

# **Proof Argument**

## Parents of Rebecca Pettit (1819-1904), who married John Gable about 1843 in Chester County, Pennsylvania

---

Prepared by: Rick T. Wilson, Austin, Texas, [rwilson7@aol.com](mailto:rwilson7@aol.com) or [MyFamilyPattern@gmail.com](mailto:MyFamilyPattern@gmail.com)  
Visit [www.MyFamilyPattern](http://www.MyFamilyPattern) for additional research.

Version: 6 May 2022

### **Research Question**

Who are the parents of Rebecca Pettit (1819-1904), who married John Gable about 1843 in Chester County, Pennsylvania?

### **Research Findings in Brief**

Research suggests that Rebecca Pettit's parents are likely Gardner Pettit (d. 1833) and Hannah Doughton (1790-1867). The Doughtons lived in West Caln Township in Chester County while the Pettits lived in Sadsbury, West Caln, and other places in Chester County. A map of relevant places in Chester County is found on the next page.

### **Background Information**

Rebecca Pettit was born in 1819<sup>1</sup> most likely in Chester County. In 1850, Rebecca was living in Honey Brook, Chester County with her husband, John Gable (1810-1873), and their three children – Hannah Rosanna, Henry H., and Jesse M.<sup>2</sup> At least four other children were born to Rebecca and John – Mary Elizabeth, Charles S., John Calvin, and Rebecca.<sup>3</sup> Rebecca (Pettit) Gable died 8 March 1904 in West Brandywine, Chester County, Pennsylvania.<sup>4</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Rebecca Gabel, 1819-1904, Find A Grave memorial 39531020, online database, (<https://findagrave.com>, accessed 10 April 2022); citing Pequea Presbyterian Cemetery, Chester County, Pennsylvania, USA; Photo added by Miabeth (contributor 47091766).

<sup>2</sup> 1850 U.S. census, Chester County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Honey Brook, p. 391b, dwelling 174, family 191, image 24 of 48, Rebecca Goble in John Goble household; database with image, *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com), accessed 10 April 2022); citing NARA microfilm M432, roll 766.

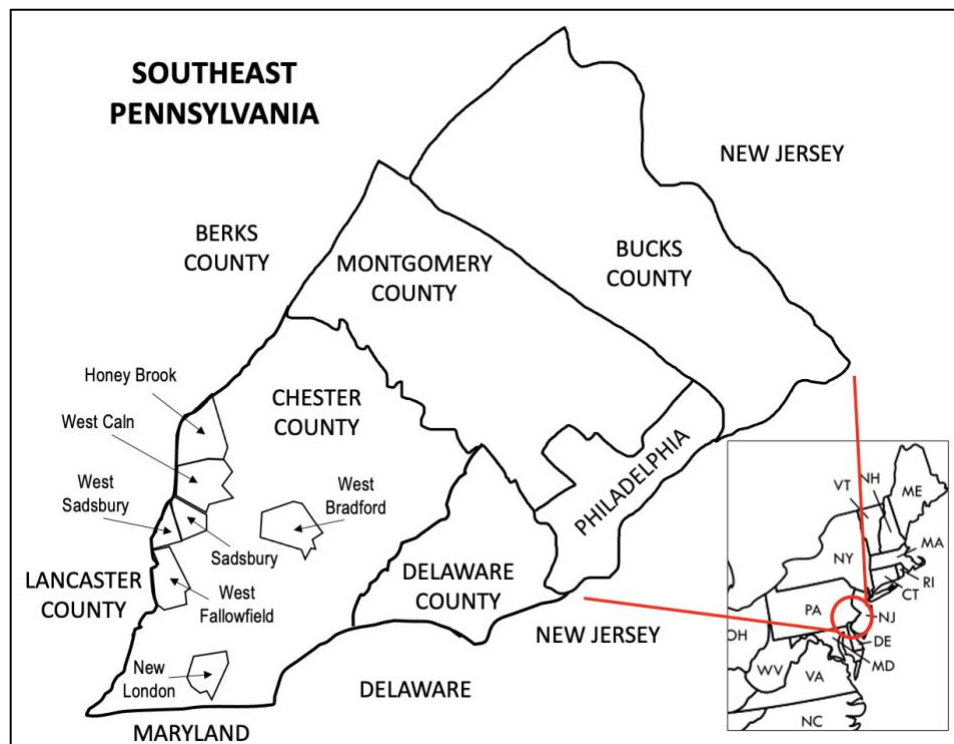
<sup>3</sup> "Public Member Trees," database, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com>, accessed 10 April 2022), "Wilson120411" family tree by rwilson7135, profile for Rebecca Pettit (1819-1904).

