

**James Poe, son of Simon Poe SR and other men named James in Chatham County, NC prior to 1801.**

### **Chatham County, NC**

**NOTE, Stephen Poe is the only son of Simon Poe SR clearly identified in Caroline County, VA. There are records for a William Poe in Caroline County, but it is not clear if any refer to the son of Simon Poe SR. A William Poe remains in Caroline County after we see a William Poe in Chatham Co, who must be Simon SR's son.**

**Here are the issues I want to address:**

**Tradition states that James Poe, son of Simon Poe SR is the James Poe who lived in Anson Co., NC in the 1790s and who moved with various Poe family members to Fayette County, AL about 1822. It is clear that more than one group of Simon Poe SR descendants moved to Fayette County. Larkin Poe, son of Stephen Poe, son of Simon Poe SR was definitely a part of the move.**

**Descendants of James Poe of Anson Co NC and Fayette County, AL still live in Alabama. A man who long tradition establishes as a son of this James Poe through a James Poe, JR participated in the Poe DNA project. If interpretation so far is correct, he does not show a significant "marker" that is shared by a descendant of the James Poe who died in 1812 in Guilford County, NC, and with descendants of Simon Poe, JR – through son David Poe and a William Poe who is likely David's brother.**

**Again, if the DNA is accurate, either the James Poe of Anson Co, NC is not the son of Simon Poe, SR and the one in Guilford County is, or the man thought to be a descendant of James Poe of Anson County is actually of another branch.**

**This is important to my own research as I descend from a John Poe of Anson County, born in 1795. The records appear to show that this John Poe is a brother to Simon Poe, and that both are sons of the James Poe of Anson County, NC. But, again, my DNA and the man mentioned does not match in the way science predicts.**

**Here are some records that demonstrate the problem of identifying the James Poe, son of Simon Poe, SR.**

**First mention of a James Poe in Chatham County. This record contradicts the date of 1750 date of birth for the man called Major James Poe who moved with many Poe relatives from Anson County, NC to Fayette County,**

**AL in about 1822. This man named James in the following record must be 21 years old, not 11 years old.**

**James Poe born before 1740**

August 1761

Ordered that Argulus **Henderson\***, **Simon Fooshe**, Thomas Shields, John Stuart and his tythables, William **Marsh** Junr. **Simon Poe Junr.** **Stephen Poe**, **James Poe**, **Joseph Fooshe**, Cornelius **Roe**, William Tucker, Elathan Davis, Charles Clanton, Benjamin Clanton, Robert Colley, Samuel **Marsh**, William McDaniel? (sic) and his Tythables, **Zachariah Martin Junr.** Robert Martin, Thomas North, John Books, John Crow, John Cullis, John Webster and Charles Webster **do work on the road from Haw river to Roberson's Ford** being **William Petty** Senr District.

**NOTE: It is thought that the James Poe who died in 1812 in Guilford County, NC was married to Sarah Petty. The Petty family is associated with many Poe records so the proximity here may not be important. However, this James Poe was likely married, and he lives in the "William Petty" district. Simon Poe JR married Sophia Bradford about 1757 and Stephen Poe married her sister Hannah before 1757. Likely James is younger than his two brothers listed here. He would have married in this area, not Caroline County as his two brothers did (as evidenced by Richard Bradford's estate documents from Caroline County, VA)**

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Registered 1 November 1779 – State of North Carolina to **James Poe** – 50 sh. for every 100 a. – 25 a. on the **Crooked Branch** – joins **Simon Poe's** line, **Clarks** corner and **Stewarts** line.

**James Poe**, son of **Stephen Poe**, son of **Simon Poe**, SR could not be born too long before 1773 when **Stephen Poe** died. Definitely not 1750.

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30 March 1780

State of North Carolina to **Wililam Howard**, Guardian for **James Poe** Orphan of **Stephen** Poe - 50 sh. for every 100 a. - 320 a. on Haw River - joins **Berrys** corner on Haw River, Brookses Creek and **Herndon's** line.  
Wm. Sheppard Sec  
Rd. Caswell

**The James Poe who was the son of Stephen Poe would now be of age, over 21. It may be that the court identified this "younger" James Poe as James**

Poe, JR. However, it is equally likely this is a “Junior” son to the James Poe born c.1740.

Note that a Mary Poe, daughter of Simon Poe SR married a man named Berry (maybe John, maybe Prettyman, but related to, and probably sons of Richard Berry). This would lend support that this is a Jr son of James Poe, son of Simon Poe SR. It is thought, but not proven, that the James Poe who was in Anson County, NC and who moved to Fayette County, AL was married to Mary daughter of Benjamin Watts. Again, if this can be better established, it lends support for this being a Junior James to the son of Simon Poe SR.

11 November 1783

Deed from **Benjamin Watts** to Jacob Cashatt prov'd by Samuel Stewart.

