

< [Return to 1720 -1740](#) >  
< [Return to Table of Contents](#) >  
< [Corrections to this Section?](#) >

< [Next—1750-1760](#) >



## THE YEARS 1740—1750



- ◇ **23 January 1740/41** – BIRTH: **Martin Baker**, third son and fourth child of **Thomas Baker** and his wife **Dorothy Davenport**, daughter of **Martin Davenport, Sr.** (*Baker Bible Data provided by Pearl Foster O'Donnell, Fort Wayne, Indiana, 1982*)

*There is no record evidence of the date or place of Martin Baker's birth. He married Phoebe Snodgrass, most likely in Botetourt County, where he died before 9 August 1781 at which time his wife Phoebe was named administrator of his estate. (See below).*

- ◇ **7 May 1740** - WITNESS FEE: On motion of **Dorothy Davenport**, wife of **Thomas Davenport** of Hanover County, an evidence summoned by John Hardy against John Bruno, ordered that said Hardy pay said **Dorothy** 250 pounds of Tobacco for three days' attendance at Court and 39 miles coming and going twice. (*Spotsylvania County Court Orders, 4:76*)

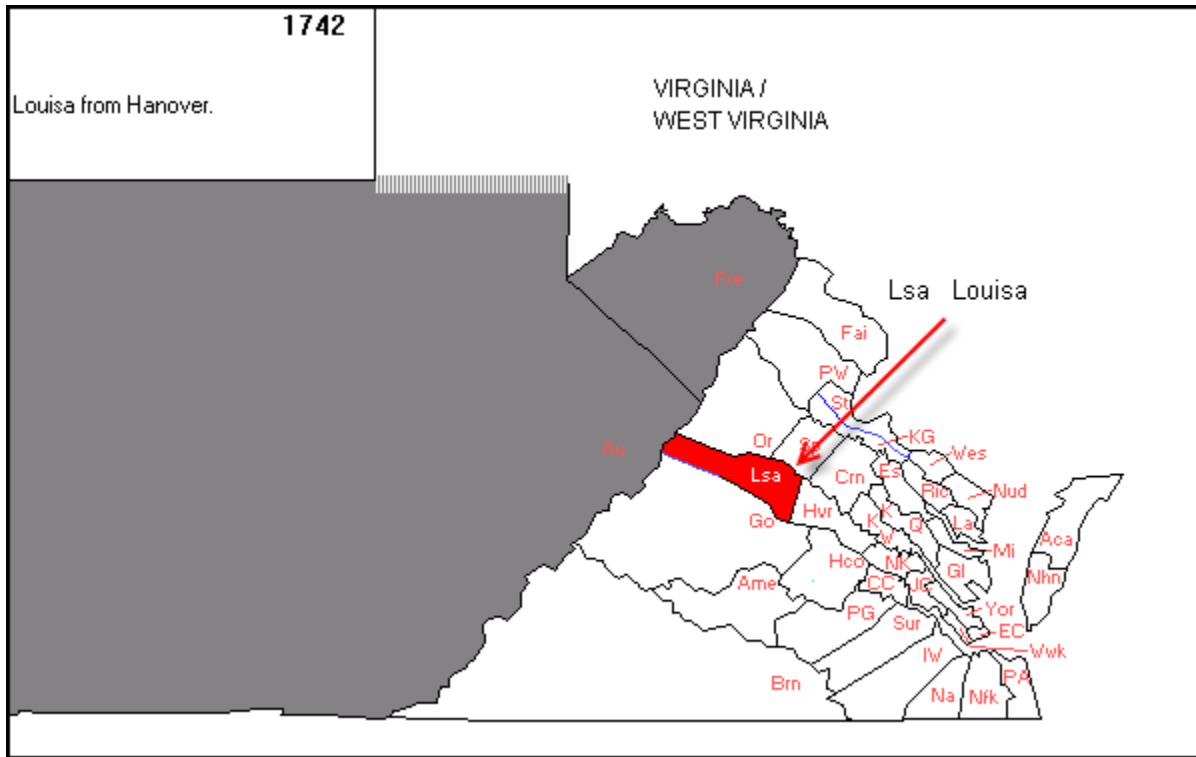
*Spotsylvania Court House at this time was in Fredericksburg. Thirty-nine miles was the approximate one-way distance from Fredericksburg to Upper St. Martin's Parish, Hanover, where Thomas Davenport, son of Martin, was then living. Hence, this witness was Dorothy, wife of Thomas and daughter-in-law of the late Martin of Hanover. Dorothy was the mother of one son, Martin of King's Mountain fame, and eight daughters.*

- 7 June 1740** – WILL: Jeremiah Strother of **Orange County**. Devised all property to wife Elener (sic) for life or widowhood, and after her marriage or death to son Christopher, special legacies to sons James, William, Francis, Jeremiah, and Lawrence, and daughters Catherine and Elizabeth; executors: sons James and William; wits: John Catlett, Francis Slaughter, Wm. Lightfoot. [Orange County Will Book I: 141]

*Jeremiah Strother the younger was married to Catherine Kennerly. The Kennerly, Strother, Baker and Davenport families were greatly associated in the records of not only Virginia but also, it appears, South Carolina. See below.*

- March 26, 1741** – Probate: Will of Jeremiah Strother in **Orange County**. [Orange County Will Book I: 141]

1742 – COUNTY LINES CHANGE: **Louisa County** was created from Hanover County.



- 7 April 1742 – JUDGMENT: **Josias Baker**, assignee, vs. John Smith, judgment for £1/8/0, by bill, with costs and attorney's fee. [**Spotsylvania County** Order Book 3:164]

*Thomas Baker, who married Dorothy Davenport, had two known brothers, William and Josias. Given the time frame and the location, it is quite likely that this Josias was Thomas's brother.*

- ◇ 25 March 1743 – DEBTS OWING ON PURCHASES FROM SHIP'S CARGO: Francis Jerdone, agent and factor for the firm of Buchanan & Hamilton, merchants in London, maintained a store near **Hanover** Court House. His accounting for debtors owing for cargo belonging to Neil Buchanan, Esqr., in London, carried over from 1 Oct, included Henry Gambill and Thomas Graves.