<sup>4</sup> Chester County, Pennsylvania, U.S., Death Index, 1841-1957, Rebecca Gable (1904), West Brandywine, p. 89, Item 5107; database, *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com), accessed 10 April 2022); citing Chester County Archives.

## **Proof Argument**

The first key piece of indirect evidence supporting the findings that Rebecca (Pettit) Gable's parents were likely Gardner Pettit and Hannah Doughton rests within the 1860 census. Here, Rebecca (Pettit) Gable's daughter, Hannah Rosanna Gable, is found living with Hannah (Doughton) Pettit Moore in Sadsbury.<sup>5</sup>

Hannah (Doughton) Pettit Moore is the daughter of Samuel Doughton. In Samuel Doughton's 1824 will, he states his daughter, Hannah Pettit, is married to Gardner Pettit.<sup>6</sup> Unfortunately, Gardner Pettit died in 1833 in the Chester County Poorhouse in West Bradford,<sup>7</sup> and Hannah (Doughton) Pettit later married Jesse Moore in 1850.<sup>8</sup> Of note, Rebecca had a son named Jesse Moore, and it is probable he is named after her stepfather, Jesse Moore.<sup>9</sup>



<sup>5</sup> 1860 U.S. census, Chester County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Sadsbury, p. 766, dwelling 132, family 137, image 20 of 65, Hannah Gable in Jesse Moore household; database with image, *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com), accessed 10 April 2022); citing NARA microfilm M653, roll 1092.

<sup>6</sup> Pennsylvania, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1683-1993, Samuel Doughton (1825), West Caln, image 436 of 537; database with image, *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com), accessed 10 April 2022); citing Chester County Register of Wills, p. 163, Will Book O, Volume 14.

<sup>7</sup> Chester County, Pennsylvania, U.S., Poor House Admissions Index, 1800-1910, Gardner Pettit (1833), Book RQS, Item 20080; database, *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com), accessed 10 April 2022); citing Chester County Archives.

<sup>8</sup> U.S., Presbyterian Church Records, 1701-1970, Jesse Moore to Hannah Pettit (1 April 1850), Upper Octorara Presbyterian Church, p. 143, image 81 of 190; *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com), accessed 10 April 2022); citing Presbyterian Historical Society, Philadelphia, Vault Folio Box 9211.

<sup>9</sup> Pennsylvania, U.S., Death Certificates Index, 1906-1968, Jesse M. Gable (1931), Downingtown, Chester County, certificate 5019; database with image, *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com), accessed 10 April 2022); citing Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission, Harrisburg.

## Timeline Details for Gardner Pettit

Gardner Pettit only appears in one U.S. census record. In 1820, he was living in Sadsbury, Chester County, Pennsylvania, and is recorded here as being born between 1776 and 1794.<sup>10</sup> Based on her tombstone, Hannah appears to have been born in 1790,<sup>11</sup> which is also supported by the 1820 census. It is probable that Gardner was a similar age as Hannah.

Records show Gardner Pettit living in the following locations:

- 1810 New London, Chester County, Pennsylvania<sup>12</sup>
- 1815 Sadsbury, Chester County, Pennsylvania (marked as “poor”)<sup>13</sup>
- 1819 West Caln, Chester County, Pennsylvania<sup>14</sup>
- 1820 West Caln, Chester County, Pennsylvania<sup>15</sup>
- 1820 Sadsbury, Chester County, Pennsylvania<sup>16</sup>
- 1822 West Caln, Chester County, Pennsylvania<sup>17</sup>
- 1823 Sadsbury, Chester County, Pennsylvania<sup>18</sup>
- 1824 West Caln, Chester County, Pennsylvania<sup>19</sup>
- 1825 West Caln, Chester County, Pennsylvania<sup>20</sup>
- 1833 West Bradford Poor House, Chester County, Pennsylvania<sup>21</sup>

---

<sup>10</sup> 1820 U.S. census, Chester County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Sadsbury, p. 248, image 1 of 4, Gardner Petito [Pettit]; database with image, *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com), accessed 10 April 2022); citing NARA microfilm M33, roll 96.

<sup>11</sup> Hanna Moore, 1790-1867, Find A Grave memorial 22439667, online database, (<https://findagrave.com>, accessed 15 April 2022); citing Fallowfield Cemetery, Chester County, Pennsylvania, USA; Photo added by Jeff Schneider (contributor 47477175).

