

William Bracken of New Castle County, Delaware, and His
Descendants, Giving data bearing upon William Bracken, his son Thomas Bracken,
and two generations of Thomas Bracken's descendants.

By H.M.Bracken,M.D.,
Minneapolis, Minn., July 1901. The University Press

Transcribed by Brigid E. Richards for all related Bracken's and all of us who are future
ancestors [Transcriber's note: Due to the nature of the internet some of the author's lengthier footnotes
are at the end of the relevant generation with numbered references in the text.]

Notice

The author had hoped to have the historical sketch of Thomas Bracken (son of
William Bracken) and his descendants through the sixth generation, compiled by this
time, but various hindrances have prevented. It was deemed advisable, however, to
publish the records of the early generations lest some unforeseen event might prevent
their publication later, thus losing the time and expense that has already been given to
the collection of data.

At the earliest possible date another number of this work will be issued,
embracing later descendants of Thomas Bracken.

Many facts relative to Henry Bracken's descendants, and some facts relative to
John Bracken's descendants, are in the hand of the author. It would seem desirable to
have all this published for the benefit of future generations. If there is sufficient
interest shown in this work by the various Bracken descendants, the author is quite
willing to give his time, as opportunity permits, to the compilation of such records.

H.M.Bracken, M.D.

Minneapolis, Minnesota, July 20th, 1901

Preface

This work was taken up out of a sense of filial duty. In the fall of 1871, Dr.
William C. Bracken, father of the author, feeling that children should know more of
their ancestors than was often the case in this country, began correspondence with a
view to collecting data relative to the Bracken family, of which he was a member.
Hardly had he started this work when sickness came upon him – the sickness that in
the course of a few months was followed by death.

The author was at that time but a boy. Opportunity for taking the work begun
by the father did not present itself until 1896. Since then a vigorous effort has been
made to collect all possible data, but much difficulty has been encountered in this
task, partly through indifference on the part of some individuals to giving facts, and
partly through imperfect records.

The order followed in this work will be as follows:

(1) An introduction, descriptive, so far as possible, of the first Bracken of the
line in America.

(2) A part for each of his children with descendants.

H.M. Bracken, M.D.

Minneapolis, Minnesota, July 10th, 1899

First Gen

I. William Bracken, born ?

His will was drawn April 8, 1749, and probated December 28, 1749.

Married Hannah _____

Children

2. Thomas m. Martha (Green)

3. John m.

4. Henry m.

5. Hannah, m. James Jordan

6. Margaret m. Alexander Moore

7. Martha m John Ball, Jr

8. Susan m. John Gillahan

So far as is known, this William Bracken is the first of his line in America.

Where he came from is not positively known. Tradition says from England.

Certain facts not only bear out this tradition, but point strongly to the probability that he came from Yorkshire. (Francis Bracken of Scarborough Yorkshire, was one of the early settlers of West Jersey, having secured land August 27th, 1683.) The first records we have refer to his purchase of land in Delaware. Any attempt at an historical sketch must be very imperfect, for it can be made only from the records and public documents at Wilmington, and these are very incomplete. It would seem that he was fairly successful in accumulating property. The first record of land secured relates to one hundred acres. It states that William Bracken¹ of Newcastle county, Delaware requested a grant of one hundred acres near John Evans near Red Clay Creek, for which he agreed to pay 12 pounds 10 shillings per hundred acres and a bushel of wheat rent per annum; to pay the 25th of December (25th Xbr), 1703, with interest from the 25th of Dec. 1702. [Application made at a meeting of the Commissioners of Property July 14, 1702. See Pa Archives and Series, Vol 19, p 324.] From this application, it would appear that he was recognised as a resident of Delaware as early as July 14th, 1702. [Mill Creek Hundred, where William Bracken settled, is in the northwestern part of New Castle County, and is bounded on the north and west by the "Circle"; on the east by Red Clay Creek, and on the south by White Clay Creek].

On the 14th of Dec. 1702, Joshua Morgan requested one hundred acres adjoining or near to the one hundred acres lately granted to William Brakyn on Mill Creek near White Clay Creek, on the same terms, etc. [Pa Archives, 2nd Series, Vol 19, p342.] On April 9, 1720, William Brakin "desires" the grant of two hundred acres of land in Christiana Hundred, New Castle County, Delaware, formerly held by Thomas Graves. This he secured May 8, 1721. [Deed Book Q, Wilmington, p 237. also Pa Archives 2nd Series, Vol 19, p 704]

December 14, 1727, William Brakin requested the grant of a parcel of land at Fishing Creek near Susquehannah, and desired a warrant as soon as possible. [Pa Archives, 2nd Series, Vol 19, p754.] Concerning this grant a James Robinson entered the following protest.:

"That about 7 years since, he made some beginning on a Tract of Land lying on the East side of Fishing Creek, in Lancaster County, PA but soon after William Brakin procured a survey to be made by Elisha Gatchell, which included the above improvement, under pretence of settling his Children, but instead therefore he has without regular warrant sold two quantities for about 90 pounds, besides which he has

given to his son-in-law and daughters, and that part still left unsold by William Brackin, J. Robinson desires the grant of about 200 acres, for which he is ready to pay. (4th 12mo 1735) [Pa Archives 3rd Series, Vol 1, pp67,69.]

It would seem as though William Bracken settled his children fairly well. In 1726-27 he gave 200 hundred acres to his son Thomas, and 150 acres to his son John. Other children were provided for, judging from the complaint above of James Robinson The records speak of William Bracken as a yeoman. It is uncertain whether he was married in England or in this country. Tradition says he was married and had three children (boys) when he first came from England, but tradition is not always correct. His oldest son, Thomas, died in 1780. The first daughter mentioned in this will, Hannah, was married in Delaware 2 Feb 1722.²

He himself died in 1749 (Dec ?). these dates would point to the probability of his having been a comparatively young man in 1702, when he secured his first land in Delaware.

It is probable that he and his family belonged to the Church of England (Episcopal), for all his descendants were in the Episcopal church through one generation and some even to the present time. His Will reads as follows:

“In the name of God amen. The eighth day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and forty-nine, I William Bracken, of Millcreek hundred in the County of New Castle on dellaware yeoman being in perfect health mind and memory thanks be given to God, therefore calling unto mind the Mortality of my Body and Knowing that it is appointed for all men once to die do make and ordain this my last will and testament , that is to say principally and first of all I give and recommend my Soul Into the hands of God that gave it and for my Body I recommend it to the Earth to be buried in a Christian like and decent manner at the discretion of my Executors nothing doubting but that at the general Resurrection I shall receive the same again by the mighty power of God, and as touching such worldly Estate wherewith it hath pleased God to bless me in this life I give bequeath and dispose of the same in the following form – Item. I do leave unto my son Thomas Brackon one shilling sterling current money which shall be in full of his portion and share of my real and personal Estate. Item. I do leave unto my son John Brackon one shilling sterling current money which shall be in full of his share of my real and personal estate. Item. I do leave unto my son Henry Brackon one shilling Sterling current money which shall be in full of his portion and share of my real and personal estate. Item. I do leave to my daughter Hannah wife of James Jordan one shilling Sterling current money and I do leave to said James Jordan one shilling Sterling current money which shall be in full of his portion and share of my real and personal estate. Item. I do leave to my daughter Margaret wife to Alexander Moore one shilling Sterling current money and I do leave unto the said Alexander Moore one shilling Sterling current money which shall be in full of their portion and share of my real and personal estate. Item. I do leave unto my daughter Martha Ball widow of John Ball junior deceased one shilling Sterling current money which shall be in full of her portion and share of my real and personal estate. Item. I do leave unto John Gillehan who was married to my daughter Susannah deceased one shilling Sterling current money which shall be in full of his portion and share of my real and personal estate. Item. I do leave unto my Grandson William Gillehan son of the said John Gillehan 30 pounds current money of Pa to be put out at interest for him by my Executors until he arrives to said age of 21 years and then to pay him the principal and interest. Item I do give unto my grand daughter Elizabeth Gillehan daughter of the said john Gillehan the house and ship where John Lapsley lately lived it being on the main road leading to the White

Clay Creek landing and four acres of land joining to it and all the appurtenances thereunto belonging to her and to her heirs forever and fire wood sufficient and convenient for twenty one years she or her heirs cutting or hauling the same. But if it should happen that she should depart this life without lawful issue then it is my will and I do give and bequeath the above said house and shop and four acres of land and privileges aforesaid to my Grandson William Gillehan and his heirs forever. [Wilmington Deed Book U, page 545. Elizabeth married a William Brackin of Mill Creek – Cooper. They sold this property Feb 12, 1763, to Zebulon Cantrell.]

Item. I do leave unto my granddaughter Martha Jordan daughter of my said daughter Hannah Jordan 10 pounds current money of Pa to be put out to interest for her in good hands and paid her at said age of 18 years or day of marriage by my said executors both principal and interest.

Item. It is my Will and I do give and bequeath unto my Grandson William Brackon son of my said son Henry Brackon all of my real and personal estate he paying all of my just debts and funeral charges and legacies left by me to the within and above mentioned persons to him and his heirs forever. But if it should happen that my said grandson should be taken away by death without lawfull issue then it is my Will and I do give the said real and personal estate to my said son Henry Brackon to him and his heirs forever. And it is my will that all the legacies left by me be put to interest in good hands within six months after my decease and paid as above and within said _ . And lastly I do constitute make and ordain my said loving son Henry Brackon and my sid loving Grandson William Brackon son of my said son Henry Brackon my sole executors of this my last will and testament. And I do hereby utterly disallow revoke and disannul all and every other former testaments will and legacies, bequests and executors by me in any way before this time named Willed and bequeathed ratifying and confirming this and no other to be my last will and testament in witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the day and year above written.

his
William Brackon (Seal)
mark

Signed sealed published Pronounced and declared by the said William Brackon as his last will and testament in the presence of us the subscribers –

Simon Hadley

Evan Rice

Nebadiah Olney

Wilmington Delaware Will Book G page 459

Notes:

1. The spelling of this name is not at all uniform in the early records. It would appear that the nationality and learning of the scribe might be responsible to some extent for this fact. In the will the name is spelled Brackon. In the record of Old Swede's Church (Wilmington) it is spelled Bracken, Brackin, Brakin, Braken, Brachen, and Brochon, while some of the records add to this Brakyn. The oldest son, Thomas, and most of his descendants, spelled the name Bracken, so too did John and some at least of his descendants while the descendants of the third son, Henry, after wavering for a time, finally settled down to Brackin. Bracken is the spelling for the name in Scotland, England and to some extent in Ireland. Brackin is quite generally an Irish spelling of the name.

2. Records of Old Swede's Church, Wilmington. This Church now known as Holy Trinity is a quaint old building that was consecrated in 1699. In its records appear the following Bracken names:

Marriages

Feb 2, 1722 James Jordan and Hannah Brackin
Feb 22, 1751 William Bracken and Sarah Garrit (L)
Sept 19, 1751 John Brackin and Catherine Adams (L)
Nov. 5, 1755 William Bracken and Ruth Gregg (L)
Jan 31, 1757 Thomas Brakin and Martha Machan
July 30, 1760 Joseph Ball and Hannah Brackin (dtr of Henry L)
Aug 31, 1769 Isaac Brakin and Rachel Stalkop
Oct 20, 1774 John Reed and Agnes Brakin (L)
Sep 14, 1799 (b) Henry Bracken and Susannah Davis
(L = licensed)

Births

Children of Henry and Susannah Brochon:
Isaac, born March 23, 1751
Susannah, born Feb 1, 1755, baptized April 12, 1756
Children of William and Ruth (Braken):
Martha, born March 2, baptized Sept 11, 1757
Children of James and Rose McLaughlin Brochon:
Jane, born July 16, 1751, baptized Aug 25, 1751
Children of Henry and _____ Brachen:
Moses, born July 14, 1760, baptized at St. James, Feb 25, 1761
(Stanton, Del)

Part One

Thomas Bracken,
Oldest son of William Bracken, and Hannah ____
of New Castle County, Delaware, and His Descendants

Second Generation

II. Thomas Bracken, (William)

Born __ in England __ married in Delaware to Martha (Green?) died probably in 1780.

Children (names taken from the will of Thomas Bracken)

9. William m. 1756 to Ruth Gregg
10. John, m. 1759 (?) to Elizabeth
11. Thomas, m. 1764 (?) to ____ Kilmory (?)
m. 1777 to Ann Shannon
12. James, m. __ to Mary D __
13. Hannah, m. to Nicholas Bishop
14. Mary, m. to James Guttony
15. Martha, m. to Archibald McGrew
16. Margaret, m. to William McGrew
17. Jean, m. to Mathew Dill

Thomas Bracken was probably brought to this country when a child, as his father was certainly in Delaware in 1702. He was the oldest son of William.

On Feb 23, 1726 or 27, he was deeded 200 acres of land by his father on condition that he would make no further claim upon his father's estate. (Wilmington, DE, Deed Book H, p 249)

He was also sold 200 acres of land by his father on the north side of White Clay Creek, Nov 17, 1749 (shortly before his father's death), for love and goodwill and 20 pounds (Book Q Deeds, p 237). In consequence of the above agreement, he was left but one shilling in his father's will. His early home was in New Castle County, Delaware, but some time previous to 1759 he moved to Pa, for on September 10, 1759, John Bohonin of Mill Creek hundred, sold to Thomas Brackin of Huntington Township, York (now Adams) County, Pa, one acre of land in Mill Creek hundred for 10 pounds (Wilmington, Deed Book U, page 527).

