Townships and Districts of Granville County, North Carolina annotated with known Plantations and farms of slave owners. (* = map grid)

Many former slaves took the surname of their owner upon emancipation at the end of the Civil War. For this reason, I’m including the names of some of the larger slave owners in the area. If you’re researching ancestors that were former slaves, be sure to check the “1860 U.S. Federal Census - Slave Schedules” for possible slave owners with the same surname as your ancestor.

Note: Granville County was formed from Edgecombe County in 1746. You will see references to Bute County in the old descriptions of the Granville County district boundaries. Bute County was formed from Granville County in 1764 and it was only in existence for the fifteen year period between 1764 and 1779. Franklin County was formed in 1779 when Bute County was abolished and the counties of Franklin and Warren were formed from it. Vance County was carved out of Franklin, Granville and Warren Counties in 1881.

Many of the older boundary descriptions use rivers and creeks as a reference point. Page 3 contains a map of the rivers, creeks and old roads in the county. Page 2 contains a map with townships, districts and other landmarks.

1779 Map of NC
Vance County was formed in 1881, taking part of Granville County. Years in red represent the years a townships name appears on the U.S. Census. Some township locations are approximations.

Creeks shown in blue.
Townships, Districts and Other Land Marks.
(*A4) refers to the grid you’ll find the township or district in using the map on page 2.

Abrahams Planes / Abrams Plains (*A4): This District was located NW of Stovall. In 1860 the post office for the district was at Sassafras Fork (*A4). Red Hill Plantation, owned by the Daniels family, was located here. If you are researching former slaves from this area please see website at http://www.rootsweb.com/~afamerpl/plantations_usa/NC/redhill.html

Assybum: Post office for Ragland District in 1860. This may be a mis-spelling of the word Asylum and perhaps refers to the Oxford Orphan Asylum, The first Masonic orphanage for children in the United States. This would place Ragland near Oxford (*C4).

Beaver Dam (Beaverdam) District (*E2): Post office in 1860 was at Wilton (*E4). First seen in use about 1778. This was a rural district within Granville County.

Belltown (*C3): No other information.

Brassfield (*E4): In 1870 the post office for this township was located in Henderson. The township was located just south of Wilton.

Brea (*C1): Post office for Tarr River in 1860. The Sherman Family Farm was located in this area. There were 7 slaves working the farm in 1860.

Brookville: Post office location for Ford Creek (*5D) in 1860.

Bullock (*A3): The Eldon B. Turnstall Farm, John Henry Royster Farm, and William G. Smith house were located in Bullock.

Burside (Vance County): Pool Rock Plantation was located in this area.

Butner (*E1): No other information.

Cadaso Osark: Listed on the 1840 census, no other information.

Cedar Creek (*E2): Post office in 1860 was located in Dutchville (*E1). The Obediah Winston Farm was located in Cedar Creek.

Country Line District: 1770 description was “bounded by Grassy Creek up to the Hico (Hyco) Road, by that road to Orange County line, by the Orange County line to the County line, and by that line to Grassy Creek. This district was located in northwest Granville County (*A1).
Cornwall (*A2): The James Blackwell house was located here. 27 slaves owned in 1860.

Creedmoor Township (*E2): No other information

Culbreth (*D2): No other information

Dabney (*C5): No other information

Dexter (*B3): The Joseph B. Hunt Farm was located in Dexter.

Dutch / Dutchville District (*E1): In 1860 Dutchville is the post office for Cedar Creek. In 1770 the district boundaries were “bounded by the Tarr River from the mouth of Fort Creek to Hambleton’s Mill, by the Trading Road, from thence to Orange County line, by the Orange County line to Johnston County Line, by Johnston County line to where the Long Branch crosses it, by Long Branch from thence to the path that leads to Mrs. Bradfords on Fort Creek, and by Fort Creek to the mouth.

Epping Forest District (*D5): The 1770 description of the district was “bounded by Captain Hawkins Road to the mouth of Tabbs Creek and by Tabbs Creek up to the old Court House.”

Fairport (*D4): This township served as the post office location for Fishing Creek in 1860. The John Mask Peace House was located in Fairport.

Farr River District: Listed on the 1840 census. No other information

Fishing Creek District (*D4): 1770 description of description was “bounded by Tabbs Creek from the mouth to the old Court House Road, up that road to Fishing Creek Bridge, by that creek to Tarr River and by Tarr River down to the mouth of Tabbs Creek.”

Fort Osark: Listed on the 1840 census. No other information.

Ford or Fort Creek District (*D5): In 1770 this district was bounded by Fort Creek from the mouth to Mrs. Bradfords, by the Path from thence to the head of the Long Branch, by the Long Brach to Johnston County line, by that line to Bute County line, by Bute line to Tarr River and by the River up to the mouth of Fort Creek.

Gela Township (*B3): No other information.

Geneva Township (*D1): Listed on 1900 census. No other information.
Goshen District (*B3): The James M. Satterwhite Plantation, Rufus Amis House and Mill (in Virgilina) and Tranquility Plantation, owned by the Daniel’s family, was located in this District. If you are researching former slaves with the surname Daniels, please see web site at http://www.rootsweb.com/~afamerpl/plantations_usa/NC/tranquility.html

Granville: Listed on the 1840 census. No other information.

