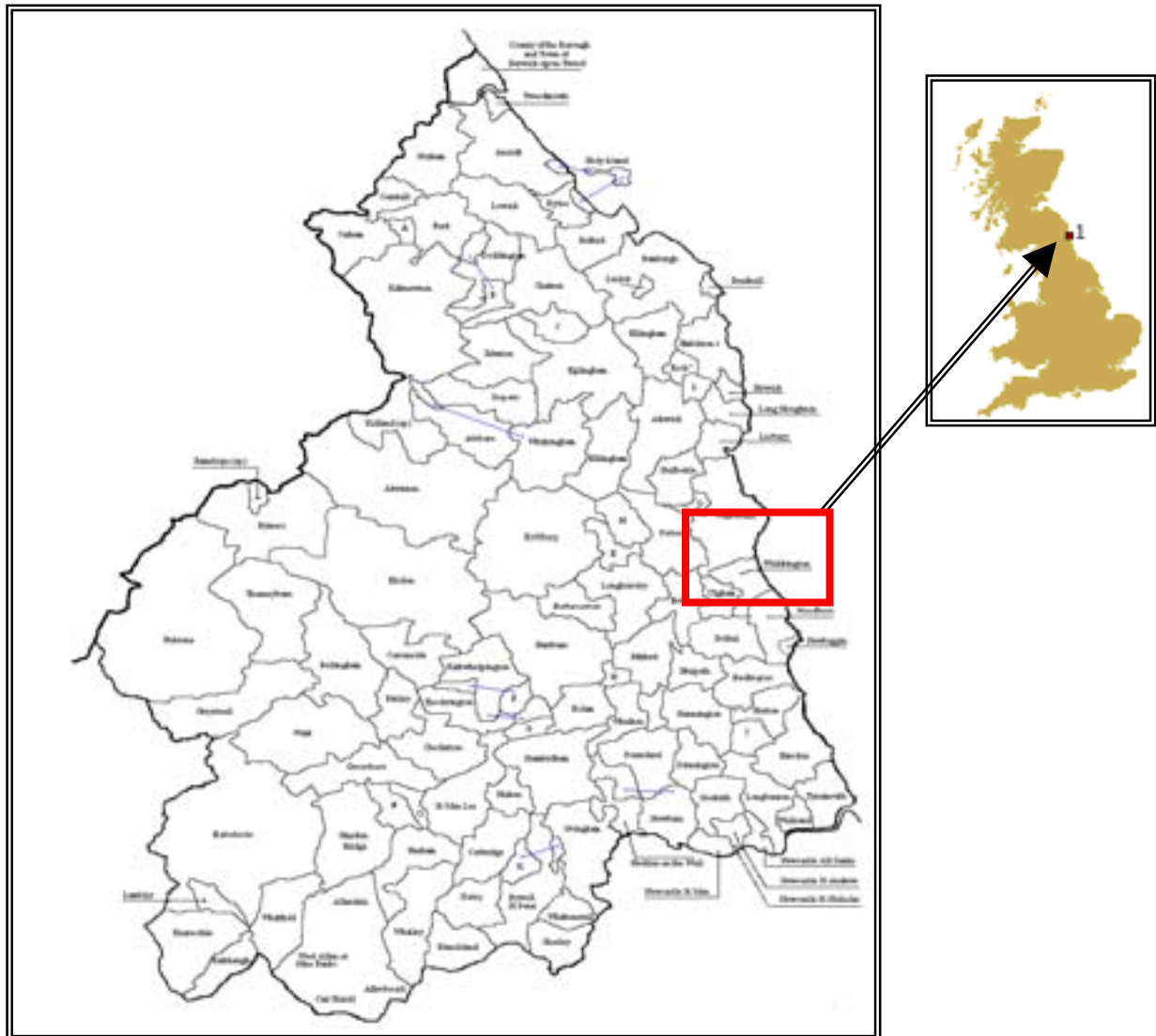


## Chapter 2 The Colonial Wetheringtons

The earliest established Tuscaora Wetherington ancestor is Robert Widdrington of Calvert County Maryland. His will of 1722 names children John, Solomon, Dorcas, Mary, Elizabeth and a step-son, Benjamin Rice. This Wetherington line is generally accepted but not proven as likely migrating from the parish of Widdrington in Northumberland, England. It is unproven which family progenitor(s) may have migrated from the British Isles to the colonies in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.



