

# ELDER JAMES MARTIN

OF THE DISTRICTS OF ORANGEBURG, LOWER NINETY-SIX, EDGEFIELD AND BARNWELL, SOUTH CAROLINA; WARREN COUNTY, KENTUCKY; AND KNOX, GIBSON, POSEY AND VANDERBURGH COUNTIES, INDIANA TERRITORY/INDIANA,

## AND HIS BROTHER,

# SIMON MARTIN

OF THE SAME DISTRICTS IN SOUTH CAROLINA

By Steve Malone

“A book!

O, rare one, be not,

as is our fangled world,

a garment nobler than it covers.”

- WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

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***Elder James Martin of the Districts of Orangeburg, Lower Ninety-Six, Edgefield and Barnwell, South Carolina; Warren County, Kentucky; and Knox, Gibson, Posey and Vanderburgh Counties, Indiana Territory/Indiana, and his brother, Simon Martin of the Same Districts in South Carolina***

By Steve Malone

1072 N. Nichole Ave  
Boise, ID 83713  
(208) 960 1128  
[steveandalea@gmail.com](mailto:steveandalea@gmail.com)

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Thanks are due Neal L. Martin for personally bearing the expense of yDNA testing at Family Tree DNA, which helps to dispel any doubt that Elder James Martin and Simon Martin were brothers.

**This little booklet is dedicated to the many self-proclaimed genealogists out there who haven't done the work to warrant such a title. One such individual has been the sole motivation behind writing this story and, once and for all, sinking the Colonel James Martin myth.**

DISCLAIMER: I have no known Martin ancestry. My interest in Elder James Martin stems from a book that I published in 2014, as two of his children had married children of my fourth great-grandfather, Simon Williams. My interest in his brother Simon Martin stems from my belief, developed five-plus years ago, that he was the key to proving beyond any doubt that the pioneer preacher James Martin of Vanderburgh County, Indiana was not directly related to Colonel James Martin of Edgefield District, South Carolina. That belief has been thoroughly proven in this paper.

This paper is hereby placed in the **PUBLIC DOMAIN**. If more people would do the same, a lot more family enigmas would get solved...

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# INTRODUCTION

This little booklet is an extension of the Martin portion of a book that I self-published in late 2014 entitled *[The Pioneer Williams Families of Smith Township, Posey County, Indiana and their Allen, Cater, Davis, Harmon, Johnson/Johnston, Journey, Lowe, Martin, Prewitt/Pruitt and Rook Connections](#)*.<sup>1</sup> It contains by far the most detailed published account of Elder James Martin's life and family. This new work has been created to document additional facts and sources related to the lives of Elder James Martin and his brother Simon.

Elder James Martin is very unique among people of his era, in that he left a very detailed record of his life in various public records: militia lists, land records, marriage returns, court cases, elections, Census records, tax rolls, etc. These details allow his whereabouts in five states/colonies and ten different jurisdictions to be recorded in considerable detail. In this work and the earlier Williams book, it is possible to find record of him in the following years and locations (probably less than a third of these records had been documented by published researchers prior to the Williams book):<sup>2</sup>

## **Virginia Colony**

1758 – Birth (from militia roll).

## **Orangeburg District, South Carolina Colony**

1775 – Militia roll.

## **Lower Ninety-Six District, South Carolina**

1785 – Indent.

1785 – Land grant.

## **Edgefield District, South Carolina**

1786 – Indent.

1788 – Deeds.

1790 – Census.

1793 – Deed.

## **Barnwell District, South Carolina**

1793 – Land grant.

1797 – Deed.

1800 – Census.

1802 – Deed.

## **Tennessee**

1804 – Daughter's wedding (from biographies).

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<sup>1</sup> Pages 116 to 135.

<sup>2</sup> The specific citations for these documents can be found in the timelines at the back of this book and/or in my Williams book.

### **Warren County, Kentucky**

- 1805 – Bond to perform marriages, marriage returns.
- 1805 – Tax roll.<sup>3</sup>
- 1806 – Marriage returns.
- 1806 – Tax roll.<sup>4</sup>
- 1807 – Tax roll.<sup>5</sup>

### **Knox County, Indiana Territory**

- 1809 – Election.
- 1810 – Livestock brand.
- 1811 – Marriage return.
- 1812 – Marriage returns.
- 1813 – Marriage returns.

### **Gibson County, Indiana Territory/Indiana**

- 1813 – Estate appraisal.
- 1813 – Big Creek Baptist Church.
- 1813 – Marriage returns.
- 1814 – Marriage returns.
- 1814 – Land entry.
- 1814 – Estate administrator.
- 1815 – Marriage returns.
- 1815 – Court case.
- 1816 – Marriage returns.
- 1817 – Estate administrator.
- 1820 – Marriage return.

### **Posey County, Indiana**

- 1816 – Marriage return.
- 1817 – Marriage return.
- 1818 – Marriage return.
- 1822 – Marriage return.

### **Vanderburgh County, Indiana**

- 1818 – Patent.
- 1818 – Election.
- 1818 – Deed.
- 1819 – Marriage return.
- 1820 – Marriage return.
- 1820 – Census.
- 1821 – Marriage returns.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS3L-7975-Y?i=271&cat=157396>, image 272 of 1340.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS3L-797G-Q?i=344&cat=157396>, image 345 of 1340, both James Sr. and James Jr.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS3L-793B-C?i=381&cat=157396>, image 382 of 1340, both James Sr. and James Jr.

1822 – Marriage return.

1824 – Deeds.

1824 – Marriage to Fanny Hunter.

Few men can boast such a number and variety of colonial and post-colonial public records to document their life and accomplishments. And yet, even now that there is simple, direct access to all of this detailed information, far too few of Elder James Martin's descendants seem either willing or capable of untangling him from Colonel James Martin!

Other additional new information found in this booklet is in the form of yDNA test results, which confirm that at least five descendants of either Elder James Martin or Simon Martin share genetic distances of zero or one, and thus those descendants are deemed to be either “related” or “possibly related.” Most of those who match are 7 or 8 generations removed from James' and Simon's father, who unproven family lore presumes (probably incorrectly) to have been William Martin, b. 1723 in Ireland.

The premise for seeking to yDNA test a direct male descendant of Elder James Martin's line was for comparison to extant yDNA results from descendants of Simon Martin's line. These two men:

- Show up in historical records receiving land grants around the same time, first in Lower Ninety-Six District, South Carolina, and later in Barnwell District, South Carolina;
- They appear on each other's deed records in Edgefield District, South Carolina;
- They are found two households apart in the 1790 Census for Edgefield District; and
- They appear to have both been in the same militia regiment, which was raised from the men of Orangeburg District, South Carolina.

Thus, the likelihood of a sibling relationship was already very strongly supported in the public record. Positive yDNA results between the two lines would further bolster this apparent fact, which is why Neal L. Martin consented to being tested.

