

LINVILLE ROOTS

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TRACES OF FIRST STEPS IN THE NEW LAND

In the last few issues of "Linville Roots" we have concentrated on the roots of our family in England in the 17th century. When the Linvilles and their allied families left England, they began a chain of events from which we all have benefited, both individually and collectively as a culture.

Life in England, to the emigrants, apparently seemed to offer limited possibilities. Whether because of the constraints of religious laws or the lack of potential for owning some control over food, shelter and work, they chose to take the enormous risks of crossing the Atlantic. The risks apparently surpassed the oppression felt in England. While those may have been the external pressures that precipitated the move, there were likely internal ones as well having to do with why they and not others made the choice. The evidence is clear that life improved, despite the rough and primitive conditions that they faced in Penn's new "experiment."

Over the next year and half, I hope to be focusing on the family structures of those families who came to the Upland Settlement in 1682 and examine what changes are evident in their family structure from that in England. We tend to think that the nuclear family has been the bulwark of civilization, while in actuality, only in the last 150 years has the concept even been one which could be clearly identified. Before that our ancestors chiefly lived in extended or communal families.

This fall my daughter and I took a trip down to the Chester Creek again, retracing our steps taken during the 1982 Linville Reunion. This time, I knew exactly where John Linvill had lived in Chester (see map below), and had gained a deeper understanding of life along the Creek in Chester which served as the first capitol of the province. So little remains of the evidence of anyone's life in that time and place, with the notable exception of the Caleb Pusey house which is a true testament to the middle-class life in the experiment. Despite the lack of living proof, the place has a particular aura for me now since I know who Mary is, know where all her children lived, where she placed her mark on the court house door to marry Thomas Baldwin, where she and

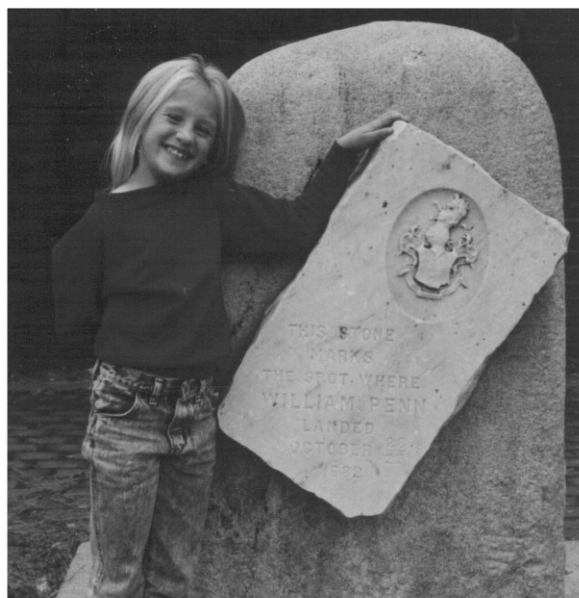
her two boys first stepped on the shores of the experiment, where her children, except son John Linvill, were baptized and married.

As the project to determine and document all of her descendants in the first five generations continues, let's look at the life Mary (Hart) Linvill Baldwin left behind in England.

MARY (HART) LINVILL BALDWIN

Mary arrived in Penn's Colony before 20 Oct 1683. She disembarked from the ship in the Delaware River and then journeyed by boat to the mouth of Chester Creek where she stepped foot on Robert and Lydia Wade's land in Chester, the place where William Penn would have been greeted as well.

This stone
marks
the spot where
William Penn
landed
October
1682



Caitlin Elizabeth Eddy
William Penn's Landing, Chester, PA
October 1988

The stone, set up over a century ago, has been moved back from the water front to make room for a manufacturing concern along the Delaware River. A park was created to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the landing and the stone moved there shortly after the Linvill Reunion in 1982. It is flanked on the north by Chester Creek and the south by a row of rooming houses. The center of town, the court house and the site of the original St. Paul's Church and Old Swede's Burying Ground were across the creek and up a block. Only the cemetery remains and

although reasonably maintained the stones are on the verge of extinction.

