

A
Memorandum

Containing some account

of the birth, life and Ministry

of
Joseph Mathias

With a diary of his Exercises

and various events which

came under his notice.

Together with an account

of his Progenitors

and Connexions.

Likewise a short notice of the

First settlement of the part

of the Country, which gave

him birth, and ^{where he} still resides.

Written by himself.

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An Account of the first settlement of
this region of country by the Welsh.

With their manners and customs &c.
From about the year 1700. to 1722-1723 &c. a
number of Emigrants from Wales came to and
settled in what is now Bucks and Montgomery
Counties, from 20 to 30 or 35 miles N. by W. and
N. by E. from Philadelphia: of the names of Griffiths,
James, Lewis, Evans, Hugh, Williams, Owens,
Davis, Jenkins, Phillips, Morris,
Butler, Meredith, Matthew, Thomas, Jones
and Mathias with others.

A number of them settled in Montgomery and
Gwynedd (formerly called North Wales as the em-
igrants, who settled there came generally from
what is called North Wales in Europe). And
many of their descendants are living in those
places to this day. — Several settled in
New Britain (formerly known by the name
of *Society**) Among whom were the Mathews
my wife's Ancestors, which will be noticed
more particularly in another place.

And others of them settled in what is now
called Hilltown (my native place) but was
at the time of its being settled by white people
and long afterwards, better known by (what
was generally supposed to be) the Indian name
Perkasy or Perquasy, inhabited then by more
or by very few others than Indians.

The Welsh emigrants found here no other than
the small improvements made by the Indian.
With them they settled down and amongst
them they lived; they (the Indians) are repre-
sented to have been generally peaceable, obliging
and kind as neighbours. As the white popu-
lation increased, the country and improvements

* See page 57.

(prognosis)

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progressed, the land cleared of timber and consequently game becoming scarce for the hunter; those sons of the forest with their families and tribes gradually and peaceably migrated to seek new hunting grounds. Many of them afterward returning on visits to their native places, some of the then existing and some of the succeeding generations, remaining with little molestation on large tracts of timber land and along the streams of water, in wigwams, employing themselves in hunting, in fishing, in cultivating small lots with Indian corn, and in making and selling baskets and brooms.

The welsh settlers and a very few Germans commenced some on lands of their own purchase; some who were unable to pay, on tracts laid off by the freeholders or proprietors to build houses or huts as would afford them ^a shelter: Others left enterprising laboured for wages, by the day, week, month or year. Some there were who bound themselves for a term for diet and clothing; children were bound as servants; boys to the age of 21. girls to the age of 18.

There was also another labouring class who were called redemptioners, such as had crossed the sea without the means for defraying the expenses of the passage, a few of these came from different nations (but principally Germans) and ^{some of them} were purchased by the inhabitants of the Berkley settlement. This place in a few years presented a community, that for their numbers has in very few instances been exceeded in some important particulars. Namely in point of decency, cleanliness, industry, frugality, prudence and economy, health and bodily strength, sobriety and religion. The Seniors were an ^{pattern} ~~example~~ for the youth, and the youth following the examples set them by the aged: teachers, exhorters and ministers of the gospel were held in estimation according to their merits.

Lawyer

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Lawyers they had none and needed none. Physicians were not wanted or sought after.

The land being heavily and thickly timbered, the labour requisite for clearing it for tillage was necessarily great. At a suitable season of the year a farmer set ^{apart} a portion of his timber land for clearing. To this spot his neighbours were invited on a certain day; where and when at an early hour, a number perhaps 20, 30, 40 or 50 of as strong and healthy yeomen as could be collected promiscuously in an equal space in any part of the world made their appearance with sharp grubbing hoes of proper shapes and weights, when the staking out of the ground commenced, in equal spaces, apportioning to each man (or sometimes two in company) their lot: when at a given word, those veterans in grubbing, proceeded with determined spirit and resolution to the work, tearing up the saplings with a scientific skill, equal to what a Bonaparte or a Wellington or any other humane butcher was capable of in the destruction of mankind, and their work tho' not so celebrated, was of infinitely more advantage. The quantity of work performed by those grubbers in a given time was incredible. Their drink principally either water or beer brewed by their families. After a while the New England rum ^{was used} and after the orchards grew to perfection and bearing fruit plentifully, cider and apple whiskey became a beverage. Their food was of the most substantial kind. The bread of wheat or rye meal ground down and bolted, well leavened, kneaded and baked: besides bread, the wheat flour was cooked in several ways; some made into dumplings, sometimes leavened and sometimes not, boiled in pots with meat and vegetables. And often when apples could be obtained, the house wife would procure

4 procure some of the largest and handsomest, peel them, then cut them through the middle, take out the cores, then place them together and enclose them in dough rolled thin, and thus would make what they called and what still is very properly called apple dumplings; very commonly it was made into puddings mixed with eggs, milk and some other ingredients, and boiled in bags, sometimes in the same pot with the meat, and sometimes alone. A good mixture of dip, made either sweet or acid, to suit the palates of the eaters was plentifully on the plates. Occasionally the pudding was well supplied with beef suet, which served as a substitute for dip. A very common article of food used, was a mixture of flour, eggs, milk and some additions made into a thin batter a flat frying pan with some lard was placed over the fire, generally a man or boy (but of a later period the matron or maid) was seated conveniently who handled the frying pan and the wooden ladle with which he ^{or she} dipped up the batter, and poured a thin layer of it in the pan, and when done on one side dexterously with one toss reversed the cake, and when baked on the other side as skilfully with one toss cast it on the pile; of these pancakes a meal was sometimes made, but generally they constituted the desert, frequently with a little sugar or molasses sprinkled thinly over them. Those labourers and their families provided themselves with a stock of good beef and pork and sometimes mutton, with an abundance of poultry. But few depended upon wild meat or fowl; tho' occasionally they took time to hunt and procure some of those. In felling the saplings by grubbing, care was taken to throw them so as that the tops formed large heaps in suitable places, which at a proper time were buried.

burned. The bodies and brands were drawn off with
horses and oxen and the ground cleared for ploughing.
The trees were then girdled, after which they died and
in process of time by storms and otherwise fell. A pro-
cess then became necessary, which was at convenient
spaces on the trunks to build and feed fires, so as to
split them at convenient lengths for rolling toge-
ther in large piles where fire was applied and atten-
ded until the whole was consumed and the ground
again cleared for the plough. The log rolling was
performed generally by companies meeting to-
gether by way of exchange, to assist each other in
the neighbourhood.

It appears to the present generation, who are now set-
tled on those lands unaccountable and almost
incredible, that our forefathers and Mothers
could possibly have performed the labour and
endured the hardships, made the improvements and
advance their fortunes and estates as they did, having
but few working cattle; - the little wood breed of
horses, - collars made of straw without leather,
harness principally made of tow cloth, ropes and
raw hides; no waggons, carts or wheel carriages
the grain and all the crops drawn upon the
back car. The wheat, pork and other merchan-
dable articles bound on the backs of horses, they
tied head to tail, in file led along paths to
mill and market. Instead of saddles, horse
manufactured pads, pillions or sengers were used
on which the husband and wife, the brother and
sister, or the swain and his damsel rode in
pairs to meeting, to visit or to get married.
Bred from early life to labour; the fatigue
of clearing, ploughing newly cleared land; or
winnowing and gathering the grain off from new
seed; all of which sort of business, requires the
greatest

6 greatest patience, energy and perseverance; yet to those hardy sons of Gomer (the name for the Welsh) it was a pleasurable pastime. No people have been more united in interest; the labours on the land being mostly performed by companies in the way of exchange; many hands making light work of heavy jobs. Much of the domestic labour were performed, by the healthy able bodied daries, and their sprightly daughters, with great glee and cordiality; such as the picking, carding and spinning wool—Swingling, hatching and spinning flax—quilting and other employments. — In addition, a social intercourse by mutual consent was practised, and kept up throughout the settlement, by men, old and young & women of suitable ages meeting together by way of what was called frolics, to pull flax, gather the grain and hay, and hush the corn. Very common occurrences, and sometimes greatly to the amusement of the company, was the witnessing of the screaming and scampering of the terned from the spot where a rattlesnake, a blowing viper, pilot or other dangerous reptile (of which there were abundance) was discovered; frequently the rattling or blowing was heard, before the creature was seen, but altho' terrifying for the moment, these dangers and alarms seldom tended to retard the progress of the work. Sometimes however, serious consequences attended, as the bite of the rattlesnake was always truly alarming and dangerous — Sometimes mortal unless a remedy was immediately at hand. I recollect of hearing my mother say that her mother was bitten by one in the harvest field, there being no other remedy at hand, one of the men sucked out the poison with his mouth, throwing off the saliva — and she speedily recovered.

