

Ancestral Analysis

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Subject: William Ryan of Chillisquaque Township, Northumberland County,
Pennsylvania

Report To: PRIVATELY HELD

Background: Previous research revealed that William Ryan was taxed by the Northumberland County, Pennsylvania assessor for the first time in Chillisquaque Township for 65 acres and livestock in 1804. After his death, his estate was administered in 1805 and guardianship of his five minor children was assigned. When the first draft of the Ryan family history was printed only the letters of administration to Joseph Forsman and guardianship appointments had been recovered along with the Chillisquaque Township tax records. The guardianship records proved Abraham Rians was the son of William, however, that is where research stopped. This report covers William's life in Northumberland County and seeks to find his origin. To compile a narrative family history of the Ryan line.

Long-Term

Objective:

Report Objective: To research, analyze, and exhibit material found relating to William Ryan in Northumberland County to illustrate his life and find connections leading to his place of origin and birth family.

Time Limitations: 50 hours per month in addition to expenses

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

A concise study of the persons attending the estate vendue of William Ryan; the estate's administration, and the Turbot and Chillisquaque Township tax records allowed for the discovery of the location of William's property in Chillisquaque Township—although no recorded deeds are extant for its purchase or sale.

It is normal for neighbors and associates to help lead to a subject's place of origin. This was not the case with William's neighbors. He apparently purchased the land in 1797 or 1798 and continued to live in Turbot Township, most likely near Limestone Run, until he moved to his property in Chillisquaque before the tax collection of 1804.

Instead, several factors lead to the conclusion that he migrated from Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

- Alexander Forsman of Turbot Township may have been the brother of Joseph Forsman, William's estate administrator. Alexander Forsman moved from Bucks County, Pennsylvania.
- Gabriel Vansant, the son of Cornelius Vansant of Bucks County had moved to Chillisquaque Township before the 1798 federal direct tax was collected.
- Richard Barclay was appointed a guardian of William's minor children, Catherine, and Abraham. His father was James Barclay of Warrington Township, Bucks County.
- Benjamin Bennet of Turbot Township whose sons, Abraham and James, attended the estate vendue was found to have enlisted at Tinicum Township, Bucks County for service in the American Revolution. This is verified by the death certificate of James "Bennit" of Lycoming County, north of Northumberland County. James was born 26 September 1781 at Bucks County, Pennsylvania to Benjamin and Jane Bennet.
- Bennet is a "family name" in the Ryan line indicating that William Ryan's wife may have been a Bennet. William's youngest child, Richard B. Rians, was known in the family's oral history as Richard "Bennet" Ryan. Christopher C. Ryan (William's grandson) named his child Abraham Bennet Ryan. Another grandson, Jesse W. Ryan, named one of his children Philip Bennet Ryan.
- Benjamin Bennet was taxed in Tinicum Township, Bucks County in 1782–1784. In 1784 and 1785 a William Ryan was also taxed in the same township.
- In 1799, one year after the arrival of William in Turbot Township, Benjamin Bennet appears in the taxables there.
- A William "Ryane" was enumerated in Bucks County in the 1790 federal census. His household contained one male over 16; two males under 16, and four females. This information is consistent with what is known about William's family. No such family was enumerated in the 1800 federal census in either Northumberland or Bucks Counties.

William's last born surviving child was Richard B. Rians, born 1798. A thorough study of the estate records revealed that William was a widower at the time of his death. No record of his wife's name was found. Her death occurred between the birth of Richard and William's death.

SETTLEMENT IN NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY

William Ryan first appeared in Turbot Township, Northumberland County, Pennsylvania in the 1798 taxables when he was taxed for 52 acres and \$25.00 of personal property.¹ [EXHIBIT 1] The amount of real property and exact location is unstated. He may have arrived in the county before 1798, but went untaxed.

The federal government directly taxed its citizens for the first time in 1798. The Northumberland County records survive intact.² The tax was assessed through a series of “particular lists.” Form A lists dwellings; form B lists lands, lots, out-buildings, and wharves, and form C lists slaves. The remaining lists were general and summary abstracts.³ William Ryan of Turbit [sic] & Derry Townships (Washington District) was recorded on “A list of Uncollected Taxes due on what is Called Seatted [sic] Lands And Houses in the County of Northumberland and State of Pennsylvania.”⁴ Normally the list would state the materials and dimensions of buildings; the number of parcels, and person the land was originally warranted to—this one did not. This list contains columns for remarks; the name of the owner or occupant; whether the property was a house or land, and the tax. The rate was 19 cents per \$100 valuation. William paid 55 cents indicating he owned property valued at \$289. No house is listed, so his family may be living with another family.⁵ [EXHIBIT 2] Although he was taxed for real estate, no deeds were ever recorded for him as grantee or grantor in Northumberland County.⁶ This was not an unusual situation in this period when the distance to the courthouse was prohibitive as it was in this situation

¹ Northumberland County, Pennsylvania, Turbut [Turbot] Township tax assessment, court order to commissioners and entry for William Ryan (1798); Records of the County Governments, Record Group 47, Pennsylvania State Archives, Harrisburg; Family History Library (FHL) microfilm 1,449,348, Salt Lake City, Utah.

