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THE PAXSON BROTHERS OF COLONIAL PENNSYLVANIA

THE FIRST THREE GENERATIONS

By MARTHA JONET PAXSON GRUNDY*

The year 1982 marked the tricentennial of the arrival of the Paxson brothers among the passengers of the twenty-three ships which accompanied William Penn to his new colony. They were the sons of James and Jane (Clerk) Paxton of Marsh Gibbon, Buckinghamshire. The parish records of St. Mary's Church there have the usual seventeenth-century disregard for consistency in spelling; the name appears from April 1640 to March 1678/9 as Paxon, Paxson, Packson, Packston, but most often as Paxton. In Pennsylvania, however, Friends' records show more consistency. The Woman's Monthly Meeting minutes of Middletown (Bucks County) spell the name Paxson except from 1762 through 1764, when the minutes were copied into the book by a particularly atrocious speller, and a few exceptions in the late 1790s. The Men's Monthly Meeting minutes from the beginning in 1684 to 1687 spell the family Paxton; from 1687 to 1691 the name appears Paxon, and from July 1691 on it is Paxson, the spelling which the family itself has used ever since.¹ However, government documents and newspapers have continued to blithely mix Paxson, Paxton, and Paxon right down to the present time. Apparently anyone in this country who spells his name Paxson rather than Paxton is descended from these Quaker brothers.

The English forebears of the Paxson family can be traced from the wills transcribed by Arthur E. Bye.² The earliest ancestor who can be identified with certainty is **John^E Paxton**, a husbandman of Barton, Buckinghamshire, who died in the summer of 1558 leaving a wife **Alice**, and a will written 13 February 1553/4 and proved 27 August 1558. Children of John Paxton:

- i. Roger^D, will proved 10 Oct. 1558; m. Joane; res. Barton; no issue.
- + ii. Henry (Harry), will proved 7 Apr. 1559; m. Jane.
- iii. Edmund, will proved 5 Feb. 1596/7; m. Agnes; yeoman of Barton Hartshorn; 6 children.
- iv. Margaret, m. George Alton or Altham.
- v. William, will proved 7 Oct. 1593; m.; husbandman of Barton Hartshorn; 9 children.

Henry^D Paxton was a husbandman in Hillesden who wrote his will 18 July 1558. It was proved 7 April 1559. In it he left thirty sheep, six cows and heifers, over £25 cash, and other specified articles of clothing and furniture. Children of Henry Paxton:

- + i. Edmund^C
- ii. Thomas
- iii. Anne
- iv. Friswyth

Edmund^c Paxton was a husbandman in Launton, situated on the Oxford-Buckinghamshire border. His will, dated 15 August 1609, and proved 2 October 1609, stipulated that, if his daughter Elizabeth married "contrary to the advice of my overseers," she should lose her inheritance. Edmund did not mention a wife in his will. Children of Edmund Paxton:

- i. Elizabeth^a, m. Henry Coales of Ludgershall; had issue.
- + ii. Henry
- iii. Thomas, m. and had at least two sons.
- iv. Richard, will proved 5 April. 1619; m. Joan; res. Launton.
- v. Joan, m. Lawrence Abbat or Abbott; had issue.
- vi. Edmund, d. 2 Dec. 1609; m. Jane; res. Launton; no issue.

Henry^b Paxton married **Joan Clarke** in Marsh Gibbon 20 November 1596. He and his sons appear to have been economically poorer than their immediate predecessors. Children of Henry and Joan (Clarke) Paxton:

- i. Richard^a, m. Elizabeth, and had a son Richard bapt. 23 Aug. 1636.
- + ii. James

James^a Paxton married 16 August 1640 **Jane Clerk**, and lived in Marsh Gibbon. He died before 1670; the parish record shows that Jane was buried there as a widow 15 August that year. They had eight children recorded in the register of St. Mary's Church in Marsh Gibbon³:

- i. Ellen¹, bapt. 27 Apr. 1641.
- ii. Alice, bapt. Oct. 1644.
- + 1 iii. Henry, bapt. 11 Jan. 1646/7; emigrated to Penna. in 1682.
- + 2 iv. William, bapt. 21 Dec. 1648; emigrated to Penna. in 1682.
- + 3 v. James, b. ca. 1649; emigrated to Penna. in 1682.
- vi. Thomas, bapt. 15 June 1651; emigrated but d. at sea beginning of Sept. 1682; unm.
- vii. Jane, bapt. 14 Mar. 1652/3.
- viii. Anne, bur. 14 Feb. 1655/6.

The four Paxson brothers and their families emigrated soon after they became converted to Quakerism. William and James sailed on the *Amity*. They each carried a certificate of removal dated 3 April 1682 from the Monthly Meeting for the Uppeside of Bucks held at "Hunger Hill," the home of Thomas Ellwood, near Colleshill. In the certificates each is described as a "labourer" of Marsh Gibbon.⁴ The other two brothers, Henry and Thomas, sailed on the *Samuel*. They carried certificates of removal from Biddlesdon Monthly Meeting which described Henry as a husbandman of Bycot, and Thomas as a laborer from Padbury.⁵ Smallpox broke out on board the *Samuel*, killing Thomas and Henry's wife and two sons.

Dates in this paper have been translated from the Quaker numerals to their more common pagan names. However, before 1752 the new year did not begin until March 25. In this paper, in the years before 1752, dates from January 1 to March 24 are given in the Old Style. For example, 11 January 1646 will be expressed as 11 January 1646/7.

1. **Henry¹ Paxson** was baptised in St. Mary's Church, Marsh Gibbon, Buckinghamshire, on 11 January 1646/7, the son of James and Jane (Clerk) Paxton. He died in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, in July 1723. His first wife's name is unknown; she died at sea 31 July 1682.⁶ He married a second time, the widow **Marjorie (Page) Plumley** 13 August 1684, the first marriage recorded under the care of the newly established Middletown Monthly Meeting in Bucks County.⁷ They had no issue.

Henry lived in Bycot, parish of Stowe, in what was then Oxfordshire. When he became a Quaker is not known, but the Biddlesdon Monthly Meeting appointed him in October 1681 to a small committee to meet with an erring Friend.⁸ In Pennsylvania he also served on Meeting committees, and was made a trustee for the Meeting property in 1688.⁹

Before leaving England Henry purchased from William Penn's agents 500 acres of land in Pennsylvania.¹⁰ The land was laid out in a narrow strip butting on the Neshaminy Creek (Bucks County), its southern boundary delimited by the Hulmeville-Fallsington Road.¹¹ As a First Purchaser, Henry also received a fifty-five-foot lot in Philadelphia, situated on the east side of Third Street between Sassafras and Mulberry. It was assessed at two shillings per year, and at the time of the Blackwell Rent Roll of 1689 Henry had paid rent for five years.¹² Like many others at that time, Henry used whatever capital he accumulated to buy more land.¹³ In 1688 he deeded 125 acres to his stepson William Plumley, who had recently become twenty-two. In 1698 he and his daughter Elizabeth Burgess deeded 500 acres with "divers goods and chattels" to two more stepsons, James and John Plumley, soon after the latter reached twenty-two.¹⁴ When Henry² (18) son of James¹ (3), became of age in 1704, it becomes difficult to differentiate between him and Henry¹ (1), as their names appear without qualifying adjectives in public records. This confusion is reflected and magnified in secondary sources.¹⁵

Henry was elected a representative from Bucks County to the Pennsylvania Assembly in 1685, 1695, and from 1704 through 1709.¹⁶ He served often on grand and petit juries, and was named a "peacemaker" (part of the early Pennsylvania judicial system) in 1685.¹⁷ He was also appointed an overseer of the highways.¹⁸

Henry went to court twice. In 1686 he sued Robert Carter and his son John for burning a rick of hay in Henry's field. It may have been a dispute over a boundary line. The Carters, caught in the act, were assessed damages of £5 and the costs of the suit.¹⁹ Secondly, Henry sued Richard Burgess for failing to maintain properly his wife Elizabeth, who was Henry's only surviving child. Richard agreed to "allow" his wife whatever the court should order.²⁰

Richard Burgess was not a Friend, and Henry was disciplined by Middletown Meeting for permitting the marriage. He acknowledged that he had done wrong in letting his daughter marry a non-Quaker without taking counsel from the Meeting, and he signed (with his mark) a statement to this effect in the Middletown minute book.²¹ But shortly thereafter he left the Meeting, probably over the controversy stirred up by George Keith. Although primarily doctrinal, the Keithian schism involved politics and perhaps reflected economic

and social divisions, as well. Keith was eventually disowned and joined the Anglican Church.²² Henry was never reconciled to Middletown Meeting, although he was buried in the Meeting cemetery beside his second wife, at the request of his step-son John Plumley. Marjorie also left Friends, and was one of two women named specifically to be spoken to in 1699 after the controversy had subsided. Although the Women's minutes are silent as to the result of any such conversations, and her name does not again appear in the minutes, her burial in the Meeting cemetery suggests some sort of reconciliation.²³

Although all of his children had died by 1700, Henry took responsibility for his stepsons and the children of his deceased nephew, William Jr. (16), son of James'. In 1719 he posted £200 bond to administer the estate of William Jr.²⁴ Henry's will, dated 23 April 1723 and proved 30 July 1723, listed over 1000 acres and devised sizable farms to all the sons of nephew William Jr., and smaller bequests to many others, mostly relatives.²⁵

Children of Henry Paxson and his first wife (order uncertain):²⁶

- 4 i. John², b. in England; d. at sea middle of July 1682.
- 5 ii. Henry, b. in England; d. at sea 30 July 1682.
- 6 iii. Elizabeth, b. ca. 5 Sept. 1675 in England; d. Dec. 1700; m. Richard Burgess in 1691; no issue.

2. **William¹ Paxson**, baptised 21 December 1648 in St. Mary's Church, Marsh Gibbon, Buckinghamshire, son of James and Jane (Clerk) Paxson was buried 2 January 1709/10 in Middletown Meeting cemetery, Bucks County, Pennsylvania. His first wife was **Mary**, who, according to an old family Bible, was surnamed **Sydenham**. Her death is not recorded in Middletown Friends records, and may have occurred while the family was separated from the Meeting over the Keithian controversy. William's second wife was **Mary White**, the widow of Judge John White of Philadelphia, and her maiden name may have been **Packingham**, as appears in other old family records.²⁷ I have been unable to find any record of this marriage, but her and Judge White's wills name similar children. Mary was buried at Falls Meeting 31 August 1719.²⁸ She was literate, signed her will, and owned several books at the time of her death.

