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Overview of this and adjunct reports

This report focuses on one branch of the most deep-rooted and ramified ALLEN extended family of the southern states, the patrilineage^[1] that is the subject of [the ALLEN DNA Patrilineage 1 Project](#).

For those who don't wish to follow my detailed arguments, I've summarized my conclusions and the evidence backing them in a [Synopsis section](#) at the end of the report.

Published with this report is [an evidential TIMELINE](#) with interpretive notes, detailed citations, and a source bibliography, and the reader is invited to open it up and refer to it as I discuss and analyze the evidence it contains and its implications. Since I will be referring here to particular pieces of evidence by their exact dates, which key into the TIMELINE, there is no need to clutter up this report with citations, since the dated abstracts of the TIMELINE are each fully cited to their sources.

Since much of the story of this David ALLEN family centers on the area that became eastern Lunenburg County, Virginia in 1746, I've also compiled [a set of scaled MAPs](#) showing plots of all of the lands belonging to these Patrilineage 1 ALLENS in this area.

I've recently (late 2020) extended my detailed research to Wake and Iredell counties, NC, where David Allen Sr's son Reynold⁴ ended up, and besides the very extensive additional evidence I've added to the TIMELINE, extending well into the 19th century (new/revised items are flagged with "%%"), and a pair of topo map of the principal area of ALLEN settlement in WakeCo, around Cedar Creek (links in the MAPs report), I've created a supplementary analytical report titled, "[David³ ALLEN's son Reynold, descendants, and neighboring ALLENS in NC](#)", that tracks David's sons Reynold and descendants through the NC counties of Granville, Johnston, Wake, and Iredell, with coverage of all of the ALLENS of Wake and Iredell through the mid-1800s, included for purposes of disambiguation.

In fact, much of the evidence in the TIMELINE concerns ALLENS other than its principal subjects, the David ALLEN who died in BrunswickCoVA in 1740—a.k.a. David1740; a.k.a. David³ ALLEN of ALLEN Patrilineage 1—and his putative sons, REYNOLD ("Reynold", "Runall", etc.), William, and David, because to make a credible genealogical case it's necessary to research and consider all of those who bear the surnames of interest and who fall within the geographic and temporal scope of one's investigation, which in this case comprises: Brunswick County, Virginia, from its foundation in 1721 (though the first court didn't meet until 1732); Brunswick's successor counties, Lunenburg (created from Brunswick in 1746), and Mecklenburg (created from Lunenburg in 1765); and to a lesser extent the North and South Carolina counties to which David's progeny and their important associate, Francis WRAY, removed.

¹ A [genealogical patrilineage](#) is a particular patrilineal bloodline that encompasses all of the male descendants of a common patriarch who lived since the time that surnames were first adopted, most of whom bear a common surname. It is now possible through DNA testing to reliably classify males into the biological patrilineage they actually belong to regardless of their surname, so related female genealogists can now test male relatives who themselves bear the surname of interest to determine for certain which of the many patrilineages for that surname they descend from.

Back about 2010, at the invitation of two sets of American ALLEN descendants, I organized for each a DNA-based patrilineage-focused project to bring together genealogists for the purpose of sharing their research in the light of the best published work, and to promote and facilitate further research into their ALLEN ancestries. I've named these project the [ALLEN Patrilineage 1 Project](#), and the [ALLEN Patrilineage 2 Project](#).

A few years ago, as a co-administrator of the unrelated Family Tree ALLEN Surname Project, I made a complete and accurate classification by genealogical patrilineage of all of the member Kit#s of that project that represent males surnamed ALLEN, or males of other surnames whose test results match those of one of the ALLEN patrilineages. And as it happens, the two ALLEN patrilineages for which I had set up projects were the two largest by far, each about equal in size, and together constituting some 21% of all the male ALLENS who have been DNA tested by Family Tree DNA on their ySTR 37-marker test or better. Since the majority of FTDNA customers are American, we may therefore reasonably infer that about 1 in every 5 American males surnamed ALLEN belongs either to ALLEN Patrilineage 1 or 2.

For Brunswick and Lunenburg counties the evidence I have compiled to the TIMELINE is both comprehensive and largely exhaustive for all ALLENs, and also for their important common associate, Francis WRAY, though I've omitted stray references to ALLENs as neighbors in deeds, and in few other types of records where these add nothing of significant evidential value. As for the Carolinas, the counties in question are Granville and Johnston counties, NC, which lie adjacent, and Spartanburg County, SC, and with respect to these I have adduced only the circumstantial evidence of relationship that bear on the reconstruction of David1740's conjugal family, and have not attempted to be comprehensive for all the ALLENs of those areas.

Name Variants and my Conventions for Representing Names

In accordance with standard scholarly practice, when referring to a name in the context of a specific record, I shall always spell the name exactly as it appears in that record, though when I refer to a person by name outside the context of a specific record, I shall consistently use the same generic form of the name to represent the particular person whom I believe is indicated.

There is, of course, always some room for doubt that any two records with the same name concern the same person, but spelling variations in the records of early America need not in themselves add significantly to that doubt. Before the early 1800s, when Webster's *Dictionary* became a best seller, and the rising generation of school teachers adopted standardized ("correct") spelling as an arbiter of gentility, the English language was essentially oral, and even literate persons wrote all but the most familiar words the way they heard them, each following his own conventions for phonetic transcription, and without necessarily bothering to be consistent in their idiosyncratic spellings either.

As an example, consider the 1Aug1745 deed of Runall Alling of BrunswickCoVA. Although I take this deed to be the work of the man I shall refer to generically herein as "REYNOLD ALLEN", in all my references to this particular record I shall represent the grantor's name just as it appears in the signature block of the original record, though in cases where the same record sports multiple spellings I will at least once note them all.

This Runall Alling actually signed his name by a mark that looks like a (capital) "A", while the clerk or friend who wrote out the deed for him wrote down Runall's name the way he heard it pronounced. There are many such grantor deeds for this man, and also several North Carolina land grant documents that bear his original signature by mark, and while this mark is always pretty much the same, virtually all of the spellings of the name differ from each other, and only a couple are rendered "Reynold Allen". In fact both the mark and the variability of these phonetic spellings, which collectively hover around the sound Runall, are markers of this REYNOLD ALLEN's identity and part of the evidence therefore, and if one were to standardize the name even when referring to specific records, as [MILLERS](#) has done in some cases, it would obliterate this evidence.

As a general rule in this report I've rendered the surname ALLEN in all caps when I use it generically, and it should be read as meaning "Allen" and all other close phonetic equivalents, but "REYNOLD" is the only given name I also capitalize when I mean to refer to this particular gentleman who signed with the mark "A". Otherwise, when I write a name in this report in upper/lower case, you may assume that it refers to the subject of a particular record.

Somewhat confusingly perhaps, I've adopted a different convention for the accompanying evidential TIMELINE report. Since that report consists almost 50 page of abstracts, I've capitalized all the surnames in the abstracts to help them stand out and to facilitate scanning.

David ALLEN of BrunswickCoVA, and his sons, REYNOLD, William, and David Jr

I shall make the case hereinafter that the man I call David ALLEN of Brunswick County, Virginia, was the father of three of the known early patriarchs of ALLEN Patrilineage 1: REYNOLD ALLEN of Iredell County, North Carolina; William ALLEN of Mecklenburg County, Virginia; and David ALLEN of Spartanburg County, South Carolina. I identify these three, as is my usual practice, by the county in which they presumably died, both because (outside of New England) there is more likely to be convincing evidence pertaining to a man's place of death than to any of the events of his life, and because identifying them by the place they ended up in widens the perspective on their life trajectory, which is typically more focused on the places where they came of age, married, and made their mark during their prime.

This David of BrunswickCoVA is a shadowy figure because he left little trace in the records. In fact everything I have been able to find on him is confined to the county of Brunswick, Virginia, and covers a period of just eight years.

The key genealogical evidence linking David of Brunswick's putative sons, William and David ALLEN, to each other (though not to David himself) has been known for decades: a pair of LunenburgCoVA deeds of gift of 1Oct1751 and 5May1752 from one Francis Wray to William, then David, respectively, calling each "son in law".

This evidence of the brotherhood of these two is pretty incontrovertible,^[2] though it raises the question of whether they were both sons-in-law of Francis WRAY because they married daughters of his, or whether they became sons-in-law because Francis married their father's widow, since the term "in law" in the old days was used for any sort of in-law relationship, including the one that we would today call stepson. To rule out the latter possibility we would need to know for sure not only who their father was, but when he died, and whether he even left a widow, and of course the pair of deeds from Francis Ray/Wray to these two don't tell us any of that.

Nor is the thesis a new one that these sons-in-law of Francis WRAY, William and David ALLEN, were the sons of David ALLEN of BrunswickCo. In particular, MILLERS notes both the pair of LunenburgCoVA deeds stating the relationship between WRAY and these two ALLEN brothers, and also the simultaneous presence in BrunswickCoVA of Francis WRAY and David ALLEN; but it concludes:

"With the available information it can only be surmised that David Allen of Brunswick County, Virginia, in 1732, may have been the father of David and William Allen. More research is needed to determine if proof of that theory can be found".^[3]

Well, the research has now been done, but having gone through all the primary records of BrunswickCo page by page, I can now tell you authoritatively that there is little more to be found about David than has already long been known.

² As usual one can imagine other theoretical possibilities, such as that William and David were merely cousins, sons of ALLEN brothers, or even father and son, or uncle and nephew, but as you read on and note the uniquely early arrival of just one possible Patrilineage 1 ALLEN in the BrunswickCo area, the parallel careers of this William and David pair (taking note also of the common pattern of siblings of one family marrying siblings of another), and the other circumstantial details of close association that accumulate, all other theoretical possibilities fade into insignificance. And contrary to what most people suppose, historical and genealogical cases are made, not primarily by the adduction of direct relationship evidence, but by the accumulation of as large a body of circumstantial detail about the subjects as possible, which can then plausibly be woven into just one most likely narrative. Meanwhile, in cases based on just a few pieces of direct evidence, many disparate narratives can always be constructed to explain just a few facts: even evidence, like eyewitness testimony, acquires its meaning and credibility only by being interpreted with respect to the applicable circumstantial contexts.

³ MILLERS, 277.

In the first place, there are no surviving probate records for David whether in Brunswick, or in its child county of Lunenburg (hived off in 1746) or anywhere else in Virginia for that matter, at least according to the Torrence index.^[4]

However, not willing to rely on indexes for such important evidence, I have paged through all the early records of BrunswickCo (both the original miscellaneous records book (which includes wills, probate, deeds and other types of records), and the parallel book of court orders (which would normally include at least a minimal record of probate activity if David had died in the jurisdiction)), without finding a scrap of probate evidences for David—not so much as a record of administration for his estate (despite the fact that he was evidently the owner of land in Brunswick), or an order by the court to inventory his personal estate—both of which were required by law, and are nearly always present unless a county has suffered significant records loss, which does not seem to be the case for Brunswick. I did find that the first (mixed) records book for BrunswickCo records included the usual range of probate records, and plenty of wills (which are almost always recorded because they typically have important implications for many county residents)—just nothing for David that would tell us that, and when, he died, and hopefully provide some information about his heirs.