He was one of the vestrymen of Christ Church Huntington Township, York County, Pa in 1760 and 1761.³

In 1761 he was assessed 2 pounds for work upon the Glebe house, belonging to Christ Church. He left 30 pounds to the poor fund of Christ Church in his will (see page __).

The early settlers of York County, Pa were from England and this probably had some influence upon Thomas Bracken when he chose his new home away from the Delaware settlement. He and his family were undoubtedly members of the Episcopal Church, as shown by their relationship to Christ Church.

June 19th, 1769, Thomas Bracken sold to Philip Zeigler 150 acres of land for 350 pounds. Zeigler had been living upon this same property as a tenant before he bought it. (Gettysburg Deed Book N, page 114.)

His wife Martha was probably a daughter of Edward Green, for he (Edward Green) in his will drawn about 1735, mentions his daughter Martha Bracken. [Edward Green, Jr. applied for one hundred acres of land next to William Bracken. April 2, 1722. This was probably a brother of Martha Green Bracken.] She was living at the time her husband's will was drawn, but there is no further record of her. It is stated that Washington was friendly with this Bracken family and that he passed sometime at their home. This is quite possible, although there is nothing but tradition to bear out the statements. Of the 4 sons during Revolutionary times, William the oldest was probably in Westmoreland (Indiana) County. He has no war record so far as known. Thomas was a widower with 4 children on his hands at the outset of the war and has no war record. John died probably in 1777. James is said to have been an officer in the early part of the war, but he died in September 1778. He has a traditional but no official, war record.

Thomas Bracken's will, which was drawn April 6, 1779, and probated November 14th, 1780, gives some idea of the man and his standing. It reads as follows:

"I, Thomas Bracken of Monahan Township, County of York and State of Pennsylvania Yeoman do make this my last will and testament in manner following. Imp. I give bequeath and devise unto my beloved wife Martha one horse, one cow, one feather bed and bed clothes one spinning wheel and all my sheep together with her maintenance out of the rent of my place. Item. I give and bequeath unto my son William or his heirs 30 pounds to be paid after the sale of my "Real Estate. Item. I give and bequeath unto the heirs of my son John deceased the sum of 30 pounds to be paid them after the sale of my real estate. Item. I give and bequeath unto my son Thomas or his heirs 30 pounds to be paid after the sale of my real estate. Item. I give and bequeath unto the heirs of my son James Bracken deceased the sum of 30 pounds to be paid them after the sale of my real estate. Item. I give and bequeath unto my daughter Hannah or her heirs, wife of Nicholas Bishop the sum of 20 pounds to be paid after the sale of my real estate. Item. I give and bequeath unto my daughter Mary or her heirs, wife of James Guttory the sum of 20 pounds to be paid after the sale of my real estate. I give and bequeath unto my daughter Martha or her heirs, wife of Archibald McGrew 30 pounds to be paid her or them after the sale of my real estate. I give and bequeath unto the heirs of my daughter Margaret deceased late wife of William McGrew the sum of 20 pounds to be paid after the sale of my real estate. I give and bequeath unto my daughter Jean wife of Mathew Dill the sum of 20 pounds to be paid after the sale of my real estate. Item. I give devise and bequeath in trust unto John Collins and William Godfrey, Church Wardens for the time being and their successors forever the sum of 30 pounds lawful money which shall be put to interest and the money arising from said sum shall be laid out for the use of the poor of Christ Church in Huntington Township and County of York at the discretion of the Vestry of said church for the time being and their successors forever to be paid to them after the sale of my real estate. My will is that my real estate be rented and the money be applied for the maintenance of my wife during her life or as much of it as my executors think fit to apply to that use and the remainder if any to be equally divided with the rest of my estate. I order my real estate to be sold as soon as conveniently may be after the decease of my wife at the discretion of my executors and the money arising from the sale of my whole real estate and personal after paying my lawful

debts funeral expenses and the expenses attending the execution of these presents then be applied to pay the above legacies and if any money remains I order it to be equally divided among my children or their heirs. I empower my executors to sell and make as good a title to the Purchaser as I could do. And I constitute and appoint my trusty and well beloved son-in-law Archibald McGrew and son William Bracken executors of this my last will and testament revoking all other will be me heretofore made declaring this to be my last will and testament in testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 6th day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy nine 1779.

Signed, sealed published and declared by the said Testator as and for his last will and Testament in presence of us.

his
Thomas Bracken
mark

John McGrew
William Beals
Martha Carson
York Pa Records Will Book E, page130

Orphan's Court York County, Pa Book E, page 250
March 23 1785

Came into court Archibald McGrew and William Bracken, executors of the last will of Thomas Bracken deceased, and produced an account of their administration of the estate with the register by which it appears that there is a balance of said deceased estate in their hands amounting to one hundred and eleven pounds to be disposed of agreeably t the discretion of the deceased's will. Examined and confirmed.

March 24, 1795

Came into court Archibald McGrew, surviving executor of the last will and testament of Thomas Bracken of Monaghan Township and produced an account showing a balance of 727 pounds 13 shillings and 10 pence. Confirmed.”

3. A brief history of Christ Church is given in the 18th annual report of the “Protestant Episcopal Society for the Advancement of Christianity in Pennsylvania,” page 15. English Church people settled around this spot. Huntington Township, about 1740. There was a church here in 1753 and earlier. The first missionary was Rev. Thomas Barton, sent from England in 1755. He was tutor in the Academy (now University of Pennsylvania). Connected with the church property was one hundred sixty acres of land. Contributions were made in May, 1761, for the purpose of building a stack of chimneys, digging a well and finishing the Glebe house. Among those assessed for this work was Thomas Bracken, Archibald McGrew and William McGrew, (son in law of Thomas Bracken) and John Bracken (son of Thomas). In 1770 there was in the hands of the wardens a fund for the poor of the church, amounting to one hundred and two pounds nine shillings. Rev. John Andrews, Rector. (He was afterwards provost of the university of Pennsylvania.) Rev. Daniel Batwell, rector from 1774 to 1776, was from England. He was “ducked” by the people of York for being a Tory; was abused by his own church people, and finally arrested and thrown into prison at York. Later he was released and allowed to return to England where he died. He was an accomplished scholar and a good man. The church later built a small brick chapel at Petersburg, which was known as Christ Church Chapel. It was about four miles from

the mother church. It grew and the mother church dwindled. The Glebe property was reduced by one means or another. In 1885, by act of legislature, the remaining part was sold and the funds realized (\$1,600) were placed in the hands of the society. In 1807 the funds had increased to four thousand two hundred dollars. The income from this now helps to support the rector who lives at Gettysburg, and who preaches at regular intervals in a school house near the site of the old church. Of the old church property there is still left four acres, upon which is the old graveyard and the foundations of the old church, "the finis of a once prosperous parish". The oldest engraved stone bears the date of 1748. the records of Christ Church were very imperfectly kept; otherwise they might have contained much of historical interest.

Third Generation

- IX. William Bracken (Thomas, William). Was born probably in Delaware, married in Delaware Nov. 5, 1755, to Ruth Gregg, [see Old Swede's Church records-Note #2] died some time before 1794.

Children

18. Martha born 20 Nov 1757, (baptized IX -11-1757)
19. Thomas born __ m. Margaret Wakefield
20. William born __ m. Mary Garrison

William Bracken was probably the oldest child of Thomas Bracken and Martha Green as his name is the first to appear in his father's will. Undoubtedly he lived for a time in York County, Pa with or near his father. He was one of the early settlers of Westmoreland (that part now Indiana) County, Pa. for on the first page of the first book (A) in the recorder's office for Westmoreland County, dated 6 Feb 1773, is a document from George the 3rd naming William Bracken, among others, as a justice of the peace. This is witnessed and signed by Richard Penn as the representative of Thomas and John Penn, and Lieutenant Governor of the Province.

In "Historical Collections of Pennsylvania" by Sherman Day, page 377, it is stated that 'about the year 1773, William Bracken built a mill near where William Clarke, Esq., lately resided on Blacklick, which was a great convenience to the settlers. They marked out a path which they travelled to Bracken's mill. I see one of the settlers before me now; his bridle is of hickory and he rides a pack saddle.'

The first deed on record in Westmoreland County to William Bracken, is dated may 21st, 1773 [Westmoreland County was separated from Bedford county, Feb 25, 1773], from Mathew Fowler, for three hundred and nine acres of land situated on Blacklick Creek.

The records show a deed from William Bracken, Esq., to C. Shokey for 300 acres of land, for the consideration of 230 pounds dated June 15, 1773.

Another deed from William Bracken, Esq., of Fairchild Township, Westmoreland County, to William McCain for 300 acres of land, is dated March 8, 1774. It would appear that William Bracken was not fixed in his residence in Westmoreland County until some years later, for an article of agreement, dated October 1, 1784 (Gettysburg Records Deed Book I, page 443) refers to him as of York County, Pa. this was connected with a transfer of two tracts of land to Levi Garrison [William Bracken, son of Wm Bracken, married a daughter of Elijah Garrison] of Cumberland County, NJ, one being on the path leading from George Findley's to William Bracken's mill; the other being in Bush Valley adjoining lands of Matthew Dill [Mathew Dill was probably brother-in-law of William Bracken] and

Levi Garrison, for which he was to pay 200 pounds gold or silver. A deed conveying these two tracts of land to Levi Garrison, was given by William Clark, Administrator of William Bracken, deceased, October 13, 1795. He was named as one of the executors in his father's will (see page 19), drawn April 6, 1779, and appeared in Court March 23, 1785, with Archibald McGrew, his brother-in-law, to render an account of the estate of his father, showing 111 pounds on hand (Orphan's Court York County Pa, Book E, page 251).

He probably died in Westmoreland (Indiana) County, Pa in 1793 or 1794, and without having left a will, for on March 1st, 1794, William Bracken, Jr gave a quitclaim deed to the other heirs of William Bracken, Sr. (Greensburgh Pa, Deed Book 2, page 410). It would seem from the few recorded facts that this William Bracken was a man of some standing and prominence among the early settlers of Indiana County, Pa. While he was undoubtedly of the Church of England, nearly all of his descendants are or have been connected with the Methodist Church. The change may have been made during his lifetime or it may have come through the children. Ruth Gregg, wife of William Bracken, was the daughter of Richard Gregg and Anne Hadley of Christian Hundred, New Castle County, Delaware. The Gregg line was as follows:

1. William Gregg
2. George Gregg and Sarah Hogg
3. Richard Gregg and Anne Hadley

The first Gregg (William) settled on four hundred acres of land, surveyed to him March 11th, 1685. He died 'ye 1st day of the 7th month and was buried on his own plantation 1687.

Richard Gregg, born __ married at New Garden Meeting, April 12, 1735, and died __, 1754. (Will dated Sept 17, 1754).

Annie Hadley was born Dec 7, 1717. She was the daughter of Simon and Ruth Hadley, who came from Ireland and were among the early settlers of Mill Creek Hundred, New Castle County, DE. She died Dec 18, 1750-51.

At the Newark (Delaware) monthly meeting, Nov 5th, 1756, the Newark preparative complained of Ruth Gregg for marriage by a priest, to one not in unity with friends. On Jan 1st (2) 1757, Testimony was signed against Ruth Bracken, to be read at Centre Meeting.

On April 21, 1756, Ruth Bracken was baptized at St. James Episcopal Church (Stanton, Delaware). Many of the Brackens were interested in the building of this Church.

It is not known when Ruth Gregg Bracken died, but certainly not until after May 17, 1799, for at that time she signed a quitclaim deed to the heirs of William Bracken her husband, which read as follows:

Greensburg Deeds

“Know all men by these presents, that I, Ruth Bracken, widow of William Bracken, deceased, have remised released and forever quitclaimed unto all and every of the heirs of my late husband William Bracken, deceased, their heirs, and administrators all and every action and manner of action and actions, Suits, Bonds, Bills and Writings of in or to or concerning my dower sum and sums of money judgments executions, extants, quarrels and controversies trespasses damages and demands whatsoever both in law and in equity or otherwise howsoever which against them the said heirs I ever had claim challenge or demand for or by reason or means of any act matter cause or thing from the beginning of the world to the day of the date of

these presents. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this the 29th day of May 1799.

Ruth Bracken

Witnesses:

Robert Rodgers and
Archibald Jamison”

She was mentioned in the will of her son William, drawn March 1st, 1794.

It is unfortunate that more facts cannot be obtained regarding this man and wife. Theirs must have been largely a frontier life and frontier life in Westmoreland County from 1773 on, must have had some excitement connected with it.⁴

X. John Bracken (Thomas, William). John Bracken, born in __, Delaware (?), married to Elizabeth __, died __, 1777.

Children (names taken from Will)

21. Thomas born VII-30-1764; m. XII-18-1787, Sarah Twinem.
22. Martha, born __; m. __ Black.
23. Catherine, born __; m. __ Williams
24. Elizabeth, born __; m. __ Williams
25. Margaret, born 1772; m. __ Williams
26. John, born 1775; (unmarried)
27. Mary, born 1777; m. __ McEntire.

John Bracken, yeoman, lived in Huntington Township, York County, Pa. His wife's name was Elizabeth ____, and she acted as his Executrix.

The family were undoubtedly Episcopalians. The name John Bracken appears among those assessed for the building of the Glebe House of Christ Church.

He was dead when his father's will was drawn April 6, 1779. He must have been a comparatively young man when he died, for his children were all under age probably when his will was drawn. His own will was drawn May 15th, 1777. The legacy for his son Thomas was to be paid him when he should reach the age of 21 years. March 24, 1785, Thomas Bracken asked that a guardian should be appointed for the 3 minor orphan children of his father. This would suggest the time for the son Thomas coming of age, and agrees with other records as bearing upon this point.

