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THE GRIGGS FAMILY OF GRAVESEND, KINGS COUNTY, NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY

BY PERRY STREETER*

The catalyst for this article was a footnote in "The Gerritsen-Willemsen Family Record, and the Williamson Family of Gravesend," in which Aline L. Garretson wrote of Anne³ Willemse (Willem² Willemsen, Willem¹ Gerritsen), daughter of Willem² Willemsen and Mayken² Pieters Wyckoff (Pieter¹ Claesen): "Bergen, at. p. 390, makes Anna Willemse the first wife of John² Griggs (John¹), but this is impossible in terms of dates and it would appear more likely that her husband was John³, son of John² and Martha (Wilkins) Griggs."^[1] As a direct descendant of John and Martha, I wanted to prove whether or not he was actually of the *second* generation and whether or not her *maiden* name was actually Wilkins.

To date, the history of the Griggs family of Gravesend and New Jersey has been primarily told by Walter S. Griggs in *The Genealogy of the Griggs Family* (hereafter *Griggs*)^[2] and Teunis G. Bergen in his *Early Settlers of Kings County* (hereafter *Bergen*).^[3] As always, the efforts of those who have gone before us are sincerely appreciated. However, there are significant errors in *Bergen*. Griggs perpetuated some of these errors, corrected others and introduced new ones. Most notably, Bergen and Griggs both interpreted records at Gravesend for men named John Griggs as representing only two generations when they should be attributed to three or four generations so named. As will be shown below, understanding the history of the Griggs family of Gravesend has been greatly complicated by numerous and significant date errors in earlier publications.

1646 HOLDERS OF GRAVESEND'S FORTY PLANTATION LOTS

The history of Gravesend, Kings County, is well known. To review, Gravesend was settled in June 1643 by Lady Deborah Moody; the town's patent was granted on 10 December 1645; and, in 1646, a second division was made, laying out the town into 40 lots. The Town of Gravesend existed until 1894 when it was absorbed in to the City of Brooklyn. Since 1898, the area has been part of the Borough of Brooklyn in the City of New York. The neighborhood surrounding the site of the original settlement is still known as Gravesend.

One part of the history of Gravesend is not so well known, the names of the 1646 holders of the town's forty plantation lots. Although John¹ Griggs of Gravesend was not one of them, when commencing the research for this article it seemed highly likely that his wife and/or the wife of his son, John² Griggs, descended from 1646 plantation lot holders. Their names are provided here with their respective lot numbers;^[4] those whose names appear in bold-faced type are mentioned at least once further below:

1 Lady Deborah Moody	4 George Baxter	7 John Tilton
2 Sir Henry Moody	5 John Morrell	8 James Ellis
3 James Hubbard	6 Richard Ussell	9 Cornelius Swellinant

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¹ *The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record* [hereafter RECORD] 134 (2002):170.

² Walter S. Griggs, *The Genealogy of the Griggs Family* (Pompton Lakes, N.J.: The Biblio Co., Inc., 1926).

³ Teunis G. Bergen, *Register in Alphabetical Order, of the Early Settlers of Kings County, Long Island, N.Y., From Its First Settlement by Europeans to 1700* (New York, 1881) [hereafter Bergen, *Early Settlers of Kings County*].

⁴ [Charles Andrew Ditmas], *Long Island Historical Bulletin* (Brooklyn: the author, 1913) as posted at <<http://www.longislandgenealogy.com/moodygrave/LadyMoody.htm>> (viewed 1 September 2005).

10 Edward Browse	21 Francis Weeks	32 William Compton
11 Richard Stout	22 Ralph Cardell	33 Enium Bennum
12 Thomas Cornish	23 Robert Pennoyer	34 Samuel Chandler
13 George Holmes	24 William Wilkins	35 Peter Simpson
14 Thomas Greedy	25 Thomas Applegate	36 Thomas Cornwall
15 Thomas Spicer	26 William Goulding	37 William Musgrove
16 Walter Wall	27 Charles Morgan	38 Thomas Whitlock
17 John Cooke	28 Thomas Morrell	39 Richard Gibbons
18 James Grover	29 John Thomas	40 Lady Deborah Moody
19 Ambrose London	30 Roger Scott	
20 John Rinkman	31 Randall Huett	

PREVIOUS ACCOUNTS OF THE GRIGGS FAMILY OF GRAVESEND

Many of the statements made in the following accounts will be refuted or corrected further below. We begin our analysis with the most recently published account of the Griggs family of Gravesend. Nearly 80 years have elapsed since Walter S. Griggs presented his research in 1926:

JOHN GRIGGS, who came from England to Gravesend, Long Island, New York about 1650, married Elizabeth. Their children were:

JOHN.

DANIEL.

THOMAS, had children: (Elizabeth, John, Mary, Hannah and Thomas).

BENJAMIN.

EDWARD, lived in Somerset, New Jersey, 1733.

SAMUEL, was on the tax roll of Franklin Township, New Jersey.

JOHN GRIGGS, son of John and Elizabeth Griggs, born about 1660; married first, Anna Wyckoff, born May 29, 1665; second, 1684, to Martha Wilkins. He seems to

have been the only brother to have real estate transactions in Gravesend and the only one to have remained on Long Island. He was a constable in 1701, and owned slaves.^[5]

Obviously, *Griggs* was published long after Bergen's 1881 account but the latter actually remains more widely known, at least to many descendants of John Griggs and to other casual researchers:

[JOHN] GRIGG or GRIGS Sen^r (probably a s. of George Griggs, who emigrated from Lavenen, Newport, in England, to New England about 1635, as per p. 44 of Hotten's Emigrants), m. *Elizabeth* ——. Settled in G^d, where he was allotted land as early as 1672. Sold Sept. 13, 1695, to his s. John 8 A. of land on the E. Side of G^d, on a neck known as Ambrose Island, as per p. 73 of Lib. 2 of Con. His name appears on the cen. of 1698. Issue:—John Jun^r; Daniel; Thomas; Benjamin; and Samuel—most of whom settled in N.J. Made his mark to documents. His s. Daniel signed his name "Daniell Griggs" in 1710. His descendants abound in N.J.

John Jun^r of G^d, m. 1st Anna dau. of Willem Willemse and Mayke Pieterse Wyckoff; m. 2^d, 1684, Martha dau. of Obadiah Wilkins. Sold Aug. 28, 1697, a plot of 20 A. in G^d to Jochem Gulick for £60, as per p. 194 of Lib. 2 of Con. Was constable of G^d in 1701. His name and that of his mother or step-mother Elizabeth appears on the cen. of 1738, and he is entered as the owner of 2 slaves in 1755. Issue:—(sup.) Maria, who m. John Van Dyke of N.U. Signed his name "*John Griggs Jun^r*."^[6]

It is evident that Bergen relied heavily on a manuscript by William H. Stillwell entitled "Gravesend Settlers: Ancestors and Descendants" (hereafter *Stillwell*) now found in Manuscript Room of the Library of The New York Genealogical and Biographical Society. Here are the first three generations of the Griggs family of Gravesend from Stillwell's heretofore unpublished account:

Griggs

George Griggs emigrated from England to New England in 1635. It is not known where he settled, nor is any other fact respecting him known save that he had one son.

1. John Griggs

⁵ Griggs, *The Genealogy of the Griggs Family*, 37.

⁶ Bergen, *Early Settlers of Kings County*, 126.

Second Generation

In 1669 John Griggs settled in Gravesend and evidently purchased a farm for in 1670 he was recognized as the owner of a right in Guisbert's Island. June 15 1670 William Teller sued him. In 1672 two west meadow lots were assigned him. June 15 1675 the town sued him. In 1675 two 15 acre neck lots were assigned him. In 1677 two Guisbert Island lots were assigned him. Dec 1679 Cap't Richard Stillwell sued John Griggs for killing one of his hogs, injuring three more and threatening to kill them all. The hogs were appraised at 13 shillings which the court ordered defendant to pay. Mar 30 1685 he sold his neck lots. In 1689 he was allotted two lots in the North and two in the East woods. May 10 1690 sold a Guisbert Island lot to his son. May 10 1690 sold a farm. May 3 1693 fined for breaking open the pound. Aug 28 1697 sold 20 acres to Jochem Gulick. On the Census of 1698 is recorded as having a family consisting of only 4 slaves beside himself. April 15 1698 Jochem Gulick, John Griggs and Samuel Garretsen sold the mill and mill dam. His wife Elizabeth was probably daughter of Thomas Whitlock. He died about 1700³⁷

Issue:

- I John Griggs
- II Daniel "
- III Thomas "
- IV Benjamin "
- V Samuel "
- VI Catharine "

Third Generation

John Griggs son of John (2) married 1 Ann daughter of William Williamson and 2d in 1684 Martha daughter of Obadiah Wilkins in 1700 in which year 3 lots in the west meadow were allotted him June 30 1701 John Griggs Constable being noticed to appear before the court of sessions concerning the non delivery of a belonging to the collector of Gravesend for to give reason why he did not collect and pay the quota of Gravesend Concerning the £1000 tax for the building of the fort for the better security of the Five Nations of Indians in their fidelity. He appearing did make his excuse that he did not omit the delivery of the said writ innocent, and had forgotten the receiving and delivery of the said writ, Ordered to pay the Sherrifs and clerks fees before November Costs 12 shillings. May 12 1702 leased Coney and Pine Islands. Nov 22 1702 he married Deborah Hetlock. In 1704 was elected Supervisor. Dec 20 1706 he owned 140 acres of land Dec 30 1717 then In 1733 chosen one the trustees of the town. And again in 1734. Justice of the Peace 1752 and died in or prior 1763.^[7]

THE ORIGINS OF JOHN¹ GRIGGS

Thanks to *Stillwell* and *Bergen*, and in spite of *Griggs*, John¹ Griggs of Gravesend is still frequently, but incorrectly, identified as a son of George Griggs who arrived in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1635 via the *Hopewell*. This claim is easily dismissed; George Griggs has been well researched by others;^[8] he was *not* the father of John¹ Griggs of Gravesend. John was not included in the passenger list of the *Hopewell* nor, more importantly, was he identified in the will of George Griggs.

However, the Griggs family of Gravesend did have a second-hand connection to George Griggs via John and Wibroe (Griggs) (Pierson) Cooper of Southampton, Long Island, as will be shown further below, via the Wilkins family of Gravesend. George Griggs and the Coopers sailed together on the *Hopewell*. Wibroe (Griggs) (Pierson) Cooper was born in Olney, Buckinghamshire, England; ~~she was the daughter of John Griggs (1547-1625) and his wife, Martha Wyborowe (~1561-1635).~~ Thomas W. Cooper II concluded that Wibroe (Griggs) Cooper and George Griggs were probably cousins of some degree.^[9]

Based on the forgoing, one might be tempted to speculate that John Griggs of Gravesend descended from the same English family as George Griggs. However, recent DNA testing of multiple living patrilineal descendants of John¹ Griggs of Gravesend and other Griggs immigrants has revealed that John was not related to George Griggs or to any other Griggs immigrants currently represented in the Grigg [Griggs, Gregg, etc.] Surname DNA project.^[10] John¹ Griggs and his patrilineal descendants belong to Haplogroup R1a which is relatively common in Europe but rather rare in England. This fact may assist in eventually determining the family's precise origins within England if any Englishmen with well-documented lineages join the Grigg DNA project.

⁷ William H. Stillwell, "Gravesend Settlers: Ancestors and Descendants," MS. at NYG&B Society, 140-42.

⁸ Robert Charles Anderson, *The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England, 1634-1635*, vol. 3 (Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2003), 154-59.

⁹ Thomas W. Cooper II, "The Cooper-Pierson-Griggs Connection: Long Island, Massachusetts, and Buckinghamshire, England," *The American Genealogist*, 64 (1989):193.

¹⁰ Administered by Family Tree DNA; see <<http://www.familytreedna.com>>.

JOHN¹ GRIGGS OF GRAVESEND

The arrival of John Griggs in Gravesend was estimated as 1650, before 1672, and 1669 in *Griggs, Bergen*, and *Stillwell*, respectively. John Griggs did not appear on “a list of what land every man hath in tillage ter yeare in Gravesend” in 1657, so he had probably not arrived in Gravesend by then.^[11] 28 March 1659 marks the first event attributable to John¹ Griggs at Gravesend:

March y^e 28 1659: William Teller sett and lett out unto John Greekes [*sic*] his house and plantacion heare in Graves^d of the number Thirtie seaven with two Cowes for and dureing the tearme of one year nexst ensueing begining from y^e first of Apriell nexst and in considderation there of the s^d John is to paye or cause to bee payed unto the s^d William or his Assignes the summe of fffiftie hollons gid^s and att y^e end of this said tyme to surrender up the house land and Cattell againe in y^e meane tyme hee y^e s^d John is to keepe in sufficient repaireation all y^e said fence or fences according to y^e order of the towne.

[Signed by] Willem teller [and] John Greekes his marke In y^e p^resence of us Peeter Sympson his marke [and] John Tilton.^[12]

John Griggs must have proved to be a satisfactory tenant. Well before the one-year lease expired, William Teller executed a nine-year lease on 24 October 1659 for “twoe Lotts or plantacions lyeing and being heare in Greavesand of y^e number 37: and: 2,” as witnessed by “Peeter Sympson” and John Tilton.^[13] Plantations No. 2 and 37 were allocated in the second division at Gravesend in 1646 to Sir Henry Moody and William Musgrove respectively. Plantation No. 37 was presumably adjacent to No. 38, which first belonged to Thomas Whitlock.

