

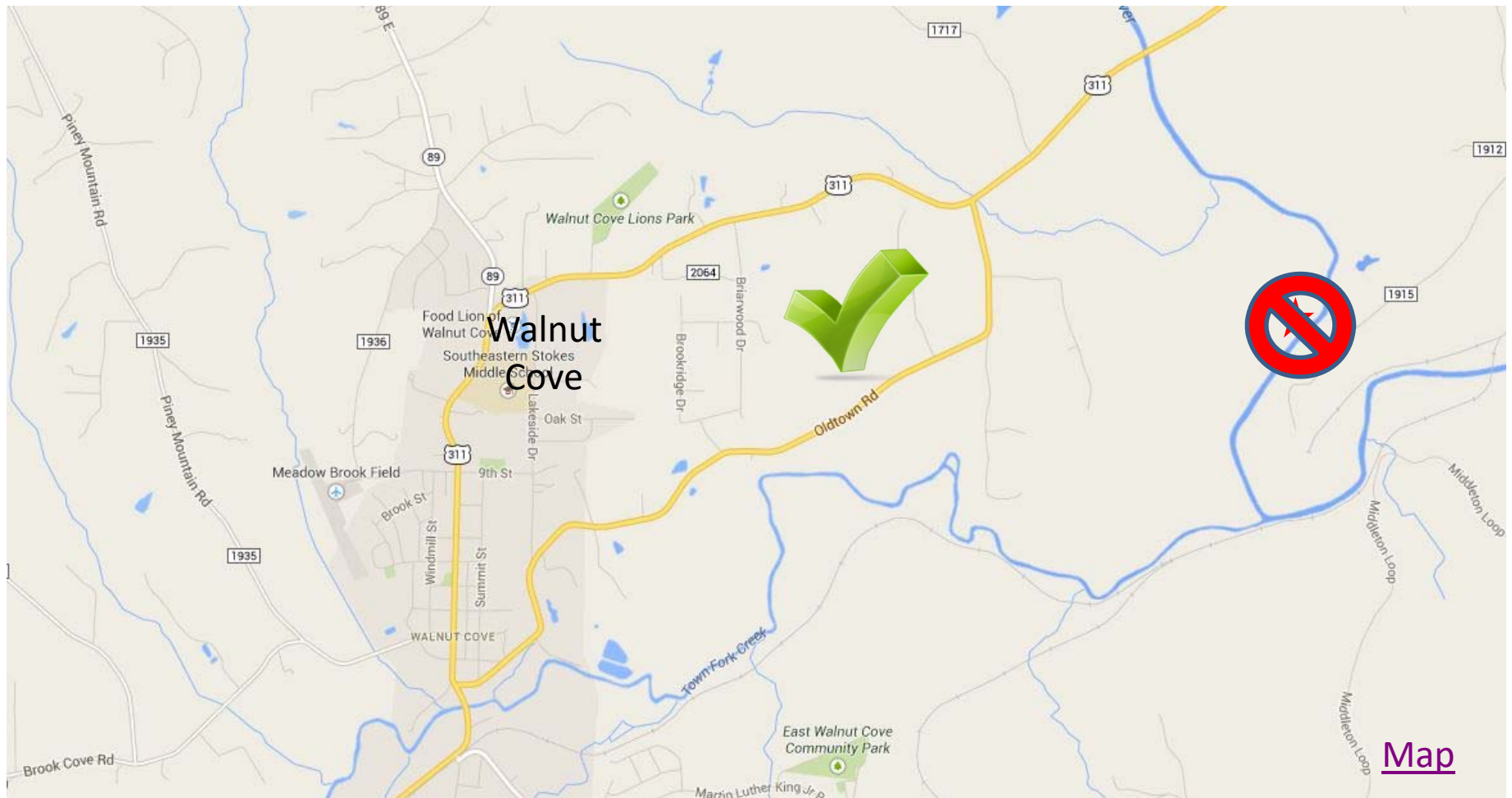
Benjamin Young Homestead

2014 Update

After last years reunion Mark and Kyle provided me with details on Ben Young's land that I was unaware of.

