LINVILLE ROOTS

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PROGRESS ON THE FIVE GENERATION PROJECT

Nearly all of my time on Linville research in the last year has been consumed by focusing on minutia in southeastern Pennsylvania. This includes what is now the state of Delaware, but was considered the lower counties of Pennsylvania until the Revolution. While I have made many new, fascinating discoveries, none change the major assertions made in *Linville Family in America* (1982), but rather flesh out, year-by-year, and often date-by-date, what our Linville ancestors were doing. More female children have come to light as well and I am hot on the trail of Peter Linville's connection, although can't say anything definitive yet [Aug 1999 – See "Linville Roots," Vol. 6].

Two of the biggest points of focus have been in the use of tax records, which here-to-fore have been presented in a less than complete fashion; and the details of the metes and bounds of land records. Both can be used to suggest family relationships where no other documents exist to suggest them. The two 1989 issues of "Linville Roots" will focus on those aspects of research so you can follow along with me and perhaps learn some techniques to apply to other lines in your ancestry.

Using land records, I am now ready to suggest that John Linvill, son of Richard and Mary (Hart) Linvill, was married three times. His first wife was the mother of Thomas, she dying before 1704; second to the mother of William, she dying before 1715; and third to Ann ______, perhaps the mother of other children, namely a Lydia Linvill who married Samuel Richey 10 Aug 1736 in Holy Trinity Church in Wilmington, Delaware; and Alice ("Allee") who married Joseph Bryan in Virginia in the 1740s. The possibility of three wives occurs because no wife signs off on dower's rights in either 1704 or 1715 when John sold his only land, and there is a gap in land ownership between 1704 and 1709. More about that in the next issue.

Tax records help in a different direction when you can gather all of those extant.

SOLVING GENEALOGICAL PROBLEMS WITH TAX RECORDS

One technique for determining relationships between family members when no document specifically defines them, is through tax records. Three things have to be known, however, to do this. The first is the age at which a person (most always male in the colonial period) could be taxed; second, the year of the tax record; and third the location. At times, the amount of the tax, in relationship to that of others, can provide a clue as well. Since Linvilles seemed to be pedantic about avoiding paper bureaucracy and not leaving wills, estates or land records, the tax record becomes a sometimes year-by-year chronology of their presence in a location and the probable years of births for their male progeny.

What follows is a more up-dated accounting of the first three generations of the Linvilles in Pennsylvania using only tax records. Naturally, other documents need to be placed in context with those presented here and years for which no tax records remain extant cause some problem in interpreting the results. To provide some clarity, I have included explanations from SOME, not all, of the other primary source material collected to date. The chart on page 13 of The *Linville Family in America* (1982) will help you follow along in identifying these men.

1693 and 1696 Chester, PA

Chester's first taxes were noted in 1693 and 1696. The 1693 provincial tax was 1 penny per pound on estates and six shillings per head on freemen who had to be 18 years at that time. Neither John nor Thomas Linville owned land or had reached the taxable age of 18 years by 1693 and do not appear on the list although step-father Thomas Baldwin appears in Chester Township.

The 1696 tax is no longer fully extant and although both were likely 18 by then, this tax was only for land owners so they wouldn't have appeared on the tax list.

1703 Chester County PA

Land owners were listed according to their acreage in 1703. John Linvill had bought 58 acres of Chichester Township land from James Swafer and should have appeared on the 1703 list, but doesn't. John sold this land, without a wife signing off on dower's right, to James Whitaker in 1704. Why John doesn't appear on the list is still a mystery although the land he owned seems identifiable as part of 280 acres taxed under the joint name of James Swafer and John Wollin. More about that in the next issue on land records.

1715 Provincial Tax

A tax of one penny in a pound of value and 4 shillings per poll, was collected by the Province in 1715, but by this time, a male resident (or voting poll) had to be between 21 and 60 years of age to be taxed. Those unmarried were called "freemen" after they became 21. Inmates were married men not owning land. The following Chester County tax list information is located on microfilm at the Chester County Archives in West Chester, PA and photocopies of the originals at the Chester County Historical Society also in West Chester.

Chester Rate	Upper Chichester Rate
John Linvill	Thomas Linvill

1718-1727 Chester County Tax

During this period Chester County included all of what are now Lancaster and York counties. Conestoga is in the western part of Chester County, just south of the present-day city of Lancaster. Upper Chichester is back in the eastern portion of the county – the original township in which the Linvilles and Baldwins lived. Therefore, John, the young immigrant has moved west and Thomas, his brother, is still in the original location along Chester Creek.

