

Research Report

Research Report on the Ancestral Origins of John Wilson, who died 1799 in Franconia, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, USA

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Prepared by:

Rick T. Wilson, Austin, Texas, rwilson7@aol.com or MyFamilyPattern@gmail.com

Visit www.MyFamilyPattern for additional research.

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Research Report

Research Report on the Ancestral Origins of John Wilson, who died 1799 in Franconia, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, USA

1. Objective

The objective of the research report is to determine where in Europe John Wilson (or his ancestors) are from. John Wilson married Ann Skelton in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, and died 1799 in Franconia Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.

2. Limitations

Due to the pandemic, it was not possible to visit local historical societies, libraries, and archives in Ireland where other genealogically relevant information can be found that might not be available online.

3. Results Summary

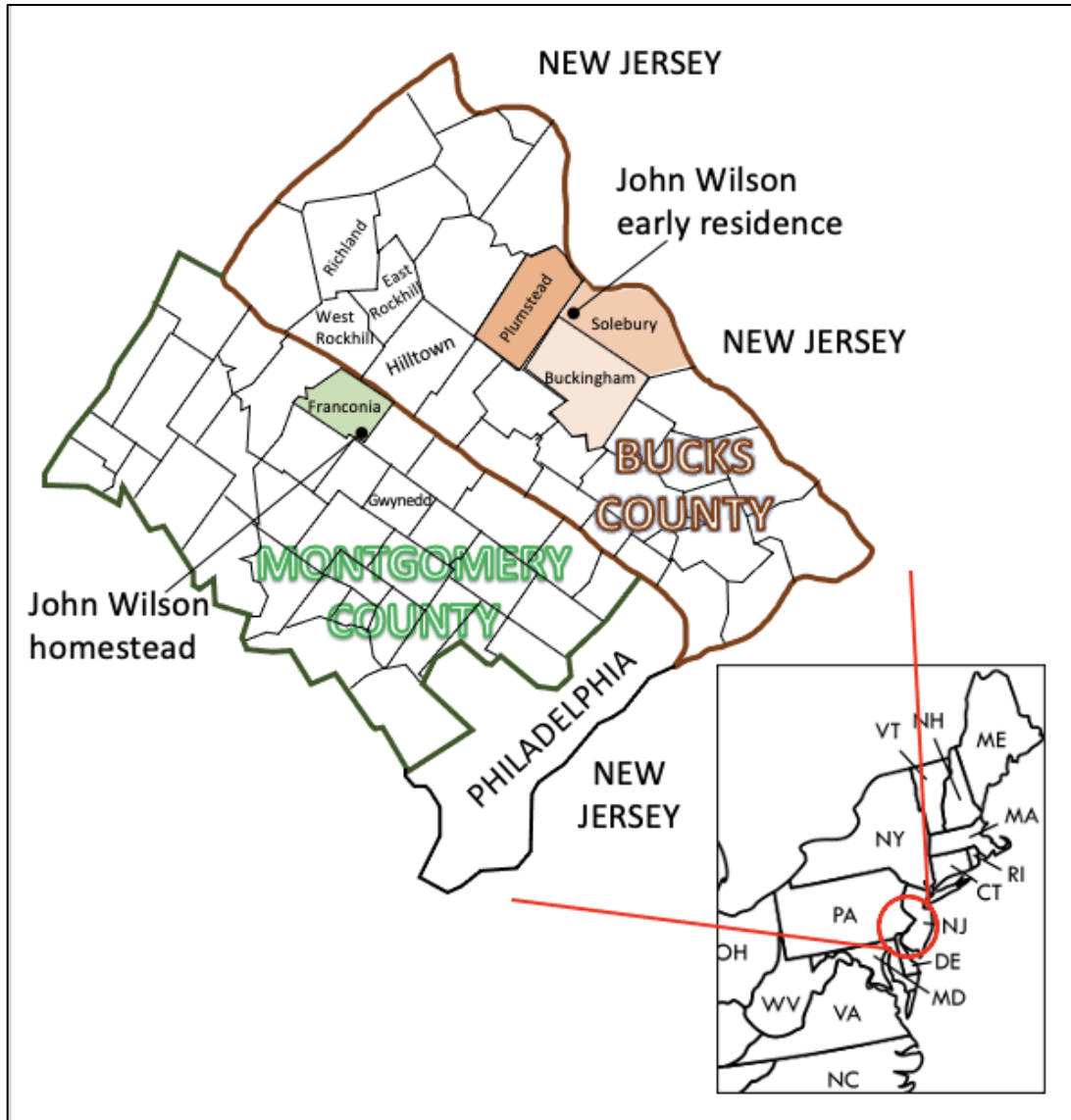
During this project, the following research activities were undertaken:

1. Reviewed all available and known U.S. records concerning John Wilson (d. 1799)
2. Performed a Y-DNA analysis of a male with an uninterrupted paternal line to John Wilson (d. 1799).
3. Performed an autosomal DNA analysis of a descendant of John Wilson (d. 1799) who is seven generations removed from John Wilson.
4. Identified and evaluated Northern Ireland censuses, census substitutes, and church records from the 17th through 20th centuries.
5. Reviewed historical texts to understand early life and migration routes in the U.S. and Northern Ireland.

4. Background Information

It is possible that John Wilson (d. 1799), or perhaps his father, was the immigrant Wilson ancestor. To provide context and aid in the determination of where John Wilson, or his ancestors, originated in Europe, all known vital information, facts, and records of John's life in the U.S. are presented in this section. A map identifying the relevant communities of interest in the U.S. are found in Figure 1 on the next page.

Figure 1 – Bucks and Montgomery Counties, Pennsylvania



4.1 John Wilson's Marriage

John Wilson (d. 1799) likely married Ann Skelton (1721-1803) between the years 1744 and 1746, probably in Solebury Township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Ann was the daughter of John Skelton and Jane Fairlamb, who were Quakers and lived in Solebury Township near the confluence of Solebury, Buckingham, and Plumstead Townships.¹ The range in years for John and Ann's marriage is based on the marriage records for two of her siblings and the birth of John and Ann's first child, Mary.

Ann is listed as Ann Skelton on her brother Robert Skelton's marriage certificate on 14 February 1744² and as Ann Wilson on her brother William Skelton's marriage certificate on 23 April 1748.³ John Wilson is also listed on William Skelton's marriage certificate. Quaker marriage certificates list family members and friends who were present at the marriage with parents, siblings, and other close family members listed in the far right-hand column under the groom's and bride's names. John Wilson (d. 1799) was listed in the far right-hand column on William Skelton's marriage certificate. John and Ann (Skelton) Wilson's first child, Mary (Wilson) Tennis, was born 1746.⁴

4.2 John Wilson's Family

When John died in Franconia Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania in 1799, his will, which was dated 4 February 1799, listed eight children.⁵

1. Mary Wilson: born 1746, died 1823, married William Tennis
2. Jane Wilson: born 13 November 1748, died 18 April 1831, married Barak Michener
3. Margaret Wilson: born 10 Feb 1750, died 2 February 1832, married William Yocum
4. John Wilson: born between 1750-1760, died 1833, married Eleanor LNU
5. Ann Wilson: born between 1756-1765, died after 1800, married William Skelton
6. Henry Wilson: born before 1758, died 1791, married Alice Heacock
7. William Wilson: born before 1758, died 1804, married Phebe Penrose
8. Joseph Wilson: born about 1760, died 1841, married Elizabeth LNU

¹ U.S., Quaker Meeting Records, 1681-1935, Ann Skelton, 27 August 1721, Falls Monthly Meeting, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, p. 196, images 184 of 214; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 22 July 2021), citing Swarthmore College, Pennsylvania, Quaker Meeting Records.

² U.S., Quaker Meeting Records, 1681-1935, Robert Skelton and Jane Beck, 14 February 1744, Buckingham Monthly Meeting, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, p. 68-69, images 61-62 of 64; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 19 July 2021), citing Swarthmore College, Pennsylvania, Quaker Meeting Records.

³ U.S., Quaker Meeting Records, 1681-1935, William Skelton and Susanna Beck, 23 April 1748, Buckingham Monthly Meeting, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, p. 151, image 81 of 242; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 19 July 2021), citing Swarthmore College, Pennsylvania, Quaker Meeting Records.

⁴ *Find A Grave*, database with images (<https://findagrave.com>, accessed 22 August 2021), memorial page for Mary Wilson Tennis (1746-1823) Find A Grave Memorial ID 67514534, maintained by Karen Tennis (contributor 46932283); citing Tennis-Lukens Cemetery, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, USA.

⁵ Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, estate file, no 7157, will (book 2, p. 86), John Wilson (1799), Franconia, Recorder of Wills, Clerk of Orphans' Court, Norristown. And "Public Member Trees," database, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com>, accessed 22 July 2021), "Wilson120411" family tree by rwilson7135, profile for John Wilson (d. 1799).

4.3 John Wilson's Birth

John's exact year of birth is not known, but it may be approximated based on marriage patterns at the time of his marriage. While John was likely not a Quaker, his wife was. A study of Quaker marriages occurring in the 1700s indicates that a man's bride was often his age or slightly younger.⁶ The Quaker marriage study further indicates that for wives born before 1730, the average age for her first marriage would be 22.0 years as compared with 26.5 years for men.

According to Quaker records, Ann Skelton was born 27 August 1721 in Bucks County, Pennsylvania making her about 23 to 25 years of age at her marriage to John Wilson. While Ann was slightly older than the average age at marriage of 22 years for Quaker women of her time, it is not an extreme outlier. At her marriage, Ann was likely one to three years older than the 22-year average age. Accordingly, it is probable that John was also slightly older at his marriage than the average age of 26.5 years. Following this logic, John could have been aged 27.5 to 29.5 years old when he married Ann. Assuming John married between 1744 and 1746 John may have been born somewhere between 1714-1718.

4.4 John Wilson's Adult Life

Despite appearing to be of modest means, John Wilson (d. 1799) left a considerable number of records for having lived in the 1700s.

After his marriage to Ann Skelton, John likely lived near Thomas Pryor's mill in the northwest corner of Solebury Township (see Figure 2). This comes from a 1747 newspaper advertisement where John offers a 20-shilling reward for his strayed mare (see Figure 3 on the next page).⁷ It cannot be definitively confirmed that this John Wilson is the same as John Wilson (d. 1799), but it is likely given that it is about one mile from where Ann's father, John Skelton, lived. The only other John Wilson (1710-1767) in the immediate vicinity lived further afield in Buckingham Township.⁸ Thomas Pryor's mill is also close to Robert Fisher, who appears to have been a friend of John Wilson, and John's relationship to Robert is discussed shortly.

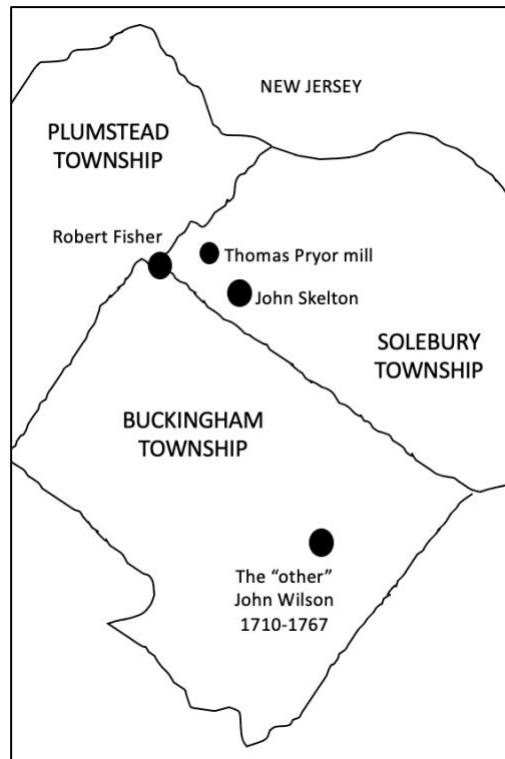


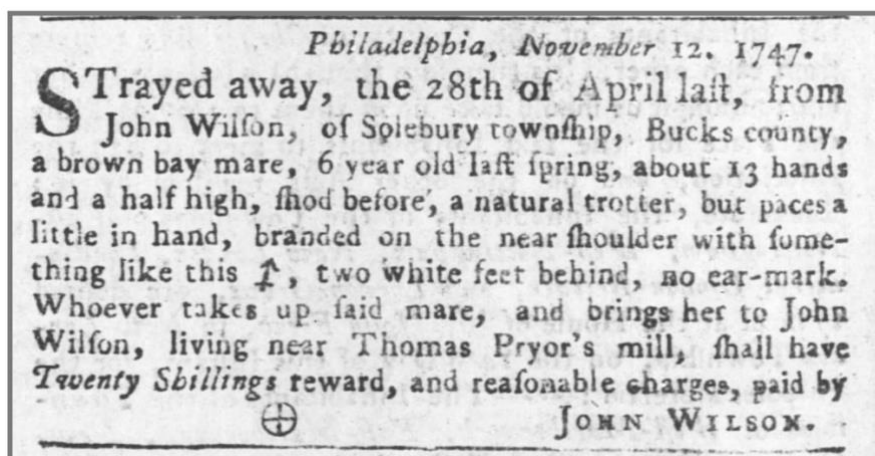
Figure 2 – Buckingham, Plumstead, and Solebury Townships, Bucks County, Pennsylvania

⁶ Wells, Robert V., and Michael Zuckerman (1972), "Quaker Marriage Patterns in a Colonial Perspective," *The William and Mary Quarterly*, 29(3), 415-442.