Nor are there any items for David in the subsequent records of Brunswick's successor county, LunenburgCo—at least not in the every name indexes of published abstracts of the LunenburgCo probate records.

But if David didn't die in BrunswickCo, but instead removed elsewhere (and we know not where), the circumstantial foundations are weakened for any theories of relationship between this David and the several ALLENs who are found in Brunswick and LunenburgCo thereafter (in particular, REYNOLD, William, and David).

There are also no deeds for David as a grantor, either in Brunswick or Lunenburg counties, which, if they existed, should name his wife, either as a co-grantor or in her relinquishment of dower. This is in itself unfortunate because we might like for his wife to have been named Rachel, since that would strongly suggest that since Francis WRAY's wife in 1751 was named Rachel, that he indeed married David's widow, which would in turn provide a solid and direct link between David the father, and William and David ALLEN, the sons-in-law of Francis WRAY. But no such luck.

The one thing that has been known heretofore about David of BrunswickCoVA is that on 7Jan1732/3^[5] he purchased 100a of land in that county from Moses Rayley/Royley [RILEY?], and some have also noted that this deed seems to be paralleled by Runall Alling's 1Aug1745 deeds of sale. This has been noted, in particular, by Robert Lewis "Rob" Allen, who is a member of the ALLEN Patrilineage 1 Project, and a direct descendant of Reynold ALLEN of Johnston, Wake, and Iredell Cos NC, whom it is my intention herein to definitively show was the same Runall Alling who sold that land in BrunswickCo in 1745.^[6]

⁴ Clayton Torrence, *Virginia wills and administrations, 1632-1800* (1930; reprint Baltimore, GPC 1965). I've compiled [all the Torrence entries for ALLENs here](#), sorted several different ways.

⁵ The date of these deeds is sometimes simplified to 1732, but since the original records are explicitly double-dated 7Jan1732/3, meaning that the sale took place 7Jan1733 according to the modern calendar which came into effect in British areas in 1752, and in which the year begins on January 1, not March 25th, if the date is to be reduced to just the year in which it occurred, 1733 is the better choice since it's the convention we are used to; thus it allows us to unambiguously grasp that a subsequent event that took place, say, in the fall of 1733, occurred in the same year.

⁶ Rob has done a lot of work compiling the evidence concerning his ancestor, mostly from published abstract collections, and has thus supplemented the large amount of material on this Reynold published in abstract form in MILLERS, Chapter 11, pp 300-306. It was Rob who reminded me of the importance of focusing on the BrunswickCoVA evidence. Rob's pedigree back to Reynold can be found [here](#).

I might also note here that many references to the deeds of David and the deeds of Runall are expressed in the singular, when in fact for each transaction there were two deeds, or actually a pair of deeds called lease & release deeds. This was a legal device invented in the 16th century that was tantamount to an outright sale, and it was widely used in colonial America, to the confusion of most genealogists ever since. For those who would like to understand this subject better, I've published [my research on lease and release deeds here](#).

What has been missing, though, and needed, is for some one to do the pick and shovel work of going through all the extant records for Brunswick and its successor counties, Lunenburg and Mecklenburg, systematically and exhaustively looking for all references to ALLENs and WRAYs, and then constructing from this as accurate and detailed a narrative as possible regarding these people, their comings and goings, and their likely relationships.

The first step in this inquiry was to determine for sure whether the land Runall Alling sold was the land that David purchased, because even though both deeds involve 100a, only fragments of David's deeds survive, and Runall's deeds provide only limited information about the land itself.

David's pair of deeds, which survive only in fragments, have been abstracted differently by different people. Both deeds appear to refer to 100a north of the Roanoke River and in the vicinity of Miles Creek, but that is all that can be gleaned from these deeds of purchase besides the fact that the grantor was Moses Rayley.

Meanwhile, Runall ALLEN's deed of lease refers only to "100a on the north side of Roanoke River on the upper sides of Miles's Creek", which suggests a location near the head of the creek, which would be many miles north of its confluence with the river, but it otherwise fails to provide any recital of title to explain how and from whom the land was acquired, or any detailed metes and bounds language for plotting and locating the deed more specifically. In fact, the only other clues in Runall's pair of deeds are the names of three of the neighbors. However, this information, and the knowledge that David purchased originally from Moses Rayley, has been enough for me to reconstruct a plot of David's land synthetically, by plotting, locating, and fitting together the land grants of all the surrounding neighbors in relation to the named watercourses. This task was complicated somewhat by the fact that some of the neighbors didn't receive their grants until later.

A map of David's tract against a topographic background will be found in [the 5mb PDF of maps](#) that I mentioned earlier. Although my plot is an irregular shape that I've constructed synthetically from the surrounding deeds (like the hole in a doughnut), and even though several of its boundaries are watercourses, which tend to meander, its actual area comes out to 107a, remarkably close to the areas in both David's and Runall's deeds, which were themselves merely nominal and approximate. What clinches the identification of deeds of sale with the deeds of purchase, though, is the conjunction of the original 1732 patent of Moses Rayley/Royley (of which the land he sold David was just the easternmost part) with the patents of Drury STITH and Philip MORGAN (both named as adjacent neighbors in Runall's deed of lease, and the mutual references within this cluster of patents to neighbors of the right names.^[7]

⁷ It might be worth pointing out that one of these neighbors was Hutchings BURTON, who was a close associate of Field Jefferson, who I believe also settled in this neighborhood just north of the Roanoke River, and who married the widow of David ALLEN's putative ALLEN Patrilineage 1 cousin, William ALLEN of AlbemarleCo. As my complete ALLEN abstracts of the annual LunenburgCo tithables lists show, two of this William's sons, William Hunt ALLEN and George Hunt ALLEN, are later found on the tithables lists, in the general neighborhood of Field Jefferson, if not of his actual household. There do not appear to be, however, any actual associations in the records between David or his sons, and any of the family of William of Albemarle, so this proximity to Hutchings Burton is most likely just a coincidence.

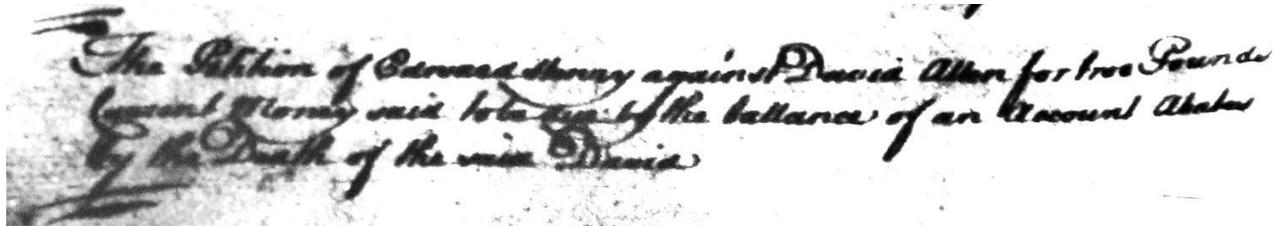
This establishes that Runall was selling the land acquired by David in 1733, but how and when did Runall come by that land? There are no other deeds in the BrunswickCo records involving David (nor later in LunenburgCo), and as I've noted, no probate records for him either. Deeds weren't always recorded, of course, so the absence of a deed from David to REYNOLD doesn't absolutely rule out the possibility that one existed, but the circumstances make it highly improbable.

If David had left a will it would almost certainly have been recorded—even in BrunswickCo where the keeping of probate records appears to have been lax. In fact, even in VA counties where probate records were defective, wills were nearly always presented and recorded if they existed, because they usually disposed of valuable property in which many people had an interest.

Since, however, David apparently left no will, and there are no other probate records for him, or deeds, the presumption must be that if he died in BrunswickCo, or later in LunenburgCo after it had been hived off from Brunswick in 1746, his land, which was originally located in BrunswickCo, but later fell into LunenburgCo, would have fallen to his legal heirs under the laws of intestate inheritance. On the other hand, if David had instead removed to North Carolina or elsewhere, he might have deeded his land away to a close relative, presumably Runall Alling, yet the deed might not have been recorded in the books, at least until later.

What has been needed, above all, to sort out the various possibilities, is a record showing when David died, and this I found by going through every page of the BrunswickCo order books, though I later discovered that there was a published every-name index that would have helped me find what I was looking for with much less toil.

The item in question is a record in the court order book for the 5Jun1740 court of a dismissal of a suit against David because of his death.



“The petition of Edward HENRY against David ALLEN for £2 current money said to be due by the balance of an account [is] abated by the death of the said David.”

The TIMELINE shows that the next previous reference to David in the BrunswickCo records was at the September 1739 court, when he was enmeshed in a complicated legal controversy as a co-garnishee of certain property under dispute. Since the county court met about every 6-8 weeks, and since outstanding suits were generally mentioned each court, even if they were merely to be continued, it's probable that David died in 1740, in one of the months just preceding June.

Since David apparently died without leaving a valid will (at least none is recorded for him, either in BrunswickCo or anywhere else) any land he owned when he died would have been inherited by his oldest son, if he had one. Or conversely, if land known to have belonged to David were later sold by someone named ALLEN, but no deed of conveyance from David to that person could be found, the presumption would be that that person was David's legal heir.

In fact, there are no such deeds on the books of BrunswickCo (where the land lay), or in Lunenburg (which the land fell into in 1746), either with David as grantor, or by an executor or administrator of his estate. Although a deed might go unrecorded at the time the transaction went

through, when the purchaser wanted to turn around and sell the land, he would have needed to be able to satisfy the new purchaser that he had valid title by showing him his deed of purchase, or at least by explaining how he came by the land in the recitation section of the deed that usually precedes the land description. And if the seller was able to produce a valid deed, the new purchaser would normally want to record the old deed along with the new deed, to be sure that his title was on record. Yet Runall's 1745 deed of sale stands alone in the books, and there isn't even any recitation of title in Runall's deed, explaining how he came by valid title to the land. The presumption, therefore, must be that Runall acquired the land by right of intestate inheritance, which recognized deceased's eldest son as the heir to all of his land (or more accurately, his real property, which at various times in VA law included slaves).

Considering the evidence so far there would appear to be a small chance that the David ALLEN who died in BrunswickCoVA about 1740 was unmarried and left no children as legal heirs, in which case, by the law of intestate inheritance, his real property would have passed to his eldest brother. While this theory cannot be dismissed out of hand, when all the circumstantial evidence is considered, it is reduced to no more than a bare theoretical possibility.