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Deed from Ishum **Gunter** and Wife to William Saunders proved by **Zachariah Harmon** Esq'r.

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A Deed from **Benjamin Watts** and Wife to **James Poe, Jr.\*** proved by the Oath of **John Berry, Jr.**

Deed from **Benjamin Watts** to **John Berry** ack'd.

Pg. 51B – Deed from **James Poe** to **John Berry** ack'd

### James Poe of Rocky River

It is important to note that Rocky River is on the other side of Chatham County from the area where the Simon Poe SR family was established. But, one should also note that these men acquired many land grants and did not necessarily live on all the lands they owned. Instead, they seem to have kept the land until a good time, then sold it. Still, Rocky River is headed in the direction of Guilford County where a James Poe died in 1812.

10 May 1784 – Corneless (later spelled Carneless) Boyel, Yeoman to William Toode, Tanar – 30 pds. – 150 a. on the Waters of **Rocky River** (Rockey) on the East side – joins James McCarroll – it being a tract of land granted to Corneleas Boyel by this present Authority bearing date the 31<sup>st</sup> March 1780.

Wit.

Sol. Stuart  
**James Poe**

Corneles (c) Boyel  
Mary (o) Boyel

Here a James Poe buys from the estate of Younger Neal. The men listed here are all associated closely with the Simon Poe SR family.

30 November 1784

Account of Sales of Estate of Younger **Neal**

includes:

Christopher **Straughn** - 2 hides leather

**James Poe** - 2 sides leather

Zach. **Harman** - 1 bed

Richard **Staughn** 2 head of hoggs

George **Dismukes** - 1 -----

Since jurors probably were called in from various parts of the county, one cannot make too much of the lists. Still, nearly all these men appear to be from the same basic area – the Haw River part of Chatham County. Robert Thompson was married to a daughter of Simon Poe SR, so was Richard Straughn, one would think this William Poe and James Poe are brothers, the two sons mentioned in the will of Simon Poe, SR.

16 February 1785

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In the Suit Nathan **Bryant** against Nicholas **Nall** the following Jury Sworn Viz – William Moody, **William Poe**, Vincent Self, Richard **Straughan** (Strawan), Joel **Patterson**, Richard Straughan (Strawan), Thomas Stone, Thomas **Lassiter**, Parish Self, **Robert Thompson**, **James Poe** and James Willitt.

**Wilkinsons Creek** is in the general area where we find Simon Poe Srs sons and grandsons. Looking at maps locating the creeks and branches mention in deeds for the Simon Poe SR family, it is clear they spread out over a large area between the cities of Pittsboro and Fearington.

There are so few records mentioning this Robert Poe (as well as a John Poe) that we can only guess at his family connection. My tentative placement puts him as a son to the William Poe (SR), son of Simon Poe SR. But this is not at all clear. There was a Robert Poe in the large “Granville” area of NC as early as 1772 naming “Fishing Creek” as the area of the land. There is a Fishing Creek in Wilkes County where some Poe families moved (or remained in).

Although literate men still signed by mark, other sons of Simon Poe SR appear to have been educated. Stephen Poe, for instance, signed his name with flair. In this deed, only James Poe and the wife of Lewis Brassell signed by mark. My sense is that this James Poe is neither the son of Simon Poe SR nor of Stephen Poe, but one not yet identified.

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6 August 1785 – Lewis Braswell to **Robert Poe** – 30 pds. Specie 100 a. on **Wilkinsons Creek** – joins Peter **Bray**, **Gideon Kirksey\*\*** and Robert Poes own corner.

Wit David Williams  
**James Poe** (X)

Lewis Brassell  
Rebecker (X) Brassell

**These records from 1787 appear to mark the selling of land by the James Poe who moved to Anson County, NC. Although we do not see any Poe listed in Anson County in the 1790 census. Although we know there were others, only one James Poe is listed in the 1790 Chatham County census: James Poe (6) 1m>16, 1m<16, 4 f.**

By 1800 there are two sets of James Poe SR and JR, one in Chatham County, and one in Anson County. The Chatham County men seem to have moved to Guilford County by 1810 while the Anson County group stayed put. The Anson County James Poe “SR” has wife named Mary. The Guilford County James Poe (SR) is married to Sarah.

According to what I can find, Cain Creek was located on the *north side of the Haw River*. This James Poe married to Mary and associated with John Berry (Simon Poe SR’s daughter married Berry, possibly this man) surely is the son James of Simon Poe Sr’s will.

These are the latest records I have found listing James Poe with wife Mary. No record found for Anson County names a wife for any James Poe. The James Poe who died in 1812 in Guilford County was at that time married to a Sarah, said to be Sarah Petty.

