

**Research Report: Tarwater Surname in Warren County, Tennessee Surveyors  
Books, 1824-1839**

**by Jana Stokes, 2013**

**Tarwater Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/463486550331395/>**

**GOAL:**

John Tarwaters complete identity.

**OBJECTIVE:**

Locate the survey associated with 1827 Warren County entry no. 2469 and John Tarwater's 1832 Grant No 2740. Note whose name on the survey.

**BACKGROUND:**

In 1836 Coffee county was formed from Franklin, Bedford and Warren counties. There were no Tarwaters in Warren county the year Coffee was split off<sup>1</sup>--yet in 1827 an entry (No. 2469) for 125 acres was made in Warren county that in 1832 became grant No 2740 that was issued to John Tarwater Sr.<sup>2</sup> So between 1832 and 1837 something happened to the land. It might have changed county jurisdictions, but even so, in Coffee county John Tarwater is not being taxed for all 125 acres --just half; and it has been a puzzle to me as to why the grant referred to him as John Tarwater Sr when, at this time, I have no evidence of another John Tarwater being in Warren or Coffee counties. It is entirely possible that a male Tarwater who had an entry and/or survey died intestate, and so John Tarwater Sr finished the process as a guardian for a heir(s). If so the name on the survey and entry may not be John Tarwater.

This line of thinking is supported by the enumeration of one Rachel Tarwater as head of household in the 1830 U.S. Census for Warren County, Tennessee<sup>3</sup>--especially when John Tarwater was NOT in

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<sup>1</sup> 1836 Coffee County, Tennessee Tax Lists.

<sup>2</sup> State of Tennessee. Mountain District Grant Book D, p 518, grant number 2740. FHL US/CAN Film 1,013,023

<sup>3</sup> "United States Census, 1830," index and images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/XHP4-BSF> : accessed 21 May 2013), Rachell Tarwater, 1830.

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Warren County for the 1830 U.S. Census, but rather he was in Franklin County, Tennessee.<sup>4</sup>

A note about Rachel, she was age 30-40, but probably closer to 40 as she had 2 "children" ag 15-20. Men close by old enough to be Rachel's father were Thomas Boren ag 50-60 and John Copeland ag 50-60. Immediate neighbors were Abner C Womack and Thomas Boren. None of these fellows were mentioned as bordering property owners in John Tarwater's grant. Abner C Womack is found in the 1840 U.S. Census in Warren County.<sup>5</sup> Dower law in Tennessee in 1837 gave the widow rights to 1/3 of an intestate's land.<sup>6</sup>

John Tarwater's grant does mention a John and James Mullican, Drury Wamacksten, Thomas Warmack and John Martin. The Warmarck/Womack connection really begs the support of the acquisition of the the survey. Thomas Wamack is found in Warren County in the 1840 U.S. Census<sup>7</sup>

The last piece of background information - supposedly a Nancy Ann Tarwater married a John Mullican.<sup>8</sup>

RESEARCH SUMMARY: (Actual notes in Appendix: Extraction Notes)

The survey was located and it did turn out to be in John Tarwaters' name.

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<sup>4</sup> "United States Census, 1830," index and images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/XHPM-PTM> : accessed 19 May 2013), John Tarwater, 1830

<sup>5</sup> "United States Census, 1840," index and images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/XHYM-CYD> : accessed 21 May 2013), Ab C Wamack, 1840.

<sup>6</sup> Supreme Court, Tennessee, *Reports of Cases Argued and Determined in the Supreme Court of..*, Vol 10. Page 493+ Google Books.

<sup>7</sup> "United States Census, 1840," index and images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/XHYM-C59> : accessed 21 May 2013), Thomas Wamack, 1840.

<sup>8</sup> This couple can be found in FS FamilyTree, but is of wretched construction and no documentation.

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The survey date of the 18 of December 1830 is interesting. December is not the first month one would choose to do a perform a survey (although it is after the first frost, which would kill off some shrubbery). The survey may be happening in December because an estate is trying to be processed--or just because it's the last decent month before all the snow sets in.