Benjamin Young Homestead – Est. 1751

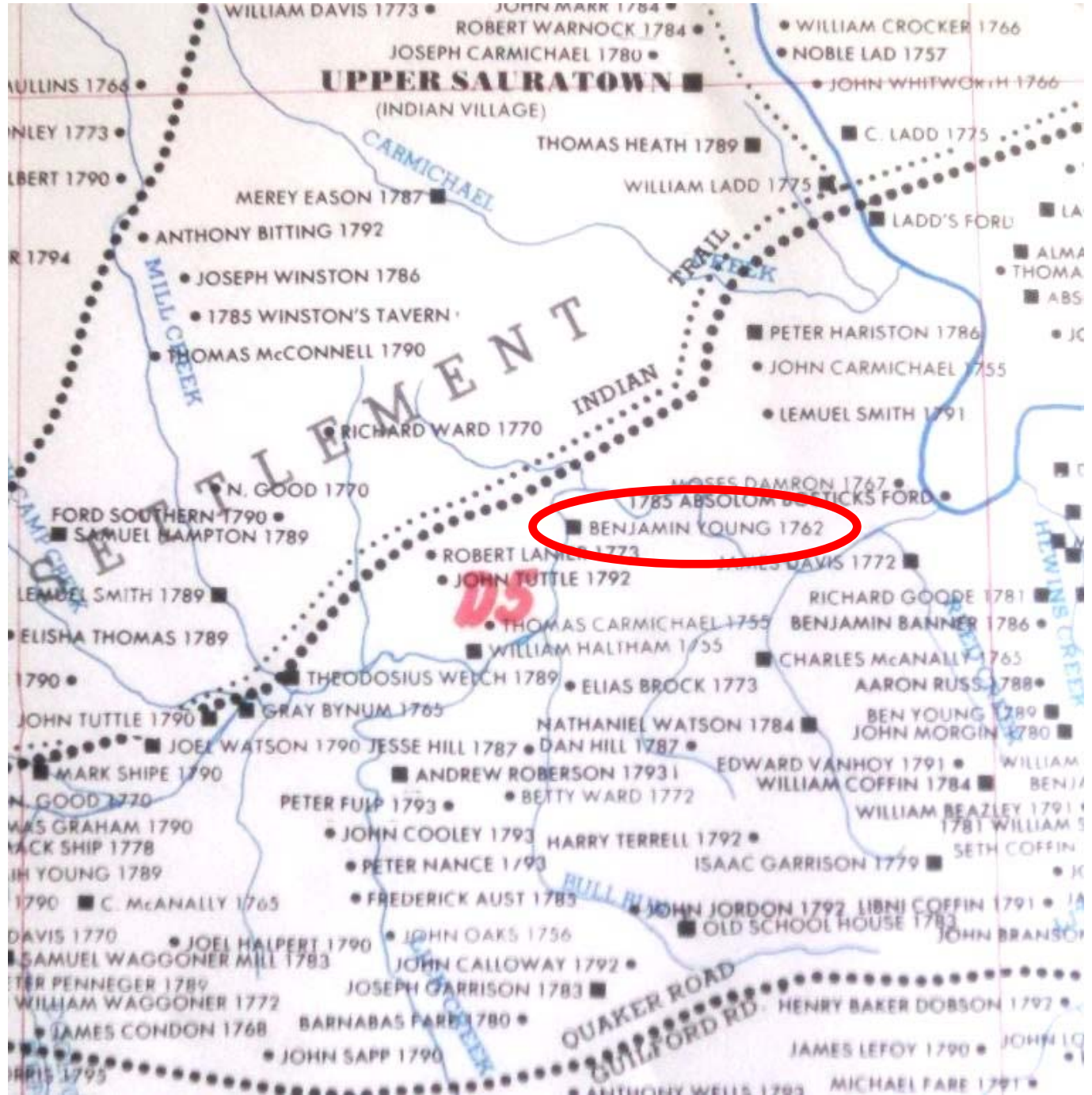
I had placed Ben's land at the end of Pipe Plant Road in Pine Hall.
After further review, I confirmed that his original 699 acres was not in Pine Hall and
was indeed just East of Walnut Cove.



**Benjamin
Young
Homestead
Est. 1751**

Stokes County map that
was drawn up in 1980
shows where Ben's land
was in 1762.