The Case that there was only one REYNOLD ALLEN of the generation born about 1725 who lived in the area of south central VA and north central NC

To begin with, Runall Alling's paired deeds of lease and release on 1Aug1745, in which he claims to be a resident of BrunswickCoVA, represent the only sighting of a REYNOLD ALLEN in this area of Virginia since 11Apr1710, when Rennold Allen and a dozen or so others are ordered to assist in clearing a road in St.Paul's Parish, then in the western part of NewKentCoVA. And there are a few earlier records in NewKentCo for Renall/Reynold/Rennold, some of which probably pertain to the same man, or possibly, his father of the same name. Be that as it may, the hiatus from 1710 to 1745 represents a full generation and the Runall of 1745 is apparently just getting started in life, at least if we can identify him (as I have attempted to do below) as the REYNOLD ALLEN who is found in NC from at least 1752 when he received his first Granville Grant from the colonial authorities until his final years in IredellCoNC after 1800.

During the latter part of this period, just two other REYNOLD ALLENS appear in the records, one of whom can be shown to be the son of the grantee of the 1752 Granville Grant, and the other to be the son of this REYNOLD's brother David ALLEN of SpartanburgCoSC.

There is also, to be sure, a Reynolds Allen (note the plural) who made a will on 26Jan1779 in BedfordCoVA, not far to the west of LunenburgCo. But the names of his children, his pluralized given name, the geographic separation, and the absence of any association in the records between this Reynolds and REYNOLD ALLEN, all lead me to believe that this BedfordCoVA Reynolds was wholly unrelated to the subjects of this inquiry—that he was not, probably, even a member of DNA-confirmed ALLEN Patrilineage 1. His overlapping, but not quite phonetically equivalent given name can readily be explained by the fact that given names in those days were frequently derived from matrilineal surnames, and REYNOLDS is one of the most common surnames in the United States (ranked 86th in the 1964 Social Security data).

The fact that the very extensive evidence for REYNOLD ALLEN of NC^[8] all hangs together as the record of one person and cannot readily be accounted for in any other way goes a long way towards identifying this REYNOLD with the Runall Alling who sold his father, David Allen's, land back in BrunswickCoVA in 1745, and I shall supplement and reinforce this proposition with extensive

⁸ nicely summarized in MILLERS, Chapter 11, pp 300-306

and specific evidence of association between the NC REYNOLD and his putative ALLEN brothers of LunenburgCoVA, and with their father-in-law, Francis WRAY (also with a usefully unique name) who also appears in both places. All the evidence for these associations appears in the accompanying TIMELINE, but I shall be reviewing it in detail below.

What his 1745 deed tells us about Runall

In the meantime, to finish with the implications of the 1Aug1745 deed of Runall Alling, he was almost certainly aged 21 or over at that time. Under the common law of Virginia, minors were disabled from making binding contracts, and while one occasionally finds intrafamilial conveyances *to* minors, typically from father to son, no prudent person would have purchased land from a minor without the involvement of the latter's guardian. We may infer, therefore, that Runall Alling was born no later than 1Aug1724, and probably not much before that, if he is the same REYNOLD ALLEN who died say 1808 in IredellCoNC. He would thus have been about 16 when his father died about 1740, and as the oldest son, his next younger brothers, if any, would have been born between 1726-1733 or so.

Runall Alling's putative brothers, William and David, and their father-in-law Francis WRAY in Lunenburg County, Virginia

As of 1May1746, BrunswickCo was truncated to just its easternmost stub, and its western extent, which had stretched to the westward-curving Blue Ridge Mountains, fell into its child county of Lunenburg. The land that had belonged to David, and then his oldest son Runall, also fell into LunenburgCo, as did the lands of one Francis WRAY, who plays a pivotal evidential role in the story of David ALLEN's conjugal family.

Francis WRAY comes into the picture when on 1Oct1751 he and his wife Rachel of LunenburgCoVA conveyed to William Allen by deed of gift "for the love I bear my son in law" 200a on the north side of the Meherrin River (the grantors' surname is spelled "Ray" in this deed). Then, just nine months later, on 5May1752, Francis Wray conveyed to David Allen "for the love I bear my son in law" 75a on Crooked Creek, adjacent to the land of William Allen. Since Francis had no co-grantor on his deed, and there is no record of a dower relinquishment by wife Rachel for this latter deed, the presumption must be that she died during the 9 months that separate these two deeds.

Francis had earlier, on 30Jul1742, patented land on Stony Creek, about 12 miles NE of his Meherrin River tract, and his wife Rachel joined him in the 2Jul1748 deed in which he sold this land. Probably the WRAYs had already taken up the Meherrin River land by that time.

I've plotted and located the 497a that Francis WRAY patented in LunenburgCo on 1Jun1750, on the north bank of the Meherrin River, and along Crooked Creek (this map too will be found in my MAP PDF), and the points of reference in the deeds themselves and the neighbors mentioned therein show that Francis was deeding away to these sons-in-law over half of his original patent. Since Francis executed no other intrafamilial deeds, it's likely that he had no sons of his own.

Other related ALLENs of LunenburgCo who might have fathered William and David

The theory argued for here is that William and David were the sons of the David Allen Sr who had purchased land in BrunswickCo in 1733, and the brothers of the Runall Alling [REYNOLD ALLEN] who sold that land in 1745.

However, it should be noted that there were members of at least two other Patrilineage 1 ALLEN families living in this area at the time, in particular the Robert Allen who died much later in

CaswellCoNC and whose roots also go back to NewKentCo, several of his sons, and Robert's brother Drury. all of whom settled about 25 miles from Francis WRAY's Meherrin River tract.

Also two of the older sons of the Patrilineage 1 patriarch William Allen of AlbemarleCo are also to be found on the tithables lists of LunenburgCo, and no farther away than the ALLENS of the Robert line.^[9]

However, there are a number of reasons why these alternate ALLEN patriarchs can be ruled out as fathers of William and David, the sons-in-law of Francis WRAY.

First, David Sr of BrunswickCo settled in this area more than ten years before any of the other Patrilineage 1 ALLENS. Second, there are no overt associations between any of these three sets of related ALLENS in the records, despite their reasonable proximity to each other. And third, and most telling, both Robert of CaswellCoNC and William of AlbemarleCoVA left wills, and between those and much other evidence for both, there is no mention of any sons named William or David—or for that matter, REYNOLD.

Were William & David ALLEN sons-in-law of Francis WRAY because he married their widowed mother, the former wife of David Sr of BrunswickCo?

It has been conjectured that the William and David Allen who were Francis WRAY's sons-in-law acquired that status because he married the widow of David ALLEN Sr, their putative father. I consider that thesis is exceedingly improbable, but the argument is complicated.

If it is true at least that William and David Allen Jr were the sons of David Sr of BrunswickCo who died about 1740, given that these sons were deeded land 9 months apart, in 1751 and 1752 respectively, it's likely that David Jr came of age just before WRAY's deed to him on 5May1752; thus he was born probably abt 1729, and for this and other reasons his older brother William was born abt 1726. We have already seen that the oldest putative brother of this family, REYNOLD was born say 1723, and these three may have had a sister or two as well. In fact, given that David Sr didn't die until 1740, it's quite likely that he had several more children from 1730-1740 in these days before reliable birth control—unless his wife died not long after the birth of youngest son David, which is therefore suggested.

Alternatively, if David Sr's wife survived him and married Francis WRAY, it's probable that she would have brought more children to the marriage than just two or three sons. Yet Francis WRAY doesn't seem to have provided for any other step-children either by will or by deed. and (jumping ahead a bit), Francis has been tracked to North Carolina and there appear to be no such records for him there either.

The next consideration is that when Runall Alling sold his father, David's, land in 1745 he wasn't joined in the deed by a widowed mother, though the deed was signed by Runall's known wife Mary Alling, who appears later in the records as such, and there is in any case, a record of Mary's releasing her dower rights as to one-third of her husband's land. If father David Sr had left a widow when he died about 1740, she too would have inherited a lifetime interest in one-third of her deceased husband, David's, land. And even if David's widow had later married Francis WRAY, she (and probably also

⁹ The proximity of these other ALLENS can be seen in a general way on [this map of greater LunenburgCo as it was divided into tax districts as of 1748](#): the Robert & Drury ALLENS were in the district of Lydall Bacon, and the sons of William of Albemarle were in the district of Lewis Delony, while Francis WRAY's land lay on the southern border of the district of Hugh Lawson. The scaled Overview map I've included in my large MAPs PDF shows the relative location of WRAY and his two ALLEN sons-in-law, William and David (to whom he deeded part of his 497a patent) in relation to the lands owned by Robert and Drury ALLEN in Bacon's district.

her new husband) would have had to join as grantors in Runall Alling's deeds, and/or to execute a quit claim as a release of her rights to the land, to satisfy the purchaser that he was acquiring clear title, yet no such records appear in the books of either Brunswick or Lunenburg counties.

We know that Francis WRAY did have a wife named Rachel as of 2Jul1748 when she joined him as grantor in the deed to his Stony Creek property, but for the reasons given above this Rachel cannot reasonably have been the mother of REYNOLD, William, or David Allen, putative sons of David Sr. There remains only the possibility that David Sr's widow did survive him, but only for a few years; that she married Francis WRAY shortly after 1740 when her husband died, and died before 1Aug1745 when her son REYNOLD sold his father's land without regard to any widowed mother's dower interest in the property. Francis WRAY would then have had to be remarried promptly, to the Rachel who was his wife on 2Jul1748 when he sold his Stony Creek land.

Ex hypothesi, David Sr's widow would have brought to her brief marriage to Francis WRAY several minor children, at least sons REYNOLD, William, and David, and likely several more since she was married to David Sr for ten or so years after the birth of youngest son David Jr, and the question arises: what became of these children? Since David Sr's widow and oldest son would have jointly inherited his land, and this land didn't have to be sold to cover debts or to support the family until 1745, these ALLEN children would presumably have inherited shares in their father's personal property, even if the land went to the oldest son, REYNOLD. These children would therefore have required a legal guardian to manage their property (widows didn't automatically become guardians because most women weren't considered capable of managing legal and financial affairs). Unfortunately, there are no guardianships for ALLENS in the BrunswickCo records to help us resolve this dilemma, just as there are no other probate records for David of any kind. The early BrunswickCo record books do include all sorts of probate records, including guardianships, but for some reason this family wasn't covered. However, given that Francis WRAY did deed land to sons William and David, and may have passed over REYNOLD because he had already inherited his father's land, one might expect to find other records involving WRAY and other children of his putative wife, David's widow.