Thomas WOMACK and Thomas BOREN were the sworn chain carriers (SCC). Usually the SCC are family members, bordering neighbors or very close and trusted friends. This places Thomas Boren as the more likely candidate for Rachel's father.

In the only other survey to mention a Tarwater, we learn that Thomas Boran's property is touching "a 125 acres survey made for John Tarwater".

An effort was made to grab all the Little Barren Creek surveys and key FAN club names: Mullican, Womack, etc during the notes extraction process. This paid off in the discover that John Martin's 1829 survey mentions both Drury Womack and the **mouth** of Barren Creek. Since Drury was a bordering land owner to John Tarwater, it may well be that a Little Barren Creek takes off Barren Creek near the mouth of Barren Creek. If this is so, then it is significant that Barren Creek criss-crosses the DeKalb/Warrren border near its mouth. However it is also possible that Drury had several tracts of land.

It has been difficult to place Little Barren Creek on the map. A search on USGS.gov lists 2 Little Barren Creeks - one in the Smithville Quadrangle above the Smithville-Sparta Hwy in DeKalb County, Tennessee and one in the McMinnville Quadrangle. I could not locate a Little Barren Creek on the Smithville Quadrangle - nor was Cany Fork on the map. The one in McMinnville Quadrangle turned out to be Barron Fork with no branch labeled as Little Barren Creek - nor is

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Cany Fork on the map. I believe Little Barren Creek to be an off shoot of Barren Creek whose mouth empties into Cany Fork River.

Note that the last survey I deemed worth extracting from vol 3 (vol 3 went to 1839) was for 1837 -- which is the same year DeKalb County was formed. It is pretty difficult to rule out "**Little** Barren Creek" being in DeKalb from our USGS map. [see map in Appendix: Maps]

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 1) Obtain the entry that this survey was made from.
- 2) We have an abstract of the survey provided by the high quality researcher Nora Williams; but we still should get the actual image.
- 3) Search the Warren County, Tennessee Deed Index. Effort should be made to find an "every name" deed abstract work if available, rather than relying on the original deed book indexes. Locating any additional land Rachel's husband may have had in Warren County must be done before one can assess how much land she would have retained for her dower.
- 4) Search the DeKalb County, Tennessee Deed Index. Effort should be made to find an "every name" deed abstract work if available, rather than relying on the original deed book indexes.
- 5) Search DeKalb County, Tennessee Probate Records where John Tarwater may be found involved in some estate records of the Tarwater man who was married to Rachel.
- 6) Do an online preliminary surveys on the Thomas Womock, Thomas Boren and John Mullican families.

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# EXTRACTION NOTES

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**Nona Williams Warren County Tennessee Plat Book Vol 1  
1824-1827 (Santa Cruz, California : Nona Williams, 1997)**

In 1809 Franklin co was formed from a portion of Warren Co

During the first two years of the county's existence court sessions were held at the home of Joseph Westmoreland and in a log courthouse built nearby on the east side of Barren Fork of Collins River. (page i)

The Primitive Baptist and methodists established a church in the 6<sup>th</sup> District in 1809 or 1810 and Hickory Grove Methodist opened its doors in the 13<sup>th</sup> District at an unknown but early date. Another church was shared by various denominations in the 7<sup>th</sup> District as early as 1815. By 1820 a Methodist church, Mt. Zion, had opened its doors in the 5<sup>th</sup> District followed by the Caney branch Baptist Church in the 10<sup>th</sup> District. Ivey Bluff Meeting House in the 11<sup>th</sup> District was in operation by about 1835. (page ii)

Tarwater/Darwater – nil  
Lots of Dunaways

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**Nona Williams Warren County, Tennessee Plat Book Volume 2  
June 1827 through April 1835 (Santa Cruz, Ca. : R.O.F.E.  
Publications, 1997) FHL US/CAN Book 976.8653 R2w**

Page 123-124

Page 265. Entry No. 2469 (2470 written above) dated 20 December 1827 surveyed for **John TARWATER Senr** 125 acres on the south side of the **Little Barren Creek of Cany Fork**, John and James MULLICAN's NE corner, Drury WOMACK's line, Thomas WOMACK's SE corner and on John MARTEN's line. Surveyed 18 December 1830. Thomas WOMACK and Thomas BOREN, SCC. J.B. PERKINS, DS. October 2, 1831. Sent on 3 April 1832 by J.B. PERKINS.