⁷ *The Pennsylvania Gazette* (1747, December 3), "Strayed away", p. 4, col. 3, Philadelphia, PA; online database, <https://Newspapers.com>, accessed 15 December 2017.

⁸ Ely, Warren S. (1916), *Genealogy of the Wilson-Thompson Families*, Doylestown, PA: Intelligencer Print.

Figure 3 – John Wilson Offers Reward for Strayed Horse (1747)



Pennsylvania Gazette, 3 December 1747

Along with his wife, Ann (Skelton) Wilson, John appeared on the Quaker marriage certificates for two of Ann's brothers, William and Joseph Skelton, who married in 1748 and 1751, respectively, which was after John and Ann's marriage.⁹

It is likely that John Wilson and his family left Solebury in 1752 when his wife requested a certificate from the Buckingham Monthly Meeting to the Gwynedd Monthly Meeting in Montgomery County.¹⁰ It was expected for Quakers to provide a reference of their orderly life in the Quaker community from where they left and provide it to their new community. It is assumed that John Wilson moved directly to Franconia Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, but it cannot be ascertained for certain. The earliest tax records for Franconia are in 1769 where John is listed owning no land but having four horses, four cows, and eight sheep.¹¹ John appears on all subsequent tax rolls (1774, 1779, 1780, 1783, 1786, and 1793) in Franconia.¹² Franconia is located on the border of Bucks County (see Figure 1).

⁹ U.S., Quaker Meeting Records, 1681-1935, William Skelton and Susanna Beck, 23 April 1748, Buckingham Monthly Meeting, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, p. 151, image 81 of 242; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 19 July 2021), citing Swarthmore College, Pennsylvania, Quaker Meeting Records. U.S., Quaker Meeting Records, 1681-1935, Joseph Skelton and Mary Townsend, 20 November 1751, Buckingham Monthly Meeting, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, p. 62, image 35 of 242; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 19 July 2021), citing Swarthmore College, Pennsylvania, Quaker Meeting Records.

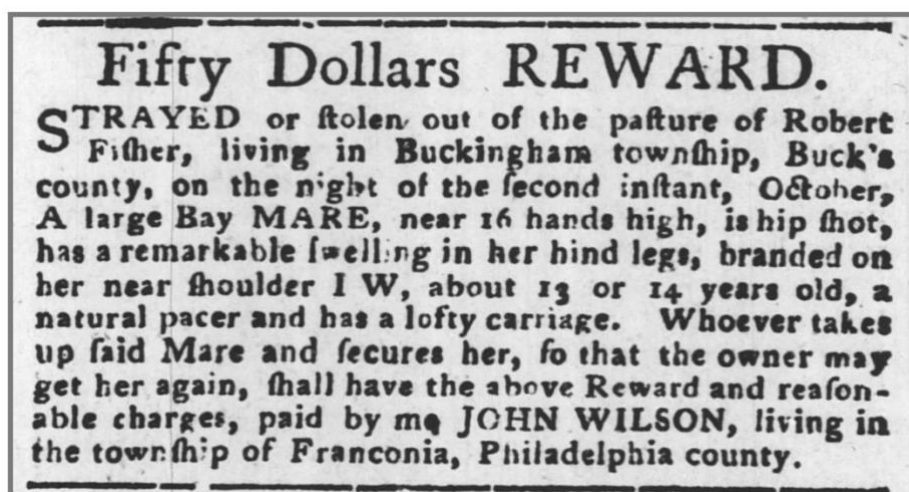
¹⁰ U.S., Quaker Meeting Records, 1681-1935, Ann Wilson, 6 April 1752, Buckingham Monthly Meeting, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, p. 182, image 103 of 151; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 19 July 2021), citing Swarthmore College, Pennsylvania, Quaker Meeting Records.

¹¹ Pennsylvania, Tax and Exoneration, 1768-1801, John Wilson (1769), Franconia, image 4 of 37; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 20 July 2021); citing Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, Records of the Office of the Comptroller General, RG-4, Tax & Exoneration Lists, 1762-1794, microfilm roll 332.

¹² Pennsylvania, Tax and Exoneration, 1768-1801, John Wilson (1774), Franconia, image 9 of 37; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 20 July 2021); citing Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, Records of the Office of the Comptroller General, RG-4, Tax &

In 1780, John Wilson again posts an advertisement that his horse was stolen or strayed from the pasture of Robert Fisher in Buckingham Township, Bucks County (see Figure 4).¹³ Robert Fisher, who was a contemporary of John Wilson, lived on property that was partly in Buckingham and partly in Plumstead and bordered Solebury. The property was similarly near John Skelton's homestead and near Thomas Pryor's mill where John Wilson was thought to be living in 1747 (see the map in Figure 2). It is probable that John befriended Robert when he lived in the area in the 1740s and early 1750s. Robert Fisher was also an uncle to Barak Michener, who married John Wilson's daughter, Jane, in 1778.¹⁴

Figure 4 – John Wilson Offers Reward for Strayed or Stolen Horse (1780)



The Pennsylvania Packet, 14 October 1780

Exoneration Lists, 1762-1794, microfilm roll 332. Pennsylvania, Tax and Exoneration, 1768-1801, John Wilson (1779), Franconia, image 12 of 37; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 20 July 2021); citing Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, Records of the Office of the Comptroller General, RG-4, Tax & Exoneration Lists, 1762-1794, microfilm roll 332. Pennsylvania, Tax and Exoneration, 1768-1801, John Wilson (1780), Franconia, image 19 of 37; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 20 July 2021); citing Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, Records of the Office of the Comptroller General, RG-4, Tax & Exoneration Lists, 1762-1794, microfilm roll 334. Pennsylvania, Tax and Exoneration, 1768-1801, John Wilson (1783), Franconia, image 33 of 37; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 20 July 2021); citing Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, Records of the Office of the Comptroller General, RG-4, Tax & Exoneration Lists, 1762-1794, microfilm roll 336. Pennsylvania Septennial Census, 1779-1863, John Wilson (1786), Franconia, image 11 of 47; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 20 July 2021); citing Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, Records of the House of Representatives, RG-7, Septennial Census Returns, 1779-1863, box 1026. Pennsylvania Septennial Census, 1779-1863, John Wilson (1793), Franconia, image 10 of 52; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 20 July 2021); citing Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, Records of the House of Representatives, RG-7, Septennial Census Returns, 1779-1863, box 1026.

¹³ *The Pennsylvania Packet* (1780, October 14), "Fifty Dollars Reward", p. 1, col. 3, Philadelphia, PA; online database, <https://Newspapers.com>, accessed 15 December 2017.

¹⁴ Hinke, W.J. (1970). *Indianfield Lutheran Church, Franconia Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, Parish Registers, 1753-1836*. Gettysburg, PA: Lutheran Theological Seminary, p.150.

John Wilson (d. 1799) was likely a respected citizen of Franconia. In 1781, John was listed as the tax collector for Franconia raising supplies for the Revolutionary War.¹⁵

In 1790, John Wilson purchased 125 acres of land for 627 pounds 7 shillings from Robert Clibborn Wilson of Kings County, Ireland.¹⁶ The land deed indicated that John was a yeoman (farmer). As part of the purchase, John entered into a mortgage with Benjamin Wilson of Philadelphia, who was a nephew to and an attorney for Robert Clibborn Wilson.¹⁷ Records indicate John was not related to Robert and Benjamin Wilson.¹⁸ Further, Robert Clibborn Wilson sold land to 28 other people in Franconia between 1789 and 1792 suggesting this was not a transfer of land between family members.¹⁹

As John continued to amass modest wealth, he helped his son-in-law, William Skelton, purchase land in Rockhill and Hilltown Townships in Bucks County in 1793 by engaging into a mortgage agreement between himself and William.²⁰ To facilitate the collection of monies from the mortgage, John appointed his friend John Penrose of Richland Township, Bucks County as his local attorney.²¹

John died in Franconia in 1799. In his will, he made his two sons, John and Joseph, executors and appointed his "trusty" friends, Michael Shoemaker and Matthias Johnson, trustees to ensure his will was fully accomplished.²² His heirs sold their share of John's land in Franconia in two separate land transactions to John's son, John Wilson Jr.²³

¹⁵ *Pennsylvania Archives, Papers Relating to the War of the Revolution, 1781, Series 2, Volume III*, John Wilson, Franconia, p. 462, Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission; database with image, *Fold3* (www.fold3.org, accessed 20 July 2021).

¹⁶ Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, land deed, John Wilson from Robert Clibborn Wilson (1790), Book 5, p. 300-301, Recorder of Deeds, Norristown; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), image 156-157 of 641, film 8067232.

¹⁷ Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, mortgage, Benjamin Wilson to John Wilson (1797), Book 1, p. 422-423, Recorder of Deeds, Norristown.

¹⁸ Heckler, J.Y. (1960). *History of Franconia Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania*. Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin, p. 12-13.

¹⁹ Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, grantor index, Robert Clibborn Wilson, multiple grants between 1789-1792, Book S-Z (1784-1877), p. 394-395, Recorder of Deeds, Norristown; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), image 305-306 of 345, film 8035109.

²⁰ Bucks County, Pennsylvania, mortgage, William Skelton to John Wilson (1793), Book 3, p. 212-213, Recorder of Deeds, Doylestown; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), image 128 of 663, film 8706680. Bucks County, Pennsylvania, miscellaneous records, John Wilson to John Penrose (1797), Book 1, p. 311-312, Recorder of Deeds, Doylestown; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), image 177-178 of 318, film 7725314.

²¹ Bucks County, Pennsylvania, miscellaneous records, John Wilson to John Penrose (1797), Book 1, p. 311-312, Recorder of Deeds, Doylestown; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), image 177-178 of 318, film 7725314.

²² Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, estate file, no 7157, will (book 2, p. 86), John Wilson (1799), Franconia, Recorder of Wills, Clerk of Orphans' Court, Norristown.

²³ Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, land deed, John Wilson from William and Ann Skelton (1800), Book 49, p. 424-425, Recorder of Deeds, Norristown; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), image 600 of 709, film 8083992. Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, land deed, John Wilson from

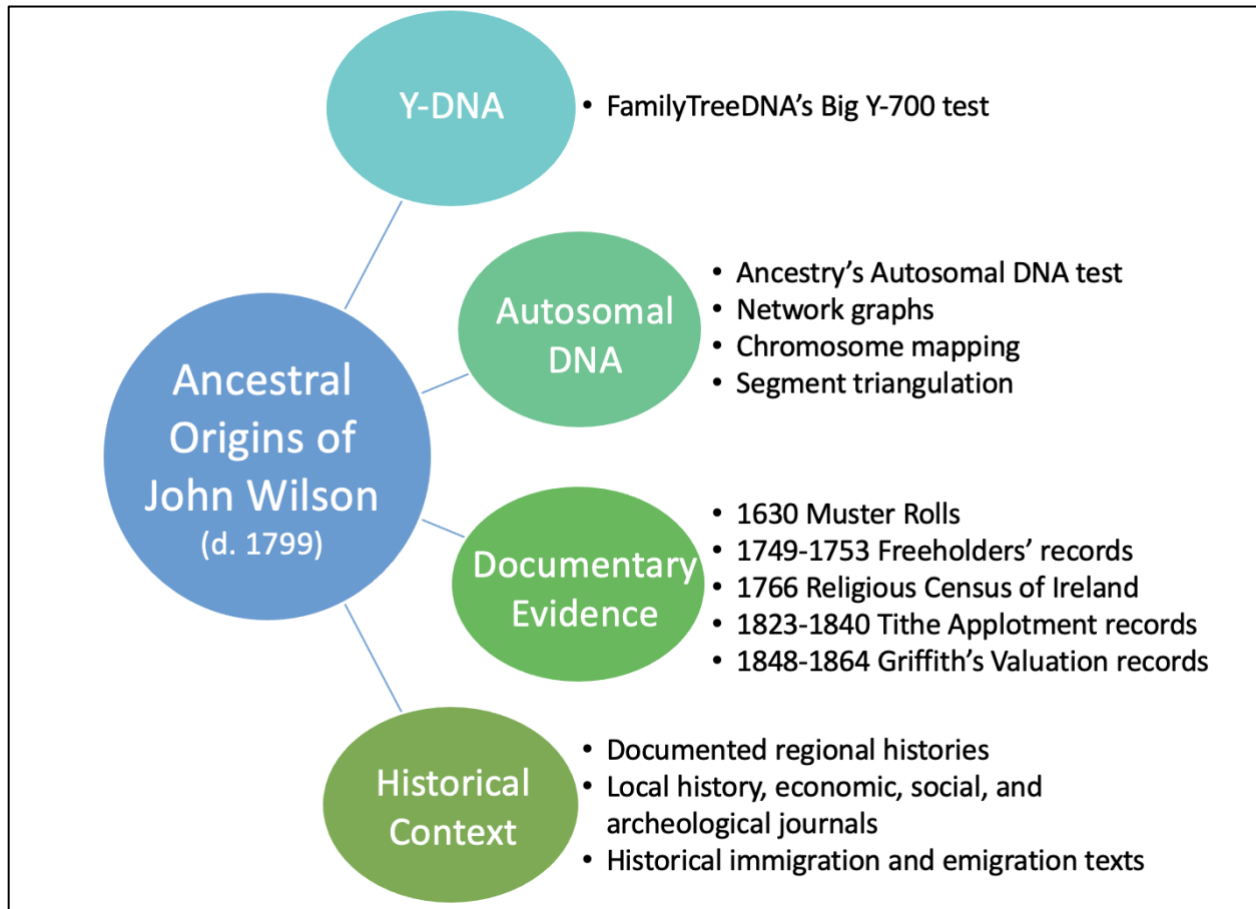
5. Research Findings

5.1 Summary of Evidence

A four-pronged research approach is taken to answer the research question of where in Europe are John Wilson's (d. 1799) ancestral origins.