He first built here in 1751, but it wasn't until 1762 that he received an official Granville Land Grant.

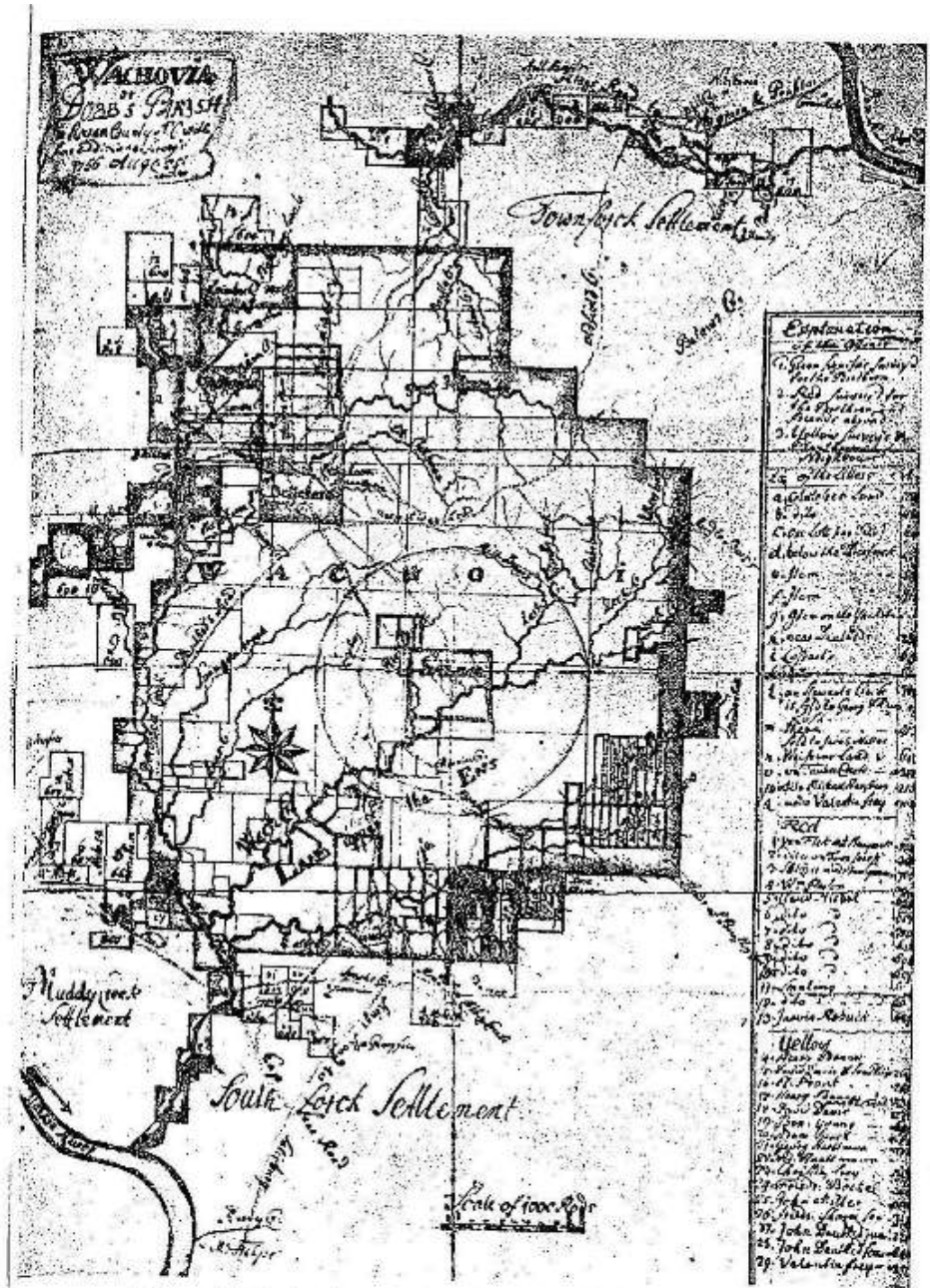


Benjamin Young Homestead Est. 1751

Mark showed me a copy from a book of an old Moravian map of the Wachovia Tract. So then I started looking into all the books I could find on the Moravians.