<sup>12</sup> Chester County, Pennsylvania, Tax Discounts 1785-1823, Gardner Pettit (1810), New London, Book 1810-1815, p. 21; citing Chester County Archives, West Chester.

<sup>13</sup> Chester County, Pennsylvania, Tax Discounts 1785-1823, Gardner Pettit (1815), Sadsbury, Book 1816-1823, p. 232; citing Chester County Archives, West Chester.

<sup>14</sup> Chester County, Pennsylvania, Poor School Children Records, 1810-1842, Evelina and Samuel Pettit (1819), West Caln, p. 197; database with index, Chester County Archives ([www.chesco.org](http://www.chesco.org), accessed 10 April 2022).

<sup>15</sup> Chester County, Pennsylvania, Poor School Children Records, 1810-1842, Evelina and Samuel Pettit (1820), West Caln, p. 285; database with index, Chester County Archives ([www.chesco.org](http://www.chesco.org), accessed 10 April 2022).

<sup>16</sup> 1820 U.S. census, Chester County, Pennsylvania, Sadsbury, Gardner Petito [Pettit].

<sup>17</sup> Chester County, Pennsylvania, Tax Discounts 1785-1823, Gardner Pettit (1822), West Caln, Book 1816-1823, p. 257; citing Chester County Archives, West Chester.

<sup>18</sup> Chester County, Pennsylvania, Poor School Children Records, 1810-1842, James and Hope Pettit (1823), West Caln, p. 197; database with index, Chester County Archives ([www.chesco.org](http://www.chesco.org), accessed 5 May 2022).

<sup>19</sup> Chester County, Pennsylvania, Court of Quarter Sessions, Gardner Pettit and the Commonwealth vs. William McKim and William Peoples (November 1824), Docket I, p. 195, 199, and 200.

<sup>20</sup> Chester County, Pennsylvania, U.S., Book of Monthly Report of the Steward, 1825-1827, February Report 1824: Gardner Pettit, Warwick Pettit, and Enoch Pettit of West Caln (1825, January 25), p. 3.

<sup>21</sup> Chester County, Pennsylvania, U.S., Poor House Admissions Index, 1800-1910, Gardner Pettit (1833), Book RQS, Item 20080; database, *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com), accessed 10 April 2022); citing Chester County Archives.

### ***Gardner Pettit's Family***

An important determination of whether Rebecca (Pettit) Gable could be the daughter of Gardner and Hannah Pettit is whether she can be placed within their household. Two records provide insight into the composition of Gardner and Hannah's family. One record is the 1820 census, which is the only census Gardner appears.<sup>22</sup> The other record is an 1824 insolvent debtor's petition made by Gardner.<sup>23</sup>

The 1820 census suggests Gardner and Hannah had two boys and three girls, all under the age of 10.<sup>24</sup> Four years later, a debtor petition indicates his family had grown to seven children and additionally provided greater insight into his precarious economic situation. In the petition, Gardner states that he:

*Has a wife and seven children, that he is day laborer and never had any other way of maintaining his family, and that he is frequently unable to work from sickness and lameness.*<sup>25</sup>

Several Chester County poorhouse records provide four of Gardner's children by name and age. The Poor School Children records in 1819 and 1820 expressly identify two children belonging to Gardner Pettit named Evelina (b. 1812) and Samuel (b. 1813), who were living in West Caln.<sup>26</sup> Poor School Children records list the children aged five to twelve whose parents require county assistance to educate their children. Rebecca, who was born in 1819,<sup>27</sup> would be too young to be listed in these records.

Poorhouse Outdoor Allowance records in 1825 explicitly identify two other children of Gardner and Hannah Pettit as Enoch S. (b. 1822) and Warwick (b. 1824).<sup>28</sup> Outdoor allowances are paid out to individuals who were not qualified to be supported in the poorhouse, but who required assistance to live outside of it.<sup>29</sup> No other children of Gardner and Hannah were recorded at this time as having outdoor payments. It is probable that only the two youngest children received financial assistance, or their other children received support from family and friends.

---

<sup>22</sup> 1820 U.S. census, Chester County, Pennsylvania, Sadsbury, Gardner Petito [Pettit].

<sup>23</sup> Chester County, Pennsylvania, Insolvent Debtor's Petitions, 1724-1850, Gardner Pettit (14 June 1824), filed 13 September 1824; Chester County Archives, West Chester.

