

Louis Winfrey and his wife Martiacia, Thomas Winfrey and his wife Lucinda, Jane Wilson, Manerva Skaggs and her husband Jacob, William A. Coffey and his wife Mary, James F. Meredith, John L. Nofsinger and Margaret Nofsinger, Sarah J. Meredith, Samuel Metedith and his wife Rebecca, and Sarah Wilson all on differedt deeds, selling on a quit claim deed or their undivided interest in the same peice of property to James M. Wiseman. This peice of property being the SW frac. $\frac{1}{4}$ and the S $\frac{1}{2}$ of Lot 1 of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 7 T38N R14W. In 1884 James M. Wiseman sold these lands to John R. Warren. James Pemberton and his wife Winnie, Z. Wiseman and his wife Nancy J., Daniel M. Meredith and his wife Nancy J., Benjamin Meredith and his wife Mary E., William Wiseman and his wife Alice E., are all selling the same peice of property as listed above on different quit claim deeds to John R. Warren.

There are no probate records for Benjamin Wiseman. Therefore, it appears as the years passed James M. Wiseman was buying the interests of each of the heirs of Benjamin Wiseman. It must be kept in mind that these were the recorded deeds. There may have been more. The Warren cemetery is on the property. It should rightfully have been called the Wiseman cemetery and I would guess that Benjamin and Sarah are buried there.

Information from family records:

The most accurate family records come from Hazel (Wiseman) Martin, now deceased. She is a grand-daughter of James M. Wiseman, son of Benjamin and Sarah. Hazel's own records have been destroyed after her death in 1977. All of Benjamin and Sarah Wiseman's children and their birth dates were in these records. This information was gained from Hazel by Mrs. Carolyn Webb of Corvallis, Oregon before Hazel's death. All other evidence varifies these records. I had a dream which led me to this record.

Unakowns:

A Benjamin Wiseman married a Susan Cook in Miller County, Missouri June 5, 1859. Is this our Benjamin or who is he?

Where was Benjamin Wiseman in 1860?

Where was Benjamin Wiseman born? Possibly Burk County, North Carolina as there is a Martin Wiseman there in 1800. We suspect that Martin is the father of Benjamin. There is a James Winfrey in Burk County, North Carolina in 1800 and also a Benjamin White, after whom I believe Benjamin White Wiseman may have been named. We need to check marriages there. Mrs. Joyce Wilson sent me family group sheets on Wisemans which she obtained from the Genealogical Society of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Salt Lake City, Utah. I believe that these are our Wisemans, as Avery County, N.C. where they live is joined by Burk, Caldwell and Wilkes counties. The Martin Wiseman on these group sheets is probably our Martin. This Martin Wiseman's mother was Mary Davenport, which could account for Benjamin Wiseman's youngest son being named Thomas Davenport Wiseman.

Mr. Coffey is mistaken about this. Some of these people were indirectly the heirs of the deceased Benjamin Wiseman through his deceased wife Sarah (Winfrey) Wiseman. In reality the properties had belonged to Sarah's father, James Winfrey, and all the grantors were the heirs of James Winfrey. E.M.

Premptions
CERTIFICATE
No. 6580 }

14

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting:

WHEREAS Richard Popplewell Assignee of Benjamin Wiseman,

(has) deposited in the GENERAL LAND OFFICE of the United States, a Certificate of the REGISTER OF THE LAND OFFICE at Springfield whereby it appears that full payment has been made by the said Benjamin Wiseman,

according to the provisions of the Act of Congress of the 24th of April, 1820, entitled "An Act making further provision for the sale of the Public Lands," for the East half of the North West quarter, or Lot number one, of the North West quarter, of Section eighteen, in Township thirty-eight, of Range fourteen, in the District of Lanas Subject to Sale at Springfield, Missouri, containing Eighty acres and two hundredths of an acre,

according to the official plat of the survey of the said Lands, returned to the General Land Office by the SURVEYOR GENERAL, which said tract (has) been purchased by the said Benjamin Wiseman,

NOW KNOW YE, That the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA; in consideration of the Premises, and in conformity with the several acts of Congress, in such case made and provided, HAVE GIVEN AND GRANTED, and by these presents DO GIVE AND GRANT, unto the said Richard Popplewell,

and to his heirs, the said tract above described: TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the same, together with all the rights, privileges, immunities, and appurtenances of whatsoever nature, therunto belonging, unto the said Richard Popplewell,

and to his heirs and assigns forever.