² “Pennsylvania, U. S. Direct Tax Lists, 1798,” Accompanying Microcopy No. 372, United States Direct Tax of 1798: Tax Lists for the State of Pennsylvania” (Washington D.C.: The National Archives and Records Service, General Services Administration, 1963), pages 1–2; digital images, “Order Reproductions and Microfilm,” *The National Archives* (www.archives.gov/shop/ : accessed 31 July 2012).

³ “Pennsylvania, U. S. Direct Tax Lists,” Philadelphia City (Part) digital images, 1–9, *Ancestry*.(www.ancestry.com : accessed 30 July 2012), front matter including instructions and tax rates.

⁴ “Pennsylvania, U. S. Direct Tax Lists,” Northumberland, Lycoming, and Mifflin, digital image 63, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com : accessed 30 July 2012); Northumberland County, Turbet [sic] & Derry (Washington District), title page.

⁵ “Pennsylvania, U. S. Direct Tax Lists,” Northumberland, Lycoming, and Mifflin, digital image 66, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com : accessed 30 July 2012); Northumberland County, Turbet [sic] & Derry (Washington District), entry for William Ryan, page 6, line 24.

⁶ Northumberland County, Pennsylvania, Grantee and Grantor indexes, 1772–1914; Recorder of Deeds, Sunbury; FHL microfilm 961,190 and 961,186.

In 1799, William “Rayen” was again taxed in Turbot Township—38 cents for real and 10 cents for personal property.⁷ The reason for the difference in value is unknown. [EXHIBIT 3] When taxed in 1800 as William “Raine” it becomes apparent that he had purchased 50 acres of land taxed for 47 cents. The location is not stated on the list. He also owns two horses and two cattle. His personal property is taxed at 13 cents, and no assessment is made.⁸ [EXHIBIT 4]

In 1801, William was taxed for 50 acres at 47 cents and the same amount of livestock taxed at 15 cents.⁹ [EXHIBIT 5] William “Raine” is recorded in the Turbot taxables in 1802. However, the name is stricken. Above his name is interlined an entry for John Rammage. The 300 acres own written next to William’s stricken name matches that of John Rammage in 1803. The information beside William’s name is for Rammage—not William.¹⁰ [EXHIBIT 6] William does not appear in any of the three northern Northumberland townships (Chillisquaque, Point, and Turbot) in 1803.¹¹

In 1804, William appeared on the tax records for the final time. William “Rine” paid tax on 65 acres and four cattle valued at 32 cents and 16 cents respectively in Chillisquaque Township.¹² The township was just south of Turbot. It is not clear when or where this additional 15 acres is located. [EXHIBIT 7]

ESTATE ADMINISTRATION

William Ryan passed away after 21 March 1804 and on or before 28 November 1804. The property valuations for Chillisquaque Township were ordered on 21 March 1804. He was still living and paid tax sometime before his death was reported and letters of administration petitioned for on 28 November 1804.¹³

⁷ Northumberland County, Pennsylvania, Turbut [Turbot] Township tax assessment, entry for William Rayen [*sic*] (1799); Records of the County Governments, Record Group 47, Pennsylvania State Archives, Harrisburg; FHL microfilm 1,449,348.

⁸ Northumberland County, Pennsylvania, Turbutt [Turbot] Township tax assessment, entry for William Raine [*sic*] (1800); Records of the County Governments, Record Group 47, Pennsylvania State Archives, Harrisburg; FHL microfilm 1,449,348.

⁹ Northumberland County, Pennsylvania, Turbutt [Turbot] Township tax assessment, entry for William Raine [*sic*] (1801); Records of the County Governments, Record Group 47, Pennsylvania State Archives, Harrisburg; FHL microfilm 1,449,348.

¹⁰ Northumberland County, Pennsylvania, Turbutt [Turbot] Township tax assessment, entry for William Raine [*sic*] (1802); Records of the County Governments, Record Group 47, Pennsylvania State Archives, Harrisburg; FHL microfilm 1,449,348.

¹¹ Northumberland County, Pennsylvania, Chillisquaque, Point, and Turbot townships tax assessments and duplicates (1803); Records of the County Governments, Record Group 47, Pennsylvania State Archives, Harrisburg; FHL microfilms 1,346,342, 1,449,346, and 1,449,348.

¹² Northumberland County, Pennsylvania, Chillisquaque Township tax assessment (1804); Records of the County Governments, Record Group 47, Pennsylvania State Archives, Harrisburg; FHL microfilm 1,449,342.

¹³ Northumberland County, Pennsylvania, Order to William Emmery, assessor, Chillisquaque Township (21 March 1804); Records of the County Governments, Record Group 47, Pennsylvania State Archives, Harrisburg; FHL microfilm 1,449,342. Also, Northumberland County, Pennsylvania, Wills & Administrations, probate case file no. 41, bond & letters of administration, William Ryan probate (1805); Clerk of the Orphans' Court, Sunbury.