Having taken a sketch in a general way
of the first settlers of the vicinity in which
I live formerly called Berkary; of their
manners and customs &c. &c.
I shall now descend to several particulars
respecting those who filled their several stations
(and some of them conspicuous ones) in days that
are long gone by. And I shall begin with Elder
Benjamin Griffith. It appears from Morgan
Edwards' statement, that he was born October 16th
1688. in the parish of Llanllwynni and County
of Cardigan (Wales). Came to this country in 1710.
Baptized May 11th 1711. Settled at Montgomery
in 1720. (It being the next year after the church
at Montgomery was constituted). Called to the
ministry in 1722. Ordained October 23^d 1725.
Continued in the care of that church, till his
death, which came to pass October 5th 1768. And
was buried at Montgomery in the 81st year of his
age and the 47th of his Ministry. He entered
upon his ministry about the time that Elder Ab.
Morgan died. He was born in the year 1637 at a
place called Allgoch, in the parish of Llanwenog,
and County of Carmarthen (Wales) entered on his
ministry in the 19th year of his age: was ordained
at Blaenewent in Monmouthshire. He arrived
in this Country, February 14th 1711: resided
some time in Philadelphia, and then removed
to Pernepek (now called Lower Dublin) took on
him the care of the church, soon after he landed
and continued therein to his death, which
came to pass, December 16th 1722. Mr. Morgan
travelled considerably among the few scat-
tered churches - preached a few times at
Montgomery; He was a man of considerable
distinction. Dr. Samuel Jones in his century
sermon

sermon calls him the 'Incomparable Abel Morgan'. I have taken this short notice of him, partly because it seemed to come in connexion ~~with~~ ^{both} Mr. Griffith and particularly because they ^{both} stand in connexion with Elder William Thomas, as will be hereafter noticed. I now return to Mr. Benjamin Griffith. He had Mr. William Thomas (just above named, and of whom much more will be said in another place) as his assistant for many years. They preached as suited themselves and to suit the hearers in Welsh and in English. Mr. Griffith married into the Miles's family, had several sons and daughters. One of his sons, Abel, became a baptist preacher, and settled at Brandywine in Chester County (The place where he lived is in Fallowfield Township, his son William is still living there and near to the baptist church of Lebanon which formerly was a branch of Brandywine ^{and is a deacon there}). Mr. Benjⁿ. Griffith, had by industry, with the opportunities which were afforded him acquired a very tolerable acquaintance with languages and books. He appeared in print on several occasions, he drew up, or rather revised and enlarged a treatise of church discipline which had been begun by Mr. Abel Morgan, which was attached to the baptist confession of faith. He wrote several pamphlets and treatises, one of which I have in possession, shewing his reasons why he could ^{not} commune with Simon Butler and Joseph Eaton and their adherents. The subject in dispute related to the Sonship of Jesus Christ. Butler and Eaton held (or was thought to hold) what may properly be termed the Arian ^{or semi-Arian} scheme. Mr. Griffith wrote an elegant hand, and was the most competent

competent scribe, in that part of the country. His acquaintance with the proprietors of Land, Governors, Council, members of Assembly and other officers of government, and the officers of the county was intimate and general. His council and advice was often sought after and was seldom known to fail in matters of religion, law or the healing art. He had the blessings of very many as a peace maker; in him were combined more of the useful and social qualities, than fall to the lot of most men. In matters of advice all was gratuitous; as the Pastor, Lawyer or Physician; and the confidence reposed in him was such that his opinion was seldom rejected or appealed from. Happy days! The minds and souls of the inhabitants of that part of the country were more congenial and disposed to peace, to forbearance, charity and the good graces, than most of their progeny who are now upon the stage of action. Mr. Griffith declined the honour of the appointment of Justice of the peace.

The next in succession which I shall notice is ^{the} Elder William Thomas. William Thomas was born in Llanwenarth in Monmouthshire (Wales) and was a contemporary with Elder Abel Morgan already mentioned. The following testimony to the character of Elder William Thomas formerly of Montgomery church Pennsylvania, was recorded by Elder Joshua Thomas in the history of the Baptists in Wales. Published in 1778. "Before we go further we shall give some account of Mr. William Thomas, who according to Mr. Morgan Edwards was born at Llanwenarth. I choose to say Elder or Mr. instead of Reverend. (but

10 But was living on a farm called Bhaſſaw of
Mwyn in the Parish of Bedwelly, and the meet-
ing was held at his house. I believe he went to
America with his dear Pastor, Abel Morgan or
soon after, because the account says he arrived
there in 1712. and the Minister Abel Mor-
gan in his letter, (spoken of before) requests him
to keep up the meeting at Bhaſſaw. Mr. Wm.
Thomas was a member of Blarnew (a baptist
church in Glamorganshire) and was common-
ly called in the County Wm. Thomas John.
I do not know that he preached in Wales, after
his arrival, he was for sometime low in the
world, but very industrious. But it was not long
before the Lord blessed him in his soul and his
substance. He was called to the ministry as
an assistant, and preached as long as he lived.
He ended his pilgrimage in 1757. He was very
useful in several ways. He builded a meeting
house, for a branch of the church at his own
expence. He had seven children, he bought
land and builded a house for each of them,
He was a member of Montgomery in Pennsylv-
vania and was assistant to Benjamin Griffith
in the ministry. One of his sons, Mr. John Thomas
became an eminent minister. He was chosen
Pastor on the decease of B. Griffith. He was born
in America, called to the ministry in 1749. Or-
dained 1751. so he must have laboured in
company with the Pastor and his Father.
For some years after the death of the Pastor, the
care of the church fell on Mr. John Thomas
who was living there in 1770. There is a very
high respect for the memory of Wm. Thomas
to this day (1770) by the people about Bhaſſaw
and Blarnew; he was very useful all his days.

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He lived in that country 45 years, and left a sweet savour after him. During his afflictions at first, he would have been glad to have been at Bhasraw of Muzn., but he was chosen to do a good work there."

I shall now proceed to give a more full account from other sources.

Elder William Thomas was born in Llan-
-wenarth in Monmouthshire (Wales). He arriv-
-ed in this Country Feb 14th 1702th. Tradition
has handed down some particulars worthy
of note. He with his wife and her first born son named
Thomas, then an infant, left Llanwenarth in Wales,
~~and to the contrary~~ to come to America. He agreed for
a passage in a vessel lying at Bristol, bound to Philadelphia
and having disposed of a patrimonial estate of considera-
-ble value, for a considerable sum of money, for an emigrant
to possess. Prospects bid fair for his becoming a landholder
to a large amount in this country, with a sufficiency of
cash to enable him to build, stock and improve to advan-
tage. — His cash, some valuable articles, together with
all the clothing of himself and family, excepting what
would be necessary for their use for a few days, were all
put on board the vessel; the freight was not all ^{on} board
nor the passengers all ready, but a day was assigned on
which they should sail. In the interim he took his
family into the country, intending to return at or be-
-fore the day appointed, and did return before the day
appointed; but found to their great grief, that the ves-
-sel had set sail and was gone, but not yet beyond
sight. Pursuit was made in some small craft, sig-
-nals were hoisted and kept up, but to no purpose: she
was lost sight of, and the family left destitute. They
agreed for and took passage on credit in the first vessel
bound to Philadelphia, where they arrived safe.
upon enquiry, they found the vessel in which their
See note of page 23. (probably)

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property had been deposited; but the Master of the vessel in whose care it had been placed, had absconded; the ship was in care and possession of others: And they had the mortification to see some of their goods in possession and some of their wearing apparel on the backs of those who had purchased them from the Master of the vessel. But they were not able to recover any thing. — He however, notwithstanding the loss of goods and money, with a considerable debt incurred for their passage and other necessary and unavoidable expenses, had several resources, which without delay, and undismayed, he embraced and pursued. — He was a licensed ~~preacher~~ minister of the Gospel of the Baptist denomination, possessed a strong discriminating and vigorous mind, had a good education in Welsh and English, was a man of address, of good size, and able bodied; was pious withal and a good practical preacher. In addition to all of which, he was by trade a cedar cooper and expeditious at the business.

Whilst in his native country, he had some acquaintance with a family of the Watheris who had some years before landed at Philadelphia, and were then, there well settled; by those friends, he was furnished with the money necessary to pay the passage, defray expenses and purchase the materials necessary for commencing and carrying on the business of cedar cooper; he found a brisk demand and ready pay for all that he could make. In possession of good health, no time was lost, he was indefatigable in his exertions to do all the good he could for himself and others, for souls and for bodies, preaching and praying and exhorting gratuitously and labouring with his hands

(for a
* Note. Licences were granted to dissenting ministers by the crown of England, to hold meetings, preach &c. without molestation — Under the act of Toleration.

for a subsistence for himself and his family, and the payment of his debts, and something for the future. In the latter part of 1763. he removed with his wife and son Thomas across the Schuylkill into the Township of Radnor (a place of resort for welsh emigrants) where he pursued his business with industry and success; carrying the cedar ware into the city generally on the back of an old steady horse, that he had purchased for that purpose. Shortly after this remove, his son John was born. He was prosperous and saved considerable of money. An accident happened however, that was of no small disadvantage to him at the time; being out with his loaded gun, he fired at a flock of partridges near an old barn. The wadding was thrown to a considerable distance from him, where igniting with some straw and other combustibles, fired and consumed the building. The owner demanded the sum of five pounds as damages, which he must pay or be subjected to a suit at law; he being a prudent man, chose the less evil of the two; he paid the money. The loss of five pounds to him under all the circumstances was a very considerable drawback on his prospects. —

