

# FIFTY YEARS IN BUCKINGHAM COUNTY, VIRGINIA

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It is probable that the Palmers who settled in Garrard County, Kentucky, were from Buckingham County, Virginia. The move apparently took place just before 1790. Because Buckingham is a “burned county”, its courthouse having burned in the 1860’s, records of individuals and families mostly come from records that for one reason or another are found in other counties or locations. For example, the will of John Beasley references land in Amherst County. It is possible that this will/probate was copied to that county.

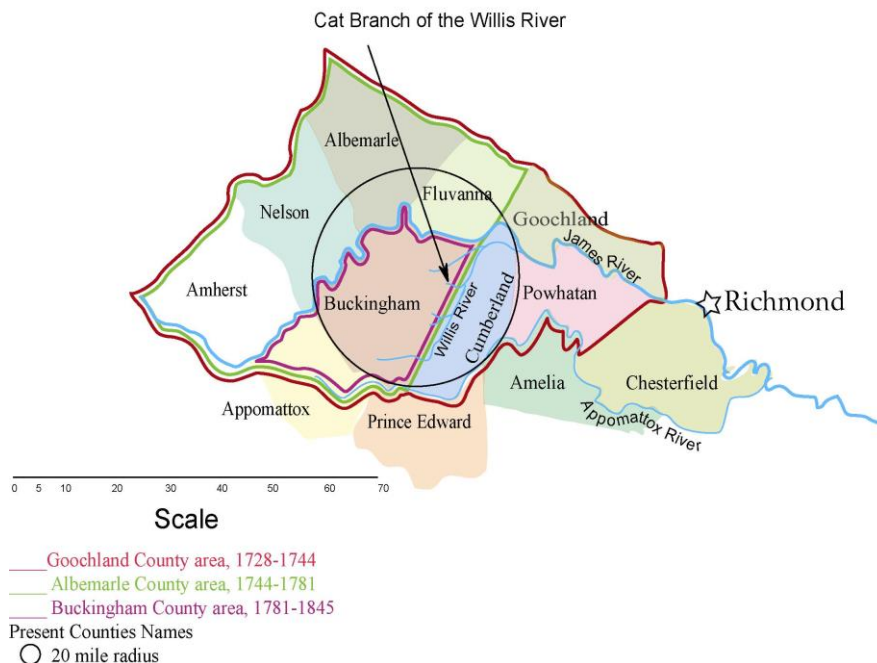
A survey of the documents found in the *Journal of the Virginia Genealogical Society* demonstrates the activities of Palmer, Beasley/Beazley, Nixon/Nickson/Nixson, and Burton families in the Goochland County area from 1747 to 1797. There is direct evidence that Nixon Palmer married Mary Beasley, but no evidence of the origin of the name Nixon or Burton as Palmer family names. Since both of these names may come from local families, it is possible that they were intermarried. Another possibility is that this was a way to honor neighbors.

There is no direct evidence that John Palmer was father to Nixon Palmer, but looking at the land deeds and other documents, with a timeline, would lend credence to this thesis. I have found no land records yet for the other Palmers. There were, however, Palmore and Palmer families living in Cumberland, a scant 20 miles east of the John Palmer land.

It is important to state that “Buckingham” became a county in 1761. It was created from Albemarle, which was created from Goochland in 1744. Goochland was created from Henrico in 1728. Cumberland, immediately east of Buckingham, was formed from Buckingham and Goochland in 1748. Immediately to the south, Prince Edward was formed from Amelia, and Appomattox from Buckingham and other counties. These counties contain the watersheds identified in the land records.

In the land and tax records, a continual reference is to “Cat Branch”. This stream flows into the Willis River, and regardless of the listed county in a land record, is now in the northeastern corner of Buckingham County, flowing into Cumberland County, where it meets the Willis River, which flows northeast to join the James River. To further complicate things, the Willis River, then a creek, flows *from* the southern part of Buckingham County into Cumberland County. Some of the land records reflect land that could be in this location.