William, his brother James, and several others shared a 500-acre block of land laid out in what became known as Four Lanes' End, then in Middletown and now in Langhorne.²⁹ Starting with this original 100-acre farm, William had acquired about 1000 acres by his death.³⁰ During his life he divested himself of only one parcel of land, which was conveyed to his son-in-law Thomas Walmsley.³¹

William was elected a representative from Bucks County to the Pennsylvania General Assembly in 1692, 1696, 1700, 1701, 1703, and from 1705 through 1708.³² He served as a highway overseer in 1693 and was suggested as a County tax collector in 1696.³³ Like his brothers he served on many grand and petit juries, and was asked by the court to appraise estates.³⁴ He also witnessed wills and served as an executor at least once.³⁵ He was chosen to be a guardian, and another time, was rejected by a Quaker orphan who preferred to live with another family.³⁶

William was an active member of Middletown Friends Meeting from its inception, and his name appeared often in the minutes as he was appointed to various committees to clear a man for marriage, deal with a Friend who acted out of unity with the Meeting, and so forth. In 1690 he was one of several asked to oversee the building of a stable for the Meeting house.³⁷ However, in 1692 he became involved in the controversy surrounding George Keith and withdrew from participation in the Meeting until 1696 when he again began to attend. He signed a paper condemning his action in going apart from the Truth. This was accepted and William was once more an active part of the Meeting, participating on committees. In June 1700 the minutes rather ruefully complain that William, "being absent much of the time about the country business," had not performed a task the Meeting had assigned to him. He was a trustee, overseer, and representative to Quarterly and Philadelphia Yearly Meetings.³⁸

The name of William's first wife never appeared in the Women's Meeting minutes. However, his second wife's name appeared several times. In 1711 she transferred to Philadelphia Monthly Meeting.³⁹ Mary left a will, dated 25 December 1718, describing herself as "being weak of body" and "of the town of Bristol," and signed in a very shaky hand. It was proved 23 February 1718/9, and mentions two daughters, six granddaughters, and two grandsons, none of them Paxsons. Her estate was valued at £77.12.0.⁴⁰

William was buried in the Middletown Meeting cemetery 2 January 1709/10.⁴¹ His will, proved 26 January 1709/10, gave part of his estate to his wife, including a £120 bond he had posted to pay her heirs, which was presumably part of a prenuptial agreement. The rest went to his daughter Mary and her husband and the four children they had at that time, and to his son William. The estate, valued at £391.14.6, included one Negro slave boy and one indentured servant woman.⁴² Children of William and Mary (Sydenham?) Paxson:

- 7 i. Elizabeth², bapt. 17 Feb. 1676/7 in Marsh Gibbon; d. before 1682.⁴³
- 8 ii. Mary, bapt. 15 Mar. 1678/9 in Marsh Gibbon; emigrated with her parents to Pennsylvania in 1682; m. 4 Apr. 1698 Thomas Walmsley, and had 9 children who all lived and married.⁴⁴
- + 9 iii. William, b. 4 June 1685 in Middletown, Bucks County.

3. **James¹ Paxson**, son of James and Jane (Clerk) Paxson, was born in Marsh Gibbon, Buckinghamshire, but is not recorded in the parish register. Court testimony in 1689 held that James was "about 40 yrs" which would place his birth ca. 1649.⁴⁵ He died 29 September 1722. James married first a woman who, with their three young children, had all died by 1673.⁴⁶ He married second **Jane Gurden** on 6 October 1670 in Marsh Gibbon. She died 7 April 1710 in Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

James received 100 acres out of the block of 500 granted to his brother William, himself, and three other parties. Like his brothers, James purchased additional land as he became able to do so.⁴⁷ In 1691 he owned land butting on the Neshaminy where the King's Highway crossed over "Paxson's Bridge."⁴⁸

As a member of Middletown Monthly Meeting James took his part on committees. In 1690 he was assigned with William and others to oversee the construction of a stable and to collect funds subscribed for it.⁴⁹ But James too became involved in the Keithian schism, and dropped out of the Meeting from 1692 until 1698. He became reconciled only in time to remove to Falls Monthly Meeting in an orderly manner.⁵⁰ There he served on a marriage clearness committee in 1699 and used his conciliatory skills several times to help resolve occasional differences between members.⁵¹

James served many times as a grand and petit juror, and as highway overseer, arbitrator, and constable. From time to time neighbors asked him to witness wills.⁵² James himself left no will; this suggests that he died suddenly or had disposed of his property earlier.

Children of James Paxson by his first wife:⁵³

- 10 i. James², bapt. 3 Oct. 1666; bur. 8 Nov. 1666.
- 11 ii. James, bapt. 26 Apr. 1668; bur. 27 May 1673.
- 12 iii. Henry, bapt. 14 Jan. 1669/70; d.y.

Children of James and his second wife Jane (Gurden) Paxson:⁵⁴

- 13 iv. Sarah², bapt. 29 Oct. 1671 in Marsh Gibbon; emigrated to Pennsylvania with her parents on the *Amity* in 1682; m. (1) John Burling (or Borley or Bunting) ca. Aug. 1692, out of unity with Friends' order. When asked why, Sarah answered that "her father would not have unity with her marriage."⁵⁵ She m. (2) James Kirkham or Kirkman. There was no issue from either marriage.
- 14 v. Henry, bapt. 25 May 1673; bur. 27 May 1673 in Marsh Gibbon.
- 15 vi. William, twin of Henry, bapt. 25 May 1673; bur. 27 May 1673.
- + 16 vii. William, bapt. 27 Jan. 1675/6 in Marsh Gibbon.
- 17 viii. Henry, bapt. 27 Apr. 1678; bur. 7 Feb. 1681/2 in the Marsh Gibbon Anglican church graveyard, even though his father was a Quaker.
- + 18 ix. Henry, b. 20 Sept. 1683 in Middletown, Bucks County.
- 19 x. James, b. 10 June 1687; bur. 16 Jul. 1687 in Middletown.⁵⁶

9. **William² Paxson**, son of William and Mary (Sydenham?) Paxson, was born 4 June 1685 in Middletown; and died there 18 December 1733. He married in May 1711 **Mary Watson** at Falls Monthly Meeting. She was the daughter of Thomas and Rebecca (Mark) Watson, born ca. 1687 in the parish of Cockermouth, Cumberland County, England. She emigrated to Pennsylvania with her parents in 1702 and died 28 September 1760.⁵⁷

William received a rudimentary education at a school held intermittently in the Middletown Meeting house. He was only twenty-four when he inherited his father's large farm and stone farmhouse. William added to the house, as did subsequent generations, and it still stands at 270 Winchester Avenue, Langhorne.⁵⁸

William, like his father and uncle, was a Bucks County representative to the Pennsylvania Provincial Assembly. He served in 1714, 1717 through 1720, 1722, and from 1726 through 1733.⁵⁹ He was commissioned a Justice of the Peace in 1723, 1725, 1726, 1727, and 1733 for terms of open-ended length. It appears he sat on the bench in Bucks County from 1723 until his death.⁶⁰ In 1721 he was appointed with others to view a road.⁶¹ His name appears on a list

of 167 merchants and business people who agreed to accept the paper money issued by the lower three counties (now Delaware) at par with the stronger currency of the upper three counties (Chester, Philadelphia, Bucks).⁶² William also occasionally witnessed wills.⁶³

William and Mary were active members of Middletown Monthly Meeting. For example, in 1718 William was appointed to a committee to look into building a new meeting house. In 1719 he began to be appointed as a representative to Quarterly Meeting, and in 1730 he was named an Elder.⁶⁴ Mary was even more "weighty" in the Woman's Meeting, culminating in her serving as Clerk (the presiding officer) from 2 June 1726 to 1 March 1749/50. She accompanied Jane Hoskins on a religious visit to Rhode Island in 1740.⁶⁵

William's will, dated 17 January 1731/2 and proved 11 February 1733, gave carefully delimited parcels of land to each of his sons, plus bequests to his wife and daughters.⁶⁶ Over a century later *The Friend* carried a brief biographical sketch which described him as "a useful member of civil society. . . . In general esteem for wisdom and virtue, . . ."⁶⁷

Children of William and Mary (Watson) Paxson.⁶⁸

- + 20 i. William³, b. 29 Apr. 1712.
- 21 ii. Mary, b. 11 Jan. 1713/4; will proved 7 Apr. 1786; m. Dec. 1732 Joseph Richardson, and had 6 children. Joseph emigrated to Pennsylvania in 1724 with a certificate of removal from Richmond Monthly Meeting in Yorkshire which described him as a husbandman. William Paxson hired him to thresh wheat. With the help of an English legacy in 1737 Joseph purchased an acre at the crossroads in Middletown where he built a stone house (which is now the Langhorne Community Center). There he built up a prosperous mercantile business, which he combined with shrewd land investments, to achieve financial leadership in the community. His will was proved 29 Apr. 1772. Mary lived through the American Revolution and her name appears on the tax lists.⁶⁹
- + 22 iii. Thomas, b. 13 Dec. 1715.
- 23 iv. John, b. 17 Oct. 1717; d. between 1733 and 1746; unm.; no will.
- + 24 v. Henry, b. 14 Sept. 1719.
- + 25 vi. James, b. 15 Oct. 1721.
- 26 vii. Deborah, b. 23 Mar. 1724; d. in West Virginia; m. 14 Apr. 1742 by license at the First Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, William Wildman, and had 5 children. As she did not marry under the care of Middletown Meeting, she brought a paper condemning her "outgoing," which was accepted 1 Sept. 1743.⁷⁰

16. **William² Paxson Junior**, son of James and Jane (Gurden), was baptised 27 January 1675/6 in Marsh Gibbon, and died in July 1723 in Newcastle County, in what is now Delaware. He married 20 February 1695/6 **Abigail Pownall**, daughter of George and Elinor, with whom she emigrated from Laycock, Cheshire, on the *Friends' Adventure*, arriving in the Delaware River 11 October 1682. Abigail was born 4 February 1677/8 and died in 1749.⁷¹

Contemporaries called him William Junr. to differentiate him from his uncle William¹ (2). Unless land transactions specify William Junr., there is no way of separating his from those of William¹ (2) or William² (9). In 1699 William Junr. conveyed a parcel of land to John Scarborough, with his father acting as attorney.⁷² It was not usual practice for a father so to act, or for a young man to divest himself of land. But William Junr. did not conform to the

Quaker mold. Two years earlier he had had a fight with Jonathan Scarborough, who went to the magistrate seeking redress. The Meeting intervened and got the antagonists to forgive each other and promise to live in peace.⁷³ In 1704 William and his family removed to the Falls. He was disowned from Falls Monthly Meeting 1 July 1712, and the following year took his family to St. George's Hundred, Newcastle County. Abigail and the children carried a certificate of removal dated 5 March 1713.⁷⁴

After William Junr.'s death intestate at the age of forty-three, his uncle Henry¹ Paxson (1) posted bond and administered the estate.⁷⁵ Henry devised to each of William Junr.'s sons a substantial farm with the stipulation that they provide comfortably for their mother for the rest of her life.

In 1742 Abigail was recognized as a minister by Buckingham Monthly Meeting.⁷⁶ She left a will, dated 16 July 1742 and proved 8 April 1749, mentioning many children and grandchildren, to whom she left money for the purchase of Bibles. A memorial described her as "a diligent attender of meetings, even in her old age; had a gift of the ministry, in which she was exercised pretty frequently. She was sound in her matter, which tended to edification."⁷⁷

Children of William Junr. and Abigail (Pownall) Paxson:⁷⁸

- 27 i. Mary³, b. 2 Jan. 1696/7; d. 171?; unnm.
- 28 ii. Marrabeh, d. 1714; unnm.
- 29 iii. Abigail, b. 20 Aug. 1700; m. Sept. 1718 Nathaniel Lamplugh, and had at least 2 children. An advertisement in the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, No. 171, of 7 Mar. 1731/2 said she had eloped to Philadelphia and her husband would not be responsible for her debts. She m. (2) 14 Mar. 1744 by license at the First Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, Anthony Whiteley.
- + 30 iv. James, b. 5 Nov. 1702.
- + 31 v. Thomas, b. 20 Nov. 1712.
- + 32 vi. Reuben.
- 33 vii. Esther, m. Abel Clayton, a tailor in Chichester, Chester County, and had three children living at the time of his d. 14 Oct. 1737.⁷⁹
- 34 viii. Amy, d.y.

18. **Henry² Paxson**, son of James and Jane (Gurden), was born 20 September 1683, the first birth recorded by Middletown Meeting. He died 9 May 1756. Henry married first, April 1707, **Ann Plumley**, the daughter of William and Elizabeth (Thompson). William Plumley was the son of Charles and Marjorie (Page) Plumley, whose second husband was Henry¹ Paxson (1).⁸⁰ Ann died 12 December 1728. Henry² married second, **Mary (Budd) Shinn**, a widow from Burlington, New Jersey, on 7 February 1739/40 at the Mt. Holly Meeting House.⁸¹

As so often happens when genealogists are researching men with similar names, this Henry is often confused with his uncle Henry (1). Apparently it was this Henry (18) who purchased 200 acres in Solebury from John Scarborough in 1711 and settled there with his family.⁸² Twice neighbors asked him to witness their wills.⁸³ In 1736 he was appointed to a grand jury which was charged with laying out the road between Solebury and Buckingham.⁸⁴

Henry and his family were members of Buckingham Monthly Meeting from 1720 when it was established independent of Falls Monthly Meeting, of which it had previously been a part. But Henry did not take an active role in Meeting activities. In 1721 he was asked to assist three other men in settling a quarrel between two Friends. His name does not appear in the minutes again until 1738 when the Meeting disciplined him for taking "drink to excess."⁸⁵

Henry purchased more land, for, when he deeded his plantation to his son Thomas Jr. on 26 April 1748, it consisted of 300 acres.⁸⁶ In his will dated 20 March 1752 and proved 18 September 1756, Henry called himself a yeoman of Solebury.⁸⁷ His health may have failed during his last few years because he made the will four years before his death; Friends in this period did not usually make their wills until they felt the end approaching. In any event, Henry left something to each of his surviving children and to the children of his deceased daughters Sarah Duer and Jane Preston. His son Thomas Jr. got the residue.