In Testimony Whereof, I, James K. Polk,

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, have caused these Letters to be made PATENT, and the SEAL of the GENERAL LAND OFFICE to be hereunto affixed.

GIVEN under my hand, at the CITY OF WASHINGTON, the thirtieth day of April
in the Year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty six, and of the
INDEPENDENCE OF THE UNITED STATES the seventieth

BY THE PRESIDENT:

James K. Polk

Sec'y.

S. H. Laughlin By J. Knox Walker

RECORDED of the General Land Office.

17/2/06/5





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Accession/Serial #: MO5280_369 **BLM Serial #:** MO NO S/N

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/ Patent Description V Legal Land Description V Document Image V Certified Copy V
Names

Patentees: RICHARD POPPLEWELL,
BENJAMIN WISEMAN

Survey

State: MISSOURI
Acres: 80.02
Metes/Bounds: No

Title Transfer

Issue Date: 4/30/1846
Land Office: Springfield
Cancelled: No
U.S. Reservations: No
Mineral Reservations: No
Authority: April 24, 1820: Sale-Cash Entry (3 Stat. 566)

Document Numbers

Document Nr.: 6580
Accession/Serial Nr.: MO5280_369
BLM Serial Nr.: MO NO S/N

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Patent Description**Legal Land Description****Document Image****Certified Copy**

Aliquot Parts	Sec./Block	Township	Range	Fract. Section	Meridian	State	Counties	Survey Nr.
1NW	18/	38-N	14-W	No	5th PM	MO	Miller	

Note: Legal land descriptions can be used to help find the precise location of the land. For more information, please see our description of the [Rectangular Survey System](#).

WISEMAN EXTRACTS¹

Horton Cooper. *History of Avery County, North Carolina*. Asheville, NC: Biltmore Press, 1964.
(This book is available in its entirety at Open Library's Internet Archive. <http://openlibrary.org/>.)

p. 6. Samuel Bright, who had lived near Salisbury before frequenting this area, was a restless soul and one whose life had failed to adjust to the standards of law and order in the lowlands. He had come into Toe River Valley shortly after the man named Towe had given his name to both South and North Toe Rivers. Despite his hospitality to friend and stranger alike, he was rough, daring, lawless whenever the occasion demanded it, and a Loyalist when the Revolutionary War started. His wife was a thief, sentenced by the first magistrate of this area, **William Wiseman, Sr.**, to be whipped on the bare back with a bundle of willow switches for stealing a bolt of cloth from a peddler.

On June 28, 1774, he [Samuel Bright] entered 360 acres of land lying on either side of North Tow River in what is now Toe River Township. It was processioned by William Davenport, but when the tract was surveyed by C. W. Beekman, county surveyor, on August 10, 1778, Burke County took in this area. The chain bearers were Thomas White and James Taylor White.

p. 7-8. Andre Michaux, the famous French botanist, spent almost three weeks in the home of a Mr. Davenport (probably Martin) in Bright's Settlement from August 16, 1794, to September 6, 1794, and entered in his diary this item: "Reached Toe River, Bright's Settlement. The principal inhabitants of this place are **Davenport, Wiseman**." The Wiseman to whom he referred was Thomas, son of **William Wiseman, Sr.**, who had followed his grandfather **Davenport** from the John's River, near Colletsville.

Because it has been estimated that more than 20 per cent of those now living in Avery County are descendants of **William Wiseman, Sr.**, William (Uncle Billy) Davis, Benjamin West, and the first Jacob Carpenter, it seems well to devote a few paragraphs to these families.

It is reasonable to presume that **William Wiseman, Sr.**, and William Davis had moved into what is now Toe River Township sometime before 1790, for the pertinent schedules of the first U.S. Census (pp. 108 and 109) reveal that they and Samuel Bright then lived in Morgan District, Burke County. It is true that Morgan District was very large, but the names of these three hardly would have appeared on adjoining pages had they not been close neighbors. **Wiseman**, who had first married **Mary Davenport**, daughter of William Davenport,^[2] had moved from the John's River near Colletsville. The 1790 census schedules indicate that this family at that time consisted of four males of 16 years of age and upwards, four males under 16 years of age and five females. According to the unpublished history of the Wiseman family, once in possession of Robert L. and Lottie Wiseman, the children's names were Thomas, Dorothy, William, Jr., Mary, Davenport, **Martin**, James, John, Celestial, Susanna and Robert. After arriving at Bright's Settlement, his first wife having died, **Wiseman** married Lydia Bedford and to this union were

¹These extracts contain some conflicting information. Direct ancestors of the Wiseman line of this compilation are shown in bold type. *E. M.*