The following incident was handed down through the family: Elizabeth Bracken, the widow of John, was caring for her husband's farm during the Revolution; the soldiers seized her horses; she appealed to General Washington and the horses were returned. Tradition says that Washington was friendly with the Bracken family.

The will of John Bracken, drawn May 15, 1777 and probated March 20th, 1782, is as follows:

“I, John Bracken, of the Township of Huntington, County of York, Province of Pa, Yeoman, do make this my last will and testament in manner follows:

Imprimis, I give and bequeath unto my beloved wife Elizabeth my best bed and furniture belonging thereto, her spinning wheel, my best mare her saddle and bridle. I order my wagon and sawmill irons to be sold and my grist mill to be rented together with what money is Indue me and the Boards at Stokdens sawmill and what wheat and flour I have together with what wheat can be spared from my family of the crop in the grown to pay my debts. The remainder of my personal estate I leave to my

wife and children equally for their use. Also my plantation for the maintenance of my wife and children and schooling for my children for the space of 4 years and at the end of that time if my executors shall judge it most benefit for my whole family to sell my real estate, well, if not, to keep it until my son Thomas comes to the age of 21 then to sell my real estate and make the purchaser a good conveyance as I could do. The profits arising from my will after my debts is paid until it is sold to be divided between my wife and children according to the shares left to each of them, the money arising from the sale of my real estate to be divided in manner following: Item. I give and bequeath unto my beloved wife Elizabeth out of my real estate the sum of one hundred pounds in two years after seal is made in full of her dower of my Real Estate. Item. I give and bequeath unto my son Thomas two hundred pounds of the first monies arising from the sale of my real estate in full of his share of my whole estate. Item. I give and bequeath unto my daughter Martha the sum of seventy pounds to be paid next to Thomas in full of her share of my whole estate. Item. I give and bequeath unto my daughter Elizabeth seventy pounds in full of her share of my whole estate. Item. I give and bequeath unto my daughter Catharine seventy pounds in full of her share of my whole estate. Item. I give and bequeath unto my daughter Margaret seventy pounds in full of her share of my whole estate. Item. I give and bequeath unto my son John one hundred and fifty pounds in full of his share of my whole estate. Item. I give and bequeath unto my daughter Mary seventy pounds in full of her share of my whole estate. My will is that none of the above sums be paid to any of my children until they arrive at the age of 21 years and that if any of my sons should die before they arrive at age or without lawful issue in that case his share shall fall to his brother and if any of my daughters should die in manner aforesaid her share shall be equally divided among her sisters and if my estate should not hold out to pay above legacies (legesees) in that case it is to be taken off each of my Legatees according to the sums left to them and if it should amount to more to be given to each of them according to the sums left to them. And I constitute and appoint my beloved wife, my brother James Bracken and Archibald McGrew executors of this my last will and testament revoking all other wills by me heretofore made declaring this to be my last will and testament. In testimony I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 15th day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy-seven.

Signed, sealed and delivered by the said testator as and for his last will and testament.

John Bracken

In the presence of us
John McGagart, Jr.
William Squibb
Martha McGrew

Orphans Court York Co, Pa, Book E, page 251
March 24th, 1785

Thomas Bracken (son of John) came into court and prayed that a guardian be appointed to take care of the persons and estates of the minor orphan children (Margaret, John & Mary) of John Bracken, late of Huntington Township, deceased, whereupon the court appointed Mathew Dill (their uncle), of Monahan Township, York County, Pa, to be the guardian.

Archibald McGrew refused to serve as executor. James Bracken, another executor named in this will, died 1778.

Orphans Court, York County, Pa Book F, page 149

“April 4, 1789

Came into court Elizabeth Bracken, one of the surviving and only acting executor of the last will and testament of John Bracken deceased and produced an account showing a balance of seven hundred and fifty-two pounds, fifteen shillings and three pence, subject to distribution according to testator’s will. Bill examined and approved by the court.”

XI Thomas Bracken (Thomas, William)

Born __ in Delaware, married (1) __ to __ Kilmory (2) __ 1777, to Ann Shannon, of Lancaster County, Pa. died near Canonsburg, Pa. February 1803.

- | Children | First Wife |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 28. 1838. | Martha, born V-10-1765; m. __ Samuel Shannon, D.II-23- |
| 29. | William, born about 1763; m. (1) Jean Thompson
(2) Sarah King |
| 30. | Ann, born __; m, David Andrews |
| 31. | Samuel, born __ ; not married. |
| | Second Wife: |
| 32. | Reid, born IX-24-1778; m. V-I-1806, Mary Graham |
| 33. | Thomas, born II-12-1780; m. (1) Elizabeth Morrow
(2) Ann Davidson |
| 34. | Sarah, born II-21-1782; m. John Thompson (1811) |
| 35. | Agnes, born XI-24-1783; m. Rev. John Mathews |
| 36. | Hannah, born X-20-1785; m. III-28-1809, Joseph Thompson |
| 37. | John, born VIII-17-1787; m. Sarah Howe |
| 38. | Jean, born V-I-1790; m. __ Richard Miller |
| 39. | Mary, born X-23-1792; m. II-__ 1819, William Van Eman. |
| 40. | Henry, born VI-29-1794; m. VI-10-1816, Martha Davis Simcox |
| 41. | Moses, born IX-25-1796; died when a boy |
| 42. | James, born VI-31-1799; died young |

There are no records of this man prior to 1777, further than that he had married __ Kilmory, and that she had died leaving at least four children. He was probably born in DE and lived with or near his father in York (Adams) County, Pa. In 1777 he married his second wife, Ann Shannon, of Lancaster County, Pa., and in November, 1778, he removed from York (Adams) County to Washington (then a part of Westmoreland) County, Pa. With him were the four children by his first wife, his second wife Ann, and her first born, Reid, them about six weeks old. He did not go among strangers, for sisters and probably other members of his wife’s family were already living in Washington County. Many of the early settlers of his county were from Chester, Lancaster and York Counties.

He took up two tracts of land, one called ‘three shares situated upon Chartiers Creek near Canonsburg; the other known as Logan Water, situated on Raccoon Creek.’⁵ Part of the Chartiers property now belongs to the state, in connection with the Reform school at Moganza.

Rev. John McMillan, a noted Presbyterian divine of Western Pa began preaching to the Chartiers people in 1776.

The Chartiers Presbyterian Church was organized and Thomas Bracken was one of its early ruling members. Rev. John McMillan started a Latin school about 1779, one year after moving his family to his congregation. Later Canonsburg Academy was started. Dr. McMillan's school was merged into the Canonsburg Academy in 1791. It continued to prosper until it was regularly organized into Jefferson College in 1820, the first college west of the Allegheny mountains. Thomas Bracken was one of the trustees of Canonsburg Academy [Nevins Presbyterian Encyclopedia, page 90] and was probably active in the organization of the college (Jefferson College) which grew out of it, and received its charter shortly before the time of his death.⁶

Thomas Bracken is described as tall, well proportioned and fine looking. His family was "one of the most respected of Western Pennsylvania". He died February 1803, and was buried upon his own farm, on a part that afterwards passed to his son Thomas. It is stated that later his remains were removed to the Hill Church burying ground, but no stone marks his resting place, if this is true.

His children were well provided for, some had been given property before his death. His will, drawn Feb 8, 1803, and registered March 22, 1803, reads as follows:

"In the name of God Amen. I, Thomas Bracken, of Cecil Township, Washington County, and State of Pa, being in a low state of health but in sound mind and memory and in the full exercise of my mind, do this 8th day of Feb 1803 publish this my last will and testament in manner following that is to say "I give and bequeath unto my son in law five pounds. I give and bequeath unto my grand children William Andrews, and Mary Andrews; sixty acres of land now occupied by their father he to have the benefit of the said land until the said children of the survivor of them comes of age then that it be equally divided between them or given to the survivor. I give and bequeath to my son Reid Bracken all that tract of land adjoining lands of the heirs of William Long, James Gaston and others containing 180 acres he paying unto my daughter Sally a share fully equal to what each of her sisters may be found to have agreeably to this present will. I give and bequeath unto my wife and our children not heretofore mentioned all the residue of my real and personal estate that is to say all the benefits or profits arising there from for the support and benefit of my wife and all our children until the youngest survivor of them may come of age and then to be divided as follows that is to say:

Two full shares to my son Thomas. Two full shares to my son John. Two full shares to my son Henry. Two full shares to my son Moses. One full share to my Agnes. One full share to my daughter Hannah. One full share to my daughter Jane. One full share to my daughter Mary. The said quotas to be exclusive of my wife's lawful thirds and to be paid at the discretion of my executors so that none of my heirs may be harassed or injured on account of the payment of said quotas and in case my said wife should marry before the youngest of said children shall come of age then she shall get the 1-3 of my personal estate forever but nothing more and if any of my children should die without issue then that part of said estate is to be equally divided among all my children then surviving and I ordain and appoint my trusty friend Joshua Anderson and my son Reid Bracken my sole executors of this my last will and testament and I intrust to them the intent and purposes herein contained that they legally ascertain the value of said estate without making sale of any part thereof unless they are obliged to do so for the purpose of discharging any just debts.

In witness whereof I the said Thomas Bracken have to this my last will and testament set my hand and seal the day and year above written.

Thomas Bracken

Signed sealed and published in presence of us, John McMillan John Buchanan.

Ann Shannon, second wife of Thomas Bracken, was born probably in Sadsbury Township, Lancaster County, Pa and was of Scotch-Irish descent. The Shannon line was as follows:

Thomas Shannon, yeoman, lived in Sadsbury Township, Lancaster County, Pa. His will was drawn April 4th, 1737. (Lancaster Records, Will Book A 1, page 26.) His wife's name was Agnes (Eigness). One of his sons was named John. A John Shannon (presumably son of the above Thomas and Agnes) died some time before 1768, for on Jan 7 of that year, his second son John appeared in an orphan's court and asked for a division or arrangement of his father's estate, stating that his father had died intestate, leaving a widow and eleven children. (Lancaster Pa Orphans Court). The widow's name was Sarah, nee Reid. Ann Shannon, who married Thomas Bracken, was one of these eleven children.

After the death of Thomas Bracken, his widow Ann lived on the old homestead with the youngest living son Henry until the death of her son-in-law William Van Eman, in 1829. From that date until her death in 1839, she lived with her widowed daughter Mary Van Eman. She died at a good old age, respected by all who knew her. Her remains lie in Chartiers (Hill Church) burying ground, probably by the side of her husband, but the place of burial is not marked and is not known.

William Shannon in his will, drawn Sept 22, 1793 (first book, first will, Shelby County, Kentucky; records Shelbyville), left 200 acres of land to his sister Ann (Shannon) Bracken at the head waters of Drinnings Lick Creek in what is now Henry County, Ky.

XII James Bracken (Thomas, William) Born __, in Delaware (?) married ___ to Mary D___, died in York county, Pa. September 1778.

Children Names taken from Will. [there must have been a third daughter judging from mention of six children in will (3 sons), and she probably died young. The youngest son, John, must have been a posthumous child, judging both from will and date of birth.]

43 Thomas, born ?, m. Mary __

44 Caleb, born ?, m. VIII-14-1793, to Rebecca Miller

45 James, born ?, m. ?

46 Mary, born 1773, m. ?

47 Jane, born IV-20-1775; m. XII-24-1795, James Morrison

48 John, born 1779; not married.

James Bracken lived in Huntington Township, York County, Pa. Little is known about him except as shown by the records. Tradition says that he was a colonel in the revolutionary army; that he was a friend of Washington and that Washington visited at his home. One descendant has an old chair as an heirloom, in which Washington is said to have sat. Another descendant has one of the colonial fifty dollar bills which is said to have been paid him for services in the army. It is said that he sickened while in service and went home where he died. The traditional history seems all right, but this name does not appear in the war records. This is not strange,

for the war records are very imperfect. The places that he might have filled are occupied by the names of others. It is possible that the name of his successor alone appears, his name having been lost sight of by historians. It is also possible, but not probable, that his war record antedated the Revolution.