H. G. Ashmead in his *History of Delaware County, Pennsylvania* (Philadelphia, 1884. Reprint Concord Twp His. Soc., 1968) describes what the settlement was like before the arrival of the English settlers and then adds that with the influx of immigrants,

Habitations could not be erected quickly enough to supply the demand, even where the simple form of building suggested by Penn was constructed, and many families sought shelter in great trees, while others of the new-comers were compelled, in many instances, to dig caves in the ground, near the river-bank and those of the creeks, wherein they took up their abode until they could construct permanent habitations. These caves were mere excavations or cellars in the bank, and were about three feet in depth, while over these openings brush was placed so as to form an arched roof about six feet in the clear, which was covered with sods The sufferings of these settlers were great, for it should be remembered that most of them were "not people of low circumstances, but substantial livers," and in the work of constructing these rude habitations women who had been used to all the refinements and comforts of English life at that day were compelled to take part, and aided their husbands and fathers therein, for hired labor was scarce and could hardly be had at any price. (p. 179)

Mary would have likely felt more comfortable about the demands placed on her since her early life had been anything but that of a "substantial liver," being the descendant of two generations of non-landed laborers. But it is likely that after her marriage to Richard Linville in 1672 she may have acquired an acquaintance of substantial living under the benefaction of Humphrey Killingbeck in Bolney where the family apparently lived before emigration [See "Linville Roots," Vol. 3 No. 2; Vol. 4 No. 1]. She apparently was in a position to request a survey of 100 acres after her arrival (see below) which suggests she did not come as a servant.

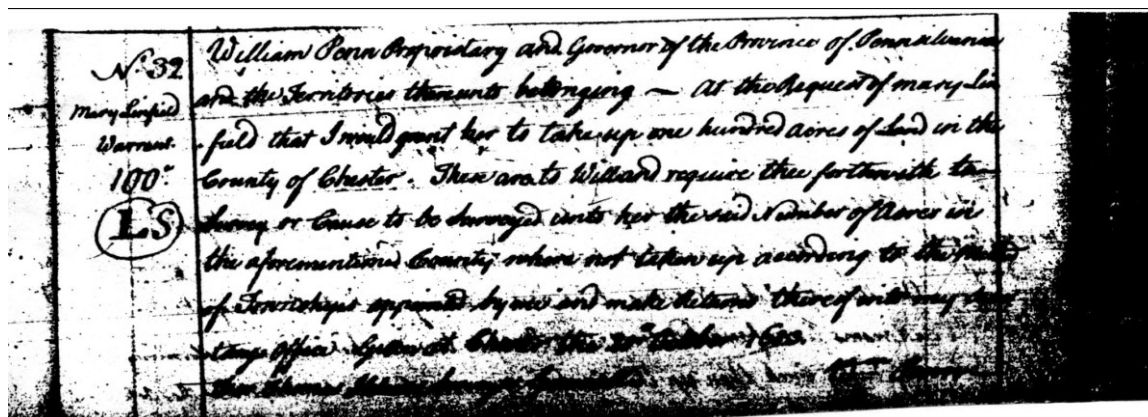
Those Linvilles who attended the 1982 Reunion in Media will remember the house of Caleb Pusey which stands as the only extant dwelling from the 17th century in Pennsylvania. Here is how Ashmead describes the dwellings which Thomas Baldwin and new wife Mary (Hart) Linville and later her sons Thomas and John Linvill would have erected on their land flanking Chester Creek just above Caleb Pusey's Mill.