<sup>24</sup> 1820 U.S. census, Chester County, Pennsylvania, Sadsbury, Gardner Petito [Pettit].

<sup>25</sup> Chester County, Pennsylvania, Insolvent Debtor's Petitions, 1724-1850, Gardner Pettit (14 June 1824), filed 13 September 1824; Chester County Archives, West Chester.

<sup>26</sup> Chester County, Pennsylvania, Poor School Children Records, 1810-1842, Evelina and Samuel Pettit (1819), West Caln, p. 197; database with index, Chester County Archives ([www.chesco.org](http://www.chesco.org), accessed 10 April 2022). And Chester County, Pennsylvania, Poor School Children Records, 1810-1842, Evelina and Samuel Pettit (1820), West Caln, p. 285; database with index, Chester County Archives ([www.chesco.org](http://www.chesco.org), accessed 10 April 2022).

<sup>27</sup> Rebecca Gabel, 1819-1904, Find A Grave memorial 39531020.

<sup>28</sup> Chester County, Pennsylvania, U.S., Book of Monthly Report of the Steward, 1825-1827, February Report 1824: Gardner Pettit, Warwick Pettit, and Enoch Pettit of West Caln (1825, January 25), p. 3.

<sup>29</sup> Chester County, Pennsylvania, "Outdoor Allowances, 1800-1856", Chester County Archives, West Chester ([www.chesco.org](http://www.chesco.org), accessed 24 April 2022).

Evelina (b. 1812) and Samuel (b. 1813) are likely two of the five children identified in the 1820 census. Enoch S. (b. 1822) and Warwick (b. 1824) would not have been part of the 1820 census but are probably the two additional children born into the family after the 1820 census and are part of the seven children mentioned in the debtor petition. This leaves one boy and two girls who are unaccounted for. The three children would have been born between 1810 and 1820. Rebecca could be one of the two girls, and traditional records and DNA suggests the other girl might be Hope (Pettit) Meharg (b. 1817) and the boy, James Pettit (b. 1816).

Hope (Pettit) Meharg was found in 1850 living unmarried with Jesse and Evelina (Pettit) Orner in Reading, Berks County, Pennsylvania.<sup>30</sup> Evelina (Pettit) Orner is the daughter of Gardner and Hannah Pettit previously identified through Poor School Children records.<sup>31</sup> Hope (Pettit) Meharg is likely named after her maternal aunt, Hope (Doughton) Keen.<sup>32</sup> Autosomal DNA matches from a descendant of Rebecca (Pettit) Gable confirm a genetic relationship between Rebecca's descendants and Hope (Pettit) Meharg's descendants.<sup>33</sup> Further, Chester County Poor School Children records in 1823 identify two Pettit children requiring assistance in Sadsbury whose parents were not listed: James Pettit (b. 1816) and Hope Pettit (b. 1818).<sup>34</sup> It is quite probable that Hope (Pettit) Meharg (b. 1817) and Hope Pettit (b. 1818) in the Poor School Children records are the same person.

If Hope Pettit (b. 1818) identified in the Poor School Children records is Gardner and Hannah Pettit's daughter, then it is probable that James (b. 1816) is also their child. In support of this, two arguments are presented. First, a descendant of Rebecca (Pettit) Gable shares an 18 cM autosomal DNA match<sup>35</sup> with a descendant of a James C. Pettit, who was born about 1817 and lived in Reading, Berks County in 1850.<sup>36</sup> This match is part of a cluster of other descendants of Rebecca as well as Gable descendants. Second, Reading is where Evelina (Pettit) Orner and Hope (Pettit) Meharg were similarly living in 1850.<sup>37</sup> If accurate, then James C. Pettit constitutes the last male child to be identified who was born before 1820.

---

<sup>30</sup> 1850 U.S. census, Berks County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Reading South West Ward, p. 320b, dwelling 509, family 542, image 68 of 90, Hope Pettit in Jesse Lohner [Orner] household; database with image, *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com), accessed 10 April 2022); citing NARA microfilm M432, roll 752. And "Public Member Trees," database, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com>, accessed 10 April 2022), "Wilson120411" family tree by rwilson7135, profile for Hope Pettit (1817-1894).

<sup>31</sup> "Public Member Trees," database, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com>, accessed 10 April 2022), "Wilson120411" family tree by rwilson7135, profile for Evelina Porter Pettit (1811-1897).

<sup>32</sup> "Public Member Trees," database, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com>, accessed 10 April 2022), "Wilson120411" family tree by rwilson7135, profile for Hope Doughton (1787-1826).

