
DATE: 24 November 2025
REPORT TO: File
SUBJECT: **Willis Ralls (ca. 1780/81 – 1848) vs Willis Rawls (1774 – 1856/57)**

Willis Ralls (ca. 1780/81 – 1848) versus Willis Rawls (1774 – 1856/57)

OBJECTIVE

Was the Willis Rawls of Craven County, NC who posted a marriage bond to marry Nancy West, 17 February 1799 the same Willis who resided in Hopkins County, KY in 1806?

Limitations

- This research project was conducted during the fall Research Like a Pro class, and
- The research for this session was confined to records that can be obtained online.

Background Information

Since 1976 there has been an incorrect link between Willis Ralls, father of Susannah, William B., Sarah, Nathaniel and Charles M. Ralls, to Nancy West. In an unpublished manuscript, "A Man Called Ralls", the author, Billy D. Ralls speculated that our ancestor Willis was the one who married Nancy West.¹ This hypothesis was just that, and Billy never intended the linkage to be factual. Unfortunately, his in-progress manuscript was condensed and inserted into the published book, "The Unfinished Story of North Howard County."²

Genealogical Research Abstract

A comprehensive review of six documentary comparison tables (1799–1856) demonstrates conclusively that *Willis Ralls* of Kentucky and Tennessee and *Willis Rawls* of Craven County, North Carolina, were **two distinct men** whose lives overlapped but never intersected geographically or administratively, see Appendix for Tables 1-6. In Craven County, Rawls married Nancy West in

¹ Billy D. Ralls, *A Man Called Ralls, A Brief History of an American Family on the Western Frontier* (Houston, Texas: Unpublished manuscript).

² Nadia Tyndall & Umpire High School, *The Unfinished story of North Howard County*, (Umpire, Ark: North Howard County Youth Group for Historical Research, 1982).

1799, acquired land on the Neuse River, and appeared regularly in tax rolls, estate files, and bastardy bonds through 1856; in 1850 he was enumerated as a seventy-six-year-old wheelwright living with Henry Smithwick, his presumed son-in-law, and his death occurred about early 1857. Meanwhile, Ralls first appeared in Kentucky by 1806 as a chain carrier with William Owen, was listed in Hopkins and Livingston County tax rolls and censuses through 1820, and by 1824 had settled in Obion County, Tennessee, where he was documented on juries, tax lists, and court minutes until 1849, when he died a pauper. Census, court, and land evidence across all tables show simultaneous residence in separate jurisdictions, consistent local continuity, and differing associates, occupations, and death dates. Variations in surname spelling (Ralls, Rawls, Rowles, Rolls, Raul) are explained by clerical inconsistency rather than identity overlap. Using genealogical correlation standards, the total evidence supports the conclusion that *Willis Ralls of Kentucky and Tennessee* and *Willis Rawls of North Carolina* were unrelated contemporaries sharing a phonetic surname.

Table 1.
Research Summary Table – Tables are found in Appendix

Time Period / Table	Willis Ralls (Kentucky → Tennessee)	Willis Rawls (North Carolina)	Analysis / Conclusion
1800 – 1850 (Table 1 – Census’ Comparison)	Present in KY/TN censuses 1810–1840; deceased by 1850.	Present in NC censuses 1800, 1830, 1840, 1850.	Federal censuses corroborate two distinct households and life spans.
1799 – 1810 (Table 2)	Appears in Hopkins Co., KY by 1806; land surveyor with William Owen; taxed 1807–1808; enumerated 1810 KY census.	Married Nancy West (1799); frequent purchaser in Craven Co. estates; landholder on Neuse River; in 1800 census.	Two men active concurrently—one in KY, one in NC.
1811 – 1820 (Table 3)	Taxed in Hopkins & Livingston Cos.; in 1820 census (Livingston Co.).	Held land entries (1811); appeared in tax rolls, estate division of West family, bastardy bonds; no 1820 census record (lost).	Simultaneous records in different states confirm separate identities.
1821 – 1830 (Table 4)	Residing in Obion Co., TN (1824–1830); juror, road overseer, taxpayer, deed holder.	Continued Craven Co. transactions with wife Nancy; land and court actions 1821–1828; in 1830 NC census.	Distinct local continuity—Ralls established in TN while Rawls stayed in NC.
1831 – 1840 (Table 5)	Regularly taxed in Obion Co.; listed voter (1839); in 1840 TN census.	Ongoing estate dealings and land sales; in 1840 NC census.	Parallel lifespans and independent residences.

Time Period / Table	Willis Ralls (Kentucky → Tennessee)	Willis Rawls (North Carolina)	Analysis / Conclusion
1841 – 1856 (Table 6)	Documented pauper in Obion Co. court minutes 1846–1849; died & buried 1849.	Alive through 1856 poor-house reports; in 1850 census age 76 (wheelwright); last noted 1857.	Different death dates and jurisdictions; not the same man.

Conclusion

1. Distinct Geographic and Social Contexts

- **Willis Ralls** lived primarily in **Kentucky and Tennessee**, beginning in Hopkins Co., KY by **1806**, then Livingston Co., KY (1817–21), and finally **Obion Co., TN** until his death in **late 1848**
- **Willis Rawls** lived exclusively in **Craven Co., North Carolina**, from at least **1799** until his death in **1856–57**
 - All his property, legal, and tax records occur in Craven County.
 - No evidence places him outside eastern North Carolina.

These two geographic spheres—western KY/TN vs. coastal NC—are hundreds of miles apart, with no overlap or migration evidence connecting them.

2. Spouses and Family Groups

- **Willis Ralls** married **Priscilla (unknown)** before 1800; their children include **Susannah, William B., Sarah, Margaret, Nathaniel, and Charles M. Ralls**, many later found in **Arkansas**
- **Willis Rawls** married **Nancy West** in **1799 Craven Co., NC**, daughter of John West; his only clearly documented child is **Willis J. Rawls**
 - Nancy West and her West family remain localized in Craven Co., NC.

No names, associates, or migration patterns overlap between these family groups.

3. Distinct Records and Timelines

- **Ralls** appears on **Hopkins Co., KY tax rolls (1806–16)** and **Obion Co., TN records (1822–48)**, with associations to **William Owen** and **the Cook family**.
- **Rawls** appears continuously in **Craven Co. NC** deeds, tax lists, court minutes, and bastardy bonds from **1799 through the 1850s**—often associated with **the West, Brinson, and Cuthrell families**.
- Both men were living concurrently (e.g., Ralls in Obion Co., TN in 1824 and Rawls in Craven Co., NC in 1824).

4. Variant Spellings Do Not Indicate Identity

Variant spellings (Ralls, Rawls, Rolls, Rowles, Rals). This orthographic overlap is typical of early recordkeeping and does not imply the same person. Each man's records form a coherent, localized identity across decades, with consistent associates and locations.

5. Conclusion (per Genealogical Proof Standard)

After exhaustive correlation of all available evidence—geographic, chronological, familial, and social—the records for **Willis Ralls (1775–1848)** of **Kentucky/Tennessee** and **Willis Rawls (1774–1857)** of **Craven County, North Carolina** clearly document **two separate men**.

No evidence of shared identity, migration linkage, or conflation is found.

Willis Ralls and Willis Rawls are not the same people.

Note

ChatGPT 5.0 was utilized in creating this report. After uploading a research file for both Willis Ralls and Willis Rawls:

David A. Ralls, “Willis¹ Ralls (ca. 1780/81 – 1848); Spouse: Priscilla Unknown: Research Notes,” a working file last updated 12 September 2024. pp. 1 – 40.

David A. Ralls, “Willis Rawls (1774 – bet. Dec 1856 – Mar 1857); Spouse: Nancy West (? – ?): Research Notes,” a working file last updated 11 October 2025, pp. 1– 26.

ChatGPT 5.0 was asked “Using genealogy standards, compare Willis Ralls and Willis Rawls and determine if they are the same person.

Next, six tables were created. Table One contained census' from 1800 to 1850 and the remaining five tables were events that occurred in 10-year increments. These six tables were summarized by ChatGPT and incorporated into the report.

APPENDIX

Table 1.

