will. Hill Malt Peter Miller Miron</i>					
<i>Margery</i>	1	10	6	11	6.4.9
<i>Jacob Huffman Mary</i>	1	1	3	7	1.7.9
<i>Benjamin Huffman</i>	1	1			0.12.0
<i>Michael Huffman Sam<sup>l</sup> Huffman</i>	2	2	7		1.5.9

The 1782 Tax List, down by the Robinson River  
Margaret and Elizabeth's brothers, and one sister, were living near them



On that first page of the 1782 Tax List, in Henry Field Jr.'s taxing district (for people whose last name started with the letter "H"), you can see three of Margaret and Elizabeth's ten brothers, and one of their brothers-in-law.

On the second line, you can see their brother John Hoffman (1727-1813), living with his two of his sons, Daniel and James (total of 3 tithables). A few lines down, is John Hayback (also spelled as Hanback); he married Margaret and Elizabeth's sister Mary Hoffman (1751-after 1796). Farther down, you can see their brother Jacob Hoffman (1733-1815), living with a woman named Mary. She may have been his married daughter, but it is not clear who she is. Below them is Benjamin Hoffman, who was a son of Jacob Hoffman. At the bottom, you can see their brother Michael Hoffman (1732-1807), living with his oldest son Samuel (2 tithables). NOTE: Ambrose Hoffman, at the top of the page, belonged to another Hoffman family; his brother Teter Hoffman is on the second page (see below).

Brought up					
Nicholas Hoffman	1	3	4		0.17.0
John Hill, Simon, Biesel, Frank, Bollen					
Will George, Tiller, Daniel, B. H.	1	9	4	13	5.11.3
William Kinsey, Solomon, Nick, Isaac	1	3	2	4	2.5.0
George Hollaway	1		5	6	1.1.6
Valentine Hart	1		2	8	0.16.0
William Hoffman	1		3	7	0.17.9
William Hoffman Junr.	1		1	4	0.13.0
Fredrick Hoffman	1		2	10	0.16.6
Joseph Hoffman	1		1	2	0.12.6
Henry Hoffman (son of John)	1		2	5	0.15.3
Teter Hoffman	1		1	5	0.13.3
Mary Hoffman, Will Kate, Kate, Sam, Mary		5	1	10	2.14.3
Salmon Hoffman	1		3	8	0.18.0
Paul Hoffman	1		5	11	1.2.9
Thomas Hughes, Green, Bridget, Betty					
Arthur, Aug, Austin, B. H. 2 small children	1	9	2	5	5.5.3
Timothy Hollaway			1	1	0.2.8

The 1782 Tax List, down by the Robinson River  
Margaret and Elizabeth's brothers, and one sister, were living near them

On this second page of the 1782 Tax List (see above), at the top, is their brother Nicholas Hoffman (1731-1803). Several rows down, is their brother William Hoffman (1737-1812). Below him is William Hoffman's son, William Hoffman Jr.

Below him is their brother Frederick Hoffman (1740-1811). Below him is Joseph Hoffman, who is the son of their brother John Hoffman (1727-1813). Next, is their brother Henry Hoffman (1742-unknown), identified as being, the "son of old John," apparently, as not to confuse him with any another man named Henry Hoffman. Below him is Teter Hoffman, the brother of Ambrose Hoffman (from the first page). Below him is Mary Hoffman; she may be a widow with no sons, because there are no tithables in her household; she may have been married to a man from a different Hoffman family. Below her is their brother Tilman Hoffman (1744-1815). And below him is their brother Paul (also known as Baltz) Hoffman (1735-1803).

However, their brother George Hoffman (1739-1815) was not listed in the 1782 Tax List, for some reason, but he was listed in the 1783 Tax List.

Interestingly, on September 17, 1787, their sister Mary, and her husband John Hayback, sold 92 acres of her inherited land, along the Robinson River. The deed (Culpeper County Deed Book #O, p. 132.) stated that her land adjoined the land owned by John Back (1738-1794). Mary and John Hayback migrated to Shenandoah County, in 1788.

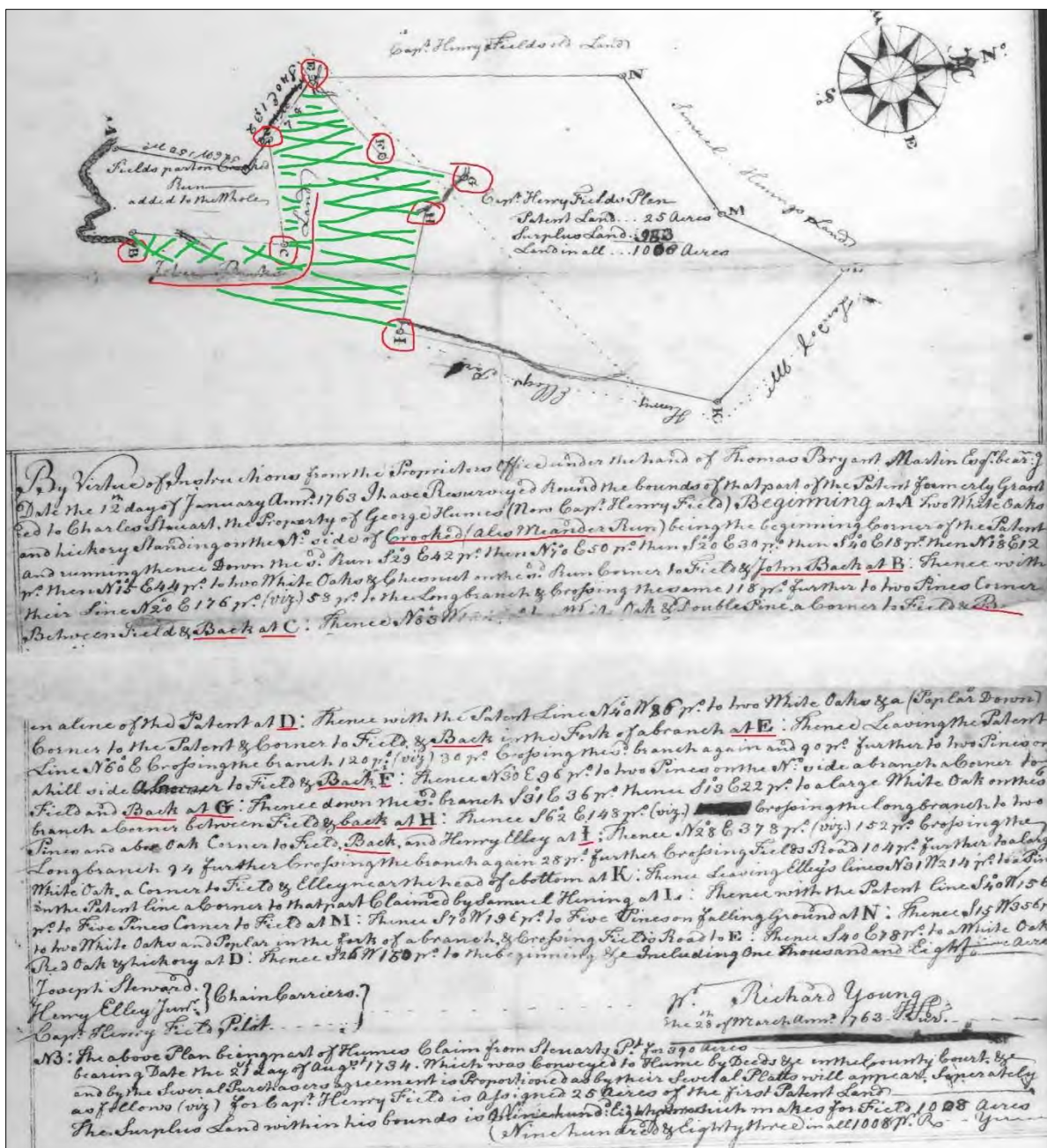
Margaret and Elizabeth's other sister, Anna Hoffman (1725-1790), married Harman Spilman. Anna and her husband had sold her inherited land, in 1777, and then they had moved to Rowan County, North Carolina, in 1780.

So, ten of Margaret and Elizabeth Hoffman's twelve brothers and sisters were also living in the far southern part of Culpeper County, in 1782, not up in Little Fork. One sibling (George) was simply not listed that year; and the other sibling (Mary) had already moved to Rowan County, North Carolina. NOTE: Verification of John Hoffman's fourteen children was confirmed by The Germanna Foundation (*The Germanna Record, Number Three*, 1963.)

### **Henry Field Jr. lived next door to John Henry Back**

In fact, Henry Field Jr. (1734-1787), who was the tax commissioner in the far southern part of Culpeper County, in 1782, lived right next door to John Henry Back (1709-1789), who was the father of John Back (1738-1794) and Henry Back (1740-1809). Harman Back was not their father.

The deed for Henry Field Jr.'s land confirms that he lived right next door to John Henry Back (1709-1789), along Crooked Creek (see the next page).



On January 12, 1763, Henry Field Jr. consolidated his 1,008 acres, along Crooked Creek.

His land was actually in two sections (see above).

The deed shows that John Back (John Henry Back) lived right next door; his land was actually in between those two sections, and it was defined as being between points B, C, D, E, F, G, H, and I. Those letters are circled in red.

You can barely see that "John Back's land" was written in (underlined in red).

John Henry Back's property has the green lines drawn through it.

Crooked Creek is to the far left (the thicker line, filled in).

In fact, when John Henry Back sold his 786 acres, in 1788, that deed also showed that Henry Field Jr. was his next-door neighbor (see the next page).



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Thomas Graves

786 Acres

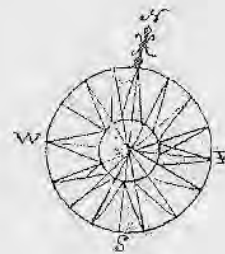
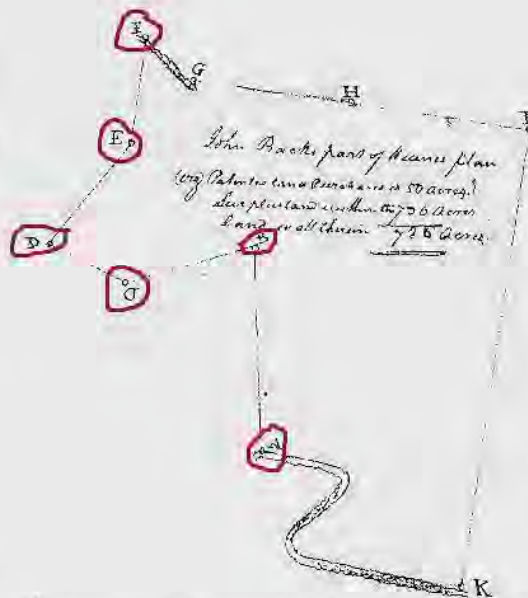
Culpeper

Filed 14 Apr 1788

and issued 5th

even 6th 1788

(and)



By virtue of instructions from the Proprietors office under the hands of Thomas Bryant, Master Esq. bearing date the 12<sup>th</sup> day of January Anno 1762. I have surveyed and bound the bounds of that part of the Patent formerly granted to Charles Lee - out the Property of George Boone (now John Back). Beginning at two white oaks & Chestnut Corner to Capt. Henry Field on the N side of Crooked (aka Meander Run) and running thence with Field's line N 20° E 175 poles (or 53 poles to the long branch) & crossing the same 175 poles to two pines Corner. Between Field's thence with their line N 83° 18' 24" E 175 poles to a white oak & double pine aborn to Field and Back in the line of the Patent at C. Thence with the Patent line N 40° 40' 36" E to two white oaks and a poplar down Corner to Patent Corner to Field & Back in the fork of a branch D. Thence leaving the Patent line N 60° E and crossing the branch 80 poles (or 20 poles) and crossing the said branch again 80 poles further to two pines on a hill side aborn to Field & Back at E. Thence N 90° 30' E 175 poles to two pines aborn on the N side of a road to Field & Back at F. Thence down the said branch 100 poles (or 100 poles) to a large white oak on the S branch aborn below Field & Back at G. Thence S 10° E 175 poles and crossing the long branch to two pines and a bar oak a bar oak to Back. Field & Back Henry Field at H. Thence thence continued 160 poles further crossing the line of the branch to a poplar with a double pine and a white oak on the line of the branch.