Children of Henry and his first wife Ann (Plumley) Paxson:⁸⁸

- 35 i. William³, b. 31 Jan. 1707/8; d. 7 July 1731; unnm.
- 36 ii. Elizabeth, b. 11 June 1709; m. Mar. 1725/6 Thomas Hartley, son of Edward Hartley. Thomas requested to join Friends and was accepted into membership 2 Dec. 1724. They had 4 children.⁸⁹
- 37 iii. Mary, b. 24 Apr. 1711; m. 1729 Henry Roberts.⁹⁰
- 38 iv. Sarah, b. 25 Jan. 1712/3; d. before 1752; m. May 1730 Joseph Duer, a carpenter, who sold 259 acres to Sarah's brother-in-law Thomas Hartley in Jan. 1739. They had 7 children.⁹¹
- 39 v. Jane, b. 14 Jan. 1714/5; d. 1749; m. June 1732 Jonas Preston, son of William and Jane Preston who emigrated from the parish of Huthersfield, Eng. He was b. 19 Jan. 1710/1. Jane and Jonas's daughter Sarah m. her cousin Joshua Richardson, the son of Mary (Paxson) Richardson (21). Jonas and Jane removed to Gwynedd Monthly Meeting in 1739.⁹²
- 40 vi. Margery, b. 24 Nov. 1716; m. 1734 Matthew Beans, son of William who emigrated in 1686 with his parents Matthew and Margaret (Hatton) Baines. In his will probated 3 May 1791 Matthew left wife Elizabeth and 6 children.⁹³
- + 41 vii. Ann, b. 8 Jan. 1718/9; d. 10 Feb. 1783; m. 1737/8 Thomas Paxson (22).
- 42 viii. Rebecca, b. 5 Nov. 1720; m. 2 Sept. 1739 Timothy Beans, brother of Matthew. Timothy and Rebecca removed to Fairfax, Va.⁹⁴
- + 43 ix. Henry Junior, b. 28 Aug. 1722.
- 44 x. James, b. 8 Aug. 1724; d. 1 Nov. 1743; unnm.
- + 45 xi. Thomas, b. 17 June 1726.
- 46 xii. Martha, b. 4 Feb. 1728/9; unnm. in 1752 when she is mentioned in her father's will. She may be the Martha who transferred from Buckingham Monthly Meeting to Middletown Meeting in 1757.⁹⁵

20. **William³ Paxson**, son of William and Mary (Watson) Paxson, was born 29 April 1712 in Middletown, and died there 29 August 1767. He married 25 March 1740 **Anna Marriott**, the daughter of Thomas and Martha (Kirkbride) Marriott. Anna died 1 May 1773.⁹⁶

William was a member of Middletown Monthly Meeting, was educated in the local school, and apparently lived all his life on the farm he inherited from his father. Political conditions in Pennsylvania were changing under the influence of increased non-Quaker immigration and the French and Indian War. Like many Friends of his generation, William eschewed Provincial

politics, involving himself instead in the local affairs of extended family, Meeting, and community. He served as executor and witness of wills. In 1752 he was commissioned Justice of the Peace, but refused a second term in 1757. He was named an Overseer of the Poor in 1742.⁹⁷

William served as an auditor of the Middletown Monthly Meeting finances, treasurer, trustee of the Burial Ground, was a frequent representative to Quarterly Meeting, served on the committee to plan and supervise the enlarging of the Meeting house and later to construct larger stables for it, and many short-term assignments dealing with Friends' business.⁹⁸ Anna was very active in the Middletown Women's Meeting, serving on many committees, as a representative to Quarterly meeting, and as an Elder from 2 February 1758 until her death in 1773.⁹⁹

William not only inherited a Negro slave from his father, but at the time of his death owned three—in spite of mounting pressure against slaveholding within Quakerism. Anna apparently freed the slaves who became her property at the death of her husband, for they do not appear in her estate inventory. Her heirs deeded a plot of land to the Negro named Luce.¹⁰⁰

William died without leaving a will. His estate was inventoried 16–17 October 1767. It was valued at £322.15.10, not including the house or land.¹⁰¹

Children of William and Anna (Marriott) Paxson:

- 47 i. Martha⁴, b. 23 Jan. 1740/1; d. 11 July 1742.
- 48 ii. William, b. 26 June 1743; m. June 1772 Mary Subers, two months after she was accepted into membership in Middletown Monthly Meeting; 4 children. William was disowned from Middletown Meeting 6 Apr. 1780 for taking the affirmation of allegiance and abjuration.¹⁰²
- 49 iii. Joseph, b. 25 Feb. 1744/5; d. 11 July 1793; res. *Brookfield*, the Rodman family farm in Bensalem, Pucks County; m. 25 Oct. 1770 Sarah Rodman, the daughter of John and his second wife Mary (Harrison) Rodman. Sarah was b. 7 Aug. 1753; d. 1 July 1828; m. (2) 16 Feb. 1809 Joseph Tatnall and removed to Brandywine, Del.; no issue by her 2nd m.; Sarah and Joseph Paxson had 9 children.¹⁰³
- 50 iv. Phineas, b. 18 Feb. 1746/7; m. 24 Jan. 1768 in the Presbyterian Church, Churchville, Susanna Shaw, daughter of Joseph Shaw; 4 children. Phineas owned and operated the Buck Hotel in Feasterville, Bucks County. He was fined for assisting several British soldiers. However, earlier he had been disowned by Middletown Meeting 4 Apr. 1776 for exercising with the (American) militia.¹⁰⁴
- 51 v. Thomas, b. 31 Jan. 1748/9; d. 20 June 1835; m. 12 Sept. 1775 Elizabeth Randall, a non-Quaker, for which Thomas was disowned 2 May 1776; 5 children; res. Southampton, Bucks County.¹⁰⁵
- 52 vi. Mahlon, b. 17 July 1752; d. 29 Sept. 1832; m. 1777 Sarah Walker, daughter of Emanuel and Ann (Carey) Walker; 12 children; res. Oxford Valley (near Middletown). Although Mahlon was disciplined for being concerned with military exercises in 1775, his paper condemning his action was accepted by the Meeting. He was disowned 9 Oct. 1777 for marrying with the assistance of a hired minister, outside the good order of Friends.¹⁰⁶
- 53 vii. Samuel, b. 5 May 1754; d. 7 Mar. 1813; at the end of 1771 his widowed mother requested a certificate from Middletown Meeting for Samuel to take to Wilmington Monthly Meeting.¹⁰⁷
- 54 viii. Isaac, b. 9 May 1756; d. 26 Aug. 1816; m. (1) Elizabeth Hallowell, no issue; m. (2) Elizabeth Shoemaker, and had 1 son; hardware merchant in Philadelphia.
- 55 ix. Joshua, b. 14 or 17 July 1758; m. 22 Nov. 1787 Mary Willett, daughter of Jonathan and Deborah (Laurens) of Southampton; res. Middletown until 1808 when they

- removed to Cheltenham; 11 children.
- 56 x. Mary, b. 4 July 1762; d. 18 Mar. 1813; m. 25 Oct. 1787 David Landis, son of Henry of Hunterdon County, N.J.; 4 children; res. Middletown.
 - 57 xi. Anna, twin of Mary, b. 4 July 1762; d. ca. 1840; m. 11 Dec. 1783 Simon Gillam, son of Lucas and Ann (Dungan) Gillam; 4 children.¹⁰⁸
 - 58 xii. Israel, b. 3 Mar. 1765; d. 4 June 1809; m. 20 Dec. 1787 Ann Parker, daughter of Joseph (dec'd) and Catherine; Ann d. 3 June 1816; Israel removed to Southern District of Philadelphia Monthly Meeting Nov. 1787; he was a currier; 4 children.¹⁰⁹

22. **Thomas³ Paxson**, son of William and Mary (Watson), was born 13 December 1715 and died 6 August 1790. In 1737/8 he married his second consin, **Ann Paxson** (41), who was born 8 January 1718/9 and died 10 February 1783, the daughter of Henry (18) and Ann (Plumley). Their first child was conceived before marriage, which probably led them to seek a more prompt ceremony than provided by Friends' procedures. However, they acknowledged and condemned their action and were reinstated in the Meeting. Thomas was very active in Middletown Monthly Meeting, serving on many committees, as a representative to Quarterly Meeting and as Treasurer.¹¹⁰

Ann transferred her membership to Middletown from Buckingham Monthly Meeting and gradually assumed a very active role in the Women's Meeting. She was, in addition to the ordinary small committee assignments, a representative to Quarterly Meeting, appointed to "see that the poor are taken care of," named an Overseer from 7 July 1757 until she requested release in 1766, and Treasurer until her death in 1783.¹¹¹

Thomas inherited a 200-acre farm from his father and doubled its size. He built the stone farmhouse, still standing on the east side of Flowers Mill Road, Langhorne.

During the American Revolution Thomas upheld the Quaker testimony of nonparticipation in war or war-related activities and taxes. His assessments for the taxes levied by Pennsylvania for the fledgling Continental Congress are recorded in the *Pennsylvania Archives*.¹¹² In 1779 these records show that Thomas owned 400 acres, eleven horses, twelve cattle, and no servants. In 1781 he owned only four horses and seven cattle; in 1782 five of each. The next year he was assessed £10.12.1. By 1785 he owned only 200 acres; his son Thomas Jr. owned the other half. Thomas Sr. was down to three horses and seven head of cattle that year. His assessment in 1786 was £1.16.00, and the following year two shillings less. But just because these figures appear in the *Pennsylvania Archives* does not mean that Thomas paid them. In order to uphold their testimony against war, Friends did not pay taxes which were earmarked to support military activities. The tax collectors either came and seized goods in lieu of payment or by-passed Quaker houses. There is no mention of Thomas's "sufferings" on the Middletown Meeting list of goods distrained, nor is there mention of him in the Meeting minutes as being disciplined for payment of war taxes.

There is no will for either Thomas or Ann in the Bucks County will abstracts. They outlived most of their children, half of whom died between the ages of twenty-nine and thirty-four. Only two children lived past middle age.