In 1660 John Griggs and Thomas Whitlock [*sic*, Whitlock], both of Gravesend, Long Island were fined for “buying and selling” land on the first day of the week. Griggs declared that he did not remember such covenant implying that he was bound by a town covenant. The court ruled the bargain void and fined each fifteen shillings and costs of court. He must have been of age before this date. He signed by mark, though he may have been able to write.^[14]

Unless Griggs and Whitlock repeated their offense, the actual date of this incident may be more precisely identified as 7 October 1666.^[15] With no other parties identified, this record suggests that John Griggs purchased, or attempted to purchase, land from his neighbor, Thomas Whitlock. Perhaps their proximity and this failed transaction were the basis for the unsupported claim regarding John Griggs that “His wife Elizabeth was probably [the] daughter of Thomas Whitlock.”^[16] In attempting to refute some of William H. Stillwell’s erroneous assumptions, John E. Stillwell either introduced a new error, with respect to generations, by misreading the former’s text or found other records by which William H. Stillwell identified Elizabeth² Whitlock (Thomas¹) as the wife of John² Griggs (John¹):

William H. Stillwell, Esq., in a written pedigree of his ancestry, gave to John, son of George Griggs, the Immigrant, a son John Griggs, who married Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Whitlock, the First. Whence he obtained this information I know not and it is unsupported by any evidence that I know of.^[17]

On 24 March 1668, John Griggs became the owner of the property that he had been leasing since 28 March 1659.^[18] According to *Stillwell*, William Teller sued John Griggs on 15 June 1670, presumably over some issue pertaining to this land transaction. It was not his first encounter with litigation; on 7 June 1669, Jacob Lenard [Lendardsen] had brought a suit against John Griggs in the court of sessions at Gravesend for debt.^[19]

Stillwell states, “In 1677 two Guisbert Island lots were assigned him [John Griggs].”^[20] Bergen incorrectly estimated that these transactions, by which John Griggs was granted lots No. 9 and No. 26 on Gisbert’s Island, occurred “About 1670”:

¹¹ Bergen, *Early Settlers of Kings County*, 344.

¹² *Gravesend Town Records, Book 2: Deeds, Leases: 1653-1670*, Town Records of Kings County Translations/Transliterations, 51, copy at library of The Holland Society of New York.

¹³ *Ibid.*, 57-58.

¹⁴ Alyene Elizabeth Westall Prehn, *Journal of a Genealogist with Ancestral Wills from Late 1500’s to 1900’s* (Owensboro, Kentucky: McDowell Publications, 1980), 486, as cited by Jim McKay, Myron Northrup and Jean Peterson Rosenkranz, “Documentation of Peterson & Griggs Lines” (MS., 14 March 1994), courtesy of Jean Peterson Rosenkranz.

¹⁵ John Edwin Stillwell, M.D., *Historical and Genealogical Miscellany: Data Relating to the Early Settlers of New York and New Jersey*, 5 vols. (New York, 1903-32) [hereafter J.E. Stillwell, *Miscellany*], 5:390.

¹⁶ Stillwell, “Gravesend Settlers,” 140-41.

¹⁷ J.E. Stillwell, *Miscellany*, 5:394. Per Peter Whitlock of the Whitlock Family Association, there is no evidence that the wife of John¹ Griggs was a daughter of Thomas¹ Whitlock (1623?-1703) of Salisbury, Wiltshire, England; Gravesend; and Monmouth Co., N.J.

¹⁸ *Gravesend Town Records, Book 2* (note 12, above), 98-100.

¹⁹ Bergen, *Early Settlers of Kings County*, 187.

²⁰ Stillwell, “Gravesend Settlers,” 140.

The present Coney I. was, on the first settlement of this country, composed of 3 separate islands, divided from each other by inlets or guts now closed. The westernmost one was known as Coney I., the middle one as Pine I., and the easternmost one as Gisbert's or Gysbert's Island, so named after Gisbert Opdyck. At a later period the easternmost one was also known as Johnson's I., from Barent and William Johnson at one period owning the tillable land (about 60 A.) on the same. About 1670 the inhabitants of G^d at a town meeting directed the division of the tillable land, which appears to have been allotted among the then residents of the town, as per G^d records.^[21]

Obadiah Wilkins and Ann Wilkins, the son and widow of William Wilkins, were among those granted lots on Gisbert's Island at the same time. However, William Wilkins was *not* granted any lots. Therefore, the lots of Gisbert's Island must have been granted after William Wilkins died in 1676 but before 13 January 1679 when his widow remarried, per the excerpts provided below. In any case, Stillwell's reference to 1677 is more accurate than Bergen's estimate of "About 1670."

- William Wilkins married at least twice. His second wife was Anne, the widow of Nicholas Stillwell, to whom he was married Dec. 29, 1672.
- 1675, 11th of 4th mo., William Wilkins agreed with his wife as to post mortem distribution of his inventoried goods.
- 1676, 3rd of 6 mo., Ann Wilkins [sic] leases to Yoricum Gouilpe [Guilluk] [sic, Jochem² Gulick (Hendrick¹)] her dwelling house and land, in Gravesend, with the meadow attached thereto, excepting only "ye Seller Neck & Mill meadows," for three years, etc.^[22]
- Mr. Wilkins died in 1676, and after a brief widowhood, she, Ann, married, by license dated Jan. 13, 1679, William Foster, of Jamaica, Long Island, N. Y. Original license in possession of Dr. John E. Stillwell.^[23]

In 1683, "An Acco^t from Grauesend of Y^e Persons Lands and Cattles Rateable According to Y^e Law" was taken by Constable "W^m Williamson" [Willem² Willemsen (Willem¹ Gerritsen)]. "John Briggs" [sic] was assessed 0£-14s.-2½d. for his cattle, horses, "84 Acors of land" and "1 head"; "John Briggs Jun^r" [sic] was assessed 0£-1s.-6d. for simply "1 person."^[24] Bergen failed to recognize these occurrences of "Briggs" as transcription errors for "Griggs" and created an invalid entry in his *Register* for the non-existent Briggs family of Gravesend on page 48.

ERRONEOUS INVENTORY DATE CREATES CONFUSION ABOUT THE DEATH DATE OF JOHN¹ GRIGGS

In developing an accurate chronology and structure for the Griggs family we were initially challenged by an estate inventory for a John Griggs, supposedly recorded in 1685. If the date of 1685 was valid, the inventory would mark the otherwise undocumented death of John¹ Griggs and identify a heretofore unrecognized generation of the Griggs family. An abstract of the inventory has been published as follows:

GRIGGS, John, of Gravesend, Kings Co. Inventory (1685) of moveable estate as divided by the widow, Elizabeth Griggs. She took with her a Negro girl valued at £50 and various articles to the value of £51/7/6. Amounts given to the other heirs were as follows: £170 to John Griggs, £60 to Daniel Griggs, £56 to Benjamin Griggs, £45 to Thomas Griggs, £50 to Samuel Griggs, £25 to Martha Strycker. Two cows were received by Samuel Griggs.^[25]

However, there were significant reasons to doubt that this inventory was actually recorded in 1685. The inventory's purported date initially aroused suspicion because the names of the widow and the heirs are identical to those of John² Griggs (John¹), who died intestate per letters of administration granted to his widow in 1737, as will be shown further below. A photographic image of the original inventory was reviewed in consultation with Harry Macy, Jr. and Frank L. Griggs. No date appears in the inventory itself. The endorsement on the back of the inventory ("Acco[un]t of the Estate of John Griggs") was written in a second hand. Below the endorsement is "1685," but it appears to have been written at a different time by another writer. It seems likely that the date was added after the inventory was recorded and perhaps not until it was transferred with other records to the new state capital at Albany in the 1790s. Except for references to

²¹ Bergen, *Early Settlers of Kings County*, 219.

²² John E. Stillwell, M.D., *Stillwell Genealogy*, 4 vols. (New York City, 1929-31) [hereafter J.E. Stillwell, *Stillwell Genealogy*], vol. 1 (*The History of Lieutenant Nicholas Stillwell Progenitor of the Stillwell Family in America with Some Notices of the Family in the Kingdom of Great Britain*), 125. The full text of the 1675 contract is at p. 89.

²³ *Ibid.*, 88-90.

²⁴ Edmund B. O'Callaghan, *The Documentary History of State of New York*, 4 vols. (Albany, 1849-51) 2:508-11 [hereafter DHNY].

²⁵ Kenneth Scott and James A. Owre, *Genealogical Data from Inventories of New York Estates 1666-1825* (New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, 1970), 65 [the original records are now at the New York State Archives].

“John,” there are no records at Gravesend in the decades preceding and following 1685 that support the existence of the heirs identified in the inventory as adults. Thus, it was highly doubtful that John¹ Griggs had died *circa* 1685, and a subsequent review of the town records of Gravesend confirmed that he was alive in 1686.

On 16 March 1686, “John griggs Jun^r” and “Samuell Spicer” witnessed the mark of “John Gridgs” when the elder Griggs acknowledged that Okoe Johnson [Aucke Jans] had paid him in reference to a deed of 15 October 1685 by which “two Rights of Commonag, or wood land . . . on the northside of Gravesend . . . Belonging unto the two lottments of number two & thirtie” had been conveyed.^[26]

William H. Stillwell wrote that John Griggs “died about 1700”; he then wrote over the text to change the date to 1737.^[27] As will be shown further below, the dates of 1700 and 1737 roughly correspond with the probable death dates of John¹ Griggs, and his son, John² Griggs. In any case, there were certainly two generations of adult men named John Griggs residing at Gravesend during the 1690s:

William [Hansen] of N.U. [New Utrecht], bought May 10, 1690, of John Griggs Sen^r and John Griggs Jun^r of G^d, plantation No. 37 with the buildings thereon in said town, also other lands and lot No. 9 on Gisbert’s I., as per G^d rec. Signed his name “*Willem Hansen.*”^[28]

I John Griggs Senior do hereby owne & Aknowledge Living in y^e Towne of Gravesend in Kings County to have Received the ffull and just sum of ten pounds in silver money of John Lake & Renier van sicklen for hier e of a piece ground which y^e above named persons had hyred of me the s^d piece ground lyeing and being in gravesend limmits at Ambrose stand I say I have Received 10 pounds in money as witness my hand, this 11 day of septbr 1691 signum John griggs senior Wittness: John Emans Clerke^[29]

On 13 September 1695, John Griggs, Sr. deeded John Griggs, Jr. land on the east side of Gravesend known as “Ambrose Island, No. 28” that was bounded by the land of Stoffle Romaine, Jeremiah Stillwell, Jochem Gulick and John Barnes.^[30] On 28 August 1697, John Griggs, Sr. deeded Jochem Gulick land in Gravesend bounded by that of the Widow Strycker and Cornelius Van Cliff, formerly occupied by Griggs.^[31]

In 1698, the King County Census was taken as “A list of all the freeholders, their wives, children, apprentices, and slaves within the Kings County on Nassau Island.” It included the Towns of Brooklyn, Bushwick, Flatbush, Flatlands, Gravesend, and New Utrecht. An (E) affixed to the name means English; John Griggs, Sr. and Jr., lived side-by-side:^[32]

In the town of Gravesend	Men-Women-Child-Appr-Slaves
...	
The Widdow Martentz	0-1-7-0-1
John Grigs Junir (E)	2-1-7-0-0
John Grigs Senior (E)	1-0-0-0-4
Anne Lake	0-1-0-0-0
...	

On 10 January 1698/9, John Griggs refused to be chosen for the job of Townsman and John Lake took his place.^[33]

Reinier Ferdinandese [Van Sicklen] of G^d. . . Apl. 15, 1698, he bought of W^m Wilkins for £185 20 A. and some smaller plots in G^d. He also bought of Jochem Gulick, John Griggs, and Sam^l Gerritsen of G^d for £198 all their right in the mill standing on the Storm or Stroom Kil at Hugh Gerretsens so-called with the dam and all the property and right belonging to said mill. . .^[34]

Leasing of the common lands of Coney Island began in 1702, when the western end of the island was leased to John Griggs and the fees collected were divided among the townspeople.^[35]

²⁶ “Gravesend Town Records; Book 5: Deeds and Leases 1672-1686” (handwritten transcription, 1909), 78-79; image from the library of The Holland Society of New York, courtesy of David M. Riker.

²⁷ Stillwell, “Gravesend Settlers,” 141.

²⁸ Bergen, *Early Settlers of Kings County*, 132.

²⁹ *Gravesend Town Records, Book 6*, Town Records of Kings County Translations/Transliterations, 60, copy at library of The Holland Society of New York.

³⁰ Josephine C. Frost, “Genealogical Gleanings from Book No. 2 of Conveyances, Brooklyn, Kings Co., N.Y.,” RECORD 54 (1923):242.

³¹ *Ibid.*, 251.

³² DHNY 3:137.

³³ *Gravesend Town Records*, 3:89.

³⁴ Bergen, *Early Settlers of Kings County*, 362.

³⁵ Charles Denson, *Coney Island* (Berkeley, California: Ten Speed Press, 2002), 5.

THE DEATH OF JOHN¹ GRIGGS

John¹ Griggs may have died before 25 May 1700 when “J. Griggs,” without designation as Sr. or Jr., was assigned lots 11 and 15 and “John Griggs,” without designation as Sr. or Jr., was assigned lot 30, as part of the following transaction:

The penny lots of salt meadows in G^d in the “Long Fly and the Cedar Neck, Hugh Gerretsen’s and Hog Point,” were laid out by Peter Cortelyou May 25, 1700, into 30 lots.^[36]

Prehn says that John¹ Griggs “probably died before 1703 when (without the Jr.) [John² Griggs] deeded mill property at Gravesend.”^[37]

In any case, John¹ Griggs probably died no later than 1703. Unfortunately, the identity of his wife remains unknown. John² Griggs was possibly the only child, and almost certainly the only son, of John¹ Griggs. If that is true, then John¹ Griggs had little need for a will or an inventory.