Source: MacDonald, Edgar (abs), "A Merchant's Account Book, Hanover County, Virginia, 1743-1744," *Magazine of Virginia Genealogy*, V34, Summer 1996, 3:187-202, being abstracts from the Account Book (1743-5) of Francis Jerdone, merchant, of Hanover County, Virginia, Earl Gregg Swem Library, Williamsburg, Virginia. Hereafter **Francis Jerdone Accounts** with *Magazine of Virginia* (MVG) reference citation.

*Henry Gambill was married to Mary Davenport, eldest daughter of Martin, Sr., of Davenport Ford plantation. Thomas Graves was married to Ann Davenport, daughter of Davis.*

- ◇ 12 May 1743 – BIRTH: **Crotia (Croscha) Baker**, second daughter and fifth child of **Thomas Baker** and his wife **Dorothy Davenport**, daughter of **Martin**

**Davenport, Sr.**, born. (*Baker Bible Data provided by Pearl Foster O'Donnell, Fort Wayne, Indiana, 1982*)

*There is no record evidence of the date or place of Crotia Baker's birth. She married Joseph Gouge, date and place unknown but likely in Culpeper County. According to family stories, she died in Jackson County, Alabama, date unknown.*

- 7 **June 1743** – DEED: Daniel Holloday, wife Agnes, to Thomas Pulliam, all of St. George's Parish, **Spotsylvania County**, for £59/3/6, 197 acres in Spotsylvania County on East North East River, being devised to the said Daniel by his father John Holloday, Decd., on 4 November 1742. /s/ Daniel Holloday, [No wife signs]. Wit: **Josias Baker**, Patterson Pulliam, Anthony Gholston. (*Spotsylvania County Deeds, D:55*)

*The land conveyed here was on the north side of the North Anna within ten miles of the land which Thomas Baker later bought on the south side of the North Anna. There were later Pulliam marriages with both Davenport and Graves Pamunkeys. Josias Baker, the witness here, was likely the brother of Thomas Baker.*

- ◇ **8 August 1743** – JUDGMENT: The petition of Henry Gambill against Richard Carter for £2 due on account being heard, and the Defendant not appearing, judgment for Gambill for the amount claimed and costs. (**Louisa County Court Orders, 1:68**)

*Henry Gambill, we remind, was married to Mary Davenport, eldest child and daughter of Martin Davenport, Sr.*

- ◇ **17 August 1743** - JUDGMENT: The petition of Henry Gambill against Richard Carter for £2 due on account being heard, the Defendant not appearing, judgment for Plaintiff for amount claimed... (**Louisa County Court Orders, 1:68**)

- ◇ **23 January 1744/45** – BIRTH: **Josiah Baker**, fourth son and sixth child of **Thomas Baker** and his wife **Dorothy Davenport**, daughter of **Martin Davenport, Sr.**, born in **Louisa County**. (*Baker Bible Data provided by Pearl Foster O'Donnell, Fort Wayne, Indiana, 1982*)

*There is no record evidence of the date or place of Josiah Baker's birth. According to Baker Family data, he had a family and lived in the New River neighborhood of Virginia.*

- 30 August 1744** – LAND PATENT: **Thomas Baker**, 516 acres in what was then **Brunswick County** and later became Lunenburg County, Virginia. (*Virginia State Land Office, Patents No. 22, 1743-1745 (v.1 & 2 p.1-631), p. 200 (Reel 20)*)

*It appears that, like many of his Davenport in-laws, Thomas was involved in land speculation. Certainly there is no indication that he ever lived in Brunswick (later Lunenburg) County. Thomas, identified by then as a planter of Culpeper County, sold this land for 50 pounds to Robert Hester of Louisa County by deed dated 28 May 1756.*

*The following images are of that 1744 grant:*

Thomas Baker

516 Acres

George the Second by the Grace of God of Great Britain France and  
Ireland King Defender of the Faith &c. To all to whom these  
Presents shall come Greeting Know ye that for divers good Causes  
and Considerations but more especially for and in Consideration

of the Sum of ~~Forty~~ **Fifty** Shillings of good and Lawful Money  
for our ~~part~~ **our** Receiver General of our Revenues in this  
our Colony and Dominion of Virginia We have given granted and  
Confirmed and by these Presents for us our Heirs and Successors do Give  
Grant and Confirm unto Thomas Baker one certain Tract or Parcel  
of Land containing five hundred and sixteen Acres lying and being  
in the County of Downsvick on the South Side of a Great Branch  
of Butchers Creek and bounded as followeth (to wit) Beginning  
at a Poplar on the said Branch thence South twenty two Degrees West one  
hundred and sixty eight Poles to a Pine Thence South eighty Degrees West  
sixty Poles to a Pine thence North sixty nine Degrees West one hundred  
and sixty four Poles to a Red Oak thence North twenty Degrees West one  
hundred and thirty Poles to a Pine thence North <sup>two</sup> Degrees East one  
hundred and sixty Poles to a Pine thence North fourteen Degrees East one  
hundred and thirty eight Poles to a Hickory on the aforesaid Branch Thence  
down as it meanders to the Beginning With all Woods Underwood  
Swamps Marshes Low Grounds Meadows Feedings and his due share  
of all Veins Mines and Quarries as well discovered as not discovered  
within the Bounds aforesaid and being part of the said Quantity of  
five hundred and sixteen Acres of Land and the Rivers Waters and  
Water Courses therein contained together with the Privileges of  
Hunting Hawking Fishing Fowling and all other Profits  
Commodities and Hereditaments whatsoever to the same or any

part thereof belonging or in any wise appertaining To have hold Possess and Enjoy the said Tract or Parcel of Land and all other the before Granted Premises and every part thereof with their and every of their Appurtenances unto the said Thomas Baker and to his Heirs and Assigns for ever To the only Use and behoof of him the said Thomas Baker his Heirs and Assigns for ever To be held of us our Heirs and Successors as of our Mannor of East Greenwich in the County of Kent in free and Common Socage and not in Capite or by Knights Service Yielding and paying unto us our Heirs Successors for every fifty of Land and so Proportionably for a lesser or greater Quantity than fifty Acres the Fee Rent of one Shilling Yearly to be paid upon the Feast of Saint Michael the Arch Angel and also