- Y-DNA – traces the paternal Wilson line and can identify migration routes;
- Autosomal DNA – assesses recent family and cousin relationships up to six to eight generations into the past;
- Documentary evidence – traditional paper records, e.g., censuses, tax records, etc.; and
- Historical evidence – authored texts on local histories, migration routes, and daily life.

Evaluated evidence suggests that John's ancestral origins are in County Fermanagh in Northern Ireland in the small townland of Derryhillagh, which is an area just to the east of Enniskillen.



William Wilson et al. (1802), Book 49, p. 425-428, Recorder of Deeds, Norristown; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), image 600-602 of 641, film 8083992.

5.2 Y-DNA Analysis

5.2.1 Y-DNA Overview

Because Y-DNA analyzes the Y chromosome, which is passed down mostly unchanged from father to son, it is an ideal place to start the ancestral origin analysis of John Wilson's (d. 1799) paternal Wilson line. The test used for this analysis is FamilyTreeDNA's Big Y-700 test, which is the most advanced Y-DNA test currently available anywhere.²⁴ Big Y-700 tests 700 markers on the Y chromosome called single nucleotide polymorphisms (or SNP, pronounced "snip").

Simply put, SNP markers mutate over time and when this happens, the mutated marker has a new value. Some SNPs mutate at a very slow rate (tens of thousands of years), while others change much faster.²⁵ The opportunity for mutations occurs with each generation permitting scientists and genealogists to trace SNP marker mutations over time to determine how closely related paternal lines are to one another. When related paternal lines are clustered, scientists call them haplogroups. SNP mutations are not believed to have any medical implications.

The test taker for the Big Y-700 test is the author of this report, who has an uninterrupted and direct paternal line back to John Wilson (d. 1799), which is outlined below (note recent generations are privatized):²⁶

1. Rick T. Wilson (test taker)
2. Father Wilson
3. Grandfather Wilson
4. Grover Cleveland (Bert) Wilson, (1885-1946)
5. David Wilson (1854-1928)
6. James Wilson (1815-1885)
7. John Wilson (1785-before 1840)
8. William Wilson (before 1758-1804)
9. John Wilson (unknown-1799)

5.2.2 Y-DNA Results

The Big Y-700 STR DNA matches for the tester are displayed graphically in Figure 5 in what FamilyTreeDNA calls a block tree. The displayed results constitute only a portion of the closest Y-DNA matches to the tester representing a time frame going back about 300 to 400 years.²⁷ The other matches, which are further back in genealogical time, are not relevant to the aims of this research report. The tester is shown as "Wilson 1a" in the red box in Figure 5 and the other DNA matches are similarly privatized by including only their surname (e.g., "Wilson"), group/cluster number (e.g., "2"), and individual designation (e.g., "a").

²⁴ FamilyTreeDNA (2019), *Big Y-700: The Forefront of Y Chromosome Testing*, retrieved 22 July 2021 from <https://blog.familytreedna.com/human-y-chromosome-testing-milestones/>.

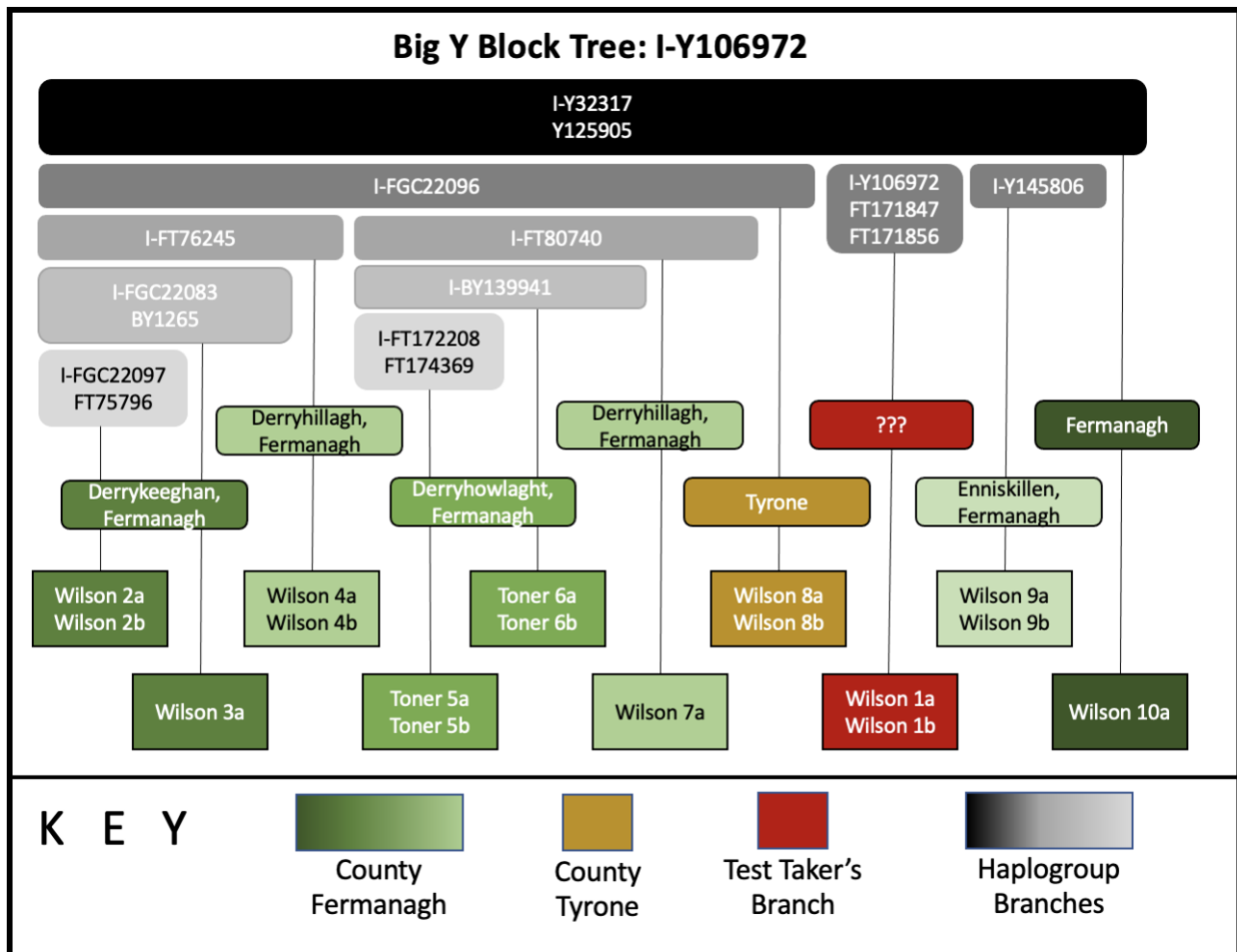
²⁵ Southard, Dihan (n.d.), "DNA Q&A: What's the Big Y-700 Test? Should I Choose a Y-DNA Test?" Family Tree Magazine, retrieved 22 July 2021 from <https://www.familytreemagazine.com/dna/big-y-700/>.

²⁶ "Public Member Trees," database, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com>, accessed 22 July 2021), "Wilson120411" family tree by rwilson7135, profile for John Wilson (d. 1799).

²⁷ FamilyTreeDNA (2021), personal communication with technical support, August 16, 2021.

The most recent common ancestor for the 17 individuals who constitute the matches analyzed for this Y-DNA haplogroup is represented by the haplogroup I-Y32317 found in the uppermost black tier of Figure 5. In other words, all 17 individuals share the same SNP markers up to this point in genealogical time. Somewhere about 300-400 years ago,²⁸ the Y-DNA of one of the sons or grandsons of the most recent common ancestor (i.e., I-Y32317) mutated at one of the 700 tested SNP locations resulting in a new branch in his descendants represented as I-FGC22096. A similar mutation happened with another son or grandson of I-Y32317 forming another branch at I-Y106972 and likewise at branch I-Y145806. If we carry forward the example for the I-FGC22096 haplogroup, we see that the most recent common ancestor for this group also had a son or grandson whose Y-DNA mutated creating another new branch at I-FGC22097.

Figure 5 – Big Y-700 DNA Results for Rick T. Wilson (author)

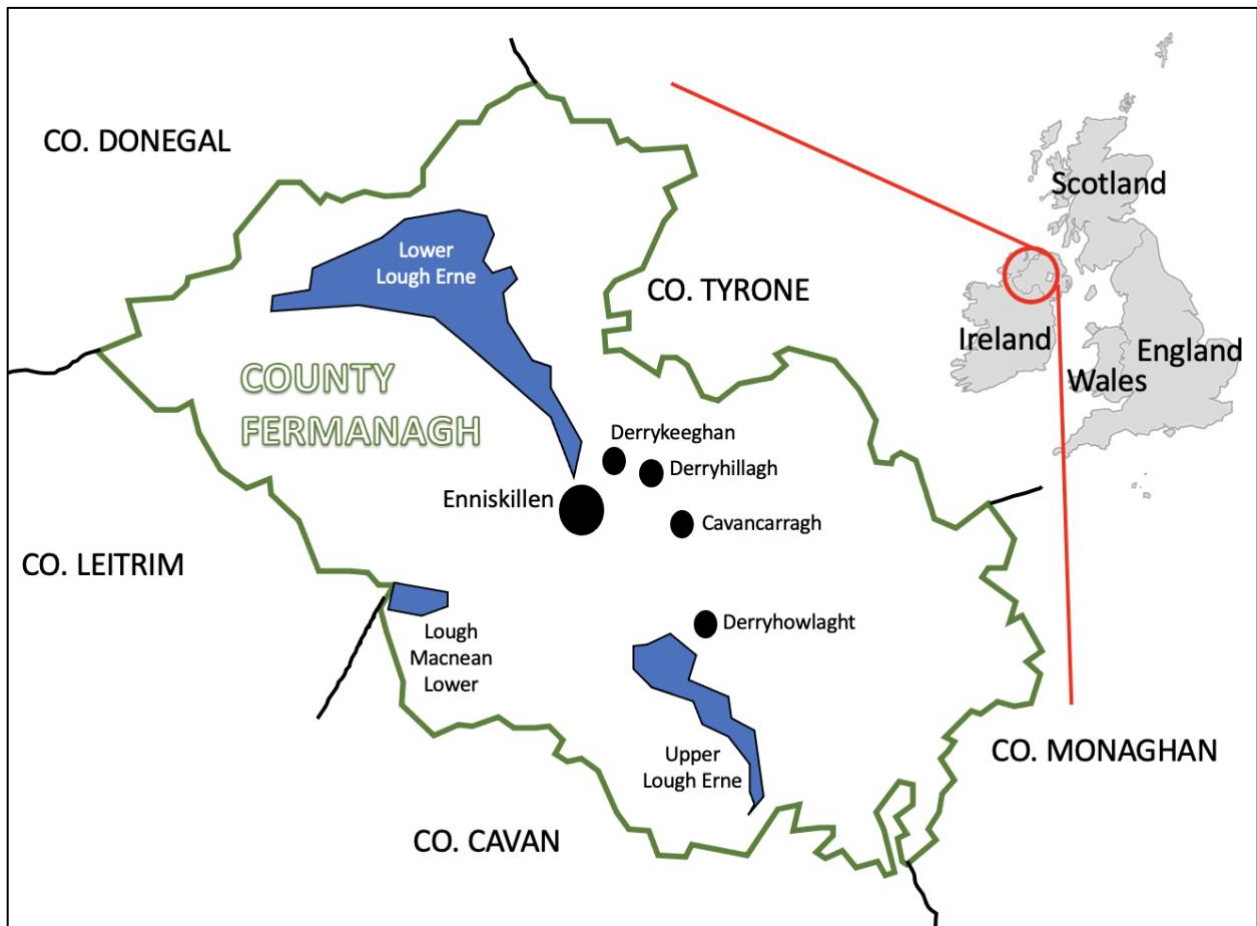


²⁸ FamilyTreeDNA (2021), personal communication with technical support, August 16, 2021.

The family trees for the 17 Y-DNA matches were either posted to FamilyTreeDNA by the respective test taker or were obtained by the author through personal communication. Not all test takers had extensive knowledge of their paternal lines. Nevertheless, all were able to confirm paternal ancestry back to Northern Ireland and a near majority to County Fermanagh. In several cases, test takers were still residents of County Fermanagh and, while not having extensive knowledge of their family tree, knew their paternal ancestors had lived in the area for hundreds of years.

For each haplogroup branch, the geographic location within Northern Ireland for their earliest known paternal ancestor is noted in Figure 5, which is located between the grayed haplogroup boxes and the privatized test taker boxes. Geographic location and test taker boxes are color coded for easier pattern recognition. County Fermanagh matches are denoted by shades of green, neighboring County Tyrone matches in mustard brown, and those in the same branch as the test taker are in red.

Figure 6 – County Fermanagh, Northern Ireland



Except for one cluster (Wilson 8), all close Big Y-DNA matches have ancestral origins in County Fermanagh, and most of these are to the east of Enniskillen. Nearly all matches also carry the Wilson surname except for two clusters who carry the Toner surname, which is due to a non-paternity event in 1883.²⁹ Within the test taker's cluster (Wilson 1), Wilson 1b is an individual who descends from William Wilson (1823-after 1880) with no known connections to Wilson 1a, but whose ancestral roots are similarly in Pennsylvania. It is probable that Wilson 1b descends through a brother or uncle of John Wilson (d. 1799).