Letters of Administration & Bond

On 28 November 1804, a \$150 bond was posted by Joseph Forsman and William Reed of Chillisquaque Township, and James Cook Esq. of Northumberland Town in Point Township. Joseph Forsman was appointed the estate administrator.¹⁴ The Orphans' Court ordered that an inventory is presented to the court before 28 December 1804 and an account of the estate be presented to the court by 28 November 1805.¹⁵ **[EXHIBIT 8]** Maps of Northumberland County are included in **EXHIBIT 9**.

Possible relationship between Joseph Forsman, William Reed, and James Cook to William Ryan:

- Joseph Forsman, William's estate administrator, arrived in Chillisquaque Township by 1801 when he appears in the taxables.¹⁶ He purchased the land that became Montandon town located northwest of William's 50-acre parcel in Chillisquaque Township.¹⁷
- The 1804 tax duplicate for Chillisquaque Township shows William Reed being listed as a 'Justice'.¹⁸ Reed settled in Chillisquaque Township by 1785.¹⁹ It was not unusual for judges to serve in this capacity. In this case, William Reed posted surety for William's estate. There was most likely no close personal relationship between William Ryan and William Reed.
- The attorney, James Cook, lived in Northumberland Town on the fork of the Susquehanna River. The two men may have never met since William did business in the town of Milton, rather than the town of Northumberland as demonstrated by the administrator's final account.²⁰

¹⁴ Northumberland County, Pennsylvania, estate files, Box R, case file no. 40, letters of administration, William Ryan (1804); Clerk of the Orphans' Court, Sunbury.

¹⁵ Northumberland County, Pennsylvania, estate files, Box R, case file no. 40, William Ryan (1804); Clerk of the Orphans' Court, Sunbury.

¹⁶ Northumberland County, Pennsylvania, Chillisquaque Township tax duplicate, entry for Joseph 'Forceman' (1801); Records of the County Governments, Record Group 47, Pennsylvania State Archives, Harrisburg; FHL microfilm 1,449,342.

¹⁷ Herbert C. Bell, *History of Northumberland County, Pennsylvania* (Chicago: Brown, Runk & Co., 1891), 720; PDF, *Internet Archive* (archive.org : accessed 22 June 2011).

¹⁸ Northumberland County, Pennsylvania, Chillisquaque Township tax duplicate, entry for 'William Reed Just.' (1804); Records of the County Governments, Record Group 47, Pennsylvania State Archives, Harrisburg; FHL microfilm 1,449,342.

¹⁹ Northumberland County, Pennsylvania, 'Turbutt' Township tax duplicate, entry for 'Wm Reed' (1785); Records of the County Governments, Record Group 47, Pennsylvania State Archives, Harrisburg; FHL microfilm 1,449,348. The taxables for 1782-1784 have not been located.

²⁰ Northumberland County, Pennsylvania, estate files, Box R, packet no. 41, administrator's account, William Ryan (1804); Clerk of the Orphans' Court, Sunbury. Also, Herbert C. Bell, *History of Northumberland County, Pennsylvania ...* (Chicago: Brown, Runk & Co., 1891), 555-564; PDF, *Internet Archive* (archive.org : accessed 22 June 2011).

Guardianship

On 4 August 1805, the Orphans' Court took up two petitions for the guardianship of William's minor children. The first, for Catharine and Abraham, both over 14 years old, were allowed to chose their own guardian. The second, for Mary, William, and Richard—all under the age of fourteen.²¹ Children under age 14 were judged “too young or incapable, according to the rules of common law, to make the choice [of a guardian] themselves.”²² Richard "Barkley" [Barclay] was the guardian agreed upon for Catherine and Abraham. Thomas Murray was appointed a guardian by the court for Mary, William, and Richard.²³ Both guardians lived in Chillisquaque Township where William and his children lived.²⁴ [EXHIBIT 10]

Relationships between Richard Barkley and Thomas Murray to William Ryan:

- Richard Barclay purchased 350 acres on Chillisquaque Creek on 25 November 1799.²⁵ He first appeared in the tax records in 1800.²⁶ He was the son of James Barclay of Warrington Township of Bucks County.²⁷ Considering that Richard had not been in Chillisquaque Township for very long, his guardianship appointment suggests that there were previous ties to William.
- Thomas Murray was the only son of John Murray. He and his two brothers, James and John, settled on Chillisquaque Creek around 1770.²⁸ Thomas's first property purchases were on 4 and 5 March 1799 upstream from the Ryan parcel on the creek. Richard Barclay's parcel bounded Thomas Murray's land.²⁹ William most likely met Thomas Murray through Richard Barclay. A back road ran north between the farms and a ridge

²¹ Northumberland County, Pennsylvania, estate files, Box R, packet no. 41, guardianship appointments, William Ryan (1804); Clerk of the Orphans' Court, Sunbury.

²² *Laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania ...* (Philadelphia: John Bioren, 1810), 1: 84, "An Act for establishing Orphans' Courts. [1794]," Chapter 1713, § 7 ; PDF, "Smith's Laws" *Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Legislative Reference Bureau* (<http://www.palrb.us/smithlaws/17001799/1713/0/act/0197.pdf> : accessed 24 September 2011).