Regarding the confusion with Colonel James Martin (or the more remote possibility that Elder James was the Colonel's son): the family of Colonel James Martin is well documented, and there is no Simon Martin among his known brothers. Indeed, there is no Simon Martin known in the clan of Colonel James' father, Abram Martin.<sup>6</sup> While the evidence for Colonel James Martin (and his wife, Obedience Bugg) being the progenitor of Elder James Martin's clan is exceptionally weak and fails some very basic logical tests, the desire to believe this myth is very strong, pervasive and deeply ingrained. So, if there is proof that Elder James Martin was related to and likely the brother of Simon Williams, then it adds yet another level of proof that the story of Colonel James Martin's Indiana connections is incorrect: it is nothing more than unfounded myth that is based upon sloppy research done in the 1930s. If it were true, Simon would be accounted for in the very detailed story of Colonel James Martin and his siblings and ancestors.

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<sup>6</sup> There are only clear lines of descent for Captain Marshall Martin and General John Martin, both of which are based upon family records that were passed down through the generations.

## ANALYSIS

Documented in the timelines that appear later in this book are sufficient, fully-cited facts (the citations can mostly be found in the [timelines](#) at the back of the book) to establish that Elder James Martin, the “preacher of the backwoods style” of Vanderburgh County, Indiana was not the famed Colonel James Martin of Edgefield District, South Carolina (nor was he his son). But like Colonel Martin, James had played an important part in the Revolutionary War, though his valiant service was as a humble private in the South Carolina militia – a call he answered more than once. And yDNA results help to confirm two things: First, that his older brother was Simon Martin (see the later section entitled [yDNA Results – Neal Martin](#)), and second, that descendants of Elder James Martin do not share a common ancestor with descendants of Colonel James Martin’s ancestors (see the later section entitled [yDNA Results: Descendants of Abram Martin](#)).

Private James Martin served at least three tours in the South Carolina militia during the Revolutionary War, while Simon Martin served longer and was at one point promoted to sergeant. These men were two years apart in age, and both men were literate, which is a considerable distinction for men of that era (and it is clearly a requisite ability for a preacher to be able to read a Bible). They had first served in a regiment raised primarily from the men of Orangeburg District, South Carolina.

The 1775 lists that document their first militia service in the Revolutionary War (and in the same militia regiment) has James being born in 1758 and Simon in 1756, and both men were born in Virginia. Being born in 1758 is consistent with the age of James’ oldest child, Sally (Martin) Calvert, the wife of Patrick Calvert of Vanderburgh County, Indiana. She was born in late 1783, which was two years after Lord Cornwallis had capitulated at Yorktown. For the most part, that event ended the war, though the official end came with the Treaty of Paris in 1783. It would have been a good time for James to finally settle down and start his family.

At some point prior to the Fall of Charleston on 12 May 1780, Simon Martin had been enlisted in Captain Samuel Hammond’s Company of Colonel Leroy Hammond’s Regiment, which was recruited from men of Lower Ninety-Six District (almost certainly in the part which in 1785 would become Edgefield District). Since he and James had mirrored each other’s movements in every other place where public records show that they had lived, it follows that James likely had also moved to Lower Ninety-Six District around the same time. Thus, it was there that all but James’ two youngest children had been born (those other two were born in Barnwell District, South Carolina).

After the war, James and Simon both received grants of land in Lower Ninety-Six/Edgefield District, South Carolina near the Savannah River, not terribly far upstream from Augusta, Georgia. These were grants for abutting properties near various others with whom they had served in the militia, and their grants were made just a few months apart in 1785.

The most important clue had originated in 1787, when Malachi Fraser asked that indents<sup>7</sup> for his service during the Revolutionary War be sent to Mr. James Martin (not James Martin, Esquire) of Edgefield District. James’ original signature is on two of the receipts for those indents, while Simon’s signature is on the third. These are the only known examples of James’ signature in South Carolina, so they were a major discovery of this effort. The signatures of James match the signature found on a bond issued in 1805 in Warren County, Kentucky, which he was required to post in order to perform marriages there,

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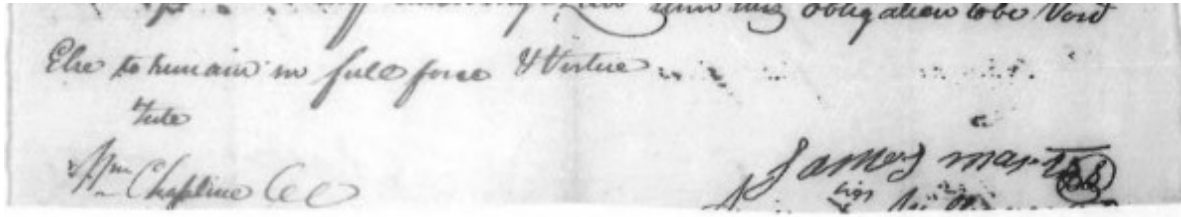
<sup>7</sup> An indent basically allowed him to collect money that he was owed by the government.



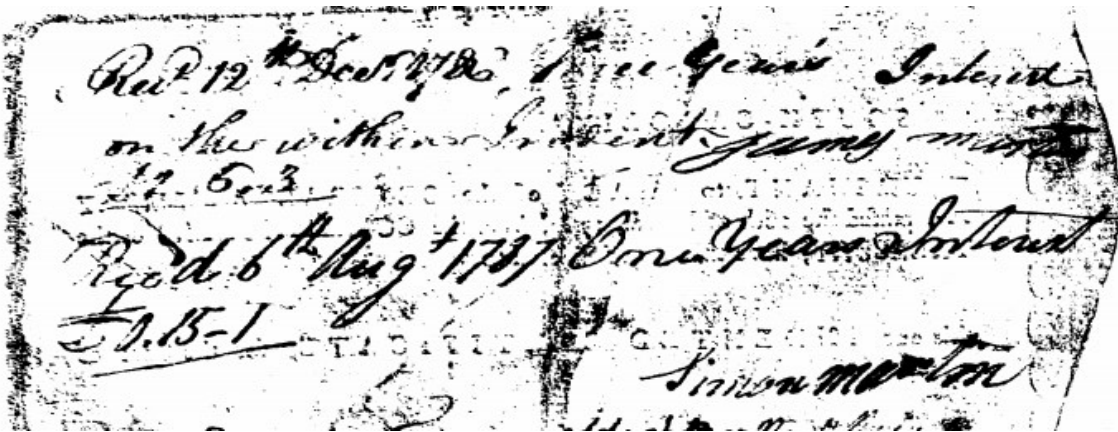
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ELDER JAMES MARTIN AND HIS BROTHER, SIMON MARTIN

leaving no doubt that they were made by the same man (note the very distinctive lowercase s in James). Further examples of his signature exist in the dozens of returns found in the four Indiana counties where he had performed marriages in Indiana, making it absolutely clear that it was Private James Martin who was Vanderburgh County's pioneer preacher.



The signature of James Martin on the 1805 Warren County, Kentucky bond. Marriage Records, 1797-1898, Warren County, Kentucky, FHL Microfilm #164004.



The signatures of James Martin and Simon Martin on the indent of Malachi Fraser.