JOHN² GRIGGS OF GRAVESEND

The first record of John² Griggs, or John Griggs Jr., at Gravesend suggests that he may have still been a teenager or was otherwise behaving immaturely in 1680. In the Court of Sessions,

Theophilus Phillips presented several persons of Gravesend, viz: John Cason, Tho. Lake, Anthony Emans, Jonⁿ Griggs Jr., Lubert Lubbertson, Jeremiah Stillwell and Daniel Lake, for tying a cat to his mare’s tail and turning her into the woods, and which said mare he hath never heard of or seen since. The defendants were allowed one month to find the mare, and if not found, to make her good, and each was fined 2^s6^d for breaking the Sabbath.^[38]

In reviewing the marriages of John² Griggs, we return to William H. Stillwell’s account:

John Griggs . . . married 1 Ann daughter of William Williamson and 2d in 1684 Martha daughter of Obadiah Wilkins. . . . Nov 22 1702 he married Deborah Hetlock.^[39]

The third and first marriages reported for John² Griggs may be easily dismissed. Stillwell apparently misread the original marriage license record by which Deborah Hadlock, not Hetlock, married John Grice, not Griggs. Bergen correctly omitted this spurious marriage for John Griggs.

Anne³ Willemsen (Willem² Willemsen, Willem¹ Gerritsen), daughter of Willem² Willemsen and Mayken² Pieters Wyckoff (Pieter¹ Claesen), was not baptized until 29 May 1695; obviously, she was not married before 1684. Aline L. Garretson correctly concluded that Anne married the son of John² Griggs.^[40]

These errors prompted me to reconsider the remaining marriage reported for John² Griggs—did he marry Martha Wilkins in 1684? Stillwell and Bergen asserted that Martha Wilkins was the daughter of Obadiah² Wilkins (William¹). Per Obadiah’s will of 1682, Martha was not his *daughter* but, rather, she was his *wife*:

Richard Earl of Bellomont . . . Governor in chief of the Province of New Yorke. . . . Know you that in New Yorke the third day of October instant [1698] before me the last will and testament of Obadiah Wilkins Dec^d. . . and the granting of the administration . . . to the widow Martha.

This Witnesseth that Obadiah Wilkins of Gravesend upon Long Island . . . being in perfect memory doe hereby as my last will and Testament appoint and [*sic*] my Loving wife Martha Willkins my full and Lone Executrix Given and Granting unto her all my whole Estate . . . hereby give unto my son William Wilkins the Plantation or Lott of Number thirteen here in Gravesend wich was sometime my fathers William Willkins for him when he comes to age or doth marry . . . and in case another sonn shall be born unto me I Give and Bequeath unto him one of the Lotts which I now live upon and also bought of Thomas De Levall for him to have at my wifes Decease and the other Plantation that I live upon I give to my three daughters Ellinor Rebecca and Ann Willkins for them . . . at their mothers Decease, but in Case a daughter shall be borne unto me then . . . two plantations I bought of Thomas Delavall to be divided between them. . . . This being my will and pleasure so to do whereunto I have sets my hand the 25th day of . . . March Anno Domini 1682.^[41]

³⁶ Bergen, *Early Settlers of Kings County*, 18.

³⁷ Prehn, *Journal of a Genealogist* (note 14, above), 486.

³⁸ J.E. Stillwell, *Stillwell Genealogy*, 4:1, courtesy of Annette E. Truesdell. This was the court for the West Riding of Yorkshire, which sat at Gravesend.

³⁹ Stillwell, “Gravesend Settlers,” 141.

⁴⁰ Aline L. Garretson, “The Gerritsen-Willemsen Family Record, and the Williamson Family of Gravesend,” RECORD 134 (2002):170.

⁴¹ Will of Obadiah Wilkins, New York Co. Wills, original number 145 and as recorded in 5:315.

Plantation No. 13 was originally granted to George Holmes in 1646 and according to Obadiah's will, subsequently belonged to William Wilkins. Obadiah purchased Plantation No. 13 from William Foster, the last husband of his stepmother, Ann (—) (Stillwell) (Wilkins) Foster, shortly before he made his will:

Mar. 1, 1681-2, W^m Foster of J^a sold to Obadiah Wilkins of G^d the title, etc., of his wife Ann in plantation-lot No. 13 with the buildings in G^d, as per town rec.^[42]

Apl. 13, 1698, William his s. and heir confirmed a sale made by his dec. father to John Emans of plantation-lot No. 13, as per G^d rec.^[43]

ERRONEOUS CODICIL DATE CREATES CONFUSION ABOUT THE DEATH DATE OF OBADIAH² WILKINS

There has been much confusion about when Obadiah Wilkins actually wrote his will and the associated codicil. According to John E. Stillwell,

Obadiah Wilkins made his will Mch. 25, 1682, (1684 New York Wills) and added a postscript to it Mch. 26, 1696 (Mch. 26, 1684, New York Wills, printed). It was proved Oct. 3, 1698, and recorded in New York City.^[44]

Obadiah Wilkins does not appear in the 1683 Rate List of Long Island for Gravesend; Martha Wilkins was assessed 0^l-12s.-11½d. for her cows, horses and “88 acors of land.”^[45] Of all those residing at Gravesend in 1683, only Samuel Spicer held more land than Martha. Before reading Obadiah's original will, I had already concluded that he must have made his will on 25 March 1682; immediately added the codicil on 26 March 1682; and died shortly thereafter.

A review of the original will confirmed that it was dated 25 March 1682 and the codicil, or “post scriptum” was in fact dated the next day. When the clerk copied the will into the Liber, he entered the year of the codicil in error as 1698, the year in which the will was probated on 3 October.^[46]

Wilkins' codicil reads:

I Obadiah Wilkins for the better direction help and assistance of my Said wife Martha Willkins and also for my children as within . . . have . . . appointed these my friends whom I repose confidence in namely Samuel Spicer William Williamson William Golding and John Tilton jun^r . . . one of the two lots I bought of Thomas Delavall I have formally exchanged it with Samuel Spicer and to have alike quantity [from] him acre for acre of his Lottment adjoining unto my house further now that for one piece of land adjoining to the town house he hath bought it of me and payd for it and for one fifteen acre lott of mine adjoining to John Cook I did exchange with him for one of his lotts which was sometimes William Cumptons . . . likewise I exchanged my four acre lotts near the Meadow gate with John Tilton jun^r for his land in the Sellerneck. . . .^[47]

JOHN² GRIGGS MARRIES MARTHA, THE WIDOW OF OBADIAH² WILKINS

Despite confusion over dates surrounding the death of Obadiah² Wilkins, John E. Stillwell correctly concluded that: “The widow Martha, it is my impression, married John Griggs, Jr.,”^[48] as proven by the following record:

. . . I John grigs Junior of gravesend in y^e Kings County upon Long Island throug vertue of a power and Authority given and granted to my wife Martha Willkings alias grigs by the last will and Testament of her former Husband Obadiah Willkings deceased . . . [have sold] . . . land lyeing and being in gravesand as above sd goeing by the name of fifteene Acor lott and of y^e Number thirtie five unto Reynier van sicklen of ye same Towne . . . this 8th of March 1687/8. . . . Signed and Sealed John griggs juner signum Martha Willkings alias grigs [by mark] in ye presence of us Samuell Spicer Willem Willemsen.^[49]

Recall Stillwell's claim that John² Griggs married Martha Wilkins in 1684. Your author is extremely grateful to Robert Lott Billard for bringing the following marriage record to my attention:

1684. Dec. 5. Briggs, John, and Matthew Wilkins, C.M., xxxiii. 56^[50]

⁴² Bergen, *Early Settlers of Kings County*, 116.

⁴³ *Ibid.*, 390.

⁴⁴ J.E. Stillwell, *Stillwell Genealogy*, 1:126.

⁴⁵ DHNY, 2:509.

⁴⁶ Will of Obadiah Wilkins, note 41, above, courtesy of Harry Macy, Jr.

⁴⁷ *Ibid.*

⁴⁸ J.E. Stillwell, *Stillwell Genealogy*, 1:126.

⁴⁹ *Gravesend Town Records, Book 6* (note 29, above), 34.

⁵⁰ *New York Marriages Previous to 1784* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1968), 45.

Certainly, no couple named John and Matthew were married in 1684! As noted above, members of the Griggs family were incorrectly identified under the more common surname, *Briggs*, in other sources. In the citation above, “C.M” indicates that the record was transcribed from the New York Colonial Manuscripts. Unfortunately, the original marriage record can no longer be reviewed to obtain a complete and accurate transcription:

This [marriage record] also appears in the *Calendar of Historical Manuscripts* (English), p. 132, as John Briggs, of Gravesend, and Matthew (*sic*) Wilkins. The editor included the *sic* after the bride’s name so the original apparently did say Matthew. The original record was found in the Colonial Manuscripts as you note, and unfortunately that volume (32, part of the papers of Gov. Dongan’s administration) was totally destroyed in the 1911 State Library fire, so all we have are the two published abstracts. At least the one in the *Calendar* ties the license to Gravesend.^[51]

IDENTIFYING MARTHA, WIFE OF OBADIAH² WILKINS AND JOHN² GRIGGS, AS A DESCENDANT OF THE LAKE AND SPICER FAMILIES OF GRAVESEND

Based on the evidence provided above, there can be no doubt that John² Griggs was married at Gravesend to Martha, the widow of Obadiah Wilkins, by a license dated 5 December 1684. If Martha was not the daughter of Obadiah Wilkins but rather his widow, who then were her parents? In his brief mention of Obadiah Wilkins,^[52] William H. Stillwell did not identify any wife for Obadiah but he repeated the erroneous claim that he had a daughter Martha who married John Griggs. However, in his account of the Lake family of Gravesend, Stillwell revealed Martha’s origins:

Martha Lake daughter of John (1) was born in Amersfort (Flatlands) baptized in New Amsterdam May 20 1652 married Obadiah Wilkins of Gravesend, son of William and had issue, Martha, who married John Griggs, and William.^[53]

As demonstrated above, Stillwell was in error in stating that Martha, wife of John Griggs, was a daughter of Obadiah Wilkins rather than his widow. However, was he accurate in identifying Martha as the daughter of John¹ and Ann (Spicer) Lake of Gravesend?

On 20 May 1652, “Metje” was baptized in the New Amsterdam Dutch Reformed Church as the daughter of “Jan Leeck”^[54] with witnesses Albert Albertszen, “Jan Hutjesse” [John Hutchinson],^[55] “Susanna Bresers” [her maternal aunt, Susan (Spicer) (Wathen) Brasier], and Engeltje Mans.^[56] In the primary published accounts of the Lake family, Metje’s baptism is mentioned yet she is omitted in the listing of John¹ Lake’s children.^[57] Nor is “Metje” mentioned in Charles Henry Masland’s *circa* 1983 genealogy.^[58] Consequently, most researchers have simply assumed that this baptismal record pertains to Margaret, another daughter of John and Ann (Spicer) Lake. However, *Metje* is typically identified as a Dutch equivalent of *Mattie* (*Martha*) whereas *Margrietje* (or its diminutive, *Grietje*) is the Dutch equivalent of *Margaret*.

Thus, John¹ and Ann (Spicer) Lake did have a daughter named Martha. Was she identical with the wife of Obadiah² Wilkins and John² Griggs? A court record pertaining to both men probably provides the confirmation. In 1675, John¹ Griggs sued William¹ and Obadiah² Wilkins for crop damage caused by their cattle in the past:

Jo Grigs pl agt w^m wilk def^t for cattle damidges . . . done 7: yeares agoe and apprized by P. Symson

Peeter Symson testifies . . . hee . . . apprized y^e Dammidg . . . in y^e yeare 68

Jo Griggs pl agt Obdiah for dammidges in his Corne att ye springe by cattle y^t have beene putt in to y^e ffield and y^t y^e s^d damidg was prised & Judged to 3 Skipples of wheate & hee pduced Carson Johnson a wittness

⁵¹ Harry Macy, Jr., correspondence (29 Oct. 2003).

⁵² Stillwell, “Gravesend Settlers,” 65.

⁵³ *Ibid.*, 100.

⁵⁴ RECORD 5 (1874):98.

⁵⁵ “In the Records of the Orphan’s Court (*Holland Society Year Book, 1900*) it is stated that Jan Jutsitson (Hutchison) died at the house of Henry Brasar [*sic*, Brasier, husband of Susan (Spicer) (Wathens) Brasier]. . . . By his will, dated Oct. 4, 1658, Jan Hutsitson willed to Jan, son of Joris Hom [George Holmes], 100 guilders; to Susanna, daughter of Henry Breser, his god-daughter, 120 guilders, and the balance of his estate to Mary, Rebecca, Susanna and Martje, children of Henry Bresar. . . .” (J.E. Stillwell, *Stillwell Genealogy*, 1:137).

⁵⁶ Probably identical with the Engeltje Mans, “J.d. Van Coinxste, in Sweden,” who married Borger Joriszen, “J.m. Van Hershberg, in Silesien” in the New Amsterdam Reformed Dutch Church on 18 Dec. 1639 (RECORD 6 [1875]:33). “Engeltje appears to have been a vigorous old lady of somewhat masculine disposition. She was frequently, as a witness or litigant, before the Court at Stady Huys, where she was much dreaded on account of her loquacity. . . .” (J.H. Innes, *New Amsterdam and Its People, 1626-1902* [Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1902], 234).

⁵⁷ Arthur Adams and Sarah A. Risley, *A Genealogy of the Lake Family of Great Egg Harbour in Old Gloucester County in New Jersey, Descended from John Lake of Gravesend, Long Island: With Notes on the Gravesend and Staten Island branches of the family* (privately printed, 1915), 9.