Based on the evidence from the Big Y-700 DNA test, it appears that John Wilson's (d. 1799) ancestral origins prior to arriving America are within County Fermanagh.

5.3. Autosomal DNA Analysis

5.3.1 Autosomal DNA Overview

To narrow down where in County Fermanagh John Wilson's (d. 1799) origins might be, autosomal DNA is used. It has the benefits of identifying more recent cousins (generally as far back as six to eight generations). Both males and females can take the test permitting a potentially larger pool of people who ultimately can help answer the research question.

Autosomal DNA comes from the 22 pairs of chromosomes that both males and females inherit from their parents. Scientists review the values of the markers on one of the test taker's chromosomes and compare them to the markers at the same position on the chromosome of other test takers.³⁰ When large blocks of shared DNA are found between two individuals, we can say they are related. The more DNA shared between two individuals and the longer the blocks of shared DNA are, the more closely related are the autosomal DNA matches to one another.

For this analysis, Ancestry.com's autosomal DNA test is used because it has the largest database of autosomal DNA test results, an easy-to-use interface to analyze matches, and a relatively higher share of matches who link their DNA results to their family tree. Ancestry assigns confidence intervals for the likelihood of two DNA matches sharing a common ancestor. The intervals are based on the amount of shared DNA measured in centiMorgans (cM), which is a measure of genetic distance. Table 1, which is presented on the next page, is useful when

²⁹ The birth of Francis Toner occurred on 11 May 1883 in Derryhowlaght and was registered in Lisnaskea district offices to an unwed mother, Eliza Jane Toner. Derryhowlaght is eight miles south of Enniskillen. Source: Ireland, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1864-1958, Francis Toner (11 May 1883), vol. 3, p. 205, Lisnaskea, County Fermanagh, Northern Ireland, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 27 December 2021); citing Family History Library film no. 101059; citing IrishGenealogy.ie, Civil Records. And "Public Member Trees," database, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com>, accessed 27 December 2021), "Christine Hilda Toner Family Tree" family tree by Christine Toner, profile for Francis John Toner (1883-1964).

³⁰ Ancestry.com (n.d.), *What is Autosomal DNA Testing?* retrieved 23 July 2021 from <https://www.ancestry.com/lp/autosomal-dna-testing>.

determining the likelihood that two matches share a common ancestor based on the amount of shared DNA.³¹

Table 1 – Ancestry.com Confidence Intervals

Confidence Score	Approximate amount of shared centiMorgans	Likelihood of a single recent common ancestor
Extremely High	More than 60	Virtually 100%
Very High	45–60	About 99%
High	30–45	About 95%
Good	16–30	Above 50%
Moderate	6–16	15–50%

When selecting someone to take an autosomal DNA test, there are two important considerations. First, the person should have the fewest generations between themselves and the ancestor of interest. Given that we inherit 50% of our DNA from each parent, we “lose” 50% of the DNA from our earlier ancestors. So older generations have more DNA from earlier generations. Second, multiple people should test. While each person inherits 50% of their DNA from each parent, children do not always inherit the same 50% from either the father or the mother. For example, a first child will inherit 50% of their DNA from the father, but the 50% the father passes to his child may be comprised of 20% the father inherited from his father and 30% the father inherited from his mother. A second child will also inherit 50% of their DNA from their father, but this child may inherit 35% from what the father inherited from his father and 15% from what the father inherited from his mother. And, so on.

The name of the test taker for Ancestry’s autosomal DNA test is privatized, and her link to John Wilson (d. 1799) is shown below. She is two generations closer to John Wilson than the author of this report and therefore potentially has about 75% more DNA from earlier ancestors.³² Also, the number of generations between the test taker and John Wilson (d. 1799) is within the six to eight generations for which autosomal DNA matches are known to be useful for identifying potential cousins.

1. Female Wilson (test taker)
2. Father Wilson
3. Grandfather Wilson
4. John B. Wilson (1818-1891)
5. John Wilson (1785-before 1840)
6. William Wilson (before 1758-1804)
7. John Wilson (unknown-1799)

³¹ Ancestry.com (n.d.), *What does the match confidence score mean?* Retrieved 23 July 2021 from <https://www.ancestry.com/cs/dna-help/matches/confidence>.

³² It is purely coincidental that the Ancestry autosomal DNA test taker was born a Wilson. It is not necessary that the test taker carry the Wilson surname, but rather they must have John Wilson (d. 1799) as a great grandfather.

5.3.2 Autosomal DNA Results

Two promising clusters of DNA matches were found within the test taker's autosomal DNA results. For descriptive and narrative purposes, one cluster is referred to as the "Pennsylvania Cluster" and the other the "New Haven Cluster". Matches in both clusters have ancestral origins in County Fermanagh, and many members in each cluster match one another within and between clusters.

Clusters were identified using what I call an "earliest-known generation sibling search strategy". To identify relevant clusters, this entailed viewing the shared matches for cousins who descend through other children of John Wilson (1716-1799) and his wife, Ann Skelton (1721-1803), other than the test taker descends. Shared matches are useful in narrowing down which family line you and your DNA match share and can help isolate matches to their shared ancestral couple.³³

At this generation, 30 DNA matches were found descending from John and Ann Skelton Wilson other than the test taker's line. Unfortunately, no viable clusters were associated with the Wilson line in that either no shared matches were associated with these matches or shared matches were associated with the Skelton side of the ancestral couple. Consequently, the analysis moved down a generation to John and Ann (Skelton) Wilson's son, William Wilson (d. 1804), through whom the test taker descends.

At this generation, 19 DNA matches were found descending from William Wilson (d. 1804) and his wife Phebe Penrose (d. 1842). For each of the 19 matches, the shared matches were reviewed for possible Wilson and/or County Fermanagh connections. Two potential clusters were identified as mentioned earlier – the "Pennsylvania Cluster" and the "New Haven Cluster". Care was taken to ensure these clusters were not associated with the Penrose line but rather the Wilson line. This was done by reviewing the shared DNA matches for members of each cluster to ensure they were not associated with others who are confirmed to be part the Penrose line. Additionally, it is worth noting that Phebe Penrose's ancestry is overwhelmingly Quaker having largely English origins making it less likely that she would have County Fermanagh ancestry.³⁴

The Pennsylvania and New Haven Clusters are depicted below in a network graph (see Figure 7). The graph was created by downloading all the test taker's in-common with matches and corresponding segment data from Ancestry.com using the DNAGedcom Client.³⁵ From the resulting DNAGedcom in-common with file, only the shared DNA matches previously identified in step two were retained for analysis using Gephi visualization software (specific visualization

³³ Southard, Diahn (2017), "Tips for Triangulating Your DNA Matches, retrieved 15 August 2021 from <https://www.familytreemagazine.com/dna/triple-play-dna-matches-triangulation/>. And Ancestry.com (n.d.), *What are Shared Matches?* retrieved 14 August 2021 from <https://www.ancestry.com/cs/dna-help/matches/shared-matches>.

³⁴ Roberts, Clarence V. (1925), *Early Friends Families of Upper Bucks with Some Account of their Descendants*, Philadelphia, PA: Clearfield.

³⁵ DNAGedcom LLC. (2021). *DNAGedcom Client*, available at www.dnagedcom.com.

settings available in the footnote).³⁶ DNA matches are sized according to the amount of shared DNA in centimorgans (cM).

Figure 7 – Network Graph Depicting Relevant Clusters

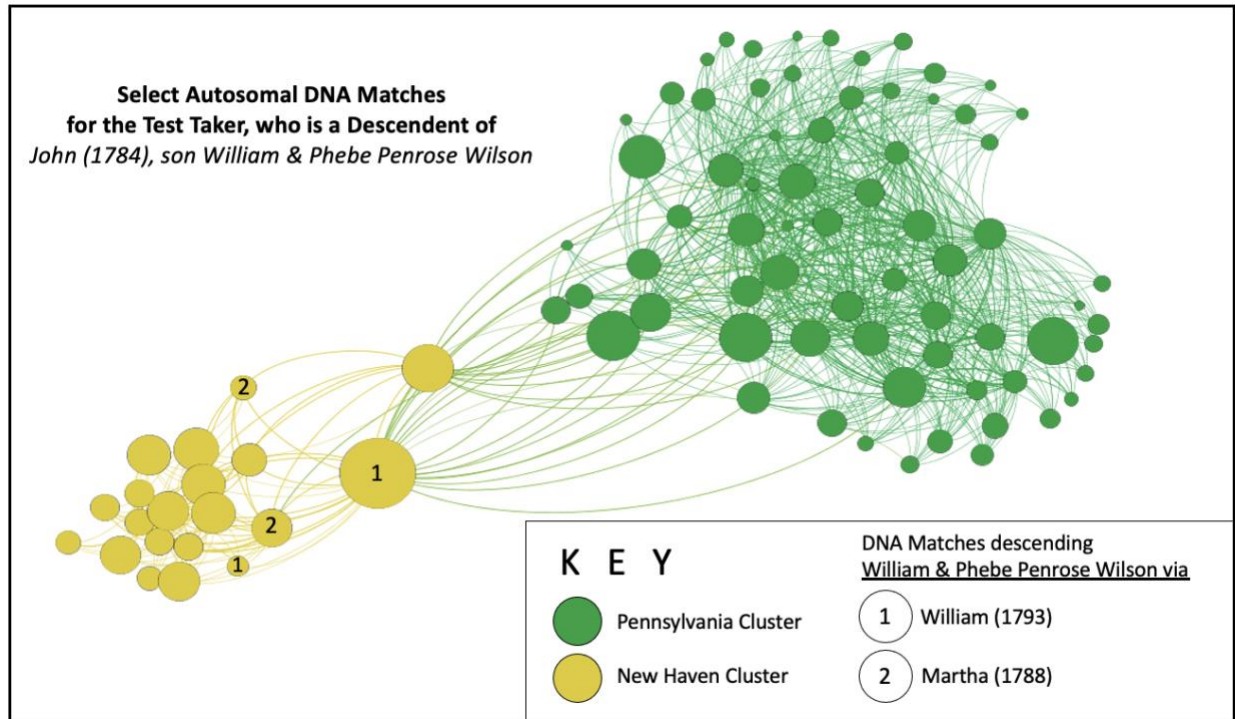


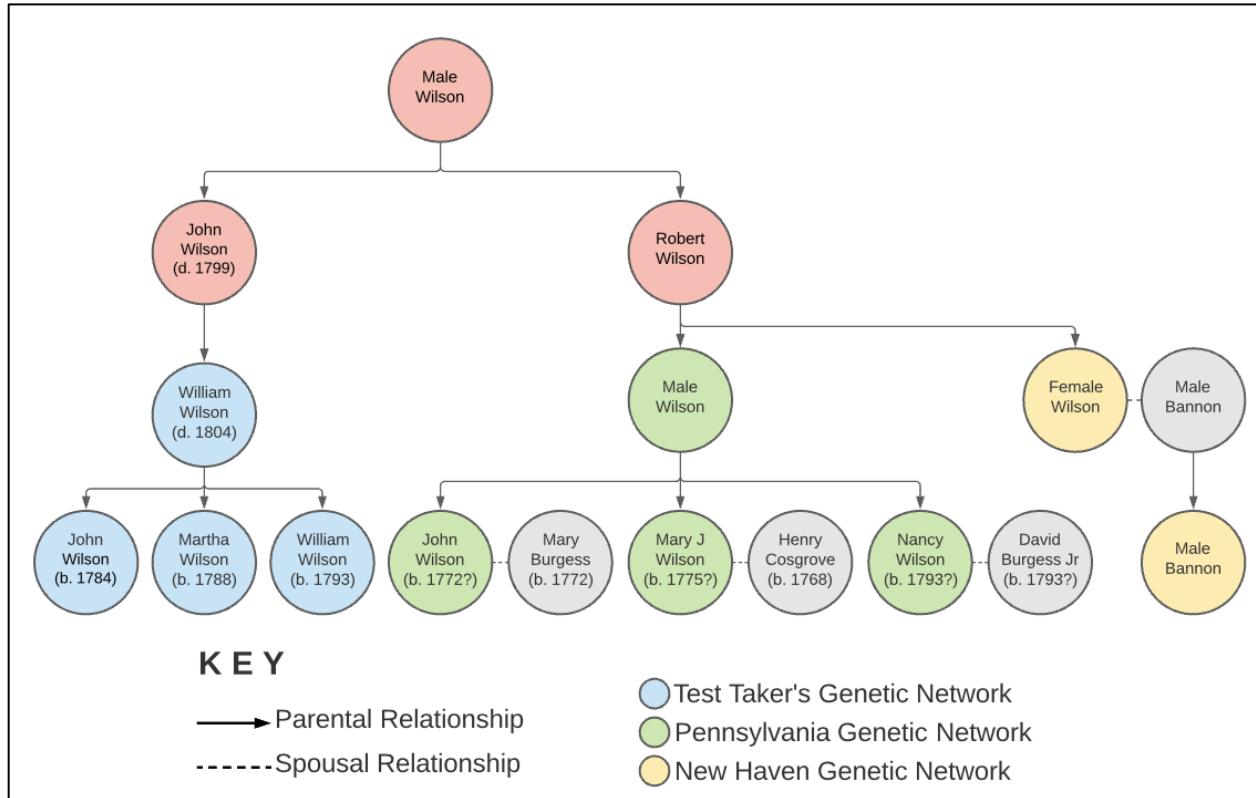
Figure 7 delineates the two clusters along with four matches who descend from children of William and Phebe Penrose Wilson other than the one the test taker descends (labeled with either a 1 or 2). While several matches connect the two clusters, the one with the greatest number of connections (and shared cM) descends from William Wilson (b. 1793), who is a brother to John Wilson (b. 1784) and the test taker's ancestor. The Pennsylvania Cluster is a larger network, which is probably due to several factors including the number of people who have tested and its members having immigrant ancestors who arrived the U.S. about two to three generations prior to those in the New Haven Cluster, which is an important distinction given that U.S. test takers outnumber international test takers on Ancestry.com.

