The History Of A Flintlock Pistol

AND THE PETER GRUBBS OF CORNWALL

By Samuel E. Dyke

This is the story of an American Flintlock Pistol and the authentication of its owners, together with discovery of hitherto unknown facts concerning their lives and personalities.

Flintlock pistols of American origin were made only in two periods of American History—the first just prior to and during the Revolutionary War, and the second during the War of 1812. They were usually made for the officers or gentry of the colonies and were, therefore, made in relatively small numbers.

A flintlock pistol of the Revolutionary War period in good condition is in itself an extreme rarity, but to find one having the initials of the owner engraved on the silver thumb-piece and another full name engraved on the sideplate is—well, just about as rare a find, in the gun collecting fraternity, as could be wished for.

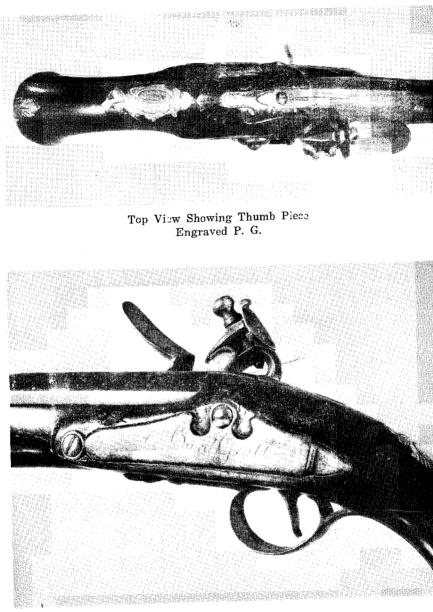
The author, being a student and collector of Revolutionary flintlock pistols and rifles, was intrigued upon the examination of a flintlock pistol, at Joe Kindig's Shop in York, Pennsylvania, by finding the name A. Burd Grubb on its sideplate. The name Grubb and the rarity of such a pistol caused him to purchase it.

The maker's name is rarely found in that position on the sideplate of the pistol, particularly when there is inlaid a silver thumb-piece on the grip of the pistol. This thumb-piece had engraved thereon the initials P. G. which usually designated the owner of a pistol.

To authenticate such a rarity, it is highly desirable and necessary to establish, if possible, the identification of probable owners as indicated by initials P. G. and the name A. Burd Grubb, and also prove that these men actually owned pistols, and finally, if possible, the name of the gunsmith who made the Grubb pistol.

My research primarily on the pistol has brought to light much of local human interest regarding the Grubb Family of Cornwall.

In order for one to understand the background of the persons who possibly might have owned the flintlock pistol, it would be helpful to study the following chart which shows the genealogy of the Grubb Family in Lancaster County.



Side View Showing Side Plate

From this chart it will be noted that there were three Peter Grub's of Cornwall: Peter I; his son, Peter II; and Peter, Jr., nephew of Peter II.

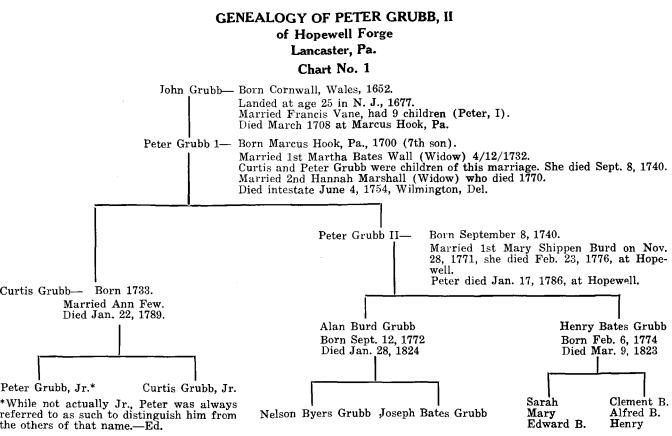
Peter Grubb I, was the seventh son of John Grubb who came to this country from Cornwall, Wales, and landed in New Jersey in 1677. He married Frances Vane and there were nine children born of this marriage, Peter I, being the seventh son. John died at Marcus Hook, Pennsylvania in 1708.

Peter Grubb I, first married Martha Bates Wall, a widow, in 1732, and Curtis and Peter Grubb II were children of this marriage. Martha Grubb died September 8, 1740, at the time of Peter II's birth. Peter I married again, a widow, Hannah Marshall, who after Peter I's death in 1754, at Wilmington, Delaware, returned to her former home, West Chester. She died in 1768 and her will was probated in 1770 at Wilmington, Delaware.¹



Hopewell Forge Mansion

¹ "Grubb Families of America" Gilbert Cope, L. C. H. S. File HS929 G885C, "Colonial Families of Philadelphia," vol. 2, p. 1229, by J. W. Jordan. "Colonial and Revolutionary Families," vol. 8, Wilford Jordan.



Peter I, as previously mentioned, had two sons, Curtis and Peter II. Peter II had two sons, Alan Burd Grubb, born September 12, 1772, and Henry Bates Grubb, born February 6, 1774. Both of these boys were born at Hopewell Forge Mansion in Lancaster County. The fact that their father died intestate, is evidenced by the Orphans Court Records in Lancaster County, which reference states, "An Orphans Court held at Lancaster for the County of Lancaster, the 4th day of June 1754, before Emmanuel Carpenter, Robert Thompson, Adam Simon Kuhn, William Jerom, and James Smith, Esqs., Justices, upon the petition of Peter Grubb, an orphan son of Peter Grubb deceased, to this court to have a guardian appointed over his estate, the same is taken into consideration and Samuel Grubb, his uncle, is appointed the guardian over his estate during his minority."²

Peter I, or the elder, founded the Cornwall ore banks in 1732. Cornwall Furnace was put into blast in 1742, and was operated by Peter I, until 1745 when a company was formed called the "Cornwall Company." From June 13, 1745, until 1763, Cornwall was leased by Peter I, to a group of businessmen from Chester, Pennsylvania; Wilmington, Delaware; and Baltimore, Maryland.³ Peter I died intestate in Wilmington, and was buried in Old Swedes Church.

Due to the fact that serious Indian raids were occurring very close to Hopewell Mansion and because his second wife, Hannah, no doubt was fearful of these raids, Peter I was persuaded to move back to Wilmington, Delaware, to comparative safety.

Hopewell Forges were built about 1737 as a blooming forge and a chaffery forge.⁴ The Hopewell Mansion was probably built about 1740-45. It is believed Peter II was born here on September 8, 1740. The author was unable to determine where Curtis Grubb was born in 1733. He built his home opposite Cornwall Furnace and lived there most of his married life.