He was a warden of Christ Church, Huntington Township, York County, Pa in 1774 [Christ Church records] and also in 1775 when the Will of John McGrew was drawn (York County Pa, Will Book C, page 325). His Will drawn September 11, 1778, and recorded October 29, 1778, reads as follows:

“Whereas James Bracken of Menallen Township, York County, and province of Pa being in weakness of body but in perfect mind and memory Calling to mind the certainty of death and the uncertainty of Life have made and appointed this my last Will and Testament revoking and disannulling all other will or wills before by me made this only to be my last will and testament in manner and from following, viz:- Imprimis. First, I commit my soul to God who gave it to me and my body to be decently buried at the discretion of my executors herinafter named and all funeral charges and other worldly debts everywhere to be paid. I give and bequeath to my well beloved wife one hundred and fifty pounds lawful money of Pennsylvania or the value thereof if she choses it to be paid or given her out of my personal Estates. If she choses to take the goods they are to be appraised to her by two free holders and that at the value goods was at before the war was commenced between Great Britain and America. It is my will and I leave to my said wife my Plantation and Tract of Land for the term of three years for the raising and schooling of my three younger children. She making no waste nor destroying any of the timber on said place but what is for firewood and repairing the fences and ta the end of the said three years to leave the said place in good tenantable repair then I order and direct my said executor to rent out my said plantation and tract of land till my eldest son Thomas arrives to the age of 21 reserving and to be giving to my said wife to live in my dwelling house and hemp path that is between the house and barn and privilege of firewood till the place is sold and when my said son Thomas arrives to the age of 21 then I order and direct my said executors to sell my plantation and tract of land to any person or persons that will purchase the same and to make a good conveyance in law to the purchaser as I could do myself and when my said executors has sold my plantation and tract of land and the remainder of my personal estate to divide the money arising from said sails in the following manner, to wit: I order to be given to my said wife 100 pounds lawful money of Pa to be paid out of the money that is got for my plantation and tract of land which shall be understood and taken to be in full consideration of her dower now I have and order that all the remainder of my estate both real and personal be divided between my 6 children in the following manner to wit: My three sons taking two shares (shears) each of them for there sisters one share and if any of my said children should die before they come to the age of 21 years unmarried having no lawful issue then and in that case there share or shares as the case may happen to be divided between the rest of the children observing the boys taking two shares as before. Now as I have ordered my executors to sell my estate and divide as aforesaid I order them to pay my sons their shares when they come to the age of 21 years and my daughters when they arrive at the age of 18 years I order and empower my said executors to bind out my three sons Thomas James and Caleb Bracken to trades immediately after my decease and in order that they may have schooling as well as trades it is my will and I leave and order my said executors to give my said wife 6 months vitlin for her and the children and as much foder (sic) as will keep what stock of creators she will reserve for herself I constitute and appoint my well beloved wife Mary Bracken and

Bracken I relinquish all claims for the four hundred dollars and all other sums due me by him. To John Bracken I give 200 dollars. To Jane Bracken I give the ten shares of stock in the Bank of Pittsburgh now standing in my name and the remainder to be divided into 3 equal parts, viz:- One third I give to Charles Bracken. One third to James Bracken. One third to John Bracken. I hereby constitute and appoint John Shaw of the city of Pittsburgh my sole executor.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 28th day of July, AD1824.

her
Mary D. Bracken
mark

In presence of
Lewis Peterson
Charles L. Volz
Wm. Davis"

XIII Hannah Bracken (Thomas, William). Married Nicholas Bishop and was still living April 6, 1779, when her father's will was drawn.

XIV Mary Bracken (Thomas, William). Married James Guttory and was still living April 6, 1779, when her father's will was drawn.

XV Martha Bracken (Thomas, William). This Bracken married Archibald McGrew and was living as late as 1779, when her father's will was drawn.

She probably had at least 3 children, for there is record of the baptism of Esther, daughter of Archibald and Martha McGrew, Feb 7, 1762 (Christ Church Records), and in the will of John McGrew, dated July 6, 1775 (York County Will Book C, page 325), he mentions grandsons John and Archibald McGrew, sons of Archibald McGrew. This will was witnessed by John Bracken, Elizabeth Bracken, and Martha McGrew, which would point strongly to its being drawn by the father in law of Martha Bracken McGrew.

Archibald McGrew was presumably 'one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace', as shown in connection with the sale of land by John McGrew, April 1765 (York County, Pa. Patent Book, page 463) and again in connection with the sale of some land by Mathew Dill, July 17, 1765, (York County, Pa. Deed Book C, page 94).

He was vestryman of Christ Church (Huntington Township, York County, Pa.) in 1760, 1761 and 1798, as shown by records. He was one of the few who were assessed two pounds for work in connection with the Glebe House connected with Christ Church in 1761. He was warden of this same church in 1763 and 1767, and in the latter year waited upon the managers of St. Peter's and Christ Church Lottery in Philadelphia, to receive money awarded for repairs of Christ Church. For this he was required to give 'such security as should be necessary or agreeable to the Act of Assembly which made and provided for said lottery (Christ Church Records).

He was one of the executors for his father-in-law's estate and appeared in court to render an account of this estate on March 23, 1785 (Orphan's Court Book E, page 250, York County, Pa) showing them 111 pounds for distribution; and again March 24, 1795 as the 'only surviving executor, he produced an account showing 727 pounds, 13 shillings and ten pence at this estate.

He was named as one of the executors in the will of his brother-in-law John Bracken, but apparently refused to serve (Will Book E, p 365). He was executor for _____ Abbett Deeds Book 2, p 417). Also for Finley McGrew of Tyrone Township,

York County, Pa. (Will Book B, p 99). Also for John McGrew, yeoman (probably his father), of Huntington Township, York County, Pa., Will Book C, page 325.

The will of John McGrew, drawn July 6, 1775, and probated Dec 6, 1775 mentions among his heirs his sons Archibald and William, and grandsons (sons of Archibald) John and Archibald. Archibald McGrew's name appears Deed Book D2, p 49, as a purchaser at Sheriff's sale Feb 4, 1786, of one hundred acres of land from John Wilson's estate of Huntington Township for 110 pounds. Again, probably the same Archibald McGrew, but described as of Allen Township, Cumberland Cty, Pa appears as the purchaser of two tracts of land from James Crawford and his wife Ann Price, Sept 4, 1791, for 300 pounds, York County, Pa., Deed Book H2, page 39.

XVI Margaret Bracken (Thomas, William) As shown in the Will of her father it appears that this Bracken had married William McGrew and had children. She was dead at the time her father's will was drawn, April 6, 1779, William McGrew was probably a son of John McGrew and brother of Archibald. In a transfer of land from Nicholas Detrieth, Sr. to Michael Detrieth, his son, in Tyrone Township, (late in the County of Lancaster, now in York County), it is stated that William McGrew and Margaret his wife sold April 20, 1765 to William Hill, 200 acres of land, York Cty Deed Book M2, p 537. This land had come to John McGrew (father of William?) from the Honorables Thomas and Richard Penn, Aug 4, 1750, York Cty Deed Book D, p. 187. this probably refers to the William McGrew and Margaret Bracken. If William was the son of John, he was one of the executors of his father's estate York Cty Wills Book C, p. 325.

XVII Jean Bracken (Thomas, William) As shown in the will of her father, this Bracken married Mathew Dillk, and was still living April 6, 1779. Matthew Dill of Menallen Twp. York Cty was appointed guardian of three minor children of James Bracken, his borhter-in-law, Jan. 31, 1785, York Cty, Orphans Court Book E, p 241. and March 24, 1785, he was made guardian for three children of John Bracken, also a brother-in-law, York Cty Orphan's Court, Book E, p251.

He had land in Westmoreland (Indiana County), Pa, in 1784, and has at the present time (Aug 10, 1899), descendants living at Dilltown, Indiana County, Pa. (Mr. B.S. Dill, a farmer)

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4. It is probable that the first attempt toward settling within the limits of Indiana County was made in 1769, in the forks of the Conemaugh and Blacklick. The county had been explored in 1766-67, and the explorers were much pleased with the spot on which Indiana now stands. Sherman Day's History, page 376.
 5. Washington, Pa., Old Survey Book 3, page 93. A draft of a survey called "Logan water", situated on Raccoon Creek, in Washington County, Penna., containing 157 acres and 42 perches and the usual allowance for roads, etc., executed September 28, 1786, in pursuance of a warrant granted Thomas Bracken fro 100 acres, dated September 16, 1785; and on page 101, same survey book: a draft of a tract of land lying upon the water of Chartiers Creek, Washington County, Penna., called the "Three Shares", containing 340 acres strict measure, surveyed April 15, 1788, in pursuance of a certificate granted to Thomas Bracken by the Commissioners of Virginia, appointed to adjust claims to unpatented lands, the the counties of

Yohogania, Monongahela and Ohio. A Virginia certificate was granted for this tract in 1780. A Patent was not obtained until March 30, 1802.

5. The Presbyterian church had decided that it needed schools for the purpose of educating young men for the ministry, and it determined to locate one school at Canonsburg and the other in Virginia. This later school was an outgrowth of "Liberty Hall" in Lexington, Va., organized by the Rev. William Graham. After its reorganization it was known as Washington College. (Thomas Bracken's oldest son by the second wife, Rev. Reid Bracken, married the daughter of Rev. William Graham.)

Fourth Generation

XIX Thomas Bracken (William, Thomas, William). Thomas Bracken was probably born in York (Adams) County, Pa. about 1760, married in Westmoreland (Indiana) County, Pa., to Margaret (Peggy) Wakefield. Died in Cambria County, Pa.

Children

- 49 William, born __ m. Margaret Boner
- 50 Johnm born __; not married
- 51 Thomas, born VII-4-1800; m. XII-22-1832, Mary Davis
- 52 Polly (Mary?), born __, m. John Wakefield
- 53 Martha, born __ m. Jacob McCarthy
- 54 Elizabeth, born __ m.. James McKisson
- 55 Isaac, born ? m. ?
- 56 James W., born __ m. Ann E. Willit
- 57 David, born 1814 m. Christina Roger
- 58 Ruth, born ? m. Anthony Andrews
- 59 Nathan, born ? m. ?

This Thomas Bracken was known as 'Short Tommy', to distinguish him from his cousin who lived in the same county, and known as 'Long Tommy'. His descendants seem to know almost nothing of his early life. He was a farmer and miller. Whether he had land from his father, William, is not known. A warrant was issued to Thomas Bracken (probably this man) by the Commonwealth of Pa, for 400 acres of land in Westmoreland County, Pa, May 9, 1793 (Greensburgh Deed Book 2, page 415).

He was unfortunate financially and finally lost his farm in Indiana County, by sheriff's sale, the property then passing into the hands of his cousin Long Tommy. After the losing of this farm, Short Tommy removed to a farm (which he owned) at Laurel Hill, Cambria County, Pa., where both he and his wife finally died. His son David afterward owned this farm.

Sometime after reaching manhood, he was bitten by a pet bear and crippled for life. He, his wife, and most of his descendants belonged to the Methodist Church.

Margaret Wakefield was the daughter of David Wakefield and Mary Wade. She was born in Ireland. David Wakefield, her father, was born in Ireland, on the family estate, on the road between Aughrim and Ballinasloe. Mary Wade, her mother, was the daughter of Jeremiah Wade, a wealthy landed proprietor. According to

tradition, David Wakefield was forced to leave Ireland because he and two of his brothers were found out as implicated in a plot against Catholic rule in Ireland. David was hid by his wife in a hogshead with clothing, and in this way was taken on board a ship sailing for America. It was some time between 1768 and 1773 that they left Ireland. Their younger children were born in America, (probably including Margaret). [refers to the Wakefield Memorial]

XX William Bracken (William, Thomas, William) There is nothing to show whether this man or his brother, Short Tommy, was the older. When he was born is not known. He married Mary Garrison, daughter of Elijah Garrison. He died in Westmoreland (Indiana) County, Pa., prior to April 15, 1794. they had three children as follows:

Children:

60. Edward William, born ?, died young

61. Levi, born ?, m ?

62 Thomas, born V-22-1794, married II-12-1801, Mathilda Coen. This man must have died when comparatively young. William Bracken (probably this man) received 400 acres of land in Wheatfield Township, Westmoreland (Indiana) County, Pa., for 10 pounds, by warrant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, dated May 9, 1793 (Greensburg, Pa, Deed Book 2, page 415).

On March 1, 1794, he gave a quitclaim deed to the heirs of William Bracken, senior (his father), as follows:

“Know all men by these presents, that I William Bracken of Wheatfield Township, Westmoreland County and State of Pennsylvania, have remised, released and forever quitclaimed and by these presents do for me my heirs executors and administrators, remise, release and forever quitclaim unto _____ all interest, title and benefits arising out of my future estate but only one equal share with the rest of the legatees. In witness whereof I the said William Bracken have hereunto set my hand and seal the first day of March in the year of our Lord 1794.

Signed sealed and delivered in the presence of

Hugh Gallagher

James Wakefield

David Wakefield

It is to be considered by the above release that each of the legatees shall make a true return of what they have already got from my father’s estate, otherwise it shall be of no effect.
William Bracken”

His will was drawn the same date (March 1, 1794) and recorded April 15, 1794. It reads as follows:

“In the name of God Amen. I William Bracken, of Wheatfield Township, Westmoreland County, Pa. being weak of body but of sound memory blessed be God, do this day being the first of March in the year of our Lord 1794 make and publish this my last will and testament in manner following, that is to say. First, I give and bequeath my soul unto God who gave it and my body to the dust to be buried at the discretion of my executors and friends, I also order my funeral charges paid and lawful debts if any there be also I give and bequeath unto my dear and beloved dwife the sum of 20 pounds also I give and bequeath unto my mother one feather bed and bed clothes, one cow, two pots, what pewter and such of the household furniture as

she shall stand in need of and all the rest of my estate real and personal I give and bequeath unto my children to be equally divided between them, but if it should happen that the child (with whom my wife is now pregnant) be a daughter, she the said daughter is to have but half as much as one of my sons. It is also my will that my children be under the direction and control of my mother and brother Thomas Bracken and that at the proper time they be put to trades. I also make and ordain my said brother Thomas Bracken and my worthy friend James Wakefield my sole executors of this my last will and testament to which I set my hand and seal this date before written.

William Bracken

Signed in the presence of
William Clarke,
Hugh Gallagher
Thomas Clarke

Recorded April 15, 1794

It would seem from his will that his wife was not a rugged woman, for he expressed the wish that his children be under the direction and control of his mother and brother Thomas. At the time of his death, there were probably two boys living; the third boy was born a few days after his father's death. The oldest boy died probably in Westmoreland County, Pa. for he was but a mere child at the time (said to have been but two years old. He may have been younger than Levi).

His wife was taken by her father, Elijah Garrison, to Cincinnati in 1797, and there she died the same year. The boys were brought up by the grandfather, Elijah Garrison. Elijah Garrison died in Indiana, at the home of his grandson, Levi Bracken. The Garrison's father was in the Revolutionary war.