Prior to the detailed introduction of the Pennsylvania and New Haven Clusters, Figure 8 theorizes how these clusters likely fit into John Wilson's (d. 1799) extended County Fermanagh

³⁶ Gephi.org. (2021). Gephi version 0.9.2, available at www.gephi.org. Visualization settings: The layout or dispersion of nodes used ForceAtlas 2, and modularity class was used to partition and color the nodes into sub-clusters. To improve visualization, all DNA matches who descend from the test taker's direct line from John Wilson (b. 1784) were removed as were DNA matches with fewer than six connections to another DNA match.

family tree. It serves as an additional reference point for understanding the many matches, sub-clusters, and documentary evidence about to be presented.

Figure 8 – Theorized County Fermanagh Family Tree of John Wilson (d. 1799)



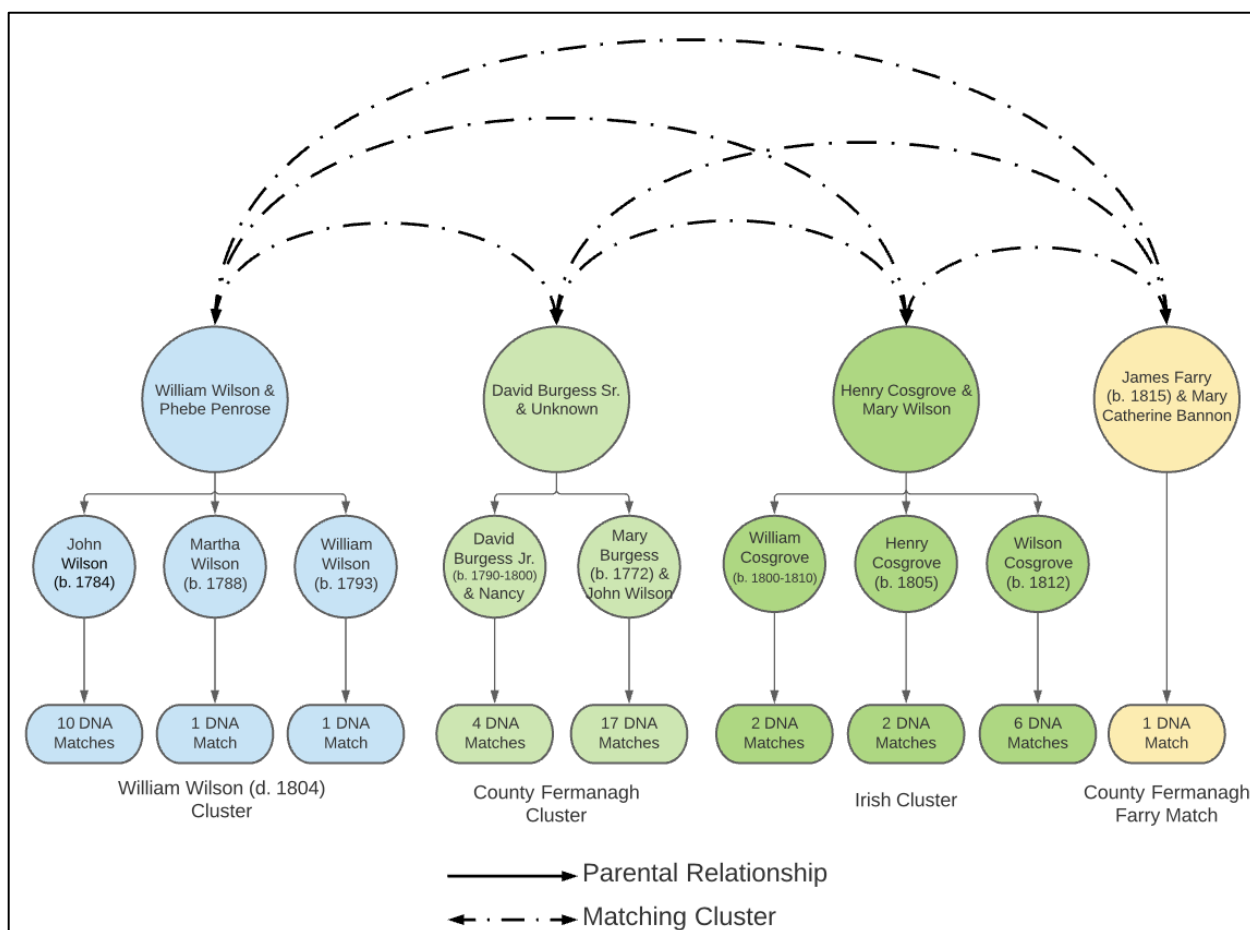
5.3.2.1 Pennsylvania Cluster

Figure 9 graphically presents the DNA matches for the Pennsylvania Cluster. The cluster is comprised of 53 shared DNA matches forming five sub-clusters, which were organized using their family trees back to a common ancestral pair rather than the theorized tree presented in Figure 8. All sub-clusters match one another within the overall Pennsylvania Cluster. One cluster (12 DNA matches) represents the DNA matches who descend from William Wilson (d. 1804) and Phebe Penrose. Note that two DNA matches descend through other children of William and Phebe than the one the test taker descends, suggesting that the common ancestor for this sub-cluster is likely through William and Phebe and not an earlier generation of the test taker. Given the evidence presented in the Wilson Big Y-DNA analysis, it is probable that the other sub-clusters investigated here might have County Fermanagh ancestry, and if they do, the connection is likely through William Wilson (d. 1804) rather than Phebe Penrose.

As shown in Figure 9, the other sub-clusters include the so-called “County Fermanagh Cluster” (21 DNA matches) and “Irish Cluster” (10 DNA matches) and a single match called “County

Fermanagh Farry Match” (1 DNA match). The final sub-cluster (9 DNA matches, which is not graphically shown) consists of the “unknown match group” whose respective family trees are not publicly available and for whom a tree could not be constructed by the author through genealogical means. Across the three Irish sub-clusters (excluding the William Wilson Cluster), the amount of shared DNA varies from 44 cM to 8 cM with eight matches having more than 30 cM of shared DNA. These eight matches possess a high level of confidence (95%) of having a recent shared common ancestor with the test taker (see Table 1 for confidence levels). The high confidence matches are found within each of the sub-clusters: County Fermanagh Cluster (5 high confidence DNA matches), County Fermanagh Farry Match (1 high confidence DNA match), and Irish Cluster (2 high confidence DNA matches).

Figure 9 – Pennsylvania Autosomal DNA Cluster



The identification of the ancestral origins of the County Fermanagh Cluster comes from a biographical sketch of Robert J. Wilson (b. 1845), who is a great grandson of David Burgess Sr. The sketch states that Robert's grandparents were:

*"...John Wilson and Mary (Burgess) Wilson, natives of the Emerald Isle, but of Scotch descent. They were born in County Fermanagh, Ireland, emigrated to America shortly after the Revolutionary War, settling in Lancaster County, Pa., where they resided several years. Thence they removed to Mifflin County, [Pennsylvania] where most of the children were born and raised. Subsequently, they removed to Ohio..."*³⁷

The progenitor of County Fermanagh sub-cluster is assumed to be David Burgess Sr., who was found first in Rapho, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania in 1793 census records, in Mifflin County in 1805 and 1806 court records, and in 1820 in Union Township, Mifflin County, Pennsylvania census records.³⁸ David Burgess Sr. appears to have had at least four children. Mary Burgess, who married John Wilson, was previously mentioned in the biographical sketch. Two other possible children of David are based on Mifflin County census records at that time. Richard Burgess³⁹ and John Burgess.⁴⁰ Another probable son, David Jr., was found in the 1820 and 1830 census in Perry Township, Tuscarawas County, Ohio where David Sr.'s daughter Mary (Burgess) Wilson was similarly found in 1820 and 1830.⁴¹ David Burgess Jr. later moved from

³⁷ Chapman Brothers (1887), "Robert J. Wilson" in *Portrait and Biographical Album of Linn County, Iowa*, Chicago, IL: Chapman Brothers, p. 311-312.

³⁸ Pennsylvania Septennial Census Returns, 1779-1863, David Burges (1793), Rapho, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, image 17 of 47; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 12 September 2021); Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Harrisburg. And 1820 U.S. census, Mifflin County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Union, p. 191, image 2 of 4, David Burgess; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 12 September 2021); NARA microfilm publication M33, roll 102. And Mifflin County, Pennsylvania, Quarter Sessions Docket, Book D, August 1801 to January 1807, August 1805, "Commonwealth vs. Robert Forsythe (David Burgess to give evidence)", p. 215, image 493 of 739; database with image, FamilySearch (www.familysearch.org, accessed 19 August 2021), film 8140110. Ibid, August 1806, "Commonwealth vs. Frederick Baum, John Waughtle, and David Burgess", p. 270, image 520 of 739.

³⁹ 1820 U.S. census, Mifflin County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Union, p. 191, image 2 of 4, Richard Burgess; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 12 September 2021); NARA microfilm publication M33, roll 102. And 1830 U.S. census, Mifflin County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Union, p. 462, image 9 of 22, Richard Burgess; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 12 September 2021); NARA microfilm publication M19, roll 147.

⁴⁰ 1830 U.S. census, Mifflin County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Union, p. 462, image 9 of 22, John Burgess; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 12 September 2021); NARA microfilm publication M19, roll 147.

⁴¹ 1820 U.S. census, Tuscarawas County, Ohio, population schedule, Perry, p. 176, image 1 of 2, John Wilson and David Burgess; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 12 September 2021); NARA microfilm publication M33, roll 95. And 1830 U.S. census, Tuscarawas County, Ohio, population schedule, Perry, p. 14-15, image 5-6 of 6, John Wilson and David Burgess; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 12 September 2021); NARA microfilm publication M19, roll 141.

Ohio to Fulton County, IL by 1835,⁴² and similarly Richard Burgess moved directly from Mifflin County to Fulton County by 1840 and resided next to David Burgess Jr.⁴³

DNA matches within the cluster were found through two of David Burgess Sr.'s children – Mary and David Jr. Given that Mary Burgess married a Wilson, the author of this report recruited a male Wilson descendant from this union and sponsored his Big Y DNA test to provide insight on whether the relation could potentially be through Burgess, Wilson, or both lines. Results confirm that the descendant of John and Mary (Burgess) Wilson is a Y-DNA match, and the recruited Big Y test taker is graphically represented by “Wilson 10a” in Figure 5, which was presented earlier. Therefore, it is possible that the autosomal DNA match may be due to both Burgess and Wilson. An additional consideration is that the surname of Nancy, David Burgess Jr.'s wife,⁴⁴ is Wilson as theorized in Figure 8, which might better explain the matches and other data presented later.

While less is known about the Irish Cluster (see Figure 9), similarities exist between it and the County Fermanagh Cluster. The progenitor of this sub-cluster, Henry Cosgrove, lived in Mifflin County at the same time as the Wilson-Burgess clan (1800-1820), but in Armagh Township, which is about 8 miles away from Union Township.⁴⁵ Henry Cosgrove also moved to Ohio in 1830, but to Freeport Township, Harrison County, which is an adjacent township to Perry Township, Tuscarawas County where David Burgess Jr. and John and Mary (Burgess) Wilson were also living in 1830.⁴⁶ According to family trees on Ancestry.com, Henry Cosgrove is reported to have married Mary Jane Wilson.⁴⁷ This marriage is undocumented, but Henry had a child named Wilson Cosgrove and a grandson named James Wilson Cosgrove.⁴⁸ It is possible then that the genetic connection to the Irish Cluster is through Mary Jane (Wilson) Cosgrove rather than Henry Cosgrove as theorized in Figure 8.

⁴² Illinois State Census Collection, 1825-1865, David Burgess (1835), Fulton County, Illinois, image 6 of 16, database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 12 September 2021); Illinois State Archives, Springfield, roll 976178

⁴³ 1840 U.S. census, Fulton County, Illinois, population schedule, Not Stated, p. 379, image 161 of 176, D Burgess and Richd Burgess; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 12 September 2021); Family History Library Film 7642, roll 59.

⁴⁴ Tuscarawas County, Ohio, land deed, David and Nancy Burgess to Neal Morris (1829), Book 5, p. 478, Recorder of Deeds, New Philadelphia, Ohio.

⁴⁵ 1800 U.S. census, Mifflin County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Armagh, p. 490, image 1 of 2, Henry Casgrove; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 12 September 2021); NARA microfilm publication M32, roll 37. And 1810 U.S. census, Mifflin County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Armagh, p. 984, image 3 of 6, Henry Cosgrove; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 12 September 2021); Family History Library Film 193677, roll 51. And 1820 U.S. census, Mifflin County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Armagh, p. 352, image 4 of 4, Henry Crossgrove; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 12 September 2021); NARA microfilm publication M33, roll 102.