We have no account of the length of time he continued at that place. But in a few years he made a purchase of several hundred acres of land in what was called Perkasie about 20 miles N. by W. from Philadelphia to which he removed and where he cleared improved and raised some buildings. A few years after the above purchase and removal, William Thomas on his return from market with horses where he had been selling some wheat and some pork, called to see and enquire of Mr. Logan (grandfather of the late Dr. George Logan) at his seat near Germantown, the price of some several hundred acres of land adjoining to the purchase he had made of Mr. Langhorne. Mr. Logan, former

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pert and prompt, in reply demanded of the hardy
countryman in coarse and homely garb, his name
and whether he was able to pay the price, provided he
should make a purchase of the land. His reply was
"my name is William Thomas, let me know the price
of thy land, if that shall meet my approbation, I
will then refer thee to Mr. Langhorn for any parti-
-culars thee may wish to know concerning me."
The price was named, and he was invited to call
again, which he did, with a smiling countenance
and was informed that he should have the land,
and that Langhorn had said, "If thee don't pay
for it I will!" The bargain was closed. On those lands
he laboured, hired hands and raised buildings.
He made some other purchases of lands. He raised
five sons, viz: Thomas, John - Ephraim - Manaf-
-seh and William, and two daughters, Ann and
Gwendly. He divided his lands, on which he erec-
-ted ~~Seven stone houses~~ two story dwelling houses
with cellars under; several large stone barns. On these
plantations, he settled his children, as they married.
He laid off four acres of land, on which he built a
stone meeting house in the year 1737. finished the
building and furnished it with convenient seats
and a pulpit, which he wrought out of a very large
hollow poplar tree, that, being raised on a platform
was the place from which ^{he} for a number of years, held
forth and proclaimed, the glad news of salvation
to his fellow men. #

At more than one period, during his residence in this
neighbourhood; some of the neighbouring tribes of In-
-dians

* Note. Part of the meeting house was pulled down many
years ago ^{in 1771} & enlarged. It is now (1831) an old low building.
It is said that part of the gable end, where the chimney
stands, is the same which was first erected.

-diars were hostile; ^{and} made inroads among the white inhabitants, about and below the mountains; committing many depredations: killing some, and some they took captives. — The people were kept in fear and dread and endeavoured to organize and prepare in the best manner they could for defence. William Thomas who was preacher and farmer, was one of the first and best disciplined among them; and in times of the most threatening danger, carried with him his arms of defence, even to the base of his pulpit, where before he ascended, he deposited his gun ammunition and sword. By the foregoing; we can have a very faint idea of the difficulties our forefathers had to encounter and the privations they endured, both in their domestic labour and devotional exercises. "The lines are truly fallen to us in pleasant places, we have a goodly heritage" "We can sit every man under his own vine and under his own fig tree, and none to make him afraid."

William Thomas not only paid for large quantity of land; for the improvement of those lands, the building of houses and barns; but he was remarkable for his liberality, and charities. In addition to all he was able to assist his neighbours and friends with many loans of money, to complete their purchases: taking their plain bonds or notes, and in no case with personal security. Always preferring, that if an honest man must lose, by a loan, let it be the lender and not an innocent disinterested surety. — In a few instances, however he took land security for sums loaned. William Thomas, departed this life October 6th 1757. aged 79 years. His will is dated 11th December 1753. written by Benjamin Griffith. Proven and filed in the Registers office 13th October 1757. before Lawrence Growden Deputy Register.

16 The following is an extract, devising the meeting house and lot &c.

Item. I give, devise and bequeath unto the inhabitants of Hilltown aforesaid, forever, the meeting house erected by my grave yard, together with the grave yard, to bury their dead in, and all other far and near, whites and blacks; (such as are guilty of self murder, only, I reject and deny to be buried in the said grave yard, or in any part of my land,) giving liberty to the said inhabitants to enlarge the said grave yard, on the South side towards the hollow, as much as occasion requires; the same to be laid out and bounded in the following manner viz: To begin at Henry Lewis his corner post, thence South East, somewhat further than the spring, or well which belongeth already, to the said meeting house thirty five perches: Thence North East, twenty perches; Thence North West, thirty five perches, to a white oak Saplin by the great road: Thence along the said road, South West, twenty perches, to the place of Beginning, containing by estimation, four acres of land, and some odd perches. And I forbid my timber to be cut on the said lot, for any use, save to repair said meeting house and grave yard fence; The said meeting house and lot of land, as before described, I give unto the inhabitants of the said Township, for ever to bury their dead as aforesaid, and to school their children, (I also allow others to send to school there) and to perform christian worship, but under the foregoing and following directions and restrictions viz: I allow all tolerated Ministers to preach funeral sermons, either in the grave yard or meeting house, which they may like best. Papists and Hereticks I reject, and altogether deny them any grant: My will is, that the Baptists hold religious meetings in the said house as often as they can, but not any one of them, that deny to sign the ~~Article~~ ^{Nicene} creed, I allow the Presbyterians, to preach in the said house (provided

"provided they hold the Westminster confession of faith, and
"Independents likewise. But if it happen that any among them,
"will not swear allegiance, to a Protestant King; such I deny and
"disallow altogether; Papists and Moravians, I allow not to
"preach, in the said house, nor any other strangers, let them ap-
"pear never so Godly, until they are well known to be sound
"in the faith; and my will is that catechising children be
"kept up in the said meeting house, forever by orthodox
"catechists; and in order that my will herein maybe
"observed, and performed accordingly; I do constitute and
"depute my five sons, Thomas Thomas - John Thomas -
"Ephraim Thomas - Maryseel Thomas and William
"Thomas, and to assist them to take proper care therein,
"I appoint Lewis Evan Junior - Nathaniel Griffith, eld-
"est son of Evan Griffith and Jonathan Ewars, all of
"the Township aforesaid; and further I direct and or-
"der them and every ^{one} of them in their wills to depute some
"honest religious man, in the room of each of them, to
"answer the care and trust I have reposed in them."

Note. The meeting house, grave yard and lot, referred
to in the foregoing Item, is what is commonly called
the lower end or the lower meeting house and some-
times the old meeting house. In 1812. The trustees
of the Baptist church and congregation in Hilltown,
and others interested; concluded to erect a stone wall
in the front of the grave yard (or the side next to the
meeting house) It was accordingly done that season.
In a few years after, the stone wall was extended
along the upper end of the grave yard; and in 1829.
It was resolved, to have the wall completed a-
round the ~~new~~ grave yard. It was commenced
that season and considerable progress made; and
was finished in 1838.

Elder William Thomas, his wife and all his seven
children are interred, in the cemetery devised by him
over the graves of himself, his wife and daughter
(Ann)

Thomas is tending store in Philad^a. Elzezer and wife are both members of Hilltown church - They keep a store where my brother Thomas formerly lived. They live comfortable are industrious and saving. - Mary I believe is living in Philad^a. - Philip Bitting died many years ago. - and Abigail although not deemed virtuous in her younger days - became it is hoped truly penitent and reformed in life. She was baptised and joined the church in Hilltown in February 1800. She removed with her daughter to Philad^a. - some years before she died: which took place Oct. 6 - 1811. Her remains were brought up and buried in the graveyard attached to the Lower Meeting House.

There are some things connected with this branch of Elder William Thomas's family worthy of note. That line of the family in regular descent in the male line were William. and stand as follows. viz:

Elder William Thomas and Ann his wife
His youngest son W^m Thomas and Abigail his wife
His Eldest son W^m Thomas and Mary his wife
His second son W^m Thomas and Mary his wife
His eldest son W^m Thomas and Eliza his wife,
formerly Eliza Swartz by whom he has a son
whom they call Edwin.

In taking the genealogy of the last married W^m Thomas and Eliza his wife, it will be found that they are both great-great-grand children of Elder W^m Thomas.

Gweritly (or Gwellin) a daughter of Elder W^m Thomas, married Morris Morris, whose father Cadwallader Morris came from Wales. ^{Morris Gweritly} He had several children namely Cadwallader - Abraham - William - Benjamin - Ernoch - Joseph and Morris and two daughters Alice and Rachel - Cadwallader married Elizabeth Hartner by whom he had several children he had a handsome patrimony by his father. he was a good scholar a ready clerk in his day, had learned the art of surveying, and was often called upon to run lines

lines, settle disputed corners, and survey and give draughts
of purchases frequently made as well as to write deeds and
other pieces of penmanship connected with his profession
and by his being ready with his pen. He wrote a Secretary
hand or German Text. Many pieces of his writings
and draughts are still extant. He was a Saddler by
trade - Notwithstanding all his patrimonial wealth
and scholarship, he seemed not to prosper. He owned
a large tract, the domain of his father; now in profes-
-sion of Andrew Swartz and others adjoining the lower
meeting house and lot. By little and ~~little~~ more from
time to time he sold his lands until it was all gone
and wasted away. He lived to the advanced age of
78 years he died Aug. 23^d 1812. His wife died a few
years after him. Their children were Abel - William
- Elias - Alice and Rebekah with one other daughter
whose name I do not recollect. She however married Ti-
-mothy Brittain - and has one son Zephaniah now living
near Doylestown - Abel married Mary Dungan
daughter of John and Ann Dungan. They have
several children - Seneca one of their sons is mar-
-ried to Jane Evans a daughter of Walter and Mary Evans
and lives in Montsoremy, near the New Harmony; is a
respectable and industrious man. and they are doing well.
William married a ^{Hannah} Black and Elias a Huntman
both in Perriestead and they have ~~both~~ families.
Alice married William Dungan, and had children
He died and she married John Watson by whom
she also has children. They live in Chester County.
Rebekah married Uriah Mathew, they live near Doyle-
town and have children. - - - Abraham Morris
married Rachel Pugh; he died many years ago and left
his widow with 3 daughters - Mary - Ann & Elizabeth
Mary married Ezra Evans (see page) Ann married
James Morris - (son of John Morris of fine run)
They have several children - - Elizabeth married
I have since learned her name was Hannah - a Chever

