

INTRODUCTION

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Land entries 1792-95

This volume contains the 127 entries made for land in Lenoir County from April 9, 1792 to February 3, 1795. They form basically the third volume of the entries for the counties in the old Dobbs area. The second volume contains the Glasgow entries and also the Lenoir entries from roughly April, 1790 to November, 1792. When Lenoir and Glasgow were formed from Dobbs in 1791, the last named entries were taken to Glasgow by the Entry Taker, William Sheppard but the Dobbs books were sent to Lenoir where this abstracted volume formed the last part of the books kept in the Entry Office in Kinston.

On Oct. 24, 1797, the Entry Books then in Lenoir were sent to the Secretary of States Office in Raleigh. A cover letter was prepared by the Clerk of Court, Winston Caswell, to accompany the books and in it, he gives a history of the Entry Books and the Entry Takers.

Caswell states that the Dobbs Entry Office was opened in December of 1777. The existing volumes begin in January, 1778, so if there were any entries filed in December, they have been lost or misplaced. The office was closed in March, 1781 during the worst of the Revolutionary War and did not reopen again until July 1783. This accounts for the gap in the Dobbs entries for the period. The office was again closed from January to April 1790 and from December 1791 to April 1792. The last Lenoir entries were made by February, 1795 and between that time and the writing of the letter, the Entry Office was closed for good.

In his letter, Caswell also gives a listing of the eight Entry Takers for Dobbs and Lenoir and their periods of tenure. They were

- Dec., 1777 - March, 1781 Richard Caswell Jr. (born about 1758, disappeared along with his ship and crew in December, 1784 between Wilmington and Charleston; a son of Gov. Richard Caswell and his second wife Sarah Herritage.)
- July, 1783 - Oct., 1789 Winston Caswell (born c. 1763, died of yellow fever at Kinston Nov./Dec., 1797; third son of Gov. Richard Caswell and Sarah Herritage.)
- Oct., 1789 - Jan., 1790 John Lovick (born c. 1760, died ? ; a son of George Pheny Lovick and Anna _____.)
- April, 1790 - Dec., 1791 William Sheppard (dates unknown; probably a son of Benjamin Sheppard)
- April, 1792 - July, 1793 Isaac Croom (born 1759, died 1795 and buried on Falling Creek; son of Major Croom and Olief Avery)
- July, 1793 - Jan., 1794 Nathan Byrd (Born c. 1740, died 1795; son of Richard Byrd Sr.)
- Jan., 1794 - Oct., 1794 Lazarus Pearce
- Oct., 1794 - Feb., 1795 Frederick Jones

When the Entry Taker received the entry, he entered it into the Entry book, numbering each as it was received. In this volume, due to original misnumbering a number has been assigned to each entry and note by the Clerk for easy reference by the researcher. When searching for a reference in the index, the number will be that assigned to the abstract, not the page number of the entry or the number originally assigned by the Entry Taker.

Under the Land Entry system, an Entry Taker and Surveyor were appointed