⁴⁶ 1830 U.S. census, Harrison County, Ohio, population schedule, Freeport, p. 228, image 9 of 16, Henry Cosproue [Cosgrove]; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 12 September 2021); Family History Library Film 337944.

⁴⁷ “Public Member Trees,” database, Ancestry.com (http://www.ancestry.com, accessed 2 April 2021), “Cosgrove” family tree by Tracy Cosgrove DeCarlo, profile for Henry Cosgrove (1768-1845).

⁴⁸ Ibid, profile for Wilson William Cosgrove (1812-1901) and James Wilson Cosgrove (1836-1921).

The final match, County Fermanagh Farry Match, within the Pennsylvania Cluster currently contains only one match having shared ancestry. The paternal great grandmother of the test taker for this match emigrated from County Fermanagh to Philadelphia in the 1880s.⁴⁹ Because this sub-cluster has only one match, it is difficult to ascertain for certain that the identified connection is through the Fermanagh great grandparent line. However, a thorough review of the test taker's other lines finds no other possible connections to William Wilson (d. 1804). The great grandmother is Bridget Ferry (or Farry) (1859-1921), who married Charles Carr in Philadelphia.⁵⁰ Bridget Farry's mother was Catherine Bannon, who resided near and died in Cavancarragh (see the Appendix). The importance of the Bannon surname is discussed next and further supports the theorized County Fermanagh Wilson family tree presented in Figure 8.

5.3.2.2 New Haven Cluster

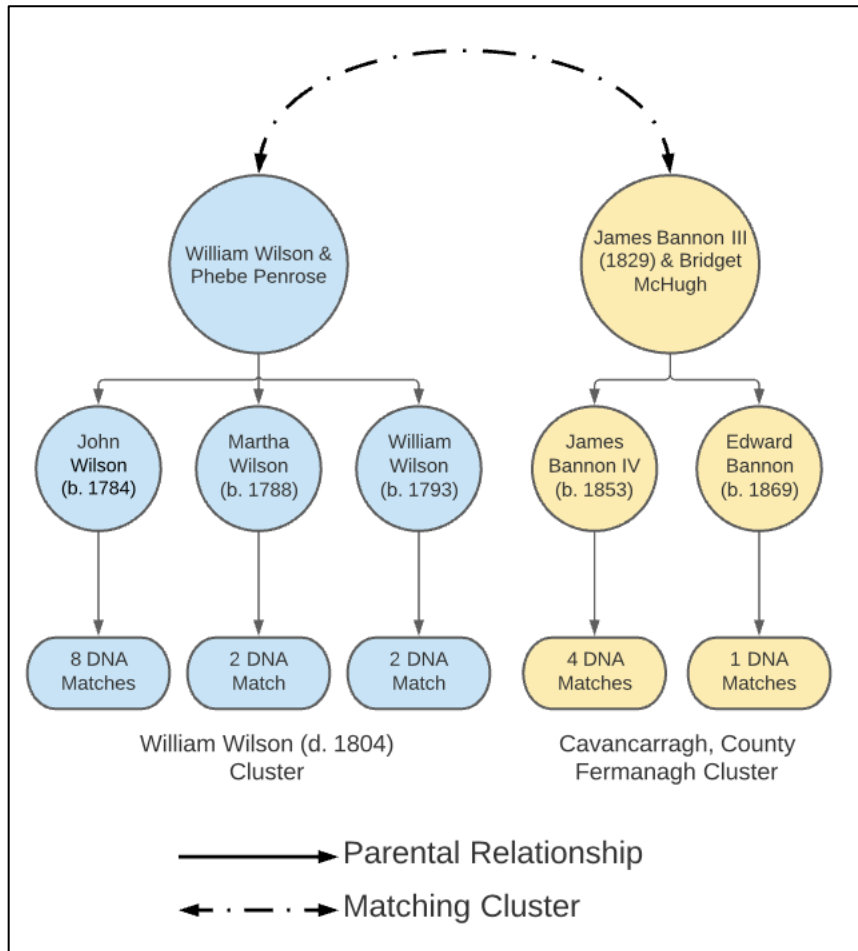
Figure 10 on the next page graphically presents the DNA matches for the New Haven Cluster. The cluster is comprised of 28 shared DNA matches forming three sub-clusters. One cluster (12 DNA matches) represents the DNA matches who descend from William Wilson (d. 1804) and Phebe Penrose. Like the Pennsylvania Cluster, four DNA matches descend through children of William and Phebe other than John, from whom the test taker descends, which suggests that the common ancestor for this sub-cluster is William and Phebe and not an earlier generation for the test taker. Five of the shared DNA matches within the William Wilson sub-cluster are the same matches as those appearing in the William Wilson sub-cluster within the Pennsylvania Cluster.

The other so-called "Cavancarragh, County Fermanagh Cluster" is comprised of five DNA matches, and the remaining 11 matches constitutes "unknown matches" for whom trees were not available and/or their connection to the cluster could not be determined. Within the Cavancarragh sub-cluster, the amount of shared DNA varies from 37 cM to 11 cM with two matches having more than 30 cM of shared DNA. These two matches have a high level of confidence (95%) of having a recent shared common ancestor with the test taker as indicated in Table 1. The common ancestral pair of the Cavancarragh Cluster is James Bannon III (b. 1829) and Bridget McHugh. The ancestral origins of James Bannon III's wife, Bridget McHugh, is unknown.

⁴⁹ Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Marriage Index, 1885-1951, Bridget Ferry and Charles Carr (1887), license 14821; database, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 12 September 2021); Clerk of Orphans Court, Philadelphia. And *The Philadelphia Inquirer* (1921, December 17), "Carr, Bridget E.", p. 21, col. 7, Philadelphia, PA; online database, <https://Newspapers.com>, accessed 12 August 2021.

⁵⁰ Ibid, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Marriage Index.

Figure 10 – New Haven Autosomal DNA Cluster



Based on evidence presented in a family research report prepared by M.S. Pitkin,⁵¹ the Bannons appear to have immigrated to New Haven in a couple of waves during the 1840s and 1850s. James Bannon III (b. 1829), along with his parents, James Bannon II (b. 1800) and Margaret (last name unknown), and siblings, were enumerated in New Haven in 1850.⁵² James Bannon II's (b. 1800) father, James Bannon I (b. 1767), appears to have immigrated in the 1850s and died 27 Mar 1858 in New Haven.⁵³ James Bannon I (b. 1767), James Bannon II (b. 1800), and James Bannon I's other son, Michael Bannon, appeared in the Tithe Applotment

⁵¹ Pitkin, Mary Stanford (2013), "The Descendants of James Bannon of Fermanagh, Northern Ireland," unpublished family research report, p. 11-12; PDF in author's files, p. 6.

⁵² 1850 U.S. census, New Haven County, Connecticut, population schedule, New Haven, p. 219b, image 230 of 485, James Barnow [Bannon] in James Barnow [Bannon] household; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 15 August 2021); NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 47.

⁵³ Pitkin (2013), "The Descendants of James Bannon of Fermanagh, Northern Ireland," p. 11.

Books (agricultural tax records) for 1835 in Cavancarragh in Derryvullan Parish, County Fermanagh.⁵⁴

5.3.2.3 Chromosome Mapping and Segment Triangulation

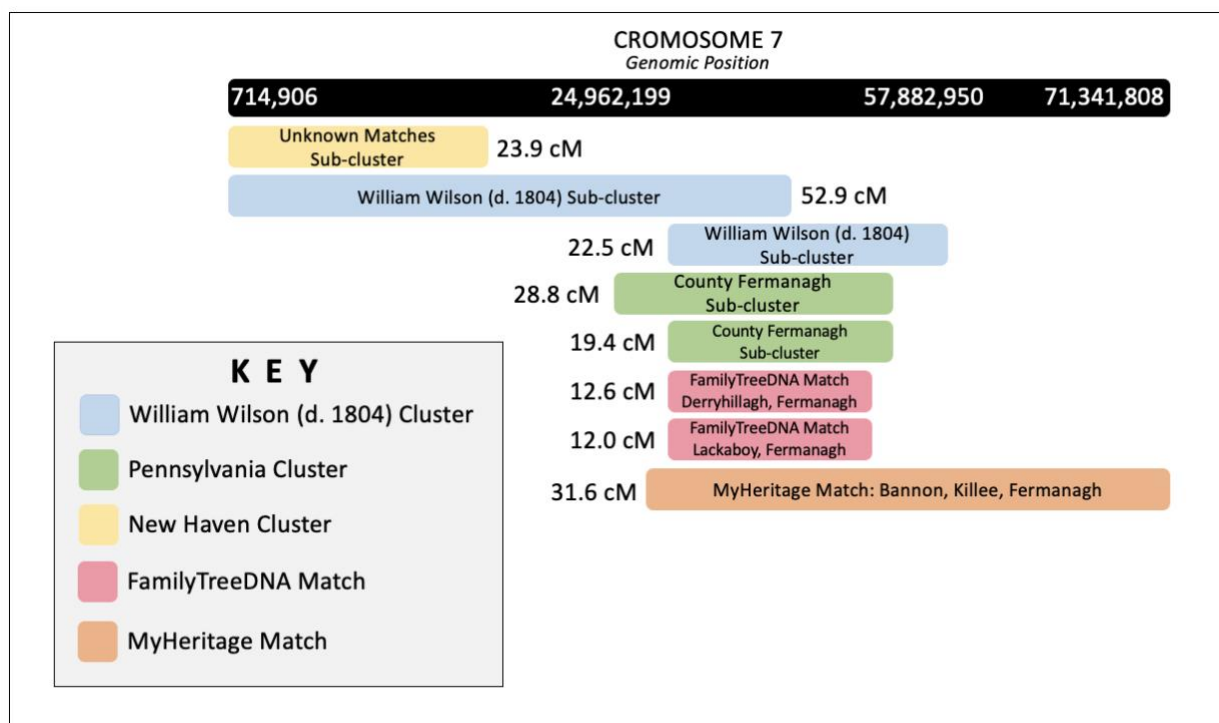
An important determination when analyzing shared DNA matches within a cluster is to ensure they share a portion of the same segment on a chromosome. Doing so increases the likelihood that they share the same common ancestor who passed on the particular DNA segment. If multiple DNA segments are found across shared matches within the same cluster, the other segments may be from the common ancestor of interest or from another perhaps unknown common ancestor. The process of mapping your shared DNA matches to locations on your chromosomes is called segment triangulation.

Ancestry.com does not provide a chromosome mapping feature, and so Ancestry test takers must download their raw DNA results and upload it to another platform where the data can be visualized. The three most common online platforms for this function are GEDmatch, MyHeritage, and FamilyTreeDNA. Accordingly, the raw autosomal DNA for the test taker analyzed in this report was uploaded to all three sites, and triangulated segments were found for two contiguous segments on chromosome 7.

Unfortunately, only a few of the shared Ancestry DNA matches from the Pennsylvania and the New Haven Clusters were also in GEDmatch, MyHeritage, or FamilyTreeDNA. However, those present were enough to identify the segment. The shared DNA matches from New Haven Cluster appear to be located at the lower end of chromosome 7 depicted in Figure 11 on the next page, and the Pennsylvania Cluster immediately adjoining the New Haven Cluster. Situated within and across the lower and upper portions are descendants from William Wilson (d. 1804).

⁵⁴ "Ireland Tithe Applotment Books, 1823-1838," Irish Genealogy Hub (<http://www.irishgenealogyhub.com/fermanagh/tithe-applotment-books/parish-of-derryvullan.php>, accessed 15 August 2021), > Fermanagh Genealogy > Derryvullan Tithe Applotments, James Bannon Sr., James Bannon Jr., and Michael Bannon, Cavancarragh, 1835.

Figure 11 – Triangulated Segment for the Pennsylvania and New Haven Clusters



While reviewing the family trees for matches on MyHeritage and FamilyTreeDNA at the identified locations on chromosome 7, four new relevant matches were found. One is a new member of the County Fermanagh Cluster group, which is part of the larger Pennsylvania Cluster, descending from David Burgess Jr. (identified in Figure 11 as sharing 19.4 cM). The second new match also appears to fit within the Pennsylvania Cluster based on its location on chromosome 7 (31.6 cM match). Interestingly, this match has a direct paternal line back to a Patrick (Patt) Bannon who lived in Killee in County Fermanagh, which is an adjacent townland to Cavancarragh. According to this match's family tree, Patrick was born about 1788 and died between 1852 and 1862.⁵⁵

The other two matches have Wilson ancestry from County Fermanagh and are also situated at the same location on chromosome 7 as the Pennsylvania Cluster. One match (12.6 cM) descends from Mary (Wilson) Armstrong (1804-1866), a daughter of James Wilson (1769-1853) and Rebecca Coulter of Derryhillagh, County Fermanagh. The final new match (12.0 cM) is also located at the same location as the Pennsylvania Cluster and descends from Hall Price Wilson (1851-1924), a son of Alexander Wilson (1819-1905) and Rebecca Price of Lackaboy, County Fermanagh. Lackaboy is about one mile from Derryhillagh.

⁵⁵ "Moore Web Site," database, MyHeritage (www.myheritage.com, accessed 28 August 2021), person-150013_457807291, Patrick Bannon (1788-1852).