Much the simpler explanation for the son-in-law relationship is simply that brothers William and David ALLEN married daughters of Francis WRAY, probably by his one wife, Rachel. Siblings marrying siblings was an extremely common pattern in colonial and early America, as were deeds of gift or bequests of land to sons-in-law, particularly by a man who himself had no sons. Stepfathers, on the other hand, were considerably less likely to convey land to their stepsons. I might note that since Francis WRAY appears to have executed no other deeds of gift, or left a will, it may well be that his only children were the two daughters who married David and William Allen, namely Martha and Susannah, according to the 4Nov1755 and 30Jan1756 deeds in which these young ALLEN couples sold land they had been deeded a few years earlier by Francis WRAY.

The Background and Career of Francis WRAY

Although the background of Francis WRAY is somewhat obscure, and cannot at this time be linked definitively to antecedents of David ALLEN of Brunswick, it is perhaps worth summarizing it here in case additional evidence on the WRAYs should emerge.

All but one of the records for Francis WRAY for the period 1720-1770 in southern Virginia and North Carolina appear to apply to the same man. At least I am unaware of any overlapping records for men of that name in different places, and the sequential appearances of the man (or men) of that name constitute a typical migratory pathway for a man with a little capital who grew up in the VA tidewater region.

A Francis WRAY was assessed on the 1704 quit rent rolls as the owner of 300a of land in PrinceGeorgeCo, the parent of BrunswickCo. It seems more than doubtful that this was the same Francis who began patenting land in BrunswickCo in 1728, and who was still engaged with land transactions with ALLENs in NC in the 1760s. Most likely, the 1704 Francis was the father of the BrunswickCo Francis, whose patent to land on Jenetoe (Genito) Creek in the western part of present day BrunswickCo named a John WRAY and a William WRAY Jr as bounds (begging the question of who was William WRAY Sr). A William WRAY Jr then patented a large tract himself in the NE of Brunswick in 1730, and Jenetoe John sold his land in 1744. I would guess that these three who settled adjacent were brothers of Francis, and not father and sons.

MILLERS notes that there was a John RAY of NewKentCo who patented a 1200a tract there in 1678, while in the 1689 processioning of St.Peter's Parish (NewKentCo) the only WRAY was "Widdow Ray". One might as well note that also on 1704 quit rent rolls were a John RAY of GloucesterCo, and a James RAY of KingWilliamCo, and later, in 1726, a John RAY of SurryCo patented land near the eastern border of BrunswickCo. It's possible that this John was related to Francis, since SurryCo lies adjacent to PrinceGeorgeCo, and one wonders whether the John Ray who patented land in 1742 "at the head of Cold Water" in central Brunswick (east of Jenetoe Creek), was this John of SurryCo, or the former John of Jenetoe, likely brother of Francis. At any rate this 1742 John of Cold Water was later joined by a Nathaniel RAY, and then a George RAY who patented land nearby—most likely his sons—so it seems that he stayed put after 1742. It's probably coincidental that this Nathaniel RAY's land in central Brunswick was adjacent to the 5025a tract patented by the wealthy [Col.] John ALLEN of SurryCo, who was the son and grandson of the Arthur ALLENs of that place.

It seems unlikely that anything to the point can be made out of Francis WRAY's pre-Brunswick associations, but he can be tracked nonetheless from his initial BrunswickCo location in 1728 to a tract he acquired in 1742 on Stoney Creek to the NW, and from thence to his final location in LunenburgCo fixed no later than 1748 when he sold the Stoney Creek land. Thereafter (if not before) we find him about 7.5 miles SW of Stony Creek, at the mouth of Crooked Creek on the north bank of the Meherrin River that runs through LunenburgCo (created in 1746 from Brunswick) from west to east (the relative locations of these areas are shown on the scaled Overview map I've constructed.

LunenburgCoVA and its Tithables Lists

As I've noted there were members of at least two other Patrilineage 1 ALLEN families besides David's in LunenburgCo, and these are all to be found on the county tithables lists for this period.

Before 1746, BrunswickCoVA constituted the whole rest of Virginia's "Southside"—the area of southern Virginia that extends roughly from the tidewater counties to the Blue Ridge Mountains. When LunenburgCo was created, it took over this role of the extended inner frontier that constituted the Southside, leaving Brunswick only its easternmost stub. The area inhabited not only by the

families of David ALLEN and Francis WRAY, but also most of the other ALLENS of Patrilineage 1, lay within the easternmost portion of LunenburgCo, which was originally divided into roughly equal northern and southern sections by the Meherrin River, until the southern section was erected into MecklenburgCo in 1765.

Overall, the new 1746 county of greater Lunenburg was divided into 7 districts for the purpose of collecting taxes and organizing a militia, and we are fortunate to have [this map of greater LunenburgCoVA that shows its original tax districts](#). We are even more fortunate (indeed uniquely so to my knowledge) to have a largely complete set of county district tithables lists for so many years prior to 1782, when the new Commonwealth at last required every county to forward a copy of their tithables lists to the central authorities every year for archival purposes. Most of the pre-1782 county tithables lists have disappeared, with just a few odd lists surviving for some counties. For LunenburgCo, however, the lists run more or less continuously and completely from 1748-1756, then become sporadic from 1757-1767, after which they resume (for the rump of Lunenburg) and continue with some degree of completeness through the Revolutionary period. As it happens, the lists are thus largely complete for the period of most relevance to the interrelated ALLENS of Patrilineage 1, including the sons of David ALLEN of Brunswick and their in-law Francis WRAY.

These pre-1782 LunenburgCo tithables lists include the names of all white males aged 16 or over, as they were used primarily as an inventory of men available for militia duty and road maintenance, grouped by household. Slaves were also listed by name on many if not most of these lists, since they were considered tithables too. Thus these lists, insofar as they are complete, provide an inventory of all the ALLEN males in the county aged 16 or over, and by tracking the changing names of the tax commissioners for each district (who were often also the militia captains for their district, it's possible to locate these ALLEN households very roughly by geography. And since the tax information was gathered household by household, typically by the commissioner physically canvassing his district, and since the lists weren't alphabetized, proximity of households on the lists usually corresponded to proximity of the households themselves on the ground.

MILLERS has published a thumbnail of LunenburgCo tithables lists abstracts for all the ALLENS of the county from 1748 on by copying from a book of abstracts published in 1931, but additional lists have accrued to the Library of Virginia since that time, and besides that abstracts by definition leave things out. I therefore undertook the large task of scanning page by page through all the extant original lists, and abstracting in a more complete manner the data for all ALLENS and certain others. In particular, I've noted proximity between entries on the lists, the numbers (and sometimes the names) of the slaves that counted toward the total tithables for each household, and I've made some effort to keep track of changes in the commissioners and their districts over time. I've also made photocopies of virtually all of the 100 or so pages that include ALLENS, and although I wasn't systematically prospecting for WRAYs when I made these abstracts, I've been able to find most of the instances in which they appear from my photocopies. All of my abstracts for ALLENS, and those I have for Francis WRAY, have been included in [the evidential TIMELINE](#) that accompanies this report, and I refer the reader to them now for more details.

Most of western LunenburgCo was in turn hived off to HalifaxCo in 1752, and Bedford in 1754, but since the ALLENS were all in the eastern districts, they continued on the LunenburgCo lists until their removal, either to North Carolina, or other Virginia counties farther north or west. For ALLEN purposes, the most important county subdivisions took place as of 1Mar1765, when the rump of Lunenburg was further reduced to just the two districts N of the Meherrin, the S of the Meherrin district being reconstituted as MecklenburgCo, and the remainder of the northwestern portion becoming CharlotteCo. By that time, however, virtually all of the ALLENS were gone.

ALLENS on the LunenburgCoVA Tithables Lists, and Francis WRAY

As noted above, all of the ALLENS in these three easternmost districts of Greater LunenburgCo were apparently members of ALLEN Patrilineage 1.

Of the sprinkling of ALLENS in the western districts, the most notable is Charles ALLEN, initially of Cornelius Cargill's district. This Charles and/or his son Charles, can be tracked down into North Carolina, and there is reason to suppose that he too may be a distant cousin of the Patrilineage 1 ALLENS. There is also a William Allen Jr who patented 262a in 1767 in the SW corner of the recently created MecklenburgCo; this William, who is probably the same (other) William who appears on the county tax lists from 1782 on, was taxed for just 100a, and who had a son named John.

Robert ALLEN of CaswellCoNC in LunenburgCoVA

MILLERS was primarily focused on the main line of descent from the first Robert ALLEN of NewKentCo—the one whom I've identified by his place of death as Robert of HenricoCo (say 1680—abt 1756 HenricoCoVA). And it was largely because LunenburgCo was invaded at just about the same time by so many of the descendants of this Robert line that MILLERS includes abstracts of the LunenburgCo tithables lists. In particular we find in LunenburgCo this HenricoCo Robert's son Robert2 of CaswellCoNC (born say 1709 NewKentCoVA—died abt 1783 CaswellCoNC), and Robert2's sons Young (abt 1731—1774 WakeCoNC), Josiah (abt 1733—1781 EdgefieldCoSC), Robert (abt 1735—1801 RichmondCoGA), but not yet Drury (1749 LunenburgCoVA—1826 PikeCoGA)—the Drury Allen who appears in the LunenburgCo tithables lists is Robert2's brother Drury (1714 NewKentCoVA—abt 1803 PersonCoNC).

As my notes to these abstracts indicate, all of the ALLENS of the Robert line were located in the tax district of Lydall Bacon north of the Meherrin River but in the district just to the west of that occupied by Francis WRAY and his two ALLEN sons-in-law. Most of these descendants of the Robert line left LunenburgCo in the late 1750s—Robert2 of Caswell briefly for AmeliaCoVA to the north, but then after this interlude Robert2 and certain of his sons removed again to the same general area of North Carolina as REYNOLD ALLEN, and Francis WRAY and his ALLEN in-laws. This certainly suggests an awareness of cousinship between this Robert ALLEN branch and the David ALLEN branch of the family, though there seems to have been little or no direct intercourse between the descendants of these patriarchs in LunenburgCo despite the fact that they were reasonably close neighbors.

Sons of William ALLEN of AlbemarleCoVA in LunenburgCoVA

As it turns out, at least two sons of another of the principal patriarchs of the Patrilineage 1 clan, the man I call William of AlbemarleCoVA (say 1687—1752 AlbemarleCoVA) spent time in LunenburgCo. These were William Hunt Allen, and George Hunt Allen, and they are sometimes found proximate to the household of Field JEFFERSON, who was to marry their widowed mother. The JEFFERSON land lay in the southern part of the district of Lewis Delony on the map of Lunenburg tax districts, in the neighborhood of the Roanoke River, not far to the west of the land of David & Runall/REYNOLD ALLEN of BrunswickCo. These sons of William ALLEN of AlbemarleCo, and also the JEFFERSONs removed in the late 1760s to Albemarle and Buckingham counties not far to the north, though one son of William headed instead for TN.