Willis Ralls vs Willis Rawls U.S. census Comparison		
Date	Willis Ralls of Hopkins Co., KY	Willis Rawls of Craven Co., NC
1800 U.S. census	Not Found	Craven Co., NC — Willis Rawls listed as a male 16 thru 25 residing with a female 16 thru 25 years old and a male and female each under 10 years old. ^a
1810 U.S. census	Hopkins Co., KY — Willis Rowles [Ralls] is listed as a male 26 — 44. Listed in his household are 2 males under 10, 1 male 10 — 15, 2 females under 10 and 1 female 10 — 15. ^b	Census record lost for Craven Co., NC.
1820 U.S. census	Salem, Livingston Co., KY — Willis Rools [Ralls] is listed as 1 male 26-44. Listed in his household are 1 male under 10, 1 male 10-15, 1 male 16-18, 1 male 16-25, 2 females 10-15, 1 female 45 and up. ^c	Willis Rawls is missing from the 1820 U.S. census, Craven Co., NC.
1830 U.S. census	Obion Co., TN — Willis Ralls is listed as 1 Male age 40 – 50. Listed in his household are 1 male 10 -15, 1 female 40 – 50, and 1 female 15 – 20. ^d	Craven Co., NC — Willes Ralls [Willis Rawls] is listed as a male 60 to 69 years old. Listed in his household are a total of 11 individuals, including himself. ^e
1840 U.S. census	Obion Co., TN — Willis Ralls is listed as Male age 60 – 70. Listed in his household are 1 Male 5 – 10, 1 Male under 5, 1 Female 70 – 80, 1 female 20 -30, 1 Female under 5. Total in family 6. ^f	Craven Co., NC — Willis Raul [Rawls] is listed as a male 60 to 69 years old. Listed in his household are a total of 4 individuals, including himself. ^g
1850 U.S. census	Obion Co., TN — Deceased ^h	Craven Co., NC — Willis Rawls, age 76, wheelwright, is living in the household of Henry Smithwick, his presumed son-in-law. ⁱ
<p>a. 1800 U.S. Census, Craven County, North Carolina, (stamped), p.265 (stamped), line 2, Willis Rawls household; database with images, "United States Census, 1800," <i>FamilySearch</i> (https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/collection/1804228 : accessed 4 September 2025), image 4 of 44.</p> <p>b. 1810 U.S. census, Madisonville, Hopkins County, Kentucky, p. 371 (stamped at top right), line 46, Willis Rowles; database with images, "United States Census, 1810," <i>FamilySearch</i> (https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/collection/1803765 : accessed 10 July 2023), image 2 of 12.</p> <p>c. 1820 U. S. census, Salem, Livingston County, Kentucky, p. 12 (penned), line 30, Willis Rools; database with images, "United States Census, 1820," <i>FamilySearch</i> (https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/collection/1803955 : accessed 16 July 2023), image 19 of 21.</p> <p>d. 1830 U. S. census, Obion County, Tennessee, p. 163 (penned), line 20, Willis Ralls; database with images, "United States Census, 1830," <i>FamilySearch</i> (https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/collection/1803958 : 18 July 2023), image 17 of 31.</p> <p>e. 1830 U.S. census, Craven County, North Carolina, population schedule, [North side of Neuse River], p. 164, line 13, Willis Ralls; database with images, "United States Census, 1830," <i>FamilySearch</i> (https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/collection/1803958 : accessed 8 September 2025), image 134 of 141.</p>		

- f. 1840 U. S. census, Obion County, Tennessee, p. 135 (stamped), line 9, Willis Rolls; database with images, "United States Census, 1840," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/collection/1786457> : 18 July 2023), image 23 of 55.
- g. 1840 U.S. census, Craven County, North Carolina, population schedule, North Side Neuse River, p. 28, line 22, Willis Raul; database with images, "United States Census, 1840," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/collection/1786457> : accessed 8 September 2025), image 6 of 48.
- h. "Obion County, Tennessee, County Court minutes, 1824-1890," August 1845 – February 1849, page 412, January Session, Monday, 1st, 1849, Ordered by the Court that B. E. P. Matthews be allowed the sum of six dollars for burying Willis Ralls a pauper; imaged *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QHV-D3CH-C978-G?i=528&cat=430972> : accessed 25 September 2022) image 529 of 607; citing *Obion County, Tennessee, County Court minutes, 1824-1890*, Roll 27, Nashville, TN: Tennessee State Library and Archives, Department of State, 1976.
- i. 1850 U.S. census, Craven County, North Carolina, population schedule, p. 348 (stamped), dwelling 1316, family 1316, Willis Rawls residing in Henry Smithwick household; database with images, "United States Census, 1850," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/collection/1401638> : accessed 8 September 2025), image 83 of 146.

Willis Ralls

- First appeared in **1810 Hopkins Co., KY** as "Willis Rowles."
- Found in **1820 Livingston Co., KY** as "Willis Rools."
- Moved to **Obion Co., TN** by 1830 and 1840.
- Not recorded on the 1850 census, with court records showing he was **buried as a pauper in Obion Co., TN, in 1849.**

Willis Rawls

- Found earlier, in **1800, Craven Co., NC**, as a young head of household.
- Missing in 1810 (records lost for Craven Co., NC.)
- Not found in the 1820 census.
- In **1830 and 1840 Craven Co., NC.**
- In **1850 Craven Co., NC**, listed as **age 76, a wheelwright**, living with Henry Smithwick, his presumed son-in-law.

Key Points:

- Preliminary research shows there were **two distinct men**: one who migrated west (Ralls → KY → TN) and one who stayed in North Carolina (Rawls).
- Census transcriptions often varied the spelling of surnames (Rools, Rowles, Raul, Rolls, etc.).

Table 2.

Willis Ralls vs Willis Rawls 1799 to 1810		
Date	Willis Ralls of Hopkins Co., KY	Willis Rawls of Craven Co., NC
1799 Feb 17		Craven Co., NC — Willis Ralls and Zebedee Ralls post a marriage Bond for his marriage to Nancy West. ^a
1799 Sep 23		Craven Co., NC — Willis Ralls purchases at the Estate sale of Benjamin Sparrow. ^b
1800 U.S. census	Not Found	Craven Co., NC — Willis Rawls listed as a male 16 thru 25 residing with a female 16 thru 25 years old and a male and female each under 10 years old. ^c
1803 Dec 3		Craven Co., NC — Willis Rawls is listed twice as a purchaser at the Estate sale James Fanning. ^d
1805 May 4		Craven Co., NC — Willis Rauls purchases 112 acres from Samuel Brothers. ^e
1806 Jul 25	Hopkins Co., KY — Willis Rolls and William Owen, Chain Carriers for Jesse Walker assignee of William French assignee of Justinian Cartwright assignee of Charles Kelly, land survey number 5352. ^f	
1806 Nov 11	Hopkins Co., KY — Willis Rolls and John McCormack, Chain Carriers. William Owen Marker. William Owen assignee of Justinian Cartwright assignee of Jeremiah Holcomb, land survey 5341. ^g	
1806 Nov 11	Hopkins Co., KY — Willis Rolls and John McCormack, Chain Carriers. William Owen Marker. John McCormack, assignee of William Owen assignee of Justinian Cartwright assignee of Jeremiah Holcomb, land survey 5342. ^h	
1807 Jun23	Hopkins Co., KY — William Rolls is living on 100 acres of 3rd rate land that was entered and surveyed by William Owen. In his household there is one white male above 21 and he has one horse. ⁱ	
1808 Jan 27		Craven Co., NC — Willis Rawls is listed as a purchaser at the Estate of Charles Williams. ^j
1808 Jun 4	Hopkins Co., KY — Willis Rowles is living on 100 acres of 3rd rate land that was entered and surveyed by William	