5.4 Documentary Evidence

The prior Big Y, autosomal, and chromosome mapping DNA analyses suggest that County Fermanagh is the location of interest and that Wilson, Bannon, Burgess, Cosgrove, and Farry are similarly the surnames of interest, i.e., members of the FAN Club (friends, associates, and neighbors). While Wilson was one of the more common surnames in County Fermanagh in the 18th century (20 families), the surnames of Bannon (3 families), Burgess (2 families), Cosgrove (1 family), and Farry (2 families) were less prevalent.⁵⁶ Identifying where the Bannon, Burgess, Cosgrove, and Farry families lived and triangulating it with the locations of where the Wilson families lived may help to identify the ancestral townland for John Wilson (d. 1799).

In triangulating locations, there are two time periods to consider. As discussed earlier in the report, John Wilson (d. 1799) likely arrived America in the early 1700s. Therefore, searching records in the 17th or 18th centuries would identify relevant locations where John Wilson's ancestors originated. This time period might also be useful for the County Fermanagh Cluster (Burgess) and the Irish Cluster (Cosgrove), which are part of the Pennsylvania Cluster, as they arrived America in the late 1700s. One such record group is the 1766 Religious Census of Ireland, and it meets the requirements of the time period of interest. Unfortunately, and like many early Irish records, the original records for the Religious Census were destroyed in 1922 during the Irish Civil War, but a transcript created by an employee of the Public Records Office of Ireland before 1922 thankfully covers the majority of County Fermanagh. This census provides a list of heads of households and their religion and was used to help the Church of Ireland retain its monopoly power in Ireland.⁵⁷ Heads of household are listed by townland.

A second important time period is the early to mid 1800s. The ancestors of the County Fermanagh Farry Match, which is part of the Pennsylvania Cluster, and the Cavancarragh, County Fermanagh Cluster (Bannon), which is part of the New Haven Cluster, both immigrated to America in the mid to late 1800s. Two record groups might be helpful for this 19th century time period. The first is the Tithe Applotment Records of 1823 to 1840, which was a tax payable to the Church of Ireland for occupiers of agricultural holdings.⁵⁸ The second record group is Griffith's Valuation, which was a tax on agricultural land and built property in Ireland between 1847 and 1864.⁵⁹ Heads of household are listed by townland.

⁵⁶ The 1766 Religious Census of Ireland, County Fermanagh, database, *Public Record Office of Northern Ireland* (PRONI, www.apps.proni.gov.uk, accessed 21 August 2021); Tenison Groves transcripts.

⁵⁷ NI Direct Government Services (n.d.), *About 1766 religious census returns*, accessed 22 August 2021, <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/about-name-search#toc-6>.

⁵⁸ The National Archives of Ireland (n.d.), *The Tithe Applotment Books*, accessed 22 August 2021, <http://titheapplotmentbooks.nationalarchives.ie/search/tab/home.jsp>.

⁵⁹ Ask About Ireland (n.d.), *What is Griffith's Valuation?*, accessed 22 August 2021, <http://www.askaboutireland.ie/reading-room/history-heritage/irish-genealogy/what-is-griffiths-valuati/>.

5.4.1 Religious Census of Ireland (1766)

In evaluating the census, the first step is to identify all Bannon, Burgess, Cosgrove, and Farry heads of households living in County Fermanagh included in the census. Then Wilson heads of households living in townlands near these locations are similarly identified.⁶⁰ The results are presented in Table 2 and graphically displayed in a map in Figure 12.

Table 2 – List of the Heads of Household for the 1766 Religious Census of Ireland

Name	Parish	Townland	Location
Banan, Patrick	Rossorry	---	Part of Enniskillen
O'Bannen, Hugh	Derryvullan	Coolbuck	Tier 1, Cavancarragh
O'Bannen, Manus	Derryvullan	Coolbuck	Tier 1, Cavancarragh
Burges, Francis	Derryvullan	Shankill	Tier 1, Derryhillagh
Burges, John	Derryvullan	Feddán	Tier 1, Cavancarragh
Cosgrave, Edward	Devenish	---	Far north of Enniskillen
Farry, Darby	Derryvullan	Cavancarragh	Cavancarragh
Farry, Hugh	Derryvullan	Slee	Southern Enniskillen
Wilson, John	Derryvullan	Derryhillagh	Derryhillagh
Wilson, Richard	Derryvullan	Derryhillagh	Derryhillagh
Wilson, Widow	Derryvullan	Derryhillagh	Derryhillagh
Wilson, William	Derryvullan	Derryhillagh	Derryhillagh
Wilson, William	Derryvullan	Derryhillagh	Derryhillagh
Wilson, Robert	Derryvullan	Cavancarragh	Cavancarragh

All Bannons, Burgesses, and Farrys were found in the parish of Derryvullan or in neighboring Enniskillen, which is the largest town in County Fermanagh and just to the west of Derryvullan. The only Cosgrove (Cosgrave) is found in the far north of County Fermanagh and not likely relevant given the locations of Bannons, Burgesses, and Farrys. As hypothesized in Figure 8, it is probable that the DNA cluster with Cosgrove is related to Henry Cosgrove's reputed wife, Mary Jane Wilson, rather than the Cosgrove line.

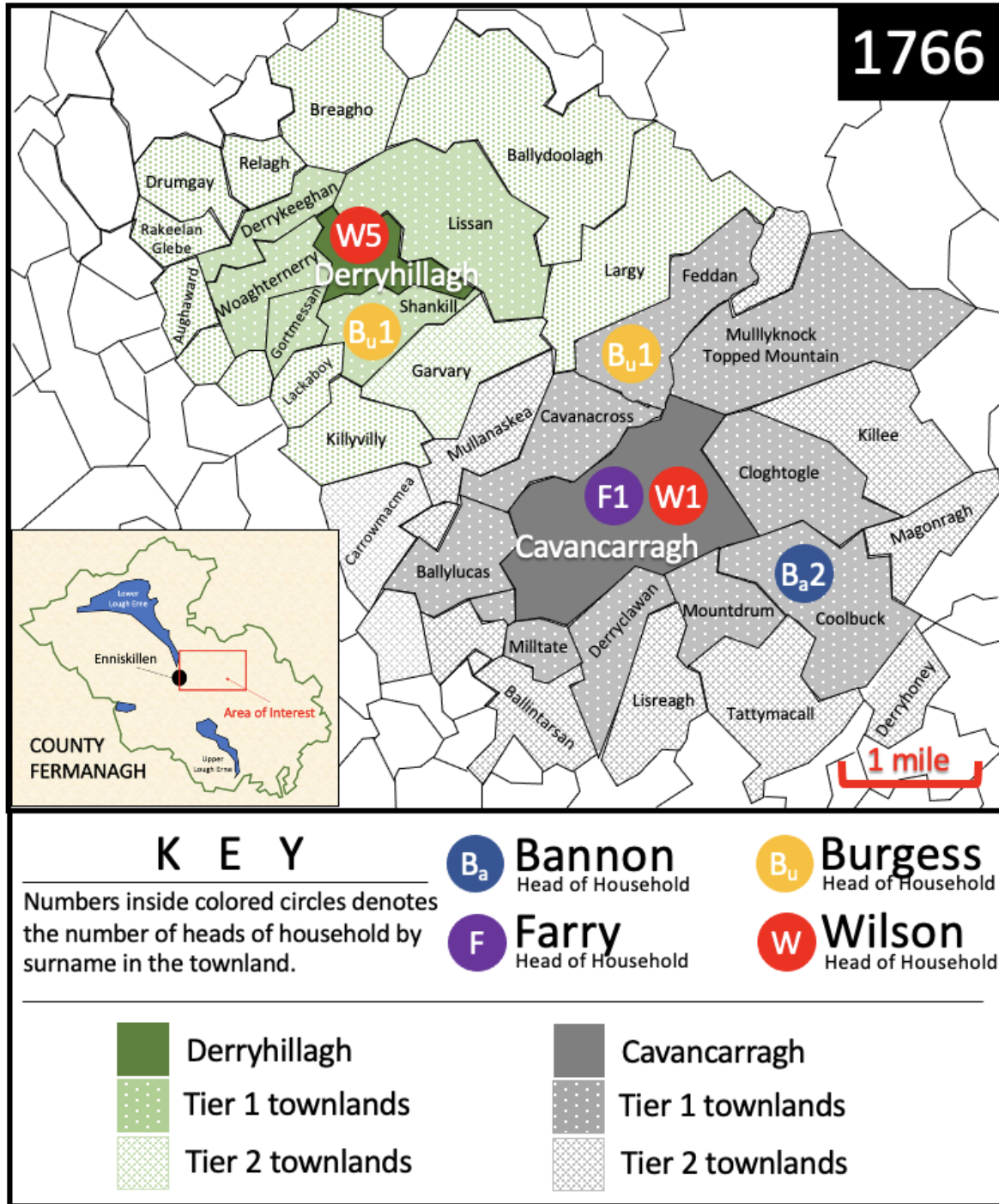
When the Wilsons are overlaid onto the Bannon, Burgess, and Farry results, two clusters are visible around two different townlands, which are about 2.5 miles apart. There are five Wilson heads of household in Derryhillagh and one Wilson head of household in Cavancarragh. Both townlands are in the Parish of Derryvullan, which is part of the Barony of Tirkennedy and located to the east of Enniskillen.

In the townlands outside of Derryhillagh, one Burgess head of household is found in Shankill. Derryhillagh is the townland from where the ancestral origins for two of the Big Y cluster matches hail (see Wilson 4 and Wilson 7 in Figure 5). Immediately adjacent to the northwest of

⁶⁰ Wilson heads of households in the same townlands or in neighboring townlands where the Bannons, Burgesses, and Farrys lived. Neighboring townlands were defined as bordering the identified Bannon/Burgess/Farry townland (so-called tier 1 townlands) or bordering the tier 1 townlands (so-called tier 2 townlands).

Derryhillagh is Derrykeeghan, which is where two more Big Y clusters claim ancestral origins (see Wilson 2 and Wilson 3 in Figure 5). However, no Wilson heads of household are yet found in Derrykeeghan in 1766.

Figure 12 – Map of the Heads of Household for the 1766 Religious Census of Ireland



In the townlands outside of Cavancarragh, one Burgess head of household is found in the townland of Feddan, and the two Bannon (O'Bannen) heads of household are found in Coolbuck. A Farry head of household is found in the townland of Cavancarragh along with the Wilson head of household.

While more Wilson heads of household are found in Derryhillagh than in Cavancarragh, all the allied surnames of interest are found around Cavancarragh and only Bannon and Farry heads of household are found outside of Cavancarragh.

5.4.2 Tithe Applotment Records (1823-1840)

Like the procedure used with the 1766 Religious Census, all Bannon, Burgess, Cosgrove, and Farry heads of households living in County Fermanagh were identified using the Tithe Applotment records.⁶¹ Table 3 lists the heads of households found in Cavancarragh, Derryhillagh or in the townlands immediately nearby. The Tithe records for this area of County Fermanagh were created between 1829 and 1835. Table 3 is graphically presented in Figure 13.

Ten of the 13 Bannon heads of household were found in Cavancarragh or in the 1st or 2nd tier townlands just outside of it. Three Bannon heads of household were living far outside of this area,⁶² and none were identified near Derryhillagh or its 1st or 2nd tier townlands.

Three of the six Burgess heads of household were found in Derryvullan Parish – two outside of Derryhillagh and one outside of Cavancarragh.⁶³

Only one of the 19 Cosgrove heads of household was identified outside of Cavancarragh and none outside of Derryhillagh. While it is possible that the Cosgrove head of household in Cavanacross is related to the Henry Cosgrove cluster presented previously, it is more likely that the autosomal DNA connection to Henry Cosgrove is through his reputed wife, Mary Jane Wilson, as Henry appears to have been in Mifflin County, Pennsylvania prior to 1800.

Twenty-six Farry heads of household were identified with nine located in Cavancarragh or in its tier 1 and tier 2 townlands.⁶⁴ Seven Wilson heads of household were identified in Cavancarragh or its tiered townlands and 14 were in Derryhillagh or its tiered townlands.

⁶¹ Tithe records for the years 1823-1840 were unavailable for the parishes of Clones, Currin, Devenish, Kinawaley, Templecarn, and Tomreagan, which are more distantly located from the focal communities of Derryhillagh or Cavancarragh.

⁶² Two Bannon heads of household were found in Killyculla about seven miles north of Cavancarragh and one head of household was found in Drumboy, which is west of Enniskillen.