45.
a. Chivers in Philad^a. He died and she is married to Morris Mor-
ris (of the pine run Morris's) she is his second wife. They live
in Philad^a. — Rachel the widow of Abraham Morris lived
to the age of 78 years — she was seized with a paralytic stroke
about ten or twelve years before she died; in all which time
she was not able to speak excepting sometimes yes or no
indistinctly; she was unable to dress or feed herself
during that time. She lived with her daughter Mary
Evans during her affliction — She was many years
a member of the baptist church at Montgomery, and
was one of the constituent members of the church in
Hilltown; in which she continued until her death
which took place Sept. 18th 1820. She was buried at
the lower Meeting house, at which time I delivered a dis-
-course upon the occasion from Phil I. 23. "Having a de-
-sire to depart, and to be with Christ which is far better!"
— William Morris, married Ann Griffith a daugh-
-ter of Nathaniel Griffith of Hilltown. They had sons
and daughters as follows — viz: Isaac — who married my
sister Elizabeth and by whom he had children.
(see further particulars in page 155) After her death
he married Rachel Dungan, widow of Joseph Dungs-
-an Esq^r and daughter of my father in law (see page 74)
Benjamin married in Maryland
They have children, some living in Berks Coun-
-ty & some elsewhere — Morris, — was a good scho-
-lar, learned the art of surveying with his uncle
Cadwallader Morris — while single he journeyed
to the western part of Pennsylvania he married the
daughter of a Squire Shivers in Fayette County
lived in Union Town in said County, was respected
and promoted; he was elected to the office of high
Sheriff of Fayette County, he died a few years ago
leaving a widow and children; in rather unex-
-pected circumstances; through the turn of the
times, when many were distressed and reduced in
property

property — Eliam — (which ought to have been mentioned before Morris as he was older) married Elizabeth Vastine, a daughter of Benjamin and Catherine Vastine mentioned in page 41. He lived some years in Chester County near Wagon town — then removed within a few miles of Philad^a and kept tavern on the West Chester road, and there he died a few years ago — His widow and some of his children are still living in that neighbourhood — some of them live at wagon town — William when a young man followed his brother Morris to Fayette County, and soon got into the good graces of a sister of Morris's wife and married her — he has a family of children and continues in the vicinity of Union town where he keeps a public house — Griffith the youngest son — when he grew up, took a journey out to the west to see his brothers and families and to seek his fortune — He was likewise directed to the house of Squire ^{Springer} ~~Shiranger~~ where he formed an attachment with the third daughter and married her, and continues to live in that neighbourhood. Thus we find that 3 of W^m Morris's sons married 3 sisters, an occurrence that seldom takes place. — Ann the eldest daughter of W^m and Ann Morris married Miles Griffith, ~~they had~~ a son of Elder Abel Griffith and grandson of Elder Benjamin Griffith mentioned in pages 7 & 8) They had children — They found it somewhat difficult to get along in their worldly concerns he was a hatter by trade — He died very suddenly; he fell from his seat while at supper and died instantly. The widow and children removed about a year ago to Union town. — Elizabeth the second daughter married George Philips of Chester County; they have a family and are doing well. Huldah

Huldah the youngest daughter of William and Ann Morris, married Joseph Rambo of Chester County, they have 3 or 4 children William a son of theirs is living at Eleazer Owens - Huldah died several years ago. Joseph Rambo is since married and lives in Brewsburg, Schuylkill County, he has several children, he follows his trade of blacksmith. — William Morris was a ~~blacksmith~~, followed his trade many years and each of his sons in succession learned the same trade. William Morris bought the property now in possession of Philip Swartley in New Britain, he lived there many years. He at length sold his plantation, purchased in Chester County and removed there about the year 1794. There he lived for several years, until his children all got married & scattered about. He and his wife returned to Bucks County, being old and feeble, he was also affected with a paralytic stroke, which impaired his speech considerably, and reduced his strength. He died at his son's Isaac Morris's April 22 - 1821 ^{aged near 80 years}. His wife had been very feeble for some time; and continued sinking until the 17th of July 1821, ^{when she died} ^{aged near 80 years}.

— Benjamin Morris, learned the clock making business and followed closely for many years to profit. He married Mary Mason a daughter of Jonathan and Mary Mason of New Britain - He once owned the property where Martin King now lives - and lived there for some time - He then sold to King, lived a while in New Britain - and then purchased the plantation in Hilltown ~~PA~~ which he removed in ^{PA} and where he has lived ever since. They have raised a large family of children, viz: Mason - Erno - Benjamin and Jehuth and daughters Rachel - Catharine - Mary - Martha - Sarah - Patience - Perinnah and Euphemia.

Mason, learned the clock making trade of his father - He died Apr. 2. 1833. Aged 85. Jehu died March 17 - 1833. Father -

father, and followed it for some years - He married Eliza-
-beth Thomas, daughter of Enock Thomas (see pages 31, 32.)
- Enos likewise learned the trade of his father, and
wrought at it for several years: he was a smart active
young man and when he was about 25 years of
age quit his trade and went to Easton to read law
with John Prosser Esq. (W. Prosser was some years after
elected to Congress, and after being in that office
some years, he was appointed President of the
courts of Quarter Sessions & common pleas for the
Seventh district, of which Bucks County formed
a part - And in the Spring of 1830. he was appoint-
ed one of the Judges of the Supreme Court of Penn^a.)
Enos Morris was admitted at the bar in ^{or 1801} 1800. He
soon after settled at Newtown; the seat of justice
at that time for Bucks County. where he still resides.
At an early stage of his practice at the bar, his hear-
-ing became affected; which has for the most part
prevented him from being an advocate before the
court & jury. but he is reckoned a good and safe
counsellor. and has had a good share of patronage
and by his counsel and pleading - together with
success in trade and close attention to agricultural
pursuits, he has accumulated a very handsome
estate. He has been twice married. His first wife
was M^{rs} Elizabeth Hough, a handsome smart young
widow, by her he has several children. Horatio.
his eldest son is practising in the science of medicine
he graduated in March 1829. M^{rs} Morris died a
few years ago. - And Enos married M^{rs} Arin
Leedom a young and handsome widow of Richard
Leedom, who married her when he was quite an old
man M^{rs} Morris has no children by her. Enos Morris
joined the Baptist church in Hilltown in 1790. and
after settling in Newtown, he removed his member-
-ship to Southampton, and continues in that relation.
Enos Morris died Feb. 7. 17th 1832. Benjamin

49. Benjamin the third Son of Benjamin and May Morris, is yet single although he has got into the Batchelors line. He has kept store several years in Doylestown. In October 1830. he was elected to the office of Sheriff of the County of Bucks, and is attending to the duties of that office.

— Jesse. The youngest son, lives at home with his father and sister Catharine. He never was married, he was brought very low with a fever about 10 or 12 years ago, which terminated in an abscess forming in his breast and side, from whence an abundance of matter is continually discharging he remains a miracle among the living, he is entirely disabled from labour; but generally is cheerful. — Rachel the eldest daughter

married Thomas Powlan, son of Stephen Powlan (see page 54.) She died in about a year after, she left no issue. — Catharine the second daughter, was in her youthful days reckoned the flower of the flock, was handsome - smart and conceited; she has had a number of admirers, notwithstanding it has been her fortune to remain single; she keeps house for her father and brother Jesse; she joined the Hilltown church in 1806. being the first person ever baptized.

Mary - Married William Magil of Doylestown. He had learned the clockmaking at Ben^g. Morris's. Mary was married to W^m. Magil on the same evening that Rachel was married to Th. Powlan. It took place in March 1801. I had the honour of being at the wedding as one of the waiters - W^m. Powlan was the other - having Catharine and Martha for our companions. They were married by W^m. M. Laughlin. Mary Magil has several children; she and her children live in Doylestown, whither she went soon after she was married. They

They have kept a public house there for a number of years. W^m Magil died Sept 16th 1824. — Martha the fourth daughter married Doct^r William Williams a son of Isaac and Elizabeth Williams and a grandson of John and Ann Williams welsh people. William Williams studied medicine with Doct^r David Thomas Doct^r Williams and his wife Martha lived several years in Springtown Bucks County where he had a considerable practice. In May 1818, he and family removed to the state of Ohio; at the same time that Mason Mour and family went out. He pursued there; and from frequent accounts, he prospered in his worldly concerns. His wife died some years after their removal to Ohio. She has left several children. Doct^r Williams has married a second wife a Miss Miller, a sister of David M. Miller who married Euphemia which will be noticed hereafter. The Doct^r and his wife were both members of the church in Hilltown. They got letters of dismission were granted them and then united with the church of Miami, under the pastoral charge of James Jones. Sometime after he was received there he was excluded for being a freemason and associating with them; he thought the treatment severe as he had apprised some of them of his belonging to the lodge. I have never become acquainted with the mysteries of Masonry, neither have I thought very well of it. But if I had a fair representation of the case I think the church did not deal fair with him. But there the matter must rest. —