In the 1790 Census of Edgefield District, South Carolina, James' and Simon's households were separated by just one household, that of Robert Lamar. James' household is a good match to his known or suspected children:

One Male over age 16:

James Martin, Sr., b. 1758

Three Males under age 16:

James Martin, Jr., b. 1784

Medford Martin, b. unknown

John Martin, b. 1790

Four Females:

Milly Martin, b. about 1765 (if married at age 18)

Sally Martin, b. 1783

Polly Martin, b. 1788

Unknown, b. by 1790

The two men eventually sold their holdings in Edgefield District and moved about 25 to 30 miles southeast to Barnwell District, where in 1793 they received grants of land in what, at the time, was Orangeburg District. These grants totaled nearly one and a half square miles and were generally located within the roughly six square mile area depicted below. The western boundary is Cedar Creek, the eastern boundary is Jackson's Branch:



The deeds for the Edgefield properties included the names of their wives: James' wife Milly and Simon's wife Celia. It is Milly's name as a charter member of the original Big Creek Baptist Church<sup>8</sup> in 1813 that further helps to tie this James in South Carolina to records in southwestern Indiana. As do the 1850 Census records of his three youngest children (his only surviving children at that time), which give their place of birth as South Carolina. In addition, two biographical accounts of their eldest daughter state that she was born in South Carolina in 1783.<sup>9</sup>

In the 1800 Census, only James Martin is found listed in Barnwell District, South Carolina. Earlier that year, a deed was recorded where Mary Lowe had conveyed a dower to Simon Martin, and on the same day Simon's wife "Selah" conveyed that dower to Peter Cooper. This record exists only as an index entry, as the deed journals from which they were derived had been destroyed in a courthouse fire in Orangeburg District. But it appears that Simon had died shortly before the deed was executed. The dower deed had perhaps been conveyed to Mrs. Simon Martin (and the Mrs. was dropped from the index),

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<sup>8</sup> The first location was southwest of present-day Cynthiana, Posey County, Indiana.

<sup>9</sup> *History of Posey County, Indiana* by John C. Leffel (1913), page 288, and *History of Vanderburgh County, Indiana* by Brant & Fuller (1889), page 672.

or it is perhaps just as likely that the deed had been written when Simon was married, but not recorded until after his death. But without a copy of the actual deed, such things can only be speculated.

The 1800 Census provides the most information about the ages of James and Milly, where it states that they were both born between 1756 and 1774, which is consistent with the 1758 date of birth recorded in James' militia record (but not consistent with Colonel James Martin's birth in 1749). Milly was likely born between 1758 and 1765.<sup>10</sup> The children described in that Census household match exceptionally well with what is known of their proven and suspected children who lived near them in Indiana:

Three males under age 10:

Thomas, b. about 1796  
Charles, b. 8 Dec 1791  
John, b. about 1790

Two males aged 10-15:

Medford, b. unknown  
James Jr., b. 18 Dec 1784

Two females under age 10:

Ruth, b. 3 Nov 1794  
Unknown, b. 1790-1800

Two females aged 10-15:

Polly, b. 4 Mar 1788  
Sally, b. 11 Dec 1783 (actually about 16 years of age at that time)

In late 1802, James and "Melly" sold their property in Barnwell District.

On 12 Aug 1804, their daughter Sally married Patrick Calvert in Tennessee. In 1805 James and Milly were living in Warren County, Kentucky and by around 1808 they had ventured to Knox County, Indiana, in an area that would later become Gibson County, Indiana. About six years later they moved a short distance south to Vanderburgh County, Indiana, where the paper trail eventually ends in 1824. Details of their lives from 1805 to 1824 are thoroughly documented in [my earlier book](#).

An early 1813 deed in Barnwell District has the settlement of Simon Martin's estate, in the form of a deed where his children's equal interests in his property were conveyed to the buyer, Richard Hankinson. It was very likely not until that date that the last of his children had come of age. The deed record is badly torn and there are pieces missing, which obscures some of the children's names. Those that are legible include:

- Selah Lowe, wife of Lot Lowe
- Jay ?
- ? Martin
- Henry Martin
- Nancy Keadle
- Elizabeth Martin

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<sup>10</sup> The 1765 date is derived from her oldest child's age, less 18 years, the typical marrying age for a young woman.

- John Martin
- Sarah Whitney

Simon's children seemed to have scattered once they had married, probably pursuing the prospects of finding cheap land in the west like so many of their contemporaries. One of his sons was James Nathaniel Martin, who later in life became a Baptist preacher. If he had participated in the above deed, it would not have been executed until around 1817 when he turned 21 years old, but he had run away from home to fight in the War of 1812. He migrated to places in Georgia and Alabama before eventually settling in Jackson Parrish, Louisiana. Details of his life are thoroughly documented in many depositions found in a large War of 1812 pension/bounty land application made by his children, where it states that his father was Simon Martin (see image 155, 7th line from the bottom):

<https://www.fold3.com/image/318901755?terms=james,martin,761>

The "unknown" Martin in the above list would appear to have been William Martin, though the proof of that assertion was not sought as part of this effort. An 1818 Barnwell District deed would suggest it is very likely factual.

So, in a nutshell, James Martin and Simon Martin were brothers born two years apart in Virginia, probably in one of the frontier counties along the Great Wagon Road. Simon died in Barnwell District before the 1800 Census, and in 1802 James and his wife Milly began a westward migration with their family that eventually ended, two years prior to Indiana statehood, in their making an entry for 160 acres of land in Vanderburgh County, Indiana.

## PRETZEL LOGIC

This a very brief, simple review of the logic (or lack thereof) that Elder James Martin of Vanderburgh County, Indiana could have been either Colonel James Martin or his same-named son (James Martin, Junior).

There are two households found in the 1790 Census for Edgefield District, South Carolina that need to be evaluated for how well they fit in the Colonel James Martin myth: those of Obedience Martin and Simon Martin. If the myth is true, these two households will be found to be pieces of the puzzle that somehow fit together into a coherent whole. If they clearly don't fit, then the myth is false: a classic "go/no go" test.

### The Logic of Elder James Martin as a son of Abram Martin

It appears indisputable that Colonel James Martin was the son of Abram and Betty (Marshall) Martin. According to the family bible record of a descendant of General John Martin (#4 below), their children were:<sup>11</sup>

1. William Martin, b. 26 Sep 1745
2. Lally [sic: Letty] Martin, b. 25 Sep 1747
3. James Martin, b. 14 Oct 1749
4. John Martin, b. 19 Mar 1751
5. George Martin, b. 25 Jun 1754
6. Barclay Martin, b. 13 Jun 1756
7. Edmund Martin, b. 10 Jul 1759
8. Marshall Martin, b. 10 Jul 1761
9. Mathew Martin, b. 26 Dec 1763
10. Jessie Martin, b. unknown

The above James Martin married before 1775, and the actual date was likely around the time when he came of age (1770). This means his son would have married no sooner than 1791. **Elder James Martin could not have been the son of Colonel James Martin b. 1749, since he had children who were born almost a decade before the Colonel's son could have come of age.**

Public records show very clearly that Elder James Martin had a brother named Simon, and there is no Simon accounted for in any recorded history of Abram Martin. Therefore, neither Elder James Martin nor his brother Simon could have been sons of Abram Martin. **Logically, if Elder James Martin was not the son of Abram Martin, he could not have been Colonel James Martin.**

In the 1790 Census for Edgefield District, South Carolina, are found the abutting households of Captain John Martin, Edmund Martin, and William Martin. And the fourth household that follows theirs is that of Barclay Martin. John, Edmund and Barclay are individuals 4, 7 and 6 in the above list. William was likely a son of one of these men, as the William listed first in the above list had died during the Revolutionary War. There are a few things worth noticing about these households.

