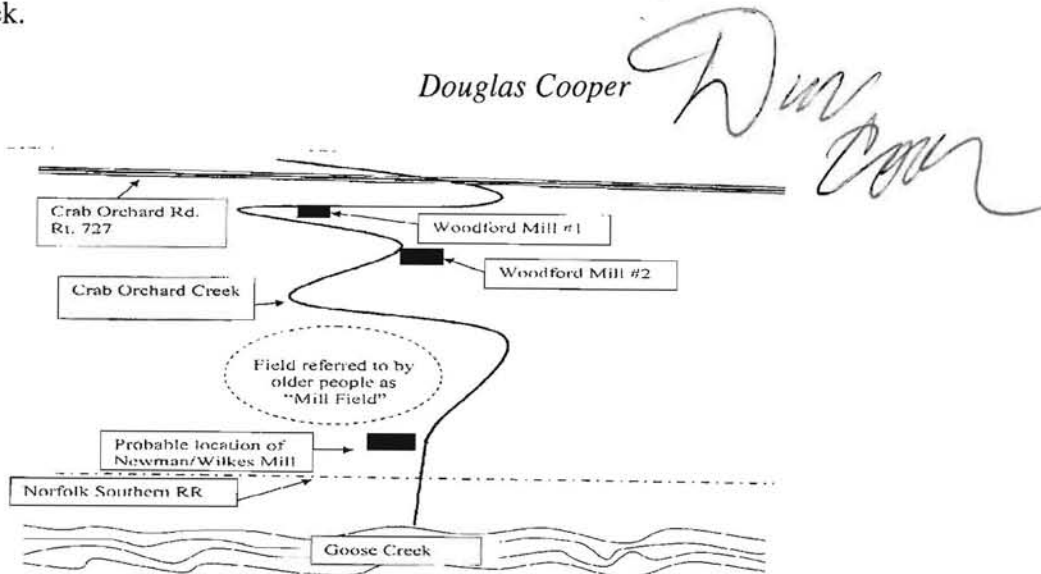


NEWMAN MILL

Crab Orchard Creek

This has been a difficult mill to research. Crab Orchard Creek had several mills and this mill may have been an earlier version of Woodford Mill also accounted in this book. This may also be the Wilkes Mill mentioned on Crab Orchard Creek. The first mention is in the Bedford court order books October 27, 1778 when Coonrad Newman is granted leave to build a grist mill on Crab Orchard Creek. There is no evidence that this mill was ever built. Then in June of 1790 Samuel and Benjamin Wilkes are granted leave to build a mill on Crab Orchard Creek. The exact location of this mill is also unknown. This may have been at the same location that Coonrad Newman petitioned in 1778. It is important to remember that because of religious persecution in Loudon County these Quaker families moved to this area. The group consisted of Woodfords, Updikes, Wilkes, Creasys and the Dobyys. They were affiliated with what is now Quaker Baptist church and the South River Meeting House in Lynchburg. You should also read the history of the Woodford Mill in this book to better understand the relationship between these families. You will find many marriages between the Woodfords, Creasys, Newman's and Wilkes. In the 1800s a Creasy also owned the Woodford mill. A clue to the location of this mill may be in family tradition. I now own this land where the mill is believed to have stood. There is a large tract of bottom land on Crab Orchard Creek that is referred to by the older people as "the Mill Field". It would have been an ideal location for a mill pond but we have not been able to locate any rubble or foundations that would indicate a mill or dam. The following is a sketch to indicate the location and show its relationship to the Woodford mill just up the creek.



¹ OB6, p210

² OB10, p23

Map courtesy of: Douglas Cooper