

THE GAULT GRAVEYARD

Attempting to draw into proper focus the role of the Scotch-Irish in the early settlements of Lancaster County, Dr. Charles D. Spotts chronicles the Gault family.

There are several reasons why it is appropriate for me to be reading this paper before the Lancaster County Historical Society. As far as I can discover this is the first paper ever written about the Gault Graveyard.

a) I happen to be an eighth generation descendant of the Scotch-Irish Pioneer immigrant, Robert Galt, who settled on the farm where the Graveyard is located about 1709, two hundred and fifty years ago. My paternal ancestors have also lived in this same locality for almost two hundred years. For seven generations all of my paternal and maternal ancestors lived within a radius of five miles of this historic spot. My genealogical roots are, therefore, deep in the soil of which the Gault Graveyard is a part.

b) The available records indicate that my great-grand parents, Alexander Dixon Gault and his two wives, Catherine Richwine and Sarah Weaver Good; my great-great grandparents Thomas Gault and his wife Mary McKee; my great-great-great grandparents James Galt and his wife Leticia; and my great-great-great-great grandparents James Galt and his wife (a former Miss Alison), were buried in the family Graveyard. It is also quite certain that the original Robert Galt and his wife are buried there. Here rest the remains of the first five American generations of my maternal ancestors, representing a total of two hundred and fifty years, assuming that the original Robert Galt was nearly seventy years old when he arrived, and that his great-great-grandson Alexander didn't die until 1892. This is nearly two hundred years of Galt history in Salisbury Township. It is a moving experience for me to stand inside the four walls of this ancestral shrine.

c) On November 15, 1939, the Orphan's Court of Lancaster County appointed me as one of the Trustees of the Gault Graveyard, a position to which my maternal grandfather, Henry Gault, was appointed on November 4, 1897, two years before I was born. My great grandfather, Alexander Dixon Gault, was appointed April 1, 1846.

I am well aware of the fact that white men came into Lancaster County during the seventeenth century as traders, as explorers, and perhaps, as missionaries to the Indians. At least one white man was buried in the Indian burial grounds along the Susquehanna River. There were also white men who owned land in what is now Salisbury Township before Robert Galt emigrated. These absentee owners probably came into the area for lumber and wild game from time to time.

The thesis of this paper contains several propositions.

a) To establish, on the basis of available data, that the first white settlers in Lancaster County were not necessarily the German and Swiss Mennonites who settled several miles south of the present city of Lancaster, in the autumn of 1710, marked by the Hans Herr House; but that they may have been preceded, by my maternal ancestor Robert Galt, who started the Graveyard, about which this paper is written. I am aware that this is a controversial proposition, due, in part, to the fact that recent historians of Lancaster County have ignored Robert Galt.

b) To complete the genealogical work of previous historians of the Galt family who have omitted the story of the descendants of Robert Galt's grandson, James, my great-great-great grandfather. One of the most complete studies of the Galt families was made by Professor Howard Spilman Galt, of Yenching University, Peiping, China, in 1938. His book includes the "Genealogy of Galts in Denmark from 1253 to 1741", the "Genealogy of Galts in Northern Ireland from 1621 to 1904", the "Genealogy of Pennsylvania Galts from 1709 to 1936", the "Genealogy of the Maryland Galts from 1803 to 1937", and the "Genealogy of New Hampshire Gaults from 1721 to 1911."¹ This is an unusual book, containing ninety pages of Galt names. But when it comes to my branch of the family the professor stops with Robert Galt's grandson, James, for whom he does not even include dates. Since he was born in 1731 this is a very important gap in the history of the Lancaster County Gaults.

The only record I have ever seen of my branch was prepared by Edwin Stauffer Gault of Philadelphia, November 6, 1930, with the title "Gault Family Tree." Edwin Gault is one of my distant cousins. In the introduction he commits a very serious error in referring to James Gault as one of the "Five Gault brothers who came to this country in the early 1700's." This error is part of the second paragraph of his introduction.

"According to my information, five Gault brothers came to this country in the early 1700's, coming from the north of Ireland, before that having resided in Scotland. One of these brothers was James Gault who married a Letecia. From this union ten children were born, the youngest being Thomas Gault (1782-1834). He was married to Mary McKee."² Later on he gives the dates for this James Gault (1731-1811). The error involved here is almost incredible. How could a man born in 1791, be one of five adult brothers who came from Ireland in the early 1700's? Furthermore, Edwin Gault uses the spelling Gault from the very beginning.

It is somewhat ironical that both of these family historians were clergymen, and that a contemporary 'clergyman' should be correcting them.

c) To suggest a reasonable explanation of the two spellings of the family name, I am not sure that the original spelling was *Galt*. The 1901 edition of the Oxford Dictionary gives the following: "Galt, Obs., ex. dial. Also 15th cent. Galte., 17 Cent. Gawt, Gaute, Gault. Adapted from old Norse Golt, Galte wk. masc. for boar. Old High Germ. galza, gelza, sow; Mid High Germ., galza, gelze, Mod. Ger. Gelze, related to Gilt. A bear or hog.