Francis WRAY and his ALLEN Sons-in-law in LunenburgCoVA and their transition to North Carolina in the late 1750s

As I've noted above, there is no record of REYNOLD ALLEN in LunenburgCoVA, or even in VA after he sold the land he had inherited from his father David ALLEN on the Roanoke River and Miles Creek; thereafter, REYNOLD appears only in the records of North Carolina.

Francis WRAY is missing from the first LunenburgCo tithables list in 1748, but he appears on the list for 1749. He and his wife Rachel had sold their land on Stony Creek (in LunenburgCo, north of the Meherrin) on 2Jul1748 so it's not surprising to find him instead in 1749 on the tithables list of William Howard, who took over as tax commissioner for LunenburgCo's southeastern district from Lewis Delony. Probably Francis had taken William and David ALLEN under his wing by this time since they both appear on the same list, and although none of these three are particularly proximate to each other on the list, Francis Ray and W[illia]m ALLEN were detailed as of the Jan1749 LunenburgCo court to Capt. Booker's road maintenance gang for the road "from Ray's bridge to Flat Rock Road". There's no record of WRAY's owning any land in this district and I am unable to identify either of these landmarks, but this record does show that Francis and William were close neighbors, if not members of the same household. Note, that although both William and David figure to be minors at this point, they appear on this tithables list because they were both aged 16+.

Francis Ray's patent to 497a on the north bank of the Meherrin River astride Crooked Creek came through on 1Jun1750, and Francis Wray and William Allen are listed adjacent to each other on the 1750 tax list of Hugh Lawson for the northeastern district of the county, north of the Meherrin River. David Allen, however, continues on William Howard's south of the Meherrin list.

In 1751 there are no ALLENS on the list for the northeastern district, though I don't know about Francis WRAY because I wasn't searching for him when I waded through all the original lists. In the southeastern district for that year, Field Jefferson supplanted William Howard as the tax commissioner, and though we find on his list not only a David Allen, but also a William Allen and a George Allin (none of them mutually proximate), since George Allin is almost certainly the George Hunt Allen (son of William of AlbemarleCo), it may be that this William Allen is likewise William Hunt Allen, George's brother. Or maybe the 1751 list for the northeastern district is incomplete.

At any rate, by 1752 we find both William and David ALLEN on Hugh Lawson's northeastern district list, though oddly the appears to be no entry for Francis WRAY this year.

In 1753, things get complicated because several tax commissioners seem to have played musical chairs, and it appears that the district boundaries were muddled or changed. William Allen and Francis WRAY are on the same list, but Field Jefferson is their tax commissioner, while David Allen is on the list of Richard Witton.

Finally, for 1754, David Garland takes over the northeastern list and we find Francis Ray, William Allen, and David Allen, all on Garland's list—William and Sam[ue]l Gentry listed adjacent to each other, and David and James Cliswell adjacent to each other, with Francis Ray, whose household included Rob[er]t Nobles and one slave listed on a separate page. Cliswell owned the land adjacent to Francis WRAY, while several GENTRYs were also near neighbors and had extensive dealings with WRAY and his ALLEN sons-in-law in the ensuing years, both when they were neighbors, and after they had removed to North Carolina. Ray was listed by Commissioner Garland on a separate page reserved for slave owners, and the Lunenburg court records of Jun1752 show that Francis Ray was appointed executor of the will of Robert Nobles, and the latter's orphan son of the same name was bound out to Ray at the same time.

In 1755, Francis and the two ALLENS appear to be missing, although there seems to have been some confusion and incompleteness of the tithables lists for that year, so nothing definite can be

concluded from this circumstance. On 17Nov1755 Francis mortgaged all his property on Crooked Creek, including 6 cows, as well, and I find no record that he ever after redeemed this mortgage.^[10] Interestingly, Francis is identified in this deed as a blacksmith, and there's a reference in the metes & bounds language of the deed to "Ray's shop": I've located Ray's shop near the river on my plot of Francis's 1750 patent.

Then, two months after Francis's mortgage was drawn up, on 30Jan1756, William ALLEN sold to John BROOKS the adjacent 200a Francis had deeded him in 1751.

The 1756 tithables lists are incomplete too, so no guidance from them, and for 1757 the only list extant is the one for Lyddal Bacon's district where cousin Robert ALLEN and his sons lived. In Mar1757, William ALLEN's wife Susannah registered her dower release with the court, finalizing the Jan1756 sale of their land.

Between 6Oct1756 and 9May1758 there was a flurry of suits involving William ALLEN, and there had earlier been suits for debt involving Francis WRAY and each of his sons in law, William and David ALLEN. It's possible that some of these suits pertained to William Hunt Allen (1724-1806) the second son of the patriarch William ALLEN of AlbemarleCoVA, and the last of these, the successful 9May1758 suit against John Allen for breach of promise, for which William Allen stood bail, also seems to point to this family, because William Hunt Allen's next younger brother was named John—unfortunately for this hypothesis, though, John is known to have died in 1754, in AlbemarleCo, where his father William Allen died in 1752. This John Allen, thus remains an evidential loose end.

In a suit of May1757, the court found that William was the injured party, having been assaulted by W[illia]m THOMASON & W[illia]m GILLUM, who were required to post bond for good behavior. Could local enmities have played a role in William's decision to leave LunenburgCo? Probably the debt situation, at least, played a role. However, on Jun1758 we again find a reference to William Allen of Lunenburg when he is appointed with others to appraise the slaves in Mathew TURNER's estate.

REYNOLD ALLEN of Granville, Johnston, Wake, and Iredell Counties, NC

Over the years, REYNOLD ALLEN patented a great deal of land in this area of NC, and he eventually sold it all off, removing with his son Reynold to IredellCoNC, where he died say 1808. Although his name was spelled differently in practically every such transaction, there was apparently just one REYNOLD ALLEN in the records of NC until his son Reynold reached tithables age and then his majority. I shall thus refer to all the sightings of this person as though he were one and the same individual, and I hope to show by his associations in NC that he was the same REYNOLD ALLEN (Runall Alling) who sold his father David ALLEN's land on the Roanoke River in BrunswickCo on 1Aug1745, and also the brother of William and David ALLEN who were themselves the sons in law of Francis WRAY.

Virtually all of these land transactions for REYNOLD in NC are included in my TIMELINE, at least until 1771 when the area of JohnstonCo where REYNOLD lived became WakeCo. Descendant Rob Allen of the ALLEN Patrilineage 1 project has compiled pretty complete records for his ancestor in WakeCoNC, and the researcher(s) responsible for the chapter on REYNOLD in MILLERS have done a thorough followup on him and his children in IredellCoNC where he died, but my focus here is primarily on REYNOLD's natal family back in VA, and the later associations with them and with Francis WRAY in NC that argue for this family unit.

¹⁰ The most one typically finds for such transactions is a scribbled note in the margin of the deed book copy of the mortgage, and since I am relying here on the Evans abstract, I can't say for sure that there isn't such a note on the original.

The first land that REYNOLD acquired in NC was apparently the 400a on both sides of Mill Creek that he patented on 1May1752 in then GranvilleCo. His name in this patent was recorded as Runnel/Runnal, and he signed the documents with an “A”: this corresponds closely to his BrunswickCoVA deed of 1Aug1745 in which he was Runall Alling and also signed with an “A”. In subsequent NC patents and deeds, REYNOLD’s name is variously spelled “Renals”, “Arendall/Arundall”, “Runnel”, “Runnell”, “Renall”, “Rennal”, “Reonold”, “Runel”, and even “Rayland”—everything but “Reynold” in fact, though that form tends to become predominate later, after 1800, when the notion of “correct” spelling began to take hold. The very mutability of this name, it’s circling around the oral sound of “Runnal”, the fact that it only occurs in the plural once or twice in the dozens of references to it despite the ubiquity of the well-known surname “Reynolds” (84th in surname frequency in America the 1964 Social Security data), and finally, the fact that its subject apparently always signed with the mark “A”, all these circumstances reinforce the hypothesis that all these records pertain to one and the same man.

At the Jul1761 JohnstonCoNC court Runel Allen acknowledged his deed for 200a to Young Allen. This was presumably REYNOLD ALLEN’s oldest son, Young, probably just coming of age.

On 10Oct1780, Reynold Allen of WakeCo executed a deed of gift of all of his property to “my loving sons” Young & Reynold ALLIN, “after my decease and my wife’s decease”. This is one of the first instances of the spelling “Reynold”, but it says more about the spelling notions of the recording clerk than it does about the subject.

REYNOLD ALLEN, Francis WRAY, and William and David ALLEN get together in NC

There remains the problem of showing that the William and David who became sons-in-law of Francis WRAY were the brothers of the REYNOLD ALLEN who in 1745 sold the land of David ALLEN of BrunswickCoVA. It’s also necessary to show that the REYNOLD ALLEN who turns up in north central North Carolina is the same one who previously appears in BrunswickCo.

Though the case for these propositions is wholly circumstantial, I believe it is a strong one when all the factors, and all the ALLENs of the relevant areas, are taken into consideration. This circumstantial evidence consists of two types: (1) evidence of close association between REYNOLD ALLEN, Francis WRAY, and WRAY’s sons-in-law in North Carolina; and (2) onomastic, or name patterning evidence.

Francis WRAY of LunenburgCoVA and JohnstonCoNC and REYNOLD ALLEN of JohnstonCoNC

The first item that unequivocally pertains to Francis WRAY in North Carolina, and also the first that shows an association between Francis or his two ALLEN sons-in-law, William and David, and REYNOLD ALLEN of NC, is a 21Jul1759 deed from Renall/Runnel Allen of JohnstonCoNC to Francis Ray “late of LunenburgCoVA” for 100a on the Neuse River, which runs more or less east-west near the northern border of JohnstonCo with GranvilleCoNC (later Bute, and finally Franklin County, NC); this deed was witnessed by Henry Hardin, et al. The grantor is here selling part of the 450a he patented on 20 or 23Oct1753 on the S side of the Neuse River “Beginning at a hickory above Rob[er]t Allens on the river...”^[11]

¹¹ This reference to Robert Allen's land in Renall's NC Granville Grant is interesting, but there are no surviving patents in NC for a Robert ALLEN as early as 1753, and as far as I know, no deeds either. The 600a patented by Robert Allen on 10Nov1757 lay around the headwaters of Billy's Creek in now FranklinCo, some 10-15 miles or so north of the Neuse River.

In this 1759 deed REYNOLD is presumably selling part of the land he himself lived on, thus making Francis WRAY his “next door” neighbor. As the TIMELINE shows, he had already sold all the land he had acquired by patent on 1May1752 on Mill Creek, and on 27Oct1752 on Cabin Creek, both areas nearby but N of the Neuse River.

This Francis Ray is shown to be the same Francis WRAY who patented 497a along the Meherrin River in 1750 by three LunenburgCo deeds of 12Jul1760 in which Francis Ray of Johnson [sic] Co NC is selling pieces of his former patent, one of them to William Allin, no doubt the same William Allen who was his son-in-law to whom he deed part of the same tract on 1Oct1751.