	Owen. In his household there is one white male above 21 and he has three horses. ^k	
1808 Jun 4	Hopkins Co., KY — Willis Rowles appears as a witness on the land transaction between William Owen(s) and John McCormack. Also appearing as a witness were John Robertson and Isaac Matthews. ^l	
1810 U.S. census	Hopkins Co., KY — Willis Rowles [Ralls] is listed as a male 26 — 44. Listed in his household are 2 males under 10, 1 male 10 — 15, 2 females under 10 and 1 female 10 — 15. ^m	Census record lost for Craven Co., NC.
<p>a. Craven County, North Carolina, Marriage Licenses 1782-1865, Vol. M-R, Ralls-West, 2 May 1799; "North Carolina, County Marriages, 1762-2011," database with images, <i>FamilySearch</i> (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:939N-F391-87 : viewed 28 August 2025); citing FSL Image Group Number (DGS) 4,640,860, image 1535 of 2118.</p> <p>b. Craven County, North Carolina, Estates records Snead, John - Sparrow, Gideon, Sparrow, Benjamin Estate (1799); "North Carolina, Estate Files, 1663-1979," database with images, <i>FamilySearch</i> (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9YFZ-W6M : accessed 8 October 2025); citing FSL Image Group Number (DGS) 5,123,390, image 808 of 1,880.</p> <p>c. 1800 U.S. Census, Craven County, North Carolina, (stamped), p.265 (stamped), line 2, Willis Rawls household; database with images, "United States Census, 1800," <i>FamilySearch</i> (https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/collection/1804228 : accessed 4 September 2025), image 4 of 44.</p> <p>d. Craven County, North Carolina, Estates records Even, William - Fisher, Daniel, Fanning, James (1805, 1828); "North Carolina, Estate Files, 1663-1979," database with images, <i>FamilySearch</i> (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33SQ-GYFH-FY3 : viewed 5 October 2025); citing FSL Image Group Number (DGS) 5,123,347, image 637 of 1,556.</p> <p>e. Craven County, North Carolina, Record of Deeds, No. 44, 1824-1826, pp. 65-66, Samuel Brothers to Willis Rauls; "Craven County, North Carolina, Deeds 1824 – 1826", digital images, <i>FamilySearch</i> (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-898M-Y3H3 : viewed 3 September 2025; citing FSL, Image Group Number (DGS) 7,513,351, images 91-92 of 549.</p> <p>f. Survey No. 5352, Jesse Walker, 200 acres, 25 July 1806; South of the Green River Series, Non-Military Registers and Land Records; Kentucky Land Office, Kentucky Department of Libraries and Archives, Public Records Division, Frankfort, KY.</p> <p>g. Survey No. 5341, William Owen, 150 acres, 11 November 1806; South of the Green River Series, Non-Military Registers and Land Records; Kentucky Land Office, Kentucky Department of Libraries and Archives, Public Records Division, Frankfort, KY.</p> <p>h. Grant No. 5342, John McCormack, 50 acres, 11 November 1806; South of the Green River Series, Non-Military Registers and Land Records; Kentucky Land Office, Kentucky Department of Libraries and Archives, Public Records Division, Frankfort, KY.</p> <p>i. "Tax books 1807-1808, 1811-1817, 1819-1830, 1833, 1835, 1837-1844," digital images, <i>FamilySearch</i> (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS3J-CSH3-3?cat=155988&i=21 : 21 July 2023), 1807 Tax Roll, Page 16, entry for William Rolls, 23 June 1807, image 22 of 1257; citing <i>Tax books, 1807-1875</i>, Hopkins County (Kentucky), Tax Assessor, Kentucky State Historical Society (Frankfort, Kentucky), Roll No. 008045.</p> <p>j. Craven County, North Carolina, Estates records Wiggins, Violet Ann - Williams, William F., Williams, Charles Estate (1807); "North Carolina, Estate Files, 1663-1979," database with images, <i>FamilySearch</i> (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33SQ-GYFC-R3Y : accessed 8 October 2025); citing FSL Image Group Number (DGS) 5,123,405, image 349 of 1,624.</p>		

- k. "Tax books 1807-1808, 1811-1817, 1819-1830, 1833, 1835, 1837-1844," digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS3J-CSW5-4?cat=155988&i=42> : 21 July 2023), 1808 Tax Roll, page 15, entry for William Rowls, 4 June 1808, image 43 of 1257; citing *Tax books, 1807-1875*, Hopkins County (Kentucky), Tax Assessor, Kentucky State Historical Society (Frankfort, Kentucky), Roll No. 008045.
- l. Hopkins, Kentucky, "Clerk of the County Court, Deeds, v. 1, 1807-1816," pages 14-16, John McCormack, 23 June 1808; digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSKX-M9VS-3?cat=115197&i=13> : accessed 19 September 2024), image 14 of 268; FHL microfilm 551,682, Image Group (DGS) 8,151,047.
- m. 1810 U.S. census, Madisonville, Hopkins County, Kentucky, p. 371 (stamped at top right), line 46, Willis Rowles; database with images, "United States Census, 1810," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/collection/1803765> : accessed 10 July 2023), image 2 of 12.

Table 2 – 1799 to 1810

- **Rawls (Craven Co., NC):** Married Nancy West in 1799, appears in estate and deed records, and owned land on the Neuse River.
- **Ralls (Hopkins Co., KY):** By 1806, associated with William Owen in land surveys; recorded in local tax and deed documents through 1810.

Conclusion: While Rawls was firmly rooted in North Carolina, Ralls was already in Kentucky by 1806, showing two concurrent adult men.

Table 3.

Willis Ralls vs Willis Rawls 1811 to 1820		
Date	Willis Ralls of Hopkins Co., KY	Willis Rawls of Craven Co., NC
1811 Jan 4		Craven Co., NC — Willis Ralls enters and claims 100 acres of land lying on the north side of the Neuse River on the head of Goose Creek. ^a
1811 Jan 4		Craven Co., NC — Willis Ralls enters and claims 20 acres of land lying on the north side of the Neuse River joining said Ralls own lines & John Lathams & Henry Tillmans & Wm Catons lines. ^b
1814	Hopkins Co., KY — Willis Rolls, in his household there is one white male above 21 and he has two horses valued at \$80. ^c	
1815		Craven Co., NC — Willis Rawls, residing in Capt. William B. Perkins District is listed as 1 Free Poll, 112 acres valued at \$150. ^d
1815	Hopkins Co., KY — Willis Rowles, in his household there is one white male above 21 and he has three horses valued at \$100. He is a member of Captain Henry's District. ^e	
1816	Hopkins Co., KY — Willis Rolls, in his household there is one white male above 21 and he has two horses valued at \$40. He is a member of Captain Henry's Company, [76th Regiment]. ^f	
1816 Nov 13		Craven Co., NC — Adir Squires, Willis Rawls and Benjamin Tillman post a one-hundred-pound Bastardy Bond, for Adir Squires a single woman who is charged “with being big with child.” Adir refuses to name the father. Willis Rawls could write his name. ^g
1817	Livingston Co., KY — Willis Rawls, in his household there is one Poll and two horses valued at \$60. ^h	
1817 Apr 2		Craven Co., NC — Willis Rawls appears in the estate papers of John West who died between 10 December 1816 and 10 March 1817. ⁱ
1818	Livingston Co., KY — Willis Rawls, in his household there is one Poll and two horses valued at \$70. ^j	
1819	Livingston Co., KY — Willis Rolls, in his household there is one Poll and two horses valued at \$100. ^k	