The Oxford Dictionary gives a second derivation — this time from English, with an entirely different meaning. Gault, Geol. Also 16th Cent. Galte, 18-19 Cent. Golt, Galt. Gault clay, a kind of clay, etc. usage is then given, from 1575 to 1893, and with the following variations in spelling, Galte, Gaults, Golt, Galt, Gault.

In the appendix (p. 194) of a biography of John Galt (Scotch author) by Jennie W. Aberdein, published by the Oxford Press in September, 1936, there is the following statement, referring to early inhabitants of Ayrshire, a Scotch center of Galt connections:

"Most of the names found in the Cunningham district of Ayrshire are believed to be Teutonic, even Danish, and if we regard the name Galt as of Danish, not Celtic, origin, we find it is a nickname or sign-name, actually found in Denmark, and meaning Hog."³

If we accept the Danish origin of the name then its original meaning was *pig* or *boar*. I am not certain that one should really be so curious about the origin of one's family name.

My practical concern is about the two spellings of the name in Lancaster County. I am quite certain that my original ancestor spelled it *Galt*. During the last four generations of my branch of the family the spelling has been *Gault*.

THE GRAVEYARD

During 1920 William Frederic Worner read a paper before the Lancaster County Historical Society on "The Old Pequea Presbyterian Graveyard," in which appears the following reference to the Gault Graveyard.

"At this meeting of the Trustees (of the Pequea Presbyterian Church) the pastor informed the members that in January, 1785, he received from James Galt (great-grandson of Robert Galt) twelve pounds ten shillings being a legacy from his father, Thomas Galt, of Earl Township. The bequest in his will is thus worded:

"I give and bequeath the sum of twelve pounds ten shillings lawful money to be paid by my executors for the maintaining of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in Pequea."

"Thomas Galt is not buried in the Graveyard adjoining Pequea Meeting House. His ancestor Robert Galt was one of the earliest, if not the very first white man to settle in the Pequea Valley. It was greatly owing to Robert Galt's efforts that the Pequea congregation was organized. The ancestral home of the Galts is located about two miles north of the meeting house. On the Galt farm is a private burying ground in which it is supposed Thomas Galt was interred."⁴ He was actually buried there. The marker reads "Thomas Galt, 1720-1759."

This reference from 1785 is the oldest printed record I have been able to find of the Gault Graveyard except a piece of plain paper, quite yellow with age, 7½x4 inches, described as: "A draught of a piece of ground allowed for a graveyard (or otherwise called a burial place) situate in Tract of Land formerly belonging to Hugh Wilson, but now Robert Armor, in Salisbury Township, Lancaster County; and containing nine perches. Survey, April the 5th, 1771. Alex Brown." ⁵ A drawing with surveyor's record is on the same sheet. When folded the document bears the title, "Burial Ground. Robert Armor and Hugh Wilson."

Robert Armor was a grandson of the original Robert Galt, who, as a young boy, had emigrated with his grandfather. He must have been quite an old man when this draught was executed. Hugh Wilson was probably the son of William Wilson, son-in-law of Robert Galt.

I, also, have another document, more legible than the first. It is a "Draught of a piece of Burial Ground formally allowed to be three perches square and a road to it of one perch Broad-addition made on the east side of one perch for to be more sufficient for that purpose of a Burying place. Altered in year 1802." "G. David Witmer."⁶

This is confirmed by the fact that the oldest marker in the first six rows is that marking the grave of Martin Galt, an infant who died February 9, 1818, sixteen years after the addition was made to the graveyard. The next row, which belonged to the original graveyard, contains the marker of William Galt, who died in 1794.

The oldest marker, still standing is that of William Galt, son of the above mentioned Martin Galt, who was buried during 1757. It is in this area, the western part of the original graveyard, that Robert Galt probably buried his wife soon after their arrival. This indicates that a number of the members of the Family were buried here before the plot was legally set apart as a graveyard in 1771.

The Reverend John Leamon read a paper on the day of the dedication of the remodeled Cedar Grove Presbyterian Church during 1858, in which appears the following reference to the Gault Graveyard.

"One of the most pious men in the Church in this vicinity, in the days of Dr. Smith was Thomas Galt. His grandfather, Robert Galt, emigrated from Ireland to this country at some period between 1700 and 1710 . . . Mr. Robert Galt was one of the first immigrants to that portion of the Pequea Valley and was one of the founders of the Presbyterian Church of Pequea. A short time after his arrival his wife departed this life and as there was no church or graveyard within the distance of many miles, he buried her on his farm. This is the origin of the graveyard near the house of Mr. William Galt (5th generation)."⁷

I found the next printed record of the Gault Graveyard in the "History of the Pequea Presbyterian Church," published in 1924.

