

The beginnings of New Market

Note: The references to Peter Palsil in the deeds will include the following spellings Polsel, Palsel, Palsil

On May 1765 Valentine Sevier and Johanna his wife sold to their 19 year old son, John Sevier, their home and the 378 acres of land (which had been granted to them by Thomas, Lord Fairfax 1 July 1749) *Frederick Co. DEED BOOK 10, page 441.* for 200 pounds.

John, at the age of 16, had married Sarah Hawkins.

Fourteen days later, on 24 May 1765, John Sevier and Sarah his wife sold to his sister, Mary (Polly) and her husband Robert Rutherford, for 50 pounds, 100 acres of the 378 acres he had recently purchased from his father. These 100 acres was located along the Shenandoah -Rockingham County Line. *Frederick Co. DEED BOOK 11, page 454*
Robert Rutherford and Mary his wife, of the County of Dunmore (later called Shenandoah) on 19 Nov. 1776 sold their 100 acres joining the county line to William McDowell *Shenandoah Co DEED BOOK B page 410.*

Note: John Sevier mortgaged his property and later paid off the mortgage
August 7 1765, John Sevier to Alex Woodrow and John Nelson of Falmouth, King George County, VA, a merchants mortgage
1773 Alexander Woodrow, surviving partner of John Nelson, Falmouth to John Sevier 378 acres being the plantation whereon John Sevier lived and which he purchased of his father, Valentine Sevier. For 104 pounds shillings and eight pence paid by Edwin Young who since has purchased the tract to fee simple.

Before leaving for Tennessee, on 4 Sept 1772, John Sevier and Sarah his wife sold to Joseph Strickler 150 acres of land, it being the middle portion of the 378 acres John Sevier had purchased from his father *Shenandoah Co DEED BOOK A, page 143.*
And on 28 June, 1773, John Sevier and Sarah his wife sold their remaining 128 acres of land to Edwin Young. *Shenandoah Co DEED BOOK A page 382.*

Sevier left for Tennessee and arrived there Christmas Day 1773. He became the first Governor of Tennessee.

On 27 Feb. 1776, Edwin Young and Priscilla his wife sold to Archibald Rutherford the 128 acres which Young had purchased from John Sevier. *Shenandoah Co DEED BOOK B page 311.*
Also on 26 Sep. 1780, Edwin Young and Priscilla his wife sold to Archibald Rutherford a 20 acre tract of land lying on the west side of the main road from Augusta to Winchester and joining with the 128 acres Young has sold to Rutherford on 27 Feb. 1776. *Shenandoah Co DEED BOOK D page 301.*

Note: Young's 20 acres was granted by Thomas Lord Fairfax 20 Dec 1777.

Archibald Rutherford and Barbara his wife on 28 November 1783 sold their 128 acres to Peter Palsil. *Shenandoah Co DEED BOOK D page 352.* And on 28 Nov 1783 Archibald

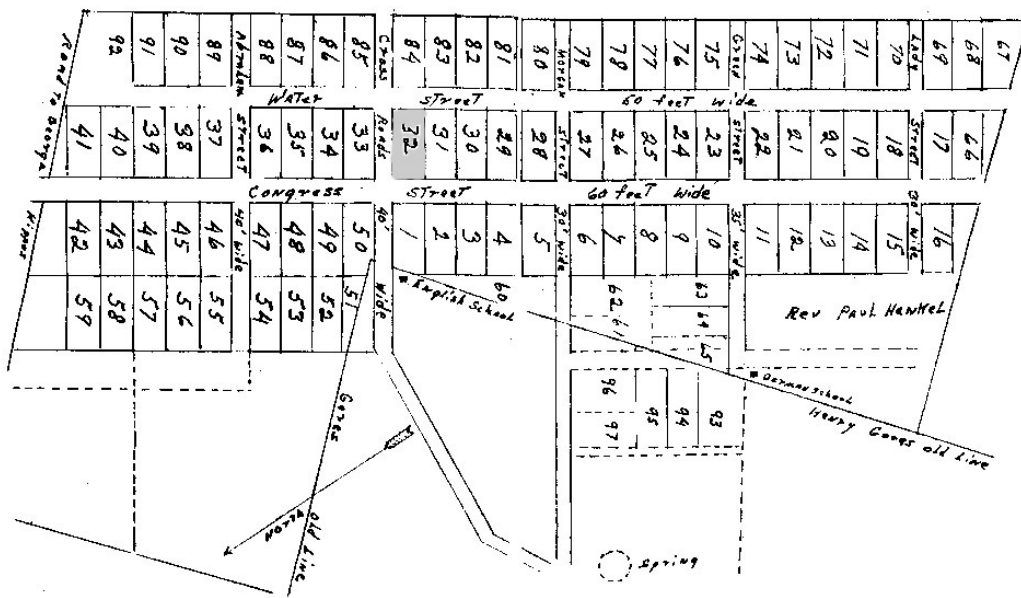
Rutherford and Barbara his wife for the sum of 5 shillings sold to Peter Palsil their 20 acres, which adjoined the 128 acres tract obtained from Edwin Young, except for 1 acre laid off for the Meeting House. *Shenandoah Co DEED BOOK E page 1.*