Children of Thomas and Ann (Paxson) Paxson:¹¹³

- 59 i. Rebeckah⁴, b. 24 Oct. 1738; d. 4 Jan. 1738/9, aged 3 months.
- 60 ii. Mary, b. 2 Mar. 1739/40; d. 5 July 1769; m. 23 Apr. 1761 Henry Simmons; res. Middletown; 6 children. They were both active in Middletown Monthly Meeting. Henry m. (2) Mar. 1771 Sarah Dun.
- 61 iii. Ann, b. 8 Nov. 1741; d. 17 Dec. 1806 or 18 Dec. 1800; m. 26 June 1759 Joseph Wildman; 12 children. Ann was active in Middletown Monthly Meeting.
- 62 iv. Henry, b. 27 Oct. 1743; d. 22 Apr. 1772; unm.
- 63 v. John, b. 12 Oct. 1745; d. 31 July 1779; unm. He made new gates for the Middletown Meeting graveyard in 1773.
- 64 vi. Elizabeth, b. 28 Aug. 1747; d. 5 Feb. 1777; unm.
- 65 vii. James, b. 12 Aug. 1749; d. 2 May 1779. I think he is the James who m. Dec. 1777 Rachel Croasdale. Their child was born too soon after their marriage, and Friends disciplined them. Their paper of acknowledgement and condemnation was accepted 4 Mar. 1779. Rachel m. (2) 6 Sept. 1784 Robert Eastburn, and with her minor daughter Mary Paxson removed to Buckingham Monthly Meeting.
- 66 viii. Sarah, b. 20 Aug. 1751 or 1750; d. 23 Apr. 1796; m. 1 Dec. 1785 Robert Drake, who had been accepted into membership in Middletown Meeting 3 May 1781. They were both moderately active in the Meeting.
- 67 ix. Thomas, b. 4 May 1753; d. 24 Sept. 1809; m. 22 May 1783 Sarah Blakey, after an earlier engagement to Hannah Burgess. Sarah was very active on Meeting committees, working to free any slaves still held in homes where only the wife was a Quaker and giving assistance to freed blacks. She was also an Overseer in Bristol Preparative Meeting (part of Middletown Monthly Meeting), and an Elder. They had 6 children.
- 68 x. Jane, b. 11 Jan. 1756; d. 27 May 1757.
- 69 xi. Margery, b. 28 Nov. 1757; d. 26 Jan. 1841; m. 13 Nov. 1777 John Knight; res. Lower Makefield, Bucks County; 5 children.
- 70 xii. Martha, b. 16 Sept. 1760; d. 10 May 1790.
- 71 xiii. William, b. 10 July or 18 Mar. 1762; d. 22 Mar. 1799; m. Oct. 1784 Elizabeth Walton of Horsham Monthly Meeting. She produced a certificate of removal from that Meeting to Middletown 6 Jan. 1785.

24. **Henry³ Paxson**, son of William and Mary (Watson), was born 14 September 1719 in Middletown. His will was proved 15 October 1778. On 1 April 1740 in Christ Church, Philadelphia, he married **Martha Shinn**, daughter of Thomas Shinn of Mt. Holly, New Jersey. Henry and Martha were reconciled with Friends, and resided in Mt. Holly.¹¹⁴

Henry inherited lots and buildings in Bristol, Bucks County, from his father in 1733. But he removed to Burlington Monthly Meeting in late 1740, settling in Mt. Holly where he became an active citizen in the mold of his father and grandfather.¹¹⁵ He witnessed a dozen wills, administered (either solely or with another person) nine estates, helped make twelve estate inventories. He held the estate in trust for William Murrell's sons, and served as guardian for Hannah, minor daughter of his deceased friend Samuel C ipps. He also acted as agent for the sale of real estate and helped settle the affairs of a man in debtors' gaol.

In addition to these personal/legal obligations, Henry was involved in civic activities. For example, he signed a petition to charter a Library Company in Burlington in 1758, collected subscriptions to finish a bridge over Newtown Creek in Gloucester County, and in 1774 collected funds to print a new edition

of the laws of the colony of New Jersey.¹¹⁶ As a freeholder he had to answer to the Assembly in 1749 concerning charges over the spending of some tax money without proper authorization.¹¹⁷ A month later, vindicated, he was named one of ten Justices of the Peace. He was reappointed 14 December 1762 and 22 August 1767. In 1761 he was named a judge for Burlington County and was included in a list of such judges in 1767.¹¹⁸

In 1754 Henry was elected to the New Jersey Assembly from Burlington County. He served in the Nineteenth (1754–1761), Twenty-first (1769–1772), and Twenty-second (1772–1775) Assemblies.¹¹⁹ For the Assembly he served on a committee of five men which drew up plans and estimated costs for the construction of barracks so that soldiers would not be quartered on the general populace.¹²⁰ Henry's final election came 10 July 1774 when he and eight others were elected by the Burlington County freemen to attend a meeting in New Brunswick—unauthorized by governor, king, or parliament—from which were chosen the delegates to the First Continental Congress.¹²¹

Henry was active in his Meeting and was a friend of the saintly Quaker John Woolman, well known for his *Journal* and stands against slavery and war. Together they administered the estate of Henry's father-in-law Thomas Shinn. It involved the bequest of a Negro named Pleasant to Henry's wife Martha.¹²² We can assume that under Woolman's gentle but firm influence Pleasant soon gained her freedom and the wherewithal to maintain herself. Henry and his wife were among the few invited to Meeting for Worship at the Woolman home when John lay very ill in January 1770.¹²³

Martha became a chronic invalid, unable to care for herself. In his will, dated 9 July 1778 and proved 15 October that year, Henry stipulated that a room and nurse be provided for her.¹²⁴

Children of Henry and Martha (Shinn) Paxson:

- 72 i. Thomas⁴, b. 1 Nov. 1743; d. before 1817; probably unm.; received £5 in his father's will.
- 73 ii. Martha, b. 31 Jan. 1745/6; will proved 12 May 1817; m. (1) 2 Apr. 1764 John Arney; m. (2) after 1778 Joseph Ridgway; no surviving issue. Martha's father left her £50 and the "goods I bought at John Arney's vendue sale."¹²⁵
- 74 iii. Henry Jr., b. 12 July 1749; d. before 1817; unm. hatter in Mt. Holly.
- 75 iv. Mary, b. 24 Jan. 17[—]; d. before 1817; m. Edward Black, who with Jonah Woolman served as executors for Henry Paxson's estate. Henry left Mary £50. Mary and Edward had 1 daughter.
- 76 v. William, d.y.
- 77 vi. Elizabeth, b. 18 Oct. 1751; m. after 1778 [—] Waterman. Her father bequeathed her £25.
- 78 vii. Samuel, b. 28 Oct. 1761; d. 20 Feb. 1840; m. Beulah Atkinson. She was b. 31 May 1769; d. 2 Nov. 1827; 9 children; res. Trenton, New Jersey.¹²⁶
- 79 viii. Joseph, b. 30 Oct. 1765; probably handicapped; his oldest sister made provision in her will that he be cared for as long as he lived.¹²⁷

25. **James³ Paxson**, son of William and Mary (Watson), was born 15 October 1721 and died 21 January 1769. He married **Hannah Thornton** out of unity with Friends. On 6 November 1756 they brought papers condemning their "outgoings in marriage," which were accepted two months later.¹²⁸ Hannah was born 10 June 1733 and died before 16 January 1790, the daughter

of Joseph (d. 1752) and Margaret Thornton, innkeepers in Newtown, Bucks County. Joseph had some difficulty transferring his membership from Philadelphia Monthly Meeting, but, once accepted by Middletown, took an active part in Meeting activities. Margaret was accepted as a member 5 June 1755.¹²⁹

Comparatively little is known about James, except that he inherited land in Middletown from his father and resided there.¹³⁰ James died at the age of forty-seven, leaving no will. His widow married John Knowles (whose will was proved 11 February 1777) by whom she had two children, Margaret and Rachel.¹³¹

Children of James and Hannah (Thornton) Paxson:

- 80 i. Joseph⁴, b. 24 May 1758. He ran away from his apprenticeship during the Revolution and joined the British army in Philadelphia, for which Middletown Meeting disowned him. He is probably the Joseph captured at Stony Point, but released from the "new gaol" in Philadelphia when he became "dangerously ill." His 125-acre farm in Middletown was confiscated, attainted, and sold 11 Apr. 1778.¹³³
- 81 ii. Mary, b. 18 Mar. 1762; d. 16 May 1811. Joseph A. Thornton and Joshua Richardson served as her guardians, who appear along with her brother Joseph (who was not yet of age) in the court records involved in settling the affairs of her father's confiscated estate.¹³⁴

30. **James³ Paxson**, son of William Junr. and Abigail (Pownall), was born 5 November 1702 and died 25 February 1747. He married first on 28 May 1724 at Chesterfield Meeting house in Burlington County, New Jersey, **Mary Horsman/Horseman**. She was the daughter of Marmaduke and Sarah Horsman who emigrated to America in 1677. Mary died 23 August 1726, at the birth of their second child.¹³⁵ James married second, on 5 September 1730 at Falls Meeting house, Bucks County, **Margaret Hodges**. She was born 15 October 1706, the daughter of Thomas and Hannah (Waln) Hodges, the granddaughter of Nicholas Waln, who was active in Quaker, political, and economic affairs in Pennsylvania's earliest days.¹³⁶

James was born in Bucks County, but removed with his family to St. George's Hundred, in what is now Delaware, at the age of eleven. His great uncle Henry Paxson (1) devised to him "250 acres being one half of the plantation I now live on" in Solebury in 1723. He returned to Bucks County where his certificate of removal was accepted by Buckingham Monthly Meeting 1 September 1724.¹³⁷

James was active in Buckingham Meeting, serving on committees, as a representative to Quarterly Meeting, and as an Overseer from 7 September 1741 until he asked to be released from that task 6 June 1743.¹³⁸

In his will dated 25 January 1747/8 and proved 25 February 1747/8, he described himself as of "Marsh Gibbon," Solebury Township. Although he mentioned all nine children, he only left land to the eldest son by each wife.¹³⁹

Children of James and his first wife Mary (Horsman) Paxson:¹⁴⁰

- 82 i. William⁴, b. 20 Feb. 1724/5; perhaps unm.
- 83 ii. Abigail, b. 23 Aug. 1726; d. Apr. 1748; unm.

Children of James and his second wife Margaret (Hodges) Paxson:

- 84 iii. Thomas⁴, b. 16 Sept. 1731; d. 1 Feb. 1812; m. 1752 Mary Hambleton; 7 children. Mary was b. 20 December 1731, the daughter of James and Mary (Beakes) Hambleton; she d. Feb. 1812.
- 85 iv. Hannah, b. 27 Dec. 1732; d. 21 Nov., 1812; m. 1752 Stephen Hambleton; 11 children. Stephen was b. ca. 1729, the brother of Mary; he d. 16 May 1806.
- 86 v. Jonas, b. 25 June 1735; d. 6 Aug. 1796 in Catawissa, Columbia County, Penna.; m. (1) Mary Kester, daughter of Paul and Anne Kester. She was not a Friend, and Jonas was disowned 3 Jan. 1763. They had 6 children. Jonas m. (2) on 31 Mar. 1785 Mary Broadhurst, daughter of John and Rebecca; Mary was b. 31 Dec. 1754, and d. 5 Apr. 1838; 3 children. Jonas changed the spelling of his name to Paxton and all his descendants have followed his example. I believe they are the only Paxtons who are closely related to the Paxson family.¹⁴¹
- 87 vi. James, b. 11 Apr. 1738; m. 24 Mar. 1762 in Buckingham Meeting, Sarah Letch, daughter of James (dec'd) of Solebury. Sarah d. 13 July 1817. James was disowned 1 Apr. 1771 for being "in the practice of taking strong Drink to Excess" and "using profane Language."
- 88 vii. Jane, b. 3 Aug. 1739; m. 18 Aug. 1762 in Buckingham Meeting, Joseph Pickering; 5 children. Joseph b. 9 July 1739; d. 13 Feb. 1792; son of Isaac and Sarah (Lupton) Pickering.
- 89 viii. Mary, b. 22 Mar. 1743/4; m. 10 June 1761 in Buckingham, Joseph Smith of Wrightstown, the son of Robert and Phoebe (Canby), and grandson of Thomas and his first wife Sarah (Jarvis); no issue. Joseph b. 1 Oct. 1728; d. 1782.
- 90 ix. Margaret, b. 24 Oct. 1745; d. before 1773; m. 22 June 1763 in Buckingham Meeting house, William Townsend, son of Stephen; 3 children. William m. (2) 15 Dec. 1773 in Buckingham, Elizabeth Watson; 4 children.