1819 May 4		Craven Co., NC — 809 acres of land valued at \$550 is partitioned for the three Heirs at Law: William Lee and Rhoda (West) his wife, John Everton and Mary (West) his wife, and Willis Rawls and Nancy (West) his wife. ^l
1819 Jun 15		Craven Co., NC — A bond from Willis Rawls, Enoch Gatlin, and Daniel Brinson to the Chairman of the Court was proved by Benj: Brinson. ^m
1820	Livingston Co., KY — William Ralls, in his household there is one Poll and two horses value at \$120. ⁿ	
1820 Mar 8-25		Craven Co., NC — Willis Rawls pays a total of \$11 for the Commissioners' work in dividing the 809 acres. ^o
1820 May 26		Craven Co., NC — Willis Rawls is ordered to execute a warrant for Mary Skeel to appear and answer the charges that she is with child, and the child will be a bastard. ^p
1820 U.S. census	Salem, Livingston Co., KY — Willis Rools [Ralls] is listed as 1 male 26-44. Listed in his household are 1 male under 10, 1 male 10-15, 1 male 16-18, 1 male 16-25, 2 females 10-15, 1 female 45 and up. ^q	Willis Rawls is missing from the 1820 U.S. census, Craven Co., NC.
<p>a. Grants, surveys, and land entries 1716–1778, A–W, Also Land Entries 1809–1813, p. 129, Entry No. 378, Willis Ralls; “Grants, surveys, and land entries 1716–1778 and 1809–1813,” digital images, <i>FamilySearch</i> (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q57-L98M-V3K5 : accessed 10 September 2025); citing FSL Image Group Number (DGS) 7,513,305, image 252 of 506.</p> <p>b. Grants, surveys, and land entries 1716–1778, A–W, Also Land Entries 1809–1813, p. 129, Entry No. 379, Willis Ralls; “Grants, surveys, and land entries 1716–1778 and 1809–1813,” digital images, <i>FamilySearch</i> (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q57-L98M-V3K5 : accessed 10 September 2025); citing FSL Image Group Number (DGS) 7,513,305, image 252 of 506.</p> <p>c. “Tax books 1807-1808, 1811-1817, 1819-1830, 1833, 1835, 1837-1844,” digital images, <i>FamilySearch</i> (https://familysearch.org : 21 July 2023), 1814 Tax Roll, page 16, entry for Willis Ralls, image 124 of 1257; citing <i>Tax books, 1807-1875</i>, Hopkins County (Kentucky), Tax Assessor, Kentucky State Historical Society (Frankfort, Kentucky), Roll No. 008045; FHL microfilm 8,045.</p> <p>d. Craven County, North Carolina, 1815 Tax Roll, Captain William B. Perkins District, Willis Rawls entry, p. 3; “State Archives of North Carolina, Tax Lists and Records,” imaged, <i>North Carolina Digital Collections</i> (https://digital.ncdcr.gov/ : accessed 30 September 2025) > Tax Lists and Records > Tax Lists, Craven County, 1815; citing State Archives of North Carolina, TreasurersComptrollers_TaxLists_Box3_Craven_1815.</p> <p>e. “Tax books 1807-1808, 1811-1817, 1819-1830, 1833, 1835, 1837-1844,” digital images, <i>FamilySearch</i> (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS3J-CSWG-P?cat=155988&i=150 : 21 July 2023), 1815 Tax Roll, page 20, entry for Willis Rowles, image 151 of 1257; citing <i>Tax books, 1807-1875</i>, Hopkins County (Kentucky), Tax Assessor, Kentucky State Historical Society (Frankfort, Kentucky), Roll No. 008045; FHL microfilm 8,045.</p> <p>f. “Tax books 1807-1808, 1811-1817, 1819-1830, 1833, 1835, 1837-1844,” digital images, <i>FamilySearch</i> (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS3J-CSHD-S?cat=155988&i=175 : 21 July 2023), 1816 Tax Roll, entry for Willis Ralls, image 176 of 1257; citing <i>Tax books, 1807-1875</i>, Hopkins County (Kentucky), Tax Assessor, Kentucky State Historical Society (Frankfort, Kentucky), Roll No. 008045; FHL microfilm 8,045.</p>		

- g. Craven County, North Carolina, Bastardy Bonds and Records 1820-1823, Adir Squire, single woman; "Bastardy bonds and records (North Carolina), 1736-1957," images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSKJ-MSMD-J> : accessed 2 October 2025); citing FSL Image Group Number (DGS) 8,151,781, image 103 of 1,743.
- h. "Tax books, 1800-1875," digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org> : 22 July 2023), 1817 Tax Roll, entry for Willis Rawls, page 25, image 696 of 1301; citing *Tax books, 1800-1830*, Livingston County (Kentucky), Tax Assessor, Kentucky State Historical Society (Frankfort, Kentucky).
- i. Craven County, North Carolina, Estates records Watkins, Levin - Wharton, Charlotte, West, John (1817); "North Carolina, Estate Files, 1663-1979," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9YF8-H35> : accessed 6 October 2025); citing FSL Image Group (DGS) 5,123,402, image 924 of 1,845.
- j. "Tax books, 1800-1875," digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org> : 22 July 2023), 1818 Tax Roll, entry for Willis Rawls, page 24, image 729 of 1301; citing *Tax books, 1800-1830*, Livingston County (Kentucky), Tax Assessor, Kentucky State Historical Society (Frankfort, Kentucky).
- k. "Tax books, 1800-1875," digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org> : 22 July 2023), 1819 Tax Roll, entry for Willis Rolls, page 29, image 768 of 1301; citing *Tax books, 1800-1830*, Livingston County (Kentucky), Tax Assessor, Kentucky State Historical Society (Frankfort, Kentucky).
- l. Craven County, North Carolina, Estates records Watkins, Levin - Wharton, Charlotte, West, John (1817); "North Carolina, Estate Files, 1663-1979," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9YF8-H35> : accessed 6 October 2025); citing FSL Image Group (DGS) 5,123,402, image 924 of 1,845.
- m. Craven County, North Carolina, Minutes, Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, Vol. 1, 1816-1819, p. 343, Willis Rawls bond; "Craven County, North Carolina Court Minutes 1816-1828," image, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSPL-B9PW-P> : accessed 5 October 2025); citing FSL , Image Group Number (DGS) 8,248,477, image 207 of 675.
- n. "Tax books, 1800-1875," digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org> : 22 July 2023), 1820 Tax Roll, entry for William Rolls, page 25, image 806 of 1301; citing *Tax books, 1800-1830*, Livingston County (Kentucky), Tax Assessor, Kentucky State Historical Society (Frankfort, Kentucky).
- o. Craven County, North Carolina, Estates records Watkins, Levin - Wharton, Charlotte, West, John (1817); "North Carolina, Estate Files, 1663-1979," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9YF8-H35> : accessed 6 October 2025); citing FSL Image Group (DGS) 5,123,402, image 924 of 1,845.
- p. Craven County, North Carolina, Bastardy Bonds and Records 1820-1823, Mary Skeel, a single woman; "Craven County, Bastardy Bonds 1820-1878," images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSKJ-MSQ7-X> : accessed 7 October 2025); citing FSL Image Group Number (DGS) 8,151,781, image 19 of 1,743.
- q. 1820 U. S. census, Salem, Livingston County, Kentucky, p. 12 (penned), line 30, Willis Rools; database with images, "United States Census, 1820," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/collection/1803955> : accessed 16 July 2023), image 19 of 21.

Table 3 – 1811 to 1820

- **Rawls (NC):** Continued local activity—land entries, tax rolls, bastardy bonds, and division of in-law estates (West family).
- **Ralls (KY):** Appeared consistently in Hopkins and Livingston County tax lists and 1820 census.

Conclusion: Both men were active simultaneously in distinct jurisdictions with overlapping years (1811–1820), demonstrating they were separate individuals.

Table 4.

Willis Ralls vs Willis Rawls 1821 to 1830		
Date	Willis Ralls of Hopkins Co., KY	Willis Rawls of Craven Co., NC
1821	Livingston Co., KY — Willis Rawls, in his household is one Poll and two horses valued at \$100. ^a	
1821 Apr 10		Craven Co., NC — John and Mary Everenton sold 200 acres to Willis Rawls, located at the mouth of Green branch, in Craven County, NC for seventy-five pounds. ^b
1821 May 28		Craven Co., NC — Adir Squires, Willis Rawls and Silas Brinson post a one hundred [the currency is not identified] to appear and keep her child from becoming a charge of the county. ^c
1822 May 28		Craven Co., NC — Willis Rawls is listed as a purchaser at the Estate of Ann Lain. ^d
1822 Sep 7		Craven Co., NC — Judgement against Willis Rawls for \$2.88 to the Estate of Enoch Gatlin, deceased in Account with John Brinson, Administrator. ^e
1822 Nov 18		Craven Co., NC — Anna Lane, Willis Rawls and Iredel Burnett post a bond for Anna Lane being with an illegitimate child. ^f
1822 Jul 30	Obion Co., TN — Willis Rawls is a subscribing witness to the conveyance of 150 acres (being part of a 1,000-acre grant to Alexander McKee) lying on Grove Creek from John McKee to Wyatt Bettis. ^g	
1824	Obion Co., TN — Willis Ralls, 1 Poll, 50 acres, Range 4, Section 9, Amount of Tax 31 1/4. ^h	
1824 Feb 2		Craven Co., NC — Willis Rawls purchases two chairs for \$0.62 at the Estate sale of Mary Bland. ⁱ
1824 Apr 19	Obion Co., TN — Wm. Ralls (presumed to be Willis Ralls) is appointed to serve as a juror during the next session of Court. ^j	
1824 Jul 20	Obion Co., TN — William Rolls summoned to appear and serve as a Grand Juror. ^k	
1824 Jul 20	Obion Co., TN — William Rolls serves as juror in the case, State of Tennessee versus James McDonald. ^l	