Pg 7

Page 6. Entry No. 1961 dated 30 September 1826 surveyed for William H WALKER 100 acres on the waters of Barren Creek of Caney Fork, Drury WOMACK's NE corner and on his north boundary, including a spring. Surveyed 30 December 1826. John MARTIN & James MARTIN, SCC. J.B. PERKINS, DS. June 7, 1827. Sent on 15 September 1827 by J.B. PERKINS.

Page 20

Page 36 Entry No. 2167 dated 23 January 1827 surveyed for John MARTIN 60 acres on the waters of Barren Creek of Cany Fork, north of said creek, **east of the road leading from McMinnville to Sparta via of franks Ferry.** Surveyed 12 February 1827. Wm WALKER & James MARTIN, CC. J.B. PERKINS, DS. July 20, 1827. Sent on 6 April 1828 by J.B. PERKINS.

Page 21

Page 38. Entry No. 2136 dated 9 January 1827 surveyed for John MARTIN 22 ½ acres on the waters of Barren Creek, west of said MARTINs NW corner of his 99 acre survey and on William WALKER's north boundary line, including the place where William WALKER now lives. Surveyed 9 May 1827. Wm WALKER & James MARTIN, CC. J.B. PERKINS, DS. July 20, 1827. Sent on 6 April 1828 by J.B. PERKINS.

Page 47

Page 95. Entry No. 2125 dated 6 January 1827 surveyed for John MARTIN 350 acres on Barren Creek of Cany Fork, Drury WOMACK's east boundary line about 100 poles south of said creek, west boundary of a survey in the name of the heirs of David JOINER, Charles FRANK's line, **near mouth of Barren Creek**, including and plating out 53 acres granted to Henry REES. Surveyed 30 December 1828. Richd ? & Lewis DURHAM, SCC. The within entry called for 357 acres but it was not to be had within its calls. J.B. PERKINS, DS. Januray 29, 1829. Givento register 18 June 1829.

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Page 90

Page 187-188 Entry No. 2776 dated 16 May 1829, surveyed for James HOPPER 165 acres on the waters of Cany Fork, SE corner of a 200 acre survey in the name of the heirs of David JOINER and about 20 poles north of a pond that lies north of Herald BYAR's north boundary, Wm WOMACK's west boundary, McGOWEN's, Jacob NELSON's line, Wm REES' NE corner, including the plantation where Wm DURHAM formerly lived. Surveyed 1 September 1829. H. BYARS and Wm DURHAM, SCC. J.B. PERKINS, DS. October 8, 1830. Sent on 11 July 1831 by John B. PERKINS.

Page 92

Page 192. Entry No. 2865 dated 8 September 1827 surveyed for Thomas FARLEY 93 acres in on Barren Creek of Cany Fork, James WOMACK's corner of the survey whereon he lived in 1827, William WATKINS' north boundary, John ADCOCK's east boundary, including and platting out 50 acres granted to Luke TIPPETT now owned by said FARLEY and also his improvements. Surveyed 11 December 1820. J. MARTIN AND WM WATKINS, CC. J.B. PERKINS, DS. January 7, 1831. Sent on 7 April 1831 by J.B. PERKINS.

Page 118

Page 252. Entry No. 2199 dated 16 February 1827 surveyed for Isaac CANTRELL 50 acres on Barren Creek waters of the Cany Fork, SW corner of his 50 acres survey, including and platting out 10 acres owned by the said CANTRELL. Surveyed 24 March 1831. Jefferson CANRELL and John CANTRELL, SCC. J.B. PERKINS, DS. October 2, 1831. Sent on 3 April 1832 by J.B. PERKINS.