In April of 1788, John Henry Back sold his 786 acres along Crooked Creek to Thomas Graves. This is the deed for that sale.

It described his land as adjoining the land of (Capt.) Henry Field Jr., between points A, B, C, D, E, and F. Those letters are circled in red.

If you flip over the copy of John Back's deed (John Henry Back's deed), so that the longest side of his land (I to K) is at the bottom, you can see that the shape of his land is the exact, same shape, as the shape of his land is, in Henry Field Jr.'s deed.

Back in Germany, John Henry Back's German name was Johann Heinrich Bach. Male members of his family had been given two first names, for over sixty years. After he immigrated to America, he simplified the spelling to be John Henry Back. Back in Germany, when men had two first names, like he did, they used their first first name in public, and on legal documents, such as deeds; and they used their second first name in private, with their family and friends. He continued that tradition, after he settled in America. That is why his name is "John Back," on his deed, and on Henry Field Jr.'s deed.

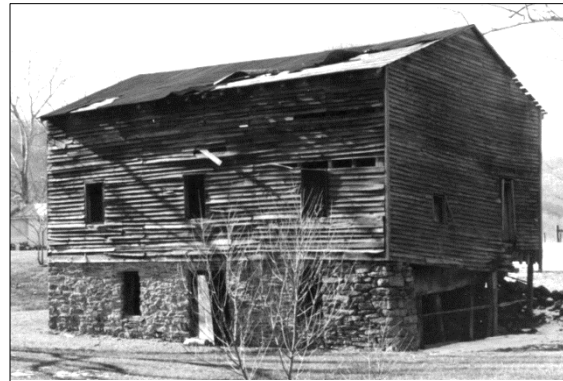
John Henry Back (Johann Heinrich Bach) was born in Thuringia, Germany, in 1709. He immigrated to America, in 1740, with his wife Anna and their 2-year-old son John. They settled along the north side of Crooked Creek, near where it flows into the Robinson River, in what was then Orange County, Virginia. That land became the far southern part of Culpeper County, in 1749; and it became Madison County in 1792. John Henry Back first bought 50 acres from George Hume. He later bought an additional 736 acres, in a Northern Neck Land Grant, which gave him a total of 786 acres.

John Henry Back and his wife Anna had four children: John (1738-1794); Henry (1740-1809); Joseph (1745-1819); and Anna (1755-1804).

John Henry Back sold his land, in 1788, because he knew that the end of his life was near, and none of his four children wanted his land. Two of his sons, John and Henry, had married two sisters, Margaret and Elizabeth Hoffman, and they were living on the land that each of their wives had inherited. His son Joseph had married Elizabeth Hoffman-Maggard, and they were planning on migrating to Kentucky. And his daughter Anna had married Benjamin Strother; they had moved to Fauquier County, Virginia.

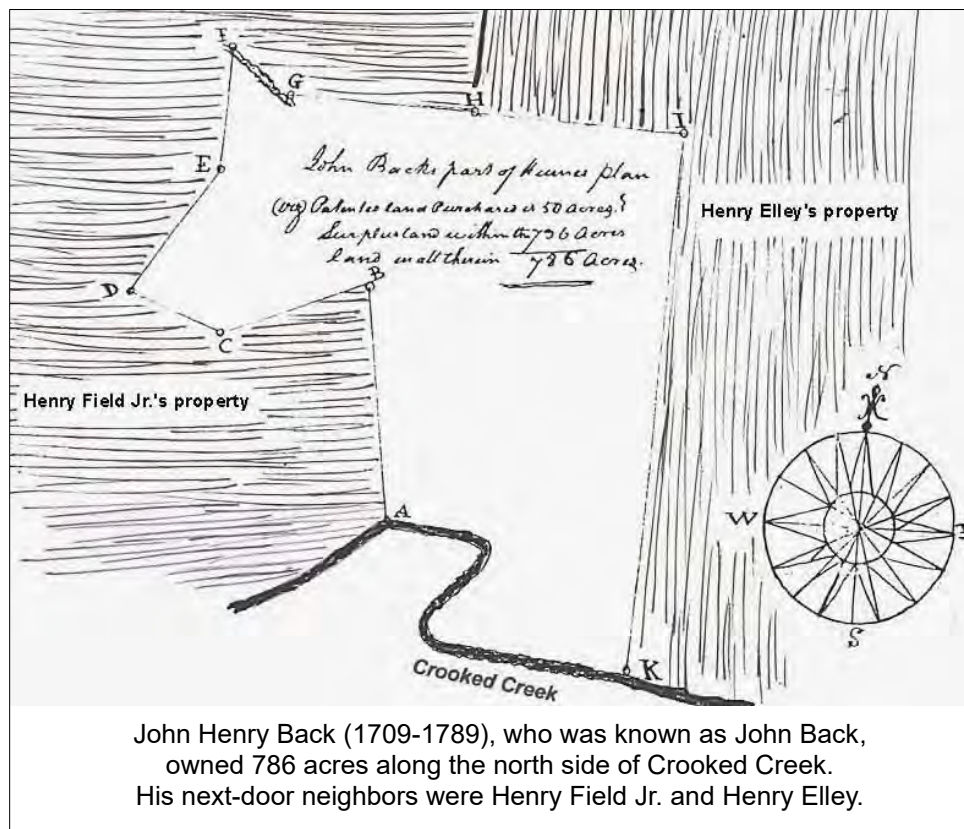
When John Henry Back sold that land to Thomas Graves, who lived nearby, he kept a "life estate" for himself. That meant he could obtain the money from selling it, but he could continue to live there, until he actually died. It is suspected that John Henry Back died, within a year, because in early 1789, his youngest son Joseph, his wife Elizabeth Hoffman-Maggard, and their children, left the family farm and migrated towards southeastern Kentucky.

Thomas Graves owned The Graves Mill. John Henry Back had probably built that mill for him, many years before. An old photograph of that mill has been found.



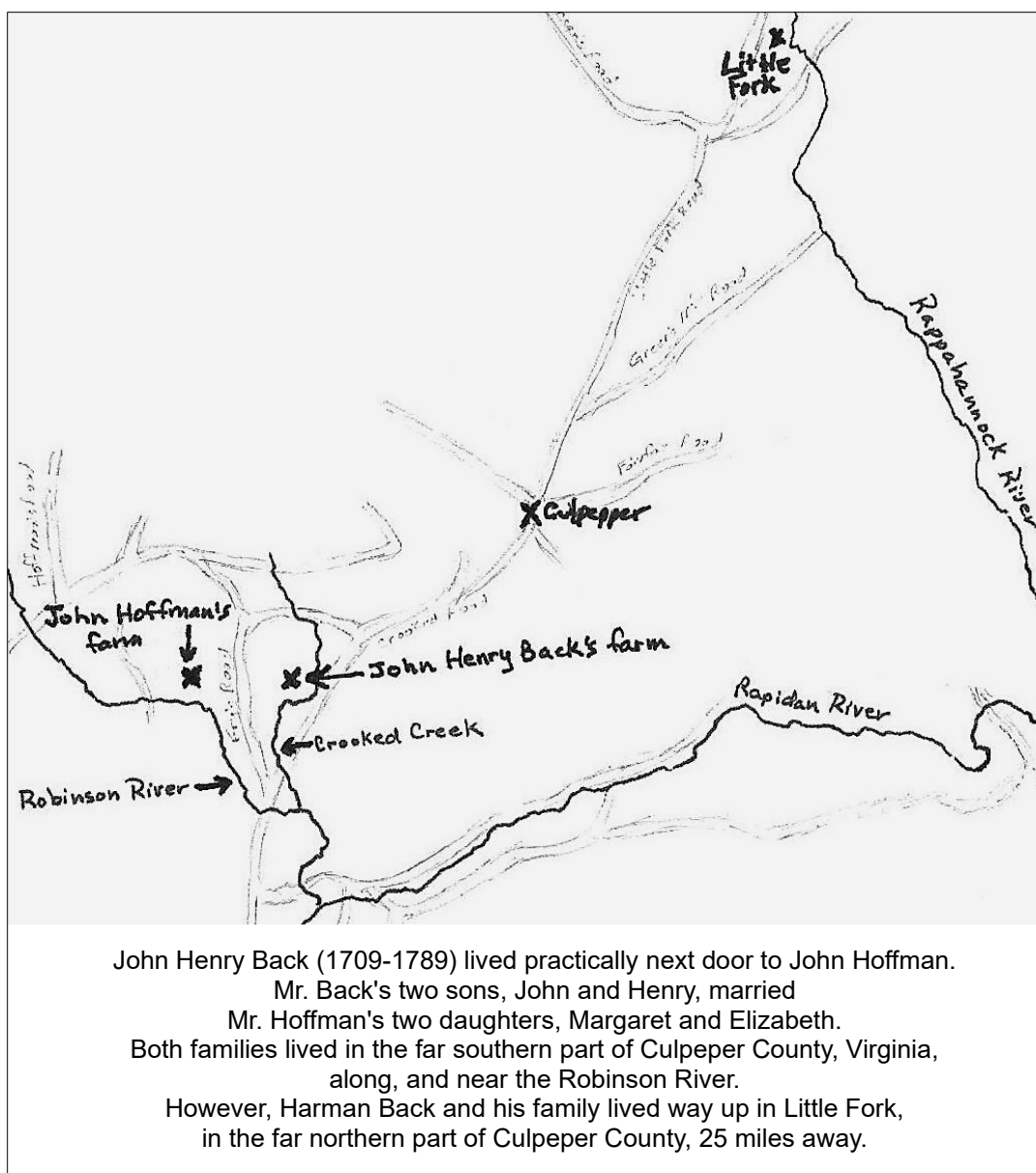
The Graves Mill

For further clarification, the map from John Henry Back's 1788 deed (when he sold his land) has been enlarged (see below). It clearly shows John Henry Back's property, in relation to Henry Field Jr.'s property, along Crooked Creek. Please notice that Henry Elley lived on the other side of John Henry Back. Henry Elley was also mentioned in Henry Field Jr.'s deed as owning property next door to him.



In addition, a map has been prepared (drawn to scale), which provides a very clear perspective, about how close John Henry Back lived to John Hoffman, in the far southern part of Culpeper County, Virginia, and also, how far away both of them lived from Little Fork, up in the far northern part of Culpeper County, where Harman Back lived (see the next page).