On 16Jun1764 Reonald Allen sold to John London Jr 124a on the S side of the Neuse River “beginning at a red oak in the dividing line between Reonald ALLEN and Frances WRAY’s on the bank of said river”, confirming that REYNOLD ALLEN and WRAY were next door neighbors.

David ALLEN of LunenburgCoVA and JohnstonCoNC and REYNOLD ALLEN of JohnstonCoNC

On 1Jan1762, Francis Ray of GranvilleCoNC sold to David Allen of JohnstonCoNC 100a on the S side of the Neuse River; this was presumably the same land that Francis purchased on 21Jul1759 from Renall/Runnel Allen. This makes David Allen in turn a next door neighbor of REYNOLD ALLEN. Moreover, one of the witnesses to this deed was John MackDaniel (meaning that he was probably a next door neighbor too), whom, as we shall next see, had exchanged his land in LunenburgCoVa in 1759 for land of William Allen in JohnstonCo; this and other records show that William Allen, the son-in-law of Francis WRAY, who in the end chose to remain in Lunenburg/MecklenburgCo had originally owned land that was probably also adjacent to that of REYNOLD ALLEN of JohnstonCo.

David in turn sold what was presumably this same 100a S of the Neuse River, adjacent to John McDaniel, to David Wimpey; Young Allen, REYNOLD’s son, was a witness to this deed, again supporting the hypothesis that REYNOLD ALLEN was a next door neighbor.

On 1Jan1763, Rayland ALLEN patented an additional 625a in JohnstonCoNC, on Cedar Creek, adjacent to his own land, and David ALLEN was one of the “chain carriers” (men who helped the surveyor mark the boundaries of the land). On 15Apr1765 Runold Allen sold to David Wimpey Jr 200a on the S bank of the Neuse River, thus locating the site of his two original large adjacent patents at the confluence of the Neuse River and Cedar Creek. Interestingly, Robert Allen was a witness to this latter deed; this was presumably either Robert Sr or Jr who had settled earlier in LunenburgCo, but then removed to the area of Billy’s Creek in present day FranklinCo, about 10-15 miles to the N.

William ALLEN of Lunenburg/Mecklenburg Cos VA and REYNOLD ALLEN of JohnstonCoNC

On 8Sep1759 there is a deed from William Cloud to Thomas Robertson to land on the N side of the Neuse River, that is witnessed both by Henry Hardin, and William Allin. The witness Henry Hardin, was probably the same Henry Hardin who witnessed Renall’s deed of a few months previous, and he was probably a neighbor of Renall Allen, as well as of this William Allen, who are thus linked by neighborhood association.

A few months later, on 12Dec1759, we find an agreement recorded in the deed books of LunenburgCo between William Allin of LunenburgCoVA and John McDonel of JohnstonCoNC, to exchange William’s land in JohnstonCo for a 200a tract owned by McDonel on the S side of the Meherrin River at the fork of Mountain Creek; this agreement was witnessed by Hezekiah and David

GENTRY (recall that Samuel Gentry was listed adjacent to William Allen on the 1754 LunenburgCo tithables list when William was living on the land deeded to him by Francis WRAY).

Although William had sold his own land in 1756, I suspect that he continued to live on the adjacent land that Francis WRAY left behind in LunenburgCo when WRAY moved to JohnstonCoNC, except for a brief sojourn in NC at about this time (during which he co-witnessed that JohnstonCoNC deed with Henry Hardin) and on [12]Jul1760 Francis RAY of JohnsonCoNC [sic] sold most or all of his remaining land on the north bank of the Meherrin River at Crooked Creek to William Allin and two other men: W[illia]m Gentry, and John Brooks. William's land was described as 50a down the Island branch to the river, while the land deeded to Gentry was 50a down the river to the Island branch, and the land deeded to Brooks was 197a on the Meherrin River and up Crooked Creek. These three deeds, that were apparently executed on the same day (though the day is missing from William's deed), were witnessed by the same cast of characters, including the grantees for deeds not their own: William Allin, John Brooks, William Gentry, and also Allin Gentry and David Gentry.

Even though William had acquired a 200a tract of land south of the Meherrin, he apparently decided to remain on this 50a on the north bank of the Meherrin River until after 1765 when the area of LunenburgCo south of the Meherrin was hived off to make MecklenburgCo.

As a final record linking this William Allen of Lunenburg and later Mecklenburg counties, the son-in-law of Francis WRAY to REYNOLD ALLEN of JohnstonCoNC, I note that on 2Oct1762 the William Cloud whose 1759 JohnstonCoNC deed William Allen witnessed, sold an additional 100a on the S side of the Neuse River to William Safold, and this deed was witnessed by Reonold Allen. Usually deeds were witnessed by neighbors and/or members or in-laws of the families of the principals, so the fact that we have in 1759 a William Allen, and in 1762 a Reonold Allen, witnessing deeds of the same grantor, probably selling adjacent pieces of his land, suggests that during William Allen of Lunenburg/Mecklenburg's brief sojourn in NC the land he had acquired there (and exchanged for LunenburgCoVA land on 12Dec1759, was adjacent to land owned by REYNOLD ALLEN. Another reason to suppose that REYNOLD was his older brother.

William ALLEN of LunenburgCoVA becomes William ALLEN of MecklenburgCoVA

Unfortunately, the LunenburgCo tithables lists are spotty for 1758-1767, covering just the period of interest respecting the transition of William from the north bank of the Meherrin to the south, and correspondingly from LunenburgCo to MecklenburgCo.

There are numerous appearances of William ALLENs in the records of LunenburgCo during this period, at least some of which likely pertain to the subject William, the son-in-law of Francis WRAY, whom, for convenience, I'll call William1789 (for the year of his death).

Otherwise, there was a "William Allin", scholar, on the 1755 LunenburgCo tithables list, who was exempt as a tithable—probably because he was a school teacher in the employ of the county. This William was on the same list as Field Jefferson, and George Hunt Allen. George, born about 1734, was a son of William Allen of AlbemarleCoVA who died there in 1752, and he had an older brother named William Hunt Allen (born about 1724) who may have been this school teacher. DNA testing shows that William1752 of Albemarle also belonged to ALLEN Patrilineage 1, and was a fairly close cousin of the fathers of both William1789 (David1740 of BrunswickCo) and Robert1783 of CaswellCoNC (Robert1756 of HenricoCoVA). William the scholar appears on the same list as Field Jefferson the next year (1756) but then disappears, apparently forever: he is apparently the same William Allen who died in BuckinghamshireCo in 1803.

The only other William ALLEN in these parts appears in 1757, grouped in the household of Drury Allen, on the list of Lyddal Bacon, who is also the owner of 4 slaves. This Drury, a brother of

Robert¹⁷⁸³ of CaswellCoNC, is known to have had a son named William, whom I have estimated on other grounds was born about 1741: this William would therefore have just reached the tithables age of 16 in 1757. Because of his youth, though, this William doesn't figure to be any other sort of records until about 1762, when he would have reached his majority.

On 27Mar1761 William sold the 200a on the N side of Mountain Creek that he had obtained by agreement with John McDonel (referred to in this deed of sale as John McDaniel Jr) to James Crowder, and William acknowledged his deed at the next (April) court. The absence of a wife as co-grantor, co-signee on the deed, or of a dower release by William's wife, raises a serious question as to whether his first wife, Susannah, the daughter of Francis Wray, had died by then.

There is just one LunenburgCo tithables list for 1763, compiled by Lyddal Bacon, and it includes a William (but no Drury) Allen: this William is taxable for 1 slave and 50a. Although it's possible that this is the younger William Allen, son of Drury, left behind when Drury removed to NC, the coincidence of this William's owning 50a, the same quantity of land William¹⁷⁸⁹ purchased in 1760 from his father-in-law Francis Ray with no subsequent deed of sale, and also no felt need by the recording clerk to differentiate between Williams Sr and Jr—these circumstances are best explained by Lyddal Bacon expanding his tax district a bit to encompass William¹⁷⁸⁹.

Meanwhile, the TIMELINE shows an 8Sep1763 court order to pay William Allen as a witness in a suit involving William¹⁷⁸⁹'s sometime tax commissioner David Garland, could be either William, but the successful 9Nov1763 LunenburgCo suit by "William Allen Sr" vs. Joseph Coker, can only be the older William; the "Sr" suggests that there was also a younger William somewhere in greater LunenburgCo (recall that this is two years before its southern half was split off to make MecklenburgCo), though he may not have been well known as the "Sr" is omitted from other contemporary records. The William Allen who brought suit before the May1764 LunenburgCo court, which was dismissed, and the William Allen on the 23Jul1764 jury list were also probably William¹⁷⁸⁹, whom, the TIMELINE shows, had many times over the years been involved with court business before, whether as party to a cause or as a witness. It's highly unlikely that Drury's son William, who had just recently come of age, would have been involved in legal affairs or chosen for jury service, which was restricted to men of maturity and property.

There are no more evidential items for William ALLENs of Lunenburg or Mecklenburg counties until 1767, when there are several. At the May1767 court the unique earmark for William Allen's cattle was registered at the LunenburgCo court, and the name William Allen appears on an otherwise unidentifiable 1767 tithables list for the county. These items are somewhat equivocal but both most likely pertain to the William¹⁷⁸⁹ who continued to live, so far as we know, on the 50a north of the Meherrin River he acquired in 1760 from his father-in-law, Francis Ray.

Then, though, on 10Sep1767 we find one William Allen Jr patenting 262a in MecklenburgCo on Bever Pond Creek, with neighbors named Archibald Clark and somebody Gladdin, and less than a month later, on 5Oct1767 William Allen of LunenburgCo purchased another 200a track on Mountain Creek in MecklenburgCo from James Vaughn, also of LunenburgCo.

Although there are two Beaver Pond Creeks in the rump of LunenburgCo (after Mecklenburg was split off) and both are quite near to the land owned by Francis WRAY and his two ALLEN sons-in-law, the 262a tract patented by William Allen Jr was in MecklenburgCo, which also has a Beaver Pond Creek in its far southwestern corner. Virtually all of the original land patents for MecklenburgCo have been plotted, and the language in other such patents locates both Archibald Clark and Gladdin, uniquely in this same southwestern corner of MecklenburgCo.

Meanwhile, the Mountain Creek land was said to be on the Meherrin River below the mouth of the Island, adjacent to men named “Andrus” and “Arnol”. I suspect that this “Island” was the same one that gave the name to the Island Branch that demarcated William’s land north of the Meherrin, and the “Andrus” was “Andrews”, a next door neighbor to Francis WRAY also north of the river. Thus, this land on Mountain Creek was right across the river from the original Francis WRAY patent of which William at this point still owned 50a (the topo map shows that the mouth of Mountain Creek lay just downstream—a bit to the east—of the WRAY property).