Grassy Creek: See Grissom.

Gregory Mill: Post office location for Island Creek in 1860.

Grissom (*E4): Plantations belonging to John P. Lawrence and Lewis Wimbish (Grassy Creek) were located near Grissom.

Hebron (*C2): No other information.

Henderson District (*C5): The 1770 description of this district was “bounded by Hico Road from Bute county line to the fork above Laniers Ordinary, by the road from thence to the old county house (courthouse?), by Hawskins’s Road from the old court house to Bute county line and by Bute County line to Hico Road.

Hester (*D2): No other information.


Huntsboro (*C4): The Col. Richard P. Taylor House was located in Huntsboro.

Island Creek District: Listed on the 1850 and 1860 census. 1770 description of the district was “bounded by Taylors Road from the County line to Hico Road, by that road up to Grassy Creek, by Grassy Creek down to the county line and by the county line to Taylors Road.”


Knap of Reeds District (*E1): In 1860 Knap of Reeds is the post office for Dutch. In 1770 it was bounded by the South Fork of Tarr River from Hambletons Mill to Orange County Line, by Orange County line to the Trading Road and by the Trading Road to Hambleton’s Mill.

Knotts Crossroads (*B5): No other information

Ledge of Rocks District: This district was located in on the border of Granville and Wake Counties.
Middeburg: Listed on the 1900 census.

Mount Energy Township (*E3): No other information.

Napp: Knap of Reeds? Listed on the 1850 census.

Nutbush District (*B5 – see Williamsboro): This district was located in what is now northern Vance County. Its general store was located in what is now the town of Williamsboro. In 1770 its boundaries were described as being “Hico Road, from Bute Line to Taylors Road, by that road to the county line, by the county line to Bute County line, and by Bute line to Hico Road.”

Oak Hill (*B2): Oak Creek (1880): Post office location for Goshen in 1860. The Oliver-Morton farm was located in Oak Hill.

Oxford Township and District (*C3): Post office location for Fishing Creek in 1870. The Joseph B. Littlejohn House, Archibald Taylor Plantation, Paschall-Daniel House and Cedar Lawn Plantation (owned by the Marable family) were located in the Oxford area. If you’re researching former slave families with the surname Marable please see http://www.rootsweb.com/~afamerpl/plantations_usa/NC/cedarlawn.html

Oxford was also the location of the Masonic Orphan Asylum. Its original name was “THE COLORED ORPHANAGE OF NORTH CAROLINA”, but later changed for obvious reasons. The first residents of the orphanage arrived in February 1873. For a detailed history of the orphanage please go to http://www.ibiblio.org/orphanage/history/

Providence (*D2): A small township. No other information.

Ragland(s) District: The 1770 description of the district was “bounded by Hico Fork of the road from Laniers Ordinary to Andersons Path above Woods Plantation, by that path down to Fishing Creek, by the Creek down to the bridge by the road, from thence to the old Court House and by the road that leads thence to Hico Road.”

Salem: Listed on the 1900 census.

Sandy Creek: Listed on the 1900 census.

Sassafras Fork/Town (*A4): In 1860 Sassafras Fork is the post office for Abrams Plains.

Spew Marrow District: Created in May of 1774, its boundaries were “beginning at Taylors Road, crosses the county line and by that road to Howel Lewis’s to Hico Road, then up Hico Road to Knotts Fork, from thence to Mountain Creek, then down Mountain Creek to Grassey Creek, then down Grassy Creek to the Virginia line, then by that line to the beginning. This district was located in northeast Granville County, north and a bit west of Stovall.


Stovall (*B3): The John W. Stovall Farm was located here as was the Hart Family House.

Tabbs Creek District (*C4): This district was between Fishing Creek and Epping Forest Districts, probably created from the Epping Forest District.

Tally Ho (*D2): Post office location for Ledge of Rock in 1860.

Tar (Tarr) River District (*E2): The 1770 boundaries of the district were “Tarr River from Boyds Ford up the South Fork to Orange County line, by the Orange County line to Hico Road, by that road to Boyds path, and by that path to Boyds Ford on the Tarr River.

Townsville (*A5): Macpelah Plantation was located about two miles south of Townsville and owned by the John Taylor and his wife Catherine Pendelton Taylor. Macpelah Plantation is still in the Taylor family and includes a family cemetery.

Tubbs Creek: Seen on the 1840 census.

Virgilina: See Goshen.

WALLERS: Post office location for Knap of Reeds in 1860.

Walnut Grove (*C2): No other information.

Watkins (*C5): No other information.

Wilbourns (*A2): The Marcus Royster Planation and William Ellixson House were located here.

Williamsboro Township (*B5): Montpelier Plantation was located near Williamsboro. It was owned by Col. Robert Burton. The area that Williamsboro is located in was part of Nutbush District.
Wilton (*E4): In 1860 Wilton is the post office location for Beaver Dam Township. The Bobbitt-Rogers House and Tobacco Manufactory District, the Harris-Currin House, the James W. Freeman House, and John Peach Jr. House were located in Wilton.

Woodworth: Post office location for Nutbush in 1860.