Peter II lived from 1763-1786 at Hopewell Forge Mansion. On November 28, 1771, he married Mary Shippen Burd, daughter of Col. James Burd and Sarah Shippen Burd of "Tinian" near Highspire, Pennsylvania.⁵

As these two boys, Curtis and Peter II grew up, presumably they lived a normal life, yet we find that Curtis, the elder, left for Europe, probably around 1756, and returned to Lancaster County about 1765, at the time the lease for the properties was returned to his care and that of his brother, Peter Grubb II. Whether he visited Europe during that period to enhance his knowledge of iron manufacture is not known, but when he returned to Cornwall, he plunged into the operation and the building of furnace and forges, along with his brother, Peter, until the Revolutionary War broke out.

² Orphans' Court Record, Lancaster County, vol. G, 1754-1786.

³ The Rise of an Iron Community—Dr. Frederick K. Miller, Lebanon County H. S. Bulletin, vol. XII, 3B.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Same as 1 above.

As an officer in the Revolutionary Army, it was an essential requisite to own a pair, or certainly a single flintlock pistol of the type that I had acquired. The amount of wear and the condition of this pistol would indicate that it was no doubt carried by Peter Grubb II when an officer in the Revolutionary Army. I thought to myself, wouldn't it be a wonderful thing if I could document the fact that Peter Grubb did buy this pistol prior to his service in the Continental Army.

Knowing the pistol was made prior to or during the Revolutionary War, that it belonged to one of the Peter Grubbs, but which one I was certain was the difficult question to answer and one which caused the writer to experience many hours of research and travel, during which time several new historical facts about the Grubbs were discovered and are presented in the following text.

Knowing that both Peter Grubbs were very large buyers of all types of materials and services and knowing that usually they entered these purchases against the account books of their business, even though personal in nature, I decided to search for an entry of such a purchase as the pistol or pistols in the day books and journals of Hopewell Furnace.⁶ These volumes are many in number, and after many hours of scanning, I found an entry on May 14, 1768, "Peter Grubb II purchased one pistol for one pound, seventeen shillings, and six pence." The amount of money of this transaction did not seem enough to justify the original cost of the pistol I owned, so I searched farther and found an entry dated December 2, 1768, revealing the fact that Peter Grubb borrowed from his brother in Philadelphia, an amount of "six pounds, five shillings, for a pair of pistols and one pound, five shillings for a pair of holsters." This price was more nearly correct for a pair of pistols such as the one in my possession, so I must assume that this transaction covers the pistol I own. Where the other one is, perhaps no one knows.

Therefore, since Peter Grubb II bought a pair of pistols and had his initials, P. G., engraved on the thumb-piece, I was satisfied that the pistol was Peter II's and not his father's Peter I. This transaction was in 1768, four years before Alan Burd Grubb, his son, was born.

The fact that I had established that Peter Grubb II had purchased this pistol in Philadelphia in 1768 was partial proof that it could have been made in Philadelphia. Upon the top of the barrel, where usually is found the maker's name, were the remaining letters—DA. The abbreviation for Philadelphia in colonial times was PHILADA. These last two letters remained on the barrel of the gun, the other five letters having been obliterated along with the maker's name. Why, I pondered, would anyone file a groove longitudinally along the axis of the barrel and thus obliterate the maker's name? Then upon consultation with some gun authorities, I was informed that colonial officers who were caught with American-made arms might have caused the arms maker to be captured and put to death.

^c Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Hopewell Forge Journal, June 2, 1765-March 31, 1769.

Then, upon examination of guns in other collections,⁷ I was able to find a gun having the maker's name fully engraved on the barrel and with the abbreviation of Philadelphia—PHILADA. The name was I Perkins. Other detailed similarities of my gun to the I. Perkins gun causes me to attribute my pistol to this maker. Thus, I am satisfied that the pistol I own was made in Philadelphia about 1768 by I. Perkins.

Both Peter II, and Curtis Grubb served with distinction during the Revolutionary War. Both were mustered out as colonels.⁸ Peter II joined on July 17, 1775, with the Warwick Township Associators and saw service on Long Island. He was in the 8th Battalion when he resigned on July 6, 1778. He was with Col. Patton's Regiment and was a captain with Cols. Miles and Thompson's Rifle Battalion.⁹ Curtis and Peter both supplied essential cast iron cannon supplies for the Continental Army from Cornwall and Hopewell Forges.¹⁰ It is of interest to note that in the same Hopewell Forge Journal, period April 1, 1775, to March 29, 1780, is found that on September 20, 1775, Peter Grubb withdrew 12 pounds and 5 shillings of cash from the Hopewell Forge Cash Box to take with him on his trip to Boston.¹¹ Likewise is found in the same journal under the date of July 27, 1775, a tomahawk for Peter Grubb bought from a hardware store in Lancaster.

Peter Grubb built Mount Hope Furnace in 1785¹², and engaged in the extensive production of pig iron and castings from mined ore from nearby iron banks. Curtis was busy building up Cornwall Furnace and its estate.

On June 28, 1783, Curtis conveyed to Peter Jr., his son 1/6th part of Cornwall Furnace and 1/3rd part of Hopewell Forges. Then two years later, September 26, 1785, Peter Jr. made an agreement to convey the same property to Robert Coleman, however, reserving the right to dig sufficient quantity of iron ore to supply a furnace.

On May 9, 1786, Peter, Jr. and his wife conveyed by deed, this property to Robert Coleman of Elizabeth Furnace. These properties of which this deed conveyed a 1/6th part, consisted of 9,669 acres and ore banks, Cornwall Furnace, and 1/3rd of Hopewell Forges.¹³

At this time, namely May 9, 1786, the Cornwall Furnaces, ore banks and 9,669 acres of ground were owned:

3/6th by Curtis Grubb 2/6th by Peter Grubb, II 1/6th by Robert Coleman

⁷ Joe Kindig, Jr., Collection.

⁸ Heitman's Historical Register of the Officers of the Continental Army, 1775-1783.

⁹ Lancaster County Historical Society Bulletin, vol. XXXII, pp. 78-85.

¹⁰ Pennsylvania Iron Manufacture in the Eighteenth Century, A. C. Bining.

¹¹ See footnote 6.

¹² Coleman vs. Grubb, June Term Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, 1852,

p. 7.