Page 130

Page 280. Entry no. 2459 dated 13 December 1827 surveyed for Nathan BYARS 100 acres on Little Barren Creek waters of Cany Fork, SW of two little springs on Little Barren Creek, John MULLICAN's west boundary, MULLICAN's corner of his 25 acre survey. Surveyed 20 August 1829. John MULLICAN and Enoch



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ANDERSON, SCC. The above survey was transferred to John MULLICAN 17 September 1829 and proven in court at January Sessions 1830 by Enoch ANDERSON and Jas MULLICAN. J.B. PERKINS, DS. October 2, 1831. Sent on 3 April 1832 by J.B. PERKINS.

Page 132

Page 283. Entry No. 758 dated 4 October 1824 surveyed for Isaac CANTRELL 50 acres on the waters of Barren Creek near the north boundary of a 10 acres survey now owned by Leonard ADCOCK which formerly belonged to Stephen RENTFRO. Surveyed 3 Dec 1825. William CANTRELL & GEORGE CANTRELL, SCC. J.B. PERKINS, DS. October 4, 1831. Sent on 5 April 1833 by N.B. BAIRD.

Page 145.

Page 314. Entry No. 2509 dated 24 January 1828 surveyed for William H. CANTRELL 100 acres on the waters of the Barren Creek of Cany Fork, Isaac CANTRELL'S north boundary near his NW corner of his 50 acre survey. Surveyed 4 July 1831. Green CANTRELL and Wm CANTELL, SCC. This survey includes about 1 acre of an old waste improvement made by Josiah CAPSHAW and is platted out. The enterer does not claim it. J.B. PERKINS, DS. January 28, 1833. Sent on 4 April 1833 by Wm B. CAMPBELL. The above survey was transferred to Leonard ADCOCK and proven at October Sessions 1831 by the oaths of N.B. BAIRD and A.J. MARDHBANKS subscribing witnesses to transfer.

[looked up all the Barren Creek surveys; recorded 98 percent of them; did not look up the many Barren Fork surveys; Barren Fork is on a different USGS Quadrangle Map]

Rock Island, on Caney Fork at the mouth of Rocky River, was the first town in what later became Warren county. The county seat, McMinnville bout 100 miles east of Nashville, was est in 1810 and is located on Barren Fork of Collins River. (page i)

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**Warren County Tennessee Plat Book Vol 3 September 1835-  
November 1839 (Santa Cruz, Ca. : R.O.F.E. Publications, 1998)  
FHL US/CAN Book 976.8653 R2w v. 3**

P 113

Page 226. Entry No. 3636 dated 23 February 1833 surveyed for Thomas BORAN 50 acres on the south side of Borens Creek of Cany Fork, SE corner of a 125 acre survey made by John **TARWATER**, John and James MULLICAN's line, MULLICAN and WORMACK's likne, J.B. WEBB's line. Surveyed 16 April 1834. Byars WEBB and M.C. ROBERTS, CC. The above was transferred to Matthew C. ROBERTS and proven before Clk Circuit Court. J.B. PERKINS, DS. November 20, 1837. Sent on 8 January 1838 by J.B. PERKINS.

P 104

Page 209. Surveyed 19 September 1837 for Thomas WOMACK 62 acres entry dated 12 January 1836 No. 4113 on Little Barren Creek waters of the Cany Fork, John CANTRELL's south boundary of 200 acre entry near a little pond, John MULLICAN's line, thmas WOMACK's corner. Wm. CANTRELL and james MULLICAN, CC. The above entry called for 50 acres in certain bounds more or less.) A. HIGGINBOTHAM, PS. September 24, 1837. Given to Register by L. McGEE 16 October 1847.

Page 20

Page 34. Entry No. 1018 dated 2 January 1826 for Josiah WOMACK 25 acres on the north side of Barren Creek, west boundary of a survey where John MULLICAN now lives and near the SE corner of a 10 acre survey whereon Claborne PIGG formerly lived, including the house and spring where Claborn PIGG did live. Surveyed 8 June 1828. Josiah WOMACK and John MULLICAN, CC. The above was transferred to John MULLICAN and proven in the C. Court on October Sessions 1828. J.B. PERKINS, DS. September 29, 1835. Sent on 3 November 1835 by J.B. PERKINS.