Cultivating and Improving three Acres part of every fifty of the Tract above mentioned within three years after the Date of these Presents Provided always that if three Years of the said Fee Rent shall at any time be in Arrear and Unpaid or if the said Thomas Baker his Heirs or Assigns do not within the Space of three Years next coming after the Date of these Presents Cultivate and Improve three Acres part of every fifty of the Tract above mentioned Then the Estate hereby Granted shall cease and be utterly Determined and thereafter it shall and may be Lawful to and for us our Heirs and Successors to Grant the same Lands and Premises with the Appurtenances unto such other Person or Persons as we our Heirs and Successors shall think fit In Witness whereof we have caused these our Letters Patent to be made Witness our Trusty and Welbeloved William Gooch Esq our Lieutenant Governor and Commander in Chief of our said Colony and Dominion at Williamoburgh Under the Seal of our said Colony the Thirtieth Day of August One thousand seven hundred and forty four In the Eighteenth Year of our Reign  
 William Gooch



- ◇ **4 November 1744** – LIST OF DEBTORS TO ESTATE: Among those indebted to the Estate of Neill Buchanan, Esqr., Decd., due on the Cargo belonging to the Decedent's executors, were Henry Gambill (owed 9 pence) and Thomas Graves (paid in full).

*(Francis Jerdone's Accounts, MVG, V36, 2:95-108 passim)*

- ◇ **27 February 1744/45** - JUROR: **Thomas Davenport** was a juror for two trials in Louisa Court: (1) *John Nuchols vs. Daniel Williams* in Trespass, and (2) *James Overton, Gentleman, vs. James Littlepage, Gentleman*, in Case. (**Louisa County Court Orders**, 1:137, 139)

*Thomas Davenport was the eldest son of Martin, Sr. of Hanover, was not a land owner, was apparently living in Louisa County if he was serving on a jury there.*

- 1 April 1745** – LEASE: Edmund Waller to Alexander Hume and wife Mary, all of St. George Parish, Spotsylvania County, lease, 90 acres in **Spotsylvania County** whereon said Edmund "now lives," a patent to said Waller on 28 September 1728... /s/ Edmund Waller. Wit: **Josias Baker**, Edmund Foster. (*Spotsylvania County Deeds*, D:192)

*This land was even closer to the North Anna than Josias Baker's earlier witnessing, was well within the purview of the Davenports, Gambills, Bakers, and Strothers. Edmund Waller was Colonel John Waller's youngest son and was involved in other transactions – land and otherwise – with other Pamunkeys.*

- 3 April 1745** – JURORS: **Josias Baker** and Thomas Graves Jr. were jurors in two cases in **Spotsylvania County** Court: (1) a criminal case against Mary Jones, defendant, for selling rum punch without a license in the Town of Fredericksburg (jury verdict against defendant pending legal argument) and (2) Richard Brookes and Mary his wife vs. Robert Richards, charging assault and battery (jury verdict against defendant and damages assessed at 55 shillings, with costs). [Spotsylvania County Order Book 3: 315]

*Both Baker – likely the brother of Thomas, who married Dorothy Davenport – and Thomas Graves Jr., eldest son of Ann Davenport Graves (and thus Dorothy Davenport Baker's first cousin) – must have been living in Spotsylvania County to be called as jurors there.*

- ◇ **4 June 1745** - WRIT OF ENQUIRY: In the matter of Anthony Strother, *Gentleman, vs. George Woodroof* in Case, an Order having been passed at the last Court against the Defendant and James Debresey, William Searcy, and **Martin Davenport**, his securities, this Court affirms that order, and a Writ of Enquiry to be considered at next Court. (**Spotsylvania County Court Orders**, 4:326)
- ◇ **2 July 1745** - VERDICT: The matter of Anthony Strother, *Gentleman, vs. George Woodroof, and James Debresey, William Searcy, and Martin Davenport*, his securities in Case, being tried by jury, verdict of damages for the Plaintiff for £7/7/5. (**Spotsylvania County Court Orders**, 4:331)

*Anthony Strother was a son or brother of Francis Strother, the long-time neighbor of Martin Davenport Sr. who individually and with his family was associated for many years with the Davenport and Baker families. The defendant's security Martin*

*Davenport was surely Martin, Jr., son of Martin, Sr., who may well have been living with his Mother on the Hanover side of the North Anna. There is no evidence that Martin of Martin, Sr., ever married. In 1799, an old man excused from all taxes because of age and poverty, Martin was living in a rundown, dilapidated house on two acres near Davenport Ford in Spotsylvania. He appears to have been a carpenter or cabinetmaker, for he made the coffin for Thomas Graves, Decd., in 1768.*

*Searcy was the Ordinary Keeper located on what had been Woodroof's land, the same Ordinary that subsequently became John Davenport's.*

- ◇ **2 July 1745** - SECURITIES SEEK ATTACHMENT: At the motion of Zachary Lewis, Gentleman, attorney for and in behalf of James Debresey, William Searcy, and **Martin Davenport**, securities to *George Woodroof* at the suit of **Anthony Strother**, Gentleman, an Attachment prayed against the Estate of the said Woodroof for the jury award against them as said Woodroof's securities in the amount of £7/7/5 and 341 pounds of Tobacco. Attachment granted. (*Spotsylvania County Court Orders*, 4:331)

- 1 August 1745**: LAND PATENT: **Josias Baker**, 153 acres in **Brunswick County** on both sides of Butchers Creek. [Virginia Patents 23:964]

*The circumstantial case that this land patent was to our Thomas Baker's brother Josias is compelling.*

*First, we know Thomas had a brother Josias; his son Charles told his nephew (Thomas' grandson) John Baker that Thomas had two brothers, Josias and William.*