- First, they possessed 6, 7 and 10 slaves, respectively (and Obedience [Bugg] Martin had 9 slaves in her household). That is in stark contrast to the households of Elder James Martin in 1790 and

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<sup>11</sup> Ancestry.com's *Alabama, Marriages, Deaths, Wills, Court and Other Records, 1784-1920, Mcrae-Meriwether*, Abram Martin, image 1315 of 2846. This was copied in 1923 by Gussie B. Cheney, a great granddaughter of General John Martin, b. 1751. Similar sibling information is also found in *History of Edgefield County, South Carolina from the Earliest Settlements to 1897* by John A. Chapman, A. M. (1897), pages 106, 150 & 151.

1800, and Simon Martin in 1790, who never owned any slaves. Indeed, by the time that Elder James Martin chose to leave South Carolina, many people were moving west because the growing slave population was quickly devaluing their labor. That led, in early 1807, to a law that banned further importation of slaves. And Indiana has been a passionately anti-slave state from the first day of statehood in late 1816.

- Second, in Barclay's household there are two men over the age 16, yet he was too young to have had a son that old. Was that where Colonel James Martin was living at the time?

#### The Logic of Obedience Bugg as a Wife of Elder James Martin

The household of James Martin that is listed in the 1790 Census for Edgefield District, South Carolina (containing six children: three sons, three daughters) is a good match to the number of known children of Elder James Martin who had been born by that time, as detailed in the preceding section. And the household of Obedience Martin in that Census shows 1 male and four females in addition to herself, all under age 16. That corresponds exactly to the children attributed to her by Sarah Susannah (MacMurphy) Adams, Colonel James Martin's undisputed granddaughter, by his daughter Keziah (b. about 1785).

**These were two completely distinct households: that of Elder James Martin, and that of Colonel James Martin's apparently divorced wife.** But let's examine the facts that further support that statement.

Colonel James Martin and Obedience Bugg married before 1775, and most likely by around 1770. They appear to have separated by the time of the 1790 Census for Edgefield District, South Carolina, since an entry is found for Obedience Martin's household that contains no males over age 16. There was a James Martin, Esquire, who sold property there in late 1790 who was unmarried, as there was no dower interest noted in the deed. He had been granted that property in late 1787. In that time period, Esquire was a term that was applicable to attorneys, or any individual of military rank above a captain. So, this was very likely Colonel James Martin. And since Obedience had no dower interest in this 1787 property, they had likely separated before then (but after 1785 when their daughter Keziah was born). And he had remained unmarried between 1787 and 1790, when he sold the property, since any new wife would have claimed a one-third dower interest in any property that he owned, and that interest would have been noted by her being named on the deed. Elder James Martin had two children who were born during the period when Colonel James Martin was a bachelor: Polly and John. **That pretty much kills the pet theory that Colonel James had divorced Obedience and then had immediately taken up with Milly.**

Elder James Martin and his wife Milly sold property in Edgefield District in 1788, almost exactly one year after James Martin, Esquire had acquired his grant. Since James Martin, Esquire (Colonel James Martin) was unmarried between 1787 and 1790 (based upon the sale of his property that year), he could not have been the husband of Milly: she had to have been the wife of James Martin, the Private. When Elder James Martin finally sold his remaining property in Edgefield District in 1793, Milly's interest in the property is shown by her being included on the deed. **These were clearly two different men. In 1790, one was single (likely divorced); the other was married.**

This notion is further reinforced by facts related to two of Obedience (Bugg) Martin's children for whom there are clear facts: Keziah (b. 1785) and Leticia (probably b. about 1779). Both women were married in Augusta, Richmond County, Georgia: Leticia in 1797 and Keziah in 1805. In those days, it was typical that brides were married in their county of residence. Colonel James Martin is known to have been alive and in Edgefield District, South Carolina in late 1799, when he participated in a memorial for President



George Washington with his brothers General John Martin and Captain Marshall Martin,<sup>12</sup> whereas Elder James Martin and his brother Simon were 25 miles away in Barnwell District, South Carolina.

By 1797, Elder James Martin had moved to Barnwell District, South Carolina, and by 1805 he was living in Warren County, Kentucky. And records in Warren County and in Knox County, Indiana Territory show that he had at least two children who were born before Keziah in 1785. **So, the notion that Elder James Martin was the husband of both Obedience Bugg and Milly simply defies logic and does not stand up to close scrutiny.**

Refer to my Williams book for additional logical arguments and details. The above are some of the main points, and they are more than sufficient to disprove the Colonel James Martin myth.

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<sup>12</sup> *Our Nation Builders* by Lula Long Martin (1947), page 47. This book documents the descendants of General John Martin and Captain Marshall Martin.

## CONCLUSIONS

Having fairly exhaustively searched in multiple jurisdictions over many years for records of brothers Simon and Elder James Martin, as well as for those relating to Colonel James Martin, it is worthwhile to clearly state the conclusions that can be drawn about these men.

1. Elder James Martin and Simon Martin were brothers:
  - a. They lived in close proximity everywhere they are found in the public records of four different jurisdictions in South Carolina over a span of more than two decades,
  - b. They were born two years apart in Virginia,
  - c. They served in the South Carolina Militia in 1775 as privates in the same regiment, though they served in different companies,
  - d. They frequently appeared as witnesses on each other's deed records,
  - e. They both signed for Revolutionary War indents belonging to Malachi Fraser, who had served as a private in Colonel Leroy Hammond's regiment, where Simon Martin had served as a sergeant (Colonel Hammond was also their neighbor in Edgefield District), and
  - f. yDNA results prove that descendants of Elder James Martin and those of Simon Martin share a common male ancestor.
2. The signatures of Mr. James Martin found on Malachi Fraser's indent match Elder James Martin's signatures as found on dozens of returns for marriages performed in Warren County, Kentucky and four different jurisdictions in Indiana Territory/Indiana.
3. Colonel James Martin was the son of Abram and Elizabeth (Marshall) Martin. He had several clearly proven siblings, but none named Simon.
4. yDNA results for people in the Martin Surname Project who believe that they descend from Abram Martin do not match to descendants with a verified lineage from Elder James Martin or Simon Martin. These two distinct Martin lines do not share a common Martin ancestor.
5. Elder James Martin was born in 1758, which is consistent with his 1800 Census record, where the range for his year of birth was between 1756 and 1774. The age of his eldest known child, who was born in 1783, further refines that range to between 1756 and about 1762.
6. Colonel James Martin was born in 1749 in Virginia, and he married Obedience Bugg before 1775 (probably around 1770).
7. Elder James Martin's first wife, and the only mother to his children, was Milly, who appears in public records with him from 1788 in South Carolina until 1813 in Indiana. The close spacing of the births of their children who were born prior to 1788 supports the notion that neither she nor James had a prior marriage.
8. Colonel James Martin's children were Elizabeth, Leticia, Keziah, Prudence and James, as personally recounted by his granddaughter, Sarah Susannah (MacMurphy) Adams in the early 1900s.
  - a. Two of Colonel James Martin's daughters were married in Augusta, Georgia in 1797 and 1805.
  - b. Colonel James Martin had a son named James who was most likely born between 1771 and 1783.<sup>13</sup> He married a Miss Harris, probably between 1792 and 1804, place unknown. His children and grandchildren of their one known daughter, Elizabeth (Martin) Shea (born in 1804) remained in Georgia their entire lives.