XXI Thomas Bracken (John, Thomas, William). Born probably in York (Adams) County, Pa., July 30, 1764, married probably in York (Adams) County, December 18, 1787 to Sarah Twinem, died in Indiana County, Pa., January 10, 1851.

Children
63 Margaret, born
64 Elizabeth, born
65 John, born
66 Twinem, born
67 John, born
68 William, born
69 Mary, born
70 Thomas H., born
71 James Twinem, born

This Thomas Bracken was a large, heavy man and was known as "Long Tommy" to distinguish him from his cousin short Tommy. Tradition states that he was a mere boy during the Revolutionary War, living with his widowed mother in York (Adams) County, Pa., and his home was in eastern Pa until after the death of his brother John in Westmoreland County, in 1802. He then moved to Indiana County and settled upon the property that his brother John left and spent the remainder of his life there. He was a tanner by trade. When his cousin short Tom's farm was sold by sheriff's sale, it came into this man's possession. His wife was of the Methodist church, and the descendants are largely of that religious faith.

Thomas met with an accident, either from timber falling upon him or from a fall himself, while showing a man what timber to cut. By this he was crippled for the rest of his life, and in consequence prevailed upon his son William to live upon the homestead and care for his parents. This he did so long as they lived.

XXVI John Bracken (John, Thomas, William). This man was born in 1775 and died in 1802. He went to Westmoreland (Indiana) County secured land, planted fruit trees and was building s story and a half log house, when he was taken sick and died. The property passed to his brother Thomas. He was not married.

XXVIII Martha Bracken (Thomas, Thomas, William). Born in Adams (York) County, Pa., May 10, 1765, married to Samuel Shannon about 1783; died near Shelbyville, KY, Feb 23, 1838, buried in a private burying ground near Shelbyville.

Children

72 John, born IV-28-1784; m. ___ Finley

73 Thomas, born II-13-1786; m. ?

74 Agnes, born 9-1-1787;m. William Boyd

75 Sarah, born 4-2-1790; m. 1-26-1809 to John James Roberts

76 Anna, born 9-6-1792; m. John Harbison

77 William, born 5-14-1795; m. Rachel Howell

78 Samuel, born 7-19-1797; m. 11-30-1820 to Deborah Younger

79 Elizabeth, born 3-16-1800; m. Salem Wallace

80 Martha, born 7-12-1803; m. 10-17-1822 to David Emmison

81 Mary, born 1-30-1806, not married

82 Esther, born 7-20-1808, not married.

This Bracken seems to have been an excellent woman. Her large family was well cared for and respected. Her husband, Samuel Shannon, was a brother of her step-mother, Ann Shannon Bracken. As the Shannons thus come doubly into the Bracken family, it may be interesting to give rather particular note of the family up to this date.

John Shannon, of Sadsbury township, Lancaster County, Pa., dying about 1768, left 11 children besides the widow, Sarah Reid Shannon. [It is thought by some that this is the Captain John Shannon who was in the provincial service, 1746-1747. See PA Archives, Series I, Vol 1 pp 688,689; Series II, Vol 2, pp 419 & 425; Series 2, Vol 3, p496]

Of this large family, some married and settled in Western Pa. (Margaret married Thomas Byers and Ann, Thomas Bracken; both lived their married life and died in Washington County, Pa.) but most of the family settled in the South (VA, TN & KY). One of the most interesting of this large family probably was William Shannon, who lived and died a bachelor.⁷

In all probability he first went from Eastern Va to that part of Va which afterward became Ky in 1782. (Ky became a state in 1782). He probably first entered Ky with a surveying party. He took up large tracts of land, 200,000 acres it is said, and this is quite probable. He owned the land upon which Shelbyville, Ky now stands and gave it to the county (Shelby) the public square in the centre of Shelbyville. He must have been prominent in war, as well as in civil affairs. He was preparing to go as an officer with Wayne on his campaign in 1794, when his end came in a very tragic manner. There had been some ill feeling between himself and a man named Felter,

living in Shelbyville. The quarrel had been made up. Felter had invited Shannon into his house for dinner. Shannon had accepted and was sitting at the table eating, when Felter's wife said something that started the quarrel again. Shannon said he would not eat in a house where people talked so, and thereupon rose from the table, left the house and was crossing the street near the common, when someone shouted to him to look out; that Felter was about to throw a stone at him. Shannon turned about and saw Felter in the act of throwing the stone. He threw a dirk at Felter in the same time that Felter threw the stone. The dirk struck Felter and killed him instantly. The stone struck Shannon and he died the next day. This, tradition says, was in July 1794.

It was this William Shannon who was probably the means of several of his brothers and sisters settling in Ky. (Agnes, who married James Roberts; Sally, who married ___ Brown and brothers, Samuel, Thomas and George).

Samuel Shannon (who married Martha Bracken), born April 15th, 1750, died May 14th, 1813, early followed his brother to Ky. The first record of land to Samuel is dated 1787. He was closely related to his brother William in business matters; and was one of the chief legatees and the executor of William's will. His descendants often speak of his disregard for land, stating that he traded some off for a song, while some he let go for taxes. Both of these men figured in the early Ky legislature. Both had more or less to do with the early Indian wars and with the rev. war, although of the latter I have no positive record unless the Lt. Samuel Shannon mentioned in the PA Archives (Series II, Vol 14, p 747) of Washington County, Pa. Militia and in service on the frontier, 1782 to 1785, is the same. It is altogether probable that it is, for he certainly was in Washington County at that time.

7. Collins History of KY refers several times to Wm Shannon. On page 26, m Vol 1, an account is given of Captain Wm Shannon, who, with Col. Archibald Lochery and others and one hundred and one men, were on their way down the Ohio river, Aug 25, 1782, to join Gen. Clarke's expedition. They landed on the Indiana shore (Lochery creek) nine miles below the Great Miami River. They were fired upon by the Indians. 42 were killed and 64 were taken prisoner (inc. Wm Shannon). Those captured were taken north some distance.

Tradition tells a story that may refer to the same as above, to the effect that Wm Shannon was on his way down the Ohio river to New Orleans with a boat load of flour for sale. He stopped and went ashore for a short time hunting. The Indians seized the boat, threw the flour into the river and took Shannon and his men prisoners and carried them to Northern Ohio. They escaped and got back to the Ohio river again. At this time he lost his surveying instruments. He secured others from a Frenchman.

William Shannon was a member of the Va legislature (Jefferson County) in 1790. (Collins Hist Vol 1, pg 366; Vol 2, p709) and of the House of Representatives of KY (Shelby County) 1793. See also Marshall's History of Kentucky, and History of Shelby County, Kentucky.

XXIX William Bracken (Thomas, Thomas, William). Born in Adams (York) Counhty, Pa., 1768; died near Shelbyville, Ky April 1850, buried in a private

burying ground on the Roberts Farm, near Shelbyville, Ky. by the side of his sister, Martha Shannon. He was married twice, first to Jane Thompson about 1793; second to Mrs. Sarah _____ nee King in 1824.

Children First Wife

83. Thomas, born 7-24-1794; m (1st) Mary McMillan 7-12-1833, (2nd) to Mrs Mary Harp, nee Schaeffer.

84. Martha, born ?, m. not married

85. Ann, born ?, m. William Gray

86. Jane, born ?, not married

87. Andrew Thompson, born 1802; m. Mrs. Mary L. Crook Pennel

88. William, born ? m. ?

89. Nancy (Agnes) (1) born ?, died young

90. Hannah, born 7-23-1808; m. 10-3-1832, to James Greenlee

91. Samuel, born II-I-1810; m. (1) 3-15-1831 to Hannah Brown, (2) 1846 to Jane C. McKeage, (3) 1868 to Rebecca Brown nee Wiley.

92. John, born 1-1-1812; m. 3-13-1831 to Irene Smith

93. Nancy Agnes (2), born ?; m. 12-31-1834 to John Shearer

94. George W., born 12-9-1816; m. 3-31-1844 to Angelina Lloyd.

Children Second Wife

95. Newton, born ?; m. ?

96. Milton, born ?; m. ?

97. Henry, born ?; m. ?

98. Sarah, born ?; m. ?

99. Mary Jane, born ?; m. ?

William Bracken was a small boy about 9 years old when his father married the second time. His step-mother, when she was brought home as a bride by his father, gave presents to the 4 children to whom she was to serve as mother, in order to win their good graces. To William she gave a pen-knife. William must have had busy life. He was married twice. By his first wife he had 12 children. After his first marriage, he lived on a farm near Canonsburg, Pa., for some time. He traded this farm, which had probably been given him by his father, to his brother-in-law, William Thompson, for a larger farm, 400 acres, in Erie County, Fort LaBoeuf, near Union City, Pa., and moved to it about 1808.⁸ Here he built a hewn log house, said by some of his descendants to have been two stories high, an extra good house for those times and parts. He was one of the first trustees of the Waterford Presbyterian Church when organized under the Rev. John Mathews, and was afterwards made a ruling elder. More might be learned of his relation to this church, but for the fact that its records are very incomplete. At the time of the War of 1812, family care bore heavily upon this man, and his oldest son Thomas served as his substitute in service.

In 1814 he left his farm at Fort LaBoeuf, and moved upon a farm on the flats, near Waterford, which had been cleared by the French, and was reserved by the state for the support of an academy at Waterford. He had the contract for building the Waterford Academy. The stone was cut for the academy by 12 Irishmen and brought from Pittsburg for the purpose. They lodged in a rented house. From this home, his children could attend school and they enjoyed these privileges for a time, but his wife, who was an excellent woman, sickened and died. At this time he had 10 children at home, five sons and five daughters. He had lost one child and his oldest son had gone

to the 'far west' (Ohio, near Wooster). He married his second wife about 1824, a 'young widow with five children'. This did not meet with the approval of some of the oldest children by the first wife and they left home. In 1826 he returned from Waterford to his own farm near Fort La Boeuf. By his second wife he had five children. In 1846 his second wife died. He was then 78 years old. He had had a hard time struggling along with a large family. He never was a very rugged man. After his second wife's death, his family scattered, and he set out on what proved to be his last journey. Driving, he visited friends and relations in Western Pa, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Kentucky. The following letter, written from Kentucky, gives some idea of this trip:

"Saturday, November 10, Shelbyville, Kentucky.

Children I found a letter in my trunk a few minutes ago from Georg dated December 18, 1848, which said write often I felt guilty and now ?I go at it and my letter will be to all my children in Collumbus my health has been good for any old man I was somewhat troubled with a pain in the back of my head this I had before I left you you never seen little sorrel as fat as he is this day I left your brother AB the 17 of October I spent one cold winter and one warm summer in all you cant have any eiday what pleasant summer I had the roads was good and I was kept every day Galanting others mens wives and widows and young girls this you know suits me riding in the buggy helps my head. I came through Indianey I was at James Thompson's father in law he was expected he was expected there this fall it is 400 miles from rock Riverto this place I travelled 500 miles in Ell state [Illinois]. I brought Mary to rock river last spring to teach school I left her there perhaps she is in pen [Pennsylvania] now I need not take up your time in telling you about Countries you have heard all about them. Elynois is a good country but it is hard. Building lumber is 20 dollars per thousand feet a tealor will get from 10 to 15 bushels of wheat for making a coat a man will get 4 bushels of corn for one days one soosed 80 bushels of spring wheat last spring the have reapers that will cut from 15 to 20 acres of wheat in one day Thompson has share of one. Thompson's farm is as level as your floor and as clear of stumps and stones I am deceived with the appearance of kentucky is 60 years since I seen it the roads is round farms and through gates except the turnpike it is good the tol is 10 cents five miles for horse and buggy the friendship every place cant be told the have sheed tears on parting with me who was no relation. I get presents. I expect a broad cloth coat some of these days I have concluded to stay here this winter my friends wont hear of me going at all the uncle the have in the world I got first Sally Roberts my nees as soon as Sam Shannon my nephew heard that I wasat his sisters he came and his wife and daughter to see me as soon as the spoke to me I stept out on the porch I felt ful I could not speak was in site of my sisters grave meeting with her son he followed me out sat down beside me and said I will tell you what I" want you to do I want you to come to my house and make it your home he is rich he has plenty of black chaps but he says it would be better if he had none he has a great house I can have a warm room and bed he is the man that James Thompson said had 30 silver bols to drink out of he said they did not cost him anything he got me as a premium at the fair he is now getting 500 for 10 week riding as agent to buy hogs I will be there and at Sally Roberts. Mostly I feel as if I would be berryed beside my sister I think it my duty to be prepared. Dear children don't neglect prair remember the sabith kepe your children from bols and all that you have any influence over read the 6th chapter of Mattha 33 verse there you will see your diuty.

This letter is to all my friends but John and George Brackens families in particular.

I wish to receive letter from some of you as soon as you get this for I am uneasy to hear from all I suppose Mrs Seffield daughter told you that she seen me in Belvedere be sure to write and direct your letters to Shelbyville County postop – Kentucky.

No more from your father

Wm. Bracken

[No envelope for this letter, but the two long sheets were folded together. This letter is in the possession of his grandson, Charles H. Bracken, Corry, Pa.]

John M. Bracken

George W. Bracken

He had started to drive back to his Pa home from Ky in the spring of 1850 but had gone but a short distance when he was taken ill and died at the home of his niece, Mrs Emmison. He was 82 years old at the time of his death.

Jane Thompson, first wife of William Bracken, was the daughter of Andrew Thompson and Martha his wife. The Thompsons moved from Ireland to the United States and settled in Erie County, Pa. about 1797. The parents were past the meridian of life at this time, three or four of their children were married. Janes was about 12 years old when they left Ireland. The Thompsons were ‘seceders’ in religion.