	Conestoga	Upper Chichester
1718	John Linvill	Thomas Linvill
1719	John Linvill	Thomas Linvill
1720	John Linvill	Thomas Linvill
1721	John Linvill	Thomas Linvill
1722	John Linvill	Thomas Linvill
1724	John Linvill	Thomas Linvill
	Thomas Linvill -freeman	

[Analysis: John’s eldest son, Thomas, just turned 21, making him taxable and he is not married. Thus he was born between 1701-3. No tax was collected in 1723, so we don't know whether he would have been on that list or not. Brother Thomas, married in 1714, has no males who have reached 21.]

1725	Thomas Linvill - freeman	Thomas Linvill

[Analysis: John Linvill's name doesn't appear on the 1725 list as does son Thomas’s. However, a part of the list is torn, eliminating several surnames right in the spot where his name, along with five or six others, would be expected. The tax on the line that could be his is consistent with his tax amount the year before and the year after. Thus it is reasonable to assume he really was on the list before it was torn. Brother Thomas still has no males who have reached 21.]

1726	John Linvill	Thomas Linvill
	Thomas Linvill - freeman	

[Analysis: The appearance of John again on this list would support the above speculation about his "non" appearance on the precious one rather than suggest that this is a son, John. The amount of tax and his status as a married resident provides additional support. In addition, Thomas Linvill, son of John, is still not married by 1726 and no other sons of John's have turned 21. John's brother Thomas has no males who have reached 21.]

Taxes in Chester County after 1728

In 1729 Lancaster County was created from Chester County, putting Conestoga, where John Linvill and his son Thomas lived, in Lancaster County. The tax lists for Lancaster are no longer extant until 1750, making it impossible to speculate further on John's family, **only using tax records**. However, both the Chester County taxes which remain throughout the 19th century, and Lancaster's later tax lists, help identify the descendants of John Linvill's brother, the immigrant Thomas Linvill of Upper Chichester. The Lancaster County tax lists are on microfilm at the Lancaster County Historical Society in Lancaster PA.

<u>Upper Chichester Township</u>

1729 Thomas Linvill
1730 Thomas Linvill
1732 Thomas Linvill
1734 - none
1735 - none
1737 - none
1739 - none

[Analysis: We can determine from other records that Thomas Linvill, the immigrant, was alive in 1733 and in 1737 when he sold land. A land reference (filed 140 years later) indicates that he was definitely alive on 30 Dec 1739 when he received a quit claim from John and Ruth Worrall – his in-laws. The deed (Delaware County Bk H-5, p. 242-3 makes it clear he is the same Thomas Linvill who acquired the land in 1713). Thomas's non-appearance on the lists from the 1730s might suggest that he was considered too old to be taxed given his economic circumstances although he wouldn't have been 60 until 1739. Often townships made such decisions. But, he certainly wouldn't have been taxed after 1739.]

<u>Aston Township</u>

1740 Thomas Linvill-freeman
Joseph Linvill-freeman

[Analysis: It is readily apparent that this Thomas in 1740 is an unmarried 21-year-old, therefore, the son of the elder Thomas. Joseph is not only a probable brother, but a possible TWIN (remember that grandmother Mary had had two sets of twins, the first ones named Thomas and Joseph). According to the date of the taxes in 1739/40 and 1740/1, there are barely 10 months between the accountings, which strongly suggests that Thomas and Joseph came of age at the same time. They were now in Aston township, just to the north of Upper Chichester [see map]. Their parents, Thomas Linvill and Dinah Richards were married in 1713/14, making it likely that girls were their first born children, and Thomas and Joseph would have been born in 1719.]

1747 This is the next tax which leaves a large gap of seven years during which we have no tax clues to go on. In addition, the Linvills in Chester County have spread out a bit more.

Upper Chichester	Darby	Uwchlan
Thomas Linvill	William Linvill freeman	Joseph Linvill inmate

[Analysis: Thomas, son of Thomas, was married as of 1746, according to Chester County land records involving his in-laws, the Scarletts. Since he is not referred to as "Jr." in any of the land records, we can assume that father Thomas was no longer living. Joseph Linvill has moved farther out to the northwest portion of the county and is married but doesn't own land, and William Linvill has turned 21 between 1740 and 1747, making his birth date between 1720-1726 and he is not yet married.]