13 Ibid.

Mount Hope Furnace was owned by Peter Grubb II. In 1786 Peter II, sold to Robert Coleman 1/6th of his 2/6th part of Cornwall and ore banks and also 1/3rd part of Hopewell Forges. In 1798, Coleman bought another 1/3rd part from the estate of Curtis Grubb, and in 1803, he purchased the remaining 1/3rd from Henry Bates Grubb, son of Peter II.¹⁴

Hence, Robert Coleman owned the 1/6th of Cornwall estates from Curtis' son, Peter Jr., and 1/6th of Cornwall estates from Peter Grubb II, and 1/3rd part of Hopewell Forge.

This division of the ore lands of Cornwall Estates became a problem because their value was only in the free mining of ore from the hills by all owners in equal shares or amounts equal to their several interests. If either party had their supply of ore from the hills cut off by the other, the value of the ground would be cut to almost nothing. This condition worried the respective owners, so they decided by agreement to partition the estate held by them in tenants common. This was started on December 8, 1785. Peter, II, died soon after, so this agreement for partition was abandoned.

Peter II died January 17, 1786. His will was proved January 21, 1786, as follows:

WILL OF PETER GRUBB, II

I, Peter Grubb of Hopewell Forge in the County of Lancaster, being in perfect health and sound mind, memory, and understanding, but knowing that it is appointed for all men once to die, do make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner following. Viz imprimes I give devise and bequeath unto my two sons, Burd Grubb and Henry Bates Grubb, all my real and personal estate whatsoever to have and hold to them, my said two sons their heirs and assigns forever to be equally divided between them as tenants common.

Item. I give devise and bequeath unto Samuel Brandelbury, son of Elizabeth Brandelbury, and was bound an apprentice to Joshua Evans of Lancaster County tanner, the sum of one hundred and fifty pounds lawful money of Pennsylvania to be paid to him; when my two sons arrive to the age of twenty-one years. Item. I devise and bequeath unto Hannah Grubb, daughter of the widow of and retict of Samuel Grubb, the said Hannah Grubb being now living with William McCullough of Hanover Township, Lancaster County, the sum of one hundred pounds lawful money as aforesaid, to be paid to her when my two sons arrive at the age aforesaid, and lastly I do hereby constitute, nominate, and appoint my sincere friends, Jasper Yeates, Edward Burd, Esquires, and James Clemson of Pequa, Executors of this my last will and testament. In witness thereof I have hereto set my hand and seal this seventh day of May in the year of our lord one thousand and seven hundred and eighty-four—signed, sealed, published, pronounced—

Peter Grubb

And declared by the said Peter Grubb in presence of us, John Roberts, George Moore, John Moore.

On the twenty-first day of January 1786 before me the subscribers personally appeared George and John Moore two of the subscribing witnesses to the within will and on their corporal oaths did despose and say on the same day personally appeared John Roberts the other subscriber witness to the said within will and on his solemn affirmation did declare and say that they were

14 Ibid.

present and saw and heard Peter Grubb, the testator therein named sign, seal, publish, and pronounce and declare the within instrument of writing and for his last will and testament and that at the doings thereof he was of sound and with desposing mind, memory, and understanding to the best of their knowledge, observation, and belief.

James Sach's, Register

Be it remembered that on the twenty-first day of January amo dominu 1786, the last will and testament of Peter Grubb late of Lancaster County, disceased was approved in due form of law and letters testamentary thereon were granted to Jasper Yeates, Edward Burd, Esquires, and James Clemson, the executor therein named, they having been duly qualified, well and truly to administer the estate of said deceased and especially to exhibit a true and perfect inventory thereof into the register's office at Lancaster within six months from this date and to render a just and true account of their administration on said estate within one year, or when therein to lawfully require examination given under the seal of said offices.

James Sach's

Jasper Yeates, Edward Burd, James Clemson, and Joseph Shippen, Jr. and Edward Hand, were executors and testamentary guardians for Peter's two sons, Alan Burd Grubb and Henry Bates Grubb.

On May 6, 1786, these guardians for the minors of Peter, II, and Robert Coleman entered into an agreement for the partition of the real estate held by them in common, that is Cornwall Furnace, Hopewell Forges ore banks, lands; agreeing that amicable actions of partition should be entered in the Court of Common Pleas of Lancaster County of the May term, 1786, and appointing Samuel Potts, Thomas Clark, Alexander Lowry, George Ross, Joseph Work, James Webb, and Bartram Galbraith to make the partition.¹⁵

This agreement provided:

1. That the ore banks should be divided into three equal parts, and two equal one-third parts considering quantity and quality assigned to Curtis Grubb and Robert Coleman, and the other equal third part to Burd Grubb and Henry Bates Grubb.

2. That the Hopewell Forges be assigned to Curtis Grubb, or to Burd Grubb and Henry Bates Grubb, as the persons appointed should determine.

3. That they should divide and allot all the land belonging to Cornwall Furnace Estates.

4. That Cornwall Furnace itself should be alloted to Curtis Grubb and Robert Coleman.

The committee for partition deliberated over a year and finally on August 30, 1787, agreed that they could not, due to the character of the ore banks, divide them and the condition of the respective furnace estates of the parties, for the "supply of which with iron ore, they were held, and that the value of these estates which they owned in fee-simple, essentially depended on that supply of ore being permanent."

The parties accepted the recommendations of the committee for partition they had chosen and entered into an agreement of partition which essentially is as follows: 1. That the ore banks belonging to Cornwall Furnace shall remain together and undivided as tenancy in common, the said Curtis Grubb being entitled to 3/6th thereof, Robert Coleman 1/6th thereof, and the minor children. Burd and Henry B. Grubb, 2/6th parts remaining.

2. An accurate survey shall be made of the ore banks and mine hills.

On the following day, August 31, 1787, the parties met and delivered to Curtis Grubb and Robert Coleman, Cornwall Furnace and certain parcels of land containing 6,520 acres. They delivered to Burd and Henry Bates, minor children, the Hopewell Forges and 3,741 acres of land.

The courts approved this partition and the lands remained as partitioned until January 12, 1798, when the executors of Curtis Grubb Estate sold his holdings to Robert Coleman.

On May 4, 1798, Burd Grubb then becoming of age, sold his holdings in Hopewell Forges and lands, etc., to his brother, Henry Bates Grubb, for \$29,266.66. He also sold to his brother his 1/2 interest in Mount Hope Furnace.

Then on the 12th of May 1798 (eight days later), Henry Bates Grubb sold to Robert Coleman the undivided half of Mount Hope Furnace and Hopewell Forges.