The Moravians came to this area in November of 1753 and began their settlement at Bethabara. Ben and his family were here two years before the Moravians arrived and when I reviewed the Moravian archives I found over 20 mentions of Benjamin Young and his father in-law Nathaniel Gist.

I'm putting together a presentation for our next reunion that discusses the interactions that Ben and Nathaniel had with the Moravians, but for today we will just focus on location of Ben's land.



Map of Wachovia, 1766, with some additional Surveys
Drawn by P. C. G. Reuter. Original in the Wachovia Historical Society Museum.

Benjamin Young Farm on the Moravian Map of the Wachovia Tract 1766 By Gottlieb Reuter

After finding several similar and low resolution maps of the Wachovia Tract in the books I came across, I wanted to find the original or a high resolution version. So I headed to Old Salem to talk to the Moravians in person. They were able to show me all of the maps they had of the Wachovia Tract and this is when I found this beautiful version shown on the next page.

The Wachovia Tract was also called Dobbs Parish after the current governor of North Carolina. It was surveyed by Gottlieb Reuter, a Moravian, in the 1760's and he drew many versions of this map. The Wachovia Tract encompasses what is today the Winston-Salem city limits.



**Benjamin Young Farm
on the
Moravian Map of the
Wachovia Tract 1766
by
Gottlieb Reuter**

© Moravian Archives



Moravian Map Surrounding Landowners

At the bottom right of the map is a table that lists all land owners on the map.

So if we zoom into the table. The first land owner listed in the table is Ben Young with 699 acres.

Num	Diasmer	Acres	Nr	Names	Acres
1	Benj. Young	699	28		500
2	Moses Martin		29		413
3	Amickel's Widow		30		
4	Nicol Eaven		31		
5	John Hanley		32	John Miller	353
6	Thomas Davis		33	Georg Haddmann	292
7	Thos Eaven the Cooper	248	34	Ed. Spach	259
8	El. Brock	285	35	Friedr. Böckel	100
9	Anthony Hampton			of John Millers	
10	Philip Davis		36	Adi Hattman	
11	Said Davis	260	37	Christian Frey	317
12	Jac. Kefser	700	38	Georg Frey	
13	Ben Eger King Frey's	700	39	Christian Zimmermann	
14	Wm. Pook	700	40	Peter Frey	
15	Heinrich Banner		41	Martin Walch	
16	Kruger		42	Herdenhall	
17	Joh. Leimbach	2000	43	Mac Cals	
18	Friedr. Freyer	256	44	Al. Felps	
19	Georg Lösch	260	45	Friedr. Miller	100
20	Adam Lösch	260	46	Nobel Lett	
21		413			
22	Mac Night				
23	Eaven Ellis				
24	John Dauterhan				
25	John Dauterhan				
26	Valentin Frey				