*Second, one Thomas Baker obtained 516 acres of land in Brunswick (later Lunenburg) County by patent dated 30 August 1744 (see above) for land described as "on the south side of a Great Branch of Butchers Creek." That 516-acre tract of land, then in Lunenburg County, was sold by Thomas Baker to Robert Hester of Louisa County in 1756, at which time Baker identified himself in the deed as a planter of Culpeper County. There was only one Baker family in Culpeper County in the 1750s. Moreover, Thomas Baker "of Spotsylvania County" had bought land in Louisa County from Robert Hester in 1746; that Thomas was clearly ours, since he identified himself as being from Orange County and his wife as Dorothy when he sold the land to his brother-in-law William Davenport in 1748. When Davenport sold the Louisa land in 1751, he sold it back to Robert Hester.*

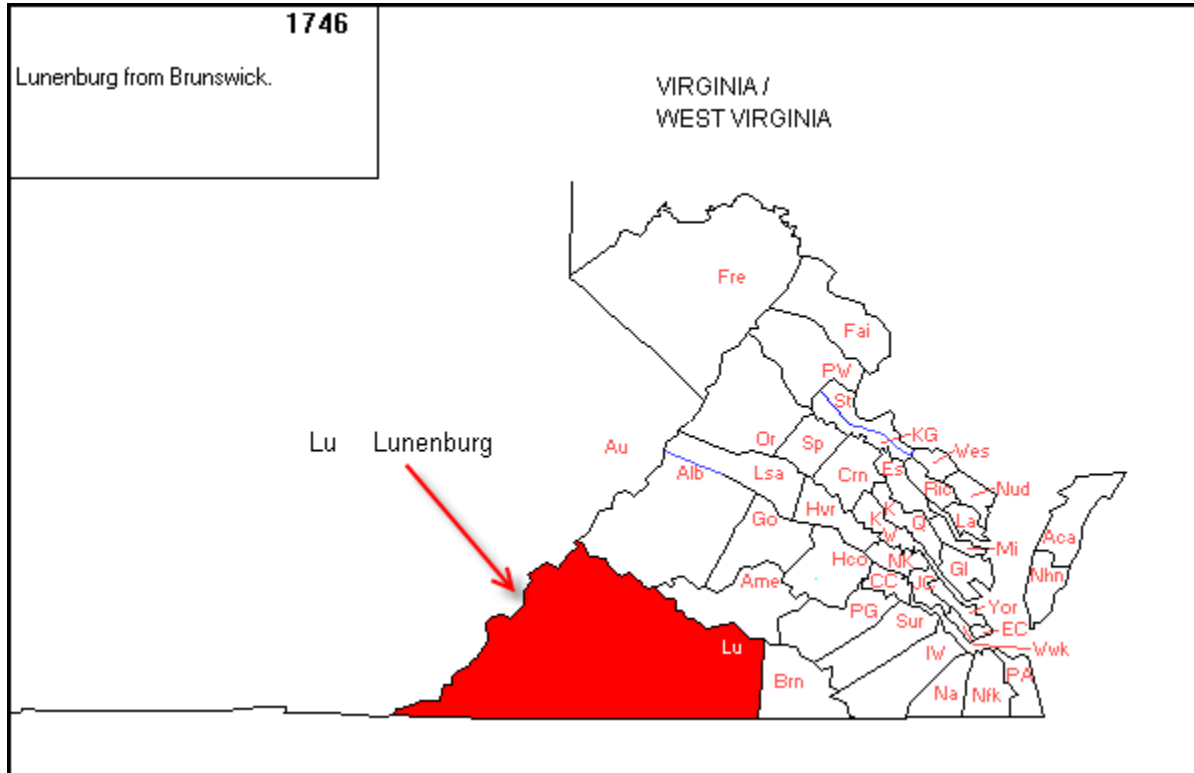
- 20 September 1745** – LAND PATENT: John Ragland, 1030 acres on Mechums Creek in **Hanover County**, adjoining among others the lands of John Joiner, George Vaughan, Mary Harris, George Hudson, Benjamin Allsup, Alexander Cock, Thomas Rowland, William Elmore, David Haynes, and **Thomas Baker**. (*Virginia Land Office Patents* No. 22, 1743-1745 (v.1 & 2 p.1-631), p. 566 (Reel 20))

- ◇ **22 October 1745** - SUIT SETTLED: The matter of **Thomas Davenport vs. John Moore**, *Executor of Matthew Jouett, Decd.*, in Case dismissed, being agreed. (*Louisa County Court Orders*, 1:156)

*Here Thomas, eldest son of Martin, Sr., settled his suit with the Estate of Matthew Jouett, who was an entrepreneur in the Ordinary (tavern) business. Two of Jouett's daughters married Pamunkey Davenports: Catherine Jouett married Henry Gambill,*

*Jr., son of Mary Davenport and grandson of Martin, Sr.; and Frances Jouett married James Davenport, youngest son of Martin, Sr. In addition, Glover Davenport, a son of Martin, Sr., appears to have worked for Jouett, who died in the Fall of 1743. Thomas would take his family—including several sons-in-law – to North Carolina in the 1770s.*

**1746** – COUNTY LINES CHANGE: **Lunenburg County** was created from Brunswick County.



**26 February 1746** – Road Order: “Ordered that a Road be laid off & Cleared from Wm Poes to the North Rush River by James Kennerley, Francis Strother & Daniel Jacobie & their male Labouring Tithables & That the sd Kennerley be Overseer of The same.” [Ann Brush Miller, **Orange County** road orders, 1734-1749, Virginia Highway & Transportation Research Council, 1984.]

*The area of Orange County indicated by this order was in Culpeper County after the creation of that county in 1749. The persons involved were all associated particularly with the Baker family from the earliest days of Culpeper County’s existence.*

**17 March 1746** – Road Order: “Ordered that all the Gangs below the Battle Run that formerly were under the Directions of Samuel Scott and Francis Browning work under John Gouge Junr. who is appointed Overseer of the Highway from Poes Spring to the Lower End of Brownings ...” [Ann Brush Miller, **Orange County** road orders, 1734-1749, Virginia Highway & Transportation Research Council, 1984.]