1824 Sep 27		Craven Co., NC — Willis and Nancy Ralls sell 200 acres to Levi P. Wayn. This parcel was originally patented by John West, 9 August 1786 who subsequently conveyed to his son-in-law, Willis Rawls. ^m
1824 Oct 20	Obion Co., TN — Willis Rolls summoned to appear and serve as a Grand Juror. ⁿ	
1824 Oct 20	Obion Co., TN — Willis Rolls serves as juror in the case, State of Tennessee versus Sarah Pryor. ^o	
1825	Obion Co., TN — Willis Rolls, No Poll Listed, 50 acres, Amount of Tax \$0.38. ^p	
1825 Jan 18	Obion Co., TN — Willis Rolls summoned to appear and serve as a Grand Juror. ^q	
1825 Dec 15		Craven Co., NC — Joseph West and Willis Rawls each enter a bastardy bond, for \$100 and \$50, respectfully. Joseph West is accused of begetting a bastard child. The mother is not identified. ^r
1826	Obion Co., TN — Willis Rolls appears on the 1826 Obion County tax roll along with his sons William Rolls and Nathaniel Rolls. Willis Rolls, 1 Pole, Tax \$0.25, Enumeration 1. ^s	
1826 Oct 4	Obion Co., TN — Ordered by the Court that Wyatt Bettis, William Harpole, Benjamin Totten, Jacob Yoacham, Willis Rowls, John Huzzy & John McKee be appointed a jury of view to layoff and mark a road from John McKee's to intersect the road leading from the State line to Weakley County line passing between Wyatt Bettis & William Harpole. ^t	
1827	Obion Co., TN — Willis Rolls appears on the 1827 Obion County tax roll, 1 poll, 50 acres, tax \$0.54. ^u	
1827 May 12		Craven Co., NC — Willis and Nancy Rawls sold to William T. Holton, 180 acres of land that was originally granted to Daniel West for \$10. The land is situated on the north side of the Neuse River and east side of the upper Broad Creek. This is the same general area as John West's land. ^v
1828	Obion Co., TN — Willis Ralls appears on the 1827 Obion County tax roll, 1 poll, 50 acres, tax \$0.81 1/4. ^w	
1828 May 14		Craven Co., NC — The foregoing Jurors are drawn forth next term of this Court to be held in August. ^x

1828 Aug 30		Craven Co., NC — Willis Rawls sells to David Cuthrell 100 acres of land for \$25 lying on the north side of the Neuse River and on the east side of Broad Creek, being part of a patent by William Blakely dated 1797. ^y
1829	Obion Co., TN — Willis Ralls appears on the 1829 Obion County tax roll, 1 poll, 54 acres, tax \$0.87 1/2. ^z	
1829 Jan 5	Obion Co., TN — It was ordered by court that Thomas Neil be appointed overseer of the Mills Point Road in place of Jamis Cullum resigned with following hands to work under him (to wit). Willis Rolls, and all other hands in said bounds to work under him. Levi Cook (son-in-law also on work crew). ^{aa}	
1829 Apr 6	Obion Co., TN — Ordered that Levi Cook be appointed overseer of the Mills Point Road from the Weakly County line to the state line and that Willis Rolls and all hands in said bounds work under him. ^{bb}	
1830 Jan 4	Obion Co., TN — Deed of Conveyance John McKee to Willis Ralls for 154 acres of land was presented in open court and duly acknowledged and ordered to be certified for registration on 4 January 1830. ^{cc}	
1830 U.S. census	Obion Co., TN — Willis Ralls is listed as 1 Male age 40 – 50. Listed in his household are 1 male 10 -15, 1 female 40 – 50, and 1 female 15 – 20. ^{dd}	Craven Co., NC — Willes Ralls [Willis Rawls] is listed as a male 60 to 69 years old. Listed in his household are a total of 11 individuals, including himself. ^{ee}
<p>a. "Tax books, 1800-1875," digital images, <i>FamilySearch</i> (https://familysearch.org : 22 July 2023), 1820 Tax Roll, entry for Willis Rawls, page 28, image 847 of 1301; citing <i>Tax books, 1800-1830</i>, Livingston County (Kentucky), Tax Assessor, Kentucky State Historical Society (Frankfort, Kentucky).</p> <p>b. Craven County, North Carolina, Record of Deeds, No. 43, 1822-1824, pp. 355-357, John Everton to Willis Rawls; "Craven County, North Carolina, Deeds 1822 – 1824," digital images, <i>FamilySearch</i> (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QSQ-G98M-63D3 : 5 October 2025); citing FSL Image Group Number (DGS) 7,513,350, images 380-82 of 499.</p> <p>c. Craven County, North Carolina, Bastardy Bonds and Records 1820-1823, Adir Squire, single woman; "Craven County, Bastardy Bonds 1820-1878," images, <i>FamilySearch</i> (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSKJ-MSMD-X : accessed 2 October 2025); citing FSL Image Group Number (DGS) 8,151,781, image 105 of 1,743.</p> <p>d. Craven County, North Carolina, Estates records Habershon-Muse, Ann Lain Estate; "North Carolina, Estate Files, 1663-1979," database with images, <i>FamilySearch</i> (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:37SQ-29HV-VF9 : accessed 8 October 2025); citing FSL Image Group Number (DGS) 4,778,688, image 304 of 557.</p> <p>e. Craven County, North Carolina, Estates records Gaston, William F. - Gatlin, Mary, Gatlin, Enoch; "North Carolina, Estate Files, 1663-1979," database with images, <i>FamilySearch</i> (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33SQ-GY88-3XT : accessed 7 October 2025); citing FSL Image Group Number (DGS) 5,122,990, image 452 of 813.</p>		