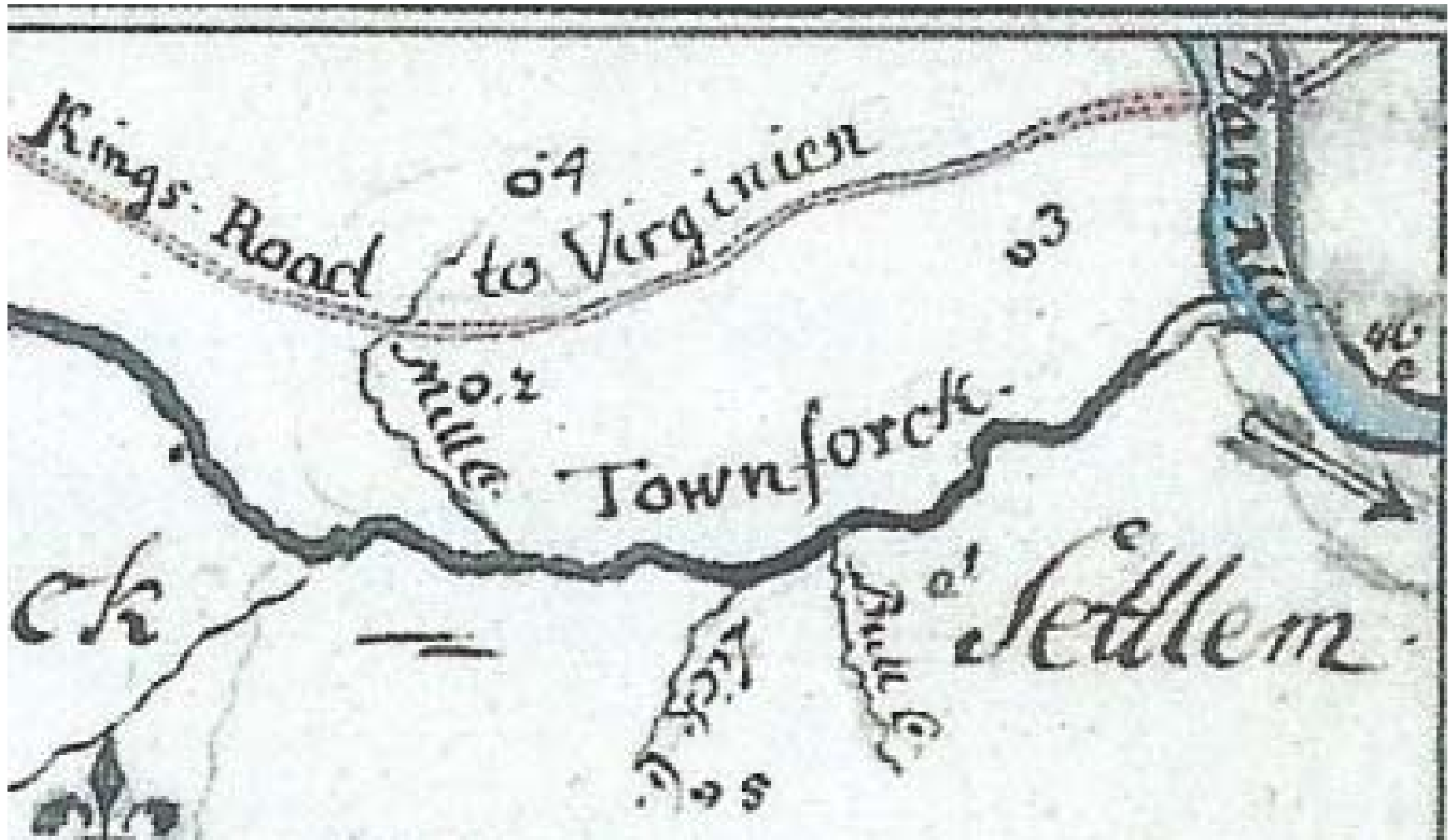
Moravian Map - Townfork Settlement

If we zoom into the top of the map we can see... The Townfork Settlement. Gottlieb spelled fork as “forck”. It spans from Germanton to the Dan River. You can see Carteret Creek, today called Buffalo Creek and Neatman Creek which is between Palmyra and South Stokes High School. Near the top there is the Kings Road also know as The Great Wagon Road to Philadelphia.



Moravian Map - Townfork Settlement

Zooming in more, we see where Walnut Cove is today. Here is part of Mill Creek which starts near Wall Loop and runs through Walnut Cove. Bull Creek is listed which was named after Ben. Ben's land is denoted by the 01 written beside of Bull Creek.