²³ Northumberland County, Pennsylvania, estate files, Box R, packet no. 41, petition of minor children (August Term 1805), William Ryan (1805); Register of Wills, Sunbury; FHL 961,199.

²⁴ Northumberland County, Pennsylvania, Chillisquaque Township, tax assessment, entries for Richard Barkley [*sic*]; Joseph Foresman [*sic*], and Tho^s Murray Ju^r (1804); Records of the County Governments, Record Group 47, Pennsylvania State Archives, Harrisburg; FHL microfilm 1,449,342

²⁵ Northumberland County, Pennsylvania, Deeds, Book P: 340–342, Robert Irwin, Sheriff to Richard Barclay (20 June 1800); Recorder of Deeds, Sunbury.

²⁶ Northumberland County, Pennsylvania, Chillisquaque Township tax duplicates, entry for “Richart Barclay” (1800); Records of the County Governments, Record Group 47, Pennsylvania State Archives, Harrisburg; FHL microfilm 1,449,342.

²⁷ Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Wills, Volume 5: 291–292, James Barclay (1792); Register of Wills, Doylestown; digital images, : “Pennsylvania, Probate Records, 1683–1994,” *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org> : accessed 25 May 2014)

²⁸ Herbert C. Bell, *History of Northumberland County, Pennsylvania ...* (Chicago: Brown, Runk & Co., 1891), 1126–1128, specifically 1126; PDF, *Internet Archive* (archive.org : accessed 22 June 2011).

²⁹ Northumberland County, Pennsylvania, Deeds, Book K: 357–358, John McMahon, Sr. to Thomas Murray Jr. (4–5 March 1799); Recorder of Deeds, Sunbury and Works Projects Administration, “No. 37, Copies of Land Surveys of Original Northumberland County from 1760,” 381, manuscript; original held at Northumberland County, Historical Society, Sunbury.

that gave these neighbors easy access to each other. (This can be seen on images demonstrating the location of William's property.) This tie with the Murray family would result in at least one marriage. William's daughter, Mary, became the wife of John Murray.³⁰

Estate Vendue

The vendue (estate sale) for William's personal property was undated but took place between 1 November 1805 (when letters of administration were issued) and 3 March 1806 (when the administration account was presented to the Register's Office at Sunbury). The vendue was well-attended by neighbors, associates, and family. Neighbors included Thomas Shannon, Dennis and Peter Caul, John Lawsha, William Housel, John Orr, Dennis, Peter, and Michael Buoy, Michael Smith, and Joseph Musser. Martin Snook, William's probable business partner, also attended. Two family members were in attendance—John and Nancy Ryan. Abraham Bennet and James Bennet of Turbot Township purchased items. Joseph Forsman, the administrator, was in charge.³¹

The vendue demonstrates that although William owned only 68 acres, he was well equipped as a farmer. Aside from an extensive list of items for the care and use of livestock he owned three axes, one shovel, multiple sickles, two hoes (corn and grub), a plough, three forks (pitch, dung, and hay), and two troughs. His livestock included one mule; four cows; one bull; nine sheep, and ten hogs. "Corn in the bushel" was purchased by Martin Snook and a half-bushel by Abraham Bennet. The rye and wheat crops in the ground were purchased by Peter Caul and Joseph Forsman.³² Of particular interest are "shoemaker tools" and "smith irons." **[EXHIBIT 11]**

Items purchased by family or possible family members:

- John Ryan purchased an axe and one bag.
- Nancy Ryan purchased a washing tub; a check reel (fabric); two sheep; one cow; one pot; one iron pot; one bucket; four pewter plates; knives & forks; teacups; one small box; one bed and bedding, and; unknown "articles from McGraw."
- Jas Bennet purchased a frying pan; a saddle and old leather.
- Abraham Bennet purchased a half bushel; one bucket, and one pair smith irons.

³⁰ Northumberland County, Pennsylvania, Orphans' Court, loose papers, citation to James F. Murray (8 August 1836) ; Clerk of the Orphans' Court, Sunbury.

³¹ Northumberland County, Pennsylvania, estate files, Box R, packet no. 41, estate vendue, William Ryan (1804); Clerk of the Orphans' Court, Sunbury.

³² Northumberland County, Pennsylvania, estate files, Box R, packet no. 41, estate vendue, William Ryan (1804); Clerk of the Orphans' Court, Sunbury.

Administrator's Account

The Orphans' Court had ordered an inventory taken, and the packet originally contained a list of goods and chattels—the cover remains as proof. However, the inventory is missing from the packet. The final account was presented to the court 30 June 1806 by Joseph Forsman. The estate had a balance on that date of \$184.87, and it was ordered to be distributed to the heirs at law. The funds would have been held in trust for William's children by the administrator.³³ [EXHIBIT 12]

Several things can be learned from the account:

- The first line (unnumbered) and line 1, show amounts paid to Corder & Calhoun and Cowden & Calhoun. Calhoun & Cowden first appeared in the 1797 tax records.³⁴ George Calhoun lived at Milton, Chillisquaque Township from at least 1800 until his death.³⁵ According to Bell's county history, the mercantile business of George Calhoun and Isaac Cowden was located on Front Street in Milton in southwest Turbot Township.³⁶ This is where William probably made the majority of his purchases.
- Line 3, *Nancy Ryan* is paid for tutoring William's children.
- Line 11, *Agnes Ryan* was paid one dollar due to her.
- Most of the items listed in the administrator's account are for probate expenses. William owed very little money to merchants and individuals indicating he was a good money manager.
- William's property was not sold.