⁵⁸ {need to cite but can’t find in any catalog

Carson Johnson testifies y^t in m^rch last hee see 7:Cowes upon his Corne (all Cowes) & y^t Jo Lakes daughter fetcht y^m off w^{ch} was more Cows yⁿ y^e def^t had further y^e def^t testifies y^t hee did not knowe whose Cows any of y^m was:^[59]

From the excerpt above, note the key phrase, “Jo Lakes daughter fetcht y^m [them] off.” John² Lake Jr.’s only known daughter was born well after 1675, so it was certainly a daughter of John¹ and Ann (Spicer) Lake who “fetcht” the cows of Obadiah Wilkins. Who else would have had the opportunity and the motivation to prevent Obadiah’s cows from causing more damage other than his wife Martha?

In 1682, as detailed above, Obadiah Wilkins added a codicil to his will in which he “appointed these my friends whom I repose confidence in namely Samuel Spicer William Williamson William Golding and John Tilton jun^r . . .” to watch over his children. Samuel Spicer was a brother of Ann (Spicer) Lake; William Gouling was the husband of the Margaret² Lake (John¹); and John Tilton Jr. was the brother-in-law of Samuel Spicer. If Martha was the daughter of John¹ and Ann (Spicer) Lake, then Obadiah’s friends Spicer and Gouling were also the uncle and brother-in-law of young widow Martha.

In 1683, Martha Wilkins resided next to John Lake Jr. and two doors away from John Lake Sr.^[60] and, as shown above, the household of John Griggs Jr. was listed as two doors away from that of Ann Lake in the 1698 census. On 25 May 1700, “J. Griggs” shared lots 38 and 39 on Hugh Garretson’s Neck or Gelder Neck with John Lake.^[61]

Despite Stillwell’s other errors, it is logical to conclude that “Metje Leeck” survived to marry both Obadiah Wilkins and John Griggs. Like John¹ Griggs, Martha’s father, John¹ Lake, was not one of the original settlers of Gravesend and—despite claims to the contrary—his origins remain unknown. However, the descendants of Martha (Lake) (Wilkins) Griggs can claim a line of descent from an original Gravesend patentee—Martha’s maternal grandfather was Thomas¹ Spicer.

Arent Van Curler had obtained a patent for one of the plains on Long Island and in the present town of Flatlands . . . he leased the whole to Thomas Spicer. Here Spicer lived when the committee of settlers of the future town of Gravesend were looking for a site and here they met and decided on the location.^[62]

Martha may have been named in honor of Thomas Spicer’s mother, Martha (Grant) Spicer,^[63] or an intermediary namesake descendant. In his will of 29 September 1658, Thomas Spicer left “to [his daughter] Ann Lake, wife of John Lake, 60 gilders [*sic*] for the benefit of her three children,”^[64] one of whom would have been Martha.

FURTHER EVENTS PERTAINING TO JOHN² GRIGGS AND HIS WILKINS STEP-CHILDREN

On 20 March 1685/86, John Hendrick Bruyns (De Bruyn), “a merchant of the city of N.Y., and an Indian trader,” bought of “John Griggs Jun^r” two 15-acre lots, Nos. 1 and 16, in Gravesend.^[65] On 17 April 1690, “Reynier van sicklen” sold a 15-acre lot which he had purchased from “John grigs Junior & Marha [*sic*] Willkings alias grigs” to “adam Michylsen.”^[66]

On 19 November 1694, Benjamin Cooper, “late of Southampton,” and his wife, Eleanor, deeded her stepfather John Griggs, Jr., of Gravesend one fifth part of certain land in Gravesend that formerly belonged to her paternal grandfather William Wilkins.^[67] Thomas W. Cooper II identified Benjamin Cooper as the son of Thomas² and Mary (Raynor) Cooper and the grandson of John¹ and Wibroe (Griggs) (Pierson) Cooper.^[68] Note also that Eleanor (Wilkins) Cooper deeded one-fifth of her grandfather’s land; it is implied that she had four siblings and that the unborn child cited in Obadiah Wilkins’ will survived. From the will of William¹

⁵⁹ *Gravesend Town Records; Book 4: Court Minutes 1662-1669*, Town Records of Kings County Translations/Transliterations, 56; image from the library of The Holland Society of New York, courtesy of David M. Riker.

⁶⁰ DHNY, 2:508-11.

⁶¹ Truesdell, citing *Gravesend Town Records*, 3:91.

⁶² Stillwell, “Gravesend Settlers,” 46.

⁶³ Susan Billings Meech, *A Supplement to the Descendants of Peter Spicer* (Groton, Conn., 1923), 25-28.

⁶⁴ David McQueen, “Kings County, N.Y., Wills,” RECORD 47 (1916):327-28, citing Gravesend Town Records 3:112.

⁶⁵ Bergen, *Early Settlers of Kings County*, 56.

⁶⁶ *Gravesend Town Records, Book 6* (note 29, above), 60-61.

⁶⁷ Frost, “Genealogical Gleanings from Book No. 2 of Conveyances,” RECORD 54:107.

⁶⁸ Thomas W. Cooper II, “The Cooper-Pierson-Griggs Connection: Long Island, Massachusetts, and Buckinghamshire, England,” *The American Genealogist*, 64 (1989):193. See also George Rogers Howell, *The Early History of Southampton, L.I., New York with Genealogies* (Albany: Weed, Parsons and Co., 1887), 217-18, 222.

Wilkins^[69] and a memorandum of agreement with his second wife,^[70] it clear that he had only one son, Obadiah² Wilkins.

Stillwell's faulty assumption that John Griggs married a daughter of Obadiah Wilkins, rather than his widow, may have been based in part on John's proximity to and associations with Obadiah's heirs. On 7 September 1698, Mary Remmersen of Gravesend, widow of Willem¹ Gerritsen and Gerrit¹ Remmersen, deeded property there to her son, "Samuell Garretse," that was bounded by that of John Emans, John Griggs, Jr., with another parcel that was bounded by Reyneer Van Sycklyn and the heirs of Obadiah Wilkins, "now in possession of John Griggs, Jr.," as well as another parcel on Gysbert Island that was bounded by the lands of John Griggs, Jr., and Jeremiah Stillwell.^[71]

The large household of "John Griggs Junir" in the 1698 Kings County Census may have included some of Martha's children by Obadiah Wilkins. The transactions provided below show that by 10 February 1697/98 Obadiah's son, William, was deeding property as a resident of Gravesend, yet he was not identified as the head of a household there in the 1698 census. Given the fact that William³ Wilkins (Obadiah², William¹) named a son *John* ~~but none Obadiah~~, he apparently had a positive relationship with his stepfather and he may be the second man identified in the household of John Griggs. If so, it follows that the woman in the Griggs household may have been the wife of William Wilkins, and that William's mother, Martha (Lake) (Wilkins) Griggs, had died by then.

1697/8, Feb. 10: William Wilkins of Gravesend and wife Else deed Reyneer Vansycklyn of Gravesend land there, bounded by that of Kate Holmes, Wentie Strycker, widow, Jonica Barnes, widow "now in possession of said William Wilkins" eldest son of Obadiah Wilkins, deceased, late of Gravesend. Both sign. Wit. by Henry ffilkin and William Williamse. Ack. and Rec'd Feb. 10, 1697/8 before and by Henry ffilkin, Reg.^[72]

1697-8, Feb. 25. William Wilkins, of Gravesend, sold woodland to Nicholas Stillwell, of Gravesend.

1698, April 13. William Wilkins, eldest son and heir of Obadyah Wilkins, deceased, confirmed a sale, made by his father, of plantation No. 13, in Gravesend, to John Emans.

1698, April 15. William Wilkins, of Gravesend, and Else, his wife, sold to Reynen Van Sycklyn, of Gravesend, twenty acres of land, in Gravesend. *Flatbush Town Records*.^[73]

Note the reference to William Wilkins as the "eldest" son of Obadiah Wilkins; it implies that the unborn child cited in Obadiah's will was a son.

THE DEATHS OF JOHN² AND MARTHA (LAKE) (WILKINS) GRIGGS

On 27 November 1715 John² Griggs and Martha, "his *daughter*," served as baptismal sponsors together for a child of Daniel³ Griggs, suggesting that Martha (Lake) (Wilkins) Griggs was deceased by then. On 18 October 1719, Martha's probable namesake granddaughter was baptized as "Martinus," the first child of Thomas³ Griggs. That Martha, the child's paternal grandmother, was honored before the child's maternal grandmother, also suggests that Martha was deceased. Another namesake granddaughter of Martha was the first daughter named in the will of Benjamin³ Griggs, providing still another indication that Martha (Lake) (Wilkins) Griggs had almost certainly died before 27 November 1715.

On 1 December 1721, Willem² Willemsen of Gravesend made his will; among his children, he identified "Anne, wife of John Griggs, Jr." The inclusion of "Jr." indicates that John² and John³ were both living at that point in time and both were probably residents of Gravesend.

The erroneously-named "1738 Census" of Kings County was actually taken in 1731.^[74] In 1731, the households of John Griggs and Elizabeth Griggs were enumerated between those of "Cournelas Strikar" and Elias Hubbard. The household of John Griggs included just one male above 10 years of age, as well as two males under 10, five females above 10, and one female under ten. Thus, John² Griggs must have died prior to

⁶⁹ "Will of William Wilkins of Gravesend, upon Long Island in Yorkshire. Dated June 11, 1675. Estate to wife Anne Wilkins until death. After her death to son Obadiah Wilkins, after decease of son Obadiah, estate passes to his children. Provision that wife and son shall share estate equally. Executor not named. Witnesses: John Tilton, Senr., Samuel Spicer. Proved Aug. 30, 1694. (Recorded in Liber 2 of Conveyances, page 10.)" (McQueen, "Kings County, N.Y., Wills," RECORD 47:232).

⁷⁰ Frost, "Genealogical Gleanings from Book No. 2 of Conveyances," RECORD 54:106.

⁷¹ Ibid., 54:306.

⁷² Ibid., 54:304.

⁷³ J.E. Stillwell, *Stillwell Genealogy*, 1:126.

⁷⁴ Editors, RECORD, 123 (1992):85.

1731, leaving his widow, second wife Elizabeth, as the sole occupant of the household adjacent to that of his son, John³ Griggs.

From the foregoing analysis, it appears that John² Griggs died before 1731, yet his widow Elizabeth was not empowered to settle his affairs until 21 June 1737:

George Clark, Esq., Lieutenant-Governor, etc. Whereas, John Griggs, of Gravesend, in Kings County, died intestate, Letters of administration are granted to his widow, Elizabeth Griggs, June 21, 1737.^[75]

As noted above, the family group of John² Griggs, as it existed at the time of his death, is identical with the heirs named in the inventory for a John Griggs that was supposedly, but doubtfully, recorded in 1685.^[76]

THE SONS OF JOHN² GRIGGS IN GRAVESEND AND NEW JERSEY

All the sons of Martha (Lake) (Wilkins) Griggs, by both of her husbands, settled in New Jersey. Benjamin, Daniel, and Thomas Griggs remained there; however, John Griggs, and perhaps Samuel Griggs, returned to Gravesend, probably upon the death of their father. There are a few records of the Griggs brothers' early lives in Gravesend.

In 1710, "Daniell Griggs" reportedly signed his name to an unknown document.^[77] Walter S. Griggs claimed that "Thomas Griggs was commissioned Justice of the Peace of Somerset County, New Jersey," in 1711. However, it was actually Thomas Grubb who held this post;^[78] Thomas Griggs was still residing in Gravesend in 1711. On 9 June 1713, Daniel Griggs and Thomas Griggs witnessed a deed between "William Johnson and Jannetje his wife Relecks of Martin Peterson Wyckoff" and Samuel Hubbard, both of Gravesend.^[79]

On 4 January 1715/16, Daniel Griggs and Benjamin Griggs signed a petition to "appoint John Lake and John Simonson . . . [to engage] Mr. Freeman and Mr. Antonides, ministers of the gospel of Jesus Christ . . . [to perform] services in our said Town of Gravesend."^[80] In 1715, John and Thomas Griggs were identified as members of Capt. Daniel Remsen's Troop; Benjamin, Daniel and Samuel Griggs were cited as members of Capt. Thomas Stillwell's Militia Company at Gravesend.^[81]

Daniel Griggs married Jacomyntje³ Gulick (Jochem², Hendrick¹). Some of the Griggs brothers may have migrated to New Jersey with other members of the Gulick family of Gravesend. "Jocham Guileck" purchased land in the southern part of Somerset County as early as May 1710.^[82]

On 25 March 1718, in the New Brunswick Reformed Dutch Church, "Jakementie Gulick" and "Pieter Gulick" served as witnesses for the baptism of "Jakementie," daughter of Cornelis³ Williamson (Willem² Willemsen, Willem¹ Gerritsen) and Grietje³ Gulick (Jochem², Hendrick¹). However, it is uncertain if this "Jakementie Gulick" was the wife of Daniel Griggs or his mother-in-law, Jacomyntje² Teunis (Van Pelt) Gulick.^[83]

On 12 March 1720, John and Benjamin Griggs, "both of Long Isleland in the provence of New York Yeoman," purchased property in Somerset County from John Harrison. By 1723, Benjamin was identified as yeoman "of the County of Somerset." The Griggs family resided in the Eastern Precinct of Somerset County, which was later known as Franklin Township.^[84] Although settlement had begun in this area as early as 1681, it soon became known as Griggstown.^[85]

Benjamin [Griggs] and his brothers [Daniel, Samuel and Thomas] located on Millstone River, built a grist mill and established the present village of Griggstown. Daniel owned a farm near Flemington, New Jersey, which has remained in the family until recent

⁷⁵ *Abstracts of Wills on File in the Surrogate's Office, City of New York*, 17 vols., Collections of The New York Historical Society 1892-1908 [hereafter WNYHS], 3:83.