Sarah — married Joseph Burrows of Newtown she removed there for a time. from thence they removed to Doylestown where they still reside they have several children. — Patience married Doct^r Erasmus Thomas. (see pages 36, 37) Perinnah married Ashbel Mathias, a son of my brother

21. Brother Thomas's son (see page 149) — Euphemia the youngest daughter, married David M. Miller of Ohio October 10th 1821. She removed out with him and died there. — Mary the wife of Benjamin Morris died January 7th 1813. He has remained a widower ever since. He has been a very healthy man, and active in his domestic concerns; he is now in his 83 year has grown feeble, but is cheerful in the society of his friends. — Enoch Morris, married — Caldwell, by whom he had one son named James. In the time of the Revolutionary war and while the British had possession of Philad^a. in the winter of 1777 & 1778; Enoch Morris, ~~Joseph~~ Thomas Lewis — Edward Jones and others fled to the British army — were what was termed in that day refugees and Tories — and when the British left Philad^a they accompanied them either willingly or by constraint; They went to Nova Scotia and there abode — His son James when quite a young man and of a roving disposition, took a voyage to sea, and the vessel was taken by the Algerines, and the crew held in cruel bondage for a considerable time. The Barbary powers became so troublesome to the trading vessels, that it was found necessary to have a fleet in the Mediterranean sea, several American frigates and other vessels of war were stationed there; and while under the command of Commodore Decatur; some exploits were achieved in so much that the prisoners were liberated. James C. Morris, returned to Philad^a. He married a Miss Heblton and removed to Ohio, where he settled near Cincinnati, he became the professor of a large property there was active in business he died about two years ago, leaving a widow and some children — One of his sons has been at the Military Academy at West Point near New York.

Joseph Morris - married Susanna Heaton the widow of Davis Heaton she being a daughter of John Jones who married Mary West a sister of Thomas West and a sister of Martha the first wife of my Grandfather Thomas Jones, and the mother of my mother. Susanna had several children by Davis Heaton - Jonathan - Robert - Jesse - Thomas and Mary - They have all been married and have families - Jonathan and Mary are dead - Robert lives in Hilltown; he married Mary Owen a daughter of Owen and Catherine Owen; by whom he had children - Edmund - Eliza - Owen and Barilla - Edmund married my brother Abel's daughter Eliza (see page 171.) Eliza married John Jones son of Abel Jones, grandson of Edward Jones and great grandson of John Jones the father of the above named Susanna. - Owen married Peninnah Hines, daughter of Isaac and Margaret Hines and grand daughter of Mr. and Elizabeth Hines. - Barilla remains single. Davis Heaton owned the property where my brother Abel now lives - He got killed by hauling a log upon a sled; it upset in some way by which he was caught & killed or died soon after. - Some time after Susanna married Joseph Morris he was a noisy fellow never did much good; and was no great credit to the name. He had one son by his wife named John - he grew to manhood and died. Joseph Morris died many years ago. Susanna is still living; is quite smart and sensible for her age she being considerably over 80 years. - Morris Morris the youngest son of Morris and Gwently Morris married Elizabeth Butler the widow of Abiah Butler - She being the daughter of Joseph Thomas of Welsh parentage His father Owen Thomas was a baptist preacher, in Pembrokeshire Wales in 1696 came to America in 1707. Preached a while at the Welsh (He died Jan. 27 - 1834) (Error see page 207.) Tract

33.
Track and then removed to the Yellow Springs where
he died Nov. 12th 1760. - His son Joseph was many years
a respectable & pious member of Montgomery church
He was twice married, and each of his wives he had chil-
-dren - His son Owen Thomas married Susanna Ma-
-thew my father in law's sister (see page 81) James mar-
-ried Mary Lewis a daughter of Henry and Margaret
Lewis - David was a Physician married Mary Jones
a daughter of my uncle Thomas Jones (see page 82)
I am not able to give a particular account of the dif-
-ferent families - but Elizabeth as I have stated had
first married Abiah Butler (see page 60) who died with-
-out issue - she then married Morris Morris, by whom
she had 3 children - Abner - Amelia & Eliza -
Abner has been twice married and has children -
- Amelia is married to Evan Evans - son of Walter
and Mary Evans of Montgomery - They have children
Eliza has been married, but is now a widow without
any issue - Elizabeth Morris died with a cancer.
Morris married a second wife, by whom he had one
child Amanda - Morris Morris had his high
times when sipping at the flowing bowl; he was
drowned in November 1806.

Alice Morris - married Thomas Jones, the remo-
-ved to Taney town in Maryland where they have
raised a family. - Rachel - Married Jo-
-seph Dean; who bore him two sons Samuel
and Morris - both worthless and both have died.
~~Joseph Dean was the first of the family to die~~
Joseph Dean died of a fever, leaving his widow
and the aforesaid sons - Rachel the widow after-
-ward married Aaron James, a tailor by trade, lived
a while where Mr. Smith now lives - He afterward
removed to Virginia or Carolina, and the last ac-
-counts I have had of them (a few years ago) they were
living in the State of Tennessee. { The first wife died
in the fall of 1830.
Note Rachel was older than Alice -

omit this page
— Anna Thomas—a daughter of Elder Wm Thomas, was
married to Stephen Brouland, but she died without
leaving any issue. — I will here take a little
notice of the family of Broulands.

About the year 1725. Owen Brouland and Jane his
wife came from Wales, with 4 sons and one daughter
to wit—Evan—Thomas—John—Mary and Stephen
who was then the youngest, and about 3 years old when
they landed. — They settled for 2 or 3 years at a place
now in the State of Delaware, and gave it the name
of the Welsh Tract. by which name it is known to this
day. After their arrival in this Country, they had
one son and one daughter—Mordecai & Martha.
About the year 1727 or 8. they with several others removed
to Bucks County Pa and settled on the North branch of Ne-
shamony and named the place New Britain after the Island
from whence they migrated, it is yet known by that name
as one of the Townships of Bucks County. — Most of Owen
Brouland's descendants removed to different parts of the
Western Country, some of whom are now prominent men
of respectability in that Country. One of ^{by grandsons} them (Jonathan)
was among the first settlers of Union Town in Fayette
County and for many years held the office of Justice
of the peace in that place. — Stephen, the 4th son
always remained within a few miles of his first settlement
in New Britain, to the time of his decease, which took place
in June 1811. at the advanced age of nearly 90 years.
He was twice married, his first wife was Anna Thomas
already married at the head of this page. — His second
wife was Rebecca Davies, daughter of Wm Davies who
came from England, by whom he had 5 sons and two
daughters—namely Owen—Thomas—John—William
H. and Stephen—And Margaret and Mary.
Stephen Brouland was a cordwainer and his 5 sons all
learned the same trade and wrought at it for several
years together in the same house while they remained
single

omit ~~the page~~
Single. Owen married Elizabeth Boettan (see page 24 &c) she died in June 1809. - He afterward in November 1811. married Mary Thomas a daughter of Job Thomas. by whom he had one son named Artemas who is now working at the wheelright business with Newton Bowland. Owen Bowland died in April 1816. his widow is still living.

Thomas married Rachel Morris a daughter of Benjamin Morris in March 1801. She died in about a year after, leaving no issue. - Thomas had previously removed near their rising sun about 4 miles from Philad^a. He afterward married ANN Norton, by whom he has several children; he is at present keeper of the gate at Pauling's bridge over Schuylkill. John married Rachel Evans a daughter of Ezra and Mary Evans, ~~by~~ He died in March 1821. and his wife died in Nov^r. 1823. They have left children as follows - Mary, who is married to David Evans a son of Nathan Evans - Lucinda - Charles ^{Eleanor} & Gwendolyn.

W^m H. married Sarah Mathias a daughter of Uncle John Mathias (see page 203) Stephen married Mary Evans a daughter of Nathan Evans. by whom he has several children. - They removed a few years ago to the western part of Penn^a. to a place called Meadville in Crawford County, they have removed since a few miles from thence.

Margaret married Thomas Mathias the eldest son of Uncle John Mathias, (see page 198).

Mary - married Eleazer Bitting (see page 42).

Remarks - I have closed this history of Elder W^m Thomas and his family &c. - The 17th of February 1832. And in taking a review, it elicits the following reflections - 1st That a vast progeny have descended from that venerable man the father of the faithful scattered over these united States, vast and innumerable and many of them respectable & pious.

2.^d I would observe that of the large settlements which he made for his children - there are but small portions of them remaining in the name of any his posterity. A people whose language - customs and forms of religion are diverse ~~from~~ have occupied their domains, and the plantations are divided, and subdivided into many parts. - 3.^d I believe I have committed an error with respect to Morris Morris's Ancestor. From what I have learned since, Cadwallader Morris the first named in page 43. did not come from Wales, but that his ancestors came from England at a very early period of settling Pa^a perhaps about the time W^m Penn came over. They settled about Byberry in Philad^a County - They were connected with the Society of Friends. There maybe some other trivial mistakes, but I have endeavoured to be as accurate as documents, tradition and the memory of those now living enabled me to be. I would further add, that the foregoing history, presents to view the Ancestors of my wife by her Mother side - she being a great grand daughter of the afore named Elder W^m Thomas. I next proceed to give a detail of the Ancestors of my wife by her father side as follows: viz:

met

(Somewhere about the year 1712, A number of families emigrated from Wales, among whom were Simon Butler and Simon Mathew, who were near relations, perhaps cousins. They landed at Philad^a and settled for a time at London Tract in Chester County. (This is the account I have received, particularly of Simon Mathew, I am not certainly informed that Simon Butler, settled at London Tract, but would infer from the circumstances of their relationship, coming to this Country at or about the same time, and especially, that they afterward removed to New Britain.