The log cabins of the early settlers were generally built on low ground for a twofold purpose, to be near a spring of water and for the protection from the bleak and piercing winds of winter. In

the construction of these habitations the logs were notched together at the corners, which after being raised were hewn down both inside and outside, while the spaces between the logs were filled in or "chinked" with stones or wood, and then plastered over with mortar or clay. The roofs were covered with oak shingles. Locks in ordinary use were unknown; the doors were opened by strings, which on being pulled from the outside raised heavy wooden latches within, to which they were made fast, and intrusion was prevented when the inmates pulled the latch-strings in at the outer doors. From this common practice originated the ancient saying descriptive of generous hospitality, "The latch-string is always out." The chimneys of the English settlers were of immense size, frequently - capable of receiving a cord-wood stick, in those days when wood was abundant and the cold intense. Frequently, too, benches would be placed at either side of the chimney so that persons could seat themselves near to and enjoy the blaze, particularly when the heat therefore to a large percentage was drawn up the stack. (p. 179)

MARY'S REQUEST FOR GRANT OF 100 ACRES

Upon her arrival in Upland (later called Chester) Mary Linfield, one of the variations of spelling the name, requested of William Penn on 20 October 1683 that he "grant her to take up one hundred acres of land in the County of Chester. These acres to Will and require thee forthwith to Survey or Cause to be Surveyed unto her the said Number of Acres in the aforementioned County where not taken up according to the _____ of Townships appointed by me and make Returns thereof with my Secretary's Office." [Pennsylvania Warrants and Surveys LDS Family History Library Film # 020,886 - Chester County "L" No. 32 p. 292] The request was passed on to Thomas Holmes, Surveyor General. However, no survey has been yet located and the Warrant for it is not indicated as it is for other requests. Research continues on the task of locating it and other requests granted in Chester about the same time to group the Linvills with others and thereby try to identify exactly when they



arrived in the Colony.

It is possible that Mary never pursued the warrant because by early next spring she posted her name on the Court House Door with the intent of marrying Thomas Baldwin in accordance with the laws agreed upon by Penn in England:

That all marriages (not forbidden by the law of God, as to the nearness of blood and affinity by marriage) shall be encouraged; but the parents or guardians shall be first consulted, and it shall be solemnized by taking one another as husband and wife before credible witnesses, and a certificate of the whole, under the hands of parties and witnesses, shall be brought to the proper Register of the county Under the administration of Governor Fletcher the notice of an intended marriage must be posted on the meeting or court-house door one full month before the ceremony was performed, and when solemnized it must be in the presence of at least twelve persons. (Ashmead p. 83)

For as much as Thomas Baldwin & Mary Lin
of Chester in Pennsylvania, have according to a law
put up a writing upon the Court House Door to signi
fy their Marriage each with other which hath been done and
abovesaid for the space of a whole Month Legally
any why they should not proceed in their Intended
in front of their Relations or nearest Friends & Kindred
month being the 7th day of the week before and in
Sufficient Witnesses they Solemnly took each other
wherein Michael Izard lately dwelt in the County
whereof now the abovesaid parties have subscribed our names

The mark of Thomas
The mark of Mary

Christopher Taylor, Register General
witnesses to the same 22: as by the said order of Marriage

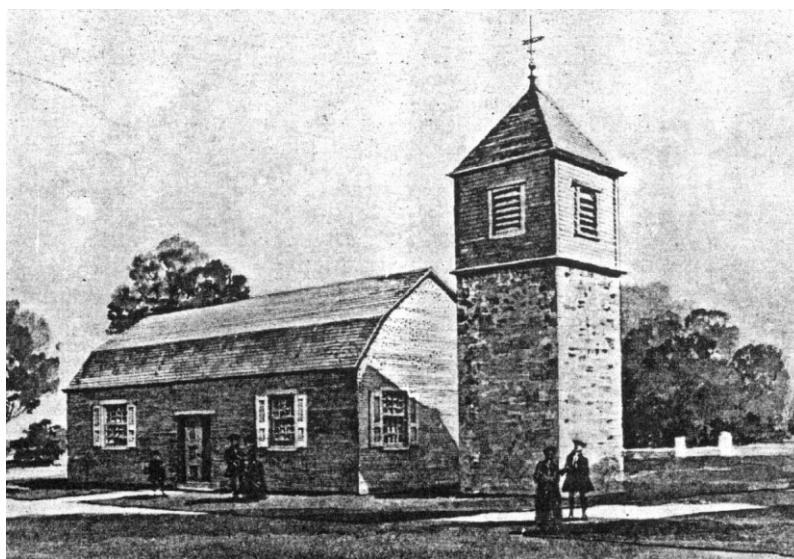
For as much as Thomas Baldwin and Mary Lin.... [vill]
of Chester in Pennsylvania have according to a law... [put]
up a writing upon the Court House Door to signi ... [fy]
Marriage each with other which hath been done and
abovesaid for the space of a whole Month Legally [notifying?]
any why they should not proceed in their Intended
in front of their Relations or nearest friends and Kindr...
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While there may have been a "Quaker form" of the certificate indicating the 22 people who were witnesses none has been located. Thomas and Mary had all of their children baptized in St. Paul's Church of Chester after its formation in 1703.