- f. Craven County, North Carolina, Bastardy Bonds and Records 1820-1823, Anna Lane, a single woman; "Craven County, Bastardy Bonds 1820-1878," images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSKJ-MSS6-W> : accessed 7 October 2025); citing FSL Image Group Number (DGS) 8,151,781, image 127 of 1,743.
- g. Deeds and trust deeds, 1824-1900; index to deeds, 1824-1904, digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org> : 30 July 2023), digital film 1007328, Deeds and trust deeds, v. A1-B1 1824-1834, Book A1, pages 11-12, images 11-12 of 366; citing *Deeds and trust deeds, 1824-1900; index to deeds, 1824-1904*, Obion County (Tennessee). Trustee (Main Author), (Nashville, Tennessee: Tennessee State Library and Archives), 1976.
- h. "Tax books, 1825-1885," digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org> : 23 July 2023), digital film 1007355, 1824 Tax Roll, entry for Willis Ralls, page 5, image 8 of 801; citing *Tax books 1825-1842, 1849-1854, 1860*, Obion County (Tennessee). Trustee (Main Author), (Nashville, Tennessee : Tennessee State Library and Archives), 1976.
- i. Craven County, North Carolina, Estates records Biggs, John - Blount, Dr. Frederick, Bland, Mary Estate (1824); "North Carolina, Estate Files, 1663-1979," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9Y8D-42M> : accessed 7 October 2025); citing FSL Image Group Number (DGS) 5,122,967, image 658 of 1,627.
- j. "Obion County, Tennessee, County Court minutes, 1824-1890", January 1824 – June 1830, pages 17 – 18, April Session, Monday 19th, 1824, Wm. Ralls order by the Court to appear as a juror during the next session; imaged *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QHV-63CD-J4RV?i=14&cat=430972> : accessed 5 June 2022) images 15 – 16 of 683; citing *Obion County, Tennessee, County Court minutes, 1824-1890*, Roll 26, Nashville, TN: Tennessee State Library and Archives, Department of State, 1976.
- k. "Obion County, Tennessee, County Court minutes, 1824-1890", January 1824 – June 1830, page 28, July Session, Tuesday 20th, 1824, William Rolls appears as a Grand Juror; imaged *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QHV-63CD-J4RV?i=14&cat=430972> : accessed 5 June 2022) image 21 of 683; citing *Obion County, Tennessee, County Court minutes, 1824-1890*, Roll 26, Nashville, TN: Tennessee State Library and Archives, Department of State, 1976.
- l. "Obion County, Tennessee, County Court minutes, 1824-1890", January 1824 – June 1830, page 29, July Session, Tuesday 20th, 1824, William Rolls serves as a juror in the case State vs. James McDonald; imaged *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QHV-D3CD-J4TJ?cat=430972> : accessed 5 June 2022) image 21 of 683; citing *Obion County, Tennessee, County Court minutes, 1824-1890*, Roll 26, Nashville, TN: Tennessee State Library and Archives, Department of State, 1976.
- m. Craven County, North Carolina, Record of Deeds, No. 44, 1824-1826, pp. 102-104, Willis Ralls to Levi Wayn; "Craven County, North Carolina, Deeds 1824 – 1826," digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QSQ-G98M-YS1M> : accessed 3 September 2025); citing FSL Image Group Number (DGS) 7,513,351, images 128-130 of 549.
- n. "Obion County, Tennessee, County Court minutes, 1824-1890", January 1824 – June 1830, pages 37 – 38, October Session, Wednesday 20th, 1824, Willis Rolls is a juror in the case, The State vs. Sarah Pryor; imaged *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QHV-63CD-JWLN?i=24&cat=430972> : accessed 5 June 2022) images 25 and 26 of 683; citing *Obion County, Tennessee, County Court minutes, 1824-1890*, Roll 26, Nashville, TN: Tennessee State Library and Archives, Department of State, 1976.
- o. "Obion County, Tennessee, County Court minutes, 1824-1890", January 1824 – June 1830, page 41, October Session, Wednesday 20th, 1824, Willis Rolls is summoned to appear as a Grand Juror at the next Court; imaged *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QHV-D3CD-J4TJ?cat=430972> : accessed 5 June 2022) image 27 of 683; citing *Obion County, Tennessee, County Court minutes, 1824-1890*, Roll 26, Nashville, TN: Tennessee State Library and Archives, Department of State, 1976.

- p. "Tax books, 1825-1885," digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org> : 23 July 2023), digital film 1007355, 1825 Tax Roll, entry for Willis Ralls, , page 3, image 10 of 801; citing *Tax books 1825-1842, 1849-1854, 1860*, Obion County (Tennessee). Trustee (Main Author), (Nashville, Tennessee : Tennessee State Library and Archives), 1976.
- q. "Obion County, Tennessee, County Court minutes, 1824-1890", January 1824 – June 1830, pages 46 – 47, January Session, Tuesday 18th, 1824, Willis Ralls was summoned as part of the Grand Jury Venire for the January Term; imaged *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QHV-63CD-J437?i=29&cat=430972> : accessed 5 June 2022) image 30 of 683; citing *Obion County, Tennessee, County Court minutes, 1824-1890*, Roll 26, Nashville, TN: Tennessee State Library and Archives, Department of State, 1976.
- r. Craven County, North Carolina, Bastardy Bonds and Records 1820-1823, Joseph West and Willis Rawls, Bastardy Bond; "Craven County, Bastardy Bonds 1820-1878," images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSKJ-MS36-2> : accessed 7 October 2025); citing FSL Image Group Number (DGS) 8,151,781, image 229 of 1,743.
- s. "Tax books, 1825-1885," digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org> : 24 July 2023), digital film 1007355, 1826 Tax Roll, entry for Willis Ralls, page 11, image 18 of 801; citing *Tax books 1825-1842, 1849-1854, 1860*, Obion County (Tennessee). Trustee (Main Author), (Nashville, Tennessee : Tennessee State Library and Archives), 1976.
- t. "Obion County, Tennessee, County Court minutes, 1824-1890", January 1824 – June 1830, pages 150 – 151, October Session, Wednesday 4th, 1826, Willis Ralls ordered by the court to be appointed a jury of men to lay off and mark a road; imaged *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QHV-63CD-JWX1?i=81&cat=430972> : accessed 5 June 2022) image 82 of 683; citing *Obion County, Tennessee, County Court minutes, 1824-1890*, Roll 26, Nashville, TN: Tennessee State Library and Archives, Department of State, 1976.
- u. "Tax books, 1825-1885," digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org> : 24 July 2023), digital film 1007355, 1827 Tax Roll, entry for Willis Ralls, page 12, image 28 of 801; citing *Tax books 1825-1842, 1849-1854, 1860*, Obion County (Tennessee). Trustee (Main Author), (Nashville, Tennessee : Tennessee State Library and Archives), 1976.
- v. Craven County, North Carolina, Record of Deeds, No. 45, 1826-1828, pp. 175-176, Willis Rawls to William Holton; "Craven County, North Carolina, Deeds 1826 – 1828," digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-898M-V3WWW> : accessed 6 October 2025); citing FSL Image Group Number (DGS) 7,513,353, images 113-114 of 595.
- w. "Tax books, 1825-1885," digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org> : 24 July 2023), digital film 1007355, 1828 Tax Roll, entry for Willis Ralls, image 37 of 801; citing *Tax books 1825-1842, 1849-1854, 1860*, Obion County (Tennessee). Trustee (Main Author), (Nashville, Tennessee : Tennessee State Library and Archives), 1976.
- x. Craven County, North Carolina, Minutes, Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions, 1822-1828, Willis Rawls, jury pool; "Craven County, Court Minutes, 1816-1828," images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSPL-B9PX-J> : accessed 7 October 2025); citing FSL Image Group Number (DGS) 8,248,477, images 652-653 of 675.
- y. Craven County, North Carolina, Record of Deeds, No. 65, 1859–1860, pp. 282-283, Willis Rawls to David Cuthrell; "Craven County, North Carolina, Deeds 1859 – 1860, 1861 – 1862" digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-89D3-S9G4> : accessed 9 October 2025); citing FSL Image Group Number (DGS) 7,543,498, images 156 of 567.
- z. "Tax books, 1825-1885," digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org> : 24 July 2023), digital film 1007355, 1829 Tax Roll, entry for Willis Ralls, image 51 of 801; citing *Tax books 1825-1842, 1849-1854, 1860*, Obion County (Tennessee). Trustee (Main Author), (Nashville, Tennessee : Tennessee State Library and Archives), 1976.

- aa. "Obion County, Tennessee, County Court minutes, 1824-1890," January 1824 – June 1830, pages 366 – 367, January Session, Monday, 5th, 1829, Thomas Neil appointed overseer of the Mills Point road and Willis Rolls to work under him; imaged *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QHV-D3CD-JC4K?i=187&cat=430972>: accessed 5 June 2022) image 188 of 683; citing *Obion County, Tennessee, County Court minutes, 1824-1890*, Roll 26, Nashville, TN: Tennessee State Library and Archives, Department of State, 1976.
- bb. "Obion County, Tennessee, County Court minutes, 1824-1890," January 1824 – June 1830, page 391, April Session, Thursday, 6th, 1829, Willis Rolls is listed as a hand for a road crew; imaged *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QHV-63CD-JH5T?i=199&cat=430972> : accessed 5 June 2022) image 200 of 683; citing *Obion County, Tennessee, County Court minutes, 1824-1890*, Roll 26, Nashville, TN: Tennessee State Library and Archives, Department of State, 1976.
- cc. "Obion County, Tennessee, County Court minutes, 1824-1890," January 1824 – June 1830, page 461, January Session, Monday, 4th, 1830, Deed of Conveyance William McKee to Willis Ralls for 154 acres; imaged *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QHV-63CD-JH5T?i=199&cat=430972> : accessed 5 June 2022) image 235 of 683; citing *Obion County, Tennessee, County Court minutes, 1824-1890*, Roll 26, Nashville, TN: Tennessee State Library and Archives, Department of State, 1976.
- dd. 1830 U. S. census, Obion County, Tennessee, p. 163 (penned), line 20, Willis Ralls; database with images, "United States Census, 1830," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/collection/1803958>: 18 July 2023), image 17 of 31.
- ee. 1830 U.S. census, Craven County, North Carolina, population schedule, [North side of Neuse River], p. 164, line 13, Willis Ralls; database with images, "United States Census, 1830," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/collection/1803958> : accessed 8 September 2025), image 134 of 141.