## Central Virginia Counties



*Palmer related Land Records:*

25 Jun 1747: Goochland Co. P613 **John Palmer** land on both sides of Cat br., of Willis's R., to Henry Cary, Gent, on Job Thomas, on Orlando Hughes, on Edmund Gray. [Bowry, J. Phillip, III. "Virginia Land Patent Book 25, pages 289-635" VMG: 28: Aug 1990: #3 p 200]

<b>URL</b>	● <a href="http://lvimage.lib.va.us/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=32&amp;last=&amp;q_p=P26&amp;collection=LO Patent">http://lvimage.lib.va.us/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=32&amp;last=&amp;q_p=P26&amp;collection=LO Patent</a>
<b>Title</b>	● <u><b>Palmer, John.</b></u>
<b>Publication</b>	25 June 1747.
<b>Other Format</b>	Available on microfilm. Virginia State Land Office. Patents 1-42, reels 1-41.
<b>Note</b>	Location: Goochland County. Description: 400 acres on both sides of the Cat Branch of Willis's River. Source: Land Office Patents No. 26, 1747-1748 (v.1 & 2 p.1-730), p. 32 (Reel 24). Part of the index to the recorded copies of patents for land issued by the Secretary of the Colony serving as the colonial Land Office. The collection is housed in the Archives at the Library of Virginia.

<b>URL</b>	● <a href="http://lvimage.lib.va.us/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=612&amp;last=&amp;q_p=P25&amp;collection=LO Patent">http://lvimage.lib.va.us/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=612&amp;last=&amp;q_p=P25&amp;collection=LO Patent</a>
<b>Title</b>	● <u><b>Palmer, John.</b></u>
<b>Publication</b>	25 June 1747.
<b>Other Format</b>	Available on microfilm. Virginia State Land Office. Patents 1-42, reels 1-41.
<b>Note</b>	Location: Goochland County. Description: 150 acres on both sides of the Cat Branch of Willis's River. Source: Land Office Patents No. 25, 1745-1747, p. 612 (Reel 23). Part of the index to the recorded copies of patents for land issued by the Secretary of the Colony serving as the colonial Land Office. The collection is housed in the Archives at the Library of Virginia.

5 Sep 1749: Albemarle Co. P336 Randolph Creek, Bear Garden Creek: **John Palmer** land mentioned as boundary on Geo Carrington property [Northrup, Mary Ruth. "Virginia Land Patent Book 27" VMG: 29: Aug 1991: #3 p 177]

ca 19 Oct 1751: Albemarle and Cumberland Cos on the Brs of Randolph Cr. And Cat Br, bounded by **John Palmer**, Hughes own line. . . . [Northrup, Mary Ruth. "Virginia Land Patent Book 32" VMG: 32: Feb 1994: #1 p 76]

*Nickson/Nixon related Land Records:*

30 Jul 1742: Amelia Co., both sides of little Buffillo R. (p 53, 54) **Hugh Nickson**. [Hopkins, Wm Lindsay. "Virginia Land Patent Book 21" VMG: 26: Aug 1988: #3 p 212]

<b>URL</b>	● <a href="http://lvimage.lib.va.us/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=53&amp;last=&amp;q_p=P21&amp;collection=LO Patent">http://lvimage.lib.va.us/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=53&amp;last=&amp;q_p=P21&amp;collection=LO Patent</a>
<b>Title</b>	● <b><u>Nickson, Hugh.</u></b>
<b>Publication</b>	30 July 1742.
<b>Other Format</b>	Available on microfilm. Virginia State Land Office. Patents 1-42, reels 1-41.
<b>Note</b>	Location: Amelia County.
	Description: 404 acres on both sides of Little Buffillo River.
	Source: Land Office Patents No. 21, 1742-1743 (v.1 & 2 p.1-674), p. 53 (Reel 19).

23 Sep 1746: **Hugh Nixon**: Amelia Co., Lower side of Buffilo R., at Rice's c., in Bibb's line, to Woodson's line, (p464) [Bowry, J. Philip, III. "Virginia Land Patent Book 24" VMG: 28: Feb 1990: #1 p 74]

<b>URL (Click on link)</b>	● <a href="http://lvimage.lib.va.us/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=463&amp;last=&amp;q_p=P24&amp;collection=LO Patent">http://lvimage.lib.va.us/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=463&amp;last=&amp;q_p=P24&amp;collection=LO Patent</a>
<b>Title</b>	● <b><u>Nixon, Hugh.</u></b>
<b>Publication</b>	25 September 1746.
<b>Other Format</b>	Available on microfilm. Virginia State Land Office. Patents 1-42, reels 1-41.
<b>Note</b>	Location: Amelia County.
	Description: 193 acres on the lower side of Buffillo River.
	Source: Land Office Patents No. 24, 1745-1746, p. 463 (Reel 22).