<sup>33</sup> For privacy concerns, DNA match information is privately held by the author.

<sup>34</sup> Chester County, Pennsylvania, Poor School Children Records, 1810-1842, James and Hope Pettit (1823), West Caln, p. 197; database with index, Chester County Archives ([www.chesco.org](http://www.chesco.org), accessed 5 May 2022).

<sup>35</sup> For privacy concerns, DNA match information is privately held by the author.

<sup>36</sup> 1850 U.S. census, Berks County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Reading Spruce Ward, p. 336b, dwelling 82, family 82, image 10 of 72, James C Petit; database with image, *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com), accessed 10 April 2022); citing NARA microfilm M432, roll 752.

<sup>37</sup> 1850 U.S. census, Berks County, Pennsylvania, Reading, Hope Pettit in Jesse Lohner's [Orner] household. And 1850 U.S. census, Berks County, Pennsylvania, Reading, Adelina Lohner [Evelina Orner] in Jesse Lohner's [Orner] household.

Based on the evidence presented thus far, and assuming Rebecca (Pettit) Gable is one of the seven children, Gardner and Hannah Pettit's family can be reconstructed.<sup>38</sup> The following seven children are consistent with Gardner's 1824 debtor petition and the 1820 census.

1. Evelina Porter Pettit (1811-1897), married Jesse Orner
2. Samuel D. Pettit (1813-1895), married Harriet Connor
3. James C. Pettit (1817-1878), married 1<sup>st</sup> Elizabeth Allen and 2<sup>nd</sup> Mary Ebner
4. Hope Pettit (1817-before 1894), married William Meharg
5. Rebecca Pettit (1819-1904), married John Gable
6. Enoch Stewart Pettit (1822-1900), married Margaretta Evans
7. Warwick Pettit (b. 1824)

### **An Obituary for Evelina (Pettit) Orner**

The obituary for Evelina (Pettit) Orner provides additional evidence that Rebecca (Pettit) Gable is likely the daughter of Gardner and Hannah Pettit. The 1897 obituary from Reading, Berks County, Pennsylvania, states:<sup>39</sup>

*Besides her son, a brother, Silas Pettit, and a sister, Rebecca, both of Berks, survive.*

Of Gardner and Hannah Pettit's seven children identified above, only Rebecca (Pettit) Gable (1819-1904) and Enoch S. Pettit (1822-1900) were living at the time of Evelina's death in 1897. Rebecca's surname was not listed in the obituary, but Rebecca (Pettit) Gable died in 1904 suggesting that this reference is to her.<sup>40</sup> It seems that Enoch S. Pettit's name was incorrectly stated. Enoch's middle name was Stewart, which he appeared to prefer as he was identified as Stewart on the death records for two of his children.<sup>41</sup> It is probable that Evelina's obituary informant misremembered the name of Enoch Stewart Pettit, who died in 1900.<sup>42</sup> In further support of the interpretation of Evelina's obituary, the obituary for Evelina's son, Dr. Charles T. Orner, connects Evelina to Gardner Pettit, suggesting the correct family has been identified. An excerpt is found on the next page.<sup>43</sup>

---

<sup>38</sup> "Public Member Trees," database, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com>, accessed 10 April 2022), "Wilson120411" family tree by rwilson7135, profile for Gardner Pettit (d. 1833).

<sup>39</sup> *Reading Times* (1897, December 23), "Other Deaths", column 3, page 4.

<sup>40</sup> Rebecca Gabel, 1819-1904, Find A Grave memorial 39531020.

<sup>41</sup> Pennsylvania, U.S., Death Certificates, 1906-1968, Adam Jefferson Pettit (15 August 1934), Harrisburg, Dauphin County (father: E. Stewart Pettit); database with image, *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com), accessed 3 May 2022); citing Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission, Harrisburg. And Indiana, U.S. Death Certificates, 1899-2011, Elizabeth Dorsey (19 November 1913), Plymouth, Marsha County (father: Stewart Pettit); database with image, *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com), accessed 3 May 2022); citing Indiana Archives and Records Administration, Indianapolis.

<sup>42</sup> Enoch Stewart Pettit, 1822-1900, Find A Grave memorial 60259151, online database, (<https://findagrave.com>, accessed 4 May 2022); citing Ebenezer United Methodist Church Cemetery, Juniata County, Pennsylvania, USA.

<sup>43</sup> *Reading Times* (1912, May 7), *Dr. Charles T. Orner*, column 4, p. 8.