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<sup>13</sup> The latter year is based upon his daughter's year of birth, less 21 years.



9. Elder James Martin had a son named James who was born in 1784. He was married only once, at age 21, to Sally Williams in Kentucky in late 1805. All of their children were born in Indiana.
10. Elder James Martin's children were married in Tennessee in 1804; Warren County, Kentucky in 1805 and 1806; Knox County, Indiana Territory in 1812 and 1813; and in Gibson County, Indiana Territory in 1816.
11. Elder James Martin had at least eight children. Marriage returns are extant for six of them in three different jurisdictions, and those returns show that he had performed all six of their marriages.
12. **Clearly and unmistakably, Elder James Martin and Colonel James Martin were not the same man.**

Nine-tenths of the existing books are nonsense  
and the clever books  
are the refutation of that nonsense.

- BENJAMIN DISRAELI

What follows next is the material supporting the preceding analysis and conclusions:

- Some brief [family lore](#) from Simon Martin's side of the family,
- A brief explanation of [Neal L. Martin's yDNA results](#),
- A look at [yDNA results for descendants of two Abram Martins](#) (Colonel James' father and great grandfather).
- An overview of the [Revolutionary War service of James Martin and Simon Martin](#), and
- [Timelines from the four South Carolina Districts](#) where James and Simon had lived next to one another over a period of about 25 years.

## SIMON MARTIN FAMILY LORE

Per Nora Martin (wife of Lewis Franklin Martin, Senior, b. 1933, d. 2013), the following is unverified information about Simon Martin and his alleged father, William:

“Our info on William has been passed down by family story. Grandpa James Nathaniel had the info written in his family Bible – that Simon was his father and William was Simon’s father – that William came from Ireland and landed in Charleston, South Carolina in 1735. That Simon was born in Edgefield, South Carolina. This was verified by Frank’s Grandfather Jim Martin [James Henry Keener Martin, b. 1875, d. 1962] who had someone in Library of Congress verify it. After Grandpa Jim’s death we could not find this info – I’m sure one of the son’s [sic] took it.”

When pressed for more detail about the source of this information, it was stated that it had come from the bible of James Nathaniel Martin, b. 1797, d. 1864. This was James Henry Keener Martin’s grandfather, whose father was William Henry K. Martin, b. 1831, d. 1926.

At one point, the surviving heirs of James Nathaniel Martin decided to pursue possible additional bounty land that may be due him for service in the War of 1812, Creek War and Seminole War. The application contains more than 150 pages of supporting materials, including depositions of each of the surviving heirs. The deposition of William H. K. Martin is the most important. In it, in 1907 he stated that the bible of James Nathaniel Martin had been lost and was presumed destroyed. He stated that he had good knowledge of dates recorded in the bible, as he frequently recited from it at the request of his mother (who had died more than two decades earlier). However, it would seem that William’s memory was imperfect, as his recollection of a date or two was contradicted by the depositions of his living siblings. How imperfect it may have been in regard to other “facts” remains an open question.

So, without any direct evidence of the bible’s existence, the source of the information was more likely William H. K. Martin’s recollection of the bible’s contents. He never met his grandfather, though he was in his 30’s when his father died in 1864. So, the claim that Simon Martin was born (which would have been around 1756) in Edgefield District, South Carolina is very suspect, given that the date was more than a decade before the area was opened to settlement, and this information was recalled close to a century later.

As already stated, the first records of either James or Simon Martin near Lower Ninety-Six District (from which Edgefield District was created in 1769 as one of the seven original districts of the Province of South Carolina) was in 1775, when both Simon Martin (b. 1756 in Virginia) and James Martin (b. 1758 in Virginia) are listed on militia roles of different companies of the same regiment.

The main way of reaching the Edgefield District from points north was The Great Wagon Road’s southern spur to Augusta, Georgia. The route was not widened to accommodate wagon traffic until 1775, and the Edgefield District was not created until 1785. That suggests their arrival in South Carolina was likely close to 1775.

The above information contradicts family lore about both Simon’s place of birth and his father’s date and place of arrival, so both are likely **red herrings**, which should be ignored in favor of finding direct evidence of the family’s true origins.

# YDNA RESULTS: NEAL MARTIN

I won't attempt to provide any sort of detailed explanation of yDNA testing, as that can be found from any number of sources. I will state only that yDNA testing compares Y-chromosome results, and Y-chromosomes are only passed directly from male to male. Thus, males with identical or near-identical Y-chromosomes almost certainly share a common direct male ancestor. yDNA testing should not be confused with AncestryDNA or similar DNA testing. They are known as Autosomal DNA testing: they offer unique opportunities for understanding ancestral connections, but most do not highlight Y-chromosome results.

**Neal L. Martin** (kit # 908905) paid for yDNA testing through Family Tree DNA, where Lewis Franklin Martin, Sr. (kit #109818) and his son, Lewis Franklin Martin, Jr. (kit # 798617) have existing results. They are all part of Group 26 of the Martin Surname Project, belonging to Haplogroup R-M269. Neal is a genetic distance of 1 from both Lewises. Their lineage to Simon Martin is as follows:

- Lewis Martin, Jr., b. 1958, d. 2008
- Lewis Martin, Sr., b. 1933, d. 2013
- James Cecil Martin, b. 1901, d. 1969
- James Henry Keener Martin, b. 1875, d. 1962
- William Henry K. Martin, b. 1831, d. 1926
- James Nathaniel Martin, b. 1796, d. 1864
- Simon Martin, b. 1756, d. Before 1813

In addition, Neal has nine Martin cousins with a genetic distance of zero. The challenge is discovering the lineage of these people, though that has been possible in a few instances.

DNA Matches		DNA Matches	
mtDNA	Family Finder	mtDNA	Family Finder
Y-DNA		Y-DNA	
Q Martin		Q Martin	
Test: All		Test: All	
	<b>James P. Martin</b> Y-12 (Distance: 0)		<b>Mr. Martin Schatzl</b> Y-12 (Distance: 0)
	<b>Melvin D. Martin</b> Y-12 (Distance: 0)		<b>Rodney Duane Martin</b> Y-12 (Distance: 0)
	<b>Mr. Aubrey Allen Martin</b> Y-12 (Distance: 0)		<b>William Vest Martin</b> Y-12 (Distance: 0)
	<b>Mr. Fernandez Martinez Shaw</b> Y-12 (Distance: 0)		
	<b>Mr. Glenn Martin Geisendorfer</b> Y-12 (Distance: 0)		
	<b>Mr. Loren Kemp Martin</b> Y-12 (Distance: 0)		

[According to his wife Nora, Lewis Franklin Martin, Sr is also a zero genetic distance to Melvin D. Martin, Loren Kemp Martin, Rodney Duane Martin and William Vest Martin. Though that would seem to be an impossibility for Neal and Lewis to share the same zero genetic distance cousins, given the mutation that seems to be in Lewis' line. They likely are a genetic distance of one.]