This 200a tract at the confluence of Mountain Creek and the Meherrin River, which fell into MecklenburgCo as of 1765, was where William Allen of LunenburgCo would finally settle, and in his 4Feb1789 MecklenburgCo will, William would bequeath his only remaining real estate, “all my land on the west side of Mountain Creek”, to his then wife Ann.

William’s will indicates that his oldest son was Turner Allen (born abt 1750), who is listed first in the mixed sex list of his children by his first wife, and we find a Turner Allen witnessing William’s 5Oct1767 deed of purchase on Mountain Creek (under the common law minors of age 14 and up were considered valid witnesses, though one rarely finds witnesses younger than 16, the tithables age).

The 1768 tithables list of David Garland (whom many preceding LunenburgCo lists has shown was both a resident and a frequent list holder for the northeasternmost corner of LunenburgCo) includes an entry for “William Allen (Mecklenburg)”, probably because Turner Allen, to whom William sold his remaining 50a in LunenburgCo on Meherring River on 17Oct1769, was still under age in 1768, but he presumably came of age in 1769, and from that point forward Turner is the only ALLEN who appears in the records of LunenburgCo for many years.

From this we can reasonably conclude that William1789 removed from LunenburgCo, north of the Meherrin River, to Mountain Creek in MecklenburgCo, just across the river about 1767-1768.

Meanwhile, just on the strength of the evidence presented so far we can reasonably dismiss the other William Allen of MecklenburgCo, the one styled “Jr” who patented land in 1767 on Bever Pond Creek in the far SW corner of the county some 50 miles SW of Mountain Creek, as a different man. In those days of poor roads, 50 miles is more like 500 miles would be today. The regular series of annual [MecklenburgCo tax records that begin in 1782](#) make this differentiation pretty conclusive, as they continue to show William1789 of Mountain Creek on the same lists and in geographical proximity to his known sons and other known neighbors, while William Jr of BeaverPond Creek is always on different lists that cover the southern portion of the county (the latter also, from 1782, is taxed for just 100a of land—presumably he sold at least part of his patented land), while William1789 and/or one of his sons, are taxed for the 200a tract that he owned until his death in 1789.

Summary of the above associational evidence for REYNOLD ALLEN, Francis WRAY, William ALLEN, and David ALLEN

If the preceding is read through carefully and considered, it will be seen that the uniquely named but variously spelled REYNOLD ALLEN of NC, took up land in NC in four patents, the first two in 1752 in (then) GranvilleCo, on Mill Creek and Cabin Creek at Horse Ford, respectively, both of which he soon sold to Robert Abernathy. These two grants were probably contiguous, not just because they were purchased by the same grantee, but also because the second grant of 444a, on 27Oct1752, on Cabin Creek itself referenced “Allen’s corner”, or in other words, other land owned by the grantor.

Patent #3 on 25Oct1753 was for 450a on the S side of the Neuse River in (then) JohnstonCo, and #4 on 1Jan1763 was for 625a on Cedar Creek in (then) JohnstonCo adjacent to his own land—presumably to patent #3. Language in subsequent deeds locates part of REYNOLD’s land on

the S bank of the Neuse, thus the overall block of land must have lain adjacent to the mouth of Cedar Creek where it runs into the Neuse from the south.

The evidence referenced above shows that at various times, some of REYNOLD's land (or at least land adjacent to his) was owned by Francis WRAY of LunenburgCoVA and both of his ALLEN sons-in-law, William and David, who had originally been deeded lands by Francis WRAY back in LunenburgCoVA just a few years after REYNOLD sold the land he had inherited from his father, David. It is as though REYNOLD, having left his younger brothers William and David, and perhaps a sister or two as well, in the care of Francis WRAY, split for NC to seek greener pastures, or at least to acquire large quantities of cheap land, and, having done so, persuaded WRAY and his younger siblings to join him in his new settlement. However, his younger brothers, having come of age in their own ways, weren't content to just play second fiddle to their eldest brother, so William returned to his original area of settlement in LunenburgCo, while David moved on to South Carolina (as will be seen in the TIMELINE); in fact as a SpartanburgCoSC deed of 1789 suggests, William had apparently gone halves with his brother David on a patent for 640a there, but again bowed out when it came to actually relocating from LunenburgCo.

I would like to point out one other striking parallel between these people whom REYNOLD seems to have invited to be his neighbors in NC. The lands purchased by David Sr, Francis WRAY (at least his principal land on the Meherrin River), and REYNOLD ALLEN, all had frontage on both a major river and at its confluence with the mouth of a major creek. Land of this type typically floods in spring producing lush marsh meadows for livestock to graze on, and this may have been part of its attraction, but another factor may have been that such sites would have been the equivalent of commercial crossroads. A couple of the deeds involving Francis WRAY's land on the Meherrin River and Crooked Creek, show that he kept a blacksmith shop near the river and creek frontage of his property (I've located this shop on my deed plot of his land against a topo background), and it may well be that Francis taught blacksmithing skills to his two son-in-laws, William and David. Perhaps David Sr and his son REYNOLD was a blacksmith too, or some other kind of artisan, or otherwise they may have been petty merchants, and preferred, therefore, crossroads land well sited on the watercourses that constituted the principal roads in those days. If David Sr was a merchant, or at least a man of certain commercial affairs that might account for why he was involved in a legal case in which he was in possession of a large quantity of pork belonging to a third party that was in dispute.

The Onomastic (Child Naming) Evidence for David of BrunswickCoVA and sons

I turn next to an examination of the onomastic, child-naming, patterns in these families of David and sons. As it happens, a rough general pattern of child-naming was followed by the majority of colonial southern families with ultimate roots in the Chesapeake tidewater, and it behooves every serious genealogist to take this into consideration. The main feature of the pattern was that the first sons were named for their father's father, and their father (though not necessarily in that order).^[12] With this in mind, what do we find in the child-naming patterns of David of Brunswick and his three putative sons: REYNOLD, William, and David?

Sons of David³^[13] ALLEN Sr of BrunswickCoVA (d.1740)
by wife _?_ _?_: Reynold, William, David

Sons of Reynold⁴ ALLEN of IredellCoNC (d.say 1808)
by wife _?_ _?_: Young, Reynold

Sons of William⁴ ALLEN of MecklenburgCoVA (d.1789)
by 1st wife, Susannah WRAY: Turner, Drury, William, John, Darling, Young,
Pleasant, Meredith, Gray
by 2nd wife, Ann [SMITH?]: Robert, Joseph Smith, Pines
and Daughters
by 1st wife, Susannah WRAY: Martha, Dolley [Dorothy?]
+ Mary and Elizabeth (birth order not known)
by 2nd wife Ann [SMITH?]: Susanna, Nancy [Ann?], Fanny [Frances] Smith

Sons of David⁴ ALLEN of SpartanburgCoSC (d.abt 1803)
by 1st wife, _?_ WRAY: Reynold
by 2nd wife, Martha _?_: David, Young, Drury, Willis

Although none of these ALLENS, with the possible exception of the father, David³, whose wife and her antecedents are not known, seem to have followed the Chesapeake Tidewater Onomastic Pattern closely, and William in particular seems to have gone his own way in naming his children, I note that there are nonetheless many echoes of naming choices across this set of four conjugal families.

For one thing, all four of these ALLENS, father and sons, named either their second or their third son for themselves, although the case of David⁴ is ambiguous, as his second son also bore the name of his father's father, David³. Except for the displacement of the parentally named son from second to third in half of these cases, this does fulfill half of the southern tidewater pattern^[14].

The other half, naming first sons or second for their paternal grandfathers, seems to have been neglected by at least two of the sons (REYNOLD and William), though I suspect that it was observed by the father, David ALLEN³ (I'll address that possibility anon). Nonetheless, the fact that David⁴ named his first son Reynold, is consistent with the next mandate of the Tidewater pattern as well as the Scottish patter after parent and grandparent had been remembered: to name subsequent sons for paternal uncles. And, regardless of these standard patterns the mere fact that David named a first son Reynold, with only one REYNOLD ALLEN to be found in these parts, and "Reynold" notably scarce as a given name anyway, by itself adds to the strength of the circumstantial case for their being brothers.

¹² For further details, and statistics, see my paper, "[The Chesapeake Tidewater Onomastic Pattern](#)".

¹³ I've assigned generational numbers to David³ (David Sr) and his conjugal family based on my hypothetical reconstruction of the [Top of this Patrilineage 1 ALLEN Tree](#).

¹⁴ Naming the third son for father the rule for the other prevalent southern pattern—the [Scottish Onomastic pattern](#).

As for son William, it's certainly remarkable that despite having 12 sons himself, he named none of them for his putative father, David. And REYNOLD, whom we know virtually for certain to be the son of David, passed over his father's name too—although REYNOLD had only two surviving sons, and he may either have named a son who died in infancy for his father, or intended to name a subsequent son for him, if he had had one.

Otherwise, what is most striking here is that all three of these sons of David³ named sons Young, while two of them (William and David) also named sons Drury. As his posted descendancy shows, these names were also awarded by [Robert⁴ of Caswell](#) to his 1st and 4th sons, respectively, while his third son, like those of two of the four ALLENS above, was named Robert for himself. Thus, spreading this ALLEN Patrilineage 1 net wider to consider these ALLEN cousins who lived some 10-25 miles away (though think 100-250 miles to adjust for travel difficulties), might suggest at least a loose, but somewhat idiosyncratic extended family pattern.

In fact, one might well suppose that David³ of BrunswickCo might have been an uncle of Robert⁴ of Caswell, and a brother of Robert⁴'s father, Robert³, but first, there is no other evidence for this, and second, it is rendered unlikely by the fact that the descendants of Robert³ and his putative father Richard²^[15], and the descendants of both William⁴ and Reynold⁴ (and therefore also of David³ and his putative father Reynold²) fall on opposite sides of an important DNA watershed—though I am anticipating myself here—since the distinctive given name REYNOLD doesn't run at all in the Robert³ descendancy, nor, with a single exception—a late son of William⁴ (David³)—does the name Robert run in the Reynold²->David³ descendancy.

As for the names Young and Drury, the latter was an extremely popular given name in the south at this time, and the fact that it runs in these ALLEN families should be given no undue significance. There were, for example, 151 households headed by Drurys in North Carolina in the 1790 USCensus (unfortunately, we don't have the Virginia census for that year).

The given name, Young, though is a different matter. There were just 31 NC 1790 households headed by men with the given name Young, and that there were so many can be attributed to the fact that Young is nearly as common a surname in the US as ALLEN—also popular as a given name^[16]. Yet there were 335 NC households headed by men with the given name "Allen", but only a tenth as many "Young"s. There's a chance, at least, that Young originated in ALLEN Patrilineage 1 as a maternal surname right near the top of the tree, though at the very top, there is pretty good circumstantial evidence that the known wife, Sarah, of William¹ ALLEN, was Sarah HOLT.

