

### **Narrative of David Linville (bc 1734; d 1787), 2<sup>nd</sup> Son of Thomas Linvill (bc 1703; dc 1761)**

David Linville was born before 1734 likely at Linville Creek, Orange County, VA, where his family had settled by 1735 [Orange County, VA Court Order Books, Vol. 1, p. 398]. The *date* of birth is calculated both from his appearance with brother Thomas, Jr. and their father Thomas Sr. on a 1750 tax record in Dan River District [FHL 813247 – Granville Taxes views 279, 283, 284] and from David's role as a chain carrier with brother William on their father Thomas's 1754 survey in North Carolina on the Mayo Road near Piney Mountain [*Records of the Moravians in NC* edited by Adalaide L. Fries Vol 2 - 1752-1771 p 534 – no deed seems to have been recorded for these 500 acres]. Both roles required men to be at least 16. In addition, David certainly would have been at least 21 when petitioning for his own and his father's land in 1762 [NCSA Granville Surveys, 12.12.77.43 and 12.13.123.17].

David's *place* of birth is assumed from his father's presence in Orange Co., VA court records 26 Oct 1738 [Orange County, VA Court Order Books, Vol. 1, p. 398]. He then appears in the 1750 Dan River district of then Granville County NC household of his father Thomas Linville and older brother, Thomas, Jr. [FHL 813247 – Granville NC Taxes views 279, 283, 284]. David does not appear on those tax records a year later in 1751 although both his father and Thomas Jr. do, along with younger brother William Linville. Between the 1750 tax list and David's grant application in 1762, there are only two records for him. The first was as chain carrier with younger brother William in 1754 for their father Thomas's survey as a part of Lord Granville Land Grant distribution of western NC land, as previously noted. No deed for either these 500 acres or the land granted in Belews Creek for Thomas Sr. and Jr (200 acres each) appear in Rowan County deeds. It is likely that they were recorded in Orange County NC, but those Orange County land records before 1778 include many burned in advance of Cornwallis's march through the area.

The second record for David was the 1759 tax list for Belews Creek in Rowan County NC when he appears on the tax list with his father Thomas Sr. and brother Thomas Jr., but without younger brothers William, Richard, Aaron, and Moses [Rowan County, NC Tax Records – 1759 [FHL 007526454(Item 3 of 3)]

view 15]. William, who was at least 16 when listed with father Thomas Sr. and brother Thomas Jr. on the 1751 Granville Co NC tax list [FHL 813247 – Granville NC Taxes views 283, 284], was likely no longer living to be taxed and the other boys not yet old enough to be taxed.

Between 1754-9 David is quite probably one of the "Linville brothers," along with younger brother William, mentioned on a Franklin County VA historical map before 1760 as living along Linville Creek and Linville Mountain (now spelled Lynville) in what is now the northern part of that county but was previously Bedford County, VA. [See the narrative for brother William for complete discussion of this likelihood].

David himself first entered a request for a warrant for 700 acres on Belews Creek that included "Thos Linvill's Improvement" adjoining the Moravian claim 27 Feb 1762 [NCSA Granville Surveys, 12.12.77.43 and 12.13.123.17]. It seems likely that since his father's previous part of the land wasn't actually "vacant," and his father deceased that the grant David finally got on 27 Aug 1762 was just for the actually vacant 306 acres adjacent to his father's and brother Thomas's lands. As with other land of the Thomas Linvill family, no deeds were actually recorded although the warrant indicates a deed was definitely given "2 copies Deed #111." That deed either may have been unrecorded or among the lost Orange County NC deeds. David's Granville Grant for 306 acres on Belews Creek appears to have extended the Linvill family enclave beyond the 400 acres already acquired by his brother Thomas, Jr. and father Thomas, Sr [Rowan County NC Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions Records, Bk 2, p. 451]. David was asked in court on 14 July 1767 to be part of a road crew with brother Thomas and others to lay out a road from Cape Fare road near New Garden Meeting House [Guilford County NC] to David Dillion's mill. The road would join Town Fork Road near David Linville's. At the same time, other men were appointed to straighten the road from David Linville's to the Old Moravian on the Town Fork road with Abraham Vanderpool as overseer of that road [Rowan County Court, Bk 2, p 707-710]. On 13 Oct 1767 David Linville's place was mentioned again in reference to the Cape Fare to David Dillion road [Rowan County Court, NC Bk 2, p 724]. Thomas Lingwell (sic) and David Lingwell (sic) were included on a road jury to lay out a road from Belews Creek settlement to Salem through the most convenient place to

Cornelius Cook's on Dan River Road 15 Oct 1767. The road had been ordered after a petition from the residents of Belews Creek [Rowan County Court, NC Bk 2 p. 728].

David appeared in court in the following year on 15 Jan 1768 in the Rowan County NC Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions when records indicate that Thomas Linvill was an overseer for the road that was already laid out from David Linville's to the river with the "hands living in Blews (sic) Creek settlement" [Rowan County Court NC, Bk 3, p. 12]. On 19 Apr 1768, Thomas, David, and Richard Linville were all ordered to appear to qualify to lay out the road from Cape Fear near New Garden Meeting House to David Dillon's Mill to Town Fork near David Linville's [Rowan County Court NC, Bk 3 p. 19]. David Linville replaced Abraham Vanderpool as the constable for Belews Creek for 1769 [Rowan County Court, Bk 3 p. 12 and 15; p. 79, p. 96 and 129]. Abraham Vanderpool apparently resumed the constable duties for Belews Creek from David as he handed in the 1769 annual tax for that September. It seems that this is one of the few fragments of Rowan County tax lists in the 1760s that has survived [Rowan County Court NC, Bk 3, p. 138 and 152].