1749	Upper Chichester	Darby	Uwchlan
	none	William Linvill	Joseph Linvill -inmate

[Analysis: No other males have yet reached majority and Thomas (Jr.) has moved to Lancaster County according to his wife, Ann Scarlett's land records. Lancaster tax lists are not extant until the next year, 1750. William is not specified as being unmarried, but we know from other records that he was married by 1753. Perhaps he had an earlier wife who died. Joseph Linvill is married, but still does not own land.]

1750	Upper Chichester	Darby	Uwchlan
	Edward Linvill (I)	William Linvill	Joseph Linvill (I)

[Analysis: Edward is now 21, making him born 1728-9, and not yet married or a landowner. Thomas has moved to Lancaster County (see below). This is the last time Joseph Linvill appears in either the Lancaster or Chester tax records and instead appears in Berks County, by 1755, just southwest of Reading near where Daniel Boone was born in 1750.]

Chester, Lancaster and Berks Tax Records After 1751

The following are the tax listings for Linvill/Linville (various spellings). There are Chester County tax lists after 1763 which have not yet been read. A ---- indicates that no list exists for that year. An (F) indicates he is a freeman and an (I) an inmate.

Chester County		Lancaster County (Created 1729 from Chester County)	Berks County (Created 1752 from Lancaster)
DARBY	UPPER CHICHESTER	SADSBURY	CUMRU
1751 ----	----	Thomas	----
1753 William	Edward (F)	Thomas	----
1754 William	Edward	Thomas	----
1755 ----	----	Thomas	Joseph
1756 William	Edward	Thomas	----
1757 William	Edward	Thomas	----
1758 William	Edward	Thomas	Joseph
1759 ----	----	Thomas	----
1760 William	Edward	----	Joseph
1762 William	Edward	----	----
1763 William	Edward	----	----
1765 William	Edward	----	----
1766 William (I)	Edward	Thomas abated*	----
1767 William	Edward	----	----
1768 (not all	Edward	Thomas	----
1768 read)	Edward	Thomas	----
1769	Edward	Thomas	----
1771	Edward	Thomas	----
1772	----	Thomas	----
1773	----	Thomas	Isaac (F)
1774	Edward	----	Isaac (F)
1775	----	----	Isaac (F)
1776	----	Thomas, William	----
1777	----	incomplete	----
1778	----	Thomas, William	Isaac(Heid. twp)
1779	Edward (I) John (F)	William	Isaac, Benj. (F)
1780	Edward (I) John (F)	William	Isaac, Benjamin
1781	Edward (I) John (F)	William	Isaac, Benj. (F)
1782	not read	William	Isaac, Benj. (F)

* Documentation for this is found in the manuscript collection of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania Miscellaneous Lancaster County #161 under Thomas Linvill which states that his tax was abated for being the collector of the King's tax for the township. The William who appears in 1776 in Lancaster County is Thomas' son, not the William of Darby who was still having children in 1773. This is the period of time during the Revolution and some of William of Darby’s descendants began moving out to the Lancaster/Chester border during that period. But, we can assume that William of Darby was might have still been in Chester County whose tax records have not been thoroughly read after 1763.

Lancaster County Taxes after 1782 - Sadsbury Township only

Only one tax record for a Linvill exists in Berks County after 1781 and that is for Joseph Linvill, a freeman in 1785. The picture of tax records could be more complete if other townships in Lancaster were read, particularly Salisbury (Salsbury) and those for Chester County after 1763. The importance here is the appearance of Isaac, apparent son of Joseph, who seems was taxed in both Berks and Lancaster in 1782 and is referred to in William (Sr.)'s will of 1813 as his cousin. There are actually three William Linvilles here at least in 1786 and they are more easily identified by the amount of land they were taxed for. Room did not permit the reporting for that here, but from the tax and land records we can cautiously assert that: William (Jr.) was son of Thomas and Ann (Scarlett) Linville; father Thomas either died in 1778-9 (or now age 60 –b. 1718/19) and tax on his land, which had been his wife Ann's inheritance, was then taken over by their son William. The other two Williams were William [Sr.] of Darby who apparently moved out to Lancaster by 1786 and his son William who moved earlier became 21 and a freeman by 1783. Although the terms “Jr.” and Sr.” were not used only to identify father and son, but regularly used to distinguish an elder relative from a younger one. However, the post 1763 Chester tax lists and at least the Salisbury township tax records for Lancaster need to be read before determining anything further. In the list that follows, "F" continues to stand for freeman old enough to vote (21) and not married or owning land, and "I" for inmate - a voter, married, not owning land.