Nancy Ryan

Nancy Ryan purchased a wash tub, a “reel of checkered cloth,” pots, a bucket, knives and forks, teacups, plates, bed and bedding, along with livestock—one cow and two sheep. Two things can be deduced from these purchases.

First, John Ryan, who attended the sale is probably not her husband. If he were, the items Nancy selected would have more likely to have been paid for by him.

³³ Northumberland County, Pennsylvania, estate files, Box R, packet no. 41, administrator's account, William Ryan (1804); Clerk of the Orphans' Court, Sunbury.

³⁴ Northumberland County, Pennsylvania, Chillisquaque Township tax duplicates & assessments, entries for Calhoun & Cowden (1797–1798); Records of the County Governments, Record Group 47, Pennsylvania State Archives, Harrisburg; FHL microfilm 1,449,342.

³⁵ Northumberland County, Pennsylvania, Chillisquaque Township tax duplicates entries for Calhoun & Cowden (1797–1798) and George Calhoun (1800–1804); Records of the County Governments, Record Group 47, Pennsylvania State Archives, Harrisburg; FHL microfilm 1,449,342.

³⁶ Herbert C. Bell, *History of Northumberland County, Pennsylvania ...* (Chicago: Brown, Runk & Co., 1891), 555–564; PDF, *Internet Archive* (archive.org : accessed 15 June 2011).

Second, Nancy seems to setting up her own household. The purchase of a bed and bedding indicates she was probably purchasing her *own* bed. William died intestate. That would mean even family living in his home and caring for his children in the absence of his wife would not have inherited belongings.³⁷

Nancy is also paid for “tutoring” the Ryan children in the administrator’s account. This also indicates she was living with the family.

It is widely distributed on *Ancestry* public trees on that Nancy Ryan was William’s wife.³⁸ Her presence as a purchaser does not mean that she was William’s widow. A widow has the first claim on personal property—the widow’s election—and is entitled to a one-third share of the estate.³⁹ Nancy did not sign off as administrator of William’s estate—a formality that would have preceded Joseph Forsman accepting the appointment. She also did not receive a widow’s share—the items selected as such would have been chosen first and listed as such in the vendue account or in a separate list as the chosen items of the widow. If Nancy were the mother or stepmother of William’s children, she would not be reimbursed for tutoring costs.

John Ryan

John Ryan purchased only two items at the vendue—an axe and a bag.⁴⁰ He appears for the first time in Chillisquaque Township taxables in 1809—single with no property. If the collector has entered information correctly in the preceding years, this means that John turned 21 in 1808–1809. His birth year could be calculated at about 1788. John maintains this status through 1811. In 1812, his name appeared but was stricken in the taxables. This most likely indicates a move. Abraham Rians, William’s named eldest minor son in 1805, appears for the first time in the Chillisquaque Township tax records—the same year John disappears.⁴¹ John does not reappear again in the tax lists or the census records.⁴²

³⁷ Northumberland County, Pennsylvania, estate files, Box R, packet no. 41, estate vendue, William Ryan (1804); Clerk of the Orphans’ Court, Sunbury.

³⁸ The original source of this misinformation is purported to be a report issued by ProGenealogists of Salt Lake City in 2005. The report’s author or the client it was created for could not be ascertained. ProGenealogists does not have a record of the report, although that does not call into question that they produced it.

³⁹ *Laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania ...* (Philadelphia: John Bioren, 1810), 3: 143–145, “An Act directing the descent of intestates’ real estate [1794],” Chapter 1740, § 3 ; PDF, “Smith’s Laws” *Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Legislative Reference Bureau* (www.palrb.us/smithlaws/17001799/1794/0/act/1740.pdf : accessed 24 September 2011).

⁴⁰ Northumberland County, Pennsylvania, estate files, Box R, packet no. 41, estate vendue, William Ryan (1804); Clerk of the Orphans’ Court, Sunbury.

⁴¹ Northumberland County, Pennsylvania, Chillisquaque Township tax duplicates & assessments, entries for John Ryan (1809–1812) and Abraham Ryan (1812); FHL microfilm 1,449,342.

⁴² “1800 United States Federal Census,” database, *Ancestry.com* (www.ancestry.com : accessed 4 August 2014); a search for John Ryan produced none in Northumberland County. “Pennsylvania, Septennial Census, 1779–1863,” database, *Ancestry.com* (www.ancestry.com : accessed 4 August 2014); a search for John Ryan produced none within Turbot, Chillisquaque, or Point townships. “1810 United States Federal Census,” database, *Ancestry.com* (www.ancestry.com : accessed 4 August 2014); search for entries in Turbot, Chillisquaque, and Point townships.