*Figure 1 Map of Northumberland*

The following 1866 map of the Widdrington area displays the location of the manor or castle and the churches.<sup>1</sup>

*Figure 2 Map of Widdrington, 1866*



*The village and area about Widdrington, in Northumberland, on the eastern coast of England.*



**Figure 3 Widdrington Castle, 1728**

*The Widdrington castle no longer extant, being destroyed at an unknown date.*

*A print of the castle, dated 1728 appeared in an 1855 publication. <sup>2</sup>*

*WIDDRINGTON is a parochial chapelry situated between the parishes of Woodhorn and Warkworth, having the sea for its eastern and Ulgham chapelry for its western boundary. It comprises the three small villages of Widdrington, Dunridge, and Linton, whose united area is 4,530 acres, and rateable value £4,156 17s. The population in 1801, was 446: in 1811, 370; in 1821, 388; in 1831, 395; in 1841, 447; and in 1851, 429 souls. It possesses a rich, strong, clayey soil, suitable both for pasturage and tillage, and Lord Vernon is the proprietor of the whole chapelry, with the exception of the Constablewick of Linton, which is the property of Mrs. Askew. Widdrington was formerly included in the parish of Woodhorn, but, in 1768, it was admitted to the enjoyment of separate and distinct parochial privileges, This manor was formerly the property of a family which bore the local name, Gerard de Widdrington possessing it in the reign of Edward III; and we find various members of this family stand conspicuous in the list of sheriffs of the county. Sir William Widdrington, a most zealous royalist, was created Lord Widdrington by Charles I, in 1643, and was subsequently slain at Wigan, in 1651. William, the third Lord Widdrington, having taken part with the Earl of Derwentwater, suffered attainder in 1715, when his real and personal estate, amounting to £100,000, was sold for public use, the purchaser being Sir George Revel, from whom it descended by heiresses to Viscount Bulkeley, and subsequently to the present proprietors."*

[From *History, Topography, and Directory of Northumberland*, Whellan, 1855].

Researcher Barry Wetherington has published information on the Internet on a Samuel Widdrington believed to be the earliest unknown colonial Wetherington ancestor. Reportedly, Samuel was the father of Robert Wetherington of Maryland. Robert is the first Wetherington in our lineage well documented in colonial America. Robert Widdrington's (c. 1681 – 1722) will was recorded in Calvert County, Maryland.<sup>3</sup> Robert's two sons, Solomon Witherington (1703 – 1766) and John Witherington are the earliest known Craven area Wetheringtons, arriving in the Bay River area of now Pamlico County on or before 1730.<sup>4</sup>

*A Transcription of the Robert Widdrington Will of 1722, Calvert County, MD. Maryland State Archives Probate Records, Calvert Co, Liber 18, Folio 27. Will written August 20, 1722, probated Nov. 10, 1722. Inventory made Nov. 26, 1722. Translated by Michael Smolek, 2/20/99:*

*In the name of God Amen I **Robert Widdrington** of Christ Church Parish in Calvert County planter being dangerously ill in Body but of perfect and Sound Memory, God be praised for the same? have thoughtful to publish and declare and do hereby publish and declare this to be my last Will and Testament that is to say Imprv? I commend my soul to God who gave it Hoping for mercy through the alone? Merritts of my Blessed ? Redeemer Jesus Christ.*

*Item I give my body to the ground in hopes of a Joyful Resurrection to Eternal Life.*

*Item I give and bequeath unto my Loving son, **Solomon Widdrington** three cows and Three Calves to be delivered & paid to him when he shall attain the age of nineteen years.*

*Item I give and bequeath unto my son **John** three Cows and Three Calves, to be delivered and paid unto him when he shall attain the age of nineteen years. And do appoint Henry Easterling Guardian to my said **two sons Solomon & John** until they attain the age of nineteen years respectively and then to be free & at their own disposal upon condition that Henry Easterling to pay for two years Schooling for each of my said two sons, Solomon & John without any reduction from their Legacies above mentioned.*

*Item I do appoint Mr. **Walter Smith** of St. Leonards guardian of my Daughter **Dorcas Widdrington** until she attains the age of sixteen years and then to be free and at her own disposal.*

*Item I give and bequeath unto my said Daughter Dorcas one packing mare branded with an "O?" uppon the rear buttock. Item I give and bequeath unto my Daughter **Mary Widdrington** one cow and calf and do appoint her **Aunt Mrs. Mary Dare** to be Guardian of her untill she attains the age of Sixteen years and then she to be free and at her own disposall and the said cow & calf then to be delivered to her.*