Leveraging onomastics for a somewhat speculative leap: Sketching out the Top of the ALLEN Patrilineage 1 Tree

I think, in fact, that given the naming pattern that David Sr of BrunswickCoVA followed for his sons, REYNOLD, William, and David, that David Sr's father was probably the REYNOLD ALLEN who appears sporadically in the parish records of NewKentCoVA, first in St.Peter's Parish, then in St.Pauls which was spun off from the western section of St.Peters in 1704, and which became coextensive with HanoverCo when that was hived off of NewKent in 1721. I've included all the abstracts for REYNOLD ALLEN in these parish in the accompanying TIMELINE.

This hypothesis would have David Sr following the most common tidewater pattern with respect to naming the oldest son for his paternal grandfather, and if he named his third, rather than his second, son for himself, choosing William as the name for his second son, that may have been because

¹⁵ See my hypothetical reconstruction of the [Top of the ALLEN Patrilineage 1 Tree](#).

¹⁶ In fact, ALLEN was the 23rd most popular name in the 1964 Social Security data, while YOUNG was 24th.

he was following the Scottish Onomastic pattern that seems to have had some representation in the Chesapeake Tidewater regions; the Scottish pattern may have appealed because David's wife had that background.

Be that as it may, I've constructed this [Top of the \(Patrilineage 1\) ALLEN Tree](#) as a working hypothesis regarding the relationships between the earliest known Virginia patriarchs of this patrilineage. I've put this together in light of all of the evidence that has been dug up on these early ALLENs, which is, I think, all that is ever likely to be found. For the key Virginia counties of NewKent and Hanover, practically the only records that survive are the land patents and a few parish vestry books of Virginia's established Anglican Church.

At the very top of the tree, I've placed the William (say 1625 - say 1685) who married Sarah [HOLT?], because Mr. Jim Farmer has made a good case that this earliest William ALLEN of these parts was the father of the Richard ALLEN who has long been thought to be a member of ALLEN Patrilineage 1, and since the 1689 processioning records for St.Peter's Parish show two tracts for each of two ALLENs—two for Richard Allen, and two for Renall Allen (and note the familiar phonetic variant)—it seems equally likely that these were both sons of this first William.

I've also hypothesized that the records for REYNOLD's in the St.Peters and the St.Pauls vestry books pertain to two different men, father and son. That is, I'm guessing here that the Rennold Allen who appears last, in the 11Apr1710 road order for St.Paul's Parish, was the son of the Renall ALLEN who appears in two processioning records for St.Peter's Parish in 1689, and thus the brother of David of BrunswickCoVA, leaving the identity of the Reynold ALLEN who appears on the 1704 quit rent rolls as the owner of 205a in NewKentCo in abeyance—though I would guess that this was more likely REYNOLD the father. The Renall ALLEN whose lands were processioned in 1689 must have been getting on in 1710 and would have been somewhat less likely to be appointed to a road maintenance gang (older men could apply for exemption after the age of 50 or so) than a son who would have been eligible for this duty as young as age 16.

I also note that, since son David closely followed at least one of the standard onomastic patterns of the region (the Scottish) and approximated the most common one (the Chesapeake Tidewater pattern), it's likely that his putative father, REYNOLD, did too, and if he followed the latter pattern, which seems the more probable, there would be roughly a 60% chance that he would have named one of his first two sons Reynold, for himself, with the Richard who married Sarah Walker, named for his own father, and David of BrunswickCoVA, his third son, likely named for an older brother.

This hypothesis of two REYNOLDS, father and son, begs the question: what became of this hypothetical son Reynold after his last appearance in the St.Paul's vestry book in 1710? However, this question would still arise if he was the same man whose lands were processioned in 1689. The St.Pauls vestry book records continue on from 1710, but no more REYNOLDS appear in the index of the transcribed book, and from my page by page scan of those records through about 1740, there appear to be no detailed processioning records that name all the individuals involved. I also kept an eye out for the names of the 1710 Rennold Allen's fellow road gang appointees, with the hope of localizing them along with this (or these) REYNOLD(s) by means of the plotted land patents for NewKent, Hanover, and Henrico counties, where these Patrilineage 1 ALLENs spread out in subsequent generations, but the trail of these first two REYNOLDS (if they are two) peters out after 1710.

I've flagged the more speculative elements in [the Top of the Tree section](#) by shadowing the links in a color called "tomato". As noted above, I've provisionally accepted Farmer's hypotheses about the first William and his wife Sarah (likely HOLT), being the parents of the prominent Richard of NewKentCo who died in 1725, which is based on the same sort of land patent analysis that I have indulged extensively in myself, and I've likewise postulated two other ALLENs besides David as the

sons of the senior REYNOLD, though I have not presented my grounds for these attributions in this paper. Perhaps that will be the subject of one further paper. What I can say now, though, is that this arrangement is in part predicated on the specific DNA results, which I will address in the next section. I have some ideas about where the other two major patriarchs, Robert of HenricoCoVA, and William of AlbemarleCoVA, fit in, based largely on the onomastics of the case, but with practically no evidence to go on, I'm unable to make a convincing case can be made for their connections. It would be desirable, of course, to make them sons of the Richard who died in 1725, just as it has been generally assumed that the Richard Jr of HanoverCo was the senior Richard's son, but I think it far more likely that Richard Jr was the son of the senior Reynold instead.

The DNA Evidence

Since I've broached the matter of the DNA, I will address that subject now with respect to its evidential implications.

I have been speaking freely and unequivocally throughout about the cousinship of the descendants of David ALLEN Sr of BrunswickCo through his sons [Reynold of IredellCoNC](#) and [William of MecklenburgCoVA](#), who are the principal subjects of this report. I've also spoken in passing of the descendants of Robert1, or more particularly of his son [Robert2 of CaswellCoNC](#) and his sons, and of the sons of [William ALLEN of Albemarle](#), and noted that descendants of both the Robert and the William of Albemarle line were co-residents for a time of eastern LunenburgCoVA.

The patrilineage descendants of all of these ALLEN patriarchs are shown incontrovertibly to be patrilineal cousins by the fact that the ySTR DNA of so many of their genealogically established descendants matches the DNA pattern of ALLEN Patrilineage 1. The evidence for this is presented on [the ALLEN Patrilineage 1 pages](#).

Furthermore, the 20 or so 111-marker DNA haplotypes of members of the ALLEN Patrilineage 1 project are divided into two almost equal groups according to whether they carry the DYS504=16 mutation, or the unmutated DYS504=17 value. And since all of the members who have established descents from either of the sons of David ALLEN Sr of BrunswickCo, namely REYNOLD ALLEN of IredellCoNC and William ALLEN of MecklenburgCoVA have the DYS504=16 mutation, while all the known (and suspected) descendants of either the Robert ALLEN of HenricoCoVA line or of the William ALLEN of AlbemarleCoVA line do not have this mutation, this by itself constitutes strong independent evidence that the sons of David Sr are linked by a common genetic inheritance not shared by any of the other members of this ALLEN patrilineage.

Which is to say that, in light of the virtually exhaustive genealogical research that has been done on the earliest generations of these ALLENs, the REYNOLD ALLEN who is known to have been the son of David Sr, and the William ALLEN of MecklenburgCoVA who is known to have been the son-in-law of Francis WRAY, born within a few years of each other and both early residents of the portion of Brunswick which became the easternmost portion of LunenburgCo in 1746, were almost certainly brothers. And that makes the David ALLEN Sr who was also a son-in-law of Francis WRAY a third brother by genealogical inference, though we have as yet been unable to identify and test any of David's patrilineal descendants to confirm this via their DNA. Conversely, any unconnected ALLENs of Patrilineage 1 who have the mutation DYS504=16 are candidates to be descendants of this first David Sr (David1740 of BrunswickCoVA), while those who lack the mutation are not, and that is something. The vast majority of ALLENs who have this mutation, though, figure to descend from William of Mecklenburg through one of his 12—yes 12!—sons.

**Synopsis of the key conclusions and evidence
underlying my reconstruction of the family of David1740 of BrunswickCoVA**

The Runall Alling [REYNOLD ALLEN] who sold 100a of land in BrunswickCoVA on the north side of the Roanoke River on 1Aug1745 was the oldest son of the David Allen who purchased that land on 7Jan1732/3, and Runall came by this land through intestate inheritance.

William ALLEN and David ALLEN who were deeded land by Francis RAY/WRAY in 1751/2 in LunenburgCoVA (created from BrunswickCo in 1746), and were each called his “son-in-law” in their deeds, were brothers who probably became sons-in-law because they married daughters of Francis WRAY. This same William and David ALLEN were also brothers of REYNOLD ALLEN, and thus sons of David ALLEN Sr of BrunswickCoVA because:

(1) Both William and David, as well as Francis WRAY, for a time owned land adjacent each other in LunenburgCoVA and later adjacent to REYNOLD ALLEN in JohnstonCoNC, and there are several deeds that link William, David, and Francis, of NC, that point back to their old stomping grounds in LunenburgCoVA;

(2) Although there are no such explicit linkages of REYNOLD ALLEN of NC to the Runall Alling who sold his father, David’s, land in 1745 in a portion of BrunswickCo that was to become LunenburgCo the next year, there are many deeds and land grants for REYNOLD ALLEN in NC and virtually all are signed with widely varying spellings of which “Runall” is far more typical than “Reynold”. Also, all are signed with the capital letter “A” as mark, including several NC land grants with original signatures of which I have digitized samples. The deeds so signed include the 1Aug1745 paired deeds of lease and release signed by “Runall [mark “A”] Alling” as grantor.

(3) As discussed in [the sections on onomastics \(child-naming patterns\) above](#), there are many onomastic parallels, both in the patterning and in the use of characteristic names, among these three putative ALLEN brothers (Reynold, David, and William), and their putative common father David, which conform at least loosely to the most common onomastic (child-naming) pattern for tidewater and piedmont Virginia;

(4) The extant records of early colonial Virginia and North Carolina have been almost exhaustively trolled for ALLENs, and all the records that pertain to REYNOLD ALLENs (of any phonetic spelling) appear to pertain to either ancestors or descendants of David1740 ALLEN of BrunswickCoVA, as outlined in this analytical report plus its supporting evidence, and as reflected in the carefully vetted lineages posted on [the ALLEN Patrilineage 1 Project Descendancies page](#);

(5) Genealogically well-authenticated descendants of REYNOLD and William, the sons of David1740, share a mutation (DYS504=16) that none of the known descendants of the other early ALLEN patriarchs of Patrilineage 1 possess, though, unfortunately, we have as yet no Y-Chromosome DNA samples from descendants of the third brother, David.