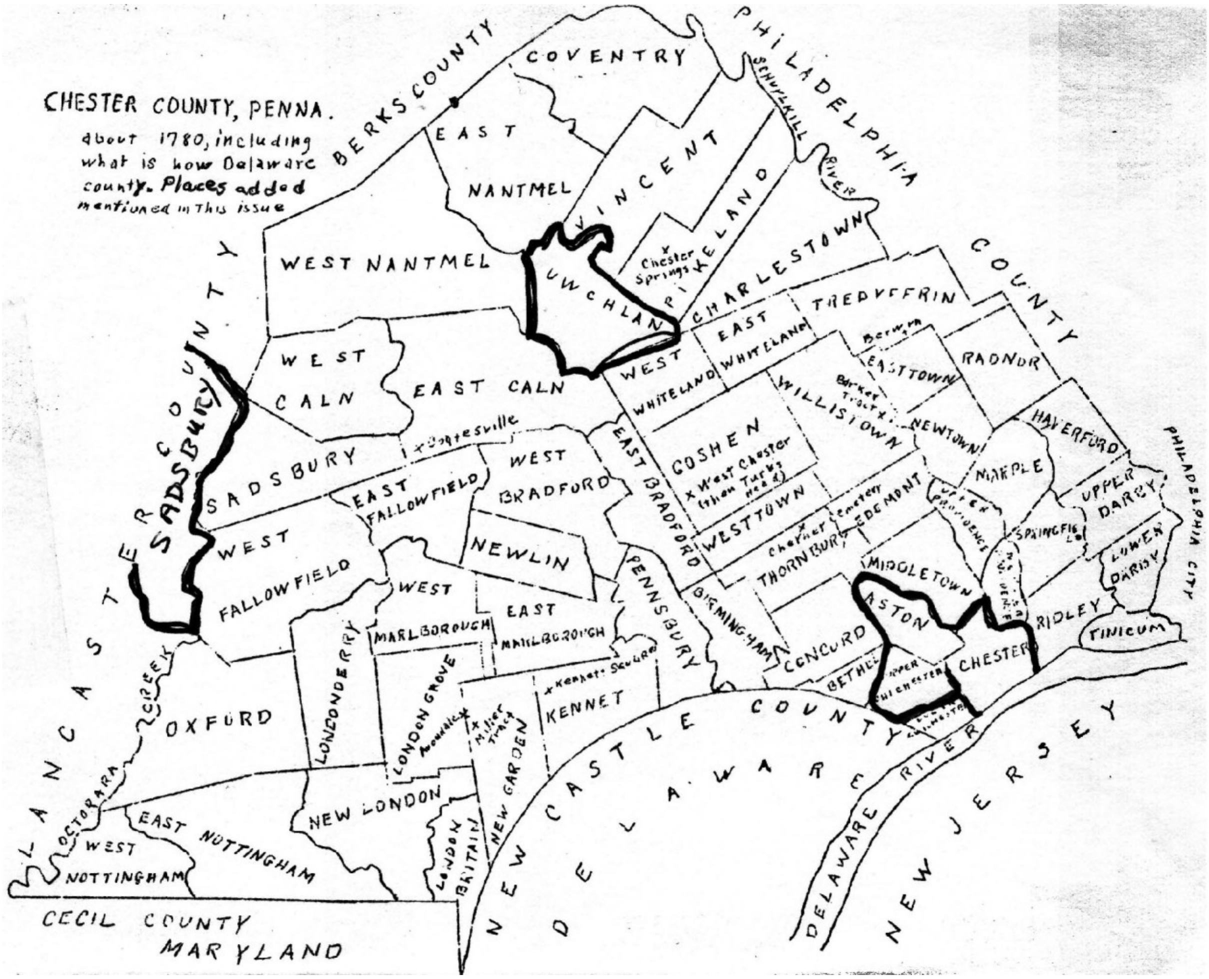
1782	William	Isaac				
1783	William	Isaac		William (F)		
1785	William	Isaac		(incomplete tax records)		
1786	William Sr.	Isaac	William Jr.	William (F)	Thomas (F)	
1787	William	Isaac				
1788	William	Isaac				
1789	William				Thomas (F)	Arthur (F)
1790	William			William	Thomas (F)	Arthur (F)
1791	William				Thomas (F)	Arthur (F)
1792	William			William Jr.	Thomas (F)	Arthur (F)
1793	William			William (carpenter)	James (tailor)	Arthur (F)

[Analysis: In 1793 Thomas apparently married because he asked for a certificate of removal from Sadsbury Friends to Exeter Friends in Berks Co. Without looking at other township tax records, we cannot tell whether William - the one who married Mary Donaldson - died after 1786 or was living in another township. The one referred to as William Jr. by 1792 was one of the inheritors of William's (son of Thomas) estate in 1813 and his cousin. James is apparently another of William and Mary Donaldson Linvill's sons who married Ann Legang (Logan) in New York in 1782 after serving in the Revolution. His absence from the earlier tax records might be accounted for in an oral history that suggests he served with George Rogers Clark in the western campaign. Although this remains undocumented, he did name a son Western Clark Linvill.]