*The area of Orange County indicated by this order was in Culpeper County after the creation of that county in 1749. One John Gouge (most likely junior, as another John Gouge died in 1749), moved with the Bakers, Davenports, Whites, Wisemans and related*



families to Burke County, North Carolina, in the late 1770s (as of the 1850 census, the oldest Gouge still in that area – Elizabeth Gouge – listed her birthplace as Virginia). Joseph Gouge (a son of a John Gouge) married Thomas and Dorothy Davenport Baker's daughter Croatia.

- ◇ **27 May 1746** – PETITION: A petition by John Moore, Executor of Matthew Jouett, Decd., against **Thomas Davenport** for £2/1/5¾ due on account, and the debt being confessed by the Defendant, judgment for Moore of 18/9 with interest from 20 May 1744 until paid. (**Louisa County Court Orders**, 1:193)

*This was Thomas, son of Martin, Sr., who had a book account with Matthew Jouett before Jouett's death around September 1743. The account was apparently due in May 1744. When Davenport failed to pay, Jouett's executor petitioned the Louisa Court, which had jurisdiction over Thomas, for a judgment for the amount owed. When a creditor had either a note or a book account that was documented, and the debtor was in default, the creditor petitioned the Court for a judgment of the amount owed and whatever costs had occurred in having to collect through the Court. The matter was accomplished by petition, filing a lawsuit was not required. The judgment in this case was unusually stiff when the interest penalty was attached. If the creditor wanted damages as well as the amount owed and costs, a lawsuit for damages (In Case) was filed. Petition judgments often degenerated into lawsuits when the debtor refused to recognize the debt and pay or even refused to attend Court and answer the creditor. If Thomas Davenport did not pay this judgment, there was further legal action against him ahead.*

- ◇ **11-12 July 1746** - LEASE & RELEASE: Mary Carr, widow; John Carr; John Waller, wife Agnes; John Minor, wife Sarah, said Carrs, Minors, and Wallers being Executors of Thomas Carr, Gentleman [late of Caroline County], Decd., to John Pettus of the Parish of St. Martin, Hanover County, for 5 shillings (Lease), £135/15 (Release), 970 acres in **Louisa** [and **Hanover**] **County** on Rocky Creek. Beginning at two beeches and a red oak on the North Anna River a little below the mouth of Little Rocky Creek and a former corner of **Martin Davenport's**--now Garret's corner, thence South 5° West 186 poles to a corner poplar in a branch, thence South 45° West 91 poles to a white oak and persimmon, another corner on Little Rocky Creek, thence along said Creek as it meanders to the South Fork of said Creek, thence along the said Fork to a heap of stones, a corner of Richard Wright's, thence North 55° West 158 poles to a white oak, a corner of said Wright and Henry Gambill, thence North 85° West 115 poles to two black oaks, another corner of the said Gambill in Thomas Wash's line, thence North 5° West 24 poles to Wash's corner point, thence North 48° West 72 poles to Thomas Lipscomb's corner white oak and pine in said Wash's line, thence North 33° East 130 poles to a corner stake of Thomas Lipscomb in Thomas Graves' line, thence South 55° East 114 poles to Graves' two pines in the head of a glade, thence North 68° East 220 poles to the said Graves on falling ground, thence North 26° East 150 poles to Graves' red oak on the River bank, thence down the River according to its meanders to the beginning... /s/ Mary Carr, John Carr, John Waller, Agnes Waller, John Minor, Sarah Minor. Wit: James Winston, Thomas Bond, Richard Eggleston, Frs "F" Arnold. (*Louisa County Deeds* A:243, 245)

*This deed is the only surviving evidence of the provenance of the 250 acres that Martin Davenport, Sr., had disposed of from his 400-acre patent of 1726. When Thomas*

*Carr, Gentleman, patented the tract from which this 970-acre tract was taken, Martin Davenport was cited as the adjoining landowner down river. Here "one Garrett" was identified as the landowner where Davenport had been earlier. The next time the adjoining landowner was identified was in 1770 when John Pettus, the grantee here, divided the 970 acres among his four sons. Charles Kennedy (married to Crotia Davenport, daughter of Martin, Sr.) was where Davenport and then Garrett had been.*

**2 September 1746** – SUIT DISMISSED: An action of an unspecified type by John Mitchell against **Josias Baker** was dismissed by agreement. [**Spotsylvania County** Order Book 3:390]

◇ **23 September 1746** - DEED: Robert Hester, wife Barbary, of Louisa County, to **Thomas Baker**, of Spotsylvania County, for £40 Virginia, 200 acres in **Louisa County**, being the tract that said Hester bought of John Harris, and where Harris formerly lived, adjoining Thomas Wash, John Kimbrow, Samuel Parrish, said Robert Hester, John Ragland... /s/ Robert Hester, Barbary Hester. Wit: Edmund Waller, William Lea. (*Louisa County Deeds, A:252*)

*This deed is the first record evidence by deed of land ownership clearly identifiable as the Thomas Baker who was the husband of Dorothy Davenport, daughter of Martin, Sr., other than the 1744 land patent for 516 acres in Brunswick (later Lunenburg) County. Baker would own this land in Louisa for two years, and then sold it to William Davenport, Dorothy's brother. William, in turn, would sell it back to Hester.*

**13 March 1747** – WILL: Jeremiah Long, proved by testimony of Francis Long, Mary Long and **Josias Baker**. [**Caroline County** Court Orders, 3:22]

*It is likely but not proved that the Josias Baker who was active in Caroline County in the late 1740s was Thomas Baker's brother, previously resident of Spotsylvania County. When this Josias first appeared in Caroline County records, the earlier Josias disappeared from Spotsylvania County records.*

◇ **10 May 1747** – BIRTH: **Henry Baker**, fifth son and seventh child of **Thomas Baker** and his wife **Dorothy Davenport**, daughter of **Martin Davenport, Sr.**, born in **Culpeper County**. (*Baker Bible Data provided by Pearl Foster O'Donnell, Fort Wayne, Indiana, 1982*)

*There is no record evidence of the date or place of Henry Baker's birth. He married Nancy Ann Menefee c1775 in Culpeper County and died in 1806 in Burke County.*

**13 June 1747** – SUIT DISMISSED: Thomas Estes, administrator of Ann Estes, against Robert Taliaferro and **Josias Baker**, by agreement of the parties. [**Caroline County** Court Orders, 3: 40]