5 July 1751: Thomas Baldwin property: Amelia County "Hudson, **Hugh Nickson**, Ganling, Richard Morton, and Hatcher now Prices line" mentioned as adjacent properties. [Hudgins, Dennis. "Virginia Land Patent Book 30" VMG: 31: Feb 1993: #1 p 80]

10 Sep 1755: Thomas Baldwin property: Amelia County: **Hugh Nickson**, Randolph and Veneble mentioned as boundaries "on the S side of Appamottox Riv. [Hudgins, Dennis. "Virginia Land Patent Book 31" VMG: 31: Aug 1993: #3 p 260]

There is a Buffalo Creek and Little Buffalo Creek that flow into the Willis River in Buckingham County. There is no Buffalo Creek/River in present day Amelia County, but there is in Prince Edward, which was part of Amelia until 1753. This land could be in PE, Appomattox, or Buckingham County today. NOTE: Curious that in almost every case, "Hugh Nixon/Nickson" is named in full, while others have only surnames mentioned. Why? Did he have brothers or a father? No land in any Nixon/Nickson name except Hugh.

*1747 Goochland  
Cat Branch  
Henry Cary  
Job Thomas  
Orlando Hughes  
Edmund Gray*

*1749  
Randolph Creek  
John Palmer boundary  
Geo Carrington*

*1751 Randolph Cr and Cat Branch  
Hughes  
Palmer  
NIXON*

*1746  
Lower side of Buffillo R  
Rice  
Bibb  
Woodson  
1751 Thomas Baldwin*

*Hudson  
Nickson  
Ganling  
Richard Morton  
Hatcher/Price*

*1755 S. side of Appomattox river  
Thomas Baldwin  
Nickson  
Randolph  
Veneble*

According to Charles Knighton, in the unpublished manuscript *Knighton-Hill Family*, a Hugh Nixon has tithing records in Buckingham County, leading to the possibility that this Buffalo Creek is the creek in present day Buckingham.

### **Legislative petitions:**

1775: Virginia, no county: **Nixson Palmer** signs petition regarding religious “toleration” or freedom presented to the House of Burgesses by the Baptists, read on 13 June 1775. [Hall, Jean Pickett. “Legislative Petitions: The Ten Thousand Name Petition” VMG: 35: Summer 1997: #3 p 198]

24 Nov 1795. re: navigation of Appomattox River. **Fewqua Beazley; Wm Beazley; John Paomer.**

6 Dec 1797. re: Appomattox River inhabitants ask to establish a town at Cut Banks. Date on petition is 29 July, 1797. Names include **John Palmer**. (Note: is this John Palmer the father of Nixon, who didn’t leave Buckingham County? If so, maybe there is a probate in Garrard County relating to his demise, sometime after 1797. Or, is he a cousin?)

[Hall, Jean Pickett and Kathryn Paige Hall. “Legislative Petitions – Buckingham County” VMG: 32: November 1994: #4 p 277, 278]

5 Dec 1777. Petition on county line between Buckingham and Cumberland. **Wm Palmer, John Palmer, John Palmer Jr.**

9 October 1778. Petition opposing the 5 Dec 1777 petition to change boundaries of Buckingham and Cumberland Counties. **Jno Beasley, James Palmer.**

15 Oct 1779. Petition of freeholders and inhabitants of Amherst, Albemarle and Buckingham counties to repeal a tax (requiring “the poorest man in the state is compelled to pay as much as those of the most opulent fortunes for the conduct of the present war with Great Britain.” **William Burton, Robert Burton.**

15 Dec 1779. Petition of freeholders and inhabitants of Amherst and Buckingham re a fee on tobacco storage. **Jesse Burton, Issack Burton, Wm. Burton, Robert Berton.**

23 Nov 1780. Petition of sundry freeholders of Buckingham County and several adjoining counties re: a request that the draft law be abolished. **William Beazley.**

7 Dec 1780. Petition by Buckingham residents asking that all clergymen be required to give allegiance to the State. **Joseph Fuqua, Nathanel Bur[ ]ton, Wm Burton, Wm Beasley.**