Finally on November 30, 1802, Robert Coleman and Henry Bates Grubb agreed on the amicable partition of Mount Hope Furnace and Hopewell Forges and the land held by them in tenants common. From this deal Robert Coleman now owned all of Cornwall Furnace and 5/6th of the Cornwall Estates. He also owned now 5/6th of Mt. Hope ore banks and hills and all of Hopewell Forges and Estates.

Henry Bates Grubb owned the remaining 1/6th and all of Mount Hope Furnace. Thus was the condition of the estate on the 3rd of September, 1825, when Coleman died.¹⁶

So much for the legal transfer of the estates from the Grubbs to Robert Coleman, but what are some of the problems in the Grubb Family that were caused by this partition of Estates?

My story could have stopped at this point because I had established where the gun was purchased, and that it was Peter Grubb II's gun. Further that his son's name, A. Burd Grubb, on the sideplate of the pistol was probably put there prior to the death of Peter II in 1786, when Alan would have been fourteen years of age. But my eagerness to try and find out what happened to Alan Burd Grubb and where Peter II was buried, led me on to a most important discovery.

My real research into the genealogy and the life of Peter Grubb II came to an abrupt halt when all the genealogical records that I could find merely referred to his death on January 17, 1786. No mention was made as to where he was buried and I thought this rather unusual for a man of his prominence. Because of the fact that Henry Bates Grubb, his son, was buried at St.

¹⁶ Ibid.

James' Church in Lancaster,¹⁷ I thought that possibly he might be interred in that cemetery, but I found that he was not, nor was there any record of his death in the archives of this church. I then searched the records in the Historical Society of Pennsylvania and the burial records of Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church of Brickerville.¹⁸ There is no record of any Peter Grubb having been buried at Brickerville Cemetery. This would have been the closest cemetery, a scant two miles from Peter Grubb's home. Where he was buried was still the question.

My next search took me to the Archives and Public Document Division, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, where I found my first real piece of unpublished information regarding Peter Grubb II's death.

It will be seen in Chart #2, that the relationship between the Shippen, Burd, Yeates, and Grubb families are shown. With this information fresh in my mind and after having looked at the available information in the Archives in Harrisburg under the name of Peter Grubb with no success, I asked one of the research heads, Dr. Hubertis Cummings, if he had any information under the name of Shippen or Burd that would relate to Peter Grubb. Mr. Henry J. Young, Sr., Archivist in Harrisburg, was standing by and said "Well, I remember reading just recently some paper or document regarding the name Peter Grubb." Naturally, I became very much interested and pressed him further. He said, "I remember now of reading that in the Edward Burd Thompson Collection of Papers." Immediately they were brought forth and here for the first time, as far as the author is aware, was found the true story of what had happened to Peter Grubb II on January 17, 1786.

The following is a transcription of a letter in the Edward Burd Thompson Collection, from Richard Sheldon, who was furnace manager at Mount Hope Furnace, to Col. James Burd of Tinian, now Highspire, Pennsylvania, who was Grubb's father-in-law. It was written under the date of January 17, 1786, and delivered by a Mr. Jacob Conrad. It reads:

¹⁷ St. James' Church parish records.

¹⁸ Historical Society of Pennsylvania—Burials in Emmanuel Lutheran Church at Brickerville, vol. 4, pp. 40 and 48C.

GENEALOGY O	F SHIPPEN, BURD, YEATES, A Compiled by S. E. Dyke 1954	AND GRUBB FAMI	LIES				
Chart No. 2							
	EDWARD SHIPPEN Married Sept. 20, 1725, To Sarah Plumley	Born 7/9/1703 (Mayor of Phila. 1744) Died 1781 (Moved to Lanc. 1752)					
Edward Shippen, Jr.	Sarah Shippen Married May 14, 1748, To Col. James Burd of "Tinian"	Born 2/27/1731 ' Born 3/10/1726 Died 9/5/1793	Joseph Shippen				
Sarah Burd Born 1/1/1749 Died 10/25/1829 Married 12/30/1767 To Jasper Yeates Born 4/7/1745 Died 3/14/1817	Mary Shippen Burd Married Nov. 28, 1771 at "Tinian" Peter Grubb, II	Born 1/1/1753 Died 2/23/1776 Hopewell Forge Born Sept. 8, 1740 Died Jan. 17, 1786 at Hopewell	Edward Burd Born 2/5/1750 Died 10/25/1833				
	Alan Burd Grubb Born Feb. 6, 1772 at Hopewell Forge, Died Calhoun, Tenn., 1824	Henry Bates Born 2/6/17 Died 3/9/182 Married at F 6/18, 1805 1st Ann Car- 2nd Dec. 1, 1 Harriet Buck	74 23 Pine Grove son, died 1806 1808,				

I am exceedingly unhappy to inform you that your son-in-law, Peter Grubb, Jr., is deceased having this morning about ten o'clock in a fit of insanity, as I suppose, shot himself through the head at Hopewell Forge. Upon the children's account, I earnestly request that you will come over in order to settle matters in the best and speediest manner for their interest. I am sir,

> Your most humblest, Richard Sheldon

Now I had the answer as to why I could not find his burial place. Persons who commit suicide could not be buried in church yards. My search continued. Here for the first time I found in the correspondence between Jasper Yeates and Edward Burd, information that told why Peter shot himself. Let's read several of these letters immediately following Peter's suicide.

The first letter that was written was from Jasper Yeates in Lancaster to Edward Burd in Philadelphia, dated January 17, 1786, at three o'clock in the afternoon. This was five hours after the stated time that Peter Grubb II took his life. This letter reads as follows:¹⁹

> Lancaster, Penna. January 1786 3:00 p.m.

Dear Sirs:

One misfortune gives early birth to another. I am in the most perplexed situation.

Your sister, about two this morning, was safely delivered of a female child. It was born dead and had been so for some time. She is much better now, but much disgusted and low spirited. Within the hour I had the melancholy news by two expresses that Mr. Peter Grubb shot himself this morning at Hopewell Forge about ten o'clock. He attempted the same thing some days ago at the new furnace, which was Mount Hope.

The coroner goes out this afternoon. Mr. Shippen will be good enough to accompany me tomorrow early to the forge. Some direction there will be indispensably necessary.

I will write to your father immediately to appraise him of the mournful event. He will either come down or not, as best suits him. Mr. Grubb's children, Burd Grubb and Henry Bates Grubb, are at the York School. This goes down by express, who is to ride all night to meet the stage at Downingtown. I wish you would, by all means, come up immediately upon the receipt hereof, if your health will admit. If it cannot be done (which I beg nothing but the most indispensable necessity, may prevent) pray inform me of it by express or otherwise, so that the letter may reach me by Friday evening, if possible.