One match is to **William Vest Martin**, who died in 2007. He, too, is a descendant of Simon Martin. The fact that he shows a zero genetic distance to Neal, while the two Lewises have a distance of 1 shows that the latter have a mutation that occurred at some point in James Nathaniel Martin's line. The DYS 389II Loci has a value of 29 in his line, while Neal's and William's lines have a value of 30. William Vest Martin's lineage is as follows:

- William Vest Martin, b. 1826, d. 2007
- Isaac Alvin Martin, b. 1878
- Theodore S. Martin, b. 1852, d. 1926
- James Henry Martin, b. 1821, d. 1908
- William Martin, b. 1793, d. 1862
- Simon Martin, b. 1756, d. Before 1813

Another match of zero genetic distance was to **Loren Kemp Martin**, who died in 2017. He traces his line back to William Connor Martin, b. 1811 in Rockingham County, NC. Rockingham is on the Virginia/North Carolina border along the Great Valley Road, possibly suggesting that Simon Martin had been born not far to the north, which would have been the far edge of the western frontier in 1756. Even as early as 1790, there were about a dozen Martin families living in Rockingham County, totaling over 50 white household members.

One more match of zero genetic distance is to **Aubrey Allen Martin**, who died in 2018. He traces his line back to John Martin, Sr, b. 1764 in Maryland. In the 1800 Census, he was living in Spartanburg District South Carolina. It would seem any shared ancestor would be farther back than James' and Simon's father.

The following is a link to an FTDNA white paper on interpreting y-12 DNA results:

<https://www.familytreedna.com/learn/y-dna-testing/y-str/two-men-share-surname-genetic-distance-12-y-chromosome-str-markers-interpreted/>

# YDNA RESULTS: DESCENDANTS OF ABRAM MARTIN

Since Colonel James Martin was one of the eight sons of Abram and Betty (Marshall) Martin, it would seem logical that there are a lot of his direct male descendants whose yDNA results can be compared against descendants of Elder James Martin and/or Simon Martin. The lineage from which Colonel James Martin is descended comes from *Colonial Families of the USA, 1607-1775, Volume 1* edited by George Norbury Mackenzie and Nelson Osgood Rhoades (1912), page 271 and the earlier cited bible record from a great granddaughter of General John Martin.

Family Tree DNA has a public Martin Surname Project with yDNA results for over 650 Martin male descendants. The database supplies the specific yDNA results of all of these individuals, along with the name of the most distant known ancestor, as presumed by the kit owner. It was reviewed for people who believe that they descend from Colonel James Martin's father, Abram Martin, b. 1716, or his great grandfather, Abram Martin, b. circa 1640s. Only one such kit was found for the former (#119993, Group 21), whereas six were found for the latter (#s 227233 & 338836, Group 8, #101355, Group 13, and #s 227300, 168228 & 175375, Group 21). This result suggests the vast majority of people are incorrectly identifying their ancestors, as most of these groups do not share a common direct male ancestor in a genealogically relevant timeframe. This is probably a shock to most people, but to me it simply illustrates something I have observed repeatedly during the last decade of my ancestral research – all too often, the train comes off the tracks when researchers attempt to extend their lineage back before 1850. To illustrate this point, search Find A Grave for James Martin born in 1758. Of the four results that I found, one is buried in Indiana and two were buried in Kentucky. All three of these were born in Virginia! The point is that Martin is a very common surname, and James is one of the most common given names. It takes a lot of facts found through dogged research to correctly identify the correct ancestor.

Hopefully, out of these seven results, at least one is accurate (i.e. – the kit owner managed to correctly identify his ancestors), and the odds are fairly good that it is safe to make such an assumption. Each of these groups that these individuals belong to has distinct y-12 test results, and each group contains only individuals who are at least probably related (no more than one mutation as compared to at least one other member of the same group). Thus, since Colonel James Martin was indisputably the son of Abram Martin, b. 1716 and the great grandson of Abram Martin, b. circa 1640s, anyone who believes to be descended from him should also match descendants of either or both of his two ancestors. In the case of descendants of Elder James Martin, there is no such match. Group 21 descendants are the closest matches, but they only match on 8 of the 12 tested loci. Such a result only signifies that they may have shared a common ancestor within thousands of years.

This is yet further evidence that the belief is completely unfounded and erroneous that Elder James Martin was either Colonel James Martin or his same-named son, James Martin, Junior.

# REVOLUTIONARY WAR SERVICE

The following is a list of privates known to have served in South Carolina during the Revolutionary War: [https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/patriot\\_military\\_sc\\_privates\\_m.htm](https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/patriot_military_sc_privates_m.htm)

Col. William Thomson was in charge of the Orangeburg District Militia, which at the time abutted the southern edge of the future Edgefield District. Col. Leroy Hammond was in charge of Lower Ninety-Six District (part or all of which would later become Edgefield District). There were two Martins in Colonel Thomson's regiment who are of direct interest to this research:

1756 **Simon Martin** was 19 years of age when he enlisted as a private in Capt. **John Lewis Peyer im Hoff**'s Company of Col. Thomson's Regiment of Rangers on 1 Sep 1775, where it states that he was born in Virginia. He later was promoted to sergeant, and was 5 feet, 7 inches tall.

[https://www.jstor.org/stable/27574956?seq=21#metadata\\_info\\_tab\\_contents](https://www.jstor.org/stable/27574956?seq=21#metadata_info_tab_contents), page 21 of 27.

Col. Thomson's Regiment of Rangers later became known as the 3rd Regiment of South Carolina Militia, which was raised from the western parts of South Carolina. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/3rd\\_South\\_Carolina\\_Regiment](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/3rd_South_Carolina_Regiment)

Roster of South Carolina Patriots in the American Revolution  
M

**Martin, Simon**

b. c. 1756, Va.

He enlisted in the Rangers under Capt. John L. P. Imhoff on 1 September 1775. In addition, he served as a sergeant under Lt. Col. Samuel Hammond in the state troops before the fall of Charleston and was in the militia after the fall of Charleston. During 1783, he was a constable in Ninety Six District. He was wounded at Eutaw Springs. S.C.H.&G., II, 187; N.A.853; A.A.4815; M18; O33; T500; Annuitants Claims.

(page 662)

1758 **James Martin** was 17 years of age when he enlisted as a private in Capt. **John Purvis**' Company of Col. Thomson's Regiment of Rangers on 1 Sep 1775. He was born in Virginia and was 5 feet, 5 inches tall.

[https://www.jstor.org/stable/27574956?seq=20#metadata\\_info\\_tab\\_contents](https://www.jstor.org/stable/27574956?seq=20#metadata_info_tab_contents), page 20 of 27. One of James' and Simon's neighbors in Edgefield District was **John Purvis** (See 1791 and 1793 deeds of Edgefield District, South Carolina).

Roster of South Carolina Patriots in the American Revolution  
M

853.

**Martin, James**

b. c. 1758, Va.

He enlisted in the Rangers under Capt. John Purvis on 1 September 1775 and re-enlisted on 24 July 1776 and 1 May 1778. S.C.H.&G., I, 302; II, 186; N.A.853.

(page 659)



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## ELDER JAMES MARTIN AND HIS BROTHER, SIMON MARTIN

Descendants of Simon's line believe the above record refers to him, as do I. If so, it conflicts with family lore that has Simon born in Edgefield District, South Carolina.