David clearly was married by 1774 as a wife Mary appears with him on a deeds for that year. On 18 Mar 1774 David and wife Mary divided his 306-acre grant into two parcels of land - one half to Barnabas Fare and the other to his brother Richard Linville [Surry County, NC Deeds, Bk A p 66-67; 70-71]. If she was the only wife Mary she may have been a Worley, given the name of one of David's sons and the prominence of the given name of Worley for several generations of both his and his (deceased) brother William's descendants. Here we assume there was only one wife Mary and she was the mother of David's children. However, there are discrepancies in her age, and it's possible there were two wives Mary, but if so, we are only following the one who was mother of his children born 1778-1787. Future research might determine otherwise.

If there was one wife he would have married Mary (possibly Worley) by 1774 given her presence on the two deeds that year, though she was an unnamed beloved wife referred to in David's 1787 will. His will only names two children but from other records, including the 1790 Stokes County NC census we know there were others. Widow Mary Linville second married Carter Barnett about 1799 in Rowan County NC [Carter Barnett Rev War pension W5784]. She was definitely Mary (----) Linville Barnett in the pension records although they

suggest she was born about 1761, though she had to have been a bit older (note that she didn't apply as widow of David Linville, though his descendants would be eligible for DAR or SAR membership, too). None of the heirs of David Linville's estate mention her in records though they settled in Blount County TN by 1801-3 and it seems likely Mary and new husband, Carter Barnett, were in neighboring Roane County TN at least by a few years later. All the land deeds found to date only involve their children Worley, Richard and Charity, all referring to each other as heirs of their father David Linville. Son Thomas, being cared for by Worley (as requested in David's will), would likely not have been competent to engage in legal proceedings. Since David was clearly born by 1734, he seems to have been an older bachelor before marriage.

With the use of the given name Worley in both David's descendants and that of his younger brother William (no longer living by 1759 and the father of young children), it seems possible that not only both brothers had Worley wives, but David may have been caring for William's young children for a time. See narrative of William (bc 1735-dc 1759 for a fuller discussion). Regardless, David appears to have married late and had no children until his 40s.

David Linville [David Linevell] received a Specie Certificate for contribution to the Revolutionary cause for supplies furnished to the militia or continental troops as noted in the account books of (Charles) Bruce & (Trangott) Bagge, merchants in the Salem settlement [North Carolina Revolutionary Army Accounts, Treasurers and Comptrollers Papers, Vol XII, part Xi, p. 1444]. As a result, descendants are eligible for membership in DAR or SAR even if he didn't actually see military service but assisted in the war effort.

He left a will written on 14 Feb 1787 in Surry County, NC, in which he did not name his wife, though from other sources as previously mentioned, we know she was Mary. The only children named in the will were sons Thomas and Worley and his "other children". David gave two shares of his land to Worley because he asked him to care for his son Thomas for life and states that Worley is not "of age" (i.e. 21 by that date in 1787). The rest of his property was to be shared with his wife and other children. Inventory for the estate, returned by David's brothers Aaron and Richard, indicated that at the time of his death David owned 300 acres in Guilford (later Rockingham) County and 183 in Surry (later Stokes) County with an old mill on it [Surry County, NC

Wills, Book 2, pp. 72 and 120a]. Non real estate items included a number of animals and farm tools, as well as 9 pewter plates, 6 spoons, 4 beds and furniture and a looking glass, indicating he had a fairly equipped but not wealthy household for the time. A 1803 court filing from Blount County, TN indicates that Richard and Charity Linville asked their "well beloved brother Worley" to stand in their place and sell their share of their father David's land in Belews Creek, Stokes County and Hogan Creek, Rockingham County in NC [Stokes County NC deeds Bk 3 p. 282; Bk 4, p. 274, p. 372]. Two other females enumerated in the 1790 census household for Mary Linville likely died by 1801 otherwise they would have to have been included in the land sales, as specified in David's will. But his widow would have relinquished her dower's right because of her marriage to Carter Barnett.

David died between 14 Feb 1787 and 10 May 1787 in Surry County, NC. His estate was probated on 10 May 1787 at Surry County, NC [Surry County NC Probates Bk 2, pp. 72 and 120a FHL 8519203 view 33] filed by brothers Richard and Aaron Linville 10 May 1787.

The next generations of his family are followed in the Linville Database: [linvillefamily.us](http://linvillefamily.us)

Thomas Linville was born between 1775 and 1780 at NC – unable to care for himself.  
Worley Linville was born about 1778 at NC  
Richard Linville was born circa 1782 at Belews Creek, Surry County, NC  
Charity Linville was born in 1787 at NC. She probably married John Rosson about 1808  
Other daughters who died young possible. These are the only children who figure into his estate.

8 October 2025  
Alice Eichholz, Ph.D., CG  
1 4th Avenue North, Unit 102  
Minneapolis, MN 55401  
[alice@newtrails.org](mailto:alice@newtrails.org)  
612-388-5666