31. **Thomas³ Paxson**, son of William Junr. and Abigail (Pownall), was born 20 November 1712 and died October 1782. In April 1732 he married **Jane Canby**. She was born ca. 1710 and died ca. 1789, the eldest child of Thomas and his second wife Mary (Oliver) Canby. Thomas Canby arrived in America at the age of sixteen in 1683, indentured to his uncle Henry Baker. He became a Justice in Bucks County, a representative to the Provincial Assembly, and a minister, overseer, and clerk of Buckingham Monthly Meeting.¹⁴²

Thomas Paxson inherited 250 acres in Solebury from his uncle Henry Paxson (1) and like his brothers spent nearly a dozen years of his childhood in St. George's Hundred. In 1763 Thomas purchased 256 acres of the Pike Tract in Solebury.¹⁴³

Thomas was active in Buckingham Monthly Meeting, including serving as an Overseer.¹⁴⁴ It is difficult to determine if he is the Thomas Paxson mentioned in the Buckingham minutes after 7 September 1748 when his cousin Thomas Paxson (45) was granted a certificate from Falls Monthly Meeting to Buckingham, and after 1752 when a third Thomas Paxson (84), his nephew, married and presumably was considered mature enough to play a role in the Meeting. Jane Brey wrote that Thomas and Jane removed to Newark, New Castle County, in 1742.¹⁴⁵ But there is no reference to a certificate for him in the Buckingham Men's minutes, and references for Thomas continue in 1743, 1744, and early 1748 when no other man of that name lived in Buckingham.

All of Thomas's sons except Jonathan are mentioned in his will, dated 28 June 1775 and proved 19 October 1782, and all but Jonathan lived in Solebury, as did many of their sons after them.¹⁴⁶

Children of Thomas and Jane (Canby) Paxson:

- 91 i. Joseph⁴, b. 1 Oct. or 10 Sept. 1733; d. 1810; m. 28 June 1758 at Wrightstown Meeting Mary Heston the daughter of Jacob and Mary (Warner); 15 children. Thomas Kester from Kingwood Monthly Meeting was apprenticed to him in 1771. During the Revolution goods were seized from him seven times to pay fines and taxes, totalling £76.6.00. In 1788 they removed to a 600-acre farm in Sadsbury Twp., Chester Co.
- 92 ii. Benjamin, b. 1 Oct. 1739; d. 29 Mar. 1814; m. (1) 16 June 1763 Deborah Taylor, daughter of Benjamin and Hannah; 8 children. Deborah d. 20 Aug. 1792. Benjamin m. (2) 1797 Rachel Newbold, daughter of Thomas and Ann (Lamb) Newbold; no issue. Rachel d. 22 Oct. 1798. He m. (3) 9 June 1807 Mary Pickering; no issue. Benjamin suffered distraint of goods eleven times from 1777 to 1781 for conscientiously refusing support of military activities. The largest single loss was a mare and 5 cattle. His total losses amounted to £80.16.00.¹⁴⁷
- 93 iii. Oliver, b. 9 Sept. 1741; d. 30 Oct. 1817; m. (1) Ruth Watson who d. 17 Sept. 1774 in her thirty-fourth year; 4 children. He m. (2) May 1782 Ruth Johnson of Northern District of Philadelphia Monthly Meeting. She was named an Elder in Buckingham Meeting 2 Jan. 1786, and Oliver was named an Elder 2 Apr. 1787. He also served as Clerk of Bucks Quarterly Meeting. The Meeting's Account of Friends Sufferings recorded ten distraints between 1776 and 1781 totalling £58.5.00.
- 94 iv. Rachel, b. 6 May 1744; d. 5 Apr. 1800; m. 14 Nov. 1764 John Watson Jr.
- 95 v. Jacob, b. 6 Jan. 1745/6; d. 13 July 1832; m. (1) 29 June 1769 Lydia Blakey; 2 children. Lydia d. 3 Aug. 1772. Jacob m. (2) 13 Nov. 1777 Mary Shaw, daughter of Jonathan of Plumstead. Jacob was active in Buckingham Monthly Meeting, but not to the extent of his brothers Benjamin and Oliver. He suffered confiscation of goods thirteen times between 1777 and 1781.
- 96 vi. Jonathan, b. 14 Jan. 1748/9; d. 27 July 1797; m. 26 June 1771 Rachel Biles and had 1 daughter. Jonathan lived in Middletown where he was very active in the Meeting, especially helping maintain Friends' testimonies during the Revolutionary War. He lost goods valued at £134.8.6. Jonathan was a tanner. He and his family removed to Abington Monthly Meeting in 1785.
- 97 vii. Isaiah, b. 20 Nov. 1751; d. Mar. 1813; m. 27 Apr. 1775 Mary Knowles; no issue. A total of £47.3.3 was taken from him for nonpayment of military fines and taxes.

32. **Reuben³ Paxson**, son of William Junr. and Abigail (Pownall), in some ways is the least documented of his generation. I have been unable to find either his birth or death date. He appeared in the will of his uncle Henry Paxson (1), receiving the 238 acres Henry had purchased from George Pownall, and adjacent to Dr. Pownall's land. On 11 February 1723/4 "Ruben" Paxson was mentioned as owner of the land bounding that of George Pownall in Solebury.¹⁴⁸ On 10 June 1725 Reuben received land in Solebury from George Pownall by lease, and six days later received either more, or the same parcel.¹⁴⁹ But Reuben apparently removed to Philadelphia, because on 28 August 1730 he was granted a certificate of clearness from the Philadelphia Monthly Meeting to Abington Meeting in order to marry **Alice Simcock**. On 30 April 1731 Alice was received in Philadelphia Meeting by certificate of removal from Abington.¹⁵⁰ They removed to Quakertown, New Jersey, where the births of their five children were recorded. Three of the children were mentioned in Reuben's mother's will dated 16 July 1742.¹⁵¹

One genealogist claimed that Reuben died in South Carolina during the American Revolution, but unfortunately he did not cite his sources.¹⁵²

Children of Reuben and Alice (Simcock) Paxson:

- 98 i. William⁴, b. 2 June 1732; m. Rachel [—]; 4 children.
- 99 ii. Mary, b. 25 Jan. 1734/5.
- 100 iii. Jacob, b. 2 Oct. 1737; d. 7 Feb. 1777; m. Mary [—]; 6 children. Mary was received as a widow by Buckingham Monthly Meeting on a certificate from Kingwood Meeting, New Jersey, 1 Mar. 1779, with 5 of her children.¹⁵³
- 101 iv. Abigail, b. 17 May 1740; d. 6 Oct. 1741.
- 102 v. John, b. 12 Sept. 1744.

43. **Henry³ Paxson Junior**, son of Henry and Ann (Plumley), was born 28 August 1722 and died 2 August 1799. On 28 May 1745 he married **Elizabeth Lupton**.¹⁵⁴ He lived on his father's farm, which had been purchased from John Scarborough in 1711, in Solebury Township.¹⁵⁵

Henry was a member of Buckingham Monthly Meeting, but not nearly as active as some of his cousins. His name appears twelve times between 1767 and 1785 as he was appointed to marriage clearness committees and other small responsibilities.¹⁵⁶

Pennsylvania tax records show Henry owned 200 acres, three horses, seven head of cattle, and no servants in 1779. Two years later he had lost three cattle. In 1783 he was assessed a tax of £6.4.00. The 1784 return listed Henry as owner of the same 200 acres with two dwellings and two "out" houses (meaning barns or sheds, not privies), with eight white people in the household and no blacks. His tax in 1786 was £1.14.6, and for 1787 was £1.16.00.¹⁵⁷ During the Revolution Henry maintained Quaker testimonies against participation in anything having to do with the military. In consequence, five times he suffered distraint of goods, for a total of £68, including his gun, two horses, two heifers, and a bull.¹⁵⁸

Henry wrote his will 12 August 1790, being "somewhat advanced in age," but lived another nine years. His will was proved 16 August 1799. In it he mentioned his wife Elizabeth and all twelve children.¹⁵⁹

Children of Henry Jr. and Elizabeth (Lupton) Paxson:¹⁶⁰

- 103 i. Mahlon⁴, b. 4 May 1746; d. Feb. 1820; m. May 1773 Jane Parry, who was b. 10 May 1745, the daughter of Philip and Rachel Parry; 4 children. During the Revolution goods valued at £11.13.00 were confiscated from Mahlon for nonpayment of taxes and fines.
- 104 ii. Rachel, b. 30 July 1747; d. May 1813; unm.
- 105 iii. Isaac, b. 29 Nov. 1748; d. July 1812; m. Elizabeth P. Ely.
- 106 iv. Henry, b. 17 Oct. 1750; m. 1778 Matilda Remble [Kemble?], a non-Quaker, and was disowned from Buckingham Monthly Meeting 4 Jan. 1779. They removed to New Garden, Penna., in 1795. They had at least 1 son.
- 107 v. Elizabeth, b. 15 Feb. 1752; d. 14 Mar. 1832; m. James Hambleton; 12 children.
- 108 vi. Joseph, b. 1 Jan. 1754; d. 25 May 1834; m. 27 Apr. 1782 Mary Kemble, a non-Quaker, in the Second Presbyterian Church of Philadelphia. Joseph was disowned 3 Mar. 1783 for refusing to acknowledge his error of going against Friends' good order by marrying with the aid of "an hirling priest." He was a weaver.
- 109 vii. Sarah, b. 1 Dec. 1755; m. Nov. 1778 Joseph Wilkinson.
- 110 viii. Mary, b. 5 Feb. 1758; d. Feb. 1828; unm.
- 111 ix. Mercy, b. 25 Aug. 1759; d. 1 May 1837; unm.

- 112 x. Ann, b. Aug. 1761; m. 11 Apr. 1787 Robert Scarborough. He was b. 9 Mar. 1763, the son of John and Margaret (Kirk) Scarborough.
- 113 xi. Amy (with various spellings), b. 6 Aug. 1763; d. 15 Sept. 1839; m. 13 May 1789 Thomas Worthington.
- 114 xii. John, b. 27 July 1766; m. 10 Mar. 1790 Mary Ely, daughter of John Ely of Solebury; 3 children.

45. **Thomas³ Paxson**, son of Henry and Ann (Plumley), was born 17 June 1726 and died 13 January 1767. He married first **Sarah Harvey** on 17 May 1748. She died 16 June 1762 in her thirty-second year. Thomas then married on 21 February 1764 **Hannah Blackfan**, daughter of William and Eleanor (Wood), and granddaughter of Rebecca (Crispin) Blackfan, first cousin of William Penn.¹⁶¹ In contemporary records Thomas was often referred to as "Junior," while his cousin Thomas (31) was sometimes referred to as "Senior."

At the age of fourteen Thomas removed to Falls Monthly Meeting with his older sister Sarah and her husband of eleven years, Joseph Duer. Thomas was probably apprenticed to his brother-in-law. In 1748 he married Sarah Harvey under the care of Falls Meeting.¹⁶² A few months later the young couple was granted a certificate of removal to Buckingham where they settled on a 300-acre farm deeded to Thomas by his father on 26 April 1748.¹⁶³

In 1750 Samuel Eastburn, Clerk, recommended minister, and traveling Friend, bequeathed one-half acre to Buckingham Meeting for the erection of a school house. In his will he named Thomas Paxson Jr. and five other men as trustees. This became what was probably the first school in Solebury. Thomas also served the Meeting actively in a number of other capacities, including Overseer and representative to Quarterly Meeting.¹⁶⁴

After Sarah died Thomas married Hannah Blackfan. They had no children, but three years later, when Thomas died at the age of forty-one, Hannah was left to raise her four step-children.

Thomas provided well for Hannah in his will, stipulating carefully what goods and services his sons were to supply her. Eldest son Abraham received the 300-acre farm and the grandfather's clock. Aaron got his father's watch and the 99 $\frac{3}{4}$ -acre section of the Pike Tract purchased 1 February 1763.¹⁶⁵ Moses received about 100 acres from another piece of the Pike Tract when he became twenty-one years old, plus his father's desk.¹⁶⁶ Daughter Ann was bequeathed £150 when she became eighteen plus all the furniture, linens, and things which had been her natural mother's and had been stored by her aunt Jane Brown. The executors were son Abraham and a brother of each wife: Abraham Harvey of Makefield and William Blackfan Jr. of Solebury.