"One of the most pious men in this Church in Dr. Smith's days was Mr. Thomas Gault, the grandson of Robert Galt, who was one of the founders of the Pequea Presbyterian Church. A short time after his arrival from Ireland his wife departed this life, and, as there was no Church or

Graveyard, he buried her on his own farm. This graveyard is near the home of W. P. Galt (sixth generation) known as Galt's graveyard, and Mrs. Robert Galt was the first one to be buried in that spot."⁸

Since the Pequea Presbyterian Church was not founded until 1724, Mrs. Robert Galt must have died before that time. The above references suggest that she may have died soon after their arrival. In which case the Gault Graveyard must be almost two hundred and fifty years old. It is, therefore, probably one of, if not the oldest family graveyard in Lancaster County. Since no churches had yet been founded within the confines of Lancaster County it might well be the oldest graveyard in the County.

The next reference appears in the Coatesville Record of September 1938. "It was on this tract of land, which, until a short time ago, has remained in the Galt name, that the first cemetery in that part of the county was located and it is still known as the old Gault Cemetery. This cemetery contains a number of family graves, and one of the objects of the Pequea Society of which John S. Galt, a descendant of the original Galt, is president, is to improve this old cemetery and preserve it as a relic of the first settlers in that part of the country."

As far as I know this ambitious improvement by the late John S. Galt never happened. I would suggest that the Lancaster County Historical Society consider placing an appropriate marker or tablet at the entrance of this, perhaps, the oldest graveyard in the County.

One of my students, Robert J. Greiner, did a research paper on the "History of the Gault Graveyard" during the academic year 1939-1940, which includes a chart, locating each one of the sixty tombstones remaining in place; a complete record of the inscriptions on each of the markers; and a separate listing of the tombstones, with only names and dates. (See Appendix B)⁹

The upkeep of this Graveyard is dependent upon the interest received from two legacies. According to an acknowledgment, recorded June 1, 1860, and dated March 20, 1845, John A. Gault assigned by declaration of trust to William Gault, Samuel Evans, and Alexander D. Gault (my great grandfather) an annual interest of two dollars on Lots Nos. 172 and 189 (Cambridge) for the purpose of keeping the Gault's Graveyard. Alexander D. Gault was the last of these to die (1892), and it was he who took most interest in preserving the Graveyard. At his death there was a balance of \$59.68, which was awarded to the "Trustee's of Gault's Graveyard." The court appointed on November 4, 1897, as Trustees — John Evans, Henry Gault (my grandfather) and John P. Gault.

On July 27, 1914, James T. Gault, first cousin of my grandfather, Henry Gault, provided in his will the following bequest.

"I give and bequeath to Gault's Graveyard Association (located in Salisbury Township, Lancaster County), the trustees thereof, and their successors, the sum of one hundred dollars, the same to be held in trust by them and invested in good real estate security, and the interest thereof must be used toward keeping up the family burial lot of my grandfather, Thomas Gault and family in said Graveyard. This bequest to be perpetual."¹⁰



Gault Family Graveyard. The author is shown pointing to some stones marking the resting places of several ancestors.

The present Trustees are attempting to be responsible within the limited resources which are available. At the present time sheep have access to the Graveyard, thereby controlling weeds and grass. A number of the markers have been removed from the graves which they marked, others need to be straightened, the walls will also need repairs before very long.

For some reason the historians of Lancaster County have ignored Robert Galt. The Ellis and Evans History (1883) reports that the German-Swiss Mennonites came to the banks of the Pequea Creek during the autumn of 1709 and that the French Huguenots from the Departments of Alsace and Lorraine were the next to settle in the Pequea Valley. This same History reports that the first Scotch-Irish came to Lancaster County in 1715 and settled on the "Chike's" Creek. It is strange that Ellis and Evans mention, neither, the upper or eastern end of the Pequea, or the Scotch-Irish pioneer Robert Galt. Since there are no resident land owners, on the Pequea, mentioned in the list of 1708 it would appear that the Mennonites and Robert Galt had not yet arrived. There is considerable evidence that Mr. Galt arrived during 1709. It is the thesis of this paper that when the Mennonite settlers were building their log cabins along the Pequea south of where Lancaster city now stands Robert Galt was building, or had already built, his above one of the springs which feeds the Pequea near its source.

"Highlights of Lancaster's History" written by my friend and colleague, Dr. H. M. J. Klein for the 200th Anniversary of Lancaster County, contains the following paragraph.

"As early as 1709 a colony of Mennonites came from Switzerland under the leadership of Hans Herr — began to make this district the richest agricultural region in the United States. Then came the French Huguenots, the Scotch-Irish, the Quakers, the Welsh, the Palatines." This is a reflection of the same story that appears in the Ellis and Evans History. Dr. Klein doesn't even mention Robert Galt and places the Scotch-Irish pioneers after the Huguenots. I can understand how one historian usually depends upon the records of his predecessors. But, when the first ignores a fact, this fact remains unnoticed until someone points out the omission. I am prepared to play this role by insisting that the earliest farmers in Lancaster County were not all Mennonites, but that my Scotch-Irish maternal ancestor, Robert Galt, also had a share in helping to develop the agricultural fame of our County during the early part of the 18th century.