⁷⁶ See above, RECORD 136:250.

⁷⁷ Bergen, *Early Settlers of Kings County*, 126.

⁷⁸ "Somerset Civil List, 1688-1799 Supplementary to Snell's 'Civil List,'" *Somerset County Historical Quarterly* [hereafter SCHQ], 8 (1919):36.

⁷⁹ Charles Arthur Hoppin, *The Washington Ancestry and Records of the McClain, Johnson, and Forty Other Colonial American Families* (Greenfield, Ohio: Edward Lee McClain, 1932), 3:15, citing Kings Co., N.Y., Conveyances, 4:36.

⁸⁰ William Henry Stillwell, *History of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church of Gravesend, Kings County, N.Y.* ([New York]: The Consistory, 1892), 12 [hereafter Stillwell, *Dutch Church of Gravesend*].

⁸¹ "A True List of the Respective Officers and Souldiers [sic] Belonging to the Regiment of Militia in Kings County; 1715," DHNY, 3:115-16.

⁸² Fred Sisser III, correspondence with Mary Ellen White (10 July 2000), courtesy of Mary Ellen White.

⁸³ New Brunswick First Reformed Church Baptisms," *Proceedings of the New Jersey Historical Society*, New Series, 11:206; RECORD 135 (2004):205-07.

⁸⁴ Fred Sisser III, "Identifying Willemtje, the Wife of Samuel Griggs," *Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey* [hereafter GMNJ] 69 (1994):133.

⁸⁵ James P. Snell, *History of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties, New Jersey* (Philadelphia, Pa.: Everts & Peck, 1881), 802.

years. These brothers were progressive men, raised large families, and they and their descendants were prominently identified in all the affairs of the state.^[86]

Griggs sold the mill to Nicholas Veghte in 1752 and by 1770, it was owned by Abraham Van Doren. In 1831 the mill was removed to make way for the construction of the Delaware & Raritan Canal and a new mill was constructed on the west side of the canal adjacent to the causeway.^[87]

John³ Griggs served as a Justice of the Peace in Somerset County in 1725.^[88] On 11 September 1726, Rachel Griggs was baptized at New Brunswick as the daughter of “Jan and Antje Griggs.” John returned to Gravesend where he is listed in the census of 1731 with five daughters and two sons; he owned three slaves there in 1755. Obviously, events that occurred after 1731 and were attributed to John² Griggs by Stillwell actually pertained to John³ Griggs.

In 1726/27, the land of Daniel³ Griggs in Somerset County was mentioned in the will of Jacques Cortelyou.^[89] In 1730, he was commissioned Justice of the Peace of Somerset County.^[90] In 1731, Daniel witnessed the will of his brother-in-law, John Gulick of Rockhill [Rocky Hill], Somerset County.^[91]

In 1731, Samuel Griggs was commissioned Justice of the Peace of Somerset County.^[92]

In 1735, “Daniel Greggs” was taxed £1.7.0 in Franklin Township, Somerset County, for 136 acres, nine cows and seven sheep; “Benyeman Greggs” owned 4 acres; “Sammuel Greggs” owned 150 acres; and “Tomas Greggs” owned 30 acres.^[93] In 1739, Daniel Griggs was commissioned Justice of the Peace of the Quorum of Somerset County.^[94] On 20 August 1748, Daniel Griggs purchased a 100-acre plantation in Amwell Township, Hunterdon County, New Jersey, from Thomas Atkinson.^[95] He remained there until his death, making his will on 22 August 1757:

In the Name of God Amen I Daniel Griggs of the Township of Amwell in the County of Hunterdon and Western Division of the Province of New Jersey. . . . I Give unto my Eldest Son Named John the Sum of Ten Pounds to be paid him in full Satisfaction of his Primogeniture or birth right. . . . my Beloved wife Jacomincha. . . . my Two Sons named John and Joacham. . . . my other Two Sons named Daniel and Samuel. . . . my Daughter Catline. . . . my Daughter mary. . . . my Daughter Margret. . . . Samuel Hulluck [*sic*, possibly Gulick], Martin [Shipening], and Jacob Matteson served as witnesses. Daniel’s will was proved on 14 November 1759 by John and Daniel Griggs.

Benjamin Griggs made his will 23 March 1762:

Will of GRIGGS, Benjamin, of Somerset County, yeoman. Son, Daniel, £200. Grandson, Benjamin Griggs son of John Griggs, deceased, £25. Children, Samuel, Barrent, Benjamin, Daniel, Reuben, and daughters Martha (wife of Rem Vanderbeeck), Jane (wife of Aron Bennitt), and Elianer (wife of John Sutfin), rest of my estate. Wife to be supported. Executors—my sons Samuel and Daniel and son-in-law Rem Vanderbeck. Witness—Nicholas Veghts, Francis Feurt, Issac Wilkins. Proved Feb 23, 1768.^[96]

ISAAC WILKINS—THE SECOND SON OF OBADIAH² WILKINS?

Who was the Isaac Wilkins who witnessed the will of Benjamin Griggs in 1762? He was not the son of William³ Wilkins (Obadiah², William¹), per William³’s will. Could he be the second son born posthumously to Obadiah² Wilkins in 1682? By 1762, all of Benjamin Griggs’s full brothers may have been deceased so his half-brother might have been his next best choice to witness his will, rather than a half-nephew. In any case, the sons of Obadiah Wilkins certainly grew up in Gravesend with the sons of John² Griggs.

GENEALOGICAL SUMMARY^[97]

1. JOHN¹ GRIGGS was born, probably in England, *circa* 1638 or earlier, based on the fact that he entered into a lease in 1659. John died at Gravesend after 1698 when the households of John Griggs Sr. and John

⁸⁶ Griggs, *The Genealogy of the Griggs Family*, 45.

⁸⁷ Citizens to Preserve Griggstown, “Griggstown History,” <<http://www.delphipublish.com/middlesex/griggstown/griggstown.html>> (viewed 1 Sept. 2005).

⁸⁸ “Somerset Civil List 1688-1799,” SCHQ, 8 (1919):36.

⁸⁹ WNYHS 3: 31.

⁹⁰ “Somerset Civil List,” SCHQ 8:36.

⁹¹ *Calendar of New Jersey Wills 1665-1817*, New Jersey Archives First Series, 13 vols. (1901-1949), 3:136.

⁹² Griggs, *The Genealogy of the Griggs Family*, 48, from “Somerset Civil List,” SCHQ 8:36.

⁹³ Snell, *History of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties*, 815.

⁹⁴ “Somerset Civil List,” SCHQ 8:36.

⁹⁵ 1794 Deed between Henry Groff and Samuel Groff, Hunterdon Co., N.J., Deeds, 19:180.

⁹⁶ *Calendar of New Jersey Wills*, 4:166.

⁹⁷ Where no source is cited, the event is mentioned and documented in the preceding installments.

Griggs Jr. were listed adjacent to each other in the Kings County census, and possibly before 25 May 1700, when “J. Griggs” and “John Griggs,” without designation as Sr. or Jr., were assigned lots in Gravesend. He was almost certainly deceased before 1703, when John Griggs, without designation as Sr. or Jr., deeded mill property. John was married to ____; she apparently died before the 1698 census was taken, as “John Grigs Senior” then had only four slaves sharing his household.

The only known child of John¹ Griggs was:

2. JOHN² GRIGGS (John¹), born possibly at Gravesend but perhaps elsewhere, *circa* 1662 or earlier, based on his inclusion in the Gravesend Rate List of 1683. He died at Gravesend after his last marriage on 28 March 1728 but certainly before 1731 when he was not identified in the erroneously-named “1738 Census” of Kings County. John was first married by a license dated 5 December 1684 to MARTHA² (LAKE) WILKINS, daughter of John¹ and Ann (Spicer) Lake of Gravesend and widow of Obadiah² Wilkins (William¹). John Griggs “of Gravesend” was married second in the Presbyterian Church of Newtown, Queens County, New York, on 28 March 1728 to ELIZABETH WOOD;^[98] Elizabeth Griggs was the sole resident of the household adjacent to that of John³ Griggs in 1731; she was perhaps identical with the “Mrs. Griggs” who died at Newtown on 22 November 1744.^[99]

First wife Martha was baptized as “Metje,” daughter of “Jan Leeck,” in the New Amsterdam Dutch Church on 20 May 1652; she may have died at Gravesend prior to the 1698 census of Kings County but she almost certainly died prior to 27 November 1715 when her daughter represented her at the baptism of a namesake granddaughter, the other sponsor being John² Griggs.

Martha was first married to Obadiah Wilkins, perhaps as early as 1668 when “jo Lakes daughter fetcht” Obadiah’s cows. Obadiah Wilkins was born *circa* 1648 or earlier, since he was granted land on 6 January 1670; he died shortly after 26 March 1682 when he made a codicil to his will. He was the son of Gravesend patentee William Wilkins but it was beyond the scope of this article to identify his mother.^[100]

Children of Obadiah and Martha (Lake) Wilkins, ordered as named in their father’s will, first four born prior to 25 March 1682:

- i. William³ Wilkins, b. ca. 1677 or earlier based on 1698 land transactions; m. perhaps by 1698 Aeke/Alice ____; d. Upper Freehold, Monmouth Co., N.J., before 22 Jan. 1732/3 (will proved). Children, per father’s will, except the eldest (Wilkins): 1. (prob) *Obadiab*. 2. *Sarab*. 3. *Deborah*. 4. *Elizabeth*. 5. *Alice*. 6. *William*. 7. *Nebemiah*. 8. *Samuel*. 9. *John*.^[101]
- ii. Eleanor Wilkins, m. before 1694 Benjamin Cooper of Southampton, son of Thomas and Mary (Raynor) Cooper.
- iii. Rebecca Wilkins.
- iv. Ann Wilkins.
- v. (probably) Isaac Wilkins, b. shortly after 25 March 1682 when an unborn child was mentioned in the will of Obadiah Wilkins; d. perhaps after 23 March 1762 when he possibly witnessed the will of [his maternal half-brother] Benjamin³ Griggs (John²⁻¹) in Somerset Co., N.J.; the son implied by references to his brother, William Wilkins, as the “eldest” son of Obadiah.

Children of John² and Martha (Lake) (Wilkins) Griggs, identified in his estate inventory, all born after 5 December 1684; at least five sons born no later than 1699; birth order uncertain:

- 3 i. John³ Griggs, b. say 1686; m. Anne Willemsen.
- 4 ii. Benjamin Griggs, b. say 1688; m. Margrietje Janse/Johnson.
- 5 iii. Daniel Griggs, b. ca. 1689 or earlier, based on the claim that “Daniell Griggs” signed his name to an unknown document in 1710.^[102]; m. (1) Catharine ____; m. (2) Jacomyntje Gulick.

⁹⁸ Wilson V. Ledley, *New Netherland Families* (MS., 1 Nov. 1958) [hereafter Ledley, *New Netherland Families*], citing “Records of the Presbyterian Church, Newtown (now Elmhurst), Queens County, Long Island, N.Y.,” RECORD 56 (1925):81.

⁹⁹ RECORD 56:355.

¹⁰⁰ Two apparent “red herrings,” or false leads, both pertain to Holmes families of Gravesend. First, as noted above, Obadiah purchased Plantation No. 13 which was originally granted to George Holmes and had subsequently belonged to William Wilkins. The first wife of George Holmes was named Rebecca so it was tempting to speculate that Rebecca³ Wilkins (Obadiah², William¹) was her great-granddaughter; however, it has been asserted that Rebecca (—) Holmes bore no children (J.E. Stillwell, *Stillwell Genealogy*, 1:122-24) and there is no reason to think otherwise. Second, several children of Rev. Obadiah Holmes of Massachusetts and Rhode Island settled in Gravesend so it was tempting to speculate that the mother of Obadiah Wilkins was another heretofore unidentified daughter of the same; however, the heirs of Obadiah Holmes are well-documented in his will. There is no known connection between George Holmes and Obadiah Holmes.

¹⁰¹ Wife and children as named in his will, except probable eldest son, Obadiah (*Calendar of New Jersey Wills*, 2:528). It would have been logical for William Wilkins to name a son in honor of his prematurely-deceased father and there is a likely match in New Jersey records: On 7 Feb 1732/33, the inventory of Obadiah Wilkins of Upper Freehold, Monmouth Co. was recorded for Administrator William Wilkins of the same place, yeoman, with fellow bondsmen Nehemiah Wilkins and William Kinnan (New Jersey Wills, 2:527).

¹⁰² Bergen, *Early Settlers of Kings County*, 126.