Table 4 – 1821 to 1830

- **Ralls (TN):** Appears in Obion County from 1824 forward—tax rolls, jury service, road crews, and land conveyances.
- **Rawls (NC):** Continued land transactions and estate activities in Craven County, often with wife Nancy.

Conclusion: Ralls established in Tennessee while Rawls remained continuously active in North Carolina records. Two parallel life tracks persist.

Table 5.

Willis Ralls vs Willis Rawls 1831 to 1840		
Date	Willis Ralls of Hopkins Co., KY	Willis Rawls of Craven Co., NC
1831	Obion Co., TN — Willis Ralls appears on the 1831 Obion County tax roll, 1 poll, 56 acres located on Grove Creek Watercourse, tax \$0.31.4. ^a	
1832	Obion Co., TN — Willis Ralls appears on the 1832 Obion County tax roll, 0 poll, 50 acres located on Grove Creek Watercourse, tax \$0.25. ^b	
1834	Obion Co., TN — List Returned by John Harpole, Esq., Willis Ralls No Poll listed, 54 acres, Range 4 and Section 9. ^c	
1835	Obion Co., TN — List returned by Benjamin Totten, Esq. for Willis, William B. and Charles Ralls. Willis Ralls No Poll, 24 acres, Range 4, Section 9, Tax Amount 13 1/2¢. William B. Ralls, 1 Poll, Tax Amount 43 3/4¢ and Charles Ralls, 1 Poll and Tax Amount 43 3/4¢. ^d	
1835 Mar 20		Craven Co., NC — Willis Rawls purchases several items from the William W. Harris' Estate sale. ^e
1835 Jul 30		Craven Co., NC — Willis Rawls sold a tract of land situated on the north side of the Neuse River and north side of the upper Broad Creek beginning at the mouth of the Green branch. For one hundred dollars. The acreage is not listed. ^f
1836 Jun 7	Obion Co., TN — Willis Ralls' boundaries are referenced in the deed conveying 104 acres in two tracts to John Jones from John Huzza. ^g	
1837 Jun 10		Craven Co., NC — Willis Ralls purchases several items at the Estate Sale of Israel Rice, deceased sold by David D. Frater, Special Administrator. Also listed as purchasers are

		Joshua and John Ralls. Their relationship to Willis is unknown. ^h
1839 Jul 26		Craven Co., NC — Willis Rawls sold 56 acres to Kennedy Squires, lying on Goose Creek, Craven County, NC. ⁱ
1839 Jul 26		Craven Co., NC — Willis Rawls sold 156 acres to William Bland, lying on Goose Creek, Craven County, NC. ^j
1839 Aug 1	Obion Co., TN — 1839 August 1 — Obion Co., TN — Willis Ralls appears on a list of voters. ^k	
1840 U.S. census	Obion Co., TN — Willis Ralls is listed as Male age 60 – 70. Listed in his household are 1 Male 5 – 10, 1 Male under 5, 1 Female 70 – 80, 1 female 20 -30, 1 Female under 5. Total in family 6. ^l	Craven Co., NC — Willis Raul [Rawls] is listed as a male 60 to 69 years old. Listed in his household are a total of 4 individuals, including himself. ^m
<p>a. "Tax books, 1825-1885," digital images, <i>FamilySearch</i> (https://familysearch.org : 24 July 2023), digital film 1007355, 1831 Tax Roll, entry for Willis Ralls, page 12, image 66 of 801; citing <i>Tax books 1825-1842, 1849-1854, 1860</i>, Obion County (Tennessee). Trustee (Main Author), (Nashville, Tennessee : Tennessee State Library and Archives), 1976.</p> <p>b. "Tax books, 1825-1885," digital images, <i>FamilySearch</i> (https://familysearch.org : 24 July 2023), digital film 1007355, 1832 Tax Roll, entry for Willis Ralls, image 82 of 801; citing <i>Tax books 1825-1842, 1849-1854, 1860</i>, Obion County (Tennessee). Trustee (Main Author), (Nashville, Tennessee : Tennessee State Library and Archives), 1976.</p> <p>c. "Tax books, 1825-1885," digital images, <i>FamilySearch</i> (https://familysearch.org : 25 July 2023), digital film 1007355, 1834 Tax Roll, entry for Willis Ralls, image 100 of 801; citing <i>Tax books 1825-1842, 1849-1854, 1860</i>, Obion County (Tennessee). Trustee (Main Author), (Nashville, Tennessee : Tennessee State Library and Archives), 1976.</p> <p>d. Tax books, 1825-1885, digital images, <i>FamilySearch</i> (https://familysearch.org : 25 July 2023), digital film 1007355, 1835 Tax Roll, entry for Willis Rolls, image 131 of 801; citing <i>Tax books 1825-1842, 1849-1854, 1860</i>, Obion County (Tennessee). Trustee (Main Author), (Nashville, Tennessee : Tennessee State Library and Archives), 1976.</p> <p>e. Craven County, North Carolina, Estates records Harget, John M. - Harrison, James C., Harris, William Estate (1806); "North Carolina, Estate Files, 1663-1979," database with images, <i>FamilySearch</i> (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9YFC-HHM : accessed 7 October 2025); citing FSL Image Group Number (DGS) 5,123,350, image 1,508 of 1,581.</p> <p>f. Craven County, North Carolina, Deeds, Vol. 51, 1834-1836, pp. 315-316, Willis Rawls to Cornelius Dixon; "Craven County, Deeds, 1833-1836," images, <i>FamilySearch</i> (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-99D3-S942-3 : accessed 8 October 2025); citing FSL Image Group Number (DGS) 7,543,510, images 449-450 of 500.</p> <p>g. Deeds and trust deeds, 1824-1900; index to deeds, 1824-1904, digital images, <i>FamilySearch</i> (https://familysearch.org : 30 July 2023), digital film 1007328, Deeds and trust deeds, v. C1-E1 1834-1841, Book C1, pages 476 - 478, images 230 - 231 of 827; citing <i>Deeds and trust deeds, 1824-1900</i>; index to deeds, 1824-1904, Obion County (Tennessee). Trustee (Main Author), (Nashville, Tennessee : Tennessee State Library and Archives), 1976.</p> <p>h. Craven County, North Carolina, Estates records Rhem, Haywood - Richardson, Valentine, Rice, Israel Estate (1837); "North Carolina, Estate Files, 1663-1979," database with images, <i>FamilySearch</i> (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33SQ-GYFH-T86 : accessed 8 October 2025); citing FSL Image Group Number (DGS) 5,123,385, image 674 of 1,786.</p>		

- i. Craven County, North Carolina, Deeds, Vol. 54, 1839-1841, pp. 121-122, Willis Rawls to Kennedy Squires; “Craven County, Deeds, 1835–1837, 1837–1839, 1839–1841,” images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q57-L9D3-S41S> : accessed 7 October 2025); citing FSL Image Group Number (DGS) 7,543,511, image 645 of 820.
- j. Craven County, North Carolina, Deeds, Vol. 54, 1839-1841, pp. 121, Willis Rawls to William Bland; “Craven County, Deeds, 1835–1837, 1837–1839, 1839–1841,” images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q57-L9D3-S41S> : accessed 7 October 2025); citing FSL Image Group Number (DGS) 7,543,511, image 645 of 820.
- k. *Obion County, Tennessee Voters List* (Union City, Tennessee: Obion County Historical Society, 1 August 1839), Found in the Harpole family attic, 1993.
- l. 1840 U. S. census, Obion County, Tennessee, p. 135 (stamped), line 9, Willis Rolls; database with images, “United States Census, 1840,” *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/collection/1786457> : 18 July 2023), image 23 of 55.
- m. 1840 U.S. census, Craven County, North Carolina, population schedule, North Side Neuse River, p. 28, line 22, Willis Raul; database with images, "United States Census, 1840," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/collection/1786457> : accessed 8 September 2025), image 6 of 48.