Children of Thomas Jr. and his first wife Sarah (Harvey) Paxson:¹⁶⁷

- 115 i. Abraham⁴, b. 19 June 1749; d. 22 or 29 June 1839; m. 23 Nov. 1775 in Buckingham, Elizabeth Brown, daughter of Joseph and Anne (Dawson). Elizabeth d. 6 Aug. 1797; 8 children. During the Revolution Abraham suffered confiscation of goods worth £82.19.6. He was active in Buckingham Monthly Meeting.
- 116 ii. Aaron, b. 8 June 1751; d. 15 Oct. 1827; m. 27 Apr. 1775 at Falls Meeting, Letitia Knowles, daughter of John and Mary. Letitia d. 10 Aug. 1835; 5 children. Aaron was active in Buckingham Monthly Meeting. During the Revolution he suffered

the dstraint of two mares, seventeen bushels of Indian corn, six yards of linen, and fifteen tons of hay, total value £37.6.6.

- 117 iii. Moses, b. 23 Aug. 1754; d. 26 Feb. 1826; m. (1) Mary Pownall, daughter of Simeon; 7 children. Moses was disowned from Buckingham Monthly Meeting 12 Dec. 1781 for marrying a non-Quaker with the assistance of a hired minister and for the payment of military fines. Mary d. 19 Apr. 1816, and Moses m. (2) 1820 Sarah Paxson, daughter of Jonathon (Thomas⁴, Thomas³, William², William¹). She was b. 27 Dec. 1775; d. 23 May 1854; no issue. In her old age she was a faithful Orthodox Friend, known as "Aunt Sally."¹⁶⁸
- 118 iv. Ann, b. 3 July 1757; m. William Kitchen, son of William and Sarah (Crook); he was b. 12 Feb. 1749/50; 2 children.

NOTES AND REFERENCES

*2602 Exeter Rd., Cleveland Heights, OH 44118.

1. One great grandson, Jonas (James³, William Jr.², James¹) deliberately changed the spelling of his last name to Paxton, believing it more accurate that way. Franklin Davenport Edmunds, *The Paxton, Welsh & Price Ancestry of Anne Price Paxton Edmunds Paxson* (Millbourne, Pa.: author, 1942, typescript), p. 68. His descendants have maintained the "t." As far as I know, any other line of Paxtons is descended from Scotch-Irish Presbyterians from Ulster. See W. M. Paxton, *The Paxtons: Their Origin in Scotland, and Their Migrations through England and Ireland, to the Colony of Pennsylvania, whence They Moved South and West, and Found Homes in Many States and Territories. We Are One!* (Platte City, Mo.: Landmark Print., 1903).

2. Arthur Edwin Bye, *History of the Bye Family and Some Allied Families* (Easton, Pa.: Correll Printing Co., Inc., 1956), p. 426-428.

3. Parish register of St. Mary's Church, Marsh Gibbon, Buckinghamshire; typed copy obtained from the original by Thomas D. Paxson (Charles S.⁴, William Rodman³, Samuel H.², John¹, Joseph⁴, William³, William², William¹) in 1976. Also given in Bye, *Bye Family*, pp. 412, 414.

4. "The Minute Book of the Monthly Meeting of the Society of Friends for the Upperside of Buckinghamshire, 1669-1690," *Records Branch of the Buckinghamshire Archeological Society*, 1:102-103. James's certificate is reprinted in Bye, *Bye Family*, p. 414. They are both transcribed in the Middletown Monthly Meeting records, Friends Historical Library, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pa. There is a good bit of confusion in many of the older secondary sources concerning the name of the Monthly Meeting and the ship on which these two brothers sailed, in (for example) J. H. Battle, *History of Bucks County*, (Phila.: A. Warner & Co., Publishers, 1887), p. 824; William W. H. Davis, *History of Bucks County, Pennsylvania*, 2nd. ed. (New York: The Lewis Publishing Co., 1905), 1:128, 251, 272, 3:154; Eastburn Reeder, *Early Settlers of Solebury Township Bucks County, Pa.*, 2nd. ed. (Doylestown, Pa.: The Bucks County Historical Society, 1971), pp. 8, 42. For a scholarly account of which ship William and James sailed on, see Marion Balderston, "William Penn's Twenty-three Ships, with Notes on Some of Their Passengers," *Pennsylvania Genealogical Magazine* 23:31-33, 37, 45, 273-274. This is reprinted in Walter Lee Sheppard, Jr., ed., *Passengers and Ships Prior to 1684*, Publications of the Welcome Society of Penna., No. 1 (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1970). The same pagination is in both.

5. Minute Book of the Men's Monthly Meeting at Bidlesdon, 24 Feb. 1681/2, 24 (?) Apr. 1682, n.p. The seventeenth-century Meeting spelled itself with one "d"; modern maps spell the village Biddlesdon.

6. Henry's account in Hannah Benner Roach, "The Philadelphia and Bucks County Registers of Arrivals: Compared, Corrected and Re-transcribed," in Sheppard, *Passengers and Ships*, p. 172; also in "A Partial List of the Families Who Resided in Bucks County, Penna., Prior to 1687, with the Date o' Their Arrival," *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography* 9:227 (hereafter cited as *PMHB*), and in Michael Tepper, ed., *Emigrants to Pennsylvania, 1641-1819: A Consolidation of Ship Passenger Lists from the Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1979).

7. Middletown Monthly Meeting, Men's Minutes 1683-1700, p. 1 (hereafter cited as Mid. Men's min. 1); Middletown Monthly Meeting, Women's minutes, 1683-1770, p. 1 (hereafter cited as Mid. Women's min. 1). The marriage certificate is copied into the Meeting records, n.p., Friends Historical Library, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Penna.

8. Bidlesdon Monthly Meeting minutes, 31/8/1681, n.p.

9. Mid. Men's min., 1:3, 6, 12, 17, 20, 23, 27.

10. List of First Purchasers in Hannah Benner Roach, "The First Purchasers of Pennsylvania," in Sheppard, *Passengers and Ships*, p. 206. Note the misspelling "Slow" instead of Stow or Stowe for the English parish in which Henry resided.

11. William J. Buck, *History of Bucks County* (Doylestown, Pa.: John S. Brown, 1855), p. 89. Henry's land appears on Thomas Holme's map dated 1683. Note that the map was probably actually made in 1687, Albert Cook Myers, ed., *Narratives of Early Pennsylvania, West New Jersey and Delaware, 1630-1707* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1912), p. 292.

12. *The Pennsylvania Genealogical Magazine* 23: 85, 116 reports that Henry sold the lot in 1683 to Philip Howell, a tailor. See map in Sheppard, *Passengers and Ships*, opposite 162.

13. The *Grantee Index* of Bucks County real estate transactions, Pennsylvania Historical Society Library, Philadelphia, lists nine acquisitions by Henry between 1689 and 1709, 830/1. Most do not mention the location, and none lists the acreage. In addition Henry purchased in 1691, 100 acres "northlie of the West Branch of the Assiscunk Creek" in New Jersey. Sheppard, *Passengers and Ships*, pp. 51, 468. See also *Pennsylvania Archives*, ser. 2, 19: 374, 440-441. (hereafter cited as *PA*).

14. Colonial Society of Pennsylvania, *Records of the Courts of Quarter Sessions and Common Pleas of Bucks County, Pennsylvania, 1684-1700* (Meadville, Pa.: Tribune Publishing Co., 1943), pp. 105, 204, 360 (hereafter cited as *QS & CP*). These are approximately recorded in the Bucks County *Grantor Index* in the Pennsylvania Historical Society Library, 830/1, which lists a dozen transactions in which Henry divested himself of land.

15. Eastburn Reeder is the worst culprit. See, for example, *Early Settlers*, pp. 21, 23, and 37 which do not explain whether the Henry mentioned is the immigrant or his nephew. On pp. 28, 43, and 45 Reeder assigns the same 200-acre Scarborough tract in Solebury to both men. From a careful reading of the will of Henry¹ (1) and other evidence, I believe the Scarborough tract was purchased by Henry² Paxson (18). The other Solebury tracts all appear to have been bought by Henry (1).

16. *PA*, ser. 8, 1:58, 177, 435, 500, 586; 2: 789, 822, 911.

17. For his service as juror, see *QS & CP*, pp. 86, 93, 182, 193, 230, 245, 276, 278, 280, 358. For overseer of highways, see *QS & CP*, pp. 109, 207.

18. *Ibid.*, pp. 109, 207.

19. *Ibid.*, pp. 70-72. See also *Mid. Men's min.*, 1:10-11.

20. *QS & CP*, pp. 338, 340.

21. *Mid. Men's min.*, 1:33, 35-36. His "H" mark can also be seen 1:17. Interestingly, Elizabeth was not disciplined by the Women's Meeting.

22. *Mid. Men's min.*, 1:60, 67, 71-72. For information on the Keithian controversy, see J. William Frost, *The Keithian Controversy in Early Pennsylvania* (Norwood, Pa.: Norwood Editions, 1980); John Butler, "Gospel Order Improved": The Keithian Schism and the Exercise of Quaker Ministerial Authority in Pennsylvania," *William and Mary Quarterly*, ser. 3, 31:431 ff.; Ethyn Williams Kirby, *George Keith (1638-1716)* (New York: D. Appleton-Century Company, Inc., 1942); Rufus M. Jones, *The Quakers in the American Colonies* (London: Macmillan and Co., 1911).

23. *Mid. Women's min.* 1:32.

24. Will Book 1, File 177, Bucks County Courthouse, Doylestown, Pa.

25. Abstract of Henry's will in *Collections of the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania: Bucks County, Pa., Abstracts of Wills 1685-1795* (Phila.: 1899), pp. 29-30. (hereafter cited as *Bucks Will Abs.*). Henry's will is also abstracted in *The Pennsylvania Traveller* 4:53.

26. "A Partial List," Sheppard, *Passengers and Ships*, p. 172; or *PMHB* 9:227.

27. Judge John White's will, pr. 15 Jan. 1693, mentions wife Mary and children James, Mary and Grace. *Collections of the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania*, III: *Abstracts of Philadelphia Wills*, Part 1 1682-1726 (Phila.: 1893), pp. 63-64 (hereafter cited as *Phila. Will Abs.*). Also given in *Gen. Soc. of Pa.* 2:14. Mary Paxson's will, pr. 23 Feb. 1719, mentions daughters Mary Appleton and Grace Carter, and Chase, Appleton, and Carter grandchildren. Bucks Co. Will Book 1, File 181. The persistent confusion in secondary sources over the maiden name of William's wife, i.e. Sydenham or Pakingham, is explained by two wives.

28. William Wade Hinshaw, *Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy* (Richmond, Ind.: Friends Book and Supply House, Distributors, 1938), 2:967. Hinshaw's date is questionable, as Mary's will was proved in Feb. See note 40 below.

29. The warrant to survey, signed by William Penn 24 11 mo. 1682, grants 100 acres to each of five parties (photocopy in author's collection). Thomas Holme's map indicates the location of the block.

30. *Grantee Index*, 1730/1-2; *PA* ser. 2, 19:84, 210; *QS & CP* 318, 373, 346; Samuel Eastburn, "Paxson Lands: Jesse Porter," Eastburn MSC 51, fol. 35; and "Home Farm," fol. 28, Bucks County Historical Society; *PMHB* 26:66.

31. *Grantor Index*, 1730/4.

32. *PA* ser. 8, 1:118, 185, 233, 281, 403, 500, 586; 2:789, 822.

33. *QS & CP*, pp. 278, 298, but he apparently did not serve as collector, see p. 301.

34. *Ibid.*, pp. 20, 47, 58, 152, 184, 214-15, 217, 233, 239, 245, 253, 255, 272, 278, 295, 306, 349, 358, 371, 375, 376, 377, and these records only go to 1700.