Moravian Map - Townfork Settlement

Benjamin Young Land

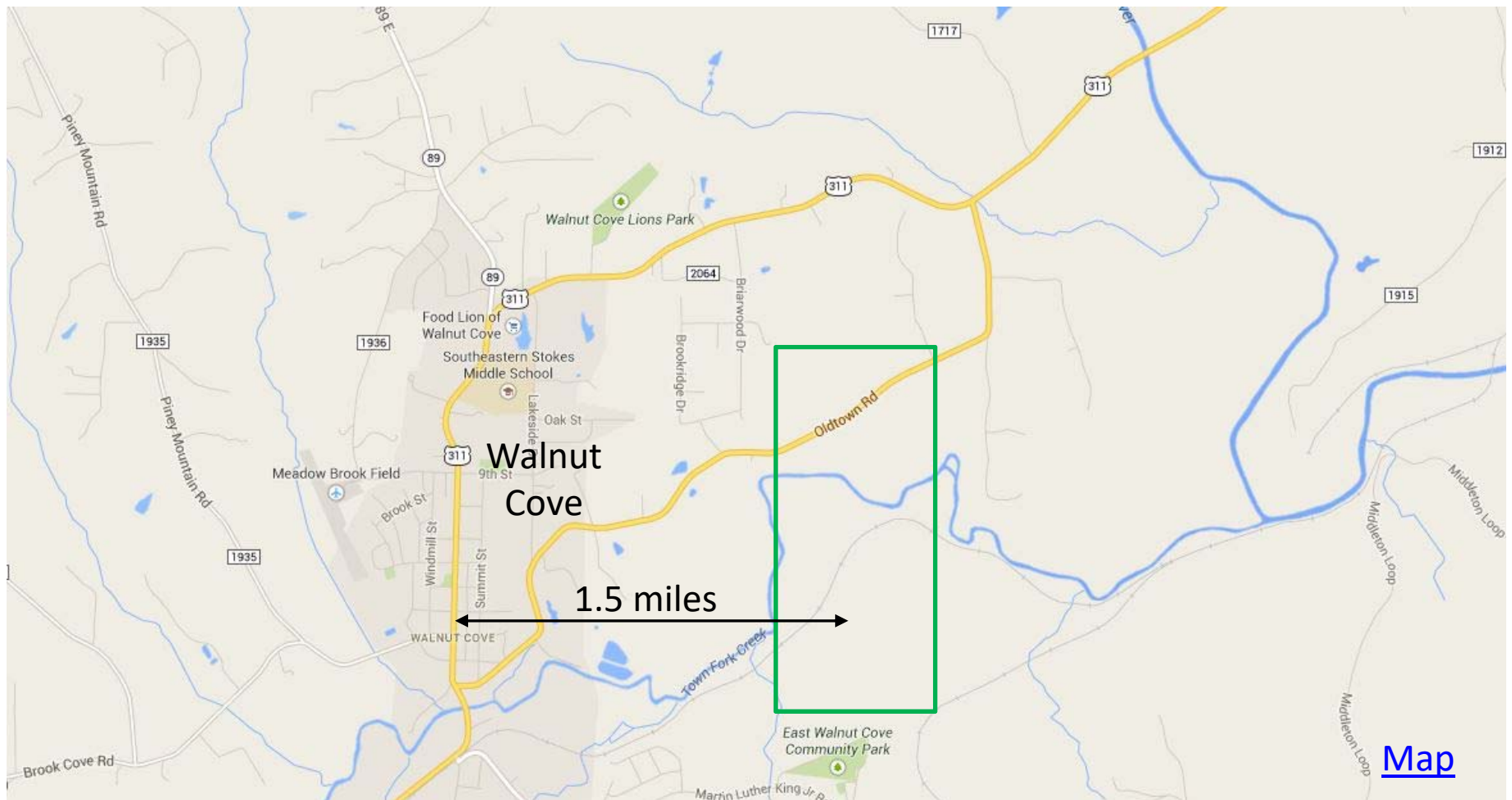
In a later version of the map, Ben's land has been surveyed by Reuter and is labeled lot #19 with the property lines shown.



**Ben's
Land**

Benjamin Young Homestead Est. 1751

I took the Moravian map and overlaid a new Google map and estimated where Ben's land would have been. The green box outlines Ben's 699 acres which is about 1.5 miles east of Walnut Cove. Townfork Creek goes through the middle of the property and Oldtown Road goes through the top half of the property.



Benjamin Young Homestead Est. 1751

*Knife, Stuck in Tree, Marked
Settling of Stokes County*

**Benjamin Young
1st Settler of Stokes**

**Danbury Reporter
4/24/1938**

Benjamin Young Homestead Est. 1751

I found this old article in Dot Alley's archives that was written in the Danbury Reported by Fred Pepper in 1938. It is titled **"Knife, Stuck in Tree, Marked Settling of Stokes County"**. It begins: On a cloudy February day way back in the early 18th century a whiskered old man by the name of Young stuck his knife in a beech tree and pitched his rifle on the bank of the Dan River in the flat bottom section between Pine Hall and Walnut Cove, and named it Old Town. He thereby, automatically became the first settler of the new Stokes county.