It was upon these two tracts that Palsil, by survey made by Jacob Rinker on 30 March 1785, laid off 32 ½ acre lots (except for Lot 1) at a place formerly called Crossroads, the new town named Newmarket. (Note it later became New Market)

Archibald Rutherford and his wife Barbara removed to Rockingham County, Virginia and lived in the vicinity of Keezletown where Archibald died in 1789. Most likely this Archibald was a brother to Robert Rutherford who had married Mary (Polly) Sevier.

Peter Palsil, having sold 6 lots in the town to Josiah Allen (Lots 1, 2 & 29), Reuben Moore (Lot 32), Michael Zirkill (Lot 10) and James Hulings (lot 7) then sold his two tracts to Abraham Savage on 29 June, 1786 for 335 pounds containing the 148 acres (*DEED BOOK F page 123*) after first conveying it to Savage on 11 August 1785 in trust to secure a payment of 175 pounds which Palsil owed to Savage. *DEED BOOK E, page 224.*

Abraham Savage in 1791, laid additional lots 33 -92 and was able to sell nearly all of them by 1804. He resided in the old plantation home built by Edwin Young which stood on Lot 38 (where the Manor Memorial Methodist Church stands today).



An early plat of New Market, showing the first thirty two lots laid out by Peter Palsil in 1785, and additional lots laid out by Savage after 1786. Nearly all of lots 33 to 84 were sold by Savage before 1804-

Those parts of lots 50 51, and 93 and up within the Gore tract were laid out after 1812. Lot numbers 51 and up were rearranged before 1885, this change may have occurred when the charter was changed in 1871.

With the help of the local Delegate of the General Assembly of Virginia, he instigated an Act officially establishing the town of New Market on December, 1796.

"And be it further enacted, That the lots and streets, as already laid off and sold by Abraham Savage, in the county of Shenandoah, shall be established a town by the name of New Market; and William Byrd, Michael Shugart, John O'Neil, Andrew Byrd, Isaac Gore, John Brock and Jacob Steigle, gentlemen, are hereby constituted trustees thereof".....Another Act passed on 13 January 1806 by the General Assembly of Virginia stated that "the male freeholders of New Market, age 21 and older, were authorized to elect annually seven trustees for the town...."

In 1806 the population was between 500 and 600 people.

In 1847, when Solomon Henkel had died, his will instructed that: *I Give to the town of New Market a back Street on west side of town - to be called Lime Street (Now Cadet Street today) - make corner Morgan Street (Lee Street today) at foot of Lot No 6 - then 13.1/2 poles westward, (corner) Then line 50 ft westwards to make another corner. Then Parallel to Congress Street - to Green Street (Stuart Street today) and then on to Lady Street which is to be extended to meet it.*

He also gave land to widen Morgan Street by five feet and had previously given land to extend Morgan Street to the road that leads to Plains Mill, known then as Depot Road.

Sources:

"A History of Shenandoah County" by John W. Wayland,

"Shadowed by the Massanutten" by William Algernon Good,

"Grantees of Early New Market Lots" by William Algernon Good

"A Brief History of New Market and Vicinity" by Arthur L. Hildreth

Walking Tour of the Town of New Market published by the Town

Schools in New Market, Shenandoah County, Virginia by Nancy Branner Stewart

Copy of Rinker Map courtesy of William A. Good

Research by Harry Long of New Market

Research of Court Deeds in Shenandoah Court records by Philip Crown