2^d Rachel ^{11 years new} She married ¹⁴ Joseph Dungan a son of John Dungan of New Britain — He engaged in a store in Hatfield Mont 3^d County near the County line, and in the place that is now called ¹⁴ Linc Lexington, at the intersection of the old and new Bethlehem roads. — There she bore him 3 children, the first two were twins, they both died when young — The other was named Charles — of whom more hereafter. — Joseph Dungan, received a commission of the peace. He was a very sensible, prudent & pious man. was a member of New Britain church for several years before his death. After lingering for some months under a consumptive complaint ~~and~~ ^{he} died in Decem^r. 10 — 1797. The widow continued carrying on the store in that place and shortly after purchased a property close at the door to which she removed and built a commodious frame house. After remaining a widow for upwards of 8 years, Rachel married Isaac Morris, a son of W^m Morris, who is noticed in page 45. He was a widower, he having had my sister Elizabeth for his first wife. Charles the son of Joseph Dungan & Rachel noticed above — was badly burned when a child ~~old~~ enough to run about, his clothes took fire; and before assistance could be rendered, he was seriously injured, in so much that for a time his life was despaired of. He however recovered, and grew up, engaged in the mercantile business, first in the country and then in Philad^a. There he married Ann Appleton, by whom he had 3 children — Mary — Jane & Joseph — ~~but~~ That fell destroyer, the consumption seized Charles, he sunk under it and died, March 20th 1831. — Aged about 34 years Rachel had also 3 children by Isaac Morris, the first were twins, whom she named Oliver Goldsmith — And Bursif Allison — Their 3^d son they call John. The first named (Oliver) active, and smart and a good scholar, was attacked with a fever, violently, and fell a prey, he died Feb^y. 2^d 1826 — Aged 19 years.

Burgis and John are both young men and single. Amidst varied changes through which Rachel passed, she did not change her residence nor employment. When I Morris married her, he removed to her dwelling, and engaged in the store and which he has mostly been engaged in since. He was appointed a Justice of the Peace some time after his removal thither, and in that office continues to act. Rachel while a widow, was baptized Aug. 31-1799, and joined the church at N. Britain: I. Morris was baptized about in 1792 and became a member of the church in Hilltown, and in January 1794, he was elected a deacon; which office he still sustains.

3rd Eleanor, - the third daughter of Benj.ⁿ & Dinah Mathew, was married on the 4th of December 1798, to ~~John~~ my brother John Mathias; my father had executed a deed to him for part of his plantation, upon which he raised a frame house and other buildings. (It being the same in which Mr. Gearhart now lives) He removed his wife Eleanor home to his new house. There she became the mother of a fine daughter whom they named Maria, and who died of the dysentery when a few months old. John Mathias blew fortunately cut his foot, by which a nerve he came affected - he grew delirious, continued a few days, and died Nov.^r 21st 1803. - Eleanor had been quite ailing for some time, she had the dropsy. She was tapped nine times; she also died Apr 14 1804. - John & Eleanor, were baptized on the same day by Elder McLaughlin, on Lords day the 4th August ¹⁷⁹⁹ and became members of the church in Hilltown, which was the commencement of a glorious revival in the neighbourhood.

4th Joseph, - his first son - who died young. See page 70.

5th Mary - was married the ¹⁷⁹⁹ of December 1805, to James M. Evans, of Warwick Township, after living

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Type Ashbel the eldest son of my brother Thomas, continued to live with his step-mother Gainer, and with Abel at their father's late dwelling, until he entered into the marriage state. On the 12th of April 1810. he married Perinnah Morris, a daughter of Benjamin & Mary Morris of Hilltown; he & she then removed to his farm adjoining already mentioned. she bore him two sons and two daughters, namely Morris - Leasona - Enos and Perinnah. The two former died when young about Sept 1813. The first named was buried on the same day that uncle John Mathias was viz: Sept. 9th 1813 - Soon after the birth of her youngest child, whom they called Perinnah. the mother died which was on the 2^d of November 1815. aged about 26 years. ^{my} Ashbel continued attending to the duties of his farm, having Ann Mathias for the most part keeping house for him. On the 14th of January 1817. Ashbel again entered into the marriage relation. He married Ann Thomas, a daughter of Eber & Zillah Thomas (see page 38). by her he had 2 daughters, Eleanor & Mary Ann. — In the spring of 1812. Ashbel sold his lot near Dublin. to Isaac Morris and purchased six acres of wood land of Benjamin Kelly for \$600. It was more convenient, as it lay adjoining his plantation — In the ^{close} ~~winter~~ of 1814. He purchased Abel's share of the plantation in New Britain, and soon after sold the whole of it to Henry Myers, for about \$50. an acre, Benjamin Proseburger, who had purchased of said Myers, being pay master for a part of the purchase money. In this sale, Ashbel lost several hundred dollars, as he had not taken security for the money. Myers failed, and was broke up in a few years, leaving Ashbel demands unpaid — Proseburger, had speculated too largely, and was unable to meet his engagements and died with many heavy debts unpaid, and which for the want of assets, were never paid. Ashbel then became a loser. There were drawbacks upon his property & prospects. And from that time it evidently appeared that he was sinking in his estate.

April 8th 1834.

The next in order of my father's children, who grew up, and whose names are entered on the family record is Elizabeth — See page 132.

Elizabeth, was born on the 12th of September 1766. She was brought up in her father's house to industriously receive a good English education, as was thought at that time. She was fond of reading, and improved herself considerably thereby — She had early religious exercises and when she was about 18 years of age, viz: in June 1783, she was baptized, by Elder John Thomas, upon a profession of her faith in Christ, and united with the Baptist church in Hilltown. — On the 12th of October 1786 she was married to Isaac Morris the eldest son of William Morris (see page 45) ~~who was born on the 12th of September 1766, and died on the 12th of October 1786.~~ previous to his marriage, he purchased a plantation which was formerly Aaron James's (see page 53). where Mr. Swink now lives, he also built a shop by the side of the Bethlehem road, now occupied as a saddlery and owned by John Leidy — To that property he removed his wife soon after their marriage and there their eldest son was born Sept. 12th 1787. Whom they named Mathias. After leaving there a few years, he sold that property to Manasseh Fretz, and purchased his uncle Cadwallader Morris's property adjoining the lower Baptist meeting house (see page 44). Thither he removed and there built the stone house, in which Samuel Ott now lives, and who possesses the property. — While living there, there were born unto him a daughter, who lived but a few days after that — a son whom they named Justin and after that another son, whom they named Mr. J. In the fall of 1800, he sold that property

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approach to John Miller of New Britain, who put his
son in law Isaac Morris upon it, who afterwards purchased
it of his father in law and continued living there
until his death which took place Dec^r 10 - 1829.
Isaac Morris then purchased the tavern and proper-
ty belonging thereto in Dublin and removed
there in the spring of 1801. - And there sometime
after their removal their son, Justin, died.
and there on ^{Lord's day} the 28th of August 1803. after a few
days illness with the dysentery Elizabeth the wife
of Isaac Morris (and my only sister) died, being
nearly 30 years of age. On the day following she
was buried in the graveyard attached to the lower
meeting house, where W. M. Laughlin preached
from Genesis 49 - 18. "I have waited for thy sal-
vation O Lord." In 1805. Isaac Morris pur-
chased the property which had belonged to my
brother John - who had died - and which is now
in possession of Abraham Yeachast Junr.
So that place however he had removed some
time previous to his purchasing and continu-
ed living there until the spring of 1806. when
he married Rachel Dungan - widow of Joseph
Dungan - and sister to my wife (see page 74) 75
And removed to her residence - and there on
the 14th of October 1814. his son Wm. J. died of the
dysentery. - So that all of my sister Eliza-
beth's children died at an early age except
Matthias, her first born. He was early inclined
to books. he learned ^{some of} his ^{early} lessons from me
while teaching school at the school house ad-
joining the lower M. house. From year to year
and from school to school he pursued his studies
of opportunity offered and even when at
home, reading and study were his delight
and was taught several of the higher branches

157 He also made considerable proficiency in classical literature, at Newtown - Doylestown &c. at length he read law with E. & M. Morris mentioned page 48. Was admitted at the bar at Newtown, Bucks County in the fall of 1809. Lived there some time then went to Philad^a for a while and then back to Bucks County, and finally settled in Doylestown, where he married Wilhelmina a daughter of Abraham Chapman, Attorney at law - her mother was a daughter of Dr. Hugh Meredith - by her he has had two children the ^{first} died young, the second is a daughter whom they have named Mariam - being about 2 - years of age. About a year ago he purchased a handsome property in Doylestown where he now lives - which was formerly the property of Dr. Charles Meredith an uncle to his wife who had died not long before.