At the time Young stuck his knife in the beech, Stokes was a howling wilderness of wild cats and cucumber trees, tangled vines, rattlesnakes and rhododendron. Deer browsed on the moss that covered the rocks in the creeks and rivers, wild turkeys feasted on the acorns of the oaks, otters damned the streams and bluejays screamed from the timber, but nothing else was doing in particular.

Came a Long Way

Stokes has come a long way on the road to civilization since the foregoing conditions were present. It now has an estimated population of 25,000 people with approximately 8,000 of these listed as taxpayers. It has improved the living conditions of its borders until the birth rate far exceeds the death rate. Its people are hospitable and intelligent.

The topography is widely varied, ranging from fertile river bottoms and plains to rugged mountain country. Hanging Rock State Park, which includes most of the Sauratown, is but one of the many beautiful spots in Stokes which are easily reached. There are beautiful mineral waters, beneficial to the ailing. Chief among these are Piedmont Springs and Moore's Springs, both known throughout the state.

Agricultural Counts

Although small geographically, Stokes county ranks high as an agricultural county and yet many of its possibilities have not been fully developed. The county contains about 4,000 farms averaging 32 acres each with a little above 20 acres in crop land and above 40 acres in pasture and woods lands. Stokes has made some progress in increasing the numbers and the value of animals on the farm. This is particularly true in regards to stock, dairy cattle and hogs.

Stokes ranks high in crop farming, especially in corn, small grain and tobacco. A third of the land on the average farm is used for growing corn. The small grain crops are either planted alternately with tobacco on the best soil types in the county or are planted on the soils which are especially adapted to their production, but not as corn. Corn as a rule seems to be planted on land which is unsuited for tobacco, and but for the plantings made on large areas of

The article goes on to talk about how Stokes County had grown since then and moved into the age of electricity. It shows us that we should be proud to be part of the founding of this area and we need to keep passing these stories down through the generations.



Knife, Stuck in Tree, Marked Settling of Stokes County

By **FRED PEPPER**

On a cloudy February day away back in the early 18th century a whiskered old man by the name of Young stuck his knife in a beech tree and pitched his rifle on the bank of Dan River in the flat bottom section between Pine Hall and Walnut Cove, and named it Old Town. He thereby, automatically, but a meanin' of no harm, became the first settler of the now Stokes county.

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fertile bottom lands in the county, the total yield would be approximately the total yield would be proportionately far lower than it is. This county produces approximately 350,000 bushels of corn per year and would easily produce its needs—about two-thirds of a million bushels.

Small grain, consisting mostly of wheat, is planted on approximately one-fifth of the crop land.

Tobaccos and Poultry

Stokes county ranks high as a county which has long been known for its high quality tobacco production. At a one time one-third of the crop area in the county was devoted to tobacco production but in recent years this has been cut down to where it is now produced on about one of every five acres. Tobacco here is the important money crop and the soil is well adapted to its production. Stokes has about 95,000 acres of crop land.

Poultry is the second most important cash crop in Stokes. In recent years considerable investment has been made in poultry keeping equipment and in purebred stock. There are brooders, brooderhouses and laying houses of modern construction in all parts of the county.

Schools

The past few years have witnessed a marked improvement in the schools throughout the state and Stokes county has not been left behind. The schools of Stokes county today are on a par with the schools of other counties of the state. Consolidation has enabled Stokes schools to offer a better curriculum to the student with an adequate staff of teachers.

The county is divided into nine school districts, with a total of 23 white and 12 colored schools. The number of high school students is approximately 1,200, with an enrollment of about 5,000 elementary pupils. The county school buses transport over 3,000 children to and from school every day. School property in the county is valued at above \$400,000.

During 1936 and 1937 rural electrification in Stokes has shown amazing development. Approximately 500 families in rural communities are now enjoying the conveniences of electricity on lines that have been built within the past two years. The new electric lines have been built in the Sandy Ridge section, Danbury, Ros' Store community and the Rosebud community out from Walnut Cove.

Young Family History