While in Pennsylvania in October, I had the opportunity to look at the typescript of the St. Paul's Church records which includes baptisms, marriages and deaths. Indeed all of the Baldwin children's baptisms, Thomas Linvill's baptism as an adult and marriage to Dinah Richards and the marriages of many of the Baldwin children can be found in these records. Conspicuously missing is the baptism of John Linvill as an adult and his and half-brother Thomas Baldwin, Jr.'s marriage. Thomas Baldwin, Jr. was married in a Quaker ceremony and moved with his in-laws, the Hendricks family, and his half-brother John Linvill to Conestoga by 1715. But why John's marriage/s are missing is still a mystery. The religious history of Chester includes a major controversy about a Rev. Keith who was a Quaker and eventually ousted to become an Anglican minister to the Colonies. It is perhaps in this controversy that some indication of John's activities can be determined. Although no church records have yet come to light dealing with him, he did spawn a large number of itinerant ministers on the move south and west. Research continues on this first generation in the Colonies with an intense focus of the geographic areas surrounding Chester - church

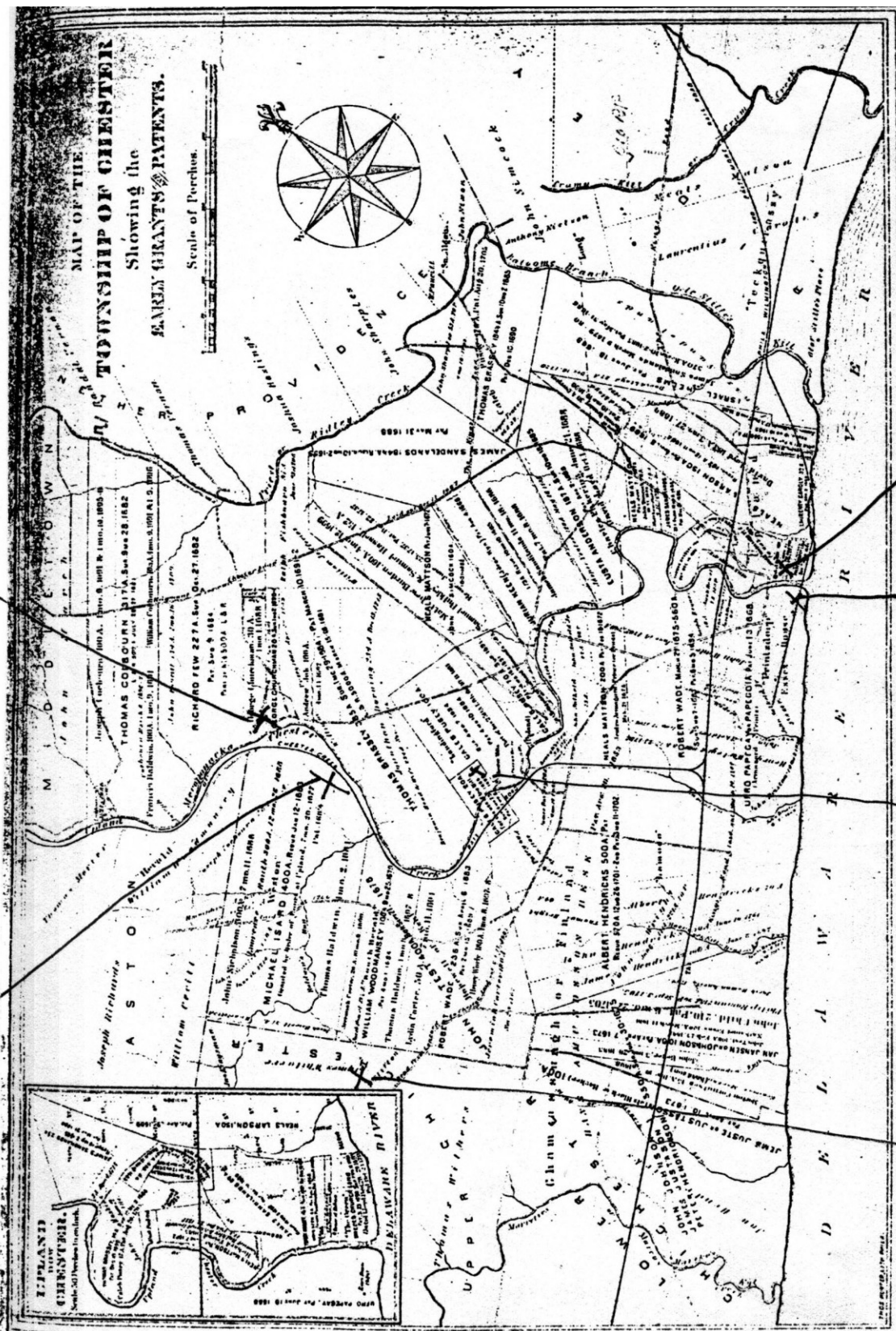


records in Chadd's Ford, PA, Cecil County Delaware and Salem County New Jersey.

Saint Paul's Church, 1703 - Bell Tower Added 1745

Thomas Baldwin Sr's land 1684-1731

John Linvill's land 1702-1716



OTHER LINVILLE MARRIAGES

Elizabeth Wilson, of Sacramento, CA wrote me about the possibility of earlier marriages for two of Solomon Linvill and Mary Passmore's children. *LFA* includes details of this family on page 52-53 supplied from the Family Bible of John Alvin Linvill in possession of the H. Cyrus and Irene Linvill in Neodesha, KA. Not