If the will is uncancelled, of which I have no doubt, we may have a difficult, troublesome, and uneasy business before us, but we must meet it with fortitude.

I feel my mind in the most distorted state. Our love to Betsy and the family.

Yours respectfully, Jasper Yeates

¹⁹ Edward Burd Thompson Letters, Department Of Public Documents, Harrisburg, Penna.

Sir:

The letter, as indicated, was written in Lancaster at three o'clock p.m. on January 17, the date of Peter's death, and the letter appearing below was written from Philadelphia the next day, the 18th of January, 1786, from Edward Burd to Jasper Yeates.²⁰ It is as follows:

Philadelphia, Penna. January 18, 1786

Dear Sir:

I received your favor of the 17th instant this evening and after consulting with Mr. Shippen on the subject of it, I have been endeavoring to find opportunities and I think I have succeeded I console with you and my sister on your mutual misfortune. I am very uneasy about my dear sister. I hope she is in no danger. Poor Betsy, who opened my letter, was extremely alarmed on her account at the sight of the black wax and my sister's name.

Poor. miserable man. What could have induced this tragical action? From a late letter of yours I hoped that all his disputes with his brother would have had an end in another way. You mentioned that you had been able to put the affairs of Curtis and Peter and Coleman in a proper way, but you must now reserve the terms for another letter. From this I concluded the affair afterwards took another turn and that the fear of losing a share of the mine, has produced this desperate action. I cannot account for it on any other principle. If this is not the cause, he must have lost his reason, perhaps from drink, or the effects of it from the long and immoderate use of it. I really pity him. The situation of his mind must have been horrible. As to his children, it would be of no loss to them. They will be under the care of friends who will give them a proper education. I have no doubt that we shall have a difficult and a very troublesome task in settling the partnership with Curtis and getting a proper division of the estate, if it is not already made. His assertions will be difficult to answer unless from the declaration 1 ct.r n.ade to his friends in his lifetime . . .

This portion of the letter of Edward Burd to Jasper Yeates the day after the tragedy gives one an indication of the troubled state of affairs financially, and the troubled state Peter and Curtis Grubbs' minds must have been in prior to this action.

But returning to what happened following the suicide. it is best explained in a letter from Jasper Yeates to Edward Burd four days after Peter took his life. It is dated Lancaster, 21 January, 1786.²¹

> Lancaster, Penna. January 21, 1786

Dear Sir

I received your favor of the 18th instant last night and I am deeply sorry your imposition prevents your coming up at this period. I fear the most speedy and decisive conduct on our part will become absolutely necessary in the execution of our trust. Mr. Clemson came up this morning in consequence of a letter which I sent him. I enclose you a copy of the will by which you will preceive he is one of the executors. We both were of the opinion that no inventory should be taken until you come up. Considerable questions arise in the taking it, such as to the stock of charcoal, cordwood, iron at the forges to be valued in the whole of the estate. How with respect to the negroes and the horses be? Must two kinds be estimated, is the property of Curtis Grubb when everything at the furnace and the two forges is under his own management and the direction of the control? What will the proper steps be to pur-

the second s

²⁰ Ibid. 21 Ibid •• .*

sue to obtain the forge books? We will agree that proper guardians should be appointed for the children. It is necessary, as to the taking care of their interests by renting and upon another principal that I must have someone to advise within your absence and to assist in the settlement of two accounts, many of which will be perplexed and intricate. I have thought of Mr. Shippen and Gen. Hand, if they will accept of the office. Your father is too distant to do us any real service, but I will speak to him on the subject tomorrow evening. I had given up all thoughts of the Carlisle Court, but under the present arrangement, I may go up easily. Mr. Clemson will meet us here on Monday preceding the court in this plan and the manager from the furnace will then attend us. On Wednesday last, Mr. Shippen and I went to the forge. The inquest had sat on the body and we buried it that evening. It was fortunate that we did for the children came that night. Burd, having been sent for immediately on the news without my being consulted. I have directed that they should return to their school at York during the court week when I shall have an opportunity of seeing them and speaking to their tutor. I took an account of the money found on their father's possession at the time of his death.

I found that Curtis Grubb, before we came had sent down a clerk to have the books locked up and the key delivered to him. The manager did not judge that proper, but locked up the books and delivered the key to Sam Jones to be safely kept. In his letters he mentions that we would indemnify the manager. I was alarmed at it. I pressed Jones warmly not to give the books up to anyone until the will was found and matters arranged and by no means surrender up the possession. He has promised me to prevent such things if possible . . .

The letter goes on to tell the arrangements that were made between Coleman, and Curtis and Peter Grubb for the renting of Cornwall prior to Peter's rash act.

The answer to where Pcter II was buried is found in this last letter in the quotation: "On Wednesday last," Jasper Yeates writes to Edward Burd in Philadelphia, "Mr. Shippen and I went to the forge. The inquest (coroner) had sat on the body and we buried it that evening."

Also, I found some interesting journal entries and receipted bills²² for purchases and supplies incident to and concerning the death of Peter Grubb, II. In the Hopewell Forge Journal, Page 1, of January 19, 1786, is found this entry, #8 and #9, "To John Wall to cash for what was in P. G. pockets at his death, 68 pounds, 7 shillings, and 6 pence, and money in the chest, 5 pounds, 15 shillings, and 11 pence." On Page 2 of same date is shown the entry #13, "Riding expense to Lancaster, 17th, 5 shillings and 11 pence;" and finally, entry #14, "Funeral expenses paid for sundries, 5 pounds, 15 shillings, and 9 pence." This last item was found amazingly complete in two receipted bills, one to John Baker, merchant of Lititz, Pennsylvania, for shroud and cap and hose for Peter Grubb costing £2-12-9, and also to Alexander Zartman for a coffin for Peter Grubb, 3 pounds,

Now that we have established the death and probable burial place of Pcter Grubb II let's turn to his son, Alan Burd Grubb, and determine where he lived and died.

²² Simon Gratz Papers, Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

The genealogies that I searched for information regarding Alan Burd Grubb merely stated that he left Pennsylvania for Tennessee to practice medicine.²³ No one seemed to know where he went, so I decided to try and find out.