It is possible that John was the eldest child of William. Several points make this a serious consideration:

- Previous research indicates that Abraham was 20 years old when his guardian was appointed in 1805.⁴³ Abraham is supposedly less than a year away from coming of age—old enough that if John were his brother—there would not be a large time gap between children.
- John did not have to appear in the estate administration if he was William's son. As a mature man, he was free to make purchases and would not have required a guardian. An estate division was not taking place at the time so that element is missing.
- If John were of age, he *should* have been paying tax from at least 1805 onward. However, if the Rush church record is correct, Abraham *also* is missing in the tax records. He should have been paying tax by 1808, but doesn't begin until 1812—coincidentally, the only year his guardian, Richard Barclay, was a collector since he was one for the township in 1805.⁴⁴
- John is stricken from the rolls in 1812 and Abraham is added. These are the only two Ryan's taxed in Chillisquaque Township at that time.
- John may have left to join the war effort against the British. If he was the eldest son of William, then his youngest brother, Richard, did so at age 16. Richard may have followed John into service.⁴⁵

Abraham & James Bennet, Attendees

At the estate sale Abraham purchased a half-bushel of corn, an iron pot, a bucket, and one pair of smith irons; James purchased a frying pan, a saddle, some old leather⁴⁶ No Bennet's lived in Chillisquaque Township at the time of William's death, however, a Benjamin Bennet was taxed in Turbot Township beginning in 1799. This puts the two men in the same area at the same time. The table below provides a picture of the Bennet family in Northumberland County.

⁴³ "The Church Register of the Rush (formerly Shamokin) Presbyterian Church Situate in Rush Township, Northumberland Co. Pa.," photocopy of original register, pages 56–57, entry for Abraham Ryan. The register states that Abraham was 89 years and 13 days old when he died on 12 April 1874. One register exists for Rush Presbyterian Church and much of the information seems to have been copied from previous registers. The photocopy is located at the Northumberland County Historical Society, Sunbury, Pennsylvania

⁴⁴ Northumberland County, Pennsylvania, Chillisquaque Township tax duplicates & assessments, statement of assessment (1805–1812); FHL microfilm 1,449,342.

⁴⁵ Application, 24 March 1855 and declaration, 20 March 1871; Richard Ryan (Pvt., Capt. William H. Maxwell's Co., Col. Dodge's NY Regt., War of 1812); bounty land warrant file 29366; Case Files of Pension and Bounty Land Applications Based on Service between 1812 and 1855; Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Application Files, 1800–1960; Department of Veterans Affairs, Record Group 15; National Archives, Washington, D. C.

⁴⁶ Northumberland County, Pennsylvania, estate files, Box R, packet no. 41, vendue, William Ryan estate (1804); Clerk of the Orphans' Court, Sunbury.

1799–1801	Benjamin Bennet, no real estate
1801–1803	no entry exists for Bennet's
1804	Benjamin Bennet, no real estate
1805	no extant records (Note that Abraham and James attended the vendue.)
1806	Benjamin Bennet, weaver, no real estate; Abraham Bennet, weaver, 200 acres, and James Bennet, single, no real estate
1807	Abraham Bennet , weaver, 200 acres; Benjamin Bennet , weaver, no acreage or valuation entered, and James Bennet, single, no real estate
1808	no extant records
1809	James Bennet, " Sing " (The abbreviation for "Single" is stricken.)
1810	James Bennet, no real estate; Benjamin Bennet, 260 acres
1811	no extant records
1812	Benjⁿ Bennet , no real estate was entered and valuations stricken; James Bennet, no real estate
1813	James Bennet , no real estate entered and valuations stricken
1814–1815	no extant records
1816	Charles Bennet, taxed as a single freeman; James Bennet, no land

James and Charles Bennet continue to be taxed through 1825 when this study ended.⁴⁷

Identification of Benjamin Bennet can be made through his Revolutionary War pension application. He states that he was born at South River (Middlesex County), New Jersey in 1754. He was living at Tinicum Township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania when he enlisted. He went on to state that he had lived in Northumberland County "most of the time" after the Revolution. His son, Abraham Bennet, bore witness to his father's testimony.⁴⁸ Apparently, Benjamin moved to Tompkins County, New York after Abraham made his home there. **[EXHIBIT 13]**

According to the death certificate of James "Bennit," he was born 26 September 1781 at Bucks County, Pennsylvania to Benjamin and Jane Bennet and was married to "Agness."⁴⁹ There is no solid evidence as to whether this was the same Agness Ryan that was paid for tutoring the Ryan children in the estate administration of William, **[EXHIBIT 14]**

⁴⁷ Northumberland County, Pennsylvania, Turbot Township tax duplicates & assessments, entries for Benjamin, Abraham, James, and Charles Bennet (1799–1825); FHL microfilm 1,449,349.

⁴⁸ "Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files," digital images, *Fold3* (www.fold3.com : accessed 25 August 2012); declaration of Benjamin Bennet and affidavit of Abraham Bennet, 3 October 1832, Benjamin Bennet (Pvt., Capt. Thorn's Co., Gen. Potter's Brig., Bucks Co., Pa. Militia); imaged from NARA ,microfilm publication M804, no roll number given.