**13 June 1747** – SUIT DISMISSED: Reuben Thornton against the Estate of **Josias Baker** for attachment. [**Caroline County** Court Orders, 3: 45]

*The fact that this case was titled as against the Estate of Josias Baker suggests that he had died by this time. However, there was yet another action the same day in Caroline County Court that undermines any such conclusion.*

**13 June 1747** – INDICTMENT: **Josias Baker** was charged with retailing liquor contrary to law. [**Caroline County** Court Orders, 3: 75]

*The charge of retailing liquor contrary to law most usually meant that the person selling liquor was unlicensed or had allowed his license to lapse. This action undermines the conclusion from the dismissal of the Thornton suit on the same day that Josias Baker had died. Still, there are no later records clearly involving this Josiah Baker in Caroline County or elsewhere and by 1753 Josiah Baker had lost the land he patented in Brunswick (later Lunenburg) County in 1745 by escheatment (failure to enter into and settle the land and make required quitrent payments thereon). See below.*

◇ **24 May 1748** – PROBATE: The Last Will & Testament of Robert Sims, Decd., was presented to the Court by Robert Sims, the executor therein named, and was proven by the oaths of two witnesses thereto and admitted to probate. Whereupon William Sims, heir-at-law to the said Decedent prayed time to the next Court to confess the proof to same. Ordered David Smith, Richard Wright, and **Henry Gambill** do appraise said Estate. (**Louisa County** Court Orders, 1:267)

*All parties, living and dead, cited in this order were settled in the Rocky Creeks community adjoining the Hanover-Louisa line which included Davenports and Kennedys. Charles Kennedy, it will be recalled, was married to Crotia Davenport, daughter of Martin, Sr.*

**27 September 174[8]** – WILL: Samuel Kennerly, St. Mark's Parish, **Culpeper County**, to wife Ellender 400 acres adjoining Thornton and Covington, for her life and thereafter to her children Thomas and James Kennerly, Elizabeth Coleman and "Cattron" Strother. Wit: James Wade, John Strother, Anthony Strother. [Culpeper County Will Book A, p. 2-3]

*This will establishes the first record association of the Kennerly and Strother families. Samuel and Ellender (Elin) Kennerly's daughter Catherine (Cattron) was married to Jeremiah Strother, [need to establish exact relationship]. The Kennerlys and Strothers were closely associated with the Baker and related families in Virginia and, it appears, in South Carolina as well.*

◇ **27 September 1748** - DEED: Samuel Matthews of St. George's Parish, Spotsylvania County, to **William Davenport** of St. Martin's Parish, Louisa County, for £8, 25 acres in St. Martin's Parish, **Louisa County** on Great Rocky Creek, adjoining David Richardson, **Thomas Baker**, Thomas Wash... /s/ Samuel Matthews. Wit: Richard Pickering, William Phillips, Richard Phillips. (**Louisa County Deeds** A:327)

*Here, in his first recorded ownership of land in Louisa County, William Davenport bought a parcel of land bounding his brother-in-law Thomas Baker, who married Dorothy Davenport. Baker was moving or had moved to the East slope of the Blue Ridge, then in Orange, subsequently in Culpeper.*

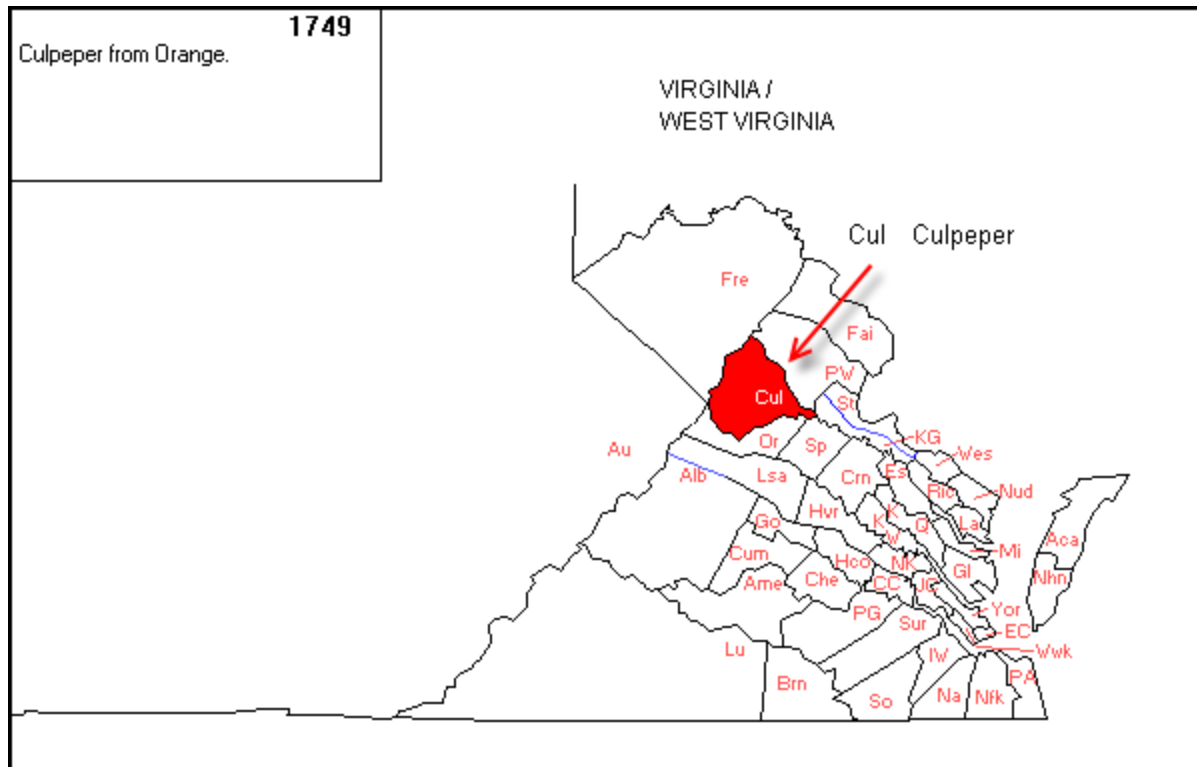
◇ **7 October 1748** - DEED: **Thomas Baker**, wife **Dorothy**, of St. Mark's Parish, Orange County, to **William Davenport**, of St. Martin's Parish, Louisa County, for £34 Virginia, 200 acres in St. Martin's Parish, **Louisa County**, adjoining Thomas Wash, John Kimbrow, Samuel Parrish, Robert Hester, John England... /s/ **Thos.**

