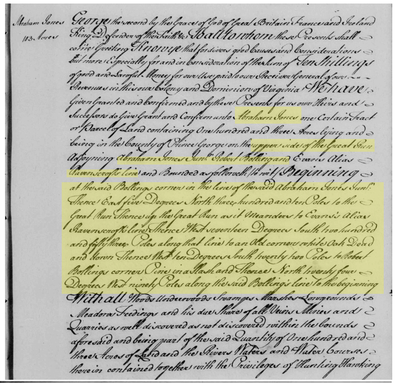
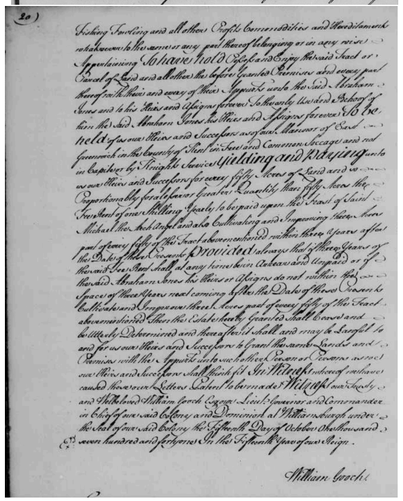
LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

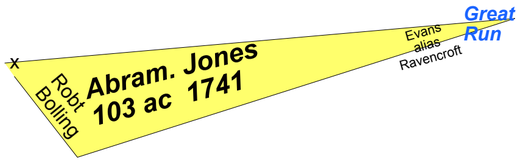
Land grant 15 October 1741.
Jones, Abraham. grantee. ›
1741 - 1015
Available on microfilm. Virginia State Land Office. Patents 1-42, reels 1-41.
Location: Prince George County.
Description: 103 acres on the upper side of Great Run adjoining Abraham Jones Jr., Robert Bolling &c.
Source: Land Office Patents No. 20, 1741-1743 (v.1 & 2 p.1-566), p. 19 (Reel 18).

Abram. Jones
103 ac 1741





begin x corner Robert Bolling
(in line of Ab Jones Jr)
E 5 N 310 to Great Run
N 85 E 310
...up Great Run to Evans alias Ravencroft
W 17 S 253
S 73 W 253
W 10 S 22 to Robert Bolling
S 80 W 22
N 24 W to 1st Bolling line



why use the term 'alias'... in a deed (1747 VA) to a 'name' alias 'second name'...

In colonial Virginia deeds from the 1700s (including around 1747), the term "alias" (often written as "alias" or "als.") was commonly used in legal documents to indicate that a person was also known by or otherwise called a second name. This phrasing appeared in the form of "John Smith alias John Taylor" or similar constructions, where the first name was typically the primary or baptismal/legal name, and the second was an alternative one the person used or was recognized by.This was not usually meant to imply deception, hiding identity, or criminal activity (as "alias" often suggests today in modern contexts like police records). Instead, it served practical legal and social purposes in an era when surnames were still somewhat fluid, spelling was inconsistent, and people frequently went by multiple identifiers.Common Reasons for Using "Alias" in Deeds and Court RecordsHere are the main explanations drawn from historical genealogical and legal sources on 18th-century Virginia and colonial America:Illegitimacy or uncertain parentage — Children born out of wedlock might use both their mother's surname and their reputed father's surname (or vice versa), especially if inheritance or property rights were involved. The alias connected the two to clarify identity for legal purposes like land transfers.

Remarriage of a parent (step-parent scenarios) — If a mother remarried, her children might adopt the stepfather's surname in daily life while retaining their birth father's name for inheritance or legal continuity. The deed used "alias" to link both names and avoid disputes over title.

Inheritance from a female relative or property ties — When someone inherited land or goods through a maternal line (or changed names due to inheritance customs), they might use the inherited surname alongside their original one. This was common in cases involving entails, dowries, or family estates.

Differentiation in families with common surnames — In small communities with many people sharing the same last name (very frequent with names like Jones, Smith, etc.), an alias helped distinguish individuals—often by a nickname, place of origin, occupation, or another family connection.

Maiden names, nicknames, or variations — A woman might be identified with her maiden name as an alias after marriage, or someone might use a common nickname (e.g., "Harry alias Harold"). Initials, patronymics, or anglicized versions of non-English names could also appear this way.

Common law or informal unions — In some cases, it signified relationships not formalized by church marriage, though this was less common in formal deeds.

In deeds specifically, the goal was clarity and legal precision to ensure the correct person was identified as the grantor (seller) or grantee (buyer). Virginia courts and clerks wanted to prevent future challenges to the title by explicitly acknowledging all names the person might be known by in records, witnesses, or community usage. This practice mirrored English common law traditions carried to the colonies.Examples from period glossaries and resources (e.g., colonial Virginia legal term lists) confirm "alias" in personal names was for "a name used other than the given name... which may not be an attempt to hide his/her identity," contrasting with its use for repeated writs (like "alias capias" for a second summons).If this is from a specific 1747 deed (perhaps involving a Jones family member from your earlier query), the alias likely clarified identity for inheritance, family ties, or surname variations—common in Southside Virginia counties like Brunswick or Prince George during that era.

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https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Stark_Ravenscroft

John Stark Ravenscroft (May 17, 1772 – March 5, 1830) was the first Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina and helped organize the Episcopal Diocese of Tennessee.

Early life

Ravenscroft was born in 1772 on his family plantation near Petersburg in Prince George County, Virginia, to parents (physician John Ravenscroft and the former Lilias Miller) who were both descendants of the powerful Colonel Robert Bolling.[1] Because their Loyalist sympathies made the political situation unstable, when John was an infant his family moved to Scotland, where he received his earliest education.

Upon his father's death in 1788, Ravenscroft returned to Virginia to manage the family lands, as well as pursue their Loyalist indemnification claims. At age 17,[2] he enrolled at the College of William & Mary to prepare for a legal career under the guidance of George Wythe and St. George Tucker. However, the wealthy young man also had extracurricular activities which, with his hot temper, earned him the nickname ***"Mad Jack".*** *Eventually, he returned to Scotland to finish settling his father's estate.*

Returning again to Virginia, Ravenscroft married well, to Ann Spottswood Burwell, in 1792, ***and gave up his passions for gambling and horse racing.***

Ravencroft
decendant of Bolling?

What is Evans connection?