⁴⁹ "Pennsylvania, Deaths, 1852–1854," database and digital images, *Ancestry.com* (www.ancestry.com : 8 July 2014); Lycoming County, Pennsylvania Registration of Deaths, entry for James Benneit [*sic*] (1854).

The Buoy, Caul, and Lawcha Families, Attendees

A study of the location of William's property in Chillisquaque Township best reveals his relationship to many of the men attending the vendue. The neighborhood was known as "Irish Town." A platted aerial map is provided at the end of the exhibits demonstrating where they lived. Normally, a study of a subject's neighborhood produces a cluster of persons who were blood relations, friends, and associates that lead a trail back to their geographical origin. In this instance, William first settled in Turbot Township and despite owning land in Chillisquaque Township, did not move there until sometime between the fall of 1803 and the spring of 1804. This is reflected in the tax records.

Although he would have known his neighbors before moving there—he was a transplant. The only person that may have moved to the area with him was Richard Barclay, who lived upstream on Chillisquaque Creek. A study of his neighbors in Chillisquaque Township produced the following results:

- Peter and Dennis Caul attended the estate sale.⁵⁰ John Caul was taxed for the first time in 1794 for 100 acres. His sons, Peter, and Daniel, are also taxed that year under "Single Freemen." Dennis Caul is added as a single man in 1796, and John Caul Jr. in 1798. Peter "Call" [Caul] purchased 50 acres on Chillisquaque Creek from John Boyd and William Wilson. The deed was created on 1 January 1808, but not recorded until Peter desired to patent the land in 1839.⁵¹ The Caul family is not included in a biographical history of Northumberland County residents. In the 1850 census, he is recorded as being born in Pennsylvania; in the 1860 census, he is recorded as being born in Ireland.⁵² The Caul family does not seem to have any prior connection to William Ryan.

⁵⁰ Northumberland County, Pennsylvania, estate files, Box R, packet no. 41, vendue, William Ryan estate (1804); Clerk of the Orphans' Court, Sunbury.

⁵¹ Northumberland County, Pennsylvania, Deeds, Book AA: 705–708, John Boyd and William Wilson to Peter Call [Caul] (1 January 1808); Recorder of Deeds, Sunbury. See also, "Copied Surveys, 1681–1912 {series #17.114}," PDF, "Land Records," *Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission*, (<http://www.phmc.state.pa.us> : accessed 25 July 2014); survey for Dennis Call [Caul], Volume C-42: 169

⁵² 1850 U.S. census, Northumberland County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Chillisquaque Township, page stamped 206, dwelling/family 103, John Caul household; digital images, *Ancestry.com* (www.ancestry.com : accessed 25 September 2013); NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 804. Also, 1860 U.S. census, Northumberland County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Chillisquaque Township, Lewisburg post office (Union County), page stamped 145, dwelling 265, family 260, John Caul household; digital images, *Ancestry.com* (www.ancestry.com : accessed 25 September 2013); NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 1149.

- Dennis, Edward, and Michael Bouy were the sons of Edward Bouy who purchased 100 acres on Chillisquaque Creek by 1793 when he is first taxed.⁵³ Edward continued to be taxed for variously 100, 106, and 140 acres through the time of William's estate administration. The Bouy children do not show up in the tax records during this time. Dennis Bouy surveyed and warranted land on Chillisquaque Creek in 1839. Checking for Bouy in the 1790 federal census produces one—James Buoy. The household has three males age 16 years old or older and two under the age of 16, so James is a good candidate for John's parent or sibling.⁵⁴ Again, no previous connection to William Ryan can be made.

William Ryan's Real Property

In 1805, a *stricken* entry "Widow" Ryan in the tax duplicate was initially entered for 50 acres of the W. P. Brady survey. With evidence provided above, the creator of the tax list apparently knew of William's death and made the assumption that he left a widow.⁵⁵ [EXHIBIT 15] Joseph Forsman, the administrator, paid the tax for "widow Ryan" in 1805. Again, no widow was evident in the administration of William's estate.

Joseph Forsman paid taxes on the estate for two more years—1806 and 1807—then the land disappears from the tax lists.⁵⁶ [EXHIBITS 16–17]

The guardians of William's children should have received their share of their father's estate as they reached the age of majority.⁵⁷ No division of William's estate was recorded and in 1836 Mary Rians, the wife of John Murray and Abraham Rians asked the Orphans' Court to investigate the administration of the estate. Citations to appear were sent to Richard Barclay, guardian of Catherine and Abraham and James F. Murray, the son and executor of Thomas Murray, deceased, guardian of Mary, William, and Richard. Four attempts were made to retrieve the case file from the Registrar's Office at the courthouse in Sunbury. The case was not found in the court records. However, its location is extremely high and requires a ladder to be raised by county personnel behind the Criminal Court clerks. This limited an extensive search although four attempts were made.

⁵³ Northumberland County, Pennsylvania, estate files, Box R, packet no. 41, vendue, William Ryan estate (1804); Clerk of the Orphans' Court, Sunbury.