There are several other records upon which my thesis rests, the most convincing of which is that of a Lancaster County Mennonite historian, the late Martin G. Weaver of New Holland.

"The first authentic account of the Lancaster County settlement is that of Hans Mylin, his son, Martin, and Hans Herr, John Rudolph Bundly, Martin Kendig, Jacob Miller, Martin Oberholtzer, Hans Funk, Michael Oberholtzer, Wendell Bowman (Mrs. Spotts' pioneer paternal ancestor) and others, with their families came as far as the Conestoga in 1710, and there selected a tract of ten thousand acres to the north of Pequea Creek. The warrant for this was recorded and the land surveyed to them October 23, 1710."¹¹

Weaver also quotes Barclay, *Religious Societies of The Commonwealth*, "But not only did the leaders of the early society of Friends (of England) take interest in the Mennonites, but the early meeting of 1709 contributed fifty pounds (a very large sum at that time) for the Mennonites of the Palatinate who had fled from the persecution of the Calvinists of Switzerland."¹²

Professor Scheffer of Amsterdam discovered among the old records of the "Dutch Committee on Foreign Needs" the following: "It is no wonder that half a year later the 'Committee on Foreign Needs' cherished few hopes concerning the colony (the Germantown Mennonite Colony). They felt, however, for nine or ten families who had come to Rotterdam according to information from there under date of April 8, 1709, from the neighborhood of Worms and Frankenthal, in order to emigrate, and whom they earnestly sought to dissuade from making the journey. They were, said the letter from Rotterdam, "altogether poor men, who intended to seek a better place of abode in Pennsylvania."¹³

Martin Weaver concludes, "There can be but little doubt that this was the group of Mennonites who appeared in the autumn of 1710, on the banks of the Pequea. The dates correspond exactly, as do the number and the nationality of them."¹⁴

In the archives of Amsterdam is a letter of thanks to Holland written by Martin Kendig, Hans Herr, Christian Herr, Martin Oberholtzer, Martin Meili, and Jacob Miller, dated June 27, 1710, and states that they were about to sail for the new world.

"From the records in the Office of the Interior at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania and from those at Lancaster we have the accounts that these same first settlers applied for ten thousand acres of land for their brethren in the Pequea Valley in the fall of the same year, and that part of their new possessions were patented to them on October 23, 1710.¹⁵

Thus does their own historian pile up unquestionable evidence that the German Mennonites did not settle in Lancaster County until the fall of 1710, which confirms a footnote in I. Daniel Rupp's *History of Lancaster County* (1844), "Samuel Miller, son of Jacob Miller, was the first child born in the Swiss colony; he was born January 22, 1711. Jacob Miller, Samuel's father, was born in Europe, 1663, came to America in 1710."¹⁶ Additional evidence appears in Harry M. Hoover's *The Huber-Hoover Family History*, "we now come to the first Mennonite settlement within the present limits of Lancaster County by Hans Herr and his little band of followers. They left London June 29, 1710 on the ship "Mary Hope" and arrived in Philadelphia in September (1710)."¹⁷

Perhaps my most damaging evidence is found in the *Mennonite Encyclopedia*, edited by Harold S. Bender, and C. Henry Smith, the two most eminent contemporary Mennonite historians. "Hans Herr, with his wife Elizabeth Kendig, at the age of 72 brought his family across the Atlantic to free them from oppression in Europe, settling near Willow Street in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, in the fall of 1710."¹⁸

With this evidence my case rests, to wit, that my paternal, pioneer ancestor, Robert Galt, probably preceded the German Mennonite settlers by one year, and, thereby, was the first white man to settle in Lancaster County.

There are no original records for the date of Robert Galt's arrival in the Pequea Valley, but there are a number of references which are suggestive.

The Reverend W. C. Alexander, pastor of the Pequea Presbyterian Church, declares in his history of the Church published in 1876, that "Mr. Robert Galt . . . was no doubt one of the founders of the Pequea Presbyterian Church, and the only one whose name is known to us. He was among those who came to Pequea Valley at that early date being among the earliest, if not the first white man who ever entered here."¹⁹

Even the Ellis and Evans' history, published in 1883, in an obscure passage, refers to Robert Galt as "one of the first on the headwaters of the Pequea about the year 1710."²⁰

On the occasion of the Dedication of the Founders' Windows of Bellevue Presbyterian Church, September 8, 1912, a chronology of Presbyterians in the Pequea Valley was prepared which W. N. Hensel describes as having been "carefully prepared and verified from original sources . . . with an accuracy that not only makes their repetition here unnecessary, but which gives them a permanent setting of far more value than any oral reference to them." The second item in this Chronology reads:

"1709—Robert Galt, first Presbyterian settler in Lancaster County, crossed the Octoraro hills and located in Pequea Valley, Salisbury Township."²¹

In the history of the Pequea Presbyterian Church, written by Rachel Annie Robinson in 1913, appears a similar reference, "Robert Galt . . . emigrated from Ireland between 1700 and 1710."²²

Dr. Wesley L. Hemhill, pastor of the Paradise Presbyterian Church, in the Lancaster Daily Intelligencer Journal for October 12, 1932, wrote, "In 1709 Robert Galt, the first Presbyterian settled in Lancaster County, crossed the Octorara hills and settled in the Pequea Valley."