My sister Elizabeth enjoyed good health in her younger days and until after she was married - but from the time of the birth of her first born son, she was very weakly and scarcely knew what it was to have a day of perfect health, and often she was very sick and afflicted - and although she was a pattern of piety, and frequently delighted her christian friends and was delighted herself in talking of the goodness & faithfulness of God, yet she passed through many dark and trying scenes with respect to her religious exercises; as her diary would testify with her own hand will testify, which I here insert, in the close of this branch of my father's family. It is as follows -

"A Diary of Elizabeth Morris, written by herself. Having had for some time past, an anxious desire to commit to writing, some of my feelings of the goodness of the Lord towards myself, but

The last and youngest of the children of Thomas and Elizabeth Mathias, was the writer of this history. Joseph Mathias as I have ⁱⁿ contemplation if the Lord should spare me life and mercies, to record some events of my life in another place separate from this history, my account will be short.

Joseph Mathias was born on the 8th day of May 1778. Was raised at his father's table - attended to rural employment - with the privilege of going to school some portion of the time, so as to have a tolerable education for that day. Ten days before he arrived at 21 years of age his father died. The property on which he now lives, and in the house in which he was born, fell to him by agreement with the other children (as they were all provided with homes.) His Mother - Coaty Philips - Thomas Smith & Mary Evans continued to live with him for a time. (see page 137.)

His father died April 29th 1799. Joseph Mathias was baptiz^{ed} ^{by Elder M. Laughlin} on a profession of his faith on the 5th Lords day in Sept^r (29th) 1799. and on the 3^d Lords day in Oct^r was with 12 other persons received into the fellowship of the church in Hilltown.

In 1804. he was called to the exercise of his gifts for the ministry - On the 27th of November 1804, ^{May} he married ^{Great grand daughter of Elder William Thomas who came from} Dorah Mathew, a daughter of Benjamin Mathew of New Britain, ^{Elder M. Laughlin performed the ceremony} - who was born on the 18th day of November 1777. (see page 70.) On Saturday the 19th of January 1805. there was granted unto him by the church of which he was a member a letter of licence for him to preach the gospel where opportunities might offer. His trial sermon at that time was focussed upon the words recorded in the gospel by John IX - 38. "And he said Lord I believe and he worshipped him". The first time he ascended the pulpit to preach was at the other meeting house on the 4th Lords day the 27th of January, where he preached from Math. V 3. "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven".

183 On Tuesday the 22nd of July 1806. He was more fully
set apart for the Gospel ministry by Ordination at the
Upper Meeting house. ~~at~~ ^{Elder J. B.} Montanye preached the
ordination sermon from I Timothy IV. 16.

Elder Silas Hough proposed the usual questions.
And Elder James M. Laughlin delivered the charge.
The imposition of hands and prayer by all three
of the council. From that time (and indeed from
the time of ~~my~~ ^{his} being licensed) he has regularly
supplied the church in Hildtown, besides frequent-
ly at New Britain - Montgomery and other places.

On Tuesday the 5th of October 1813. he preached the
introductory sermon before the Philad^a Association
by an appointment the year previous. from

II Cor. IV. 7. — On the first day of January 1832
He delivered a discourse at the lower Meeting house
entitled a jubilee it having relation to the church
having been organized 50 years. The church was
constituted the 25th day of November 1781. The words
selected for that occasion were Deuteronomy VIII. 2.
As it was principally a history, It was written pre-
viously, and read at that time. A copy of which
is preserved. — The first funeral discourse he

delivered was at the lower M. house at the inter-
ment of Sarah Thomas, the widow of Elder John
Thomas, who was about 95 years of age when she
died. She had selected the portion of scripture to
be improved upon that occasion which was Ps. XVI.

11. "Thou wilt shew me the path of life" &c. From
the commencement of his ministry to the pre-
sent time (April 10th 1834) being about 29
years and 3 months ^{of which 359 were general discourses} he has preached 364

Sermons — baptized 149 persons upon their pro-
fession of faith & Married 192. couple. But
with all the mercies bestowed, the writer sensible of
his many imperfections needs the prayer of the
Psalmist daily "God be merciful to me a sinner."

Dinah the wife of Joseph Mathias was baptized ^{18th} previous
to their marriage and a little over two weeks previous to her
baptism that is: on Tuesday the 10th of September 1799. She
with six other persons were baptized upon a profession of
their faith in the New Harmony near her father dwelling,
by Elder M. Laughlin, and united with the church at New-
Britain, and on the 20th of September 1806. She was received
by letter into Fellowship with the church in Helttown.
Early in January 1805, Joseph Mathias, brought his
beloved wife Dinah to take up her abode in his house
upon his patrimonial estate, into his mother's house
also - and into the house in which he first saw the
light. And in this house they have now lived for
upwards of 29 years, mutually sharing each others
sorrows and joys, sharing a good degree of health
and many mercies - and while it has been his
lot to attend upon his ministrations and other
avocations from home, in journeyings oft,
as well as having the concerns of the farm un-
der his care, and labouring oft with his hands
to procure the comforts of life. It ~~was~~ has been
the lot of his companion and her wonted de-
light to soothe his sorrows, lighten his burdens,
and sometimes to accompany him in his
journeys and visits, but more frequently to
"stay by the staff," and manage the concerns
of the house, which has been adjusted with great
prudence, and care and to good advantage. As
also to bear and nurture, govern and instruct a
family of children, which are now generally
grown up; and of which notice will now be taken.
The children of Joseph and Dinah Mathias
are as follows, viz: Hervey, born March 9th 1806.
Thomas, born Nov^r 26th 1807 = Elizabeth - Dec^r 20 - 1809
Lydiam - March 28 - 1811 = Benjⁿ - March 4th - 1813
Rachel - Dec^r 18 - 1814 = Joseph - July 29 - 1817
John - April 9 - 1820.

The next of Joseph and Margaret Bates' children is Margaret. She was married to Thomas Thomas mentioned in pages 18 &c. of the foregoing history.

The next is Eleanor, who was married to Ephraim Thomas, mentioned in pages 28 &c.

The next is Humphrey, who married Sarah Lewis. They had two daughters - namely,

Sarah who was married to James Hammer a distant relation. They ~~have~~ have several children. One or two of their sons are Physicians & their daughter Martha is married to John Gordon Esq. who lives at Mont-gomeryville and have children.

Rachel, who was married to John Pugh, son of Daniel Pugh of Kittown (see page 25).

The next of Joseph and Margaret Bates' children is Joseph, who removed to North Carolina many years ago and was killed by the Indians. He left a family. His children removed to Florida, 35 miles above Mobile on the Tombigbee river.

The next and last of the children of Joseph and Margaret Bates is Sarah, who grew up to be a young woman and died. Type this

On pages 43 & 44, &c. I have noticed Morris Morris (who married Gwendy Thomas a daughter of Elder Wm. Thomas) and his posterity, in which I have said that William a son of Cadwallader Morris, married Hannah Black. Last Summer I was at his house in Plumstead near Point Pleasant, where he gave me the following account of his family.

He had 10 children, namely

1. Elizabeth, who is married to John Solomon, by whom she has 3 daughters. One of their daughters married Elizabeth. About 15 years of age has been blind from nearly her birth.

Zebulon, who is married to Jane Closson, they have 2 sons and 2 daughters. Since I received the above account Zebulon died. Aug. 21st 1835.

3. Alice is married to John Fly, they have 4 sons and one daughter.
 4. Eros is married to Mary Lee. They have one son and one daughter.
 5. Catharine is married to John H. Marten. They have two sons.
 6. Elias is married to Elizabeth Sees ^{and 2 daughters} They have 1 son.
 7. Wm is married to Catharine Sees. They have 1 son.
 8. Theodore, is married to Hannah Lehman. They have one son.
 - 9 & 10. Mary & Sarah Ann - both single.
- Wm. Morris at the time of giving me the foregoing account was ~~about~~ a little over 60 years of age and had 20 grandchildren. He was also in a low state of health. He died Oct 31st 1835.

omit ↓

From pages 182 to 195 I have given an account of myself & family up to the date of writing at that time which was April 11th 1834. and recorded somewhat at large some circumstances, respecting the life and death of two of my children namely, Thomas and Lydia Ann.

Upon page 195 I have noticed in short the names, improvement &c. of those ^{of my} children which remained single - Among whom was Benjamin - Where I said he had been for some months engaged in going to a classical school in Doylestown under the tuition of Mr. Robert, P. Dubois where he was improving himself in the English grammar. The Mathematics and Latin. That my history may be the more complete, I shall record a few pages concerning him, as it has pleased an all wise Providence to remove him by death. In his last illness he wrote a short narrative of his life Christian experience &c. I will first record that and add a little respecting his last hours &c.

261 Type This ✓

Burgess A. Morris, a son of Isaac and Rachel Morris (see pages 45-155 & 74) married Mary a daughter of John Piale Esq. of Doylestown Township, January 28 - 1836. - She died on the 23. of June 1837. leaving a son named Oliver, whom his grandmother Rachel Morris takes charge of. He is a fine boy a little over 2 years old.
[Recorded June 28 - 1839]. Stop
go to bottom

Artemas T. Proceland son of Owen and Mary Proceland (see pages 19 & 55) married Martha Piale, another daughter of John Piale Esq. on the He removed her
to his home in Hilltown, upon a tract of land at was Uncle John Mathias's property, which he purchased a few years ago, and is now building a barn - They have a daughter named

- Abel Thomas - son of Thomas Thomas mentioned on page 22, died in Virginia about the year 1835.