being aware of earlier marriages is a common occurrence in many families, especially when divorce or death and distant migration is involved. It appears clear from the material Elizabeth sent that some of Solomon's descendants were not known to others in the family. The following information comes from John L. Wilson's Family Bible in possession of Elizabeth Wilson and oral history in the family she has collected, including that Solomon's middle initial was "A".

- 1 Frances Amelia Linville was born in Lancaster PA (12 Mar) 1829 to Solomon and Mary (Passmore) Linvill and first married John Patterson Wilson 4 Feb 1855 who died 26 Nov 1861 in Keokuk IA. He was a physician and the son of Isaac Greer Wilson and Mary Ann Patterson. When Isaac died in 1888, his estate indicated that not only had his son John had married a Linville, but his daughter Rebecca Ann had also married a Linville and had an heir, John S(?) Linville, who was listed as her heir having been born Sept. 1862 in Brownell, KS. Frances' second marriage was to George Paris Ellis, whom she married after John Wilson's death.

CHILDREN OF FRANCIS AMELIA LINVILLE AND JOHN PATTERSON WILSON

- Leonidas Greer Wilson b. 21 Nov 1855 What Cheer, IA; d. 4 Jul 1895 Araphoe, NE. He married Marcia Alice Smith, dau of John Marshall and Sarah (_____) Smith. She was b. 11 Feb. 1858 West Liberty, OH and d. 15 No 1931 Remsen, IA. They had three children: Bertha Louisa Wilson, Howard Patterson Wilson and Elgar Earnest Wilson.
- Mary Ann Louisa Wilson b. 31 Jan 1857; d. 1879
- Elewellyn Augustus Wilson b. 27 Oct 1858; d. 3 Mar 1947. Married twice but had no children
- Lorenzo Linville Wilson b. 28 Apr 1860; married Ella Morgaridge who was the widow of Solomon Linville Ellis, son of Frances Amelia Linville and her second husband George Paris Ellis.