Table 5 – 1831 to 1840

- **Ralls (TN):** Present on annual tax lists, deeds, and 1839 voter list in Obion County.
- **Rawls (NC):** Conducted multiple land transactions and estate dealings in Craven County through 1839.

Conclusion: Both men remained geographically and administratively distinct. Each had local continuity within his own state.

Table 6.

Willis Ralls vs Willis Rawls 1841 to 1856		
Date	Willis Ralls of Hopkins Co., KY	Willis Rawls of Craven Co., NC
1846 Jan 5	Obion Co., TN — It was ordered by the Court that John Huzza be allowed the sum of Twelve Dollars for maintaining Willis Rawles, a Pauper of this county for two months. ^a	
1847 Jul 5	Obion Co., TN — John HUZZA be allowed the sum of Ninety-Three Dollars and seventy-five cents for keeping a pauper of said County by the name of Willis Rowles, fifteen months. ^b	
1848 Oct 2	Obion Co., TN — Grasty MANSFIELD be allowed the sum of One Hundred and Twenty Dollars for keeping Willis Ralls a pauper, twelve months. ^c	
1849 Jan 1	Obion Co., TN — Bayles E. P. Matthews be allowed the sum of forty-two dollars and twenty cents for keeping Willis Ralls a pauper three months. ^d	
1849 Jan 1	Obion Co., TN — B. E. P. MATTHEWS be allowed the sum of six dollars for burying Willis Ralls a pauper. ^e	
1850		Craven Co., NC — Willis Rawls, age 76, wheelwright, is living in the household of Henry Smithwick, his presumed son-in-law. ^f
1855 Jan 8		Craven Co., NC — Willis Rawls is listed as a purchaser at the Estate of Noah Miller. ^g
1855 Nov 22		Craven Co., NC — Willis Rawls is listed as a purchaser at the Estate of Benjamin M. Wise, deceased. Also purchasing items was Willis J. Rawls, Willis Rawls presumed son. ^h
1856 Jun 9		Craven Co., NC — The regular meeting at the Poor House 9th June '56, Present Charles. Kelly, Special Warden, M. W. Jarvis, M. C. Begay, C. Dudley, B. J. Perkins, W. B. Wadsworth. The following allowances made the present quarter ~ Willis Rawls, 3. ⁱ

1857 Mar 9		Craven Co., NC — The regular meeting at the Poor House 9th March '57, Present Charles. Kelly, W. B. Wadsworth, J. R. Street, M. C. Begay, W. B. Perkins, M. W. Jarvis. The following allowances made the present quarter ~ W. Rawls, 3, written above the entry for Willis, dead. Willis does not appear on the next quarterly report dated 8 June 1857. ^j
<p>a. "Obion County, Tennessee, County Court minutes, 1824-1890," August 1845 – February 1849, page 62, January Session, Monday, 5th, 1846, Willis Rawles is listed as a pauper; imaged <i>FamilySearch</i> (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QHV-63CH-C9MK-D?i=352&cat=430972 : accessed 25 September 2022) image 353 of 607; citing <i>Obion County, Tennessee, County Court minutes, 1824-1890</i>, Roll 27, Nashville, TN: Tennessee State Library and Archives, Department of State, 1976.</p> <p>b. "Obion County, Tennessee, County Court minutes, 1824-1890," August 1845 – February 1849, page 235, July Session, Monday, 5th, 1847, John Huzza allowed ninety-three dollars and seventy-five cents for keeping Willis Rowles for 15 months; imaged <i>FamilySearch</i> (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QHV-63CH-C9MM-8?i=439&cat=430972 : accessed 25 September 2022) image 440 of 607; citing <i>Obion County, Tennessee, County Court minutes, 1824-1890</i>, Roll 27, Nashville, TN: Tennessee State Library and Archives, Department of State, 1976.</p> <p>c. "Obion County, Tennessee, County Court minutes, 1824-1890," August 1845 – February 1849, page 386, October Session, Monday, 2nd, 1848, Grasty Mansfield be allowed the sum of One Hundred and Twenty Dollars for keeping Willis Ralls a pauper, twelve months; imaged <i>FamilySearch</i> (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QHV-D3CH-C9QV-D?i=515&cat=430972 : accessed 25 September 2022) image 516 of 607; citing <i>Obion County, Tennessee, County Court minutes, 1824-1890</i>, Roll 27, Nashville, TN: Tennessee State Library and Archives, Department of State, 1976.</p> <p>d. "Obion County, Tennessee, County Court minutes, 1824-1890," August 1845 – February 1849, page 410, January Session, Monday, 1st, 1849, Ordered by the Court that Bayles E. P. Matthews be allowed the sum of forty-two dollars and twenty cents for keeping Willis Ralls a pauper three months; imaged <i>FamilySearch</i> (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QHV-D3CH-C974-9?i=527&cat=430972 : accessed 25 September 2022) image 528 of 607; citing <i>Obion County, Tennessee, County Court minutes, 1824-1890</i>, Roll 27, Nashville, TN: Tennessee State Library and Archives, Department of State, 1976.</p> <p>e. "Obion County, Tennessee, County Court minutes, 1824-1890," August 1845 – February 1849, page 412, January Session, Monday, 1st, 1849, Ordered by the Court that B. E. P. Matthews be allowed the sum of six dollars for burying Willis Ralls a pauper; imaged <i>FamilySearch</i> (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QHV-D3CH-C978-G?i=528&cat=430972 : accessed 25 September 2022) image 529 of 607; citing <i>Obion County, Tennessee, County Court minutes, 1824-1890</i>, Roll 27, Nashville, TN: Tennessee State Library and Archives, Department of State, 1976.</p> <p>f. 1850 U.S. census, Craven County, North Carolina, population schedule, p. 348 (stamped), dwelling 1316, family 1316, Willis Rawls residing in Henry Smithwick household; imaged, "United States Census, 1850," <i>FamilySearch</i> (https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/collection/1401638 : accessed 8 September 2025).</p> <p>g. Craven County, North Carolina, Estates records Messellier, Louis H. - Moore, Collins, Miller, Noah Estate (1857); "North Carolina, Estate Files, 1663-1979," database with images, <i>FamilySearch</i> (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33SQ-GYFH-6MY : accessed 8 October 2025); citing FSL Image Group Number (DGS) 5,123,371, image 655 of 1,635.</p> <p>h. Craven County, North Carolina, Inventories of Estates & Accounts of Sales, 1855-1857, Benjamin M. Wise Estate, p. 1-5; "Inventories of Estates and account of sales 1855-1861," images, <i>FamilySearch</i> (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:939L-J4Y1-D : accessed 8 October 2025); citing FSL Image Group Number (DGS) 4,754,814, images 23-27 of 837.</p> <p>i. Craven County, North Carolina, Warden of the Poor; "Craven County Court Minutes 1837–1871," images, <i>FamilySearch</i> (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QHV-F3ZN-T5RF : accessed 8 October 2025); citing FSL Image Group Number (DGS) 8,682,867, image 40 of 112.</p>		

j. Craven County, North Carolina, Warden of the Poor; "Craven County Court Minutes 1837–1871," images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QHV-F3ZN-T5G4> : accessed 8 October 2025); citing FSL Image Group Number (DGS) 8,682,867, image 38 of 112.

Table 6 – 1841 to 1856

- **Ralls (TN):** Recorded as a pauper from 1846 until his death and burial in 1849.
- **Rawls (NC):** Alive in 1850, still in Craven County, later appearing in estate and poorhouse records through early 1857.

Conclusion: Ralls died nearly a decade before Rawls, who lived until about 1857, conclusively separating their life spans.