The map below shows the Great Valley Road, with the southern spur traversing from Martinsville, Virginia to Martintown, South Carolina (just east of Augusta, Georgia). Note the first county in North Carolina is Rockingham County, where Neal is a zero genetic distance to Loren Kemp Martin, whose ancestor was born there in 1811. And Aubrey Allen Martin was a zero genetic distance match to Neal, and his ancestor was born in Maryland in 1764, which was also along the Great Valley Road.



At the time of the Revolutionary War, Philadelphia was the most populous city of the Colonies, and it and New Castle, Delaware (located 35 miles downstream from Philadelphia) were the main points of departure for those venturing to the frontier. Travel from any other port along the East Coast would have been by river, as few roads were extant, and fewer still were capable of handling wagon traffic, as the Great Valley Road could. Since many immigrants could not afford river travel, they relied instead upon shanks' mare and stuck to the main road to the frontier.

# LOWER NINETY-SIX DISTRICT, SC TIMELINE

It appears that there were two James Martins living in Lower Ninety-Six District in close proximity to one another, and the deeds listed below are an attempt to identify all known deeds of both men during the period when James and Simon Martin resided there. Our James Martin's deeds can be discerned by his wife's dower interest and/or Simon Martin signing as a witness.

- 1778 Mar 25    Some members of Lower 96 district militia:  
                  Col. Leroy Hammond  
                  Lt. Col. or Major Samuel Hammond  
                  Lt. Col. or Major ? Purvis  
                  Capt. Abner Hammond, Sr.  
                  Capt. Charles Hammond  
                  Capt. John Hammond  
                  Capt. Samuel Hammond  
                  Capt. Barkley Martin  
                  Capt. John Martin  
                  Capt. John Purvis  
                  Lt. Charles Hammond  
                  Lt. George Hammond  
                  Lt. Barkley Martin  
                  Lt. Marshall Martin  
                  Sgt. Simon Martin  
[https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/patriot\\_militia\\_sc\\_lower\\_ninety\\_six\\_district\\_regiment.html](https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/patriot_militia_sc_lower_ninety_six_district_regiment.html)
- 1778 Jul 25    **Simon Martin** was granted a one-year annuity of 13 shillings for injuries received while serving in the militia at the Battle of Eutaw Springs.
- 1783            **Simon Martin** served as constable in Lower Ninety-Six District. <https://books.google.com/books?id=3fyW917Qb0kC&pg=PA8&lpg=PA8&dq=%22simon+martin%22+ninety+six&source=bl&ots=nYNFNvdazh&sig=ACfU3U09TQzacBkZ1QewH9Rh3DbDfud0GA&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwiWr7CDja7jAhWQEnwKHQOcAs8Q6AEwBnoECAkQAQ#v=onepage&q=%22simon%20martin%22%20ninet y%20six&f=false>
- 1784 Aug 7    **Simon Martin** land grant for 100 acres near the Savannah River in Lower Ninety-Six District. *South Carolina Archives, Series S213190, Volume 9, page 332, item 2.* A grant for Daniel Gill dated two days later shows that **Simon Martin** and **Reuben "Fraizer"** (next of kin [brother] of **Malachi Fraser**) were his neighbors. *South Carolina Archives, Series S213190, Volume 5, page 296, item 0.*
- 1785 May 25    **Simon Martin** assigned his indent for Revolutionary War pay of 117 pounds 10 shillings to **John Hammond**.  
<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/ArchivesImages/S108092/S108092009500150000/images/S108092009500150000.pdf>
- 1785 Sep 5    Grant of 100 acres to **Simon Martin** on each side of the road from Augusta to Ninety-Six by Sweetwater Creek. Adjacent **Covington Pierce** and **William Morgan**. *Sweetwater Creek drains into the Savannah River about 5 miles north of Augusta, GA. The property described above was most likely on Martintown Road.*



- 1785 Nov 7 Grant of 346 acres to **James Martin** (I believe this to be Elder James Martin, who later moved to Warren County, Kentucky and southwestern Indiana). Adjacent to **Morgan**, Col. **Leroy Hammond**, **Waring** and **Jas. Martin** (this is possibly Colonel **James Martin**).
- 1785/1787 **This is perhaps the most important source, as it ties the James Martin associated with Simon Martin in South Carolina to the James Martin of Warren County, Kentucky and Knox, Gibson, Posey and Vanderburgh Counties, Indiana Territory/Indiana.** It turns out that **Malachi Fraser** was due indents for amounts owed to him from his participation in the Revolutionary War, and more specifically, his being called to defend Charleston when the British attacked. He was in Colonel **Leroy Hammond**'s Regiment. He requested that his indents be sent to Mr. **James Martin**, who signed for ones on 15 Jul 1785 and on 12 Dec 1786. Another was signed for by **Simon Martin** on 6 Aug 1787. Note this was Mr. James Martin, not Colonel or Esquire.  
<https://www.genealogy.com/ftm/m/a/s/Claude-E-Massey/WEBSITE-0001/UHP-0397.html>  
The source of the above can be found here:  
<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/ArchivesImages/S108092/S108092004800390000/images/S108092004800390000.pdf>

## EDGEFIELD DISTRICT, SC TIMELINE

- 1787 Jan 16 **Simon Martin** and **Celia**, his wife, sell his 100-acre grant received on 5 Sep 1785 located on the road from Augusta to Ninety-Six for 12 pounds to **Allen Hinton**. Wit: **Abraham Pierce, James Martin, Joshua Thorn**. *Edgefield District, South Carolina Deeds, Book 4*, pages 263-269.
- 1787 Nov 5 Grant to **James Martin** (likely Col James Martin - see 1790 sale of this property). Adjacent to **Daniel Gill, James Glover** and heirs of **Daniel Mitchell**.
- 1788 Apr 21 **Ann Hammond** sold 1 horse, 2 beds and furniture, 4 hogs, 1 side saddle, 2 dishes, 1 dozen plates, 2 pots, 1 oven, 1 cow and calf to **James Martin**, price not stated. Wit: **Charles Hammond** and **Simon Martin**. *Edgefield District, South Carolina Deeds, Book 8*, 94-95.
- 1788 Oct 14 **James Martin** and **Milly**, his wife, sold 100 acres of his 1785 346-acre grant to **James Vessels, Jr** for 20 pounds. Wit: **Drury Pace, John Day, Charles Hammond**. *Edgefield District, South Carolina Deeds, Book 3*, pages 260-265.
- 1790 Census Edgefield County, **James Martin**'s household is listed two households above that of **Simon Martin** (**Robert Lamar** is living between them).
- 1790 Aug 19 **Simon Martin** received a grant of 42 acres on the Savannah River, which had been surveyed on 20 Sep 1786. *South Carolina Archives, Series S213190, Volume 25*, page 205, item 1.
- 1790 Dec 21 **James Martin, Esquire** (likely Col. James Martin) sells 45 acres on the Savannah River to **Samuel Crafton** for 50 pounds: land originally granted on 5 Nov 1787. Wit: **John Bell, Daniel Mazyck**. *Edgefield District, South Carolina Deeds, Book 12*, pages 635-639. (No dower interest was noted, so this would seem to **not** be the James Martin who was married to Milly.) This would seem to be a purely speculative purchase, since the property was owned for only three years.
- 1791 Jan 2 **Charles Rhodes** and **Isabella**, his wife, to **William Covington**. Adjacent to **John Purves** (SE), **James Martin** (SW), Colo **Leroy Hammond** (SW), vacant (NW), **Daniel Gill** (NE) and **Simon Martin** (NE). Wit: **Abraham Pearce, Simon Martin** and **William Williams**. *Edgefield District, South Carolina Deeds, Book 10*, pages 327-331.
- 1793 Jan 15 **James Martin** and **Milly** his wife to **William Mathews**, store keeper, for 80 pounds sold 230 acres granted to **James Martin** on Foxes Creek of Savannah River. Adjacent to **Morgan, Waring** and Colo. **Charles Hammond**. Wit: **Simon Martin** and **Leroy Hammond**. *Edgefield District, South Carolina Deeds, Book 11*, pages 72-74. An 1817 map from an 1825 Atlas shows Fox Creek just north of where Sweetwater Creek is located. Today it appears to be called Hardy Branch (there is another modern-day Fox Creek just opposite of Augusta).
- 1793 Mar 4 A deed from **William** and **Phebe Covington** to **Thomas Jedg** was adjacent to land owned by **Daniel Gill** (NE), **Simon Martin** (NE), Colo. **Jno. Purvis** (SE), **James Martin** (SW) and Colo **Leroy Hammond** (NW & SW). Wit: **John Covington, William Williams**. *Edgefield District, South Carolina Deeds, Book 7*, pages 350-354.