- Ara Thomas, mentioned on page 21, died on the 10th of May 1839. And

- Catharine Miller, widow of Charles Miller (see pages 687) died on the 9th of May 1839.

- Sarah Thomas, widow of Jonah Thomas (see pages 19, 20) died the 10th of January 1835.

- Sarah Mettlen mentioned on page 21, died three or four years ago.

- Sarah Thomas, daughter of Elias & Elizabeth Thomas (see page 29) died May 22 - 1837.

- John Thomas a son of Elias & Elizabeth Thomas, died February 16th 1838.

* See page 40. Erno Morris died at Newtown Bucks County February 17th 1832, and was buried at Southampton, by request I delivered a discourse to his memory 2^d Lord's day April from Heb 9-27, 28 - His daughter Amanda who was named to a W. Feltus died in Sept. 1829. -

The religious exercises upon the occasion were as follows
 W. S. Nightingale of New Britain delivered an address
 before leaving the house, founded upon the words
 of Job. "I would not live always." W. R.
 Young of Cheshut Hill followed by prayer.

At the meeting house a hymn was sung.
 N. 1275. "When blooming youth is snatched away" 4
 W. W. Mathew of Montgomery prayed.

W. S. Aaron (by Joseph's request a short time
 before he died) preached from Psalms 90 — 12

"So teach us to number our days, that we
 may apply our hearts unto wisdom."

Followed by an address by W. H. G. Jones of
 Levenington, who also prayed and pronounced
 the benediction.

Joseph's age was 24 years. 8 months & 29 days.
 The memento on his grave stone as follows

Smitten friends,
 Are Angels, sent on errands full of love,
 For us they languish and for us they die?"

↑
 must

Typo.

The Rev. Joseph Mathias the author of the foregoing pages
 died very suddenly of apoplexy on the night of the 11th of
 March A. D. 1851. at a bout half past 12 o'clock
 in the 73 year of his age. and consequently his
 labours have ceased, a more extensive notice of his death
 will appear in another place.

Hervey Mathias
 1851

I find in this book a sheet of paper, being a memorandum of deaths and other events of those mentioned in the foregoing pages and their relatives, which Father had intended to Recd at some future time. I therefore consider it a duty devolved upon me to Record in a short manner.

Hervey Mathias

Jesse Thomas Esq^r a son of Isaac Thomas of Plumstead died July 20th 1839

Elizabeth wife of Mark Danna died of Bedminster died July 23rd 1839.

Thomas a son of John Evans of Montgomery was drowned August 19th 1839

Sarah wife of John D James of Doylestown Pa died Augst 7th 1839.

page 24836. Mary Thomas wife of Nathan Thomas died March 8th 1835 at Flourtown where they had moved to some time previous

page She had been in a declining state for sometime like consumption

25. Anna Evans wife of John Evans died March 16th 1838

2546. John Pugh died July 13th 1842 aged 81 years he was buried at Doylestown in the Presbyterian burying ground

32. Isabella Thomas daughter of Enoch Thomas who married Martin Beck - among their children of has son Levi Beck a baptist preacher

35 page Ashbel Jones who married Sarah Williams with their family removed to the State of Ohio in 1842

page 37. Ephraim Thomas died August 20th 1833 aged years

Sydney Thomas his wife died June 1837 aged years

Dr Erasmus Thomas. Sold his patrimonial estate in New Britain to James Meradith and he and his family removed to the Western County and his son Henry Martyn was drowned soon after their removal there

page 46. William Morris a son of William Morris died in the year 1842 near Union town Pa.

47. John Morris died March 7th 1833 aged

51. Benjamin Morris died April 2nd 1833. aged

50. Sarah Burrows a daughter of Benjamin Morris died very suddenly of apoplexy aged years was buried in Doylestown Pres Ch^{ch}

- Ephraim Thomas the youngest son of Ephraim and Sidney Thomas sold his paternal estate in New Britain in 1838, to James Hill. He having become reduced to rather low circumstances, removed to Norristown, since then to Burgessburgh. his daughter Amanda is married to Thomas Hitchen who for a while preached at New Britain but has since partly declined preaching. They have several children.
- Elizabeth Mathew (widow) of Abel Mathew died July 16th 1834
- Charles Humphrey died March 30th A.D. 1839
- Mary Evans wife of Nathan Evans died March 19th 1834
- David Evans purchased a plantation near New Britain meeting-house, built a new house and removed with his family there from Philadelphia in the fall of 1841. —
- Rebekah, wife of John Evans died of Montgomery died in April 1838
- Elder Thomas Robinson of Montgomery died Lords day morning May 27th 1838. My father delivered a discourse upon the occasion from Rev. 2. Chap. 10 verse Be thou faithful unto death &c
- Joseph Young son of John Young & Margaret Young, died February 1833
- Rachael Young daughter John & Mary Young died April 14th 1839
- Joseph Mathew son (my wife's uncle) died February 24th 1842 aged 95 years
- John Bowers of Swineford town who married Sabra Smelker, maiden name Barton died suddenly in the Spring of 1841.
86. Ashbel Jones sen died August 28th 1842 aged 83 years.
- 90 Mary Thomas widow of Doctor David Thomas died in June 1834
- John M Jones died in Philadelphia of consumption December 1st 1839
- 2 Caroline James and Benjamin Griffith were married October 1st A.D. 1835. They have three children namely Oliver, Amanda and Courtland they live on the property of which her father died seized and own it (both members of Hillman Church)
- 2 Susanna Fry, wife of Joseph Fry and daughter of Thomas Heaton (who was a son of David and Susanna Heaton) died Sept. 19th 1842
4. Ann Jones (widow of Uncle William Jones) died May 1st 1832
- 4 Jonathan Jones, son of W^m and Ann Jones died December 30th 1837 and his wife Mary died not after
- 104 Philip Trepler died November 7th 1837.
57. Mathias Morris Attorney at Law at Fogelstown, and a son of my sister Elizabeth who married Isaac Morris died on the 9th day of November 1839 after a short illness

197. Morgan Mathias died December 15th 1843
- 321 James Thomas died December 8th 1843
- 203 Latitia wife of Justus Rowland died January 16th 1844
Leaving 3 Children, mainly Martha, William and Mark
the youngest being about 3 months old. the youngest died
died soon after its mother
2. Anna Mathias widow of John Mathias died March 14th 1844
06. Hervey Young died April 12th 1845. he went to Plymouth
for a load of lime with 3 Horses for his brother Mathias Young
and on his return home with a load of 50 Bushes the Horses
started to run. he in attempting to get off the wagon it is
supposed, accidentally fell and the wagon passed over him
he died in a short time after he was brought home some three
or four miles distance. Father improved the dispensation for the
words "run, speak to that young man" &c — Rev. W. Mathias
of Montgomery Church spoke upon the occasion at the lower
meeting house Stilltown from the words. "There is but a
step between me and death."
- Mary M^r Ewen wife of James M^r Ewen of Philadelphia died May
1844. and is interred in the New Britain Baptist Grave yard
- Mary Ann M^r Ewen a daughter of said James M^r Ewen died
- James M^r Ewen of Philadelphia died March 1850
- George M^r Ewen a son of James M^r Ewen died July 1851
- Charles M^r Ewen a son of James M^r Ewen married Elizabeth
a daughter of William Shute. ^{Charles keeps a livery stable} they have several children.
- Sarah M^r Ewen a daughter of James M^r Ewen married to
William H. Hamilton a dry good merchant of Philadelphia
whose store in South 2nd Street, West side, for whom she assisted
the store for a number of years. previous to their marriage
- Isaac Morris Esq^r of line Lexington died 1844
61. Burgiss A. Morris, son of said Isaac Morris, married Matilda
Hoxworth a daughter of Peter Hoxworth Esq^r of Hatfield Township, Ill.
for his second wife on the day of 1844
and in about five or six weeks after he took sick with some
thing of a scrofulous nature and died 1848
not having removed his wife home to his own residence
his widow still remained at her fathers house.

74. John D Morris the youngest son of said Isaac and Rachel Morris. Studied law with his step brother Mathias Morris he settled at Stroudsburg the seat of justice for Monroe County, where he has an extensive practice in his profession. He was Elected to the Legislature of this State from his district for two successive terms, and higher honours await him. He married a Miss ^{died Jan. 1862} Hollingshead of Stroudsburg, Pa.
49. Benjamin Morris jun. Married a Miss Lane by whom he had a child or two. He has since died he lived died in Doylestown, buried at New Britain.
48. Catharine Morris died October 28th 1838 — Elder Joshua Jones was born in Pembrokeshire in Wales 1721. Came to America in 1726. Ordained over the Baptist Church at New Britain Nov 1761 —
67. John Evans married Isabella Todd a daughter John Todd of New Britain, by whom he has two sons, namely David and John. He sold his property in Montgomery and removed to Philadelphia in the Spring of 1851.
- 66 { Rachel Evans the wife Joseph Evans Esq. who was a son of Nathan Evans as mentioned in page 66. died August 27th 1851. She was a daughter of Joshua and Margaret Reale.