- 6 iv. Thomas Griggs, b. ca. 1692 or earlier, since on 9 June 1713, Daniel Griggs and Thomas Griggs witnessed a deed between “William Johnson and Jannetje his wife Relecks of Martin Peterson Wyckoff” and Samuel Hubbard, both of Gravesend.^[103]; probably m. Magdalena DePuy.
- v. Samuel Griggs, b. say 1694; living in 1737 when he took possession of two cows from his father’s estate, per the inventory described above. This may indicate that he returned to Gravesend from N.J. and, if so, would lend support towards concluding that he was identical with the “Samuel Griggs of Kings County, New York . . . near York Ferry” who d. Craven Co., North Carolina, between 3 Sept. 1749 and June 1750, despite the latter’s statement in his will that he was “aged about forty Seven years.”^[104] The will is very difficult to read but also identifies his wife Elizabeth and an associate named Walter or William Lake, who may have been a kinsman.^[105] In any case, there is no record of Samuel’s death in N.Y. or N.J., nor any indication that he had any children.
- vi. Martha Griggs, doubtless identical with the Martha Griggs who married Jacobus³ Stryker, bapt. Reformed Protestant Dutch Church, Flatbush 27 Aug 1682^[106], d. 1748, son of Gerrit² Stryker (Jacobus¹) and Wyntje Cornelise Boomgaert; Wyntje was “The Widow Strycker” of Gravesend. Children (Stryker):^[107] 1. *Wyntje*, bapt. Gravesend 13 July 1718 with sponsors Wyntje Stryker and Cornelis Stryker; baptized on the same day as her first cousin, Barend⁴ Griggs (Benjamin³, John²⁻¹); named in honor of her paternal grandmother; m. Matthias Lane^[108], also known as “Tise Laan,” probably the son of “Thijs”³ (Hendrick², Mattys¹ Jansen Lanen Van Pelt) and Catrina Blom; “wynte Stryker” and “Tey Lane” were the parents of “Catriena,” bapt. at Oyster Bay Dutch Church on 25 May 1760.^[109] 2. *Mercy*, m. Cornelius Van Cott. 3. *John*, named in honor of maternal grandfather; m. Sarah Crooker. 4. *Garret*, b. 20 May 1726; named in honor of paternal grandfather; m. Ann Albertson.

3. JOHN³ GRIGGS (John²⁻¹), born Gravesend say 1686; died [Gravesend,] Kings County, intestate, and letters of administration were granted to his widow Ann on 14 April 1761.^[110] He married *circa* 1715 ANNE³ WILLEMSSEN, baptized as “Annatje” at Gravesend 29 May 1695 with sponsors [paternal half-uncle] Samuel Gerritsen and [maternal aunt] Geertje Pieters [Wyckoff], died after 19 May 1773, daughter of Willem² Willemsen (Willem¹ Gerritsen) and Mayken² Pieters Wyckoff (Pieter¹ Claesen).

John³ Griggs was commissioned as an Assistant Justice for the Inferior Court of Common Pleas for the County of Kings on 14 October 1751.^[111]

Children of John and Anne (Willemsen) Griggs, birth order uncertain, known children ordered as identified by Stryker-Rodda^[112] with additional possible and probable children inserted as follows:

- i. (possibly) Catherine⁴ Griggs, perhaps named in honor of the first wife of her uncle Daniel Griggs who d. 27 Nov. 1715 and, if so, was probably born shortly thereafter; m. 1 July 1736 July 1 Cornelius Bois.^[113] This placement, courtesy of Frank Griggs, represents a correction to ~~Redley~~ (note 98, above) Stillwell, *Gravesend Settlers* in which Catherine was identified as a dau. of John² Griggs.
- ii. Maria Griggs, named in honor of maternal grandmother, bapt. Gravesend 13 Dec. 1716, sponsors [maternal grandfather] Willem Willemsen and [paternal aunt] Martha Griggs.^[114] She may have m. Samuel Garretsen, possibly a fellow descendant of her great-grandmother, Mary _____, by her second husband, Gerrit¹ Remmersen.^[115]
- iii. Martha Griggs, named in honor of paternal grandmother; bapt. Gravesend 26 April 1719, sponsors [paternal uncle] Benjamin Griggs and [his wife] Margrietje Griggs;^[116] m. (1) John Van Dyke, son of Hendrick and Engeltie ([Terhune?])

¹⁰³ Charles Arthur Hoppin, *The Washington Ancestry and Records of the McClain, Johnson, and Forty Other Colonial American Families* (Greenfield, Ohio: Edward Lee McClain, 1932), 3:15, citing Kings Co., N.Y., Conveyances, 4:36.

¹⁰⁴ North Carolina State Archives, Manuscript and Archives Reference System ID 12.96.1.862 (Folder); proven at Craven Co., N.C., in “June Court 1750” and “Recorded in . . . Book L Page 273.”

¹⁰⁵ Multiple databases in the WorldConnect Project of RootsWeb.com include a William⁴ Lake III (William³⁻², John¹), b. Hunterdon Co., N.J., 1 June 1715; d. S.C. 1 June 1785. If such a person actually existed, he would have been a first cousin once-removed to Samuel³ Griggs (John²⁻¹); however, the will of William² Lake (*Calendar of N.J. Wills* 1:279) identifies no son named William.

¹⁰⁶ David William Voorhees, *Records of The Reformed Protestant Dutch Church of Flatbush, Kings County, New York*, 1:418

¹⁰⁷ William Norman Stryker, *The Stryker Family of America* (Rome, N.Y.: the author, 1979), 16, 19, 36.

¹⁰⁸ Anne Van Wyck, *Descendants of Cornelius Barentse Van Wyck and Anna Polhemus* (New York: Tobias A. Wright, 1912), 142.

¹⁰⁹ “Reformed Dutch Church of Wolver Hollow (Oyster Bay), Long Island,” RECORD 73 (1942):33.

¹¹⁰ WNYHS 6:444.

¹¹¹ Edmund B. O’Callaghan, *Calendar of New York Colonial Commissions 1680-1770* (The New-York Historical Society, 1929), 37.

¹¹² Harriet Stryker-Rodda, “Some 17th and 18th Century Williamsons of L.I. and N.J.,” MS., NYG&B Society Library. Aline L. Garretson, “The Gerritsen-Willemsen Family Record, and the Williamson Family of Gravesend,” RECORD 134 [2002]:170, wrote, “They continued to live in Gravesend where John Griggs was recorded in the 1731 census with one male above 10 years of age and two males under 10, five females above 10, and one female under 10. . . . [Children: Maria, Martha, John, Lydia, Ann (citing Stryker-Rodda)]. On the basis of the 1731 census one daughter and one son of John Griggs Jr. may remain unaccounted for.”

¹¹³ *New York Marriages Previous to 1784*, 160.

¹¹⁴ Stillwell, *Dutch Church of Gravesend*, 54.

¹¹⁵ Stillwell, “Gravesend Settlers,” 143, reports this marriage, but supporting evidence has not been found and it is unclear which Samuel Gerritsen it refers to.

¹¹⁶ *Ibid.*, 55.

- Van Dyck^[117] (the identification of John's parents represents a correction to Bergen,^[118] courtesy of Frank Griggs). Martha m. (2) Adolph Benson.^[119]
- iv. (probably) Rachel Griggs, bap. New Brunswick, N.J., 11 Sept. 1726 as the dau. of "Jan and Antje Griggs."
 - v. John Griggs, b. before 1731, named in honor of paternal grandfather and father; probably identical with the John Griggs who m. (lic.) 2 Feb. 1758 Martha Schenk^[120] and/or the John Griggs of Newburgh, Ulster Co., N.Y., who made his will 3 Nov. 1779, identifying wife Martha, eldest son Samuel, sons John and Ferdinand, as well as daughters Elizabeth, Sarah, and Mary; the will was proved 5 Dec. 1782.^[121] The occurrence of the distinctive name, *Ferdinand*, in this family suggests a possible connection to the Van Sicklen family of Gravesend. Court Johnson, who Stillwell identified as a son of Hendrick and and Eva (Van Sicklen) Johnson,¹²² may have been identical with the Coert Johnson who served as a baptismal sponsor for a John Griggs at Gravesend on 21 August 1768 and Ledley thought that the latter was probably the son of John⁴ Griggs and Martha Schenk.¹²³
 - vi. (probably) Willem Griggs, b. before 1731, named in honor of maternal grandfather. No record of marriage or children, but a nephew was probably named in his honor—John Van Dyke Jr. identified "brother Willem G." in his will;^[124] also William Griggs V[an] Dyck was bap. at Gravesend on 20 July 1792 as the son of William V[an] Dyck and Jannitje.^[125]
 - vii. Lydia Griggs, bap. New Utrecht 25 Feb. 1732/3; m. 16 June 1757 Joost Van Brunt of New Utrecht, b. 4 March 1731, d. 8 Feb. 1814, son of Rutgers and Elizabeth (Van Voorhees) Van Brunt; resided at Jamaica, Queens Co. Joost m. (2) Elizabeth Duryea.^[126]
 - viii. Ann Griggs, named in honor of mother; as a correction to Ledley (note 98, above), courtesy of Frank Griggs, she was probably identical with the Ann Griggs who m. (lic.) 12 Aug. 1755 Bernardus Voorhees^[127] and d. Gravesend 14 Jan 1760 and was buried there. Bernardus was b. Gravesend 1 March 1725, d. Gravesend 10 Dec. 1769, bur. Gravesend, son of Coert and Annetje (Van Dyck) Voorhees; he m. (2) Femmetje Latter.^[128] Annetje (Van Dyck) was a second cousin to the John Van Dyck who m. Ann's sister, Martha. Child, surname Voorhees: 1. *Anne*, b. 4 March 1758; d. 5 June 1821; m. (1) ca. 1778 her first cousin, Albert Voorhees, son of Albert and Catharyntje (DeRiemer) Voorhees; m. (2) Gravesend 25 Dec 1797 Thomas Turnbull.^[129]

4. BENJAMIN³ GRIGGS (John²⁻¹), born Gravesend say 1688; died Griggstown, Franklin Township, Somerset County, New Jersey, between 23 March 1762 when he made his will and 20 January 1768 when his will was proved. He married MARGRIETJE JANSE/JOHNSON, baptized Flatbush Dutch Church 29 November 1695, daughter of Jan Barentse Van Driest (or Van Zutphen), progenitor of a Johnson family, and his wife, Jannetje Willems Van Barkeloo.^[130]

Children of Benjamin and Margrietje (Janse/Johnson) Griggs, birth order uncertain; grouped by gender and ordered as they appear in their father's will, which also names daughters' husbands; actual naming order may have been influenced by maternal Dutch heritage:

- i. John⁴ Griggs, named in honor of paternal and maternal grandfathers, b. Gravesend, ca. 1715; d. Toms River, Monmouth Co., N.J., before 20 January 1758, "leaving a son Benjamin, who was mentioned in his grandfather's will. Administration was granted to Nicolas Vaghte, of Somerset County, principal creditor, January 20, 1758^[131]; ancestor of John E. Griggs (a contributor to this article).
- ii. Samuel Griggs, named in honor of paternal uncle, bap. Gravesend 20 Sept. 1717, sponsors [paternal uncle] Samuel Griggs and [his paternal aunt?] Martha Griggs;^[132] d. South Ward, New Brunswick, Middlesex Co., N.J., after 13 Feb.

¹¹⁷ Will of Hendrick Van Dyck "of the Yellow Hook, in the town of Brookland, in Kings County" in which he names "my friend John Griggs" as one of his executors (WNYHS 4:366-67).

¹¹⁸ Bergen, *Early Settlers of Kings County*, 336.

¹¹⁹ *Ibid.*

¹²⁰ *New York Marriages Previous to 1784*, 160.

¹²¹ WNYHS 9:298-99.

¹²² Stillwell, *Gravesend Settlers*, 201-02.

¹²³ Wilson V. Ledley, *New Netherland Families* (MS., 1 Nov. 1958) [confirmation of secondary source or original baptismal record needed]

¹²⁴ WNYHS 8:93 and Bergen, *Early Settlers of Kings County*, 336-37.

¹²⁵ Stillwell, *Dutch Church of Gravesend*, 59.

¹²⁶ Florence A. Christoph, comp. and ed., *The Van Voorhees Family in America, The First Six Generations* (Baltimore, 2000), 57-58.

¹²⁷ *New York Marriages Previous to 1784*, 160.

¹²⁸ Christoph, *The Van Voorhees Family*, 56-67, 174-175.

¹²⁹ *Ibid.*, 414.

¹³⁰ Mrs. John M. Spell, "The Van Barkelo Family in America," RECORD 84 (1953):72. That Margrietje married Benjamin Griggs is derived from the following: "Adrian Bennet married (2nd), Jane Griggs, a daughter of Benjamin & Margrietje (Van Driest) Griggs, one time residents of Gravesend, L.I. and later of Somerset County, N.J." (Wilson V. Ledley, "Willem Adrianse Bennet of Brooklyn, N.Y., and Some of His Descendants," RECORD 94 (1963): PAGE?); Bergen identified her as Margrietje Janse, daughter of Jan Barentse Van Driest (*Early Settlers of Kings County* 329). However, it appears that Jan Barentse would have been more accurately described by the toponym of Van Zutphen (Charles Arthur Hoppin, *The Washington Ancestry and Records of the McClain, Johnson, and Forty Other Colonial Families*, Vol. 3, page 15)

¹³¹ Francis Bazley Lee, *Genealogical and Memorial History of the State of New Jersey* (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1910), 1:820.

¹³² Stillwell, *Dutch Church of Gravesend*, 54.