35. *Bucks Will Abs.*, p. 1.

36. Book A of Records of the Minutes of Proceedings of the Monthly Meeting held at Middletown in County of Bucks from the 2nd Day of the 3rd Mo: 1700, to the 5th Day of the 9th Month, 1754, p. 10, (hereafter cited as Mid. Men's min. A); Mid. Men's min. 1:71.
37. Mid. Men's min. 1:4, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 27, 28, 31, 33. He signed a Meeting Testimony with his mark in 1687, 1:17.
38. Ibid., 1:37-8, 48, 49, 50, 59, 60, 63, 69, 70; A:1, 2, 4, 7, 9, 12, 14, 16, 29, 35, 38, 40, 54, and more.
39. Mid. Women's min. 1:39, 52, 61, 62.
40. Bucks Co. Will Book 1, File 181.
41. Jane W. T. Brey, *A Quaker Saga* (Phila.: Dorrance & Company, 1967), p. 413.
42. *Phila. Will Abs.*, p. 266. Although the will was filed in Philadelphia, William referred to himself in it as a yeoman of Middletown, Bucks County.
43. Marsh Gibbon parish register. Also given in Clarence V. Roberts, *Ancestry of Clarence V. Roberts and Francis A. (Walton) Roberts* (pub. by the compiler, 1940), p. 209.
44. Roberts, *Ancestry*, pp. 282-84; Mid. Women's min. 1:58, 59. For more information on the Walmsley family, see *Gen. Soc. of Pa.*, 1:202-3; *Memoirs of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania*, 2:182, 186, 194, 198-200.
45. *QS & CP*, p. 114.
46. Brey, *Quaker Saga*, p. 409. She cites "Eng. Frds. rec."
47. *PA*, ser. 2, 19:261, 314. James also transferred land, see *QS & CP*, pp. 346, 393; and *Grantor Index*, 930/6.
48. *QS & CP*, p. 256. George MacReynolds, *Place Names in Bucks County, Pennsylvania: Alphabetically Arranged in an Historical Narrative*, 2nd. ed. (Doylestown, Pa.: The Bucks County Historical Society, 1976), p. 10, gives Paxson's Bridge as an alternate early name for Paxson's Corner, later Aquetong. But the end paper map in Brey, *Quaker Saga*, is in conformity with the *QS & CP*.
49. Mid. Men's min. 1:3, 19, 26, 28, 31, 35. His mark appears on the Testimony, 1:17.
50. Ibid., 1:38, 50, 51, 57-61. His transfer does not appear in Hinshaw's compilation of Falls Monthly Meeting records.
51. A Record of the proceedings of the New Monthly Meeting held near the Falls of Dalaw . . . in the County of Bucks in the Province of Pensilvania, (photocopies of the original available at Friends Historical Library, Swarthmore, Quaker Collection, Haverford, and Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia), pp. 98, 190, (hereafter cited as Falls Men's min.). A complaint was brought against James and his son William Junr. 1 Aug. 1705 for a sum of money due to Roberta Stacy on a bond. See also Brey, *Quaker Saga*, pp. 170, 172.
52. *QS & CP*, pp. 20, 67-68, 86, 88, 106, 115, 158, 165, 168, 182, 186, 188, 278, 280, 295, 352, 363.
53. *Bye, Bye Family*, p. 414.
54. Marsh Gibbon parish register; *Bye, Bye Family*, p. 414; Middletown Monthly Meeting Records, n.p.
55. Mid. Men's min. 1:36; Mid. Women's min. 1:20, 21.
56. Brey, *Quaker Saga*, p. 410. The infant was apparently buried under the care of the Meeting in the half-acre cemetery laid out on Nicholas Waln's land and used from Sept. 1682 to Jan. 1686 but never deeded to the Meeting. It is now covered by part of the fill-in for an overhead railroad bridge. James Bowden, *History of the Society of Friends in America* (London, 1854), 2:196.
57. For a full account of the Watson family, see Brey, *Quaker Saga*, especially pp. 263-324. For William and Mary's marriage, see Mid. Men's min. A: 93-95.
58. The house was purchased Nov. 1978 by Maple Manor Nursing Home, a subsidiary of Wilmac Corp., of York, Penna. Pres. Webster J. McCormack has informed the author that they plan to restore the building.
59. *PA*, ser. 2, 9:756-59. See also Buck, *Hist. of Bucks Co.*, p. 21; and *PMHB* 7:73.
60. *PA*, ser. 2, 9:746-47.
61. Buck, *Hist. of Bucks Co.*, p. 72; *PMHB* 7:72. For what a "viewer" did, see Wayne L. Bockelman, "Local Government in Colonial Pennsylvania," in Bruce C. Daniels, ed., *Town and County: Essays on the Structure of Local Government in the American Colonies* (Middletown, Conn.: Wesleyan University Press, 1978), p. 235.
62. J. Thomas Scharf and Thompson Westcott, *History of Philadelphia, 1609-1884* (Phila.: L. H. Everts & Co., 1884), 3:2085-86.
63. *Bucks Will Abs.*, pp. 33, 45. Both William and Mary witnessed the first one.
64. Mid. Men's min., many refs., for example, see: A:116, 127, 148, 154, 197, 247.
65. Mid. Women's min., many refs., for example, see 1:124, 1:3-5, 257.
66. Bucks Co. Will Book 1, File 356.
67. *The Friend*, 9:365.
68. Brey, *Quaker Saga*, p. 267.
69. Mid. Men's min. A:204; Albert Cook Meyers, *Quaker Arrivals in Philadelphia, 1682-1750* (Baltimore: The Genealogical Publishing Co., 1969), p. 77; Samuel Eastburn, "William Paxson Lands

Genealogy," Eastburn MSC 51, fol. 35, Bucks County Hist. Soc.; Davis, *Hist. of Bucks Co.*, 1:137; account by Mrs. Joshua Richardson for the DAR in 1954, quoted in the *Delaware Valley Advance*, 22 July 1965, p. 1B; *Bucks Will Abs.*, p. 285; *PA*, ser. 3, 13:50, 148, 286, 328, 502, 539, 626, 735.

70. Mid. Women's min., 1:213-14; *PA* ser. 2, 9:54. For more on the Wildman family, see Brey, *Quaker Saga*, pp. 552-89.

71. *The Friend*, 30:268. For more on the Pownall family, see Bye, *Bye Family*, pp. 418-23; Sheppard, *Passengers and Ships*, pp. 48, 168, 177; George Englert McCracken, *The Welcome Claimants, Proved, Disproved and Doubtful: with an Account of Some of Their Descendants*, Publications of the Welcome Society of Pennsylvania, No. 2 (Baltimore: The Genealogical Publishing Co., 1970), p. 426-32.

72. *QS & CP*, p. 393; *Grantor Index*, 1730/4.

73. Mid. Men's min., 1:55-56. Another rather cryptic incident involved the charge that William Jr. had "raised a scandal" upon William Cowper. *Ibid.*, A:4, 7.

74. *Ibid.*, A:42. There is no mention of Abigail's request for a certificate in the Mid. Women's min., possibly because the move was made quickly; William's request on 8 Aug. 1704 was made after he and the family had already moved. Hinshaw, *Am. Q. Gen.*, 2:1020. Bye euphemistically relates of William Jr's disownment, he was "noted for his conviviality, so that, after the customs of Friends at that time, he was dealt with," Bye, *Bye Family*, p. 414.

75. Bucks Co. Will Book 1, File 177.

76. *Buckingham Monthly Meeting Extracts*, pp. 46, 47, Pennsylvania Historical Society Library, (hereafter cited as *Buck. Extracts*).

77. *The Friend*, 30:268. Bucks Co. Will Book 2, File 644.

78. Paxson family Bible now in the possession of Dr. Thomas D. Paxson Jr. of Edwardsville, Ill. Bye, *Bye Family*, does not mention Marrabeh. *PA* ser. 2, 9:41.

79. Abel's will, pr. 6 Jan. 1737/8, lists the same three children as in the will of their grandmother, Abigail Paxson. Jacob Martin, *Abstracts of Wills of Chester County, Pennsylvania* (Penna. Hist. Soc., 1900), 1:160; *Bucks Will Abs.*, p. 125.

80. Mid. Women's min. 1:10, 52. For more on the Plumley family, see Sheppard, *Passengers and Ships*, pp. 42, 69, although note that the "brother-in-law Henry Paxson" in the will of Charles Plumley the younger in 1708 cannot be "presumed" to be a son of Plumley's mother's second husband (Henry¹ Paxson) as they had no issue. It refers to Henry (18) who married Ann Plum¹ y. Mid. Men's min. A:60, 61, 63.

81. Some secondary sources assume that Mary (Budd) Shinn married Henry Jr., but that seems unlikely as he was only 17 in 1739; the Buckingham Monthly Meeting records do not specify which man is the groom. Henry Jr. is listed with his wife Elizabeth Lupton as the parents of 13 children. *Records of Births, Marriages and Deaths Copied by William J. Buck, from the Original, belonging to the Several Monthly Meetings of the Society of Friends in Bucks County, Penn. 1680-1870* (Phila., 1871) in the Hist. Soc. of Penna., p. 290. (Hereafter cited as *Buck. Records of B's, M's and D's*.) *Buck. Extracts*, p. 40; Hinshaw, *Am. Q. Gen.*, 2:248.

82. See above, note 15; Reeder, *Early Settlers*, pp. 21, 23.

83. *Bucks Will Abs.*, pp. 38-9.

84. Davis, *Hist. of Bucks Co.*, 1:285.

85. Buckingham Monthly Meeting minutes, 1720-1763, Friends Historical Library, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Penna., p. 5 (hereafter cited as *Buck. Men's min.* 1); *Buck. Extracts*, p. 39.

86. Item 2 of the will of his son Thomas Paxson Jr., Bucks Co. Will Book 3, File 1211.

87. *Bucks Will Abs.*, p. 177; Reeder, *Early Settlers*, p. 44.

88. Hinshaw, *Am. Q. Gen.*, 2:967; Reeder, *Early Settlers*, pp. 42-43; Bible, see note 78.

89. *Buck. Men's min.*, 1:20, 28; Reeder, *Early Settlers*, pp. 63-65, 72-74, although there is some confusion there between Thomas and Elizabeth's children and grandchildren.

90. Reeder, *Early Settlers*, pp. b, 42. Her death is erroneously recorded as 31 Aug. 1719 in *Bucks County Friends Records, Births and Deaths, Buckingham and Falls*, presented by Benj. Wiggins, Hist. Soc. of Penna. (Bu/5F), p. 73.

91. Reeder, *Early Settlers*, p. 63, citing Deed Book 12:14. On p. b Reeder says Sarah and Joseph were married in 1729, while on p. 42 he says it was 1730. There was some hesitation by Buckingham Monthly Meeting to clear Joseph for marriage, *Buck. Men's min.*, 1:62-64. Hinshaw, *Am. Q. Gen.* lists 7 children with b. dates, 2:958.

92. *Buck. Men's min.*, 1:87; Hinshaw, *Am. Q. Gen.*, 2:41; *Buck. Extracts*, p. 41.

93. *Buck. Records of B's, M's and D's*, p. 289; Reeder, *Early Settlers*, p. 43. Hinshaw, *Am. Q. Gen.*, 2:467 lists Margery's birth as 25 Nov. 1716.

94. For more on the Beans (or Baines or Banes) family, see Davis, *Hist. of Bucks Co.*, 1:167.

95. Mid. Women's min. 1:291. Brey, *Quaker Saga*, p. 412 erroneously says Martha was the twin of Thomas, b. 12 June 1728.