Professor Howard Spilman Galt, in 1938, wrote that "Robert Galt migrated from Ireland in 1709 or 1710. The Region to which he came, later known as Pennsylvania, was acquired by William Penn in 1681, and that part which became Lancaster County was settled by three groups of colonists: Welsh Quakers, Germans or German Swiss, and Scotch Irish. Apparently the three groups arrived at almost the same time. In preparation for the bicentenary of the settlement of Lancaster County (1910) a committee was appointed to investigate and decide the question of priority. The decision was in favor of the Germans or Mennonites, but the year was fixed as 1710, one year after Robert Galt arrived."²³

The Honey Brook Herald, September 22, 1938, declared that "Robert Galt was probably the first white settled in Lancaster County."

The Coatesville Record, September 29, 1938, reports: "When Robert Galt, who is said to be the first white settler in Lancaster County, landed at New Castle in 1709, he left his family and his possessions there while he struck out into the trackless forest in search of a place to settle. He wandered northward and westward through the wilds of Chester County, probably passing near where Coatesville is now located, and finally discovered the spring (Spear Head Spring, near White Horse, which discharges four hundred gallons of water a minute).

"Having fixed upon this spot he returned to Delaware for his family. But when he came back he could not, in the wild forest, discover the spot he had chosen. After a fruitless search he gave it up and decided to settle on another tract of land which also had a good spring on it. He took this as a substitute for the ones for which he was searching. Then Pequea Presbyterian Church lies about midway between these two springs. He took up several hundred acres of land. He brought with him his wife, his son James Galt who in 1720 married Miss (?) Alison; William Wilson, his son-in-law; and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Armor, his daughter and their son Robert, then a small boy."

It is significant that both of these references come from papers published in Chester County. Here is further evidence that Robert Galt has been neglected by Lancaster County historians.

Robert Galt came to Pennsylvania at the suggestion of William Penn. There is no record of his first dwelling. The second house, on the Galt farm was built in 1753 by (perhaps) a son of William Wilson, (Ellis and Evans say 1734) descendant who migrated with Robert Galt. It stood directly south of the present house and was a "quaint piece of architecture with paneled partitions." It was a stone house, the foundation of which can still be seen. The present farm house was built by a Mr. Magill, who

married Martha Galt, during the year 1886. The basement ceiling is over seven feet high; on huge floor joists are planks three and one-half inches thick, over which floor boards have been laid. The basement contains a large fire-place and separate room for butchering. There are five bedrooms and bath on the second floor. The third floor contains three bedrooms, a large hall, and a smoke-house room for the smoking of meats. Originally a large tank on the second floor received rain water which flowed by gravity into the original tub. South of the farm house is a Spring House, which contains five levels, and was, at one time, occupied by a negro family. At least two babies were born in this building.

The tax list for 1720 reports Robert Galt with property valued at 12 pounds; and his son James, with an estate valued at 15 pounds. By this time, apparently, the original tract had been divided into two parts, the two Galt farms, about which my father used to speak.

The assessment list of 1724 includes James Galt and William Wilson, but not Robert Galt. Did he die before 1714? When was the Pequea Presbyterian Church founded, in which he had a part? Some historians give the date as 1724. Perhaps he had turned over his farm to his son-in-law by this time.

“Robert Armor took up a tract of two hundred acres of land . . . between James Gault and William Wilson on January 8, 1734.”²⁴

Landowners in 1759 included James Galt and son (probably James, my ancestor) 316 acres, 120 acres cleared. I can account for the other four brothers — Robert, who had two sons, William and Adam; John and William were Millers, owning 25 acres; and Thomas, who moved to Cumberland County, later returning to Lancaster County, settling near Terre Hill. Robert Armor owned 187 acres, including 100 cleared; and Hugh Wilson 236 acres, 120 cleared (this is probably the farm previously owned by his father William Wilson).

The tax list of 1770 includes Robert Armor, 400 acres, 1 negro; James Galt (probably Robert Galt's grandson) 300 acres; John and William Galt, 485 acres, 2 mills; James Galt is also listed as a Freemason.

The tax list for 1780 includes: James Gault, 316 acres, valued at 11,060 pounds; and William Galt, 440 acres, valued at 16,480 pounds.²⁵

Since William Gault's oldest child died in 1757 the only Galt, whose descendants remained continuously on or near the original farm, was my ancestor James, grandson of the original Robert Galt. Adam Galt had ten children but I have no record of them remaining in Salisbury Township.

