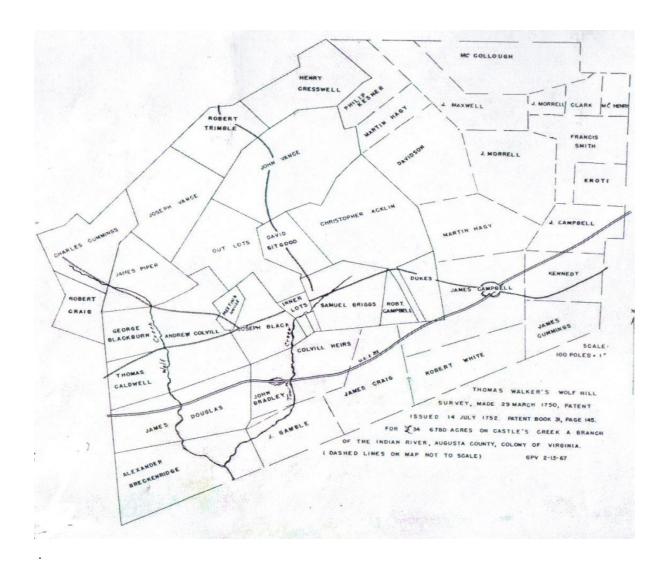


Jonathan Douglas was one of the original settlers in or near Dr. Joseph Walker's Wolf Hill subdivision of Abingdon Virginia in 1771 and 1772. James Douglas lived downstream on Wolf Creek across the knobs on the next tract below Captain Andrew Colville's farm, "the muster ground." In Annals of Southwest Virginia, Lewis Preston Summers states that Douglas was wounded accidentally at Kings Mountain. (I have pondered a non accidental wound, but need help to understand the distinction.) Three Douglas men signed the petition to divide Fincastle County in 1772 into what became Washington, Montgomery, and Kentucky counties. The family tree for James, Jno, and John Douglas is not herein researched.

Jonathan Douglas was on jury duty in November 1780 for Washington County Virginia. That was the court session at which the squires began to deal with the aftermath of the Battle of Kings Mountain on the parishioners of Ebbing and Sinking Spring Presbyterian meeting places.

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Douglas lived between Alexander Breckinridge and Andrew Colville in the original Thomas Walker Wolf Hill subdivision. His farm was the next downstream from the muster ground. In 1776 the next farm southwest of the Wolf Hill tract was settled and James Douglas acquired it in 1781.

A 1787 deed from Thomas Caldwell to Robert Craig mentioned Newell's improvement near the corner with James Douglas and James Craig near William Willoughby's corner. Though some have guessed Joseph Black's first fort to be on his tract in town, I'd doubt that he would build two forts so close together. Instead I picture the first little fort as a blockhouse similar to Black's Blockhouse on Crooked Creek of Blount County TN near Montvale. I think that Black's first fort was "Newell's improvement" on his uncle's land, the first defense in the area in 1772 or 1773. His mother could care for the orphans there with the added safety of proximity to the others. Black's larger fort on his own farm was built to accommodate up to 600 people and became the Washington County seat. Stories of people leaving the big fort after Indian raids said that they stopped at a nearby unnamed fort. Maybe this was a mile or two, Black's Blockhouse on his uncle's farm?

Why does it seem that his mother's first Washington County house was on Andrew Colville's land? Andrew Colville Jr. said it was a quarter mile from his own cabin. Eighty poles is about a quarter mile which fits well inside the Andrew Colville tract. If Gene Mathis was right about the Colville house being up

west of the adjoining Sinking Spring cemetery, the "about a quarter mile away" was near the mustering ground. It would make good sense to muster near Blacks Blockhouse. It would also make sense for Aunt Elizabeth to be close for the orphans, nephews Samuel, George, and Joseph Colville. It would also make sense for folks to call structures Newell's improvement if Newells lived in them.