Sarah _____ nee King, second wife of William Bracken, was the daughter of Captaqin Robert King. She bore ten children, five to her first husband and five to her second. She died at the age of 53, in the spring of 1846, and was buried near her parents in the Oak Grove burying ground at LaBoeuf.

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8. There is confusion of dates here that cannot be straightened out easily. John Bracken (son of William) is said to have been born near Canonsburg. This was in 1812. It is stated that Thomas (oldest son of William) was 14 years old when they moved to Erie County. This would make ther date 1808. Hugh Wilson states that Sarah Bracken was married to Jane Thompson at her half-brothers in 1811. Facts seem to point to the probability that William Bracken moved to Erie County, about 1808.
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XXX Ann Bracken (Thomas, Thomas, William). Born in Adams (York) County, probably about 1770. Married to David Andrews, a farmer.

Children

100. William, born ?; m. ?

101. Mary, born ?; m. ?

Little is known of this Bracken. She died sometime previous to 1803, for her father, in his will, drawn Feb 8th, 1803, left to his grandchildren, William and Mary Andrews, sixty acres, upon which they were then living with their father near Canonsburg. This property afterwards passed into the hands of _____ a farmer.

XXXI Samuel Bracken (Thomas, Thomas, William). Samuel Bracken, youngest son of Thomas Bracken by his first wife, was born probably in Adams

(York) County, Pa and died at Canonsburg when a young man. At the time of his death he was a student, some say in the academy, others say of theology under Dr. McMillan. He might easily have been an academic student under Dr. McMillan, and with the intent of studying for the ministry. He probably died about or following 1790 and was not far from 20 years of age at the time.

XXXII Reid Bracken (Thomas, Thomas, William). Born Adams (York) County, Pa. September 24, 1778, married Mary Graham at Lexington, Va. May 1st, 1806, died at Mt Nebo, Butler County, Pa, July 29, 1849.

Children

102. Mary, born ?; died young
103. William G., born 7-20-1808, never married
104. Thomas H., born 9-18-1810, m. 1-25-1828 to Sarah M. McCurdy
105. Newton, born II-30-1812, m. (1) 9-10-1841 to Pamela Craig; m. (2) 1860 to Jerusha Craig
106. Maria, born 12-13-1814, m. (1) to M.W. Spear, MD; m. (2) to John Stevenson
107. Cyprian, born II-10-1817, m. to Cornelia C. Rice
108. Anne, born 6-28-1820, never married
109. John R., born 7-7-1826, m. to Elizabeth Martin

In his father's will Reid Bracken was left 180 acres of land under certain conditions. Reid Bracken was the son of Thomas Bracken and Ann (Shannon) Bracken.

“When he was an infant of 6 weeks old, his father removed with his family to Washington County in the same state, and found a home in what was soon to become the congregation of Chartiers. The same year Rev. John McMillan began to preach steadily to the people of that neighborhood. Thomas Bracken was one of the first elders elected after the organization of the church, and his little son Reid, the subject of this sketch, the first child baptized in the congregation, and indeed the first male child baptized west of the Allegheny Mountains. The mother of Reid was a woman of strong good sense and great decision of character and brought up her family in the fear of God. His father was farmer and accustomed to labor and brought up his son to the same avocation until he was nearly of age, when, finding his mind was inclined to study, and with a desire for preparation for the ministry, he furnished him a Latin Grammar and the work of preparation commenced.”

“Reid Bracken graduated at Jefferson College in 1802, being a member of the first class that graduated after the college was chartered. His name stands at the head of the list, with names of Johnson Eaton, Wm McMillan and Israel Pickens, as classmates. Of course he studied theology with Dr. McMillan and in due time was licensed to preach the gospel by the Presbytery of Ohio. This occurred on the 17th of October, 1805. He travelled one year in Ohio and Virginia, preaching to vacant churches. In the year 1806, he went to Butler County, Pa., when he received calls to the pastoral charge of the congregation of Mt. Nebo and Plain. On the 20th day of October 1807, he was received under the care of the Presbytery of Erie (page 55 ???). On the 20th day of April, 1808, he was ordained to the whole work of the ministry, and installed pastor of these churches. In these exercises William Wood preached the sermon and Nicholas Pittinger delivered the charges. In these congregations he labored faithfully, giving one half his time to each, until October 7, 1819, when he

was released from the Plain Church, and on the 28th of September 1820, installed as pastor of Middlesex. His labors continued in the church at Middlesex until 1832, when he resigned and became pastor of the church of Portersville. But during all these years he continued to give the half of his time to Mt. Nebo, being pastor there for the period of 37 years. About 5 years before his death he resigned his pastoral charge. He felt the infirmities of age coming upon him, and not being able to go in and out before the people as in earlier days, gave way to more vigorous laborers. Still he continued to preach, as opportunities offered, until the close of his life. His last sermon to his old charge at Mt. Nebo was from the words of the Apostle, Cor. 12:27 "Now ye are the body of Christ and members in particular." One week before his death he rode ten miles and preached to one of his old congregations from the words, "They shall be mine, saith the Lord of Hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels." It was his last sermon, and so strong was the impression made upon the minds of his friends that, after he was laid in his last sleep, these words were engraved upon his tombstone. He was confined to his couch but a few days during his last illness. Three days previous to his decease he was asked whether he had anything to say to his family previous to his departure. He addressed them as follows, the words being taken down by one of the family at the time:

"My children, you are all here. It is a solemn time. From present appearances I am about to leave you, having served my generation, and am going to render up my account to my Judge. I have a comfortable hope of meeting my Saviour in peace, and spending eternity in happiness. It is of the greatest consequence to have a hope that maketh not ashamed. It is my sincere desire that all my children shall be prepared.

____ Give all diligence to make your calling and election sure. ____ Rely upon the merits of Christ as the only foundation of hope. ____ Now is the accepted time, now is the day of Salvation. Salvation is free to all that will accept. Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest"*

[* Some of his words were inaudible]

"This address was followed by a short and feeling prayer, and so he went down into the valley, leaning on the rod and staff of the Good Shepherd, and passing over the river to dwell with God. He died on his farm in Butler County, Pa., on the 20th day of July, 1849, in the 72nd year of his age, and the 44th of his ministry. Reid Bracken was united in marriage to Mary Graham, of Lexington, Va., on the 1st day of May, 1806. She was the youngest daughter of that distinguished servant of God, Rev. William Graham, founder of Washington College, Va., to whom frequent reference is made in the life of Dr. Archibald Alexander. After a long and useful life, she went to rejoin her husband in eternal union, Dec 30, 1863, in the 78th year of her age. They had eight children. Reid Bracken moved to Butler County when it was new and the people poor. Like his people, he commenced in the woods and by the labor of his own hands cut down the forest and opened for himself a farm, which he afterward cultivated with his own hands to assist in the support of his family. His sons well remember the time when his practice was to labor in the field five days in the week and devote the Saturday to the work of preparation for the pulpit. He was a stalwart, and could excel most able-bodied men in labouring with an axe, or in the harvest field. His physical health was almost uniformly good, and with all his labor on his farm, his mind did not become secularised. He labored faithfully in the Master's field. Many churches were built up through the instrumentality of his labors. He knew nothing of the eloquence that holds an audience spellbound with the beauty of hopes and the grand flow of fitly chosen words. Yet he could set forth Christ crucified with

love and zeal and effect. He stood high in the estimation of his brethren as a sound and earnest preacher of the new Testament.”

“As a member of the ecclesiastical courts he was punctual and attentive. He seldom spoke, yet when he did, it was to the point, and his remarks always had great weight.” He was one of the original members of the Presbytery of Allegheny, and continued a member until his death.

History states that the Presbyterian church decided that it needed schools for the purpose of educating young men for the ministry, and it determined to locate one school at Canonsburg, Pa., and one at Lexington, Va. It was interesting to note that Reid Bracken and his wife were children of fathers who were interested in the founding of these two schools. Thomas Bracken with Canonsburg Academy, afterwards Jefferson College, and Rev. William Graham organizer of Liberty Hall, which afterward became Washington College, Lexington, Va. He died in Richmond while on business there with the legislature, and his friends, because of the difficulty in travelling and the distance from home, buried him there, and erected a monument over his grave “which remains to the present time.”

XXXIII Thomas Bracken (Thomas, Thomas, William). Born near Canonsburg, Pa., November 12, 1780, married (1) Elizabeth Morrow and then (2) Ann Davidson.

Children (All by first wife)

110. Sarah, born 1805, not married

111. Ann, born II-22-1807, m. X-11-1827 to Robert Harper

112. James, born 1809, not married

113. Reed, born Jan. 1811, m. Hannah Calahan

114. William, born Jan. 1811, m. (1) Sarah Harris, nee Dunwoody; (2) Sarah

Cope

115. Thomas T., born June 30, 1814, m. March 19, 1835 to Mariah Jane

Lindsey.

116. John, born ?, not married

117. Vance, born ?, m. to Eliza J. Coryea

118. John Newton, born 1824, m. ___ Hamilton

This Thomas Bracken was a farmer and lived for years upon part of the property secured by his father in Washington County, Pa., near Canonsburg. His father was first buried on the part of the farm that Thomas occupied, but his remains were afterwards removed to the Chartiers burying ground. After his large family was grown, he sold the Canonsburg home to Mr. Murray and removed to Mercer County, where he died at a good old age. He was a genial, peaceable, good-natured man; not given to meddling with his neighbors affairs nor to assume public responsibility. He was a consistent member of the Presbyterian Church, and was a ruling elder. Both he and his first wife are buried at Neshanoc church, near Mercer, Pa. He was well advanced in years when he married his second wife and had no children by her.

XXXIV Sarah Bracken (Thomas, Thomas, William). Born near Canonsburg, Pa., February 21, 1782, married near Waterford, Pa., at the home of her half brother, William Bracken, 1811, to John Thompson; died May, 1854, near Union, Pa.

Children

119. William, born 1812
120. Andrew, born IV-15-1813; m. X-II-1833 to Sarah Smith
121. Ann, born XII-29-1814; m. XII-II-1833 to Alexander Smith
122. James M., born VII-I-1818; m. XII-II-1841 to Michael Ann Miller
123. Alexander, born 1818 (sic)
124. Eliza Jane, born II-23-1820; m. XI-21-1839 to David Wilson

This woman had an eventful life. In 1811, while visiting her half brother, William Bracken, and her sister, Agnes, wife of the Rev. John Mathews, in Erie County, Pa., she married John Thompson, a brother of the wife of William Bracken. [Jane Thompson.] For a time they lived on the farm of the husband's parents and cared for the old people (the Thompsons). "In 1817, John Thompson and a neighbor (Watson) built a boat at Waterford, Pa. they, with their families (three or four children) and Rev. John Mathews and wife, launched out in this boat, taking all their goods with them and floated down La Boeuf and French Creeks and the Allegheny and Ohio Rivers to the Mississippi River. This trip was undertaken because of the flattering accounts which William Thompson sent back to Pennsylvania from Missouri. (William Thompson was the brother of John, husband of Sarah Bracken, and of Jane, wife of William Bracken. He was the one who traded farms with William Bracken. He did not stay at Washington County, Pa., very long, but went west and was pilot on the Mississippi River.)

From the mouth of the Ohio River this boat was towed and pushed up the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers to St. Charles, MO, where the party settled. The land that this party left behind in Erie County was not sold at this time. (It would not be sold, there was no demand for it.) In Missouri the soil was all that could be wished for but there was constant sickness. [An old deserted channel of the Missouri river would fill with water when the river was high, and when the river fell, the water would remain and stagnate. The Thompson family had the fever every year while they remained there.] John Thompson died in 1826 (or 1823). Agnes Mathews also died. John Thompson's widow struggled on for a few years after her husband's death trying to sell the farm, but failed to do so and disease (malaria) continuing to exist, she finally determined to return to her old home in Pennsylvania. Not being able to sell the place and not having means to pay for the journey by water, she fitted up a wagon and started for the long overland journey with six children. She would try to arrange so that she and her two little girls could sleep at night in some house. The four boys would sleep in the covered wagon. She would not travel on Sundays. Finally she reached her brothers (Thomas and Henry) at the old home in Washington County, Pa. A house was fitted up and for the family and her boys worked upon the farms of their uncles until they were sufficiently grown to take care of a farm of their own. Then the mother returned with her children to the farm that she had left fourteen years before, unsold because they could not sell it, in Erie County, Pa. Here she lived and kept her children together. Finally she allowed the farm to be divided. Two sons went west and settled. She lived with those remaining in Erie County until May, 1854, when she died. She had shown much fortitude in all her trials and came out victorious. She accomplished more in the world in her modest, unassuming way, than many others who have attained great celebrity. She talked but little, and was never known to say a word that she did not believe to be strictly untrue. Her example of Christian piety will shine far down the line of her posterity."

John Thompson (whom Sarah Bracken married) was son of Andrew Thompson and Martha, and brother of Jane Thompson, who married William Bracken. He was probably born in Ireland and was a young boy when his parents, Andrew and Martha, settle in the wilderness in Erie County, Pa, about 1797. The Thompsons were very religious in their way. They had family worship three times a day, but would have no fellowship with those who sang Watts' version of the Psalms, nor would the father permit his children to hear those preach who did, if he could prevent it.

XXXV Agnes (Nancy) Bracken (Thomas, Thomas, William). Born near Canonsburg, Pa., November 24, 1783. Married Rev. John Mathews. She had no children. After her marriage her home was at Waterford, Pa. for a time. In 1817 she went with her husband and her sister Sarah's family, by water to Missouri. There she died probably about 1820.