THE GALT FAMILY

The Galt's are commonly supposed to have had their origin in Denmark. “The earliest appearance of the family name of Galt in records, occurs in Denmark. It is quite probable that the family had its origin there, and that certain members migrated to Scotland, furnished the originators of the Scotch and Irish Galts, from whom the various American branches of the family have sprung.

“The name belongs to one of Denmark's oldest and noblest, often being seen with old castles, etc. There was hardly a cathedral in Denmark that

did not have a chair with the Galt armorial bearings on its back, and twenty-six estates in that country alone have been owned, and occupied by various branches of the Galt family.

"The first ancestor of whom we have positive knowledge was Herr Mogens Lagesen (Galt), knighted in 1397. His descendent Peder Ebgesen died in 1548 and is buried in Socrud Church, his tombstone still exists (probably the oldest Galt Tombstone still in existence).²⁶

Professor Howard Spilman Galt reports that a letter from Miss Mary Geoffroy Galt, written September 4, 1912 contained the following: "I remember the story of one of the ladies of the family saying to another once, 'Yes, the Galts were descended from a family of pirates — one of whom was executed.' The lady addressed said, 'Well that is nothing — in old times the most aristocratic people were pirates.'" ²⁷

We have been unable to find definite accounts of immigration of Galts from Scotland to Ireland. The presence of Galts in the north of Ireland is however a well known fact. One conjecture is that during the early part of the 17th century a number of Galts migrated from Ayrshire in Scotland across to Ireland — a distance of fifty to one hundred miles only.

At the beginning of the 18th century serious trouble arose. A "penal code" was passed by the Church of England party about 1702. From this time onward the Protestant Scotch were subjected to most harassing limitations and restrictions, religious and other, which at times amounted to direct persecution. Insurrections took place, and for several decades the political conditions in the north of Ireland were akin to anarchy. One writer says, "we know why these sturdy Scotch Irish people left the north of Ireland. At home they were forced to pay for the support of the English Church system, and they had to have their marriages solemnized by Anglican ministers. Also they were excluded from office and taxed very heavily and hampered by laws which crushed their manufactures. So they, like so many others, sought a land of freedom and opportunity, in Penn's new colony." ²⁸

Robert Galt, who migrated from Ireland in 1709 apparently escaped the worst of the conditions just described by being among the first to leave. Historians report that Lancaster County was first settled by three groups: Welsh Quakers, Germans or German Swiss, and Scotch Irish. Apparently the three groups arrived at almost the same time. I have given a number of sources to indicate that Robert Galt may have arrived during 1709. Nobody may ever be able to decide whether I am correct, or whether the Committee for the bicentenary of the settlement of Lancaster County (1910) was correct in deciding in favor of the German Mennonites.

LARGE FAMILIES

A survey of my own Galt ancestors reflects the rather familiar story of large families during the 18th and 19th centuries.

The original Robert Galt brought with him, from Ireland, three children, including James, my ancestor. He may have had others who remained in Ireland or others who could have died before he migrated.

James (2nd generation) had ten children — five daughters and five sons, including James, my ancestor. He remained on the family farm.

James (1731-1811: 3rd generation) had ten children including Thomas, the youngest, my ancestor. He also occupied the farm of his grandfather.

Thomas (1782-1834: 4th generation) had ten children, of which my ancestor, Alexander Dixen, was next to the oldest. I have no information concerning his residence, but he probably lived near the family farm.

Alexander Dixen (1810-1892: 5th generation) had ten children, of which my ancestor Henry M. was a twin. He lived on a farm west of Mt Zion Church, the same farm on which my father's first wife, Ida Templin, lived.

My grandfather Henry (1850-1918: 6th generation) had only one child, my mother, which brought the Gault name to an end in my immediate branch of the family.

During a period of a century and a half (1720-1857) each of four generations of my maternal ancestors had ten children. During a similar period my paternal ancestors averaged eleven children, in all cases nine boys and two girls. My generation was marked by smaller families. I wasn't married until after graduation from the Theological Seminary. I am the father of two daughters.

Among the fifty-five markers still standing in the Gault Graveyard are five couples, representing three generations which belong to my branch, in the order of their burial.

James Galt (3rd generation) buried 1811, 80 years old.

Mrs. James (Leticia) buried 1818, 77 years old.

Thomas Gault (4th generation) buried 1834, 52 years old.

Mrs. Thomas (Mary McKee) Gault, buried 1869, 82 years old.

Alexander Dixen Gault (5th generation) buried 1892, 79 years old.

Mrs. Alexander (Sarah Weaver Good) Gault, buried 1892, 79 years old.

The average of these six ancestors is 75 years. Since all of them died during the 19th century, when the life expectancy was not more than forty, my maternal stock seems to have been hardy.