## **The 1783 Tax List in Little Fork**

Up in Little Fork, in the far northern part of Culpeper County, Virginia, John Wigginton continued to be the tax commissioner, in 1783. In his taxing district, once again, the only men with the last name of Back were Harman Back and Joseph Back. They were both listed on the same line again (see the next page). Once again, the man listed as Harman Back was definitely Harman Back Jr. (born 1737), who was then 46 years old. And once again, Harman Back Jr. was simply listed as Harman Back, and not as Harman Back Jr., meaning that he was no longer considered to be a Jr., because his father was probably dead.



John Back and Henry Back still had just one tithable in their households, which was themselves, and they still owned horses and cattle.

*Henry Hill Gentl's List*

Persons Names	N <sup>o</sup> of Whites	N <sup>o</sup> of Negroes	N <sup>o</sup> of Indians	N <sup>o</sup> of Apprentices	N <sup>o</sup> of Horses	N <sup>o</sup> of Cattle	N <sup>o</sup> of Swine	N <sup>o</sup> of Sheep	N <sup>o</sup> of Goats	N <sup>o</sup> of Poultry	Amount of Tax L. S. D.	N <sup>o</sup> of Polls
Henry Ayler Junr	1				2	3	10				1. 18. 6	1
Henry Ayler Senr	2		1		8	5	16				7. 14. 0	6
John Anderson	1					2	4				0. 15. 0	1
Isaac Ayler	1	1				1	8				0. 14. 0	2
John Boyle	1		1		1	4	4	1			2. 14. 0	2
William Barnett	1					1	6				0. 13. 6	1
Daniel Brown	1		1		2	3	8				2. 8. 0	2
Anthony Henry	1					1	5				0. 13. 3	1
John Buchanan	1	1	3		4	6	13				5. 15. 3	7
John Back	1					2	5				0. 15. 3	1
John Brown	1		2		1	2	9				2. 6. 3	3
Peter Boyle Loyd							3				0. 7. 9	
Thomas Brown	1		2		5	3	8				4. 7. 3	3
Reginald Burdine	1	2	1		2	3	11				2. 8. 9	4
Mordecai Buchanan Boboughan	1					2	8				0. 16. 0	1
John Burdine	1		1		1	4	8				2. 0. 0	2
Thomas Burdine	1					1	8				0. 14. 0	1
William Ball	1					6	4				1. 3. 0	1
Enoch Benson	1				1	2	8				1. 6. 0	1
Henry Back	1					3	6				0. 17. 6	1
Isaac Back							1				1. 12. 3	2

The 1783 Tax List, down by the Robinson River  
John Back and his brother Henry Back were still living there

The tax commissioner, Henry Hill (1743-1815), owned a large plantation that covered thousands of acres; it was called, "Millwood." It was located near the present-day town of Novum, which is about 12 miles west of the town of Culpeper, in the far southern part of Culpeper County. He married Ann Powell. When that far southern part of the county became Madison County, in 1792, he was the first sheriff there. He had also served in the Revolutionary War, under Major General Harry Lee. Interestingly, John Henry Back's daughter Anna (the sister of John Back and Henry Back) married Benjamin Strother, and he had also served under Major General Harry Lee, during the war.

## The 1784 & 1785 Tax Lists in Little Fork

John Wigginton was also the tax commissioner, in the 1784 and 1785 Tax Lists, in Little Fork (see below and the next page). Once again, the only men with the last name of Back, on those two Tax Lists in Little Fork, were Harman Back Jr. and his son Joseph Back.

	John Wigginton	Gard.	Lit.															S	E	D
Elizabeth Basic John Basic Negro Adult Lgd	\	1	-	-	2	2	X	.	1	1	5	0	1	1	5	0	1	1	5	0
Joubk Basic Negro mldr	\	1	-	x	-	2	9	.	2	1	6	0	3	1	6	0	3	1	6	0
John Bright	\	1	-	-	-	1	.	.	1	0	12	0	0	1	0	12	0	0	1	0
William Button William May	\	1	1	-	-	14	.	.	1	1	3	6	0	1	1	3	6	0	1	1
John Button Negro Sarah Tom & Melley	\	1	-	x	2	8	.	.	1	2	6	0	0	1	2	6	0	0	1	2
Harman Back Joubk Back	\	2	-	-	-	3	9	.	2	1	8	3	0	2	1	8	3	0	2	1

In the fall of 1784, it is suspected that Harman Jr.'s son Joseph went to Kentucky, to check on getting the survey done, on the 1,000 acres of land that Harman Jr. had bought, the year before, on September 16, 1783.

Harman Jr. had bought Treasury Warrant #19334. He paid 1,600 pounds for it, which was a great deal of money back then. It is suspected that either he had inherited that money from his father, or his father had given it to him.

When the 1785 Tax List was prepared, Joseph was apparently not back from Kentucky yet, which was why he was not listed on it (see the next page). However, his younger brother, Harman (born 1764), who was then known as "Harman Jr.," had just turned 21 years old, and so he was listed.

This is where it gets confusing. Harman Back Jr. (born 1737) had a son named Harman (born 1764). When Harman (born 1764) got older, he was known as "Harman Back Jr."

Meanwhile, Harman Back Jr. (born 1737) was no longer called "Harman Back Jr.," because his father, Harman Back (born 1708), must have already died. So, on the Tax Lists, Harman Back Jr. (born 1737) was listed as "Harman Back" (not "Harman Back Jr."), and his son Harman (born 1764) was listed as "Harman Back Jr."



John Wigginton Gent List	White	Free	Slave	Young	Horses	Cattle	Swine	Am. Tax	Land	Value	
James Atwood	1	-	1	1	2	7	3	1	15	9	2
Abraham Adams	1	-	-	-	3	5	1	17	3	1	
John Amis	1	-	-	-	1	1	1	12	0	1	
Abraham Adams	2	-	-	-	2	6	2	1	5	6	2
Lyman Adams	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	1	-
James Arnold	2	1	2	1	4	8	4	2	10	0	5
Joseph Amis	1	-	5	6	6	9	12	6	14	3	6
Thomas Amis	1	-	-	-	-	6	1	11	-	6	1
Wm Bruce	2	-	2	2	6	20	6	3	17	0	4
Isaac Bruce	1	-	-	-	4	-	1	18	-	0	1
James Bruce	1	-	-	1	2	6	2	1	3	6	1
Harman Button	1	-	-	2	2	5	3	1	13	3	1
Harman Back	1	-	-	-	3	6	1	17	-	6	1
Harman Back Jr.	1	-	-	-	2	1	1	11	-	3	1
Harman Back	1	0	-	-	3	8	1	18	-	0	3

The 1785 Tax List, in Little Fork  
Harman Back Jr., listed as "Harman Back" (born 1737, age 48),  
and his son "Harman Back Jr." (born 1764, age 21)

## The 1784 & 1785 Tax Lists, down by the Robinson River

Henry Hill continued to be the tax commissioner, in the far southern part of Culpeper County that was down by the Robinson River, in 1784 and 1785.

In the 1784 Tax List, Henry Back was listed right next to his brother John Back (see the next page). Each of them showed just one tithable, living in their household, which was themselves. Henry owned 2 horses and 5 cattle; and John owned 1 horse and 8 cattle.

In the 1785 Tax List, Henry Back was listed several rows above John Back (see the next page). Again, each of them showed just one tithable, living in their household, which was themselves. Henry then owned 2 horses and 6 cattle; and John also owned 2 horses and 6 cattle.

## The 1786 & 1787 Tax Lists in Little Fork

Up in Little Fork, the tax commissioner in 1786 was still John Wigginton. But, in 1787, the tax commissioner was Aaron Lane. Mr. Lane continued to be the tax commissioner there, until 1801.

[illegible]

17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29-30-31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38-39-40-41-42-43-44-45-46-47-48-49-50-51-52-53-54-55-56-57-58-59-60-61-62-63-64-65-66-67-68-69-70-71-72-73-74-75-76-77-78-79-80-81-82-83-84-85-86-87-88-89-90-91-92-93-94-95-96-97-98-99-100-101-102-103-104-105-106-107-108-109-110-111-112-113-114-115-116-117-118-119-120-121-122-123-124-125-126-127-128-129-130-131-132-133-134-135-136-137-138-139-140-141-142-143-144-145-146-147-148-149-150-151-152-153-154-155-156-157-158-159-160-161-162-163-164-165-166-167-168-169-170-171-172-173-174-175-176-177-178-179-180-181-182-183-184-185-186-187-188-189-190-191-192-193-194-195-196-197-198-199-200-201-202-203-204-205-206-207-208-209-210-211-212-213-214-215-216-217-218-219-220-221-222-223-224-225-226-227-228-229-230-231-232-233-234-235-236-237-238-239-240-241-242-243-244-245-246-247-248-249-250-251-252-253-254-255-256-257-258-259-260-261-262-263-264-265-266-267-268-269-270-271-272-273-274-275-276-277-278-279-280-281-282-283-284-285-286-287-288-289-290-291-292-293-294-295-296-297-298-299-300-301-302-303-304-305-306-307-308-309-310-311-312-313-314-315-316-317-318-319-320-321-322-323-324-325-326-327-328-329-330-331-332-333-334-335-336-337-338-339-340-341-342-343-344-345-346-347-348-349-350-351-352-353-354-355-356-357-358-359-360-361-362-363-364-365-366-367-368-369-370-371-372-373-374-375-376-377-378-379-380-381-382-383-384-385-386-387-388-389-390-391-392-393-394-395-396-397-398-399-400-401-402-403-404-405-406-407-408-409-410-411-412-413-414-415-416-417-418-419-420-421-422-423-424-425-426-427-428-429-430-431-432-433-434-435-436-437-438-439-440-441-442-443-444-445-446-447-448-449-450-451-452-453-454-455-456-457-458-459-460-461-462-463-464-465-466-467-468-469-470-471-472-473-474-475-476-477-478-479-480-481-482-483-484-485-486-487-488-489-490-491-492-493-494-495-496-497-498-499-500-501-502-503-504-505-506-507-508-509-510-511-512-513-514-515-516-517-518-519-520-521-522-523-524-525-526-527-528-529-530-531-532-533-534-535-536-537-538-539-540-541-542-543-544-545-546-547-548-549-550-551-552-553-554-555-556-557-558-559-560-561-562-563-564-565-566-567-568-569-570-571-572-573-574-575-576-577-578-579-580-581-582-583-584-585-586-587-588-589-590-591-592-593-594-595-596-597-598-599-600-601-602-603-604-605-606-607-608-609-610-611-612-613-614-615-616-617-618-619-620-621-622-623-624-625-626-627-628-629-630-631-632-633-634-635-636-637-638-639-640-641-642-643-644-645-646-647-648-649-650-651-652-653-654-655-656-657-658-659-660-661-662-663-664-665-666-667-668-669-670-671-672-673-674-675-676-677-678-679-680-681-682-683-684-685-686-687-688-689-690-691-692-693-694-695-696-697-698-699-700-701-702-703-704-705-706-707-708-709-710-711-712-713-714-715-716-717-718-719-720-721-722-723-724-725-726-727-728-729-730-731-732-733-734-735-736-737-738-739-740-741-742-743-744-745-746-747-748-749-750-751-752-753-754-755-756-757-758-759-760-761-762-763-764-765-766-767-768-769-770-771-772-773-774-775-776-777-778-779-780-781-782-783-784-785-786-787-788-789-790-791-792-793-794-795-796-797-798-799-800-801-802-803-804-805-806-807-808-809-810-811-812-813-814-815-816-817-818-819-820-821-822-823-824-825-826-827-828-829-830-831-832-833-834-835-836-837-838-839-840-841-842-843-844-845-846-847-848-849-850-851-852-853-854-855-856-857-858-859-860-861-862-863-864-865-866-867-868-869-870-871-872-873-874-875-876-877-878-879-880-881-882-883-884-885-886-887-888-889-890-891-892-893-894-895-896-897-898-899-900-901-902-903-904-905-906-907-908-909-910-911-912-913-914-915-916-917-918-919-920-921-922-923-924-925-926-927-928-929-930-931-932-933-934-935-936-937-938-939-940-941-942-943-944-945-946-947-948-949-950-951-952-953-954-955-956-957-958-959-960-961-962-963-964-965-966-967-968-969-970-971-972-973-974-975-976-977-978-979-980-981-982-983-984-985-986-987-988-989-990-991-992-993-994-995-996-997-998-999-1000	17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29-30-31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38-39-40-41-42-43-44-45-46-47-48-49-50-51-52-53-54-55-56-57-58-59-60-61-62-63-64-65-66-67-68-69-70-71-72-73-74-75-76-77-78-79-80-81-82-83-84-85-86-87-88-89-90-91
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By the time the 1786 Tax List, in Little Fork, was taken, either Joseph was still over in Kentucky, or he had returned, and his younger brother Harman Jr. had gone to Kentucky, because only their father, Harman Back Jr. (born 1737) was listed, yet there were 2 tithables in his household (see below).