*Dr. Orner was born in Reading September 18, 1849, a son of the late Eveline Porter Pettit and Jesse Orner, and a grandson of Gardner Pettit, a Tory during the war.*

## **Proof Argument Summary**

Based on several pieces of evidence, it seems quite probable that Rebecca (Pettit) Gable was the daughter of Gardner Pettit and Hannah (Doughton) Pettit Moore. This is predicated on three pieces of indirect evidence. First, Rebecca's daughter Hannah Gable was living in Hannah (Doughton) Pettit Moore's household in 1860. Second, Rebecca fits within Gardner's household as stated in the 1820 U.S. census. Finally, Rebecca is mentioned as a sister (without a last name) in Evelina (Pettit) Orner's obituary.

## **Future Research**

While the aims of this research report have been met, five items of future research are listed and described below that may provide greater insight into the lives of Rebecca, her siblings, and her parents.

### **1. DNA Evidence: *Anna Maria (Pettit?) Rivell (b. 1823)***

Within the autosomal DNA matches of a descendant of Rebecca (Pettit) Gable, are at least two DNA matches to another Pettit family who lived outside of Chester County in Philadelphia. The shared matches among these two matches suggest they are associated with the test taker's Pettit and/or Gable lines.

Online family trees suggest Anna Maria (Pettit?) Rivell's maiden name may have been Pettit,<sup>44</sup> but none provide documentation for this assertion, and none was found by this author either. Anna Maria lived in Philadelphia.<sup>45</sup> One of the descendants of Anna Maria shares 25 cM and the other only 9 cM with the descendant of Rebecca (Pettit) Gable.<sup>46</sup> Both matches are part of a cluster with other DNA matches descending from Rebecca.

According to the shared cM project, it is possible for the individual with the higher cM to be a 3<sup>rd</sup> cousin or greater.<sup>47</sup> At 25 cM, this number is consistent with the average cM for 5<sup>th</sup> cousins,<sup>48</sup> which would make Anna Maria the daughter of Gardner Pettit. However, it more likely that Anna

---

<sup>44</sup> For example, "Public Member Trees," database, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com>, accessed 15 May 2022), "Edwards Family Tree" family tree by Michael Edwards, profile for Anna Maria Pettit (b. 1823).

<sup>45</sup> 1850 U.S. census, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Southwark Ward 4, p. 287b, dwelling 653, family 762, image 94 of 197, Maria Rival in William Rival household; database with image, Ancestry ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com), accessed 10 April 2022); citing NARA microfilm M432, roll 822.

<sup>46</sup> For privacy concerns, DNA match information is privately held by the author.

<sup>47</sup> Bettinger, B.T. (2020), *The Shared cM Project 4.0 Tool v4 Beta*, DNA Painter, accessed 4 May 2022 at <https://dnapainter.com/tools/sharedcmv4-beta>.

<sup>48</sup> Ibid.

Maria, if a Pettit, would be a niece to Gardner given she was born in 1823.<sup>49</sup> Indeed, based on the year of her birth, her presence in the family would increase Gardner's family size beyond the seven children espoused in his 1824 debtor petition. While Anna Maria's maiden name as Pettit is unproven, it must be noted that enumerated two dwellings away from Anna Maria in 1850 is Alexander Pettit (b. 1821), who could be a brother to Anna Maria.<sup>50</sup>

## 2. Naming Conventions

Two of Gardner and Hannah Pettit's children have curious names. Enoch Stewart Pettit appears to be named after Enoch Stewart of Sadsbury, which is where Gardner Pettit and Enoch Stewart lived in 1820.<sup>51</sup> A review of DNA matches does not suggest a genetic connection, but it could hint of an important family friend. Similarly, Evelina (Pettit) Orner's middle name was Porter. Perhaps Porter is an allied surname and should be investigated through traditional records and/or DNA.

## 3. James C. Pettit in 1850

The 1850 census indicates that Gardner's son, James C. Pettit, was born in Coventry Township, Chester County.<sup>52</sup> It is uncommon for census takers to provide such detail, but it may provide an additional lead into the lives of Gardner Pettit's family. This current research project identified no records for this family in Coventry but a concerted effort to explore land, poorhouse, tax, and cemetery records may identify direct leads for the Pettits or allied surnames. Also of interest is that living next to James C. Pettit in 1850 is Herman [Henry] Smith, who also indicates being born in (North) Coventry Township. According to James' maternal grandfather's will, James' maternal aunt was married to a Smith.<sup>53</sup> However, in the will, the daughter, who appears to be deceased, is unnamed, but two of her children were listed as Charlotte Smith and James Hamilton Smith.