The first six generations of my branch of the family were farmers who lived within several miles of the family graveyard. My grandfather, Henry Gault, lived in the village of Cambridge, where I was born. He never owned a farm of his own, but worked for farmers in the neighborhood. My Mother, Mary D. Gault, was the first in my branch of the family to go away to school. She entered the Millersville Normal School, September 2, 1895. After completing the course at Millersville she taught in grade schools in Salisbury Township until she married my father during 1898. I am quite sure that, although she died before I was nine years old, it was her influence during my impressionable childhood years which led me to give up the trade which I had learned in my father's blacksmith shop in the village of Bowmansville, and to enter Franklin and Marshall College at the close of World War I. This paper is dedicated to her memory.

*Franklin and Marshall College
Lancaster, Pennsylvania*

CHARLES D. SPOTTS

LIST OF TOMBSTONES IN OLD GALT GRAVEYARD
NEAR PEQUEA CHURCH — (September 19, 1939)

- William Gault, departed this life June 18th, 1847, aged 56 years
Margaret Gault, wife of William, departed this life May 9th, 1838, aged 46 years
and 5 months
Charity A., daughter of W. H. & Alice Martini, died August 14th, 1842, aged 3
years
William H. Martini, died June 12th, 1848, aged 60 years
Alice, wife of William H. Martini, died Sept. 11, 1869, aged 68 yr., 7 mo., 12 days
Christiann, wife of Samuel Evans, died Oct. 6th, 1855, in the 52nd year of her age
Samuel Evans, (father) born Nov. 16, 1803; died Feb. 13, 1888, aged 84 years, 2
mo., 28 days
Rebecca, wife of David Miller, died Aug. 15th, 1850, aged 45 years, 25 days
Mary S. Miller, dau. David & Letitia Miller, born Nov. 26, 1858; died May 28,
1874, aged 15 yrs., 6 mo., 2 days
David Miller, (father) born Nov. 27, 1803; died March 11, 1885, aged 81 yrs., 3
mo., 12 days
Letitia Miller, wife of David Miller, born Jan. 5, 1825, died Feb. 11, 1901, aged 76
yrs., 27 days
Eliza Jane Evans, born Dec. 1, 1839; died Dec. 26, 1874
James Armor, departed this life Nov. 11, 1805, in the 34th year
Robert Armor, departed this life Jan. 11, 1804, in the 19th year
John W. Armor, departed this life June 24th, 1819, aged 32 yrs., 2 mo., 1 day
James S. Armer, departed this life, Nov. 11, 1805, in the 55th yr.
Margaret Armer, consort of James Armer, died Aug. 24th, 1824, in 67th yr.
Lila Evans, Lewis Evans, Joshua Evans, Hiram Evans, Bertha M. Evans and Frank
lin Evans, infants
Rebecca Gault, dau. William and Margaret Gault, died Nov. 11, 1842 aged 23 yrs.
Benjamin Franklin, son of John A. & Anne E. Gault, died Apr. 2nd, 1846, aged 6
yrs. 6 mo. 10 days. Inscription follows: "Kind Angel maketh this sleeping dust,
Till Jesus comes to raise the just, Then may he awake with sweet surprise,
and in His Supreme Image rise."
Mary Gault, wife of William Gault, died Apr. 16th, 1842 in 76th yr.
William Gault died Feb. 7, 1838 in 66th year
Jane, dau. of William & Mary Gault, died May 25, 1842, aged 37 years 3 days
Elizabeth Jane, wife of John Trego, died July 21, 1854, aged 67 years, 5 mo. 26
days
John S. Trego, died May 10th, 1852, aged 58 yrs. 4 mo 15 days
James Wilson, born Apr. 10, 1737, died Aug. 23, 1800, aged 63 yrs. 4 mo 13 days
Samuel Wilson, died Aug. 30, 1798, aged 31 years,
"Death thou hast conquered me, I by thy dart am slain,
But Christ shall conquer thee, And I shall rise again."
Alexander, son of Alexander & Martha Gault, born Aug. 23, 1804, died March 15,
1805
Isabel Gault (Wilson) died Oct. 8, 1800, aged 81 years
Thomas Galt died June 30th, 1779, aged 59 years
Margaret Galt, wife of Wm. Galt, died Nov. 15th, 1801 in the 75th year
William Galt, son of William & Margaret Galt, Oct. 1757
William Galt, died July 2, 1794, aged 69 years
John Galt, died Jan. 30th, 1887, aged 84 years
Letticia Hanna Gault, dau. of William & Mary Gault, died Apr. 13th, 1826, aged
18 yrs., 1 mo. and 13 days
Lettice M. Galt, dau. of William & Mary Galt, died Dec. 2nd, 1801, aged 1 yr.
10 mo. 6 days

John G., son of William & Mary Gault, died Apr. 2nd, 1850 in the 30th yr. of his age

James Gault—blank stone, no inscription

Martin Galt, son of James & Mary, died Feb. 9, 1818, aged 5 mo. 16 days

James Galt, died Oct. 7, 1821, in the 64th year

Thomas F., son of Alexander & Sarah Gault, died June 1866, aged 21 yrs. 6 mo. and 22 days. "Sleep brother dear, and take your rest, God called you home, he thought it best. 'Twas hard indeed to part with thee, But Christ's strong arm supported us."