18 June 1783. Petition of inhabitants of Buckingham showing that in the year 1780 the high Sheriff, Mr Charles Pattison appointed certain times and places for petitioners to pay their taxes, but that neither the sheriff nor any person for him attended. As a result, the petitioners were deprived of the opportunity of paying their dues. The taxpayers had in their possession at that time sufficient paper money to pay taxes, but now the money has depreciated in value, and the sheriff refuses to accept payment at the former value of this money. Request that sheriff be compelled to accept the paper money they kept for that purpose. **Jamie Palmer, Nixson Palmer, William Beasley, John Beasley, Joseph Fuqua.**

10 Nov 1786. Petition for repeal of the incorporation act which allowed the Episcopal Church to collect money from everyone regardless of his denomination and then disburse it without consideration or consent of the public. **Robert Burton, Joseph Fuqua, Joseph Palmore.**

17 Oct 1787. Petition by inhabitants of Buckingham County requesting that the Glebe in Tilleston Parrish be sold and proceeds used for the benefit of all rather than for the exclusive use of Episcopalians. **Jos Fuqua, Isham Palmer.**

17 Oct 1787. A second petition as above. **James Palmer, John Beazley, Charles Beasley.**

6 Nov 1787. Petition to show that the River Appomattox would afford much needed means of navigation for transporting produce to market if cleared of some obstructions. **John Beazley, Nixson Palmer.**

23 Oct 1788. Case involving sheriff not forward tax money. Document vouching for John Benning's character (petitioner). **William Fuqua, Jos Fuqua.**

23 Oct 1788. Petition asking that the town for Inspection of tobacco be established on the lands of Nicholas Cabell in Amherst County. **James Beasley, Nathaniel Burton[?]**

24 Oct 1788. Petition for the repeal of a tax act. **James Beasley, Jos Fuqua**

24 Oct 1788. Petition complaining about the Slate River. **John Burton.**

5 Nov 1788. Petition by freeholders of Buckingham requesting repeal of a 1779 act "An act for discouraging extensive credits, and repealing the act [of 1748] prescribing the method of proving book debts." **Jos Fuqua, Charles Beazley.**

16 Nov 1789. A petition by some Buckingham residents requesting relief from difficult economic conditions. **Nathaniel Burton, John Burton.**

16 Nov 1789. A third petition, same wording, requesting relief. **Charles Beazley.** (note, no names of these families on the second petition.)

30 Oct 1790. Sundry inhabitants of Buckingham County petition to repeal an act allowing a town named Greenville to be established near the courthouse on lands owned by John Cox. **Nixson Palmer, Wm Beasley, Wm Fuqua, Charles Beazley, Jos Fuqua, John Beazley.**

[Hall, Jean Pickett. "Legislative Petitions from Virginia Counties with Significant Record Losses: 1. Buckingham County" VMG: 28: May 1990: #2 pp 87-114]

#### **Wills and Probates:**

18 Nov 1781, proved 13 May 1782:

Will of **John Beazley** of Buckingham County, Virginia, dated 18 November 1781.

I lend to my loving wife **Bridget Beazley** the plantation whereon I now live, the negroes and stock to her during her widowhood. I give to my four sons, **Charles, William, John and Jonathan** all my lands in the Brown Mountains in Amherst County, also all lands on Rock Island Creek and on Muddy Creek and all land I hold or claim on Arthurs Creek. To my four daughters, **Winney, Mary, Sally, and Nancy** 150 acres of the back land of the tract whereon I now live. To my three sons, **James, Fuqua, and Hiram** all my River land not yet bequeathed, and the plantation whereon I now live to be equally divided at the discretion of my executors when said sons attain age of 21 years. Wife **Bridget** and sons **Charles** and **William** Beazley with David Walker to be executors. Wit: Benjamin Hurt, Judith Hurt, Thomas Wood.

At a Court held for Buckingham the 13<sup>th</sup> day of May 1782, this will was proved by the oaths of Benjamin Hurt and Thomas Wood, two of the witnesses and sworn to by **Bridget Beazley** and **Charles Beazley**, two of the executors thereto, and ordered recorded. – Accessions #25971, Virginia State Library.

Will of **Bridget Beazley** of the County of Buckingham, dated 1 April 1792. Names son **Fuqua Beazley**, deceased husband **John Beazley**, son **Hiram Beazley**, daughter **Mary Palmer**, and her daughter **Nancy Palmer, Susanna Robertson** [no relationship stated] son **William Beazley**, son **John Beazley**, son **James Beazley**, daughter **Winney Hurt**, daughter **Sally Cason**, son William Beazley and **Nixson Palmer** executors.