## 4. Gardner Pettit in the Revolutionary War?

In the 1912 obituary for Gardner Pettit's grandson, Charles T. Orner, it stated Gardner was a "Tory during the war".<sup>54</sup> Tory refers to an American colonist who was loyal to Great Britain

---

<sup>49</sup> Anna Marie Rivell, 1823-1890, Find A Grave memorial 214488318, online database, (<https://findagrave.com>, accessed 4 May 2022); citing Pequea Presbyterian Cemetery, Chester County, Pennsylvania, USA; Photo added by Miabeth (contributor 47091766).

<sup>50</sup> 1850 U.S. census, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Southwark Ward 4, p. 287b, dwelling 656, family 765, image 94 of 197, Alexander Pettitt; database with image, *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com), accessed 10 April 2022); citing NARA microfilm M432, roll 822.

<sup>51</sup> 1820 U.S. census, Chester County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Sadsbury, p. 242, image 2 of 5, Enoch Stewart; database with image, *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com), accessed 10 April 2022); citing NARA microfilm M33, roll 96.

<sup>52</sup> 1850 U.S. census, Berks County, Pennsylvania, Reading Spruce Ward, James C Petit.

<sup>53</sup> Pennsylvania, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, Samuel Doughton (1825), West Caln.

<sup>54</sup> *Reading Times* (1912, May 7), *Dr. Charles T. Orner*, column 4, p. 8.



during the Revolutionary War.<sup>55</sup> Yet, it is unclear how Gardner could have served during the Revolutionary War as the 1820 census indicates that he was born between 1776 and 1794.<sup>56</sup> No military records were found on Ancestry.com or Fold3.com for Gardner Pettit. Perhaps the reference is to an ancestor of Gardner or that Gardner's age was inaccurately captured in the census.

## **5. The Pettits of Sadsbury, Chester County, Pennsylvania**

During the search for the parents of Rebecca (Pettit) Gable, several pieces of data suggest which Pettit family Gardner Pettit likely belongs. Chief among them are several documents related to the McKim family. However, more traditional research is needed to confirm this, and further DNA analysis may help.

Civil court records in Chester County indicate that Gardner Pettit and William McKim Jr. had an altercation where each other sued one another for assault and battery in 1824.<sup>57</sup> Gardner Pettit was listed as a yeoman (farmer) from West Caln while William McKim Jr. was similarly listed as a yeoman but from Sadsbury.

The McKims have other connections to the Pettits other than the Gardner Pettit court case. The father of the previously mentioned William McKim Jr., William McKim Sr., witnessed the 1798 will of William Pettit Sr. (1726-1801) of Sadsbury, who appears to be the progenitor of the Pettits in Chester County.<sup>58</sup> About 1806, Stacy Pettit (1777-1843, grandson of William Pettit Sr. and son of William Pettit Jr.), married Rebecca McKim, daughter of William McKim Sr.<sup>59</sup> In 1811, Austin Pettit (1784-1854, grandson of William Pettit Sr. and son of William Pettit Jr.) was accused by William McKim Sr. of bastardy with his daughter Sarah McKim.<sup>60</sup> In 1817, William McKim of Sadsbury sold land in West Fallowfield, Chester County to John Pettit (1766-1861), son of William Pettit Sr.<sup>61</sup> In 1821, William McKim Jr. accused then pregnant Hannah Pettit of Sadsbury of lying and spreading rumors about him.<sup>62</sup> The altercation caused so much stress to Hannah that she miscarried her child. It's not clear to whom this Hannah Pettit was married, as

---

<sup>55</sup> Encyclopedia Britannica (n.d.), "Loyalist, United States History", [www.britannica.com](http://www.britannica.com), accessed 4 May 2022.

<sup>56</sup> 1820 U.S. census, Chester County, Pennsylvania, Sadsbury, Gardner Petito [Pettit].

<sup>57</sup> Chester County, Pennsylvania, Court of Quarter Sessions, Gardner Pettit and the Commonwealth vs. William McKim and William Peoples (November 1824), Docket I, p. 195, 199, and 200.

<sup>58</sup> Chester County, Pennsylvania, estate file, no 4855, William Pettit (1801), Recorder of Wills, Clerk of Orphans' Court, West Chester.