Adam Newton, son of Alexander S. and Sarah Gault, died May 26th, 1858 in the 4th year of his age

Benjamin F., son of Alexander David & Sarah Gault, died Feb. 28th, 1849 in the 2nd year of his age

William C., son of Alexander and Sarah Gault, died Oct. 20, 1856, in the 5th year of his age

Sarah, wife of Alexander D. Gault, born Oct. 3, 1813; died Dec. 18, 1892, aged 79 yrs. 2 mo. and 15 days
"She was a kind and affectionate wife, a fond mother and friend to all."

Alexander D. Gault, born Feb. 19, 1810, died July 16, 1892; aged 82 yrs. 4 mo. 27 days. "Farwell my wife, and children all. From you a father, Christ doth call."

Catharine, wife of Alexander D. Gault, died April 24th, 1841, in the 21st year of her age

Isabelle W., dau. of John and Jane Gault, died March 1836, in the 2nd yr of her age

John Gault, died Feb. 11th, 1875, in the 79th year of his age

Mary Gault, died July 2, 1884, in the 86th year of her age

Martha, daughter of Alexander and Martha Gault, died April 3rd, 1856, in the 62nd year of her age

Susan, daughter of Alexander and Martha Gault, died Dec. 5, 1854, in the 64th year of her age

Margaret, daughter of Alexander and Martha Gault, died Aug. 16, 1836 aged 50 years

Martha, wife of Alexander Gault, died Jan. 26, 1828, in the 68th yr of her age

Alexander Gault, died Jan. 18th, 1834, in the 75th year of his age

Mary, daughter of William and Mary Patton, wife of William Gault, born Nov. 15, 1795, died June 25th, 1828

William Gault, died Oct. 8, 1868 in the 76th year of his age

Mary, wife of Thomas Gault, died Nov. 18th, 1869, in the 82nd yr of her age
"Blessed are the dead, which die in the Lord."

Thomas Gault, died July 9th, 1834, aged 52 yrs 1 mo 9 days

NOTES

1. Howard Spilman Galt, **The Galt Families**, Yenching University, Peiping, China, 1938, pp. 5-6
2. Edwin Stauffer Gault, **Gault Family Tree**, Nov. 6, 1930, p.1.
3. Howard Spilman Galt, op. cit. p. 6.
4. The Old Pequea Presbyterian Graveyard, William Frederic Worner, **Lancaster County Historical Society**, Volume XXIV, 1920, p. 46. The Minute Book of the Trustees of the Pequea Presbyterian Church, which contains the reference to the bequest by James Galt in 1785, is in the hands of the current treasurer. The above item appears on the first page of this book of minutes. The pastor was the Reverend Robert Smith. I have seen this document in recent years.

5. I have recently had this document laminated and placed it in my Safety Deposit Box, Lancaster County National Bank, Lancaster, Pennsylvania.
6. This document, now laminated, is also in my Safety Deposit Box.
7. Quoted by Howard Spilman Galt, *ibid.*, p. 19.
8. Rachel Annie Robinson, **The History of the Pequea Presbyterian Church of South Hermitage, Salisbury Township, Lancaster County, Penna.** Press of the Clarion, New Holland, Pa., 1924, p. 6.
9. A copy of this research paper is in my files at my Smoketown home, under "The Gault Graveyard."
10. Petition for appointment of succeeding Trustee, Orphan's Court of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, in the estate of John A. Gault, deceased. A copy is in my Gault Graveyard file.
11. **Martin G. Weaver, Mennonites of Lancaster Conference, Scottdale, Pa., 1931, p. 10.**
12. *Ibid.*, p. 13.
13. Quoted in Weaver, *Ibid.*, p. 13.
14. *Ibid.*, p. 13.
15. *Ibid.*, p. 36.
16. I. Daniel Rupp, **History of Lancaster County, 1844, p. 83.**
17. Harry M. Hoover, **The Huber-Hoover Family, Scottdale, 1928, p. 15.**
18. **The Mennonite Encyclopedia, Scottdale, Pa., 1956, Vol. II, p. 712.**
19. Reverend W. C. Alexander, **History of the Pequea Presbyterian Church, 1876, pp. 2,3.**
20. Franklin Ellis and Samuel Evans, **History of Lancaster County, Philadelphia, Everts and Peck, 1883, p. 1052.**
21. W. U. Hensel, **Presbyterianism in the Pequea Valley, p. 20.**
22. *Op. cit.*, p. 6.
23. *Op. cit.*, p. 16.
24. Ellis and Evans, *op. cit.*, p. 1051.
25. The tax lists are taken from Ellis and Evans, **History of Lancaster County.**
26. The Daughters of the American Revolution Magazine, January, 1922, Vol. LVI, No. 1, p. 35.
27. **The Galt Families, Op. cit., p. 3.**
28. Quoted in the **Galt Families, Op. cit., p. 15.**