## ORANGEBURG DISTRICT, SC TIMELINE

- 1793 Feb 19 Grant to **James Martin** for 360 acres. Record not found in the online South Carolina Archives, but it is mentioned in the 1797 deed below.
- 1793 Aug 22 **Simon Martin** land grant for 640 acres on Jacksons Branch, Upper Three Runs, Winton County, Orangeburg District. *South Carolina Archives, Series S213190, Volume 23, page 239, item 2.*
- 1793 Aug 22 **Simon Martin** land grant for 288 acres in Winton County, Orangeburg District. *South Carolina Archives, Series S213190, Volume 31, page 259, item 2.*
- 1797 May 6 **James Martin** sold two tracts to **Hardy Wall** (both living in Orangeburg District) for 21 pounds, ten shillings (not recorded until 28 Mar 1836). Witnessed by **H. Roberts** and **Joshua Collins**: One for 137 acres which **James Martin** purchased from **Simon ?man**, and the other 360 acres was granted “to the said James ye 19 February 1793.” *Barnwell District, South Carolina Deeds, Book U, page 322.*

## BARNWELL DISTRICT, SC TIMELINE

- 1800 Feb 22 Mrs. **Selah Martin** (wife of **Simon Martin**) conveyed a dower to **Peter Cooper**, no amount given. *Barnwell District, South Carolina Deeds, Book 2*, page 35. Index only, the deed book was destroyed in a fire. <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS73-Q2GH?i=341&cat=360748>, image 342 of 613.
- 1800 Feb 22 **Mary Lowe** conveyed to **Simon Martin** an unspecified dower. *Barnwell District, South Carolina Deeds, Book 2*, page 35. Index only, the deed book was destroyed in a fire. <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS73-Q215?i=329&cat=360748>, image 330 of 613.
- 1800 Census There is a **James Martin** listed in Barnwell County, South Carolina who is a good match to what is known about **Elder James Martin**: three males under age 10 (John, Charles, Thomas), 2 males aged 10-15 (James, Medford), two females under age 10 (Ruth and ?) and two females aged 10-15 (Sarah [who should be about 16 years old], Mary).
- 1802 Nov 15 **James and Melly Martin** sold to **George Bender** for \$370 750 acres on Cedar Creek. *Barnwell District, South Carolina Deeds, Book 3*, page 49. Index only, book destroyed in fire. <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS73-Q2GH?i=341&cat=360748>, image 342 of 613.
- 1805 Jan 9 **Lott Lowe and Sealey [Martin] Lowe**, his wife, sold to **Thos Weatherbee** for \$100 a tract of land on Cedar Creek, a branch of Upper Three Runs Creek, containing 100 acres and originally granted to **Patrick Gording**. Witnessed by **Henry Martin** and **Elijah Tredaway**. *Barnwell District, South Carolina Deeds, Book B*, page 120. <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS7W-3933-9?i=376&cat=360748>, image 377 of 517.



1825 map of Barnwell District, South Carolina showing Cedar Creek and Upper Three Runs Creek.

<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~23856~860023:Barnwell-District.-South-Carolina-->

- 1805 Jan 19     **Henry Martin**, son of **Simon Martin**, sold 25 acres on Upper Three Runs Creek and Cedar Creek to **Thomas Weatherbee** for \$20. The land was part of 200 acres granted to **John Lowe**, who then conveyed to **Thomas Red**, from whom **Simon Martin** purchased. Witnessed by **Lott Lowe** and **Elijah Tredaway**. *Barnwell District, South Carolina Deeds, Book B*, page 125. <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS7W-39SR-6?i=379&cat=360748>, image 380 of 517.
- 1805             By this year Elder James Martin was living in Warren County, Kentucky. Around 1808 he moved to Knox County, Indiana Territory (present day southern Gibson County, Indiana). In 1814 he moved a few miles south, to what would become Armstrong Township, Vanderburgh County, Indiana. He is said to have left Vanderburgh County in 1824, moving "south" to be near other, unknown relatives.  
*See [The Pioneer Williams Families of Smith Township, Posey County, Indiana](#) for details of James Martin and his family in Warren County, Kentucky and in Knox, Gibson, Posey and Vanderburgh Counties, Indiana Territory/Indiana.*
- 21 Jan 1813     Heirs of **Simon Martin** sold to **Richard Hankinson** 288 acres. Heirs include **Lott Lowe**, **Jay** unknown, **Elizabeth Martin**, **Sarah Whitney**, **Nancy Keadle**, **Henry Martin** and **John Martin**. Pages are partly disintegrated, so some information is missing, but signatures of all of the above except Jay are mostly intact. *Barnwell District, South Carolina Deeds, Book N*, page 167. <https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/007856766?cat=360748>, image 99 of 701.  
*Note: The heirs of **James Nathaniel Martin** sought 160 acres of bounty land for their father's service in the War of 1812, Creek War and Seminole War. In that application, his son **Hamilton Robert Martin** stated that **Simon Martin** was James' father (page 155, 7th line from the bottom) and that Simon's mother-in-law was **Celia Allen**, daughter of **Asa Allen** (page 154, line 4). <https://www.fold3.com/image/318901910>, pages 154 to 156.*  
*An earlier deposition by another of James' children states that he ran away from home to fight in the war of 1812. He received a 40-acre grant for this service, as a substitute for **Jeremiah Call**. He served as a musician in Capt. Cooper's South Carolina Militia (GLO Records, Accession number MW-626-263).*
- 1818 Nov 2     A judgment was made against **William Martin**, and a writ of fieri facias was issued to recover the amount of \$86.96. His land of 300 acres situated on Upper Three Runs Creek was sold at public auction. The property was bounded by Capt. **Wm. Cooper**, **Thomas Red** and others. The property was purchased by **William Braxton** for \$88.50. *Barnwell County, South Carolina Deeds, Book M*, page 99. <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS7S-ZYQ1?i=519&cat=360748>, image 520 of 634.

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