

**REBECCA BAILIFF SIGNS FOR SONS THOMAS BAILIFF AND ABNER BAILIFF TO  
PURCHASE 150 ACRES EACH IN ORANGE COUNTY NORTH CAROLINA 1785**

Transcribed By: Ron Cornwell

**COURT MINUTES JUNE 9, 1785**

The execution of a deed from **JAMES WATSON** to **THOMAS BAILIFF [JR]** was duly proven in open court by the oath of **THOMAS MULHOLLAND** one of the subscribing witnesses thereto and ordered to be registered.

**SOURCE:** Orange County, North Carolina, Court Minutes

The execution of a deed from **JAMES WATSON** to **ABNER BAILIFF** was duly proven in open court by the oath of **THOMAS MULHOLLAND** one of the subscribing witnesses thereto and ordered to be registered.

**SOURCE:** Orange County, North Carolina, Court Minutes

**ORANGE COUNTY DEED BOOK**

21-Aug-1785. **JAMES WATSON** of Orange County, North Carolina, sells **150 ACRES** on **WATSON CREEK** to **THOMAS BAILIFF**, signed by **REBECCA BAILIFF**, his mother. This indicates **THOMAS** was under age at that time. Witnessed by **THOMAS MULHOLLUM**, Priest and **PHILIP AUSTIN** of Orange County, NC.

**SOURCE:** Orange County, NC, Deed Bk. 2, Pages 164-165.

21-Aug- 1785. **JAMES WATSON** of Orange County, North Carolina, sells **150 ACRES** on **WATSON CREEK** to **ABNER BAILIFF**, signed by **REBECCA BAILIFF**, his mother. This indicates **ABNER** was under age at that time. Witnessed by **THOMAS MULHOLLUM**, Priest and **PHILIP AUSTIN** of Orange County, NC.

**SOURCE:** Orange County, NC, Deed Bk. 2, Page 168.

**NOTES:** 1. **REBECCA** signing for her sons to buy land tells us that she is a widow. Otherwise her husband would be the one dealing with the land. This tells us that her husband died sometime before 1785.

2. The Revolutionary war didn't end until 1784. There was not a lot of land sales during the war and I haven't seen any information that suggest That **THOMAS BAILIFF** was in the war.

3. We know that the final time that **THOMAS BAILIFF** returned to Chester County it was because **EDWARD BAILIFF** was ill. **EDWARD** was either **THOMAS'S** father or his brother. He was not married when he died. **THOMAS** inherited the entire estate suggesting there were no other heirs. This may be where **REBECCA** came up with the money to buy the land for **THOMAS** and **ABNER**.

4. **EDWARD** was friends with several Quaker families in Chester County, Pennsylvania. But he was not Quaker. The only Bailiff I have found that turned Quaker was Abner Bailiff.