26

Persons names	white males over 16	white males under 16	white females over 16	white females under 16	black males over 16	black males under 16	black females over 16	black females under 16	Taxes
Harman Back	1				2	6	1	0	15.6
Harman Back Jr.	2				3	11	2	1	8.9
William Butler	1								

The 1786 Tax List in Little Fork  
Harman Back Jr. (born 1737, age 49) was listed  
One of his sons, either Joseph (born 1756) or Harman Jr. (born 1764),  
was the other tithable; the other son was in Kentucky.

Date of taxing this year	Names of Persons living with the tax	Names of white Tithables above 21	white males over 16	white males under 16	white females over 16	white females under 16	black males over 16	black males under 16	black females over 16	black females under 16	Taxes
1787 April 7	Bayler Banks Harman Back	Bayler Banks Harman Back	2	7	5	3					8.9
											1

The 1787 Tax List, in Little Fork  
Harman Back Jr. (born 1737, age 50) was listed as the only tithable  
Two of his three sons, Joseph and Harman Jr., must have been in Kentucky.

But by the time the 1787 Tax List in Little Fork, was taken, both Joseph and his younger brother Harman Jr. must have been over in Kentucky, because only their father, Harman Back Jr. (born 1737), was listed (see below).

This 1787 Tax List shows 1 tithable (over in the far right column), which was Harman Back Jr. (born 1737). In fact, in the third column, it also names him as being the only tithable. It is important to note that this Tax List was taken on April 7, 1787 (see the first column), which was only about one month after Harman Back Jr.'s 50<sup>th</sup> birthday. Technically, he should not have been counted as a tithable, but yet, he was. This was probably because his birthday had just occurred.

Aaron Lane was still the tax commissioner, 1788. However, there was no Tax List for Little Fork, for 1788, which has survived.

### **The 1786 & 1787 Tax Lists, down by the Robinson River**

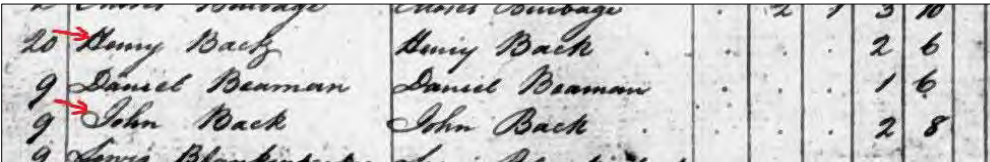
Henry Hill was still the tax commissioner down there, in 1786.

This 1786 Tax List, down by the Robinson River, shows that John and his brother Henry had just one tithable in their household (themselves); this was indicated in the first column, and in the column to the far right. John owned 2 horses and 6 cattle, and Henry owned 2 horses and 4 cattle.

Henny Hill 15 <sup>th</sup> List		White by the men of	ALL 1784	Men by the	Dr Young	House	Cattle	Dr of household	Tax	Dr	
Persons names											
A	Henny Ayloachd?	1	1	1	4	12		32	1.0	2	
	Henny Ayloachd?	2	3	8	6	9		137	4.3	5	
	Jacob Ayler	1		1	2	9		21	6.3	1	
B	John Buck	1									
	Joseph Boughn	1			2	6		10	15.6	1	
	Mordican Boughn	1						10	10.0	1	
	Anthony Berry	1			3	8		10	18.0	1	
	Fella Bungen	1			2	3		10	14.9	1	
	Thomas Brown	2			5	6		21	11.6	2	
	Caen Berry	1	3	6	7	5		10	5.15.3	4	
	Vincent Boughn	1	1	3	3	9		5	2.18.8	2	
	Eliza Berry	1			1	9		10	14.3	1	
	Anna Berry	1	1		1	5		2	1.3.3	2	
	Anna Berry	1		2	4	2	3		7	3.14.9	3
	William Ball	1					4	1	1	0.18.3	1
	Benjamin Bingham	1			2	3		10	14.9	1	
	Joshua Barlow	2	1		3	1		3	1.16.3	3	
	Amos Barlow	1	8	10	6	15		19	10.5.9	9	
	Stephen Bingham	1	1	1	3	1		3	1.16.3	2	
	Thomas Bingham	1		1	1	6		2	1.3.6	1	
	John Ballard	1	2	4	2	5		7	3.15.6	3	
	William Brown	1	1	2	2	5		4	2.5.3	2	
	Thomas Bingham	1			1			1	0.12.0	1	
	John Blankenship	1			1			1	0.12.0	1	
	John Blankenship	1	3		2	7		6	2.6.3	4	
	John Blankenship	1	3	3	5	13		7	4.3.3	4	
	Thomas Blankenship	1			1			1	0.12.0	1	
	Thomas Blackwell	1			1	1		1	0.12.3	1	
	Henny Back	1			2	4		1	0.15.0	1	

In 1787, Goodrich Lightfoot was the tax commissioner, down by the Robinson River. Mr. Lightfoot (1765-1828) had married Martha Fry, the daughter of Henry Fry (1738-1823), who had inherited his family's plantation, called, "Elim," from his father Joshua Fry. It was located at the juncture of Crooked Creek and the Robinson River, about one mile from where John Henry Back and his family lived. Goodrich and his wife lived near "Elim," until their deaths.

Goodrich Lightfoot visited Henry Back's home on April 20<sup>th</sup>, and he visited John Back's home on April 9<sup>th</sup> (see below).



Name	Tithables	Horses	Cattle
Henry Back	2	2	6
Daniel Beaman	1	1	6
John Back	2	2	8

The 1787 Tax List, down by the Robinson River  
John Back and his brother Henry Back were still listed as living there  
The tax commissioner was Goodrich Lightfoot.

Strangely, Mr. Lightfoot did not write the number "1" in that first column for the number of tithables in each man's household. Instead, he used a ditto mark ("") to indicate that it was the same number as the one above it. Most of the households on that page had 1 tithable in them, including the ones right above Henry Back. Henry then owned 2 horses and 6 cattle; and John owned 2 horses and 8 cattle.

### **The 1788 Tax List, down by the Robinson River**

In 1788, John Hume was the tax commissioner, down by the Robinson River, in the far southern part of Culpeper County.

John Hume (1769-1842) was the grandson of George Hume (1698-1760), who was a surveyor, and who had sold John Henry Back his first 50 acres of land, along Crooked Creek, back in 1753. John Hume was also the son of George Hume Jr. (1729-1802), who was also a surveyor, and who owed 322 acres, at the juncture of Crooked Creek and the Robinson River; he was a neighbor of John Henry Back and his family. John Hume married Anna Crigler in 1792. They later migrated to Kentucky. Around 1817, they migrated to St. Louis County, Missouri, where he died, in 1842.

John Hume visited Henry Back's home on March 13<sup>th</sup>, and he visited John Back's home on April 26<sup>th</sup> (see the next page).

Order List	Persons names	White men					Total
		16	16	16	16	16	
1788	Part of June?	92	101	31	236	10	
Apr. 10	Robert Brocken	6	2		2		
1	House Burbridge	2	2		3		
Apr. 13	Henry Back	1			2		
15	Daniel Beaman	1			1		
Apr. 26	John Back	1			2		
Apr. 11	Lucas Blanchebecker	1	1	1	2		

The 1788 Tax List, down by the Robinson River  
Henry Back and his brother John Back were still living there  
The tax commissioner was John Hume.

Henry and John each had 2 horses, but cattle were not counted that year.

### The 1789 Tax List in Little Fork

In the Tax List for Little Fork, in 1789, something very interesting happened (see the next page). It proved, beyond any doubt whatsoever, that it truly had been Harman Back Jr. (born 1737), and not his father, Harman Back (born 1708), in all of the preceding years of Tax Lists, in Little Fork.

First of all, in the early summer of 1789, Harman Back Jr. (born 1737) was 52 years old. The 1789 Tax List was prepared on May 25, 1789, so that was two months after his 52<sup>nd</sup> birthday. However, his name was written on the Tax List anyway; yet, there was no mark in that first column for tithables. This means that, although his name was listed, he had suddenly "dropped off" from being counted as a tithable.

To verify that the lack of a mark in that first column was not a mistake, over in the far right column, which also was for the number of tithables, there was a line through it, meaning "no tithables." In other words, he really had just "dropped off" from being counted as a tithable. But the tax commissioner had written his name down anyway, probably out of respect.

If it had been his father, Harman Back (born 1708), in all of the preceding years of Tax Lists, he would not have just suddenly "dropped off" from being counted, in 1789. That's because he didn't just recently become over the age of 50. Harman Back (born 1708) would have been 81 years old, if he had still been alive, in 1789.



Rank of Leaving Individual	Names of Persons Chargeable with the Tax	number of Males	Blacks above 16	Blacks above 16 under 18	Slaves	Penalties on hands	Ordinary Services	William's Table	N. of Head Males	Rate of Paying the Tax	Ranking Persons	L. P.	Other
May 13	William Broadbent	3	1							1. 12		3	
	James Broadbent	1	1							12		2	
13	Henry Brown	1	3							6		1	
14	Isaac Bishop	2	3							6		2	
	William Bell	1	2	1						1. 2		3	
15	James Bramham	2	2	2	4					2 8		4	
	William Barber	3	3							6		3	
	Robert Brown	1	1							2		1	
	John Butler	1	2	7						1. 14		3	
	William Butler	1	1	3						16		1	
18	Charles Burns	1	3	1	3					2 6		4	
19	William C. Brown	1	2	2	4					2 8		3	
21	James Bruce	2	2	3						1 6		4	
	Isaac Bruce	2	2	6						1 12		4	
	William Bruce	2	2	7						1. 14		4	
22	John Bunting	1	1	2						14		2	
	John Bright	1	2							1		1	
23	William Bullen	2	3							10		2	
	John Bowring	2	2							4		2	
	Katherine Blackwell	1	4							8		1	
25	Harmon Back	1	3							6		1	
	Joseph Back	1	2							4		1	

The 1789 Tax List, in Little Fork

Harman Back Jr. (born 1737, age 52) was listed, but was not counted as a tithable

His son Joseph (age 33) was listed as a tithable.