### September 1787

**James Poe** to **Christopher Hornaday** – 6 pd. Specie (no a. given) on the Head of the **South fork of Cain Creek** – being a tract of land granted to the sd. James Poe by this present authority dated 3 September 1787

Wit:

John Beray (Berry)  
John (X) Dowdey

**James Poe**  
**Mary (X) Poe**

**Note that this James Poe does not sign by mark.**

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3 September 1787

**James Poe**, Planter to **Christopher Hornaday**, Planter – 50 pds. Specie - `175 a. on the South side of **Cain Creek** – joins his own line and **James Poe’s**

**other land** – it being a tract of land granted to the sd. James Poe by this present authority dated 3 September 1787

Wit:

**John Berry**

John (X) Dowdy

**James Poe**

**Mary (X) Poe**

**This seems to be the James Poe who signs by Mark. Again, Wilkersons Creek. None of these “neighbors” can easily be associated with the Simon Poe SR family.**

November 1790

William Kirkcey appointed overseer of the Road from Morgans old Mill to **Wilkersons Creek** and the following Hands work under him, To Wit, James Powell, Wm. Powell, Roling Man, Thomas Ledbetter, Ephraim Ledbetter, Gidion Kirkcey, **James Poe**, David Williams, John Pearson. Absolam Smith, John Edwards, John Trip, Wm. Brewer. Oliver Brewer, Wm. Edwards, John Kirkcey. Geo. Blalock. Sam Hurns, Geo. Mosley.

**We find a James Poe in Anson County in 1793. Many records for Anson County were destroyed, so this may account for the six year gap between the sale to Hornaday and these**

(although actual entry is undated it is surrounded by 1793)

1505 (78) (no date) **James Poe** (Powe) enters 100 ac on Gum Log Br. of Lanes Cr.

**A Benjamin Watts is in Anson County by 1794, but in a very distant area form the Poe groups. Swans Branch is far west of Wadsboro.**

**James Poe settled Gums Branch of Lanes Creek. According to the U.S. Census Bureau Mapping and Cartographic Resources both Lanes Creek and Gum Log Branch are shown in present day Union County, southwest of Charlotte and close to the South Carolina border. This location makes sense with other records and also with the fact that John Poe born in 1795 married Sarah Threet of South Carolina. John Poe was likely a son of James Poe of Anson County (Union County).**

**See images: Gum Log Branch Lanes Creek runs from Anson County into Union County. Union County was formed in 1842 from Anson and Mecklenburg.**

**This is long after the Poe groups moved to Fayette and Tuscaloosa Counties in Alabama.**

1526 (6)

7 March 1794 **Benjamin Watts** (write over) enters 100 ac on S side of Brown Cr on N prong of **Swans Br**: border: Edward Tatum; includes the Muddy Spring.

1569 (49)

13 May 1794

Daniel **Ross** enters 150 ac on **Gum Log Br of Lanes Cr**: border: John Deason, **James Poe** (Janus) & Edward Castly.

1582 (62)

19 July 1794

Michael Shannon enters 100 ac on waters of **Lanes Cr** and Lower Cowpen Br of Vicars Br: between William **Shepherd** and **James Poe**

2902 (420)

8 December 1794

Gov. Richard Dobbs Spaight (New Bern, NC) to **James Poe**; grant #1327 for pounds 0.30 per 100 ac sold 100 ac on **Gum log Br of Lanes Cr**; border: begins at a red oak on "the" bank of the branch "just below" John Deason's beginning (signed) Richd Dobbs Spaight & J. Glasgow, secretary; book E p. 419

2749 (213)

10 July 1797

Gov. Samuel Ashe (Raleigh, NC) to Michael Shannon; grant #1295; for pounds 0.30 per 100 ac sold 100 ac on waters of Lanes Cr and on Little Cowpen fork of Vicars Br; border: begins at **James Poe's** corner post road; warrant dated Nov. 4, 1794 (signed) Saml Ashe & J. Glasgow, Secretary; book E p.254

**By 1800, we find two sets of James in North Caroline. One set in Chatham County, and one in Anson County.**

### **1800 Chatham County**

#### **James Poe**

2 males under 10

1 male 26-44

2 females under 10

1 female 10-15

1 female 26-44

#### **James Poe**

1 male under 10

1 male 10-15

1 male 16-25  
3 females under 10  
1 female 16-25

## 1800 Anson County

### James Powe, Jr

1 male under 10  
1 male under 10  
1 male 16-26 – this census record may identify James Poe, orphan of Capt. Stephen Poe (d. 1773) . Note in the 1820 census, the only James Poe listed still is not over 26, but has a woman in the household over 45.  
1 female 16-26

### James Powe, Sr 2m<10, 1m 10-16, 1m over 45; 1f<10, 1f 10-16, 1f over 45

1 male under 10  
1 male under 10  
1 male 10-16 (this fits John Poe, age 15; Simon Poe was 18  
1 male over 45 (James Poe SR born 1740 by some records, 1750 by tradition as well as DAR determination)

1 female under 10  
1 female 10-16  
1 female over 45