<sup>59</sup> Chester County, Pennsylvania Will Abstracts 1846-1855, William McKim, Sadsbury, Chester County Archives, West Chester ([www.chesco.org](http://www.chesco.org), accessed 15 April 2022). And "Public Member Trees," database, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com>, accessed 15 April 2022), "Main\_Randle Family Tree" family tree by melindajklug, profile for Stacy Pettit (1777-1843).

<sup>60</sup> Chester County, Pennsylvania, Affidavits, Depositions, Interrogations 1781-1834, William McKim vs. Austin Pettit (May 1811), affidavit, Folder 64, document 5, Chester County Archives, West Chester.

<sup>61</sup> Chester County, Pennsylvania, land deed, William McKim to John Pettit (1817), Book P3, p. 316, Recorder of Deeds, West Chester; Deed Book Index 1681-1865, Chester County Archives, West Chester ([www.chesco.org](http://www.chesco.org), accessed on 13 April 2022).

<sup>62</sup> Chester County, Pennsylvania, Quarter Sessions Indictments, 1681-1900, Commonwealth vs. William McKim (February 1822), Docket I, p. 56 Chester County Archives, West Chester.

her husband was not mentioned in the case. However, her son, William Stevenson Pettit, spoke on her behalf. If other family trees are accurate, it is probable that she was Hannah Philips who married Samuel Pettit (b. 1747, son of William Pettit Sr.),<sup>63</sup> rather than Hannah (Doughton) Pettit Moore.

The McKims lived in Sadsbury, and Gardner Pettit also lived in Sadsbury at times. In fact, in the 1820 census, Gardner Pettit is enumerated three families away from William McKim Sr.<sup>64</sup> As such, Gardner Pettit may have some connection to the progenitor of the Pettits in Sadsbury, William Pettit Sr. (1726-1801). It is quite probable then that Gardner Pettit is a grandson William Pettit Sr. through one of William's sons or a nephew through one of William Pettit Sr.'s brothers. William's will identified six male children: Daniel, William, Elnathan, Samuel, John, and Nathaniel.<sup>65</sup> According to William's will, Nathaniel was under the age of 21 and so it is not likely he would be the father of Gardner. Elnathan Pettit died in Bucks County and his 1816 will suggested he had no children, but he did mention many of his siblings, nieces, and nephews by name.<sup>66</sup> Unfortunately, Gardner was not among the many listed, which is not to suggest he was not a nephew as Elnathan did not appear to provide for all his nieces and nephews from his estate. Lastly, the only other record for a Pettit living in West Caln (1808-1809), which is where Gardner Pettit's wife, Hannah Doughton, lived at the time of their marriage, was Daniel Pettit.<sup>67</sup> However, it cannot be determined if this Daniel Pettit is the son of William Pettit Sr. (1726-1801) or a grandson of said William through Daniel or another son.

It is recommended that the autosomal DNA matches for others descending from Gardner and Hannah Pettit be analyzed for traces of Pettit DNA. Indeed, the most fruitful effort would be to study these DNA matches to see if any can be traced back to the family of the wives for each of William Pettit Sr.'s (1726-1801) male children. If triangulated matches are found with ancestors from one of these wives, then it is probable that Gardner Pettit likely descends from that union as either a son or a grandson.

---

<sup>63</sup> "Public Member Trees," database, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com>, accessed 15 April 2022), "Pasta and Potatoes 2016" family tree by michaelcarroll75, profile for Hannah Philips (1779-After 1850). And 1850 U.S. census, Chester County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, West Fallowfield, p. 347a, dwelling 169, family 169, image 23 of 50, Hannah Pettit; database with image, *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com), accessed 15 April 2022); citing NARA microfilm M432, roll 766.

<sup>64</sup> 1820 U.S. census, Chester County, Pennsylvania, Sadsbury, Gardner Petito [Pettit].

<sup>65</sup> Chester County, Pennsylvania, estate file, no 4855, William Pettit (1801), Recorder of Wills, Clerk of Orphans' Court, West Chester.

<sup>66</sup> Pennsylvania, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1683-1993, Elnathan Pettit (1815), Bucks County, Will Book 9, p. 99-101, image 71-72 of 256; database with image, *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com), accessed 10 April 2022); citing Bucks County Register of Wills.

<sup>67</sup> Chester County, Pennsylvania, Tax Discounts 1785-1823, Daniel Pettit (1808 and 1809), West Caln, Book 1800-1809, p. 162 (1808) and p. 182 (1809); citing Chester County Archives, West Chester.