His son Harman Jr. must have still been in Kentucky.

His youngest son Jacob was 19 years old, so he was not old enough to be listed.

Four months after that 1789 Tax List was prepared, on September 15, 1789, Harman Back Jr. (born 1737) sold the 100-acre farm that he had inherited from his father, Harman Back (born 1708). The deed proved that Harman Back Jr. (born 1737) had inherited that land, because it stated that he had obtained it through an "indefeasible Estate of inheritance." The only way that someone can inherit something is if someone else dies.

Harman Back Jr. (born 1737), his wife Katherine, and their three sons (Joseph, Harman, and Jacob), then migrated to central Kentucky, in the fall of 1789. They settled in the central part of the state. **NOTE:** Some people falsely claim that Harman Back (born 1708) migrated to Kentucky; but that is impossible, because his son Harman Back Jr. had inherited his land. That means Harman Back (born 1708) must have died, sometime before 1789; in fact, he had probably died, sometime before 1782.

## The 1789 Tax List, down by the Robinson River

In the Tax List, down by the Robinson River, in 1789, the tax commissioner was John Gibbs (1729-1804). He had first married Elizabeth Churchill. After she died, in 1748 (probably during the birth of their son Churchill Gibbs), John married Judith Christy, around 1750. Records show that they owned land in Bromfield Parish, near the Robinson River. John wrote his will there, on October 18, 1803, and it was probated there, on June 28, 1804.

In this Tax List, Henry Back and his brother John Back were listed on two different pages (see below). John Gibbs visited Henry's home on May 6<sup>th</sup>, and he visited John's house on April 10<sup>th</sup>. Both men had just one tithable in their household (themselves); Henry Back had 3 horses, and John Back had 2 horses. Cattle were not counted.

Date of list	Person or Persons	White	Black	Indian	Other	Cattle
1789	John Gibbs					
May 4	Epheiny Back	1				
5	John Back	1				1
→ 6	Henry Back	1				3

The 1789 Tax List down by the Robinson River  
Henry Back owned 3 horses

10	John Blankinship	1	3			3
→ 10	John Back	1				2

The 1789 Tax List down by the Robinson River  
John Back owned 2 horses

## The 1790 Tax List in Little Fork

Harman Back Jr. and his family had left Little Fork, in the fall of 1789. So, there were no people with the last name of Back, living in Little Fork, in the 1790 Tax List. The Tax Lists were checked, up through 1802, and there were still no men with the last name of Back living there.



### The 1790 Tax List, down by the Robinson River

John Gibbs was still the tax commissioner there. And once again, Henry Back and his brother John Back were listed on two different pages (see below). John Gibbs visited Henry Back's house on May 28<sup>th</sup>, and he visited John Back's house on April 16<sup>th</sup>. Each man owned 3 horses, and cattle were also not counted.



A close-up of a handwritten tax list entry. A red arrow points to the number '28' in the left margin. The entry reads 'Henry Back' followed by a series of dashes and the number '3' in the rightmost column.

28	Henry Back	---	---	---	---	3
----	------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

The 1790 Tax List, down by the Robinson River  
Henry Back owned 3 horses



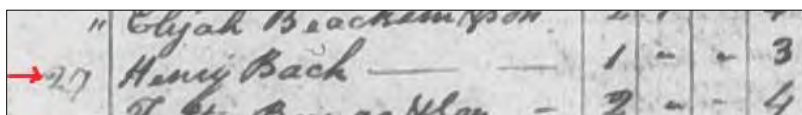
A close-up of a handwritten tax list entry. A red arrow points to the number '16' in the left margin. The entry reads 'John Back' followed by a series of dashes and the number '3' in the rightmost column.

16	John Back	---	---	---	---	3
----	-----------	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

The 1790 Tax List, down by the Robinson River  
John Back owned 3 horses

### The 1791 Tax List, down by the Robinson River

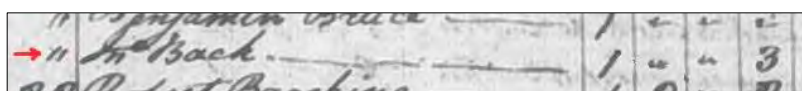
John Gibbs was still the tax commissioner there. And once again, Henry Back and his brother John Back (shown as "Jn" Back) were listed on two different pages (see below). John Gibbs visited Henry Back's house on May 27<sup>th</sup>, and he visited John back's house on April 11<sup>th</sup>. Each man still owned 3 horses, and cattle were also not counted.



A close-up of a handwritten tax list entry. A red arrow points to the number '27' in the left margin. The entry reads 'Henry Back' followed by a series of dashes and the number '3' in the rightmost column.

27	Henry Back	---	---	---	---	3
----	------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

The 1791 Tax List, down by the Robinson River  
Henry Back owned 3 horses



A close-up of a handwritten tax list entry. A red arrow points to the number '11' in the left margin. The entry reads 'Jn Back' followed by a series of dashes and the number '3' in the rightmost column.

11	Jn Back	---	---	---	---	3
----	---------	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

The 1791 Tax List, down by the Robinson River  
John Back owned 3 horses

### The 1792 Tax List, down by the Robinson River

John Gibbs was still the tax commissioner there, in the far southern part of Culpeper County (see the next page).



## The 1793 & 1794 Madison County Tax Lists

In the 1793 Tax List, which was the first Tax List in Madison County, the tax commissioner was also John Gibbs. In fact, he was the tax commissioner in Madison County, up through 1796.

Mr. Gibbs visited John Back's house on the 18<sup>th</sup> of March, and he visited Henry Back's house on the 19<sup>th</sup> of March (see below). John Back was the only tithable in his household, because he had no sons; he had five daughters, who were between the ages of 3 and 16. He also owned 4 horses.

His brother Henry Back was also the only tithable in his household; he had six sons, but all of them were well under the age of 21: Lewis was 7; Aaron was 8; Henry Jr. was 10; Joseph was 11; Benjamin was 12; and John was 17. (The names and ages of Henry's daughters are not known, but they were both under the age of 17, in 1793.) Henry owned 3 horses.

Date of tax	Person's Name	Acres	Over 16	Under 16	Blacks	Horses	Large Oxen	Small Oxen	Method of Corn
1793									
March 12	Iselta Bungo & Son	2	—	—	—	4			
12	John Bungo	1	—	—	—	2			
12	Jacob Bungo	1	—	—	—	2			
14	Martin Barnes	1	1	1	3	—	1	12	
14	Simpson Berry	1	—	—	—	—			
14	Leonard Barnes	1	—	—	—	1			
14	Lucia Berry	1	3	—	—	7			
14	Christian Biver	1	—	—	—	4			
18	John Back	1	—	—	—	4			
18	Charles Brooken	1	2	1	3				
19	Josua Barlow	1	1	—	—	2			
19	Henry Back	1	—	—	—	3			
19	Benjamin Bingham	1	—	—	—	1			
19	Thomas Bingham	1	—	—	—	1			

The 1793 Tax List in Madison County, Virginia  
John Back and his brother Henry Back were still living in the  
same place as they were, in the 1782-1792 Tax Lists,  
but the land had become Madison County, in late 1792.

John Back died, in early January of 1794. He was about 56 years old.

He had died suddenly, without a will, and so the Madison County Court appointed four people to administer his estate, on January 27, 1794; his widow Margaret Hoffman Back; his brother Henry Back; and two friends, John Wayland and John Miller. John's brother Joseph Back came back from Kentucky (he had migrated there, in 1791), and he paid the bond of 200 pounds (Madison County Will Book #1, pp. 27-28).

A few months later, the 1794 Tax List was prepared, in Madison County, and John Back's widow, Margaret Hoffman Back, was listed as the head of the household, on May 20th (see below). There were no men living in her house (no tithables), as she only had daughters. She then owned just 3 horses. (She must have recently sold one of their horses.)

Date 1794	Persons Names	White	Black	Slaves	Horses	Land	Woods	Water
May 10	John Back	1	-	-	3			
4	Thomas Blount	1	-	-	1			
4	Robert Back & son	2	2	-	2			
15	John Blount	1	2	1	5			
15	Thomas Blount	1	-	-	3			
21	Robert Back	1	-	-	-			
21	Thomas Blount	1	-	-	-			
21	Margaret Back	-	-	-	3			
21	Robert Back	-	-	-	-			

The 1794 Tax List in Madison County, Virginia  
Margaret Hoffman Back was a widow;  
her husband John had recently died, about four months earlier

John Back's brother, Henry Back (1740-1809), was also listed in the 1794 Tax List in Madison County, but on a different page (see below). The tax commissioner had visited Henry's house on March 15<sup>th</sup>.

Date 1794	Persons Names	White	Black	Slaves	Horses	Land	Woods	Water
March 15	Lewis Blount	1	2	-	3			
→ 15	Henry Back & son	2	-	-	3			
15	Peter Blount	3	-	-	6			

The 1794 Tax List in Madison County, Virginia  
Henry Back was listed as "Henry Back and son," referring to him and his oldest son John (born 1776). But John had just turned 18 (not 21).  
The tax commissioner had apparently started counting men age 18 and older as being tithables, but he did not list their names.



Even though the tax commissioner in Madison County had started counting men, age 18 and older, as tithables, in 1794, he did not list their names on the Tax List, until they became 21 years old.

Henry Back's oldest son John (born 1776) turned 21 years old, in 1797. That was the first year that John was actually listed by name on the Tax List (see below). He was the one tithable. His widowed aunt, Margaret Hoffman Back, was listed right next to him (she had no tithables in her house).

25	John Back	1	"	"	"	3
	Margaret Back	"	"	"	"	2
3	Jacob Bunge	7	"	"	"	3
3		116	72	22	122	44

The 1797 Tax List in Madison County, Virginia  
John Back (born 1776) had just turned 21, proving that he was born in 1776.  
 That is why this was the first Tax List on which he was listed by name.

The following year, in 1798, John Back (born 1776) left Virginia, and moved to North Carolina. He did that, because his aunt, Anna Catherine Hoffman Spilman (his mother's half-sister), and her husband, Harman Spilman, had moved there; Harman Spilman had bought 640 acres there, in 1784.

It is believed that Anna Catherine had died in 1790, and that her husband Harman had died in 1797. So, it is suspected that John Back had gone to North Carolina, to help settle Harman Spilman's estate. He must have then decided to stay there. He later got married there, around 1800, and raised a large family. By 1820, John and his family were living in Lincoln County, North Carolina; they were seen in the 1820 Census Report, living near the South Fork of the Catawba River. However, nothing else is known about John Back (born 1776).

**NOTE:** Many people mistakenly think that Henry Back's son named John Back, was the John Back (1774-1853), who migrated to southeastern Kentucky, and married Catherine Robertson. But he wasn't. That John Back (1774-1853) was actually a son of Joseph Back (1745-1819), who was a brother of Henry Back.

Henry Back's son named John Back was born in 1776; he migrated to North Carolina in 1798; he never went to Kentucky.

## The 1795 & 1796 Madison County Tax Lists

John Gibbs continued as the tax commissioner, in 1795 and 1796. Henry Back (1740-1809) was listed in both years, as was John Back's widow, Margaret Hoffman Back. She was listed right next to him (see below).