In the same Edward Burd Thompson letters at Harrisburg was found a letter written from Maryville, East Tennessee, by Alan Burd Grubb to his nephew; Joseph Burd Grubb at Shippensburg, Pennsylvania. It is dated April 28, 1822.²⁴ It is as follows:

> Maryville, East Tennessee April 28, 1822

Dear Sir

I have this day drawn bills on you for \$200.00 each, one payable 10 days after the first of September next, the other payable 10 days after the first of September 1823 with interest from their respective dates. The interest on each bill is very small, which you will see by the bills. It will only be the interest for 10 days on each bill, which interest I wish you to pay in addition to the \$200.00 each time. I have advised with Mr. McGee and he says that it is essential I should have these draughts accepted by you payable at the time specified and to be paid in Philadelphia. His merchant will then probably receive them as cash for goods. I forward you the drafts in this letter which I wish you to accept and transmit them back to me in a letter by the first mail. Direct your letter with the accepted drafts enclosed and the letters in future to Maryville, East Tennessee, where I will be certain to receive them.

Your acceptance of these drafts can be no possible disadvantage to you, and will be a great accommodation to me inasmuch as it will extinguish part of my debt with Mr. McGee which I have necessarily incurred since my arrival here for my children's sustenance and my own.

Mr. McGee will send on for shipment about the first of June to Philadelphia for goods and I wish to send the drafts by him at the time he sends on, therefore, do not fail to return the drafts accepted by you by the first mail after the receipt of this. I will forward two sets of drafts, or bills similar to yours, but the \$300.00 each on my brother, one payable on the 1st of April 1823 and the other payable on the first of April 1824 for \$300.00 each for his acceptance. I wish you to write to him and urge him to delay no time to accept them and send them back to me directed to Maryville, East Tennessee, as I cannot subsist and manage my business here without this is done. With great affection, I am

Your friend and nephew Alan Burd Grubb

P. S. I trust my brother will be prompt to answer this draft of next month for the thousand and sixty dollars and his acceptance of these drafts I shall send him at the time stated can be no possible disadvantage to him. I wish you to impress this on his mind as without this is done, I shall be in a miserable distress. You have nothing to do but write under each draft accepted by me with your signature. The reason for having duplicate drafts for any specified amount is that if one should be lost, the other will be good.

To better understand the "dunning" nature of Alan's letter to his nephew regarding his brother's obligation to him, let's determine how Henry Bates Grubb, Alan's brother, became indebted to him.

Alan now of age, sold on May 4, 1798, his half of Mount Hope Furnace and Hopewell Forge Estates to his brother, Henry Bates, for \$29,266.66.²⁵

²³ See note 1.

²⁴ See note 19.

²⁵ Lancaster County Court House, Book C, vol. 3, p. 509.

How much of this sale price Alan took to Tennessee in 1800 is not known. Apparently, he was not paid in full by Henry Bates Grubb, or the letter referred to would probably not need to have been written.

At least this letter gave me a clue as to where Alan Burd Grubb was located. With this information and the cooperation of the Tennessee State Library and Archives, I was able to determine that there is a Dr. Alan Burd Grubb buried in Calhoun M. E. Southern and Baptist Cemetery, McMinn County, Tennessee, but there were no birth or death dates listed.

Through continued correspondence with several people in Calhoun, and Athens, Tennessee, the county seat of McMinn County, I was able to get a copy of Dr. A. Burd Grubb's will and the inventory of his estates.²⁶ This was dated January 31, 1828.

A. BURD GRUBB's WILL No. 9

In the name of God, Amen. I, Burd Grubb, alias Allen Burd Grubb, now resideing in Blount County and State of Tennessee, being weake in Boddy, but of sound mind, memory and understanding (blessed be God for the same) do make, ordain and establish this my last Will & Testament in manner and form following, that is to say:

Impremis. I order and direct my Executor hereinafter named, to receive from my Brother, Henry Bates Grubb, the Interest Money that will from time to time become due and payable to me by said Brother on the sum of of Five thousand pounds which my Brother Owes me by Bond or Article of Agreement, (Including any arrears of interest thereon that may be due at



Dr. A. Burd Grubb's Grave At Calhoun, Tennessee

²⁶ Court House, McMinn County, Tennessee, Will Book "C" pp. 37-40, and pp. 131-184.

the time of my deceased) until Guardians Shall be appointed for my two sons, Nelson Byers Grubb and Joseph Bates Grubb, or such of them as shall be living at the time of my deceased, and this interest money to be appropriated to the payment of my funeral expenses and all my just debts and also to the support and Education of my said two sons.

Item. I give, devise and bequeath all my Real Estate that is to say, my house and Lot in the Town of Calhounsville in the State of Tennessee and also my six other Lots, in said Town with all the buildings and improvements thereon, and also all my other Real Estate of whatsoever description that it may be or wheresoever situated to my said two sons Nelson Byers Grubb and Joseph Bates Grubb, with equal interest therein to have and to hold all my Real Estate as above described to them my said two sons, Nelson Byers Grubb, and Joseph Bates Grubb, and their assigns forever as tenants in common and not as joint Tenants.

Item. I give devise and bequeath all my personal Estate that is to say, a debt of Five thousand pounds due me by Brother Henry Bates Grubb, together with all interest due thercon at the time of my decease, over paying my Funeral Expenses, and my just debts, also a debt of One thousand and twenty four dollars, the amount of Joseph Burs's Bond to me together with my interest due thercon at the time of my decease, and also all my Negro slaves and Servants for years; together with any other and all other personal property that may belong to me at the time of my decease, of whatever description, or wherever situated to my sons Nelson Byers Grubb, and Joseph Bates Grubb, absolutely and in equal shares with as full and ample power to sell and dispose of all my said personal property as I myself have, provided that Joseph Burd shall not be required to pay the principle of the Bond due by him in any other way than in five equal yearly installments computing from the time of my decease.

Item. It is my will and devise that my Executors hereinafter named shall not sell any of my Negro Slaves, as I wish my sons to have them, and it is my intention, and hereby give devise and bequeath to my said two Sons, all my Slaves of whatsoever sex or colour they or any of them may be.

Item. It is my intention and I do so will it, that if either of my said two Sons, Nelson Byers Grubb and Joseph Bates Grubb, should die without leaving lawful issue and under the age of twenty one years, in that case I give devise and bequeath my whole Estate Real and personal to such surviving Son and to his heirs and assigns forever that is to say both his own share, and also the share of his Brother deceased without lawful issue, and under the age of Twenty One years as aforesaid, and if such death of one of my aforesaid sons Nelson Byers Grubb, and Joseph Bates Grubb should happen during my life time, it is my intention and I do particularly will it, that the share of such deceased Son Should in nowise be considered as lapsed, neither of my Real or personal Estate but should inure to the benefit of his lawful issue if any and to their heirs and assigns forever, and if such deceased so so dying in my lifetime should have lawful issue, his share both of my real and personal Estate shall go his surviving Brother aforesaid and to his heirs and assigns forever. And I do hereby constitute, nominate and appoint, my friends, John McGhee of Blount County in the State of Tennessee, and Joseph Rogers and David McNair, both residing near the River Tennessee and within the bounds of the Cherokee Nation, as and for the Executors of this my last will and Testament hereby revoking all Wills heretofore made.

In Testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and Seal this twenty five day of November in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and twenty One.

A. Burd Grubb (Seal)

(Page 2, A. Burd Grubb's Will)

Signed, sealed and published by the Testator in the presents of us as his last will and Testament.

Witnesses: Land Lava, Matt W. McGhee, Mary M. Love (COI)ICIL)

It is my wish that Mr. John L. McCarty should be one of my Executors in the place of Mr. David McNair, Mr. McGhee, and Mr. Joseph Rogers being the two I wish remain as my Executors together with Mr. McCarty. I wish therefore Mr. McCarty name to be in said will instead of David McNair.

A. Burd Grubb

Taken from Will Book C, pages 37-38-39-40, Office of the County Court Clerk, McMinn County, Tennessee.

INVENTORY

In Inventory of the goods and effects of Allen B. Grubb's Deceased, now in the Hands of the Executors 8 Town lots in the Town of Calhoun known as the plan of said Town by Numbers 79, 82, 111, 109, 23, 13, 21 & 9-9 Negroes (to wit: Mary 21 years of age Malinda 19 year, Matilda aged 18 years-Betsey 16 years, Nancy, aged 12 years Lewis, aged 13 years, Moses, aged 10 years, James aged 2 years & John 8 months of age; 3 notes of hand on Saml Workman for forty dollars each, with a credit on the above of Eight Dollars Thirty seven & a half cents; 1 note on William R. Tucker for Twelve Dollars; 1 note on Dow Richard H. Archer for Twenty five Dollars-with a credit on the Same of fourteen Dollars fifty six and a fourth cents; 1 Bond on Joseph Burd for One Thousand and Twenty Four Dollars & fifty Eight Cents, with a Credit on the same for five Hundred and five Dollars Eighty one Cts; One note on Eli Sharp for Nine Dollars Sixty eight cents; 1 note on Elijah Ellis for One hundred and Sixteen Dollars; 1 note on John Jordon for Ten Dollars; 1 note on John Caswell-for thirty Dollars; 1 note on Charles Thornton for one Dollar sixty two & a half cents; 1 note on John Thornburg for Twenty seven Dollars and fifty cents; one note on William McCallester for seventy five Bushels of Thorn; John F. Gillaspics Receipt for Nelson King and Smiths due bill for Three Hundred Dollars with a Credit on the same for Two Hundred and fifty dollars; Jessu W. Edingtons Receipt for six note one on David Wear for thirty Dollars, one on William L. Brookshire for two dollars and seventy five cents, one note on Saml Workman and Saml Akins for eleven Dollars & Twenty five cents; 1 on Saml Murphy for Twelve Dollars and Fifty Cents; one on William R. Tucker for Twelve Dollars; 1 on William F. Forbes and Joel K. Brown for two dollars; 1 on Charles H. Dorian for Eight Dollars; One on Turk A. Thornburg for Twenty five dollars; 1 Double Barreled Gun; One Watch; One Book Titled Practical ——; 1 Snuff Box. We certify that we have Examined the above Inventory and find it correct. Calhoun 31st January 1828.

> William Smedley James S. Bridges

Wm. G. Williams, Commissioners.

Taken from Will Book C, pages 131-132, County Court Clerk's Office, McMinn County, Tennessee WILL BOOK C, page 133

eased Now in							
the Hands of the Executors, viz:							
\$320.14 ¹ / ₂							
83.14							
281.60							
973.76							
500.00							
1008.50							
21.05							

\$3188.191/2

We certify that the above is a true statement of the Accts and notes produced by the Executors.

	Calhoun William Smo James S. Br W. G. Willia	edley		
(Note: Do means ditto) WILL BOOK C, page 134 The Estate of A.B. Grubb, Decea	sed to Joseph	Rogers and	John	McCarty,
To William Pierce To James Nechloron To John Westmore	.cct. Do Do Do Do Do Do			$\begin{array}{c} \$169.10\\ 7.22\\ 25.00\\ 2.00\\ 84.10\\ 7.12\\ 7.25\\ 9.84\frac{1}{2}\\ 5.40\\ 22.50\\ 4.75\\ 5.00\\ 3.50\\ 2.50\\ 14.75\\ 210.08\\ 12.00\\ 25.00\\ 391.11\\ 360.87\frac{1}{2}\\ 193.81\frac{1}{2}\\ 19.26\\ 66.02\\ 32.50\\ 10.00\\ \end{array}$
10 2000 mg 100 mg				

\$1693.451/2

The contents of this will and inventory did not represent the estate of a man, who a few years prior left Pennsylvania with \$29,000; and further, no pistol bearing the initials P. G. or A. Burd Grubb, was listed in the inventory. I was dishearted, for I had hoped to find the pistol in the inventory and did not.

I decided to go to Calhoun, Tennessee, which is 680 miles from Lancaster to see what I could add to my knowledge of Alan's life. At Athens, Tennessee, Court House, I found the same will and inventory that had been sent me.²⁷

27 Ibid

They were alike. But at Calhoun, Tennessee, where the grave was located.28 I met a person with whom I had corresponded, and she told me she had worked on an old record book at Athens during the W. P. A. projects and that it had the name Dr. A. Burd Grubb in it.

Back to Athens and the record clerk. Sure enough in an old safe that had protected it from a fire in 1848 was an old book containing many old wills and inventories. There I found an original inventory of the estate of Alan Burd Grubb.

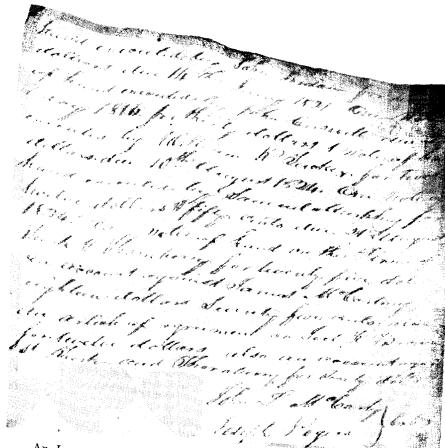
Its contents were considerably different from the copy of the first one sent to me. It was dated September 8, 1824, almost four years earlier than the copies originally sent me. The inventory was apparently made a few days after his death. It listed a pistol, among other things, which was not listed in the first inventory sent me by mail. At least I had satisfied my curiosity; I was sure the Peter Grubb pistol was the same one carried by Alan Burd Grubb from Cornwall to Calhoun, Tennessee, 700 miles, since it was listed in Alan Burd Grubb's estate inventory of 1824.