Rev. John Mathews (Nevin's Presbyterian Encyclopedia) Born Beaver County, Pa., February 7, 1777; graduated Jefferson College, 1807; studied theology with Rev. John McMillan. On the 26th of June, 1810, he, a licentiate, accepted calls from the congregations of Waterford and Gravel Run, and was ordained and installed their pastor October 17 following; dissolved pastoral relations with Waterford April 2nd, 1817. He resigned to become itinerant missionary. Was a member of St. Louis Presbytery at its organization, December 18, 1817. Was stated supply Apple Creek Church, Missouri, 1825-28; at Kaskaski; at Pleasant Ridge (Mo?), 1828-34, and for brief terms at churches in Illinois, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Missouri, 1834-1851. Resided at Steel Mills (Ill?), 1851-1861. Died May 12, 1861. He was in the Presbyterian ministry 51 years, and was one of the fathers. Besides being present at the organization of St. Louis Presbytery, Dec. 18, 1817, he was one of the organizers of Centre Presbytery of Illinois, January 9th, 1829, Presbytery of Kaskaskia, March 4th, 1831, and the Synod of Illinois, September, 1831. He preached the opening sermon at each (this includes St. Louis Presbytery). He was very active as a missionary, visiting the destitute organized churches or supplying vacancies.

Jefferson College Historical College says: Born February 7, 1778, son of James and Prudence (Gordon) Mathews, born Franklin County, Pa.

Graduated Jefferson College 1807

Licensed June 22nd, 1809, Presbytery of Ohio

Ordained October 17, 1809, Presbytery of Erie

Pastor Gravel Run, Pennsylvania, 1809-14; Waterford, 1809-17.

Missionary, Missouri, 1817-27; Ohio, 1827-32; Illinois

Married Nancy Bracken, also Anna Smith. Died Georgetown, Illinois, May 12, 1861.

XXXVI Hannah Bracken (Thomas, thomas, William). Born near Canonsburg, Pa., October 20, 1785. Married March 28th, 1809 to Joseph Thompson. Died ?

Children

125. Nancy, born II-3-1810; m. XII-10-1833 to Robert Douglas

126. Jane, born VIII-15-1811; not married

127. Anne, born IV-15-1813; m. X-12-1842, to David Moore

128. Bracken, born V-1815; not married

129. Hannah, born V-I-1823; m. ? to Isaac Newkirk (Hannah's the 2nd wife)

Hannah Bracken, like the rest of her family, was a Presbyterian. After her marriage, she lived on Pigeon Creek, not far from Canonsburgh, Pa. Her life was uneventful. Joseph Thompson, her husband, is said to have been no relation to John Thompson, who married Sarah Bracken, her sister. His father (Joseph) migrated from Ireland (See History of Washington County, Pa., page 701). Joseph Thompson was a farmer and a Presbyterian. He was born May 5th, 1700, and died at Bentrsville, Pa., June, 1865.

XXXVII John Bracken (Thomas, Thomas, William). Born near Canonsburgh, Pa., August 17, 1787. Married Sarah Howe. Died?

He was a farmer and a Presbyterian. He lived for some time on a farm that was a part of the Bracken homestead. He afterward lived in various places, and finally bought a home in Canonsburgh, where he spent his last days. He is spoken of as one never in rugged health. When beyond middle life, he married Sarah Howe, who outlived him. He had no children. He is said to have been an elder at Millers Run Presbyterian Church.

XXXVIII Jean Bracken (Thomas, Thomas, William). Born near Canonsburg, Pa., May 21st, 1790. Married to Richard Miller. Died at Canonsburgh, Pa., Nov 3rd, 1857.

Children

130. Thomas B., born ?

131. Reid, born 1818, married four times: 1. Mary Ferguson 2. Sarah Foster 3. Margaret Cowden 4. Mary Ann Burnside

132. Anne, born V-24-1819; m. (1) IX-20-1836 to James Stuart; (2) to Thomas Graham

133. Mathew B., born ?, married Agnes Ferguson

134. David, born III-II-1825, m.(1) 1850 to Nancy Stewart; (2) XII-4-1856 to Nancy Jane Morgan

135. Mary J., born ?; m. Rev. R.S. Morton

Jean Bracken was second wife to Richard Miller. Her life was not an easy one during her married days. Her husband lost his mind and was a great care. It was supposed that he was a wealthy man. He lived near Washington, Pa. Finally he died, and it was found that his property was so involved that there was nothing left for his widow and children. Her brothers, Henry and Thomas Bracken, carried all the worldly goods she had left to a house on the old Bracken homestead, near where they were living, and cared for her and her family until the children were grown. She moved from one of the largest and finest houses in Washington County, Pa, a two story stone house, on a well developed farm, to a log cabin on the border of the woods. Two or three years later, her brother Henry tore down a hewn log building and he and his brother Thomas put up a small but comfortable house on Thomas Bracken's farm near the line fence for her. The transition from wealth to poverty must have been a crushing blow to her. She actually suffered want, yet none of her friends knew the facts at the time. She, with her family, were regular attendants at the house of God.

Like her parents, she was a Presbyterian and brought her family up in that faith. Her children were of good habits and industrious. Her oldest son, Reid, gave her a comfortable home during her declining days.

It is also said that some of the sons of Richard Miller, by his first wife, were wild and that it was through their reckless living that the property was all used up before the father's death. This statement would seem to be borne out by his will. It would also seem, judging from his will, that the children by his first wife were grown and were not pleased by his second marriage.

Will of Richard Miller. Washington, Pa. Vol IV, page 506. Drawn June 4, 1829; probated April 7, 1830.

"Wife Jean to use the plantation and house, mill and implements, during her natural life, or so long as she remains a widow. If she marry, then one-third of the personal property. To sons, John, Richard, Samuel, and James and to daughters Margaret Boon and Elizabeth McClelland, to all only what I gave them when they went away and left me. To children by the second wife Jean Bracken, to Reid Bracken, Mathew B., and David D., each two shares; to Ann and to Mary J., each one share."

Executors – Hugh Furgnes and Thomas Bracken

XXXIX Mary Bracken (Thomas, Thomas, William). Born near Canonsburgh, Pa., October 26, 1793. Married William Van Eman, February 1819. Died January 11, 1859, and buried at the "Hill church burying-ground", near Canonsburgh.

Children

136. Thomas, born I-31-1820, m. (1) X-2-1844 to Mary Fulton; (2) III-2- 1858 to Rachel Stewart.

137. Rebecca Lawrence, born X-16-1821, m. VII-16-1851 to John Donaldson

138. Sarah Ann, born XI-12-1823, m. VI-23-1846 to Rev. Wilson

N.Donaldson

139. Jane, born ?, m. III-31-1853 to Prof. Simon B. Mercler

140. Hannah, born IX-30-1825, m. II-18-1858 to James Grier

141. William, born I-29-1828

Mary Bracken's husband, William Van Eman, died when comparatively a young man, leaving his widow with quite a large family of young children. He was a farmer. His property was not all paid for. His wife, Mary, stayed upon the farm; managed it well; paid off the indebtedness and reared her family. Her mother, who had been a widow for 26 years, and had lived all this time with her youngest son Henry, at the old Bracken homestead, spent the rest of her life with her daughter Mary after the death of the latter's husband.

William Van Eman, farmer, Presbyterian, son of George Van Eman and Rebecca Scott, was born June 15th, 1794 and died April 16th, 1829.

XL Henry Bracken (Thomas, Thomas, William). Born near Canonsburgh, Pa., June 29, 1794. Married to Martha Davis Simcox, April 10, 1816. Died near Canonsburgh, Pa., February 3rd, 1850.

Children

142. Mary Simcox, born III-24-1817, m. V-30-1839 to Rev. Alex Donaldson

143. Julia Ann, born IX-25-1818, not married

144. Thomas Alonzo, born VIII-14-1820, m. (1) VII—1845 to Ann Warren;
 (2) to Myra Cooke, nee Rice
145. William C., born XI-4-1823, m. (1) IV-I-1851 to Electa Alvord; (2) IV-3-
 1859 to Jane D. Pierson
146. Martha D., born IX-19-1826, m. IX-13-1853 to Rev. J. Irwin Smith
147. Nancy Mathews, born III-17-1829, m. III-30-1853 to Rev. R. F. Sample
148. Henry Martyn, born VI-15- 1832
149. Jane Miller, born VI-22-1834, m. VI-9-1859 to Rev. John Culbertson
- Thom
150. John Milton, born XI-7-1836, died young
151. Harriet Newell, born VIII-30-1840, not married

Henry Bracken was the youngest child of Thomas Bracken and Ann Shannon that reached the age of maturity. He was but a boy when his father died. He married quite young and lived on the old farm, (the place was known as Bloomfield). His mother lived with him until the death of his brother-in-law, William Van Eman, when she went to live as company with her daughter, Mary Van Eman, widow of William. Henry was musically inclined and taught singing school at various country places nearly every night in the week during the winter seasons. He also taught school before his marriage. He was interested in educational matters. He received his college training (course not completed) at Jefferson College. He generally had college students living with him during their stay at Jefferson College. He was active in church work, and was an elder in Chartiers church. When the Canonsburgh Presbyterian Church was organized, Oct. 25, 1830, he was chosen as one of its first ruling elders.

His home was one of the typical two-story brick farm houses of Western Pennsylvania. Some time after his death the farm was sold at quite a sacrifice to ___ Craighead, and was again sold later to the state for use in connection with the reform school located at Morganza.

His children seem to have improved their educational opportunities. They all had college or seminary training. Of the sons one was a clergyman (Presbyterian), one a physician and one a lawyer. Four daughters married clergyman (all Presbyterian), two of the daughters never married.

The part of the "Homestead that fell to this man had been run down by repeated crops. Under his care, it was brought into good cultivation again.

He was among the first to advocate the cause of temperance. In his day the use of whisky at all times among the laborers was common. He, by his own abstinence, demonstrated the fact that stimulants were not necessary. He was one of the leaders in organizing the first temperance society in Washington County. He was among the first to advocate what was known as the common school system of education. This system met with much opposition from many moneyed men during its organization. It was brought before the people at the annual election several times before it was adopted. Its enemies after its adoption tried to make it a failure. Henry Bracken was chosen a member of the first Board of Directors in this township, and continued to hold the office by re-elections until shortly before his death, when failing health compelled him to decline re-election. He was clerk of the board during the greater part, if not for this entire period. William Bracken, his son, speaks of him as follows:

"Undemonstrative; of a contemplative mind; diffident and retiring, yet possessing firmness, to which was added gentleness of character. He lived a Christian life. He was governed by principle in all his actions.

“As a parent, he was firm, yet gentle. He seldom punished his children, and when such appeared to be necessary, the use of the rod was preceded by a talk which was always felt to be the most severe part of the punishment.

“I do not pretend to say he was free from fault, but in reviewing the past I cannot recall an act of his, public or private, the repetition of which would cause the cheeks of his children to blush.”

Thomas Bracken, his son, speaks of him as follows:

“Henry Bracken possessed many excellencies of character. Domestic in taste, he loved the society of his family, and aimed to make home attractive, not only by externally beautifying it, but by providing reading instructive, and at the same time interesting, adapted to the different ages and stages of mental development. He was a very neat farmer, and gave much attention to the cultivation of choice fruits. Scrupulously honest, he was systematic in his methods and carefully avoided the contracting of debts. But his Christian character and the uniformity of his Christian life are especially worthy of notice. He was the same Christian gentleman, at home or abroad, and at all times.

“Being well-informed, not only upon religious, but upon secular subjects, he was often called on for advice, but especially were his instructions and prayers sought by those in trouble or upon beds of sickness. He was especially happy in simple family gospel truths, while in prayer he was not only clearly intelligent, but feeling simple and earnest.”

Martha Davis Simcox, wife of Henry Bracken, was born near Pittsburgh, Pa., May 2, 1795, and died at Eldersridge, Pa., May 5, 1877. Her family was of English descent and originally settled in Maryland.

She was an estimable woman, of sterling piety and great energy of character. The last years of her life were spent at the home of her son-in-law Rev. Alex Donaldson.

Henry Bracken and Mary, his wife are buried in the old cemetery of Chartiers church, near Canonsburgh, Pa.

XLIII Thomas Bracken (James, Thomas, William). Born probably in York County, Pa. (Menallen Township), about 1760. Married to Mary _____. Died at Pittsburgh, Pa., about 1816.

Children

152. Jane, born ?, m. Thomas I. Campbell

153. John, born ?

154. Charles, born ?

155. Martha, born ?, m. ____ Curry

156. James ?

157. Marian (or Mary Ann), born ?, m. David Pride

Thomas was the oldest son of James and Mary D. Bracken. He is mentioned in his father's Will, September 11, 1788, as a minor. He was of age Jan. 31, 1783.⁹

Thomas Bracken lived in Pittsburgh- “an estimable man” – a potter by trade. It is not known whether he followed his trade. His father had provided in his will that his boys should learn trades. Thomas was probably a member of the First Presbyterian church and later of the second Presbyterian Church, Pittsburgh. The latter is said to

have been organized in a the house of his brother-in-law, James Morrison. His children are mentioned in his mother's will. His own will was drawn March 11, 1816 and reads as follows:

Pittsburgh, Book 2 Wills, p. 84

"I, Thomas Bracken, being in declining health and not expecting to be long in this world, but perfectly sound in mind and body, do make and ordain this my last will and testament hereby revoking all and every will and testament heretofore made. First, I desire that all my just debts and funeral expenses be paid and what remains of my property, whether real, personal or mixed, I give and bequeath to my beloved wife Mary Bracken as long as she remains a widow, and in case she marries my desire and will is that all property be sold and my wife Mary to get one equal half part of the proceeds and the remaining half part to be divided equally between my children and I do hereby constitute and appoint my wife Mary Bracken and my son-in-law David Pride my executors to carry into effect this my last will and testament. In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 11th day of March, 1816.