^[2]Both *Avery County, NC, Biographies*, "Captain Martin Davenport," p. 4 (transcription, p. 3) and *The Wiseman Family and Allied Lines*, p. 4, state that **Mary** was the daughter of **Thomas Davenport**.

born Bedford, Alexander, Jemima, Josiah, Elizabeth, Lydia and Antey [Anthony] Center. He purchased a part of Bright's original entry, which subsequently was named Sunny Brook Farm, and is buried there. The land has been continuously owned by successive generations of his descendants.

p. 29. The **Wisemans**, Franklins, Clarks and Diggers, segregated in their respective communities, knew no boundary lines when the Ollises, Banners, Johnsons, Vances or families of other names needed a helping hand. Only the Civil War and its aftermath of hatred and misunderstanding disturbed the social fabric of this whole area.

p. 32. As a rule the first settlers were chiefly interested in cheap land and plenty of room. A man moved into a remote area, then later his children and grandchildren settled near him making what sociologists call the "Big Family." In this way the Banners hovered around Banner Elk and Sugar Mountain; the **Wisemans** stayed in the Ingalls section; . . . the **Davenports** preferred the southern area. . . .

p. 33. William Davenport, who lived close to the extreme southern boundary of what is now Avery County, brought the first Negro slaves to this section.

p. 41. The descendants of some of the oldest permanent settlers are always interested in the origin of their ancestors. Originally the Banners and Ollises came from Wales . . . the Davises, **Wisemans**, Eggeres, **Davenports**, Tatums, Hartleys, Greens, Lewises, Trivettes, Wilsons, Hickses, Carpenters, Pittmans, Winterses, Blairs, **Whites**, Smiths, and Joneses are from England.

Avery County Heritage: Biographies and Genealogies. Compiled and edited by Avery County Bicentennial Commission. Newland, NC: by the Commission/Puddingstone Press, 1976. (This book is available for sale from the Avery County [NC] Historical Museum, P. O. Box 266, Newland, NC 28657. \$28.)

p. 230. **Wisemans Settled Toe River Valley.** One of the first settlers of Toe River and lower Avery County was **William Edward Wiseman**, who was born on St. James Street, London, England, February 2, 1741. The **Wisemans** of England were members of the landed gentry, but **William's** father was not wealthy. He died when the boy was quite young, and **William** was apprenticed to a cabinet maker. He was a apt pupil, as proven in later years, but he and his young companions had seen tall sailing ships come to the London docks, had listened to thrilling tales about land across the sea called America, and they were determined to see it for themselves.

William Wiseman, William Penley, and William Davis stole on board a ship that spring, and the three teenage stowaways were soon out of the harbor and on their way to America. After a few days at sea, their food gave out, and they were forced to come out of hiding. As was the custom in the case of stowaways, the captain gave them food, brought them to Boston,^[3] his port of destination, and sold them as indentured servants to pay for their passage. It is not known how long young **William** had to work to gain his freedom, but by the year 1761 he and his two companions had made their way to the mountains of North Carolina. **William Wiseman** showed up on John's River, near what later became Collettsville, and married **Mary Davenport** in 1761.

^[3] According to *The Wiseman Family and Allied Lines*, p. 2, "the ship docked probably at Charleston."

To this union were born eleven children: Thomas, Dorothy, William, Mary, Davenport, **Martin**, James, John, Celestial, Susannah, and Robert. These children grew up and settled in various parts of the country. The mother died, and **William** decided to leave the foothills and move further into the mountains where he, the Davenports, and his other English friends, Davis and Penley, had seen rich land on hunting trips. William Bright and his family had already settled on Toe River. Bright had hacked out a trail across the mountains into what is now Tennessee. Known as Bright's Trace, it followed old buffalo and Indian trails, and was later used by pioneers who settled west of the mountains.

William Wiseman bought a tract of land from the Bright family, married young Lydia Bedford, built a log house, and started a second family. There were only a few small clearings west of the Blue Ridge at that time. All the rest was dense forest, where wild game abounded, and Indians still roamed the woods. **William** took up his old trade as cabinet maker, did blacksmith work, tanned leather, made shoes, and became "the law west of the Blue Ridge" as magistrate under English colonial law. William Bright's wife stole a bolt of cloth from an itinerant peddler. Records show she was sentenced to twenty lashes, and since no one else would carry out the sentence, **Wiseman** did it himself. Apparently her husband thought she deserved it. . . . The **Davenports** relatives of **William Wiseman**'s first wife, settled in what is now lower Avery County and were mentioned by the French botanist Andre Michaux as among the principal residents of the area in 1794.