1793-1798 Only William and Arthur (F)		
1799 William	William (tenant)	Edward (tenant)
1800 William	William (carpenter)	Arthur (wheelwright)

Among other things this listing tells us, is that it explains some of William Linvill's (Son of Thomas) bequests in his 1813 will which includes cousin Isaac Linvill. I attempted to locate any orphan's court or papers from the estate file for this William. I hoped that would identify more specifically the above Isaac and his children's names by his first wife since they are the ones who were heirs, and where Isaac was living in 1813 when William died. Unfortunately, no such papers exist although I was able to locate the original will and a detailed inventory of his estate at the Lancaster Historical Society. A tax record for 1815 indicates that William's (d. 1813) property was 130 acres with a 2 story house of logs size 25 x 35, and 1 old hay barn valued at $9500, adjacent to Peter Eaby and Amos Slaymaker.

In addition to the map of Chester County printed below which helps locate these Linvill families, and in keeping with an attempt to share original documents collected with family members, the first inventory for any Linville in the colonies is also included here. It is Ann Linvill's, widow of Thomas, mother of the William who died in 1813, and daughter of Shadrack Scarlett of London Grove, Chester County. Son William signs the original inventory. Copies of her original will (1795) with signatures of two of William and Mary (Donaldson) Linvill's sons, Arthur and Edward, and that of her son William (1813) are available for those interested in having them for a nominal copying charge.



[Map of Chester County PA.]

An Inventory of the Goods & Chattles belonging to the Estate of Ann Linvill Deceased, Late of the Township of Salsbury County of Lancaster & State of Pennsylvania Appraised by us the subscribers Viz^t

	£	s	d
To Cash & Wearing Apparel	7	0	6
To a Cow £6	6	0	0
To Bed & 2 Coverlids, 2 Sheets a blanket & pillows &c	7	0	0
To D^o 1 Coverlid Bolster & pillow	4	17	6
To Pewter	1	10	—
To a warming pan	0	10	—
To a y^d & half Cotton & Linnen @ 3/9 p^r y^d	—	5	7½
To 5½ y^ds of Linnen @ 2/8 p^r y^d 14/8. & 11^lb Flax 11/	1	5	8
To 2 Doz^n tow yarn 3/. an old Reel & 7 old Spools 5/	—	8	—
To a p^r of Steel yards 6/ A pillow Case & 2 old aprons 2/	—	8	—
To a [illegible] 5/6 & 2 old other d^o 3/	—	8	6
To a Gridiron & frying pan 4/9 To 3 pots & [illegible] 23/	1	7	9
To Earthen ware 5/. to old Churn Tubs & pails 4/	—	9	—
To a Tin Kettle 3/. a Dough Trough 5/ & 16^lb of Tow 4/	—	12	—
To an old Chest & Walnut Box 2/9 a big wheel & Seasled 7/6	—	10	3
To a Chest of Drawers	4	—	—
To 4 Knives & forks & 2 Candle Sticks	—	2	4
To 5 yards of prest Lincey @ 4/ p^r y^d	1	—	—
To a set of Curtins 2 pillow Cases & 2 towels	1	8	—
To 3 Sheets & a Table Cloth	—	13	3
To an old Wallet some flax & Bees Wax &c	—	2	9
To a p^r of Andirons, Shovel, Tongs & pot Crooks	1	4	6
To a Corner Cupboard 30/ & flesh fork 1/9	1	11	3
To an old pine Box & Sundry old things	—	4	3
	42	14	7½

Exhibited into the Registers Office at Lancaster the tenth day of October AD 1795

William Linvill

John Moore
John Clemson } appraisers

Same day & year the Executor & appraisers affirmed G. Ross

Subsequent errata from this original publication:

Exercise caution when reporting tax records in analysis. While it is fine as presented, we cannot assume that what appears to be a "paternity" event (e.g. Isaac and Benjamin as potential sons of Joseph). It is possible that these are father-stepson relationships, too.