

The Chains' Breadth Tract

In 1714 one Nicholas Overby patented 964 acres in what is now Dinwiddie County Virginia. That's 1.5 square miles of land, a good sized tract, but what sets it apart is its shape. It was two independent 400 acre parcels connected by a strip of land 3 miles long that was one chain (66feet) wide. I would speculate that his intention was to own a road from one parcel to the other. This is probably Nicholas Ye Younger as his son Nicholas was only 20 years old in 1714. Nicholas Ye Younger already owned land very close and probably adjacent to the eastern parcel of this 964 acres.

Later, in 1746 & 1783 Nicholas Ye Younger Overby's grandsons, James and Jeremiah, had a patent and a grant for land adjacent to the western parcel of the "Chain's Breadth" tract, and Overby's Chain's Breadth, is referenced in the property description of the 1783 grant.

A portion of this same property is later inherited by John Overby, and at his death 150 acres is divided among his children including my 3rd Great-Grandfather Robert Overby. Robert Overby paid taxes on his inherited 30 acres on Georges Branch in Dinwiddie County from 1820 to 1824, when he obviously sold the 30 acres as he paid taxes on it no more. Robert was married in Chesterfield County in 1817 and the tax record for the 30 acres in Dinwiddie list his place of residence as Chesterfield.

Robert is the father of William Epps Overby and is buried at Blandford Cemetery.