96. The original parchment marriage certificate is in the collection of the author. On it is noted, "Recorded in the falls Monthly Meeting Record in page 207: 208: 209: 210" and signed by Wm. Atkinson. For more on the Marriott, Blackshaw, Kirkbridge, and Olive grandparents and families, see Brey, *Quaker*

Saga, pp. 199, 267–68; New Jersey Historical Society, *Documents Relating to the Colonial History of the State of New Jersey*, ed. by William A. Whitehead (Newark, N.J.: Daily Journal Establishment, 1880), ser. 1, 1:269, 291, 522–23 (hereafter cited as *NJA*).

97. *Bucks Will Abs.*, pp. 135, 136; Brey, *Quaker Saga*, pp. 323, 380; *PA*, ser. 2, 9:749; Buck, *Hist. of Bucks Co.*, p. 27; Davis, *Hist. of Bucks Co.*, 1:143. For a brief account of how overseers of the poor functioned, see Bockelman, "Local Gov't. in Col. Penna.," p. 225.

98. Mid. Men's min. A:306, 334, 360, 398; Book B of Records of the Minutes Proceedings of the Monthly Meeting of Friends held at Middletown in the County of Bucks; continued from page 418 of Book A (1754–1801), pp. 9, 14, 43, 62, 74–76, 93, 101, 111 (hereafter cited as Mid. Men's min. B).

99. Mid. Women's min 1:299; The Second Book of the Records of the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Women Friends, held from . . . Middletown (formerly called Neshamminah) Meeting, in the County of Bucks in the Province of Pennsylvania; continued on . . . 366th of the first Book of the Records of the said Meeting, p. 13 (hereafter cited as Mid. Women's min 2) and many more references.

100. *Grantor Index*, 130/2, 930/6, 1130/2, 1330/1; Bucks Co. Will Book 3, File 1385.

101. Bucks Co. Will Book 3, File 1236.

102. Mid. Men's min. B:207–11, 213, 215, 217–19, 222–23, 225, 227, 230. Friends opposed affirming allegiance to the rebel government and abjuring allegiance to the established monarch during a time of civil unrest and disorder.

103. Charles Henry Jones, *Genealogy of the Rodman Family: 1620 to 1886*. (Phila.: 1886), especially pp 28–29, 46–47. "Rodman-Paxson-Richardson Family Bible," *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* 70:18.

104. *PA*, ser. 2, 2:226; *Penna. Colonial Records*, 12:401, 403.

105. *PA*, ser. 2, 9:523; Mid. Men's min B:162–66, 169–72; Hinshaw, *Am. Q. Gen.*, 2:617; Brey, *Quaker Saga*, pp. 268–69.

106. Mid. Men's min. B:163–66, 168, 182, 184–86, 188, 190; Mid. Women's min. 2:35–37.

107. Mid. Men's min. B:135–36.

108. Brey, *Quaker Saga*, pp. 475, 596.

109. Hinshaw, *Am. Q. Gen.*, 2:404, 617.

110. Mid. Men's min. A:289–90; B: many refs., for example, pp. 35, 42, 89, 109, 126, 138, 150, 190, 236, 291.

111. Mid. Women's min. 1:194, 284, 296, 303, 348–49; 2:75.

112. *PA*, ser. 3, 13:50, 148, 286, 328, 539, 626, 735. Bible, see note 78.

113. Paxson family Bible, see note 78; Mid. Men's min. A:41, 62, 121–22, 129, 140, 145, 243, 284–85, 298.

114. *NJA*, ser. 1, 34:381–82. They were disciplined for marrying contrary to Friends' order 2 July 1742, Hinshaw, *Am. Q. Gen.*, 2:248. *PA*, ser. 2, 1:197.

115. Hinshaw, *Am. Q. Gen.*, 2:248; Mid. Men's min. A:300.

116. *NJA*, ser. 1, 30:353, 363; 33:99, 100; 12:601; 19:267 (This is a typographical error when compared to a microfilm of the original: Henry's co-executor was John Woolman.) 22:291; 25:487; 26:175; 27:30; 24:559; 29:449; *Publications of the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania*, 10:54, 251.

117. *NJA*, ser. 1, 26:232.

118. *Ibid.*, 26:89; 27:274, 454; *Gen. Soc. of Pa.*, 10:137, 256.

119. *NJA*, ser. 1, 19:391, 392n; 26:192, 231; 28:89, 93.

120. *PMHB*, 36:189–91. Of the five barracks constructed, only the one in Trenton survives, restored for the 1976 festivities.

121. *NJA*, ser. 1, 29:430.

122. *Ibid.*, 32:291; 19:267.

123. Janet Whitney, *John Woolman: American Quaker* (Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1942), pp. 358, 459.

124. *NJA*, ser. 1, 34:381–82.

125. *PA*, ser. 2, 2:226; *NJA*, ser. 1, 42:353.

126. George Norbury MacKenzie, ed., *Colonial Families of the United States of America* (Baltimore: Seaford Press, 1917), 5:535–36.

127. *NJA*, ser. 1, 42:353.

128. Mid. Women's min. 1:286, 287.

129. *The American Genealogist* 15:33–38, 148–51. Margaret Thornton's membership, Mid. Women's min. 1:284–85. Joseph's activities, Mid. Men's min. A:301–03, 306, 312, 329, 361.

130. Samuel Eastburn wrote that James bought "nearly 400 acres" from his father's estate for £7 per acre. "Penna. current money," and this included three houses. "Wm. Paxson the Elder Lands," Eastburn MSC 51, Fol. 35. Bucks Co. Hist. Soc. His father's will gave him 200 acres south of King's Road, laid out in two parcels. Perhaps James bought John's share after the latter's death.

131. See their grandmother's will, Margaret Thornton, dated 16 Jan. 1790, pr. 12 Mar. 1790, *Bucks Will Abs.*, p. 467.

132. Mid. Men's min. B:194-96.
133. *Penna. Colonial Records*, 12:547. Anna M. Ousterhout, "Opponents of the Revolution Whose Pennsylvania Estates Were Confiscated," *Pa. Gen. Mag.* 30:239; Louis Ely Thompson, "An Introduction to the Loyalists of Bucks County and Some Queries Concerning Them," *The Bucks County Historical Society: Papers* (Doylestown, Pa.: Fackenthal Publications Fund, 1937), 7:210.
134. *PA*, ser. 6, 13:183. She and her brother were each left 2 shillings by their grandmother Margaret Thornton. Mary was 28 and unm. at that time. *Bucks Will Abs.*, p. 467; *Amer. Genealogist* 15:35.
135. Edmunds, *Paxton Ancestry*, pp. 63-64; Buck. Men's min. 1:15.
136. Buck Men's min. 1:68; Edmunds, *Paxton Ancestry*, pp. 63-64. For more on the Waln family, see McCracken, *Welcome Claimants*, pp. 519-21; Brey, *Quaker Saga*, pp. 372-74.
137. *Bucks Will Abs.*, pp. 29-30; Buck. Men's min. 1:19.
138. *Buck. Extracts*, pp. 45, 48.
139. *Bucks Will Abs.*, pp. 111-12.
140. Buck, *Records of B's, M's and D's*, p. 290. Also, Wiggins, "Bucks Co. Frds. Records: B's and D's," p. 74; Edmunds, *Paxton Ancestry*, pp. 64-67.
141. Edmunds, *Paxton Ancestry*, p. 68; Buckingham Monthly Meeting Minutes, 1763-1792, pp. 70, 72, 74-76, Friends Historical Library, Swarthmore (hereafter cited as Buck. Men's min. 2). See note 1 above.
142. Hinshaw, *Am. Q. Gen.*, pp. 480, 987, and more. Buck. Men's min. 1:85, 87, 88. For more information on the Canby family, see Davis, *Hist. of Bucks Co.*, 1:272; Brey, *Quaker Saga*, pp. 415-17; Bye, *Bye Family*, p. 423; Reeder, *Early Settlers*, pp. 13-14.
143. *Grantee Index*, 1630/2; Reeder, *Early Settlers*, p. 6 quotes Deed Book 11:257.
144. Buck. Men's min. 1:46, 49, 51, 59.
145. Brey, *Quaker Saga*, p. 411.
146. Reeder, *Early Settlers*, p. 8; *Bucks Will Abs.*, p. 371.
147. Buck, *Records of B's, M's and D's*, p. 290; Wiggins, "Bucks Co. Frds. Records: B's and D's," p. 74. Bye, *Bye Family*, p. 416, claims there were two more children, Henry and Martha, both d.y. Reeder, *Early Settlers*, p. 36 mentions Martha who d.y., but neither copy of the Buck. Mtg. records mentions these children. Reeder calls Benjamin's first wife Hannah on p. 33 and Rachel on p. 36; the Buck. Mtg. records both refer to her as Rachel. Their children are listed in Reeder, p. 32, and Buck, *Records of B's, M's and D's*, p. 291. It is tricky comparing fines and distrains because of the rampant inflation of paper currency.
148. *Gen. Soc. of Pa.*, 6:283.
149. *Grantee Index*, 1430/2. His name does not appear in the *Grantor Index*.
150. *Gen. Soc. of Pa.*, 8:88; Hinshaw, *Am. Q. Gen.*, 2:617.
151. *Friends Monthly Meetings, 1680-1870* (Penna. Hist. Soc.), p. 2; *Bucks Will Abs.*, p. 125.
152. Edmunds, *Paxton Ancestry*, p. 61.
153. Buck. Men's min. 2:150; *Friends Monthly Meetings, 1680-1870*, p. 2.
154. See note 81 above; *Buck. Extracts*, p. 52.
155. Reeder, *Early Settlers*, p. 45.
156. Buck. Men's min. 2:36, 39, 73, 75, 120, 157, 158, 169, 173, 175, 186, 328.
157. *PA*, ser. 3, 13:11, 136, 245, 368, 457, 571, 652, 761.
158. "An Account of Friends Sufferings for the Testimony of a Good Conscience Within the Compass of Buckingham Monthly Meeting" compiled May 1781; "An Account of Friends Sufferings Within the Compass of Buckingham Monthly Meeting," 1782. Friends Historical Library, Swarthmore (hereafter cited as Buck. Sufferings).
159. *Collections of the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania: Bucks County, Pa., Abstracts of Wills 1796-1825*, pp. 59-60, (hereafter cited as *Bucks Will Abs.* 2).
160. Buck, *Records of B's, M's and D's*, p. 290; manuscript genealogical notebook of George Paxson, Bucks County Historical Society Library; Buck. Men's min. 2:184, 186, 188, 282, 283, 287. There were two Joseph Paxsons in Buckingham Meeting at this time, the other was Joseph (Joseph⁴, Thomas³, William Jr.², James¹). *PA*, ser. 2, 9:606; Bye, *Bye Family*, p. 330; Davis, *Hist. of Bucks Co.*, 3:177.
161. Buck. Men's min. 2:5. For information on the Crispin and Blackfan families, see Reeder, *Early Settlers*, pp. 76-78; Sheppard, *Passengers and Ships*, pp. 34, 204.
162. Hinshaw, *Am. Q. Gen.*, 2:1020.
163. Bucks Co. Will Book 3, File 1211.
164. Reeder, *Early Settlers*, p. 40; *Buck. Extracts*, pp. 87, 92, 97, 100, 107, 108, 110; Buck. Men's min. 2:1, 5, 6.
165. The purchase of land for £468.16.6, recorded in Deed Book 25:332, as quoted in Reeder, *Early Settlers*, p. 6, does not agree with the *Grantee Index* which has no sales for Thomas in 1763, and lists Book 25 as covering ca. 1789-1790.
166. Deed Book 25:331, as quoted by Reeder, *Early Settlers*, p. 7, with the date 19 Nov. 1764, cost £498.15.00. Note, however, *Grantee Index*, 1630/2 lists Record Book 25:331 as 22 Apr. 1790, the grantor Ebenezer Pike, by att'y.
167. Buck, *Records of B's, M's, and D's*, p. 290; Reeder, *Early Settlers*, pp. 8, 12, 43, 45.
168. Buck. Sufferings; Buck. Men's min. 2:121-22, 130, 132, 258, 262, 272, 301, 320-21, 323; Reeder, *Early Settlers*, pp. 18, 45.