25	→ Henry Back & Son	2	13			
26	→ Margaret Back	1	2			
27	John Blackwell	1	1	9		15

The 1795 Tax List in Madison County, Virginia  
Henry Back (and his son John, age 19) were the 2 tithables  
Henry was listed next to his widowed sister-in law, Margaret Hoffman Back.

28	→ Henry Back & Son	2	2			
29	→ Margaret Back	1	2			

The 1796 Tax List in Madison County, Virginia  
Henry Back (and his son John, age 20) were the 2 tithables  
Henry was listed next to his widowed sister-in law, Margaret Hoffman Back.

## The 1797 & 1798 Madison County Tax Lists

John Bradford (1762-1827) was the tax commissioner, in 1797 and 1798. After the Revolutionary War ended, he moved to the far southern part of Culpeper County (became Madison County). He married Elizabeth Blackwell. Around 1801, they moved to Nashville, Tennessee.

Henry Back (1740-1809) was listed in both years (see below and the next page). John Back's widow, Margaret Hoffman Back was listed on another page, in 1797 (see page 21), and near him, in 1798.

Date of List	Persons Names	White	Other	Slaves	Horses	Cowage	Wheats	Orch	Land	Shed	Stables	Chattel
30 <sup>th</sup> May 1797	Moses Broyles & Son	2	2	"	2							
	Chasim Berry	1	"	"	0							
	→ Henry Back & Son	2	"	"	3							

The 1797 Tax List in Madison County, Virginia  
Henry Back (and his son Benjamin, age 16) were the 2 tithables  
Henry's son John (age 21), and his widowed sister-in law, Margaret Hoffman Back, were listed on another page.



→	Margaret Bach	-		3					" 27
	Abraham Berry	-	1		1				" 9
→	Henry Bach		2		3				" 27
15	Georg Blankenhorn Jr.		1	3	2	5			2, 20

The 1798 Tax List in Madison County, Virginia  
Henry Back (and his son Benjamin, age 17) were the 2 tithables  
Henry's widowed sister-in law, Margaret Hoffman Back, was two rows above him.

## The 1799 & 1800 Madison County Tax Lists

Whitfield Early (1777-1865) was the tax commissioner, in 1799 and 1800. He was also a Commissioner of Revenue, and he served on a grand jury, in 1806. Around 1808, he and his family moved to Boone County, Kentucky. They settled along the Ohio River, where he later died.

Henry Back (1740-1809) was listed in both years (see below). John Back's widow, Margaret Hoffman Back, was listed right next to him, in 1799, but she was listed on another page, in 1800 (not shown here).

13	Robert Back & Sons								
15	Marguerite Back				3				36
	Henry Back & Son	2			3				36
16	Black & White	1	1	4					36

The 1799 Tax List in Madison County, Virginia  
Henry Back (and his son Benjamin, age 18) were the 2 tithables  
Henry was listed next to his widowed sister-in law, Margaret Hoffman Back.

<u>James Wales</u>	/		e	a	x		
wy → <u>Hony Back Waler</u>	B		D	a	s	.	38
<u>Ephraim Perry</u>	/	e	c	e	e		

The 1800 Tax List in Madison County, Virginia  
Henry Back (and his two sons, Benjamin, age 19;  
and Joseph, age 18) were the 3 tithables  
Henry's widowed sister-in-law, Margaret Hoffman Back, was on another page.

## The 1801-1809 Madison County Tax Lists

George H. Allen (1773-1865) was the tax commissioner, from 1801 through 1809. He owned quite a bit of land in Madison County, and he was also the sheriff there. It is believed that his family owned the Allen Mountain Farm. In 1806, he married Nancy Graves. He was seen in the Madison County Census Reports, from 1810 through 1860. He died there, in 1865.

Henry Back (1740-1809) was listed in each of those Tax Lists, from 1801 through 1807, except for 1805; he must have simply been missed that year (see below and the next page). And the Tax List from 1808 no longer exists. Henry Back died, in early 1809.

John Back's widow, Margaret Hoffman Back, was listed in those Tax Lists, from 1801 through 1804 (see below and the next page). She was usually listed next to Henry, or near him. It is believed that, in 1805, Margaret, and her two unmarried daughters (Anna and Sarah), moved in with her daughter Elizabeth and her husband John Embry, who lived nearby. In fact, Margaret had already sold some of her land to John Embry.

23	Henry Back	4	2	24
	John Back	1	1	12

The 1801 Tax List in Madison County, Virginia  
 Henry Back (and his three sons, Benjamin, age 20;  
 Joseph, age 19; and Henry Jr., age 18) were the 4 tithables  
 Henry's widowed sister-in-law, Margaret Hoffman Back, was on another page.

	Benjamin Back	1	2	24
	Ephraim Berry	3	3	36
30	Henry Back	3	3	12

The 1802 Tax List in Madison County, Virginia  
 Henry Back (and his two sons, Joseph, age 20;  
 and Henry Jr., age 19) were the 3 tithables  
 Henry's son Benjamin (age 21) was listed two rows above him.  
 Henry's widowed sister-in-law, Margaret Hoffman Back, was on another page.

	Joseph Back	1	2	24
	Henry Back	2	2	24
	Margaret Back	2	2	24

The 1803 Tax List in Madison County, Virginia  
 Henry Back was the only tithable male in his household  
 His son Joseph (age 21) was listed above him.  
 Henry's widowed sister-in-law, Margaret Hoffman Back, was listed below him.

→ Henry Back	1	1	2				24
Edward Brown	1		1				12

The 1804 Tax List in Madison County, Virginia  
 Henry Back (as Henry Back Sr.) was the only tithable male in his household.  
 His son Joseph (age 22) was listed several rows above him.  
 His widowed sister-in-law, Margaret Hoffman Back, was listed in the other column. His son Benjamin (age 23) was listed on another page.  
 His son Henry Jr. (age 21) was listed in another column (see below).

→ Henry Back Jr.	1	1	4				24
------------------	---	---	---	--	--	--	----

The 1804 Tax List in Madison County, Virginia  
Henry Back Jr. (born 1783) was 21 years old  
 He was not seen in any subsequent Tax List, or in any Census Report.  
 He probably died, sometime between 1804 and 1805.

**NOTE:** Many people mistakenly think that Henry Back's son named Henry Back, was the Henry Back (1785-1871), who migrated to southeastern Kentucky, and married Susannah Maggard. But he wasn't. That Henry Back (1785-1871) was actually a son of Joseph Back (1745-1819), who was a brother of Henry Back.

Henry Back's son named Henry Back was born in 1783; he died, sometime after the 1804 Tax List in Madison County was taken, and before the 1805 Tax List in Madison County was taken; he never went to Kentucky.

Benjamin Back	1		1				12
Joseph Back	1		2				24
→ Henry Back	2		1				12

The 1806 Tax List in Madison County, Virginia  
 Henry Back (and his son Aaron, age 21) were the 2 tithables  
 Henry's son Joseph (age 24) was listed above him;  
 and Henry's son Benjamin (age 26) was listed above Joseph.

Joseph Back	1		1				12
→ Henry Back	2	5	2	6			3.36

The 1807 Tax List in Madison County, Virginia  
 Henry Back (and his son Lewis, age 20) were the 2 tithables  
 Henry's son Joseph (age 25) was listed above him;  
 and Henry's son Aaron (age 22) was listed several rows below him.

As mentioned above, there is no copy of the 1808 Tax List, in Madison County, still in existence. In early 1809 (before April), Henry Back died.

### **The widows of Henry Back and John Back**

Shortly after Henry Back died, his son Aaron, and his wife's widowed sister, Margaret Hoffman Back, bought 100 acres of land from Margaret's daughter Elizabeth, and her husband John Embry, on April 10, 1809. Fifty acres of that land was for Henry's widow Elizabeth, her son Aaron, and her two unmarried daughters to live on; and fifty acres was for Margaret and her two unmarried daughters (Anna and Sarah) to live on.

The land was located in Rockingham County, Virginia, along Wolf Run, just east of the town of Elkton. Fifty acres was on one side of the creek, and fifty acres was on the other side of the creek. John Embry and his wife Elizabeth had bought that land, around 1806, however, John was listed in the 1807 Tax List, as still living in Madison County.

Fifteen years earlier, Margaret Hoffman Back had become a widow, back in 1794, when her husband John Back had died. She continued to be listed in the Madison County Tax Lists, up through 1804. It is believed that, in 1805, she, and her two unmarried daughters (Anna and Sarah), moved in with her daughter Elizabeth and her husband John Embry, who lived near her.

On April 28, 1807 (two years before Henry Back died) Margaret Hoffman Back sold the rest of her 150-acre farm. That fall, Margaret, her two unmarried daughters, and her daughter Elizabeth and her husband John Embry, left Madison County, and moved to that 100 acres along Wolf Run.

Margaret and her two unmarried daughters lived on 50 acres, on one side of the creek; and her daughter Elizabeth and her husband John Embry lived on the other 50 acres, on the other side of the creek.

So, about two years later, on September 28, 1809, Elizabeth Hoffman Back sold her 150-acre farm in Madison County. She, her son Aaron, and her two unmarried daughters, then moved to that 50 acres along Wolf Run that her son Aaron had bought for her, five months before. Her 50 acres was the 50 acres that her sister's daughter Elizabeth and her husband John Embry had been living on. Elizabeth's widowed sister Margaret Hoffman Back was already living on the 50 acres that she had settled on, back in 1807.



After John Embry and his wife Elizabeth sold their 100 acres along Wolf Run, they moved about 15 miles west, to the town of Harrisonburg. They never had any children, and they both later died in Harrisonburg.

The two widowed sisters, Elizabeth Hoffman Back and Margaret Hoffman Back, lived along Wolf Run for the rest of their lives. Elizabeth was seen living there, in the 1810 Census Report, and in all of the Tax Lists, from 1810 through 1815. She died there, in late 1815 or early 1816. Margaret was seen living there, in the 1820 and 1830 Census Reports, and in all of the Tax Lists, up through 1830. Margaret died there, around 1831.

### **The sons of Henry Back (1740-1809)**

Henry Back (1740-1809) and his wife Elizabeth Hoffman Back had six sons:

- (1) John Back (born 1776)--he moved to North Carolina, in 1798, where he got married, around 1800--he died there, sometime after 1820;
- (2) Benjamin Back (born 1781)--he married his cousin Rachel Hoffman, in 1805, and he died sometime after 1806, in Madison County;
- (3) Joseph Back (born 1782)--he married his cousin Elizabeth Hoffman (sister of Rachel), in 1802, and he died, sometime after 1815, in Madison County;
- (4) Henry Back Jr. (born 1783)--he died sometime after 1804, in Madison County;
- (5) Aaron Back (born 1785)--he moved to Rockingham County, Virginia, after his father died, with his widowed mother and his two sisters, in 1809, where he met and married Margaret Elizabeth Luger Hammer, in 1811--they migrated to Ohio in 1816, and then to Indiana, in 1837, where he died, in 1868; and
- (6) Lewis Back (born 1787)--he migrated to Russell County, Virginia, after his father died, in 1809, to live with his cousin John Back (1774-1853) and his wife Catherine Robertson--he then went to southeastern Kentucky with them, in 1810, where he met and married Elizabeth Pennington, in 1811--they later migrated to Missouri, in 1850, where he died, around 1865.