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Page 28

Page 48. Entry No. 3126 dated 1 September 1830 surveyed for John COTTON 185 acres on Barren Creek, waters of Cany Fork, SE corner of John MULLICAN's 70 acre survey, Julius WEBB's line, Peter KNUCKLE's line, James COATES' NE corner, Surveyed 15 August 1833. Ellis ROBERTS and John MULLICAN, CC. The above survey was transferred to Solomon CATON and proved in county court clks office on 6 April 1835. J.B. PERKINS, DS. September 29, 1835. Sent on 3 November 1835 by J.B. PERKINS.

Page 43

Page 76. Entry No. 3406 dated 3 January 1832 surveyed for John B. WEBB 100 acres on the waters of the Cany Fork, John MULLICAN's east boundary, MARTINS's line, JONES'est boundary, Surveyed 9 September 1835. Byars WEBB and John CATON, CC. J.B. PERKINS, DS. November 2, 1835. Sent on 3 November 1835 by J.B. PERKINS.

Page 59

Pages 112. Entry No. 3760 dated 12 March 1834 surveyed for William MULLICAN 33 acres on the **waters of Mountain Creek**, SW corner of an 82 acre entry of said MULLICAN's, John HICKS' line, line of 50 acre tract belonging to the **heirs of Wm. Duff GREEN**, line of a 12 acre entry made by J.R. HOLCOMB. Surveyed 20 June 1836. John MULLICAN AND Wm. MULLICAN Junr., CC. The above entry called for 100 acres but could not be got. J.B. PERKINS, DS. September 7, 1836. Give to register \_ September 1836.

Page 104.

Page 209. Surveyed 19 September 1837 for Thomas WOMACK 62 acres entry dated 12 January 1836 No. 4113 on Little Barren Creek waters of the Cany Fork, John CANTRELL's south boundary of a 200 acre entry near a little pond, John MULLICAN's line, Thomas WOMACK's corner. Wm. CANTRELL and James MULLICAN, CC. The above entry called for 50 acres in certain boundes more or less.)

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A. HIGGINBOTHAM, PS. September 24, 1837. Given to Register by L. McGEE 16 October 1847.

Page 131

Page 258-259. Entry No. 1680 dated 23 February 1826 surveyed for Enoch ANDERSON 100 acres on the waters of Cany Fork, MARTIN's road near **where a path crosses leading from John MULLICANS's to the Gum Pond**, line of a 25 acre survey now owned by said ANDERSON, Wm. WALKER's line of his 100 acre survey, Drury WOMACK's line, including a spring where Richard ALFORD formerly lived. Surveyed 20 August 1827. Wm. WALKER and Thomas WOMACK, CC. The above survey was transferred to Thomas WOMACK and proven at January sessions 1828. J.B. PERKINS, DS. December 16, 1837. Sent on 8 January 1838 by J.B. PERKINS.

[lot of MULLICANS, but only all John and James extracted]

[lots of Barren Creek, Little Barren Creek, Barren Fork entries; also Turkey Branch of of Barren Creek]

[extracted all Thomas Wormack; lot of other Womacks]

Page 42

Page 74-75. Entry No. 3298 dated 12 July 1831 surveyed for William R. CANTRELL 125 acres on head of **Turkey Branch** waters of Barren Creek, line of 300 acres tract in the name of CAPSHAW, line of Benjamin FERGUSON's tract, including and platting out 7  $\frac{3}{4}$  acres of granted land. Surveyed 10 October 1835. John A. CANTRELL and John M. **WILKERSON**, CC. The copy called for lines that could not be reached and courses unnecessary. J.B. PERKINS, DS. November 2, 1835. Sent on 3 November 1835 by J.B. PERKINS.