CHILDREN OF FRANCIS AMELIA LINVILLE AND GEORGE PARIS ELLIS

- Margaret Ellis b Nov 1863 d. 1865
- Solomon Linville Ellis b. 26 Feb. 1865 killed by lightening in Cherry Co., NE 31 May 1905. As mentioned above, he had married to Ella Morgaridge and had eight children including Linville and Robert Ellis.

- Avis Amelia Ellis b. 8 Feb 1867. She married George Bourke and had four children: Nellie A., George, Frances (see picture) and Eugene. Avis married twice more before her death but there were no additional children.
- Davis Ellis d. at age 15 months
- Robert Theodore Ellis b. 16 Dec 1869
- Mabel Estelle Ellis who married Fred Deuell and has a daughter Mary who married _____ Swanson.

Francis Amelia Linville Wilson
Ellis dau of Solomon and Mary
(Passmore) Linvill and her
daughter Avis Amelia Ellis
Bourke and granddaughter
Frances Bourke



Though no specific piece of evidence indicates so, it seems highly possible that one of Frances Amelia Linvill's brothers, perhaps Lorenzo Arthur Linvill, was the husband of John Patterson Wilson's sister Rebecca Ann (born 25 Jun 1842) who had a son John Linvill born in 1861 before her death. *LFA* p. 58 indicates another marriage to a Matilda for Lorenzo that might have occurred after Rebecca's death. Lorenzo was in the right area and the rest of Frances Amelia's brothers seem too well identified to suggest them as possible husbands. In addition, this John Linville later married and named children Edith, Lorenzo, Joy, Grace and Floss.

NEW CLUES FOR MISCELLANEOUS LINVILLES

Imogene Millican, Oklahoma City, OK has supplied some interesting possible connections which would bring Moody Moses Linville [*LFA* p. 404] and the Wayne Co. Illinois Linvilles [*LFA* p. 394-5] into the Moses Linville of Surry Co., NC branch [p. 175-195). The clue comes from the 1880 Federal Census of Wayne Co., IL where a Moses Linville, Jr., age 26 (born 1854 in Tennessee with both parents born in Tennessee) and wife Sara age 18 (parents born in England with no children in the household yet). It seems highly possible that this Moses is actually the Moody Moses Linville on p. 404 since all of the birth and marriage information seems to fit.

This same Moses is likely the same one listed in the household of Moses Linville born 1816 in Tennessee but residing in 1860 in Macon Co., Tenn [along with Henry Linville and J.M. Linville] and 1870 in Wayne Co., IL. The only other Moody Linville which appears in *LFA* (p. 189) is the son of Jasper M. (Moody?) Linville, brother to Aaron Hart Linville, Imogene's Linville ancestor.

Both Leland Moses Linville (p. 405), Moody Moses Linville's son and Aaron Hart Linville had twins named Jessie and Bessie (born 1922 and 1892 respectively). Bessie born in 1892 was inadvertently omitted from *LFA*. Both Leland and Aaron also named daughter Novella. More work in Tennessee records will help to bring Moses, son of Thomas Linville's descendants more in focus [Aug 1999: Research on the several Moses lines continues].

PETER LINVILLE

As reported in the last edition of *Linville Roots*, work continues to progress on identifying Peter's ancestor. In addition to the list of soldiers paid with Peter for service in Lord Dunmore's War and the 1787 tax records, I have added the Virginia Neck Land Grants to the compilation. Francis and William Baldwin, possibly the sons of Thomas Baldwin, Jr., lived in the area as did several other former residents of Conestoga. I now have placed most of these people geographically in the Shenandoah Valley in the 1750-1770s and hope to spend time with the Frederick County Court Records to see what they reveal. The tax records also provide some leads to Peter's wife's ancestors.

Acknowledgment of the excellent research work conducted by Louise Mestel of Lewes, Sussex, England is gratefully given for the material in the last 2 issues.

Subsequent errata from this original publication:
None available.