*Item I give and bequeath unto my son John above mentioned one horsesucking colt.*

*Item I give unto **Benjamin Rice** my Cyder Casks. Item I give unto my **Daughter Elizabeth** Easterling wife of Henry Easterling all my household goods not otherwise*

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*disposed off all the rest and residue of my personall Estate whatsoever I give and bequeath unto **Henry Easterling** whom I constitute and appoint sole Executor of this my Last Will and Testament. In Witness thereof, I have hereunto set my mark and seal this twentieth day of August in the year of Our Lord God- One thousand seven hundred twenty two*

*Robert "his mark" Widdrington Seal*

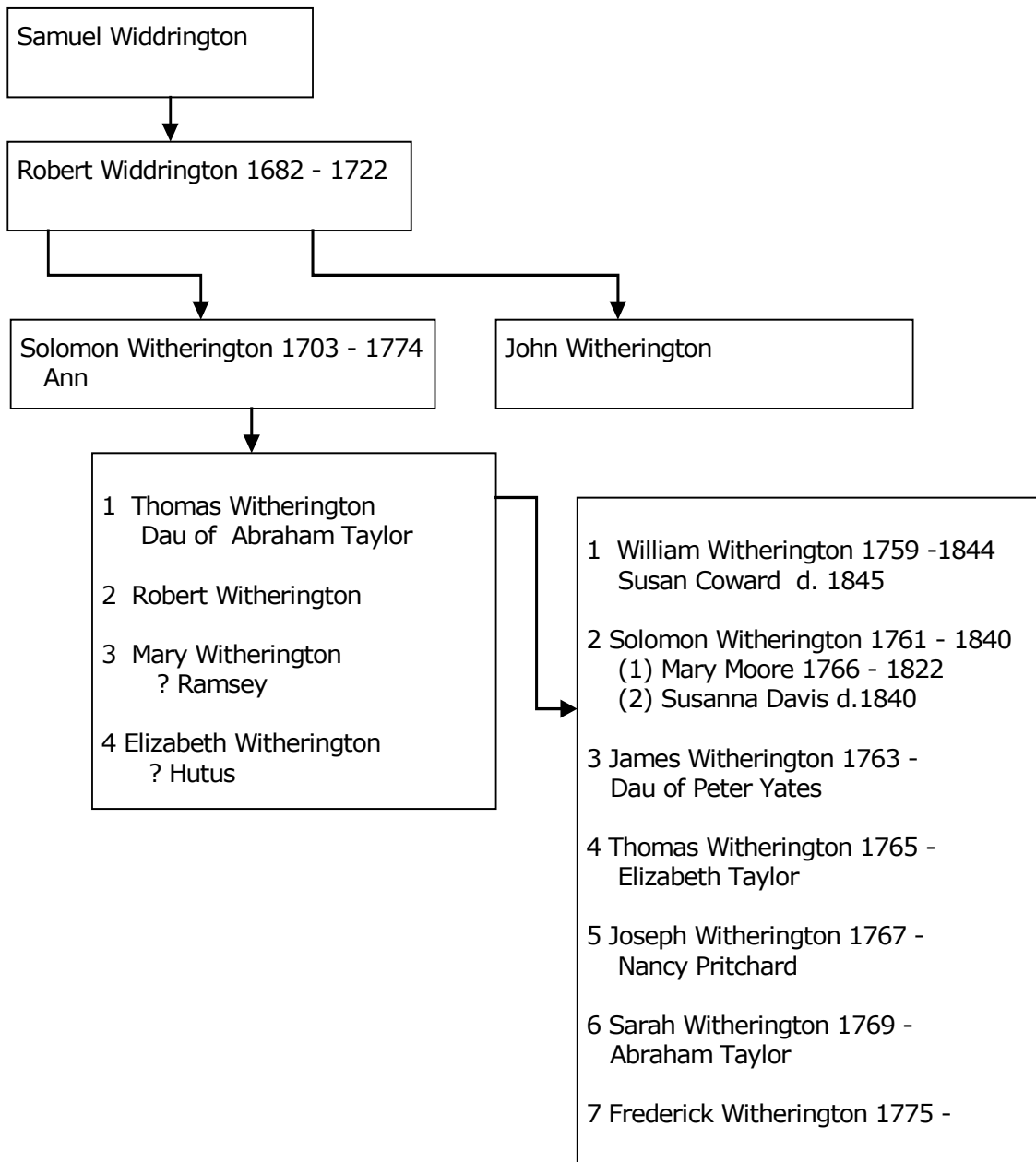
*Signed Sealed published and declared to be his last Will and Testament in presence of others who at the Lastatus?? Required have hereunto set our hand as Witnesses, John Dickinson, William Rutledge, Henry Constable*