Seven children were born to **William Wiseman** and Lydia Bedford, his second wife. It is the descendants of these children who make up a large part of the population of Avery, Mitchell, and adjoining counties.

p. 231. The first **William [Wiseman]** had so many grandchildren that it was only natural for him to be honored with namesakes. During the early years of this century there were so many William Wisemans that a way had to be found to distinguish among them. It followed that there was "Preacher Will," "Red-headed Will," "Thousand Dollar Will," "One-armed Will," and even "Omie's Will," because his wife's name was Omie.

p. 232. In addition to being one of the first pioneers to establish a permanent home in the North Carolina mountains, doing his part to populate the area with tall, fair-haired mountaineers of English stock, and leaving behind mill builders, carpenters, cabinet makers, farmers, preachers and musicians, **Old William** served his country during the War for Independence. This is somewhat remarkable considering the fact that he was born in England and was called upon to fight against his native country.

When the "Over Mountain Men" marched across from Tennessee and down Toe River that day in October, 1780, they reached the **Davenport-Wiseman** settlement around noon, drank from the fine spring near the Junction of Lower Bent Road with 19E, had refreshments, and persuaded **William** and his son, Tom, to join the march to King's Mountain. This was a citizen army of volunteers bent on stopping Major Patrick Ferguson, who had threatened to lay waste to the country if they did not come in and swear loyalty to English King George III. It is not clear whether **William** fought with Tom in the battle or whether he went along to make shoes for the fighting men. According to Draper's book, HEROES OF KING'S MOUNTAIN, many of the mountain men were barefoot, a custom fairly widespread among farmers and mountain men in

those days. A Tennessee man named Young said he fought without shoes at the Battle of King's Mountain, and the only wounds he had were that his feet were cut to pieces from rocks. Historian William Preston Arthur mentions the **Wisemans** among those men who fought at King's Mountain and came home without ever entering their names on the rolls of the Continental Army. The only Revolutionary service for which **William Wiseman** received pay was for the time that he took his wagon, shoemaking tools and leather and went down to where the troops were quartered to make shoes for them. This is recorded in the North Carolina Department of Archives and History.

I have tried to maintain a policy of not infringing on the works of other authors or violating copyrights, but in this case there is no other way I could acquire the family background contained in this book as much was obtained from persons no longer living and personal records no longer available. Eugene Wiseman died in 1998 and the book is out of print.

In 1997 Mr. Wiseman in conjunction with Maribeth Lang Vineyard compiled a later volume entitled **William Wiseman and the Davenports, Pioneers of old Burke County, North Carolina.**. It is available from Genealogy Publishing Services, 473 Beasley Mine Road, Franklin, NC 28734-4142. \$46 pp.

Eugene M. Wiseman. **The Wiseman Family and Allied Lines.** 2 vols. Franklin, NC: Genealogical Publishing Service, 1991-. All extracts are from Volume 1.

p. 1. **WILLIAM EDWARD WISEMAN** was born in London, England, on February 2. The year of his birth is in question, as his tombstone lists 1741 (this being the date of his second wife's birth). However, recently an old ledger came into the hands of Thomas Chapman of Occidental, California (a descendant of **William Wiseman**) which had belonged to a son of William. In the first pages of his historical book, family information is recorded, and it states that "**William Wiseman, Sr.** was born in the city of London, in St. James, Clerkenwell Parish in the year of the Lord 1736, on February the second." He died in 1830 and was buried four and one half miles east of Spruce Pine, North Carolina in Yancy County. His historical tombstone is in the garden of Sunny Brook Farm on Highway 19E. Family legend states that, even though the Wisemans of England were of the landed gentry, **William's father** was not wealthy. **William's** formal education ended at about 12 years of age, but it appears that his parents gave him a substantial education for the times. He wrote extensive prose and verse and is said to have exhibited an unusual degree of maturity for his age. When **William** was born, his mother was already in her mid-forties, his father somewhat older, and his sisters almost grown. **William** was quite talented by nature and his father must have recognized this at an early date, for he arranged for young **William** to work with some of the best carpenters and woodworkers available in England. During this early learning period, he developed many intricate and skillful woodworking patterns that he would use throughout his life.

p. 2. With his two friends, William Pendly and William Davis, **William** would pass the days around the London docks, watching the tall sailing ships going in and out of the harbor and listening to the sailors who told fascinating stories of far and distant lands. The boys' interest was