Facsimile of Inventory of A. Burd Grubb Estate:

Burd Sheath and Ducce lang the Mer good in office of allen the Structure de conser I Varine Vols in the Source of Contheme there a. B. plan of Gainer Voren, by Remature 19. 53. 11. 109. 93. 15. 21. 94. J. Sugar have to Mary ages about 17 years, Matinde a grants quarter, allelinta nova M. Bitay ugul 12 years Mais Carp reged & years Suis light of yours -Madis regrab. I gring flanse, I bears. Por I dadelle Abridles, I fin there had I show to g botster I heddlad I cord; I hol: Didwall lables to chains relists I tout 18 The second s

²⁸ Calhoun M. E. Southern and Baptist Cemetery, Calhoun, McMinn County, Tennessee.

The second of th March State & and State & Stat Marine and the back and and the second of th A Contraction Const the second of the second Contraction of the firm Contraction on taseful Burd for And the set of the Sura going of the Stars o C. F. Cand and the 1890 mind



An Inventory of the goods and effects of Allan B. Grubb deccased. 8 Town lots in the town Calhcun Known in the plan of said Town, by Numbers Malinda aged 15 Years, Malinda aged 14, Betsy aged about 17 years, 8 Years, Lewis aged 9 Years, Moses aged 6.1 grey horse, 1 brown Pony, 2 Saddles & bridles, 1 feather bed, 2 sheets & bloster, 1 bedstead, 1 cord: 1 Cot: 1 pair fire Irons: 1 pair tongs: 1 shovel: 1 Gred Iron, 1 Pot Rack: 3 small crocks: 4 in buckets: 2 Sad Irons: 1 Small Skellit: 1 Coffee Mill: 1 axe: 3 tin cups: 1 pitcher: 1 dish: 1 Salt Seller: 1 Sugar dish: 2 quart bottles: 1 Carving Knife & Fork: 5 Knives & Forks: 2 butcher knives: 6 table Spocns: 5 tea Do.: 2 tin trunks: 1 tin box: 1 Roling pin 4 blankets: 1 S-ating Machine: with a few Spanish flys: 1 double barrell gun: 1 Pistol: 3 Testaments: 1 Psalm Book: Dorsey's Surgery in two vol.: James Barnes in 2 vol.: Thomas' Practice in 1 vol.: Hunter on the blood in 2 vols.: Bell's direction in 2 vols: Rushes Pringler. Cash received of Mr. Elsworth for one hundred and sixtern Rushes Pringler. Cash received of Mr. Hall thirty-five dollars, which was a balance fair tops: 1 snuff box. Cash Recd. of Bridges for the hire of Betsey six dollars. One obligation on Joseph Burd for One thousand and twenty-four dollars & forty-eight cents due 28th October 1820, with a receipt on the same for five hundred and five dollars and twenty-eight cents. One note of hand executed by Elijah Ellis for one hundred and sixteen dollars due 26th Sept. 1820. One note of hand executed by John Jordan for ten dollars due 14th Jany. 1821. One note of hand executed by John Criswell due 25th May 1816, for thirty dollars. One note of hand executed by William R. Tucker for twelve dollars due August 1824. One note of hand executed by Samuel Murphy for twelve dollars & fifty cents due 21st August 1824. One note of hand on the Firm of Turk and Thornberry for twenty-five dollars. An account against James McCartney for eighteen dollars and Seventy-five cents: also an article of agreement of Joel K. Brown for twelve dollars, also an account against Turk and Thornberry for sixty dollars.

John L. McCarty Joseph Rogers

How it got back to Pennsylvania, and by whom it was owned for the next 130 years will probably never be known. Someone may find its mate from the original pair purchased in Philadelphia on that eventful day of December 2, 1768. The two should rest together in some suitable repository in Lancaster County, never to leave again.

My story of Peter Grubb and his pistol has come to a close. Its finding and purchase, with the research mentioned in this article, have established these heretofore unpublished facts:

- 1. The suicide of Peter Grubb at Hopewell Forge mansion, on January 17, 1786.
- 2. The burial of Peter Grubb at Hopewell Forge, January 18, 1786, by Jasper Yeates and Edward Shippen.
- 3. The death and burial place of Peter Grubb's son, Alan Burd Grubb, at Calhoun, Tennessee.

In my conclusion, it is my hope that suitable markers may be placed at these points of historical interest.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The following organizations and individuals gave generously of their time and knowledge in the preparation of this article and the author wishes to acknowledge his thanks to these persons.

ORGANIZATIONS

- 1. Lancaster County Historical Society.
- 2. Lebanon County Historical Society.
- 3. Historical Society of Pennsylvania.
- 4. Tennessee State Library and Archives.
- 5. Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.
- 6. Historical Society of Delaware.
- 7. Old Swedes Church, Wilmington, Delaware.
- 8. Chester County Historical Society.
- 9. St. James' Church, Lancaster, Pennsylvania.
- 10. Berks County Historical Society.

INDIVIDUALS

1. Mr. Gilbert Holbrook, Lancaster County Court House Records Officer.

2. Dr. H. M. J. Klein, Franklin and Marshall College.

3. Dr. H. H. Beck, President Emeritus, Lancaster County Historical Society.

4. Dr. Hubertis Cummings, Research Director, Division of Public Documents.

5. Dr. Henry Howard Eddy, State Records Officer, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

6. Dr. S. K. Stevens, State Historian, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

7. Dr. Frederick K. Miller, President, Lebanon Valley College.

8. Miss Pollyanna Creekmore, Librarian, Lawson-Ghee Library, Knoxville, Tennessee.

9. Miss Peggy Pearman, Deputy Register, McMinn County, Tennessee.

10. Pearl I. McCamish, Postmistress, U. S. Post Office Calhoun, Tennessee.

11. Mr. O. H. Bondell, Owner, Hopewell Forge Manor.

12. Mr. Luther Heisey, Lancaster County Historical Society.

13. Mr. Henry J. Young, Senior Archivist, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

14. Mr. W. T. Sheffield, Manheim, Pennsylvania.

15. Mrs. Betty Helt, Secretary.

16. Mrs. Mary Hull Dyke, for her patience and help.