Page 39

Page 70. Entry 2331 dated 7 July 1827 surveyed for George W. SMITH 50 acres on the south side of Dry Creek of Little Barren Creek, north boundary of CANTRELL's 25 acres survey, including

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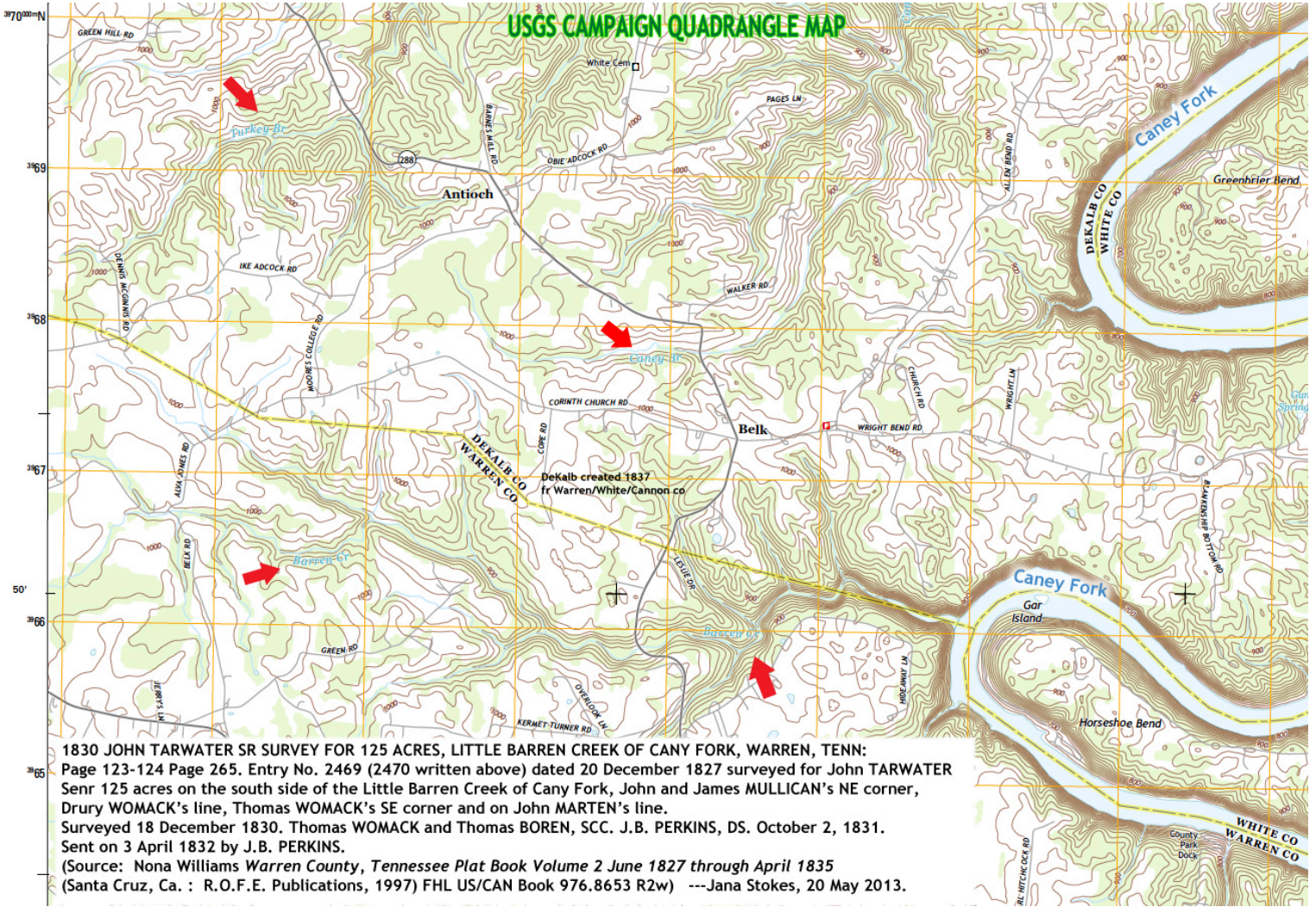
said SMITH's field. Surveyed 6 March 1831. Madison and Wm. R. CANTRELL, CC. The above survey includes and I have platted out 24 acres. It was also transferred to John CANTRELL and proven in County Court on 4 July 1831. J.B. PERKINS, DS. November 2, 1835. Sent on 3 November 1835 by J.B. PERKINS.