- 1770 when he made his will but before 20 Feb. 1772 when it was proven.^[133] He m. Willemptje Terhune, b. ca. 1718, d. Middlesex Co. after April 1772, dau. of Albert and Elizabeth (—) Terhune.^[134]
- iii. Barrent Griggs, named in honor of mother's brother and paternal grandfather, bap. as "Barend" Griggs at Gravesend 13 July 1718, sponsors [paternal uncle] John "Gridge" and [his wife] Antje "Gridge."^[135] He m. Jacomentje⁴ Gulick (Johannes³, Jochem², Hendrick¹)¹³⁶, d. probably after 6 August 1795¹³⁷, dau. of Johannes³ and Rensje (Van Sickelen) Gulick; ancestors of Frank L. Griggs (a contributor to this article).
 - iv. Benjamin Griggs, named in honor of father; possibly identical with the Benjamin "Greggs" of Freehold, Monmouth Co., N.J., who was m. there on 23 June 1763^[138] by license dated 11 June 1763 to "Yocamincha Sutphin" [Jacomyntje Sutphen], with bondsman "Derrick Zutphen," both of Freehold¹³⁹; she was the dau. of Dirck and Grietje (Van Pelt) Sutphen.
 - v. Daniel Griggs; m. Anne Moone, dau. of Dr. Jacob and Anne (—) Moone of Rocky Hill, Somerset Co., N.J.; he is identified in wills of both his father and his mother-in-law.^[140]
 - vi. Reuben Griggs, d. between 31 Jan. 1765 and 18 March 1765 (dates of will); never married; physician.^[141]
 - vii. Martha Griggs, named in honor of paternal grandmother; m. Rem Vanderbeek.
 - viii. Jannetje/Jane Griggs, named in honor of maternal grandmother, m. Adrian Bennett; he was probably bap. New Brunswick Dutch Church, Middlesex Co., N.J., 18 June 1721, son of Adriaen and Barbara (Vonk/Vonck) Bennet.^[142]
 - ix. Eleanor Griggs, m. (1) Theodorus Monfort; m. (2) John Sutphen. ^[143]

5. DANIEL³ GRIGGS (John²⁻¹), born Gravesend circa 1689 or earlier; died Amwell Township, Hunterdon County, New Jersey, between 22 August 1757 when he wrote his will and 14 November 1759 when his will was proved. He married (1) circa 1714 or earlier CATHARINE "CATERINA" _____, who presumably died at Gravesend in childbirth, or shortly thereafter, but she had certainly *overleden* (passed away) before her daughter was baptized on 27 November 1715, per a note associated with the child's baptismal record.^[144] Daniel married (2) after 27 November 1715, JACOMYNTJE³ GULICK¹⁴⁵, also recorded as "Jaquamintie" and "Jacominch," daughter of Jochem² Gulick (Hendrick¹) of Gravesend and his wife, Jacomyntje Teunis Van Pelt.^[146]

Child of Daniel and Catharine/Caterina (—) Griggs:

- i. Phebe⁴ Griggs, third child baptized in the register of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church of Gravesend, bap. as "Feben" or "Febey" 27 Nov. 1715 (see above) with sponsors [paternal grandfather] John Griggs and Martha "his daughter"; named perhaps in honor of her unknown maternal grandmother. She may have died young since she is not named in her father's will. However, there is also some evidence to suggest that Phebe may have remained in Gravesend, perhaps with members of her mother's family, when the Griggs and Gulick families migrated to New Jersey. A Phebe Griggs, wife of Court Johnson, was identified as a communicant of the Gravesend church on 25 Aug. 1794.^[147] Stillwell identified Court Johnson as a son of Hendrick and Eva (Van Sicklen) Johnson of Gravesend and asserted that Court "had a wife Phebe [and children including] Catherine [named in honor of maternal grandmother?] who married Cornelius Van Sicklen" and "Martha

¹³³ *Calendar of New Jersey Wills* 5:212, abstracting Liber K, p. 455.

¹³⁴ Fred Sisser III, "Identifying Willemptje, the Wife of Samuel Griggs," *GMNJ* 69 (1994):133.

¹³⁵ Stillwell, *Dutch Church of Gravesend*, 55.

¹³⁶ That Jacomentje was the daughter of Johannes³ Gulick is deduced from the following: First, Johanne Gulick owned a share of the Rocky Hill copper mine between Rocky Hill and Griggstown in Somerset County (William B. Brahm, "Franklin Township, Somerset County, NJ—A History"; hereafter *Brahms*); second, Johannes Gulick identified "Jochamyntia" as one of his five children in his will of 24 March 1731 (*Calendar of New Jersey Wills* 1751-1760, Vol. III: 136, abstracting Hunterdon County Will 365 J); and finally, On 16 July 1755 Barrent Griggs and his wife, "Jacomentje," sold their "fifth part of the one half" share in the Rocky Hills copper mine that "formerly belonged to Johanes Gulick," (*Brahms*, 247).

¹³⁷ John Gulick, in a letter of 6 August 1795 to his "Loving Brother" wrote: "I'd be glad if you would rightto [sic] me... where sister Jemima lives," implying that she was still living (Sharon Gulick, "The Gulick Family History," WorldConnect Database, RootsWeb.com, viewed 3 March 2006).

¹³⁸ Benjamin Griggs Family Bible, "Jersey Genealogy" column of *Newark Evening News*, ?1910.

¹³⁹ Family Bible & Records Genealogical Society of New Jersey, Archibald S. Alexander Library, Rutgers, NJ, p. 1437 [uncertain if this documents the marriage and/or her parentage].

¹⁴⁰ *Calendar of New Jersey Wills* 4:292 (will of Anne, widow of Dr. Jacob Moone).

¹⁴¹ *Calendar of New Jersey Wills* 4:166-67. The will names all of his brothers and sisters.

¹⁴² Wilson V. Ledley, "Willem Adriane Bennet of Brooklyn, N.Y., and Some of His Descendants," *RECORD* 94 (1963):208-09.

¹⁴³ Her brother Reuben's will (note 141, above) mentions the children of his sister Eleanor by "Theodorus Monfort, late deceased," and by John Sutfin. Father's will calls her wife of John Sutfin.

¹⁴⁴ Stillwell, *Dutch Church of Gravesend*, 54.

¹⁴⁵ Jochem² Gulick of Gravesend identified a daughter "Jaquamintie" in his will of 20 December 1711 (Abstracts of Unrecorded Wills, Vol XI, pages 93-4; Surrogates Office, City of New York). Daniel³ Griggs identified his "Beloved wife Jacomincha" in his will. These names are both phonetic spelling variations of *Jacomyntje*. There were numerous associations between the Griggs and Gulick families in Gravesend and New Jersey. Daniel and Jacomincha named their second son Joakem/Joachim; there can be no doubt that he was named in honor of his maternal grandfather, Jochem² Gulick.

¹⁴⁶ Dorothy A. Koenig, "European Origins of Adrian Lamberts Smith and the Brothers Lanen Van Pelt," *New Netherland Connections* 4 (1999):8.

¹⁴⁷ Stillwell, *Dutch Church of Gravesend*, 48.

[named in honor of mother's paternal grandmother?] who married John Van Dyke".¹⁴⁸ On 21 August 1768, a Coert Johnson served as a sponsor for the baptism of a John Griggs who was possibly the son of John³⁻²⁻¹ Griggs.¹⁴⁹

Children of Daniel and Jacomyntje (Gulick) Griggs, based on wills of Daniel and sons Joakem⁴ and Daniel⁴; grouped by gender, in order of appearance in their father's will; naming probably influenced by their mother's Dutch heritage:

- ii. John⁴ Griggs, eldest son, named in honor of paternal grandfather; b. [N.J.]; d. Amwell Township, Hunterdon Co., N.J., between 29 Feb. and 3 Aug. 1805 (dates of will, below); m. "Catherine Bower, dau. of Philip"¹⁵⁰ Bower of Amwell. Children named in will: 1. *Nelly*⁵, m. Isaac Marsh. 2. *Sarah*, b. ca. 1764; d. Hunterdon Co., N.J. 22 June 1853; bur. Griggs Burial Ground "in her 89th year."¹⁵¹ 3. *Elizabeth*, b. ca. 1767; d. Hunterdon Co., N.J., 25 July 1857; bur. Griggs Burial Ground "in her 90th year."¹⁵²
Will: Feb. 29. [1805] Griggs, John of Amwell Township, Hunterdon Co. will of, Daughter, Nelly (wife of Isaac Marsh), \$400. Daughters, Sarah and Elizabeth Griggs, remainder of real and personal estate to be divided between them. Executors—daughters, Sarah and Elizabeth Griggs, and Andrew Van Fleet (son of Andrew). Witnesses—James Clark, Cornelius Wyckoff, Nathaniel Saxton. (Recorded, Surrogate's office, Hunterdon Co.) 1805, Aug. 3. Inventory \$2,090.17; made by Cornelius Wyckoff and Jonathan Higgins, Jr.¹⁵³
- iii. Joakem Griggs, also known as Joachim Griggs; named in honor of maternal grandfather; b. 28 Aug 1723 per age at death; d. as a resident of Amwell Township, Hunterdon Co., N.J. (will) on 18 Sept. 1806, age 83 years, 21 days, bur. Griggs Burial Ground;¹⁵⁴ m. Anna Bennett, b. 27 Aug. 1726 per age at death, d. 27 Oct. 1808 age 82 years and 2 months, bur. Griggs Burial Ground,¹⁵⁵ daughter of Cornelius and Engeltje (—) Bennet of Middlesex Co., N.J.¹⁵⁶
In "Resolutions of Hunterdon County—July 8, 1774," "Joachim Griggs" was one of nine men "chosen to represent Hunterdon in choosing New Jersey Delegates to the General Congress."¹⁵⁷
1805, April 2. Griggs, Joakem, of Amwell Twp., Hunterdon Co.; will of. Wife, Anna, \$1,334; also 1/3 of my lands, during her life. A stone wall to be built around the graveyard on brother John's plantation. Brother, John Griggs, \$80. Brother, Samuel Griggs, \$80. To Mary Hill (wife of Isaac Hill), \$80. To Anna B. Vanfleet (daughter of Andreas Vanfleet), \$80. To Acha Hill (son of Isaac Hill), \$267. Other 2/3 of real estate to be sold and the other 1/3 to be sold after my wife's decease, and monies from the sale of real and personal estate to be divided in five parts. Brothers, John and Samuel, each 1/5 part. Sister, Catherine (wife of Peter Williamson, of Sussex), 1/5 part. Sister Mary (widow of Thomas Peterson), 1/5 part. The children of sister, Margaret, dec'd (late wife of Harp Peterson), 1/5 divided between them. Executors—brother, John Griggs, and friends, Isaac Hill and Cornelius Wyckoff [probably the husband of Anna's sister Barbara; he was the son of Peter and Elizabeth (Van Pelt) Wyckoff]. Witnesses—Alexander Bonnell, William Geary, Nathaniel Saxton. Proved Oct. 17, 1806. 1806, Oct. 7: Inventory [not totaled]; made by Alexander Bonnell and Jonathan Higgins, Jr.¹⁵⁸
- iv. Daniel Griggs, named in honor of father; d. Amwell Township, Hunterdon Co., N.J., between 17 Nov. 1761 when his will was made and 27 Sept. 1762 when it was proved; apparently died unmarried and childless since he left his real estate to his brothers who were to make payments to his sisters.
1761, Nov. 17; GRIGGS, Daniel. of Amwell Township, Hunterdon Co., will of; Brothers, John, Joacham and Samuel, all my real estate left me by my father, and they to pay to my sisters, Catherine, Mary and Margaret, the legacies that my father ordered. Executors—brothers, John, Joacham and Samuel. Witnesses—Peter Peterson, Jacob Mattison, John Young. Proved Sept. 27, 1762.¹⁵⁹
- v. Samuel Griggs, named in honor of paternal and maternal uncles, b. N.J. ca. 1740; d. Amwell Township, Hunterdon Co., N.J., before 29 Oct 1812; m. Catherine _____¹⁶⁰, b. N.J. ca. 1745. Children (father's will): 1. *Daniel*⁵, named in honor of paternal grandfather, d. Independence Township, Sussex Co., NJ before 12 Oct 1795 when administration of his estate was granted to Elizabeth Griggs and Samuel Griggs Jr. with Fellowbondsmen Benjamin Griggs and Thomas Wiggins, all of Sussex Co.¹⁶¹; m. Elizabeth Ann Fisher, daughter of Christopher and Mary (Young) Fisher¹⁶². 2. *Samuel*, b. Amwell ca.

¹⁴⁸ Stillwell, *Gravesend Settlers*, 201-02.

¹⁴⁹ Wilson V. Ledley, *New Netherland Families* (MS., 1 Nov. 1958) [confirmation of secondary source or original baptismal record needed]

¹⁵⁰ Griggs, *Genealogy of the Griggs Family*, 45.

¹⁵¹ Grave marker, 23 Nov. 1915 transcription by James A. Kline of the Hunterdon Co. Historical Society.

¹⁵² *Ibid.*

¹⁵³ *Calendar of New Jersey Wills*, 10:184, abstracting File 2142].

¹⁵⁴ Grave marker, 23 Nov. 1915 transcription by James A. Kline of the Hunterdon Co. Historical Society.

¹⁵⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁵⁶ Ledley, "Willem Adrianse Bennet," RECORD 94 (1963):166-68.

¹⁵⁷ Hunterdon County Democrat, "Hunterdon's Role in the Revolution" (22 July 1976).

¹⁵⁸ *Calendar of New Jersey Wills*, 11:144-45, abstracting File 2204].

¹⁵⁹ *Calendar of New Jersey Wills*, 3:166.

¹⁶⁰ Griggs, *Genealogy of the Griggs Family*, 45.