Thomas Bracken

Signed in the presence of James Morris (his brother-in-law)

Christian Latshaw"

Little is known of the wife of this man beyond the facts given in her will, which was drawn July 8, 1840, and reads as follows:

Wills, Pittsburg, Book5, p 200

"I, Mary Bracken, late of the city of Pittsburgh, in the County of Allegheny, being sick and weak of body but of sound and disposing mind memory and understanding do make and publish this my last will and testament. First I will and direct that all my just debts and funeral expenses be paid by executor hereinafter named. Second I will and bequeath to Thomas I. Campbell, my son in law 30 shares of stock in the Monongahela Bridge Co., at Pittsburgh, to have and to hold the same upon the following trust, to wit: to pay over the annual dividends accruing thereon to my granddaughter Mary Jane McKown to her alone for and during the life of the said Mary Jane and after the death of said Mary Jane I will and direct that the dividends thereof shall be paid over to my daughter Jane Campbell wife of said Thomas for her exclusive and benefit (sic) of said Jane if she should survive my said granddaughter and if she should not survive my said granddaughter then to pay the same to the use and benefit of the children of the said Jane Campbell, and whereas by the will of my late husband, Thomas Bracken I am sole devisee and entitled to certain property claimed by the heirs and devisees of David Pride and Marian Pride the present amount or value of which is not yet ascertained. Third, I hereby give and devise and bequeath all the resat and residue of my estate in the county of Allegheny and elsewhere real and personal in possession and in action including that claimed by Pride's heirs as aforesaid to my said son in law Thomas I. Campbell his heirs and assigns upon the4 special trust and confidence nevertheless that he will have hold and possess the same to and for the following purposes, to wit. After paying all and singular the expenses incident to the said trust and the recovery of the said property hereby ratifying any agreement that the said Thomas I. Campbell may have made relative to the recovery of the same and giving him full power and authority to carry out the suit already instituted and if he thinks fit to settle and compromise the same: To have and to hold

the three sixth parts thereof to and for the use and benefit of my daughter Jane Campbell her heirs and assigns. Second to have and to hold convey and pay over to the children of my son John Bracken their heirs and assigns two sixth parts thereof. Third to have and to hold convey and pay over to my son Charles Bracken his heirs and assigns the one twelfth part thereof and to have and to hold convey and pay over to my daughter Martha Curry her heirs and assigns the one twelfth part thereof. Fifth, to pay to my grandson Joseph McKown the sum of \$500 out of the said trust fund and the said sum to be charged upon and deducted pro rata out of the proportions hereby devised to my daughters Jane and Martha my son Charles and to the children of my son John. Fourth I hereby nominated and appoint the said Thomas I. Campbell sole executor of this my last will and testament. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 8th day of July 1840.

Mary Bracken

Witnesses

Aaron A. Hardy

Wilson McCandless

9. York County Orphan's Court, Book E, page 241.
Jan. 31, 1783.

Came into court Mary Bracken, widow and relict of James Bracken, late of York County, deceased, and prayed that a guardian may be appointed to take care of the persons and estates of Mary Bracken, aged 10 years and upward, Jane Bracken, aged eight years and upward, and John Bracken, aged five years and upwards, three of the minor children of the said deceased. The court approved Mathew Dill of Menallen Township.

York County Orphans Court, Book G, page 127,
March 27, 1799

Came into court Mary Bracken, and John McGrew, surviving executors of James Bracken, and produced an account showing 1124 pounds, 4 shillings and 6pence, subject to distribution. [Approved by the Court]

XLIV Caleb Bracken (James, Thomas, William). Born probably in Menallen Township, York county, Pa. about 1763-65. Married to Rebecca Miller at the York meeting, August 14th, 1793. Died near Brownsville, Washington Co., Pa. probably in January 1806.

Children

158. Rachel, born II-3-1795, m. to Shaidlock Negus

159. James, born X-14-1796

160. Solomon, born X-14-1796, m. II-19-1819 to Sarah Rogers

161. Elisha, born II-24-1798, m. (1) Phebe Branson (2) Esther Fawcett

162. Sarah, born XI-3-1799, m. Isaac Branson

163. Caleb, born (1) born V-24-1802, died young

164. Caleb, born (2) born X-24-1803, m. Mary Binns

165. Rebecca, born I-27-1806

Caleb Bracken was but a boy when his father died. He is mentioned in his father's will. He seems to have fallen in love with a "Friend" (Quakeress) when a young man, and there seems to have been some inconvenience in his matrimonial plans in consequence, as shown by the following: At York monthly meeting, April 10, 1793, Caleb Bracken produced a certificate from Menallen, dated 3mo., II., 1793, stating that he was a frequent attendant of religious meetings, clear of marriage engagements, etc., July 10, 1793, Caleb Bracken and Rebecca Miller appeared at meeting (York) and declared their intention of marriage with each other. A committee of two men was appointed to look into his clearness, and a committee of two women to inquire into her clearness- to report at next meeting. He is desired to produce Rebecca's father's consent. He informs them that his mother has not consented to his marriage to Rebecca and refuses to do so. [She was a Presbyterian and probably objected to her son's going out of the church to Friends for his wife] He is desired to produce her reasons at the next meeting.

August 7, 1793. It was reported at the meeting that there was nothing to obstruct the marriage of Caleb and Rebecca Miller. He produced her father's consent and likewise his mother's reasons for not consenting. Several 'Friends' were named to view them, who reported the reasons were not sufficient to stop the marriage, she having so far considered it as to submit the matter to 'Friends'. The both appeared and said they continued their intention of marriage according to the good order used among 'Friends'. The result was that Caleb Bracken of the Borough and County of York, Pa, and Rebecca Miller, of the same place, were married Aug 14, 1793, at York meeting. On October 20, 1798, Solomon Miller, of Abington Township, Montgomery County, Pa, sold to Caleb Bracken of the Borough and County of York for love of his son in law and five shillings, a lot on High Street (York) 32 ½ by 230 feet. On March 10th, 1800, Caleb Bracken, of Baltimore Co., Maryland, sold the above lot with brick messuage and tenement to Godfrey Rihm for 200 pounds.

Caleb Bracken moved later to Washington County, Pa., near Brownsville. His will was drawn Oct 25, 1805 and probated Jan. 27, 1806. It reads as follows:

Washington, Pa. Wills Vol. II, pa 69

"Be it remembered that I Caleb Bracken of Washington County and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania being weak of body but of sound and disposing mind and memory, considering the uncertainty of time here and knowing it is appointed for all men once to die have thought proper to make and publish this my last will and testament in manner and form following, that it to say: First, I will that all my just debts and funeral expenses be fully paid and discharged and Secondly, I will that my beloved wife Rebecca have free and peaceable possession of all my estate both real and personal next after my decease to hold to herself clear of any restriction whatsoever more than that the law directs until my youngest son Caleb shall arrive at twenty-one years of age in order to enable her to clothe sustain educate and bring up my children in the manner that is my desire to be done. But if my son Caleb shall not survive to the age of twenty-one it is my will that my wife hold my estate as aforesaid no longer than my next youngest son (Elisha) shall arrive to the age of twenty-one at which it is my will that my beloved wife select to herself and make choice of one bed and bedding out of my estate, and it is my will that my wife make choice of one horse for herself out of the stock of horses then on the premises and Third it is my will that the whole of my real estate and residue of my personal estate be sold (except one case of drawers) and divided among my wife and children in the following manner that is to say. Fourthly, I give and bequeath to my wife one third part of the residue of my

estate together with the before mentioned bed and bedding, horse and case of drawers, and I also give and bequeath to my wife a new saddle and bridle which is to be provided for her by my executors out of my estate and fifthly I give and bequeath the other two thirds of my estate to my children, viz:- Rachel, Solomon, Elisha, Sarah, Caleb, and Rebecca to be equally divided among them. Sixthly, and lastly I do nominate and appoint my beloved wife Rebecca Bracken and my brother-in-law Robert Miller and my brother John Bracken my lawful executors to this my last will and testament fully and amply authorizing and empowering them to sell and convey my land and other estate and to execute this my last will and testament according to the full intent and meaning as fully in all things as I would be enabled to do were I personally living, and I do hereby revoke all other wills and testaments by me at any time heretofore made or allowed either by work or writing Ratifying and confirming this and no other to be my last will and testament in witness whereof I have set my hand and seal the 25th day of the 10th month in the year of our lord 1805.

Caleb Bracken (Seal)

Signed in the presence of

Henry Smith, Joshua Lintor, Abel Knight of Washington Co., Pa, who appeared before the Registrar Isaac Kerr etc”

January 27, 1806. Registered January 10, 1807

His widow Rachel [should be Rebecca], married again. Her second husband was Caleb Whitacre, by whom she had one child, Martha, born VIII-30-1810, died April 3, 1870. This daughter married Peter Binford.

XLV James Bracken (James, Thomas, William).

XLVI Mary Bracken (James, Thomas, William). Of these two individuals there is no record; nothing to show whether they lived to years of maturity or not.

XLVII Jane Bracken (James, Thomas, William). Born at Menallen Township, York County, Pa. April 20, 1775. Married James Morrison, __ 1795. Died at Pittsburgh, November 24, 1817.

Children

166. Nancy, born X-18-1796, m. Benjamin Kendrick

167. John B., born VI-4-1799

168. James, born III-8-1801, m. III- - 1828 to Mary S. Dungan

169. March Bracken, born II-24-1803, m. IX-2-1824 to William Lafferty Robb

170. Norris, born V-16-1808

Nothing is known of this Jane Bracken further than that she spent her married life and died in Pittsburgh. She was probably a member of the First, and later of the Second, Presbyterian Church of that city.

James Morrison, husband of the above, came to America with his father (James) and family about 1783. He was at this time about 12 years old. He was born in Antrim County, Ireland on the estate where Castle Dawson stands (or did stand). He entered college in Ireland. At first the Morrisons settled in Philadelphia, and there

through a fire they lost many of the things they had brought from Ireland. About 1793 they moved to Pittsburgh. James Morrison, husband of Jane Bracken, owned considerable property in Pittsburgh and was an influential man. He had at one time a hardware store at Pittsburgh. He was one of the first directors of the Bank of Pittsburgh (1817-1827). He and his family were members of the First Presbyterian church of Pittsburgh, but later (1804), the Second Presbyterian church was organized at this home (on Wood street, near Market), and they were charter members of this society. The services of this church were held for a time at James Morrison's home. After a time he lost the greater part of his property through being a bondsman for a merchant by the name Semple. He then removed from Pittsburgh to Frankfort Springs and again accumulated some property. Later he moved to Frederickstown, Ohio.

Several old heirlooms have come down from the Morrison family to descendants of James Morrison and Jane Bracken. The old family bible of James Morrison, Sr., is said to be in possession of a James Morrison, grandson of James Morrison and Jane Bracken. Mrs. W.H. Ray, a granddaughter of James Morrison and Jane Bracken, has a reading chair said to have belonged to the parents of Jane Bracken (James and Mary Bracken). The chair is of the old colonial style, with a writing desk on one arm. Under the seat is a drawer for writing material. Washington is said to have used this chair. Mrs. Ray has also the silver shoe buckles that belonged to her grandfather, and sugar tongs that belonged to her grandmother and marked "J.R.M."

XLVIII John Bracken (James, Thomas, William). Born at Menallen Township, York County, Pa., about 1779. Died, 1806. This Bracken seems to have been a posthumous son. He is not mentioned in his father's will, but is mentioned by his mother in her request for a guardian for three of her minor children.

Descendants of Jane Bracken Morrison state that a brother, of whom she was very fond, died unmarried at her house. Tradition has it that this was her brother Thomas, but Thomas was married. It was probably this brother that was referred to. His will, drawn August 9, 1806, gives us some little knowledge of the man. It reads as follows:

Pittsburgh Books I, page 217

"In the name of God, Amen. I John Bracken of the State of Penna., but now of Sweet Springs, Monroe County, Va., being sick and weak in body but of sound mind and memory do make, publish and declare this to be my last will and testament in manner and form as follows: Item 1st. I order and direct my executors hereinafter named to pay all my just debts. Item 2nd. I give and bequeath my bay horse to Annie Bracken, daughter of Thomas. Item 3rd. In fee I give and bequeath the residue of my estate real and personal to my kind and benevolent mother Mary Bracken and her heirs forever. My real desire is to make my kind mother easy comfortable and independent in her latter days. Item 4. I do recommend and advise my kind mother Bracken to loan on simple interest to the executors of my Brother Caleb Bracken deceased, \$260, yest subject at all times to her order, being the amount of two debts which my brother Caleb cannot conveniently pay when they shall come due, viz:- one debt to Aaron Newport of \$200 and another of \$60 to John Shaw. Item 5th. I would advise and recommend to my mother to loan on lawful interest to my brother Thomas Bracken and my brother in law James Morrison, all the residue of money that may arise out of my estate, which as the above shall be at all times to her or her order. Item 6th and lastly. I constitute and appoint my kind friends Andrew McFarlin, Thomas

Bracken and James Morrison my executors of this my last will and testament whereof I have this 9th day of August, 1806, hereunto set my hand and seal and delivered by me John Bracken as my last will and testament and desire the same tow be recorded in the county of Allegheny and Commonwealth of Penna., as such.

John Bracken (Seal)

In presence of
Thomas Bracken, John McClure

He was one of the executors named in his brother's Caleb's will, but did not live long after Caleb's death. Caleb's will was probated January 27, 1806.