**Baker, Dorothy “ / ” Baker.** Wit: Robert Hester, Saml. Mackgehee, Henry Gambill. (Louisa County Deeds, A:343)

*This was Thomas Baker, son-in-law of Martin Davenport, Sr., of Hanover, selling his Louisa land to his brother-in-law William Davenport. Witness Henry Gambill was married to Mary Davenport, oldest sister of William Davenport and Dorothy Baker. Gambill would join Baker in Culpeper in 1752, sell his land to brother-in-law Charles Kennedy. Note that witness Robert Hester is the man who had sold the land to Baker in the first place, and the man to whom Davenport would sell it in 1751. Baker identified himself in this deed as being “of St. Mark’s Parish, Orange County.” St. Mark’s Parish at that time included the area in what is now Culpeper County.*

**18 January 1749** – PROBATE: Samuel Kennerly’s will was admitted to probate on the motion of “Eliator Kennerly”. [**Culpeper County** Will Book A, p. 2-3]

**1749** – COUNTY LINES CHANGE: **Culpeper County** was created from Orange County.



**12 May 1749** – WITNESS: **Joseph Baker** was one of two witnesses in whose presence the sheriff of Caroline County executed a writ of scire facias against Robert Taliaferro. [**Caroline County** Court Orders, 3: 149]

*This reference is the only reference after 13 June 1747 to an individual with a name similar to that of Josias Baker. Other court references suggest that Josias may have died in 1747, but more research into Caroline County records is required.*

◇ **3 June 1749** - BIRTH: **David Baker**, sixth son and eighth child of **Thomas Baker** and his wife **Dorothy Davenport**, daughter of **Martin Davenport, Sr.**, born in



**Culpeper County.** (Baker Bible Data provided by Pearl Foster O'Donnell, Fort Wayne, Indiana, 1982, and Josiah Baker Bible, per below image)

BIRTHS	BIRTHS
David Baker, was born June 3 <sup>rd</sup> A.D. 1749.	Josiah Baker, was born Oct. 20 <sup>th</sup> 1802.
Kenneth Baker, was born Oct. 5 <sup>th</sup> 1763.	Septia Baker, was born July 6 <sup>th</sup> 1804.
Susannah Baker, was born Sept. 6 <sup>th</sup> 1796.	Charles Baker, was born Dec. 2 <sup>nd</sup> 1806.
Martin Baker, was born Dec. 9 <sup>th</sup> 1797.	
Overly Baker, was born Aug. 11 <sup>th</sup> 1799.	
David L. Baker, was born Jan. 9 <sup>th</sup> 1801.	

There is no known record evidence of the place of David Baker's birth. However, his father was the recipient of substantial land grants in Orange County (soon to be Culpeper County) within days of his birth, and had identified himself in a deed the year before as being "of St. Mark's Parish" which was in what is present-day Culpeper County. For these reasons, the area of Orange County that became Culpeper County is likely. The date of his birth appears in a number of family sources, including the family bible of his son Josiah Baker.

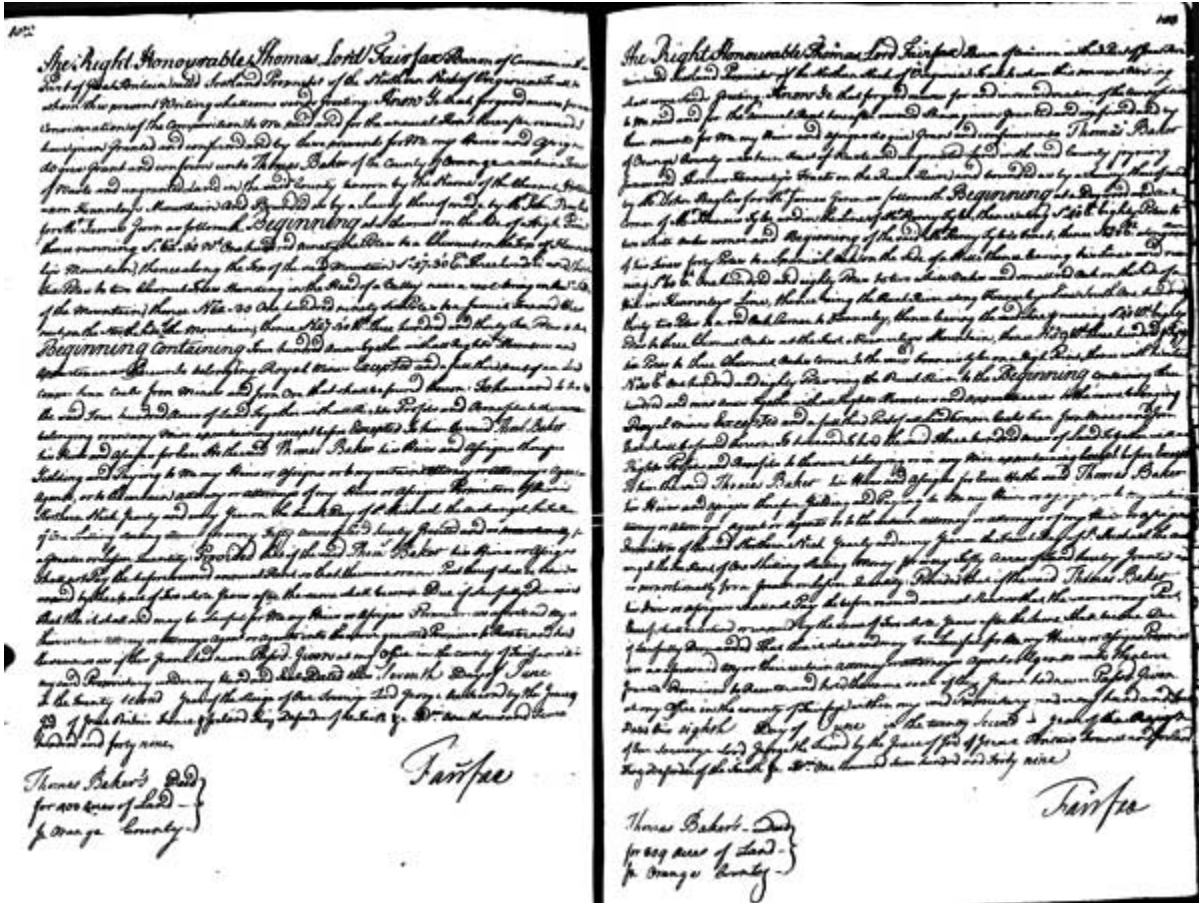
- ◇ **7 June 1749** – FAIRFAX LAND GRANT: **Thomas Baker**, of Orange County, 400 acres in **Orange County**, adjoining the *Chestnut House Tract* on Kennerly's Mountain. Surveyed by John Bayliss for Mr. James Genn. (*Northern Neck Land Grants*, G:182)