Wit: Thomas Wood, Thomas Wooldridge, James Rawton

Will sworn by witnesses and ordered recorded 9 April 1793.

[“Notes from the Burned Counties” Virginia Genealogical Society Quarterly. Vol V #3, 01 Jul 1967, p 66.]

**Tithables** from the late Charles Knighton:

1764 Buckingham County tithables, **James, John, and Nixon** all born prior to 1748. (Age of majority for tithing was 16)

1773 Buckingham County tithables, Nixon Palmer, 1 tithable, and George Palmer & Wm Palmer listed together, 2 tithables. James, Isaac and John Palmore [sic], Sr. & Jr

1774, Buckingham County tithables, William was listed with 2 tithables, Nixon Palmer, 6 tithables. James, Isaac and John Palmore, Sr. & Jr. [Buckingham County, Virginia Tithables, 1773-1774. Original records, Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia]

1782, Buckingham County tithables: Nixon Palmer, John Palmer Sr. (9 slaves), John Palmer, Jr. (1 slave), Joseph Palmer, William Palmer (3 slaves), Isaac Palmer, and James & John Palmore. Also listed (and also slave owners) were the Burtons - John, Nathaniel, William (2) and Robert, Sr. & Jr. In light of the Beasley connections, those in Buckingham Co., Va., in 1782 were: Charles, John, Bridget and William Beasley/Beazly.

[*Virginia Tithables*, by Robt. and Isobel Woodson, Sept. 1970, Buckingham Co. Tithables 1773-1774, Virginia State Library, No. 20238]

1787 Buckingham County tithables List "A" Nixon Palmer, John Palmer, three men named Burton, and a Hugh Nixon. Charles and William Beasley. [<http://www.binnsgenealogy.com/>]

1800 Personal Property (A) tax List for Buckingham County:

Isham Palmer,

Elizabeth Palmer

Joseph Palmer (Taylor)

John Palmer (Cat Branch)

Isaac Palmer

William Palmer

[Binns Genealogy: <http://www.binnsgenealogy.com/VirginiaTaxListCensuses/>]

Additional records:

### **Albemarle co., Virginia, 13 March 1746.**

13 March 1746 O.S., p. 245

Road./.

Ordered William Allen be Overseer of the Horn Quarter Road to the County Line and that the Male Tithables of Joseph Smith Robert King Reynee Shatteen William Howell Joseph Adcock William & Joseph Crie Robert Holt Anthony Sharroon Mathew Earps Patrick Obryan **John Palmer** John Hubbard and William Sands do work Under the said William Allen in Clearing the Same./.

Albemarle County, Virginia Road Orders, 1744-1748 [[http://www.virginiadot.org/vtrc/main/online\\_reports/pdf/75-r72.pdf](http://www.virginiadot.org/vtrc/main/online_reports/pdf/75-r72.pdf)]

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### **Albemarle co., Virginia, 10 March 1747.**

10 March 1747 O.S., p. 344

Road./.

Reny. Shatteen is Appointed Surveyor of the Horn Quarter Road from the County line to Glovers Road in the room of William Allen and the Tithables of **John Parmer** Joseph Adcock Robert King Joseph Smith John Carnys William Carnys Aaron Carver Thomas Gresham Robert Holt Archibald Cary and David Bell do work under the said Shatteen on the said road./.

Albemarle County, Virginia Road Orders, 1744-1748 [[http://www.virginiadot.org/vtrc/main/online\\_reports/pdf/75-r72.pdf](http://www.virginiadot.org/vtrc/main/online_reports/pdf/75-r72.pdf)]

CASON (CASSON), William (Sarah). R[ejected].1672.

9 Jan. 1841. Buckingham Co., Va. Fuqua Casson or Cason of said county, one of the children of Sarah Casson, widow of William Casson who was a private in Virginia in the Revolution, declares his mother Sarah Casson died in Buckingham County 30 Nov. 1840, aged about 84. They were married in Buckingham County 14 Oct. 1782 and William Casson died in March 1816.

14 Oct. 1782. Buckingham Co., Va. Marriage bond: William Cason to Sally Beasley. Security, Nixon Palmer.

Note: There were still two John Palmers in Buckingham County in 1820, and six in Cumberland County.

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