*November 10, 1722 Came? John Dickinson, Wm Rutledge and Henry Constable subscribing witnesses to the ??? Will disposeth on the Holy Evangelists of God that they and every of them saw and hearst? Robt Widdrington sign seal publish and Declare this same to be his last Will and Testament and that at the time of his so doing he was sound in mind and of perfect Knowledge to the best of their and Every? of their Knowledge and apprehension*

*I wrote ???me W. Smith Dept Com?? Calvert County*

[End Transcription]

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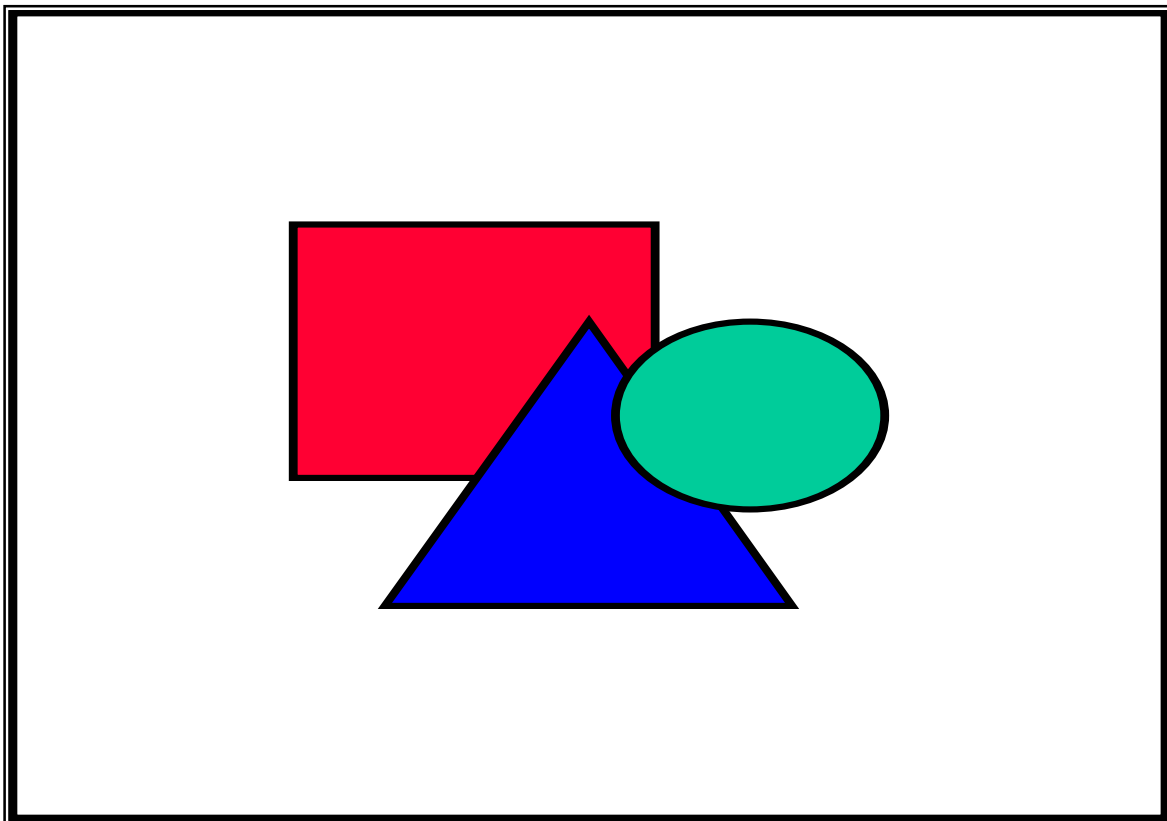
**Figure 4 Colonial Wetherington Family Tree**

**John Witherington**, brother of Solomon (1703)-1766 first appears in area records in 1730, witnessing a deed recorded in Beaufort County from John Martin to **Benjamin Rice** along with other witnesses William Carruthers Francis Delamar and Benjamin Rice.

In 1733, **John Witherenton** and Frances Delamar witnessed a deed from Daniel Shine to William Carruthers for 306 acres of the south side of Bay River, part of the tract patented by Neal O’Neale in 1722.