<https://edavidarthur.tripod.com/robertoverby/index.html>

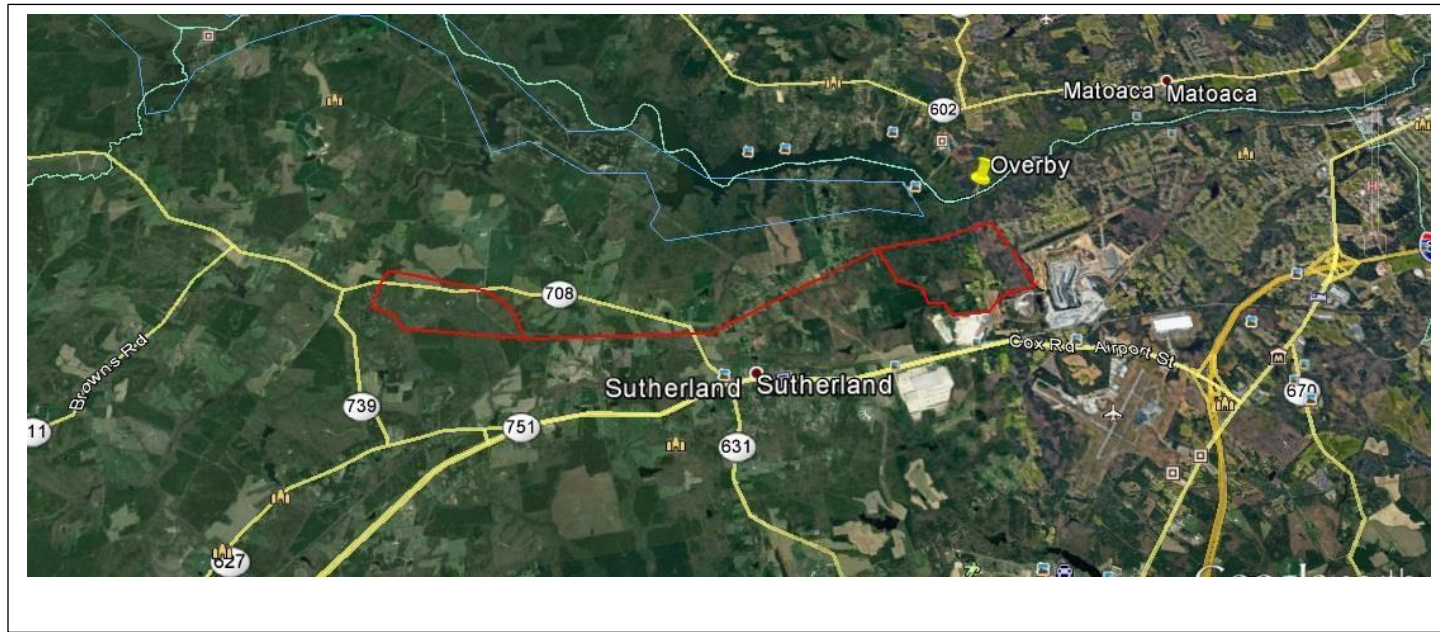
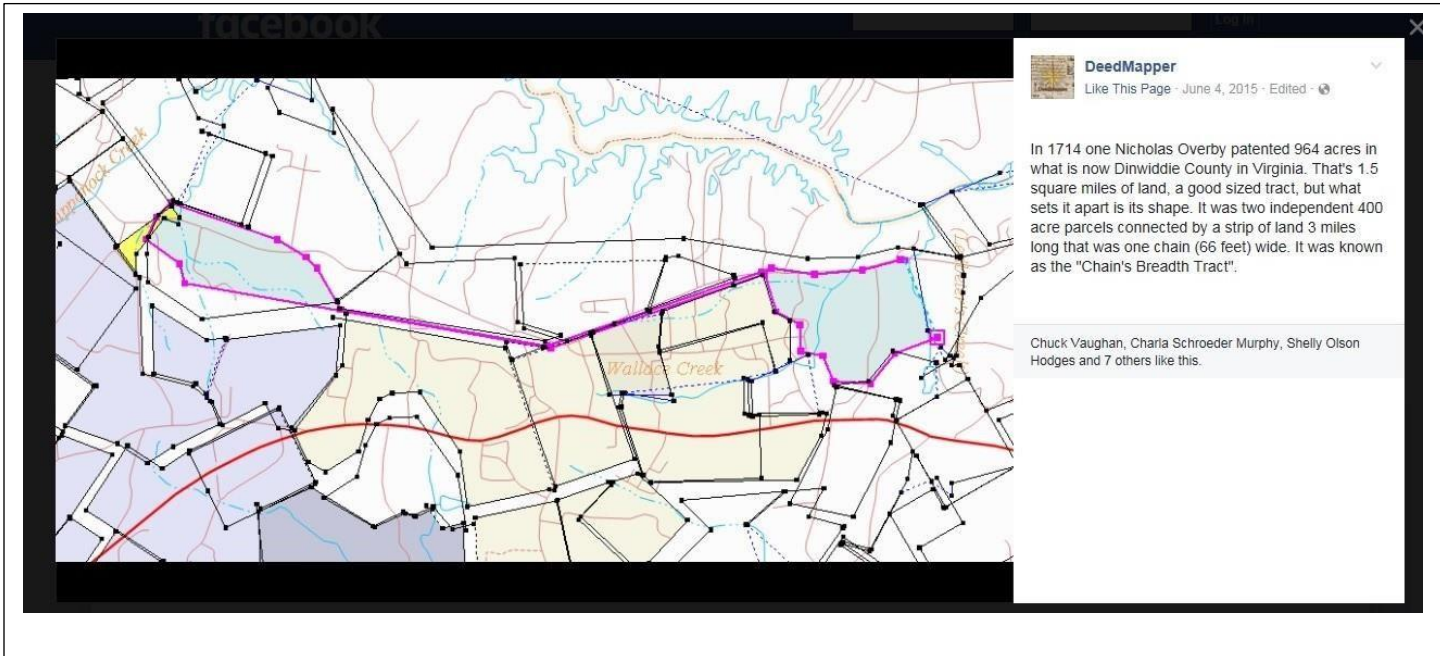
Other deeds of Nicholas Ye Younger Overby are described at

<https://edavidarthur.tripod.com/NicholasYeYoungerDEEDs.pdf>

Also Nicholas Ye Younger was given a tract by his father Nicholas

In 1685, our Nicholas, Sr. purchased a developed tract of land for his son Nicholas, Jr. with all houses, edifices, buildings, orchards, gardens, forests and all profit on this same tract of land and plantation. (Henrico Co., VA Deeds, 1677-1692) This frontier land was an area that was administered by Charles City County, VA, but was formed into Prince George Co., VA in 1705. The land was probably near Fort Henry, just south of the Appomattox River, in what was called Bristol Parish. The land was a wedding gift to Nicholas Overbey, Jr. Witnesses to the deed were Dysons, who lived near the site of Woods Church, five miles north of Petersburg, Virginia. It is considered the "Mother Church" of Bristol Parish and was named for Abraham Wood. Our Nicholas Overbey's son (Jr.) learned well from his father and from Colonel Wood and by the year 1690, (Jr.) was earning more land for himself, by transporting his own "headrights" from England and taking land grants for their emigration.

Below are photos of the "Chain's Breadth" tract.



On the right (East Side) of the eastern part of the "Chain's Breadth" tract is other land owned by Nicholas "Ye Younger" Overby, which is now the Amazon Distribution Center just off of Route 460.