⁵⁴ 1790 U.S. census, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania, Southwark Township (south side of Shippen Street), page 360, line 4, James Buoy, household; digital images, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com : accessed 25 September 2013)

⁵⁵ Northumberland County, Pennsylvania, Chillisquaque Township tax duplicates & assessments, entry for Widow Ryan (1805); FHL microfilm 1,449,342.

⁵⁶ Northumberland County, Pennsylvania, Chillisquaque Township tax assessment, entries for Joseph Forsman (1806 and 1807); FHL microfilm 1,449,342.

⁵⁷ *Laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania ...* (Philadelphia: John Bioren, 1810), 3: 143–145, "An Act directing the descent of intestates' real estate [1794]," Chapter 1740, § 3 ; PDF, "Smith's Laws" *Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Legislative Reference Bureau* (www.palrb.us/smithlaws/17001799/1794/0/act/1740.pdf : accessed 24 September 2011).

THE CHILLISQUASQUE TOWNSHIP TRACT

Although no deeds exist for land that William purchased or sold in Northumberland County, his 50-acre parcel can be located by platting the land of the neighbors that attended his vendue.

- On 2 October 1802 Samuel Boyd of Chillisquaque Township gave power of attorney to “my trusty, and loving friend *John Lawshe [Lawsha]*” to collect debts and payments from Thomas Grant, William Stedman, James Stedman, and heirs of Jacob Cook, deceased and to obtain clear title to tract of land situated in Chillisquaque Township on 31 August 1802.
- *John Boyd* Esq. of Sunbury and William Wilson of Chillisquaque Township sold *Peter Call [Caul]* a tract on Chillisquaque Creek on 1 January 1808. This was the same 50 2/10 acre tract sold by Josiah Haines to Boyd and Wilson on 10 October 1791 and bounded by Dennis Caul and Michael Bouy.
- On 27 March 1810 a survey was created for 53 acres and 148 perches on Chillisquaque Creek out of the Lawrence Boor survey for *Denis Call [Caul]*.
- Robert Irwin, Sherriff, sold to *Richard Barclay* by a Court decree against James Murray by Catherine Yough. 350 acres
- William P. Brady of Indiana County, Pennsylvania sold *Joseph Forsman* 75 acres and 53 perches acres on 13 August 1815. This is the survey most likely mistaken for the location of William’s parcel on the 1805 tax records where it is noted that he owned the original survey. The date in 1815 does not mean that Joseph Forsman did not own the property beforehand.
- *Dennis Bouy* surveyed 52 acres and 59 perches out of the 300 ½ acre survey of Lawrence Boor on 24 October 1839. The survey clearly shows the size, shape and relationship of the parcel to Chillisquaque Creek.

The results of platting the original surveys for the area known locally as “Irish Town” led to only one possibility for the location of William’s land. **[EXHIBITS 18–21]**

CONCLUSION

William Ryan's settlement in Northumberland County seemed to occur about 1803 initially. When his probable father-in-law arrived, Benjamin Bennet, it became clear that William had lived at least five years in Turbot Township before moving building a house and moving to his land in Chillisquaque Township. The "cluster" of family, associates, and family that should have surrounded William in Chillisquaque was almost non-existent. This became very clear when platting the his land. Instead, Turbot Township played an important part in his family's life and William's estate demonstrated that except for one Agnes Ryan, his relatives consisted entirely of Bennet's. Agnes's status as a widow or spinster has not be identified.

Why William stayed in Turbot Township while his land was in Chillisquaque Township to the south probably revolves around meeting the needs of his wife. William's last child, Richard B. Ryan, reported as Richard Bennet Ryan by his children, was born in 1798. His wife's name is unknown, but an incapacitating illness or her death after Richard's birth could have kept the family from moving to their property in Chillisquaque. Benjamin Bennet arrived at about the same time as William. A weaver by trade, Benjamin owned almost no property. William may have purchased the land on Chillisquaque Creek before moving his family there. It was a wonderful location with fertile land. His plan was surely to build an abode and live on the property when he arrived. It is likely that his wife died when Richard was born, as they did not move until Richard was five or six years old. Unfortunately, he lived only about one more year.

In addition to the Bennet's, Gabriel Vansant, the son of Cornelius Vansant of Bucks County had moved to Chillisquaque Township before the 1798. Richard Barclay, the guardian chosen by William's oldest children, was the son of James Barclay of Warrington Township, Bucks County. Examination of Benjamin Bennet, leads to Tinicum Township, Bucks County. Research now moves to that location to explore his origin and find his parents.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

The Northumberland County research led to the conclusion that William was from Bucks County and migrated to Northumberland County by 1798. There are multiple William Ryans living in Bucks County. The next phase of the project will begin with examination of probate, land, and tax assessments. These include the 1790 federal census and 1798 Federal Direct tax records in Bucks County to see if he is present before he moved. The research will most likely spill over into Philadelphia County, where the family probably entered the country.

Correlating the events, place and time of Bucks and Northumberland County Bennet and Ryan families, along with their neighbors and associates, is a must. There was a migration pattern to Northumberland County from Bucks County and a migration to Bucks County from Philadelphia County. To help confuse matters there are at least five known William Ryan's in Bucks County during the pre-1798 years so an organized comparison is a must.