Also in 1733, William Carruthers sold **Solomon Witherenton** a tract of 150 acres on the south side of the Bay River. Recorded in Beaufort County, this area later became part of Pamlico County.

In December of 1736, **Solomon Witherenton** sold John Martin a tract of 150 acres on the south side of the Bay River, witnessed by Francis Delamar and Benjamin Rice. This land was likely the same tract purchased by Solomon earlier in 1733.



**Figure 5 Map of Bay River Area**

*From about 1730 to 1736, John and Solomon Wetherington where living in the area on the south side of the Bay River, land now included in Pamlico County formed in 1872 from parts of Craven and Beaufort Counties.*

Sometime after 1736 and before 1745 it appears that John and Solomon Wetherington migrated to the Stoney Town Creek and Briery Run area of Craven County on the north side of the Neuse River. This area later became part of Lenoir (Dobbs) County and is also known as Contentea Neck.

In 1745 Francis Stringer sold 100 acres to **Solomon Wetherington** on Tomico [?] Branch.

Also in 1745 Simon Bright sold **John Wetherington** 160 acres in Craven County on the North side of the Neuse River and the north side of Briery Branch.



*Figure 6 Map of Stoney Town Creek Area, Lenoir County.*



Unfortunately, most early records of Lenoir County perished in a courthouse fire. Only some deed indexes remain and some early bible records. A few land grants survive in the state archives and some deeds recorded in Craven County name Lenoir county Wetheringtons.

Many internet sources name Thomas Wetherington, the son of Solomon, as being the father of Solomon Wetherington (1761-1840) however, no specific sources have been identified by this researcher and no citations are offered to verify or establish this claim.

Solomon Wetherington's will of 1766 recorded in Craven County names his wife Ann, and children, Robert, Thomas, Mary, and Elizabeth Wetherington. An inventory of his estate also survives in Craven County records.

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In the name of god amen I Solomon witherinton of Erquon  
 County being Sick and weak of body but of Perfect Seneca Remem-  
 bering that he be to god for it. I Doe make and give this my last  
 will and testament in manner and form as followeth I making first  
 all other wills before by me made first I Comyt. my sole heire being  
 of Jesus Christ hoping and beleiving that he by his meritorious  
 one Passion hath Purchas'd Eternal Salvation for the same and my  
 Body to the Earth to be buried in Christian manner after the  
 shew of my Executors hereafter mentioned and as for my worldly  
 goods I Dispose of in manner and form as followeth - - - - -

Item I give and bequeath unto my Son Thomas witherinton w<sup>th</sup>  
 son and Pys to him and his heirs for Ever - - - - -

Item I give and bequeath unto my Daughter mary Ranile  
 w<sup>th</sup> son and Pys to her and her heirs for Ever - - - - -

Item I give and bequeath unto my Daughter Elisabeth hatus  
 w<sup>th</sup> son and Pys to her and her heirs for Ever - - - - -

Item I give and bequeath unto my son Roboro witherinton  
 w<sup>th</sup> feather bed and furnitue half Dizer of Plates two Dishes  
 w<sup>th</sup> Basin and the new Iron Pot to him and his heirs for Ever - - - - -

and all the Rest of my Estate w<sup>th</sup> mentioned to be with  
 in and with out I send to my will Belov'd wife in our  
 her natural life or widow hood I Reuoking all other wills  
 before by me made Doe Constitutz make and give my  
 loving wife ann witherinton Thomas witherinton and Roboro  
 witherinton my hole and sole Executors of this my last  
 will and testament as witness whereunto I have hereunto

I sh. my hand and fixed my Seal  
 Solomon <sup>his</sup> witherinton  
 mark

Jonathan mcherson  
 Joseph Brunter, surt

Robt. Wetherinton S. C. Sur?

Figure 7 Will of Solomon Wetherington, 1766, Page 1

April Craven Inferior Court 1766.  
 Present His Majesty's Justice —  
 The within said Will and Testament of Solomon  
 Wetherington was Exhibited into Court and proved  
 by the Oath of Joseph Bruton Evidence Thereto —  
 who swore that he saw the Testator sign seal Pub-  
 lish and declare the within to be and contain his  
 Last Will and Testament and that at the Time  
 thereof he was of Sound disposing Memory —  
 Robert Wetherington one of the Executors  
 therein Named Qualified as such —  
 Agreeable to Law —  
 Ordered that Mr. Secretary have Notice <sup>Thereof</sup> that  
 Letters Testamentary Issue thereon Accordingly  
 Just Christ<sup>r</sup> Needles C. J. C.