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# REFERENCE MAPS



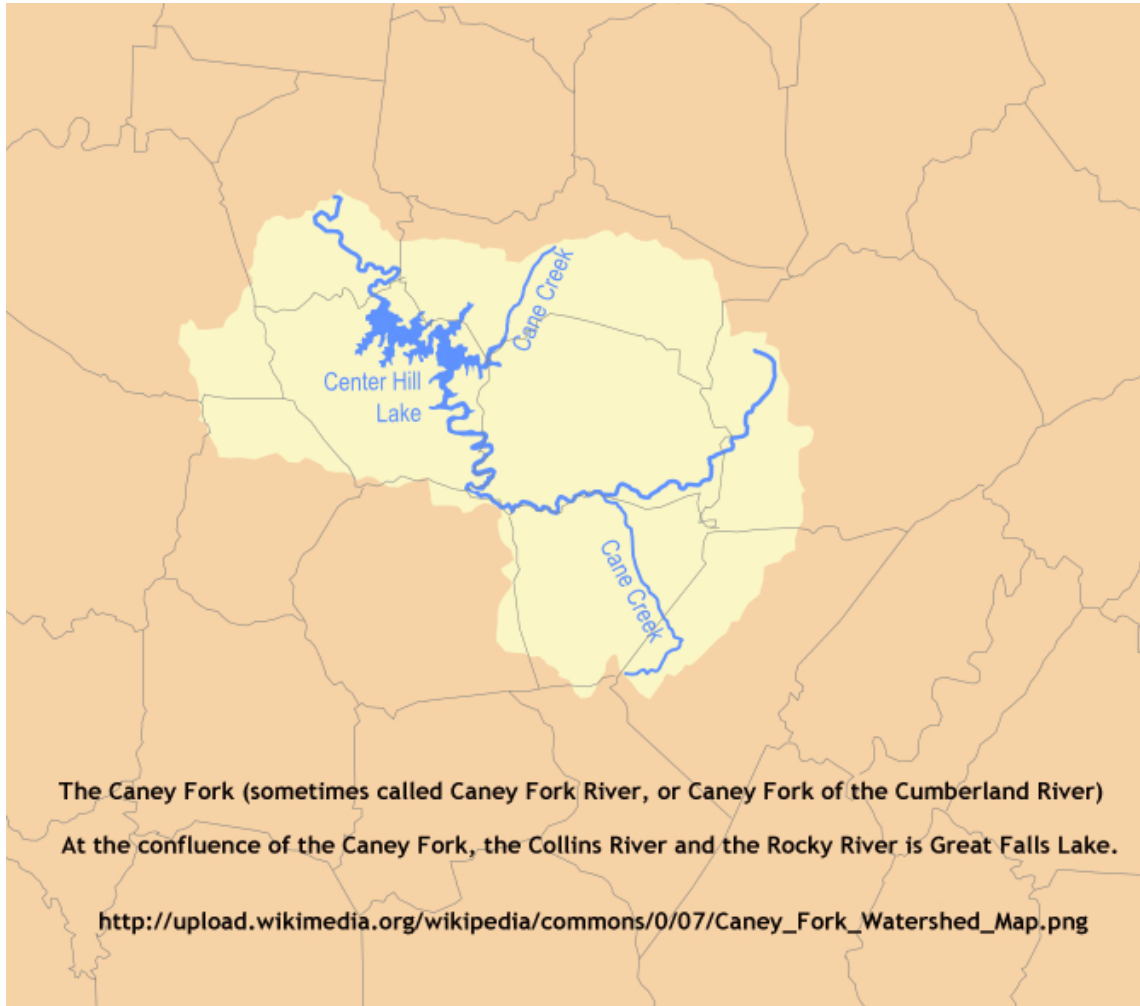
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**The Caney Fork (sometimes called Caney Fork River, or Caney Fork of the Cumberland River)  
At the confluence of the Caney Fork, the Collins River and the Rocky River is Great Falls Lake.**

[http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/0/07/Caney\\_Fork\\_Watershed\\_Map.png](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/0/07/Caney_Fork_Watershed_Map.png)



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