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Davis Family Ann. Newspaper  
142 Edwin Place  
Asheville NC 28801

Thursday  
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ROPER

Dear "Cousin" Robert:

Could this be the ROPER connected with your wife:

ROPER, WILLIAM (1709-1772): William Roper, son of William Roper of King's Norton, County Worcester; matriculated in Worcester College, Oxford, 23 June 1726. Received his B.A. in 1730. Shortly thereafter after he immigrated to S.C. where on 29 March 1733 he married FIRST Mary Wilson. Their only child, Elizabeth, died at the age of six. Mary (Wilson) Roper died 4 March 1745.

Six months' after the death of his first wife, WILLIAM ROPER (1709-1772) married AS A SECOND WIFE, Grace Hext, daughter of Ann Hamilton and David Hext. They had at least five children:

DAVID THOMAS ROPER

WILLIAM ROPER (1748-1789)

ANN ROBER (married Robert Williams, Jr.)

MARTHA (married John Sommers. Wonder if he connects with my Davis line?)

My Rev. James Elliot Davis named his oldest son, James Sommers Davis. I suspect that his grandfather (Capt. James Davis b. 1739 married Sarah Sommers but we do not know her maiden name for sure and we do not know the maiden names of all the others until we hit the first S.C. Davis ~~lx~~ who married Ann \_\_\_\_\_.)

THOMAS

In Charleston WILLIAM ROPER became a successful merchant and factor and was co-owner of two trading vessels. His property holdings in the city included three town houses, a wharf, and a number of lots on the Bay below Tradd Street. He also owned The Island, a 368-1/2 acre plantation on Charleston Neck, and an undeveloped tract of 500 acres in Colleton County. In his will he mentioned 27 slaves, but the indications are that he owned more. On 30 April 1754 WILLIAM ROPER was admitted to the South Carolina Society which he served as junior warden (1756-1757), senior warden (1757-1758), and steward (1758-1759).

WILLIAM ROPER's public career began when he was elected Commissioner of the Work House and Markets and of the Poor in Charleston (1747-1748). Subsequently, he held various offices in the city; Firemaster (1750-1751); Commissioner of the Streets (1752-1753); commissioner, for continuing New Church Street (1756); captain of the second company of the Charleston Regiment (1757); and vestryman for St. Michael Parish (1759-1761). The voters of St. Helena Parish elected Roper to the Seventeenth (1748), Twentieth (1751-1754), Twenty-second (1757-1760), Twenty-third (1760-1761), Twenty-fourth (1761), Twenty-fifth (1762), Twenty-sixth (1762-1765), and Twenty-ninth (1769-1771) Royal Assemblies. He declined to sit in the Twentieth Royal Assembly but qualified for all the others. He represented PRINCE WILLIAM PARISH in the Twenty-seventh Royal Assembly (1765-1768). Other offices he filled were Commissioner of Fortifications for Charleston (1756-1772); commissioner, to build a certain line before Charleston (1760); commissioner, to stamp paper currency (1760); inspector, under the Hemp Act (1765); justice of the peace for Berkeley County (1765, 1767); and commissioner, to prohibit the exportation of rice (1766).

WILLIAM ROPER died in Charleston 14 February 1772.

Excuse poor typing; I hurt my shoulder.

As ever,

P.S. I did a quick look at Sommers and found George, planter in S.C. 1722 living St. George Dorchester Parish by 1740. Owned pew in St. Philip's, Charleston, survived by wife, Henrietta, and brother in England, James. Another Humphry Sommers was successful planter operating plantations at Stono in St. Paul and Cypress in St. George Dorchester. Owned at least one townhouse and 9 slaves and two other lots in Charleston. Married twice: 1st name lost but died 11 Jan 1765; 2nd wife, Mercy, married between 1765 and 1 Nov. 1780. Had William,

Henrietta (Married John Dart, Jr.), Ann Olney (married Nicholas Harleston which family is related on Dad's side), Susanna (mar. Philip Tidyman), Mary, and Elizabeth. Between 1769 and 1771, he made at least one trip to Newport, Rhode Island, with part of his family.

<sup>John</sup> Nicholas<sup>son</sup> was a name of the 2nd son of James Sommers Davis. We believe the name Thayer figures in the Davis line and is from the New England area. It is used as a first name in the family. But there is so much I have not put together I should not conjecture. Some day someone might read my conjectures and take them for proved facts. That would be a red herring that would lead them from good research!