Figure 8 Will of Solomon Wetherington 1766 Page 2

A transcription of these two pages reads:

[Page 1]

In the name of god amen I Solomon Witherenton of Craven County being sick and weak of body but of Perfect senceant Rememberance thanks be to god for it. I do make and order this, my last will and testament in maner and form as followeth making void all other wills made before by me. I comet my soul to the Perfection of Jesus Christ hoping and believing that he by this meritorious ??? and ??? hath Purchased Eternal Salvation for the same and my Body to the Earth to be buried in Christian maner after the ??? of my Executors hereafter mentioned and as for my worldly goods I depose of in maner are form as followeth

Item I give and bequeath unto my Son **Thomas Witherinton** won sou and Pigs to him and his heirs for Ever.

Item I give and bequeath unto my Daughter **Mary Ramse** won sou and Pigs to her and her heirs for Ever.

Item I give and bequeath unto my Daughter **Elizabeth Lutus** won sou and Pigs to her and her heirs for Ever.

Item I give and bequeath unto my son **Robart Witherinton** won feather bed and furniture and half Dussen of Plates two Dishes won Bafen and the new iron pot to him and his heirs for Ever.

And all the Rest of my Estate unmentioned both with in and without I lend to my will Beloved wife during her natural life or widowhood. I Revoking all other wills made before me Doe Constitute make and ordain my Loving **wife Ann Witherington, Thomas Witherenton, and Robart Witherington** my ??? and Sole Executors of this my Last will and testament as witness whereunto I have unto let my hand and fixed my seal.

**Solomon Witherenton**  
(his mark)

Jonathan Makforson  
Joseph Bruton, [Jurt]

Robert Witherington, Exec [in small print]

[Page 2]

April Craven Inferior Court 1766.

Present His Majestys Justices \_\_\_\_\_

The within Last Will and Testament of **Solomon Witherington** was Exhibited into Court and proved the oath of Joseph Bruton. Evident thereto who sowre that he saw the Testator sign Seal Publish and Declare the within to be and contain his Last Will and Testament and that at the Time thereof he was of sound disposing memory.

**Robert Witherington** one of the Executors therein Named Qualified as such \_

Agreeable to Law \_\_\_\_\_

Ordered that Mr. Secretary have notice there that Letters Testamentory have thereon accordingly

Test Chris T. Neale, CJC



An inventory of his estate also survives in Craven County estate records and a transcription of the items repeats some of the items bequeathed in his will:

**An inventory of the Estate of Solomon Witherenton Deceased taken the 20<sup>th</sup> day of June 1766. By Robt Witherenton Executor.**

3 beds and furniture	6 chairs
3 Bedsteads 1 Tub	1 linen wheel
3 Pots 1pr Trucks	1 Wooden Wheel
2 chests 3 pails	2 s??s
a parcel of Ho?s	1 chest of drawers
1 horse 3 Piggins	3 ades 1 halter king
3 empty barrels	5 hoes
1 flat iron 1 belt buckles	1 Brass mortar
1 Hackle 1 file	1 Hard mill
2 Hides 2 gimblats	1 case of bottles
1 saddle and bridle	2 Crank bottles
6 head of cattle	1 grindstone
1 hand saw 2 augers	1 Adz 2 Planes
2 drawing knives	1 case of knives and forks
12 earthen tea cups and saucers	3 tea pots 1 drinking half
6 sugar cups 1 milk pot	2 half tumblers
12 teaspoons	5 pewter dishes 4 basons
12 pewter plates 15 spoons	6 iron candlestick snuffers
1 iron skillet 1 Razor	4 books 2 clasp knives
1 stone mug 3 jugs	6 small punch bowls 1 hone
5 earthen Parringtons ?	1 pot trammel 3 pot hooks
1 pr shovel and tongs	1 part woolen carts 1 frying pan
1 loom 2 gears 2 slase	2 reaphooks 1 tea kettle 1 sifter
1 pr spoon molds, 1 pocket bottle	1 side saddle 1 pr. Iron wedges
1 looking glass	2 pr. Horse geers, 9 bridle buckles
1 saddle hammer	1 claw hammer 1 Cart saddle
a small Qty of leather	2 leather lifters
1 pair shears 1 pr. scissors	1 sword or cutlass
1 flax brake 2 baskets	about 3 pecks lime

Robert Witherenton, Executor

Sworn to in open Court July 1766.  
and ordered to be recorded.

Test Chris Neale, CJC

*[End Transcription]*