¹⁶¹ *New Jersey Colonial Documents; Calendar of Wills*- Vol. XXXVII, 1791-1795; page 155, abstracting Liber 36, p. 134

¹⁶² 31 Dec 1787 administration of Christopher Fisher of Amwell, Hunterdon Co., NJ includes "Daniel Griggs, and Elizabeth, his wife, late

1771-72; d. Raritan Twp., N.J., 18 Feb. 1842; bur. Griggs Burial Ground "Aged 70 years"¹⁶³; m. Sarah Ann⁶ Griggs, b. Sussex Co., N.J., 5 Jan. 1779 (father's Bible), bap. Readington Dutch Reformed Church, Readington, N.J., 28 Feb. 1779¹⁶⁴, d. 18 Dec. 1844; bur. Griggs Burial Ground "Aged 66 years"¹⁶⁵, dau. of Benjamin⁵ (John⁴, Benjamin³, John²⁻¹) and Eleanor (Lane) Griggs; ancestors of David G. Richardson (a contributor to this article). 3. *Charity*. 4. *Jemima*, b. ca. 1775; named in honor of paternal grandmother; d. Flemington, Hunterdon Co., N.J., 20 March 1835, bur. Griggs Burial Ground: age "59-11-0"¹⁶⁶; m. Abraham⁴ Gulick (Samuel³, Jochem², Hendrick¹), b. 31 March 1754, d. Flemington, 20 July 1831; bur. Griggs Burial Ground "Aged 71 years 3 months and 20 days."¹⁶⁷, son of Samuel³ and Maria (Quick) Gulick.¹⁶⁸

- 1803, Jan. 26. Griggs, Samuel, of Amwell Township, Hunterdon Co.; will of. All estate to be sold. Of proceeds, 1/4 part to each of daughters, Charity and Jemima and to son, Samuel; the other 1/4 part to children of my son, Daniel, i.e., John, Christopher, Joakim, and Samuel, when they are 21. Executors—friend, Abraham Gulick, and son, Samuel Griggs. Witnesses—Daniel Reading, Joseph Reading, Nathaniel Saxton. Proved Oct. 30, 1812. 1812, Oct. 29. Inventory (not totaled); made by Cornelius Wyckoff, James Clark, Jr.^[169]
- vi. Catherine Griggs, also known as Catline, named perhaps in honor of her father's first wife and/or her eldest maternal aunt, Catelyntje (Gulick) Williamson; m. Peter⁴ Williamson (William³, Willem² Willemsen, Willem¹ Gerritsen) of Greenwich Township, Sussex Co., N.J.; the author's direct ancestors; for children see RECORD 135 (2004):300-02.
 - vii. Mary Griggs, m. New Jersey by license dated 26 Nov 1744¹⁷⁰ Thomas Peterson when both were of Somerset Co. Thomas was b. ~~Brooklyn, N.Y.~~ probably in Somerset Co., N.J., 1740, son of Thomas Jurianse Pieterse and Antje Lowe Lammerse;¹⁷¹ he d. [Somerset Co.] after 22 Sept. 1795 when, as a resident of Greenwich Township, Sussex Co., N.J., he and Mary's brother-in-law, Peter Williamson, entered depositions in the Supreme Court of New Jersey,^[172] but before Oct. 1791 when "a judgement against the Estate of Thos Peterson Decd" valued at £10.5.6. was included in the inventory of Peter Williamson's estate.^[173]
 - viii. Margaret Griggs, d. before 2 April 1805 per the will of her brother Joachim; m. Harpert Peterson¹⁷⁴, b. [Somerset Co., N.J.] ca. 1743, d. Coshocton Co., Ohio, before 1813, son of Thomas Jurianse Pieterse and Antje Lowe Lammerse¹⁷⁵. He signed petitions at Yellowframe Presbyterian Church in Sussex Co., N.J. in 1777, 1784 and 1785; migrated to Wheeling, Ohio Co., Va. (now W.Va.) by 1790; resided in Hamilton Co., Ohio, 1806-1809. Grandson John Griggs Peterson served as sole executor of Harp's will.^[176] Children (Peterson):^[177] 1. *Thomas*, named in honor of paternal grandfather, b. ca. 1766-67; m. (1) _____; [m. (2) Mary Stites, d. Chester, Morris Co., N.J. 21 July 1832]; m. (3) 30 Jan. 1833 Mary Crofts;^[178] m. (4) 6 Dec. 1845 Nancy Hyes; ancestor of Jean Rosenkranz (a contributor to this article). 2. *Daniel*, named in honor of maternal grandfather. 3. *Jemima*, named in honor of maternal grandmother.

6. THOMAS³ GRIGGS (John²⁻¹), born Gravesend circa 1692 or earlier; probably identical with the Thomas Griggs who married MAGDALENA DEPUY, daughter of Jean/John/Jan² (Nicholas¹ du Puis) and Petroneltje (Swaim) DePuy of Staten Island.^[179]

Children of Thomas and Magdalena (DePuy) Griggs, all baptized in the Staten Island Dutch Church as "Greegs":^[180]

- i. (probably) Martha⁴ Griggs, named in honor of paternal grandmother, bap. (recorded as "Martinus") 18 Oct. 1719, sponsors Jan and Susannah du Puy; probably identical with the Martha Griggs who m. Rocky Hill, Somerset Co., N.J., 6 June 1744 William Tiller.^[181]

Elizabeth Fisher, daughter of Christopher Fisher." (*New Jersey Colonial Documents; Calendar of Wills*- Vol. XXXVI, 1786-1790; page 79, abstracting Liber 29, p. 297)

¹⁶³ Grave marker, 23 Nov. 1915 transcription by James A. Kline of the Hunterdon Co. Historical Society.

¹⁶⁴ *Somerset County Historical Quarterly*, Vol. VI, page 69.

¹⁶⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁶⁶ Grave marker, "Jemima [Griggs] wife of Abraham Gulick," 1939 transcription by Hiram Deats of the Hunterdon Co. Historical Society.

¹⁶⁷ Grave marker, 23 Nov. 1915 transcription by James A. Kline of the Hunterdon Co. Historical Society.

¹⁶⁸ David Emmett Gulick, *Gulicks of the U.S.A.* (1961), p. 98, 110.

¹⁶⁹ *Ibid.*, 11:154, abstracting File 2530J.

¹⁷⁰ NJW XI: 144-145.

¹⁷¹ Fred Sisser, III, "The Peterson Family," *Somerset County Genealogical Quarterly*, Vol. 5, No. 3 (September 1987): pages 397-407.

¹⁷² Thomas B. Wilson, "Lost Deeds," GMNJ 64 (1989):2.

¹⁷³ RECORD 135 (2004):301 note 254.

¹⁷⁴ NJW XI: 144-145.

¹⁷⁵ Fred Sisser, III, "The Peterson Family," *Somerset County Genealogical Quarterly*, Vol. 5, No. 3 (September 1987): pages 397-407.

¹⁷⁶ All data courtesy of Jean Peterson Rosenkranz, email: r1776@enetic.net.

¹⁷⁷ Courtesy of Jean Peterson Rosenkranz and Annie Peterson Johnson, 9484 Windrift Lane, Elk Grove, CA 95758, email: ljonson@citlink.net.

¹⁷⁸ *1813-1843 Marriage Certificates* (LDS FHL US/CAN Film 1314455, as part of Morris County (New Jersey) County Clerk, *Marriage records, 1795-1919*)

¹⁷⁹ Joseph F. Mullane et al, *The Swaim-Tysen Family* (1984), 81.

¹⁸⁰ *Staten Island Church Records*, Collections of The New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, vol. 4 (1909), 22, 25, 27, 29, 32.

¹⁸¹ *Marriage Records, 1665-1800*, Documents Relating to the Colonial History of the State of New Jersey, vol. 22 (1900), 168.

- ii. Peternelle Griggs, named in honor of maternal grandmother; bap. 7 May 1721, sponsors Nicholas Dupuy and Neeltje Dekkers.
- iii. Anna Griggs, bap. 20 May 1722, sponsor Barent Christopher.
- iv. John Griggs, named in honor of paternal grandfather; bap. 19 April 1724, sponsors Francois Bodin and Maria Dey.
- v. Maria Griggs, bap. 12 Dec. 1725; m. 26 Nov. 1741 Abraham Van Middleswarth.^[182]

¹⁸² Ibid.

RECORDS OF UNCONNECTED NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY GRIGGS

EDWARD GRIGGS OF SOMERSET COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

Edward Griggs was elected to a committee to lay out highways in Somerset County, New Jersey, on 25 February 1732/33.^[183] This is apparently the same Edward Griggs who “lived in Somerset, New Jersey, 1733” according to Walter S. Griggs.^[184] No records have been found to indicate that Edward Griggs was a son of John¹ Griggs of Gravesend as Griggs claimed. Nor are there any records to indicate that he was a son of John² Griggs.

JANE GRIGGS OF NEWTOWN, QUEENS COUNTY, NEW YORK

Jane Griggs was married in the Presbyterian Church at Newtown, Queens County, New York, on 8 March 1732 to Alexander Stone.^[185] She is included here solely because she was married in the same church in which John² Griggs (John¹) of Gravesend married Elizabeth Wood in 1728.

JOHN GRIGGS OF “THE DUTCH SHIP INCIDENT”

As shown above, John¹ Griggs was already of Gravesend by 28 March 1659 and he made his mark to documents rather than signing them. Thus, it is doubtful that John¹ Griggs of Gravesend was identical with the John Griggs of the “Dutch Ship Incident,” documented in the research of Stephen L. Griggs.

On 17 November 1659,

John Griges & Humphry Hewes . . . saw cause to bringe a vessell from Northampton wch belonged to 2 duchmen & in her some goods and landinge on the 18th Day of the sd month of November on the ile of wight [now Gardiner’s Island] thay saw cause to inquier the authority of the sd Iland how and by what meanes these goods & vesell was taken from the true proprietors. . . .

On 22 November 1659,

. . . I John Scott of Northampton on Long Iland in the Jurisdiction of Concticat haveinge seene John Griggs & humphry hues to have taken a vessel out of our Creeke with some small quantity of goods & being loath that the poore men should be so deprived of all their livelihoods, I went aboard the vessell & wth them went to the Ile of wight & there entreated Lift [Lieutenant] Gardiner by his authority to make a stopp of the vessell & goods into the possession of me John Scott . . . above named on Condictions as ffoloweth: that is to say that I John Scott doe engage my selfe in a bond of two hundred pounds sterlinge that I will bringe the aforesd vessell & goods to northampton from whence she was taken & there to keep both vessell & goods vntill the day appointed for tryall whether it be prize or not. . . .^[186]

On 30 March 1660 in Connecticut, “John Scot” brought litigation against “Jo Griggs” “in an action of y^e case for y^e breach of Bond and takeing away Goods to y^e value of 130^l dam.”^[187]

There was a whaler named Humphrey Hughes (Hues) who was involved in several business ventures during the late 1660s with a John Cooper who was probably the son of John and Wibroe (Griggs) (Pierson) Cooper. This may have been the same Humphrey Hughes (Hues) who was involved with the John Griggs of the “Dutch Ship Incident.”^[188] Potential connections to the Coopers for both John Griggs of Gravesend and John Griggs of the “Dutch Ship Incident” remain interesting topics for further research.

THOMAS GRIGGS, SON-IN-LAW OF HENRY GILLAM

The children attributed to a Thomas Griggs who was erroneously identified by Walter S. Griggs as a son of John¹ Griggs of Gravesend^[189], were probably derived from the 12 December 1730 will of Henry Gillam “of the Borrough town of Westchester, joyner.” Among the distributions to his heirs, Henry left £50 to “Thomas Griggs and his wife,” identifying their children as Thomas, John, Elizabeth, Hannah, and Mary. He appointed his wife Hannah, son-in-law Thomas Griggs, John Bell, and Nathaniel Underhill, executors.^[190] The origins of

¹⁸³ Prehn, *Journal of a Genealogist* (note 14, above), 486.

¹⁸⁴ Griggs, *The Genealogy of the Griggs Family*, 37.

¹⁸⁵ “Records of the Presbyterian Church, Newtown,” RECORD 56 (1925):81.

¹⁸⁶ *Records of the Town of East-Hampton, Long Island, Suffolk Co., N.Y.*, vol. 1, transcribed and published under direction of a committee appointed by the town (Sag Harbor, N.Y.: J.H. Hunt, 1887), 159-60.

¹⁸⁷ *Records of the Particular Court of Connecticut 1639-1663* (Hartford, Conn.: Connecticut Historical Society and Society of Colonial Wars in the State of Connecticut, 1928), 211.

¹⁸⁸ Frank L. Griggs, correspondence (7 Oct. 2003) [edited].

¹⁸⁹ Griggs, *The Genealogy of the Griggs Family*, 37.

¹⁹⁰ WNYHS 3:404.

this Thomas Griggs, son-in-law of Henry Gillam, remain unknown but perhaps he was identical with the following Thomas Griggs.

THOMAS GRIGGS OF NEW YORK

On 31 May 1763, Thomas Griggs, of New York, joiner, “being sick,” made his will in which he identified his wife and executor, Hannah, and his eldest son, Thomas. His will was proved on 22 August 1775.^[191]

ROBERT GRIGGS OF NEW YORK

On 26 April 1695, Robert Griggs, of New York, mariner, “being now bound on a voyage beyond Seas, made his will, leaving £50 to “my wife’s daughter, Rachel Montes”; half of his estate to his wife and executor, Lena (Helena); and the other half “to the children that are or may be begotten before my decease.”

The widow, Helena Griggs, whose first husband was John Le Montes, subsequently married Caleb Cooper. She had a daughter, Mary Cooper, who married Archibald Campbell, merchant, and a son, John Le Montes. Helena (Fell) (Le Montes) (Griggs) Cooper died without having proved the will of Robert Griggs. Archibald Campbell, and wife Mary, and John Le Montes, were appointed administrators and the will was finally proved on 16 February 1732/33.^[192] It is unknown whether Caleb Cooper was a descendant of John¹ and Wibroe (Griggs) (Pierson) Cooper of Southampton.

MARY GRIGGS OF NEW YORK, WIDOW OF JOSEPH

The estate inventory of Mary Griggs of New York, “widow of Joseph,” dated 14 November 1695, including the “house and grounds” totaled £112/16/—.^[193]

(concluded)

LINKS

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¹⁹¹ WNYHS 8:296.

¹⁹² WNYHS 3:91-92, as cited in “Will of Robert Griggs, his wife was Helena Fell,” Dutch-Colonies-L@rootsweb.com (15 Nov. 1999).

¹⁹³ Kenneth Scott and James A. Owre, *Genealogical Data from Inventories of New York Estates 1666-1825* (New York: The New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, 1970), 70.