In the 1809 Tax List, in Madison County, two of Henry's sons were listed: Joseph, and Lewis (who had just turned 21). Later that year, Lewis moved to Russell County, Virginia, to live with his cousin, John Back (1774-1853) and his wife Catherine Robertson. Joseph continued to be seen in the Tax Lists of Madison County, from 1810 through 1815; he died, after that.

## **Summary: John Back and Henry Back**

The Tax Lists definitely prove that John Back and his brother Henry Back were not sons of Harman Back. John Back and Henry Back were seen living down by the Robinson River, in the far southern part of Culpeper County, which became Madison County in 1792. They lived there, until they died. They both lived on land that each of their wives had inherited from her father. That land was 25 miles south of Little Fork, which was in the far northern part of Culpeper County, where Harman Back lived. John Back and his brother Henry Back probably didn't even know Harman Back.

John Back and Henry Back were the sons of John Henry Back, who owned 786 acres along Crooked Creek, near where it flows into the Robinson River, in the far southern part of Culpeper County, which became Madison County in 1792. John and Henry grew up there; they later married two sisters, who were the daughters of their neighbor, John Hoffman. Mr. Hoffman owned 3,525 acres along, and near, the Robinson River; he and his family lived practically next-door to John Henry Back.

John Back and Henry Back were in completely different taxing districts than Harman Back was, and their Tax Lists were prepared by completely different tax commissioners. This proof is indisputable.

But for those people who still want to claim that John Back and Henry Back were sons of Harman Back, they must think that, after John and Henry grew up, they simply left Little Fork, and moved to the far southern part of Culpeper County, where they met and married those two Hoffman sisters. However, that's not true, and there is evidence that proves it's not true.

First of all, back then, sons would never abandon their elderly father and move far away, forcing him to take care of the family farm alone.

But also, in 1762, John Henry Back, the father of John Back and Henry Back, made an entry into his Family Bible, at Christmastime, at his cabin along Crooked Creek. He wrote down the names and dates of birth of the five people who were at his cabin that day. One of those people was his daughter-in-law, Elizabeth Hoffman Back, who had married his son Henry. He wrote, "Elizabeth Back was born the 13 day of July...1746." He would never have written her name and her date of birth into his Family Bible, unless she was part of his family.

We know that this Elizabeth Back, in John Henry Back's Family Bible, was the same Elizabeth, who was the daughter of John Hoffman, who lived along the Robinson River, because John Hoffman also had a Family Bible. He had written down the names and dates of birth of all his children, in his Bible. He wrote, "In the year 1746, July 13<sup>th</sup>, my daughter Elizabeth born; baptized August 3rd..."

John Henry Back's Family Bible is now housed at the Breathitt County Library. The Bible on their website, **BreathittCountyLibrary.com**. Scroll down to "Past Perfect." Click it. Then select "Keyword Search." Enter "Bach-Back." Go down to pages 292-293.

And a copy of John Hoffman's Family Bible can be found on his memorial, on **FindAGrave.com**. Just search for John Hoffman (1692-1772).

There is no doubt that Elizabeth Hoffman Back (born July 13, 1746), the daughter of John Hoffman, married Henry Back (1740-1809), who was the son of John Henry Back; he was not the son of Harman Back.

### **Land Tax Lists in Little Fork**

Three Land Tax Lists from Little Fork have also been found (from 1785, 1787, and 1789). In each one of them, Harman Back Jr. (born 1737) was actually listed as "Harman Back Jr." (see below and the next page). Obviously, this was because he had inherited his father's land, and so the tax commissioner kept his father's name on the Tax List, out of respect, and he just added "Jr." (as "Jun.") to his name.

B.	William Bean - - (pitts of Harmon Vincennes's - (pitts - 100 2 11
→	Harmon Back Jun. (pitts of James Backley's - (pitts - 100 4 10
	Charles Bailey (pitts of James C. D. - (pitts - 100 4 10

The 1785 Land Tax List, in Little Fork  
Harman Back Jr. (born 1737) was listed as owning his father's 100 acres

→	Harmon Back jun	100	1000	100 3 10	100 3 10
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The 1787 Land Tax List, in Little Fork  
Harman Back Jr. (born 1737) was listed as owning his father's 100 acres



The 1789 Land Tax List, in Little Fork  
Harman Back Jr. (born 1737) was listed as owning his father's 100 acres

These three Land Tax Lists show that Harman Back Jr. owned 100 acres in Little Fork, which was the same 100 acres that his father had bought, back in 1748.

In fact, in that September 15, 1789 deed, in which Harman Back Jr. sold that 100 acres, it actually referred to that land as being the same land that his father, Harman Back, had bought, back in 1748, when it was still in Orange County. So, there is no doubt whatsoever that Harman Back Jr. had inherited his father's 100 acres, and these Land Tax Lists provide additional proof of that.

Furthermore, up until January 1, 1786, "The Law of Primogeniture" was in force, in Virginia. That law mandated that, when a man passed away, his land automatically passed down to his eldest son. And since there was only one 100-acre farm in the Back family, which Harman Back (born 1708) had bought, back in 1748, that meant that the 100-acre farm had passed onto his eldest son, Harman Back Jr. (born 1737), by at least 1785, according to the Land Tax Lists, and probably earlier than that.

### **Joseph Back**

Joseph Back (born 1756, not 1742) was a son of Harman Back Jr. He was not a son of Harman Back Jr.'s father, Harman Back (born 1708).

Joseph Back was born on April 9, 1756. He wrote his name and his date of birth, into his own Family Bible (see the next page), along with the names and dates of birth of his wife Winneford, and all of their children. That old Bible was later passed down to his daughter Sally (born March 11, 1792), who later married Johnson Lane. That old Bible has remained in the possession of the descendants of Sally and Johnson Lane, ever since.

Joseph Back married Winneford Harper, on January 19, 1786; she had been born on November 16, 1766, as proven by Joseph Back's Bible (see the next page). Her father was Umpriss Harper; her mother's first name may have been Millicent, and her last name may have been Hall.



Joseph Back was born the  
 4<sup>th</sup> day of April 1756  
 Winneford Back was born  
 November the 16<sup>th</sup> 1766  
 they were married January  
 19<sup>th</sup> 1786  
 Nancy Back was born  
 April the 22<sup>th</sup> 1787  
 Enoch Back was born the  
 16<sup>th</sup> October 1789  
 Soley Back was born  
 March the 11<sup>th</sup> 1792  
 Betsey Back was born  
 August the 13<sup>th</sup> 1794  
 Sarah Back was born May the 1<sup>st</sup>  
 1797  
 John Back was born  
 the 11<sup>th</sup> of June 1799  
 Mary Back was born  
 the 11<sup>th</sup> of June 1799

Joseph Back (1756-1832) maintained his Family  
 Bible, into which he wrote his name and date of  
 birth, his wife's name and date of birth, and the  
 names and dates of birth of their children

Winneford's parents were from Dettingen Parish, in Prince William County, Virginia. Apparently, both of Winneford's parents had died, when she was two years old, and so she became an orphan.

Records from The Dettingen Parish Vestry Book (Part 2, 1749-1785, p. 60, acc. #1) show that she was "apprenticed" to Jacob Holtzclaw, of Prince William County, Virginia, on May 11, 1768 (see the next page). An apprenticeship was similar to an adoption, except that it was initiated by a church. Jacob and his family raised Winneford; they lived on a 357-acre farm, on the north side of a branch of Hunger Run, in Prince William County, Virginia.

60 This Indenture, made the 11 day of May in y<sup>e</sup> Year of our Lord 1768 between Henry Lee & John Hoot Churchwardens of the parish of Pitlington in y<sup>e</sup> County of Prince William of y<sup>e</sup> one part and Jacob Holtzclaw of the other part Witnesseth that y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Henry Lee and John Hoot Churchwardens doth by an Order of Court to them Directed bearing date y<sup>e</sup> 2 day of May 1768 her and by these presents doth bind Winifred Minor Wompriso Harper a p<sup>r</sup>intice and servant unto Jacob Holtzclaw and his heirs untill she shall arrive to the age of Eighteen Years to serve y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Jacob Holtzclaw and his heirs in all Lawful Employment as the s<sup>d</sup> Jacob Holtzclaw shall Employ his <sup>said</sup> ~~his~~ <sup>her</sup> in during y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> time and term and the s<sup>d</sup> Jacob Holtzclaw for himself and his heirs in consideration thereof doth hereby Covenant promise and agree to y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Henry Lee and John Hoot Churchwardens that y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Jacob Holtzclaw shall and do well teach her the s<sup>d</sup> servant to read and learn her to sew knit and spin and also to provide for and and a Lodg her h<sup>er</sup> s<sup>d</sup> servant all necessary Cloaths, meat, drink washing and Lodging and all other necessary fit and convenient for her y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> servant according to Law and y<sup>e</sup> custom of y<sup>e</sup> Country and as other servants in such cases are usually provided for and allowed of In Witness whereof the s<sup>d</sup> parties have thereto their presents Indentures Interschangably set their hands and seals y<sup>e</sup> day and year first above Written Signed Seals and Delivered in presence of

Test  
 John Buchanan  
 W<sup>m</sup> Bunt

Henry Lee Seal  
 John Hoot Seal  
 Jacob Holtzclaw Seal

After Winneford Harper was orphaned, when she was 2 years old, she was "apprenticed" to Jacob Holtzclaw and his wife, on May 11, 1768. She was to remain living with them, until she turned 18 years old, which was in 1784.

The apprenticeship document stated that Jacob's wife was to teach young Winneford how to "sew, knit, and spin," and that Winneford was to be their servant, until she turned eighteen years old, which was in 1784. She married Joseph Back, less than two years later, on January 19, 1786.

Joseph Back and his wife Winneford had nine children: Nancy (born April 22, 1787); Enoch (born October 16, 1789); Sarah, who was known as "Sally" (born March 11, 1792); Elizabeth, who was known as "Betsy" (born August 13, 1794); Isaiah (born May 11, 1797); Polly (born July 17, 1799, but died in 1800); Delilah (born May 7, 1801); Lydia (born September 30, 1803); and Jeremiah (born July 19, 1806).

In the fall of 1789, shortly after Joseph's son Enoch was born, Joseph and his family left Little Fork, Virginia, with his parents, and his two younger brothers (Harman Jr. and Jacob), and they migrated to central Kentucky. They settled on the 1,000 acres that Joseph's father, Harman Back Jr., had bought, with a Treasury Warrant, back in 1783. (That land was first located in Mercer County; it became Garrard County, in 1796.)

On December 31, 1794, Joseph's father, Harman Back Jr., had someone write his will for him (because he could not write), and he "signed" it with his "mark" (see the next page). In his will, he left his land to his son Joseph. His will said, "I give and bequeath to my son Joseph the land and plantation...on we now live to him and his heirs forever." That statement proves that Joseph Back was the son of Harman Back Jr.

His will also said, "and for the rest of my estate I give to my beloved wife Catrine Back during her natural life..." (Catrine was simply a misspelling for his wife's name, Katherine; Catrine was actually the German pronunciation of the name, Katherine; and the nickname, "Caty," was also used.)

The two witnesses to his will were Charles Spilman (born 1746) and William Hogan (born 1750). It is very important to note that both of those men were close in age to Harman Back Jr. (born 1737), but they were about 40 years younger than Harman Back Jr.'s father, Harman Back (born 1708).