Francis Strother, adjoining downriver neighbor to Martin Davenport, Sr.'s land in Hanover, had bought land adjoining Kennerly in 1745. There is reason to believe that a Strother daughter or in-law was the wife of Thomas Davenport, son of Martin Sr. In this and the grant below, Thomas Baker, married to Dorothy, Thomas Davenport's sister, joins the Kennerly neighborhood.



◇ **8 June 1749** – FAIRFAX LAND GRANT: **Thomas Baker**, of Orange County, 309 acres in **Orange County**, adjoining James and Thomas Kennerly, Henry Tyler, and Francis Tyler. Surveyed by John Bayliss for Mr. James Genn. (*Northern Neck Land Grants*, G:183)

The two tracts cited above were between the Rappahannock and the Potomac, hence were in the Northern Neck, that portion of Virginia that the deposed King James II had given to his friend Lord Fairfax. Baker had bought tracts entered and surveyed for a land speculator, a common way of acquiring new land by this time in Colonial Virginia.



**24 November 1749** – ESTATE VALUATION: Estate of John Gouge, appraisal and valuation returned by Francis Browning, Francis Strother and James Kennerly, total valuation £44.6. 4 ½. [**Orange County** Will Book II:xx]

All of the parties to this action were associated closely with the Baker and related families. John Browning married Dorothy Davenport, daughter of Thomas Davenport and granddaughter of Martin Sr., and the Brownings moved with the Bakers, Davenports and related families to Burke County, North Carolina, in the late 1770s. There is circumstantial evidence that Thomas Davenport's wife may have been a Strother, and a Kennerly daughter was married to a Strother son. And a Joseph Gouge, son of a John Gouge, married Croatia Baker, daughter of Thomas Baker and Dorothy

*Davenport Baker. A John Gouge also appears in the Burke County records in close association with the Bakers, Davenports and Brownings after the Revolution.*

- ◇ **27-28 November 1749** - DEED: John Carr; John Waller, Jr., and wife Agnes; and John Minor, wife Sarah, surviving executors of Thomas Carr, late of Caroline County, Decd., to William Waller, of Spotsylvania County, for inasmuch as said Carr died leaving a certain tract of land in Hanover, now Louisa County on Rocky Creek containing 1600 acres, being part of patent to said Carr for 3,770 acres dated 2 February 1727, and said land was directed to be sold by said Carr's will dated 6 May 1738, now for £39/16, 398 acres in **Louisa County** on [Little] Rocky Creek. Beginning at Robert Sims' corner of two oak saplings in the line of Richard Wright, thence on this line North 58° West 158 poles to Richard Wright and Henry Gambill pine and hickory sapling, then along the same course 10 poles further to Gambill's corner, thence on Gambill's other line North 45° West 124 poles to Gambill's and Thomas Wash's corner scrubby white oak sapling, thence on Wash's line South 29½° West 246 poles to William Wash's corner of several saplings on the west side of the Road, thence along Wash's line South 50½° 127 poles to David Smith's and William Wash's corner of two black oak saplings, thence on Smith's line South 24° East 170 poles to David Smith and **Richard Davenport's** corner white oak on the lower side of Little Rocky Creek, thence down the Creek thereof, reduced to a straight line of 171 poles to the mouth of a small spring branch into said Creek, thence up the branch 13 poles to the beginning.... /s/ John Carr, Jno Waller, Jr., Agnes Waller, John Minor, Sarah Minor. Wit: Thos Lipscomb, James Overton, John Hill. (*Louisa County Deeds, A:364*)

*Mary Carr, widow of Major Thomas Carr, had died. This was a dummy deed. John Waller, Jr., one of the executors, wanted the land, but was prevented from buying it by Conflict of Interest. Accordingly, he and his co-executors sold the land to John's brother William, an attorney, who immediately conveyed the tract to John for the same price William had paid the Estate (see below). In 1742 the boundary between Hanover and Louisa counties commenced at the mouth of Little Rocky Creek on the North Anna, and followed a straight course SSW to the Goochland County line. Richard Davenport, now identified as the eldest son of Richard Davenport, Sr., of Caroline, still owned the land cited here at the time of his death in 1792. Subsequent surveys noted that the tract lay in both Hanover and Louisa counties.*

- ◇ **28 November 1749** - DEED: William Waller to John Waller, Jr., both Gentlemen of Spotsylvania County, for £39 of 16, 398 acres in **Louisa County** on Great and Little Rocky Creek, adjoining Robert Sims, Richard Wright, Henry Gambill, Thomas Wash, William Wash, David Smith, **Richard Davenport**, John Kimbrow, lower side of Little Rocky Creek.... /s/ William Waller. Wit: None. Acknowledged by William Waller in Court the same day. (*Louisa County Deeds, A:365*)

*The description of the land in this deed was identical to the previous deed.*

[< Return to 1720 –1740 >](#)

[< Next—1750-1760 >](#)

[< Return to Table of Contents >](#)

[< Corrections to this Section? >](#)