Many people mistakenly claim that this will belonged to Harman Back (born 1708), but that is not true. He died in Little Fork, as proven by the fact that his eldest son, Harman Back Jr. (born 1737), had inherited his 100 acres of land, sometime before 1785, and then sold it, on September 15, 1789.

In the name of God Amen  
I Harman Back of the County of Mercer and State  
of Kentucky being at the time in perfect sense and  
sound memory and calling to mind the mortality  
of my Body do make and ordain this my Last  
Will and Testament. I bequeath my Soul to almighty  
God who gave it to me and my Body to the dust from  
whence it was taken to be Buried in Christian  
manner after my decease and as for my worldly goods  
that it hath pleased God to bless me with, my will  
and desire is should be Distributed in the following manner

Item I Give and Bequeath to my Son Joseph the Land  
and plantation whereon we now live to him and his heirs  
forever

and as for the rest of my estate I Give to my Beloved  
Wife Catherine Back during her natural Life, and then  
my Will and desire it should be equally divided amongst  
my Children that is then living. And I appoint  
William Hogan & Charles Spilman Executors and  
authorize to execute this my Last Will and Testament  
and revoke all other Wills hereto for made by me I do make  
and ordain this my last will and Testament

and sealed and acknowledged this thirty first of December  
one thousand seven hundred and ninety four in the presence

Charles Spilman  
William Hogan

Harman Back  
H B

Harman Back Jr. (born 1737) had his will written for him,  
on December 31, 1794. He then put "his mark" on it,  
because he could not write. Two of his friends witnessed the will.



Keep in mind that it is known that Harman Back (born 1708) knew how to write and sign his name, because he had signed the Inventory Report for his deceased friend, Johannes Huffman, back in 1741, with his signature. It is also known that his son, Harman Back Jr. (born 1737), did not know how to write or sign his name, as proven by his "mark" on the 1789 deed, when he sold his father's 100-acre farm that he had inherited from him. And then, five years later, Harman Back Jr. (born 1737) put his "mark" on his 1794 will, because he could not write or sign his name.

Furthermore, it is simply not plausible that an elderly man, such as Harman Back (born 1708), even if he was still alive (he would have been 86 years old in 1794), would have selected witnesses to his will who were 40 years younger than he was, and even younger than his own son, Harman Back Jr.

This 1794 will is definitely the will of Harman Back Jr. (born 1737), the son of Harman Back (born 1708).

Joseph's father, Harman Back Jr. (born 1737) died, either in late October, or in early November, of 1797, in Garrard County. His will was recorded in Garrard County, on November 6, 1797 (Order Book #1, p. 37). His will was then probated in Garrard County, in January of 1798, and his inventory was taken and appraised, on February 5, 1798. Shortly after that, Joseph then inherited his father's 1,000 acres.

Several months before his father had died, back in the spring or summer of 1797, the Land Tax List in Garrard County showed that Joseph Back owned 157 acres. So, after he inherited his father's 1,000 acres, in early 1798, he then owned 1,157 acres.

In the 1799 Personal Property Tax List, in Garrard County, Joseph was listed as having only 1 male in his household who was over the age of 21, which was himself; his sons were still quite young.

The 1800 Tax List for the State of Kentucky reveals that there were three men, with the last name of Back, who owned land, and they all lived in the central part of the state (see the next page). These three men, Joseph (born 1756), Harman Jr. (born 1764), and Jacob (born 1770), were the sons of Harman Back Jr. (born 1737). Joseph and Jacob lived in Garrard County, and Harman Jr. lived in nearby Fayette County. Other records show that these three men remained in central Kentucky, all of their lives.

Back, Harmon	Fayette	8/19/1800
Back, Jacob	Garrard	1800
Back, Joseph	Garrard	1800

The 1800 Tax List for the State of Kentucky

In the 1810 Census Report, Joseph and his family were living northeast of the town of Lancaster, near Back Creek, in Garrard County. The report showed these people in his household: 1 male under age 10 (Jeremiah); 1 male age 10-15 (Isaiah); 1 male age 16-35 (Enoch); 1 male age 45 and older (Joseph, born 1756); 2 females under age 10 (Delilah, and Lydia); 3 females age 16-25 (Nancy, Sarah, and Betsy); and 1 female age 26-44 (Joseph's wife Winneford, born 1766).


Joseph Back and his family were also seen in the 1820 and 1830 Census Reports, still living there, in Garrard County. By the 1830 Census Report, all of his children had gotten married and moved out of the house. In that 1830 Census Report, Joseph was indicated in the column for men between the ages of 70 and 79, as he was then 74 years old (born in 1756). His wife Winneford was indicated in the column for women between the ages of 60 and 69, as she was then 64 years old (born in 1766).

As Joseph and Winneford's children got married, many of them continued to live nearby, on Joseph's land, most of which he had inherited from his father, Harman Back Jr. (born 1737), back in 1798.

His daughter Nancy had married her cousin James Back (a son of Joseph's brother Harman Jr.); James had died, in 1825, and so Nancy was a widow, in the 1830 Census Report; she was listed next to her father Joseph. Three of Joseph's daughters were also living nearby, with their husbands: Sally (married Johnson Lane); Betsy (married to her second husband, William Pulliam); and Delilah (married James Hanson Green).

By 1830, his son Enoch (married Sally Burks); his son Isaiah (married Nancy Turpin); and his daughter Lydia (married Joseph Newton) had moved away. His son Jeremiah would marry Sally Brown, in 1837, but it's not known where he was, in 1830.

Joseph Back wrote his will, on February 23, 1831 (see the next page).

I Joseph Back of the County of Garrard and State of Kentucky  
 being of sound mind and memory do make and Ordain this  
 my last will and testament in manner and form as follows (to wit)  
 My will and desire is that my beloved wife Ursula Back  
 have the plantation I now live on together with the house hold  
 and kitchen furniture farming utensils and stock of all kinds  
 during her life My will and desire is that ~~Johnson~~ <sup>John</sup> Back  
 shall have the slaves she now lives in during my wife's lifetime  
 rent free.  
 My will and desire is that Johnson have shall have the horse  
 now lives in during my wife's lifetime rent free incl<sup>d</sup>  
 my wife claims rent from him.  
 My will is that my will and ~~rent~~ <sup>rent</sup> to acres of land together  
 with my stills be sold by my Executor and the money arising  
 from the sale be appropriated to the payment of my debts  
 and supplies if any equally divided among all my children  
 that is Charles Back, Enock Back, Sally Jane Betsey Pulliam  
 Sarah Back Deliah Guin Lydia Newton and Jeremiah  
 Back.  
 My will and desire is that after the death of my wife  
 my Executor sell the land I now live on and the money  
 arising from the sale be equally divided among the  
 above named children or they may divide the land  
 in equal shares among themselves according to quantity  
 and quality.  
 I do hereby appoint James Spilman my executor to  
 execute this my last will and testament In testimony  
 whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 20<sup>th</sup>  
 day of February 1831.  
 Joseph Back   
 Wits  
 James Spilman  
 Thos Spilman  
 William N Pulliam

Joseph Back wrote his will on February 23, 1831, in Garrard County, Kentucky

The three witnesses to his will were James Spilman, Thomas Spilman, and William N. Pulliam, and the Executor was James Spilman.

James Spilman (1780-1832) and Thomas Spilman (1768-1833) were brothers; they were the sons of Charles Spilman (1746-1826), who had been a witness to Joseph's father's will (see page 44). And William Pulliam was Joseph's son-in-law; he had married Joseph's daughter Betsy.

In Joseph's will, he left his "plantation," where he and his wife then lived (probably the 1,157 acres, less the 16½ acres discussed below), to his wife Winneford, along with all the household furnishings, the farming utensils, and the livestock. He also stated that his daughter Nancy Back can have the house that she now lives in, rent free, as long as his wife Winneford is still alive. (Obviously, Nancy's house was on Joseph's land.)

He also stated that his son-in-law Johnson Lane (married to his daughter Sally) can have the house that he now lives in, rent free, unless his wife Winneford wants to charge him rent. (Obviously, Johnson's house was also on Joseph's land.)

He wanted his mill, and the 16½ acres it was on, along with his "stills" to be sold by his Executor, and the proceeds used to pay off his debts. If there was any money left over, it was to be equally divided among his children. (Joseph apparently brewed alcohol; it may have been peach brandy, which was quite popular, back at that time.)

Finally, he stated that, after the death of his wife Winneford, his Executor was to sell his "plantation," and then distribute the proceeds equally among his children. Or, his children could divide it up, among themselves.

Joseph died, either in late December of 1831, or early January of 1832, because his will was probated in January of 1832 (Book F, pp. 503-504). He was probably buried on his "plantation." His inventory was apparently not taken until 1834, for some reason, and it was quite extensive.

After Joseph died, his widow Winneford moved in with her daughter Sally, her husband Johnson Lane, and their children. They still lived nearby. She was seen living with them, in the 1840 Census Report.

She was still living with them, in the 1850 and 1860 Census Reports, listed as, "Winney Back." She was 94 years old in 1860. She died, shortly after that 1860 Census Report was taken. She was probably buried next to Joseph, on their "plantation."



## **Summary: Joseph Back**

The old Tax Lists, in Little Fork, Virginia, prove that Joseph Back (1756-1832) was not a son of Harman Back (born 1708), but, in fact, was a son of Harman Back Jr. (born 1737).

From 1782, when the Tax Lists began, through May of 1789, Joseph Back was seen living with Harman Back Jr. (born 1737), every year, except for when he was over in Kentucky, trying to get a survey done, on the land that his father had bought, and getting it ready for the family to settle on.

In the fall of 1789, Joseph Back, his wife Winneford, and their children, left Little Fork, and they migrated to central Kentucky (later became Garrard County), with his father, Harman Back Jr. (born 1737), his mother Katherine, and his two brothers, Harman Jr. (born 1764) and Jacob (born 1770).

Even more significant is the fact that it has been decisively proven that Joseph Back's grandfather, Harman Back (born 1708), had died, sometime before September 15, 1789, which was shortly before the family left Little Fork, for Kentucky.

This is because, on September 15, 1789, Joseph Back's father, Harman Back Jr. (born 1737), sold the 100-acre family farm that he had inherited from his father, Harman Back (born 1708). The deed clearly stated that Harman Back Jr. (born 1737) had inherited that land; and the only way for someone to inherit something is if someone else dies.

That deed also clearly stated that the 100 acres was the same 100 acres that Harman Back (born 1708) had bought, back in 1748.

Therefore, there is no doubt whatsoever that it was Harman Back Jr. (born 1737) who migrated to central Kentucky, and not his father, Harman Back (born 1708). This is extremely important, because in 1794, Harman Back Jr. (born 1737) had his will written, in Garrard County, Kentucky.

In that will, it clearly stated that he left his "land and his plantation" to his son Joseph. Therefore, that 1794 will absolutely proves that Joseph Back (1756-1832) was the son of Harman Back Jr. (born 1737), and not the son of Harman Back (born 1708).

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) have also confirmed that Joseph Back (1756-1832) was a son of Harman Back Jr. (born 1737), and not a son of Harman Back (born 1708). In addition, the DAR have confirmed that Harman Back (born 1708) only had one son, which was Harman Back Jr. (born 1737). This can be easily verified on their website, **DAR.org**. At the top of the page, click "Genealogy." Then, scroll down and click "Ancestor Search." Then enter the name of "Harman Back."

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