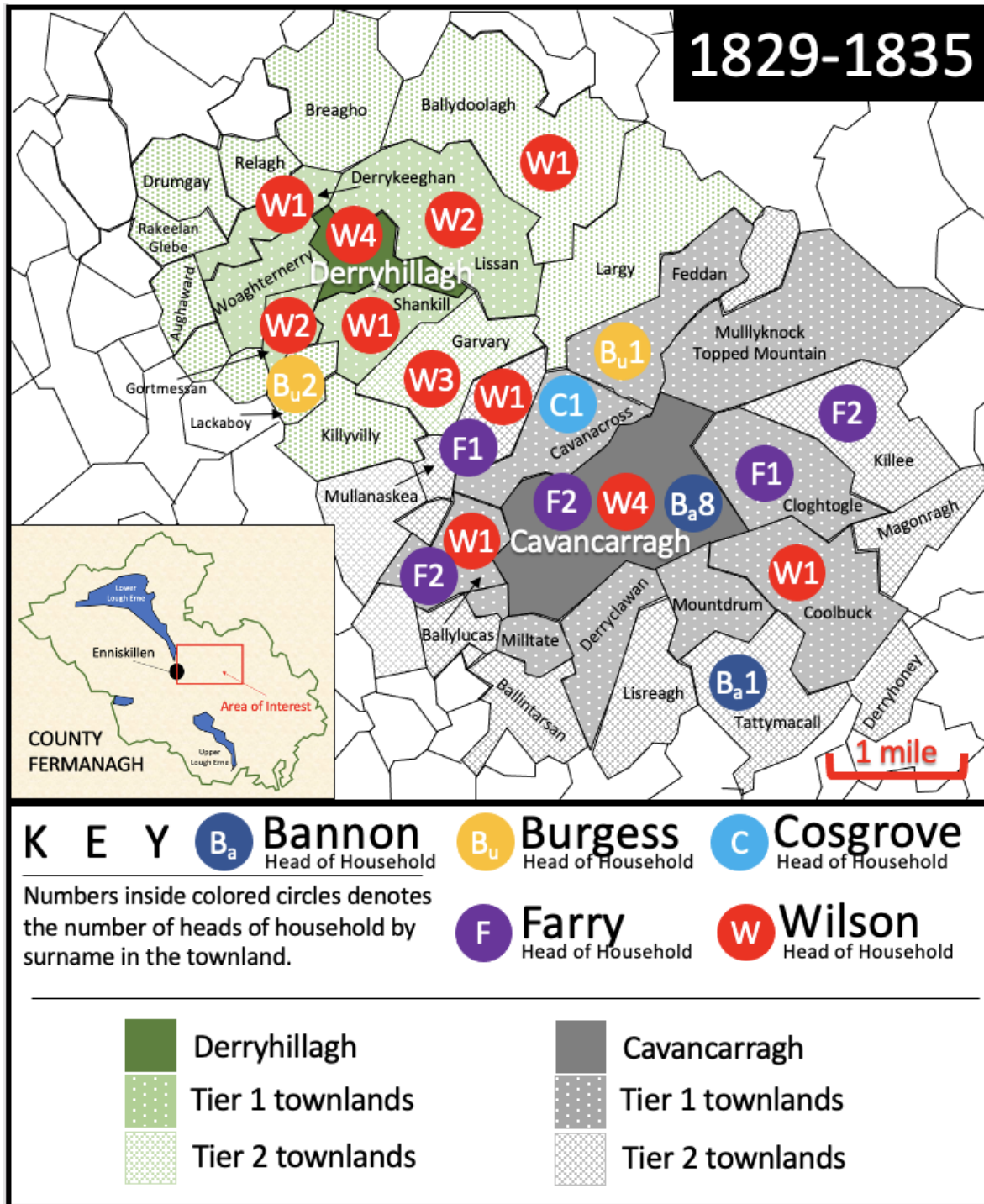
⁶³ Three Burgess heads of household were found in of Cleenish Parish, which is west of Enniskillen.

⁶⁴ One Farry head of household was found west of Enniskillen, three southwest of Enniskillen, twelve northeast of Enniskillen, and one north of Enniskillen.

Table 3 – List of the Heads of Household for the 1829-1835 Tithe Applotment Records

Name	Parish	Townland	Year	Location
Bannon, Hugh	Derryvullan	Cavancarragh	1835	Cavancarragh
Bannon, James, Jr.	Derryvullan	Cavancarragh	1835	Cavancarragh
Bannon, James, Sr.	Derryvullan	Cavancarragh	1835	Cavancarragh
Bannon, Michael	Derryvullan	Cavancarragh	1835	Cavancarragh
Bannon, Patrick	Derryvullan	Cavancarragh	1835	Cavancarragh
Bannon, Sarah	Derryvullan	Cavancarragh	1835	Cavancarragh
Bannon, Thomas	Derryvullan	Cavancarragh	1835	Cavancarragh
Bannon, Wm.	Derryvullan	Cavancarragh	1835	Cavancarragh
Bannon, Robert	Derryvullan	Tattymacaul	1835	Tier 2, Cavancarragh
Burgess, Francis	Derryvullan	Feddán	1835	Tier 1, Cavancarragh
Burgess, James	Derryvullan	Lackaghboy	1835	Tier 2, Derryhillagh
Burgess, Robert	Derryvullan	Lackaghboy	1835	Tier 2, Derryhillagh
Cosgrove, Jas.	Derryvullan	Cavanacross	1835	Tier 1, Cavancarragh
Farry, Darby	Derryvullan	Cavancarragh	1835	Cavancarragh
Farry, James	Derryvullan	Cavancarragh	1835	Cavancarragh
Farry, Michael	Enniskillen	Ballylucas	1832	Tier 1, Cavancarragh
Farry, Owen	Enniskillen	Ballylucas	1832	Tier 1, Cavancarragh
Farry, Mary	Enniskillen	Cloghtogle	1832	Tier 1, Cavancarragh
Farry, Owen	Enniskillen	Mullanaska	1832	Tier 2, Cavancarragh
Fairy, Domnick	Magheracross	Killee	1829	Tier 2, Cavancarragh
Fairy, Thomas	Magheracross	Killee	1829	Tier 2, Cavancarragh
Wilson, Catherine	Derryvullan	Cavancarragh	1835	Cavancarragh
Wilson, John	Derryvullan	Cavancarragh	1835	Cavancarragh
Wilson, Mary	Derryvullan	Cavancarragh	1835	Cavancarragh
Wilson, Robert	Derryvullan	Cavancarragh	1835	Cavancarragh
Wilson, Robert	Derryvullan	Coolbuck	1835	Tier 1, Cavancarragh
Wilson, Thomas	Enniskillen	Ballylucas	1832	Tier 1, Cavancarragh
Wilson, Archibald	Enniskillen	Mullanaska	1832	Tier 2, Cavancarragh
Wilson, Elizabeth	Derryvullan	Derryhillagh	1835	Derryhillagh
Wilson, John	Derryvullan	Derryhillagh	1835	Derryhillagh
Wilson, Thomas	Derryvullan	Derryhillagh	1835	Derryhillagh
Wilson, William	Derryvullan	Derryhillagh	1835	Derryhillagh
Wilson, Richard	Derryvullan	Gortmessan	1835	Tier 1, Derryhillagh
Wilson, Thomas	Derryvullan	Gortmessan	1835	Tier 1, Derryhillagh
Wilson, Andrew	Derryvullan	Lissan	1835	Tier 1, Derryhillagh
Wilson, James	Derryvullan	Lissan	1835	Tier 1, Derryhillagh
Wilson, Andrew	Derryvullan	Shankill	1835	Tier 1, Derryhillagh
Wilson, James	Enniskillen	Derrykeegan	1832	Tier 1, Derryhillagh
Wilson, Christy	Enniskillen	Killyvilly	1832	Tier 2, Derryhillagh
Wilson, James	Enniskillen	Killyvilly	1832	Tier 2, Derryhillagh
Wilson, William	Enniskillen	Killyvilly	1832	Tier 2, Derryhillagh
Wilson, James	Magheracross	Ballydoolagh	1829	Tier 2, Derryhillagh

Figure 13 – Map of the Heads of Household for 1829-1835 Tithe Applotment Records



Similar to the 1766 Religious Census, a majority of the Wilson heads of household were found in Derryhillagh, but only the Bannon and Farry heads of household are found in and around Cavancarragh suggesting that Cavancarragh may be a townland of interest. Indeed, the ancestors of the autosomal “Cavancarragh, County Fermanagh Cluster” are found in the Tithe Applotment Records in Cavancarragh (James, James Jr., and Michael Bannon).

5.4.3 Griffith's Valuation (1848-1864)

The Griffith's Valuation was a property tax administered between 1848 and 1864 and provided a detailed valuation of agricultural and built property.⁶⁵ This resource is helpful in establishing where in Fermanagh the “County Fermanagh Farry Match” likely resided before arriving in Philadelphia in the 1880s. Bridget (Farry) Carr is the immigrant ancestor for this cluster. Her parents were James Farry and Catherine Bannon, and their children were baptized in the Tempo Parrish, which is near Cavancarragh (see the proof argument for Bridget's parents and siblings in the Appendix).

While the Griffith's Valuation was administered between 1848 to 1864, the area surrounding Cavancarragh was principally assessed in 1862. James Farry's first child appears to have been born in 1858⁶⁶ and so James should be listed in Griffith's Valuation. One James Farry was identified in the vicinity of Tempo Parrish, and he was in the townland of Cloghtogle, which is a tier 1 townland to Cavancarragh.⁶⁷ The only other James Farry near Tempo was in the townland of Cavantilly-Cormick, which is located further from Tempo but still only a couple of miles from Cavancarragh.⁶⁸ In either instance, it establishes that Bridget (Farry) Carr's origins are likely near Cavancarragh.

5.5 Historical and Additional Evidence

Based on the preceding evidence, it appears that Cavancarragh is the location of interest and the Robert Wilson found in the 1766 Religious Census in Cavancarragh is a potential person of interest. Reviewing historical accounts of County Fermanagh may confirm whether Cavancarragh is the ancestral origin of John Wilson (d. 1799) and whether John is a direct descendant of Robert.

⁶⁵ Ask about Ireland (n.d.), *What is Griffith's Valuation?* Accessed 24 August 2021, <http://www.askaboutireland.ie/reading-room/history-heritage/irish-genealogy/what-is-griffiths-valuation/>.

⁶⁶ Ireland Catholic Parish Registers, 1655-1915, Northern Ireland, County Fermanagh, Tempo Parrish, Mary Cath Farry (16 Aug 1858), image 19 of 46, database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 13 September 2021); National Library of Ireland, Dublin, microfilm 05570/02.

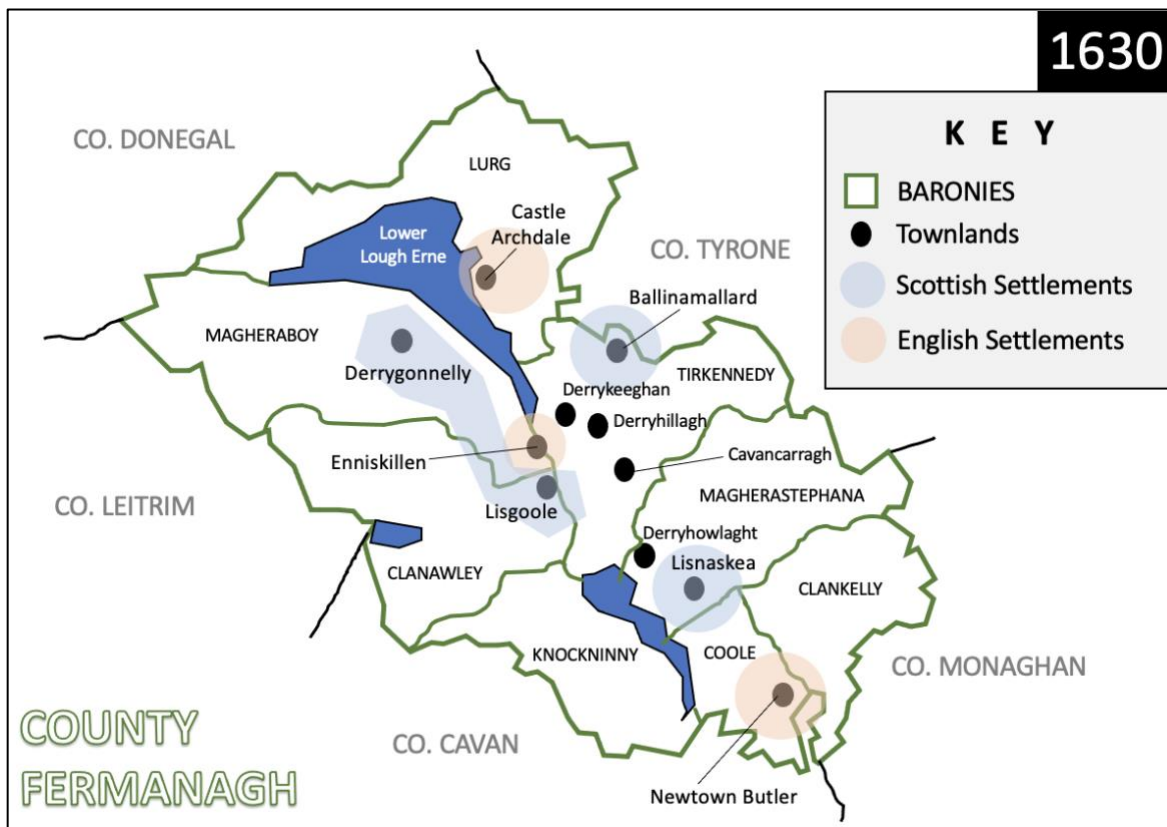
⁶⁷ Griffith's Valuation, County Fermanagh, Tirkennedy Barony, Enniskillen Parrish, Cloghtogle, James Farry (printed 1862), p. 216; database with image, *Ask About Ireland* (www.askaboutireland.ie, accessed 14 September 2021).

⁶⁸ Griffith's Valuation, County Fermanagh, Tirkennedy Barony, Magheracross Parrish, Cavantilly-Cormick, James Farry (printed 1862), p. 231; database with image, *Ask About Ireland* (www.askaboutireland.ie, accessed 14 September 2021).

5.5.1 Historical Context

The British (English and Scottish) settlement of Ulster Ireland began in 1610, and by 1630 Scottish settlements in County Fermanagh were the greatest around Ballinamallard, Lisnaskea, and between Derrygonnelly and Lisgoole while English settlements were greatest around Castle Archdale, Enniskillen, and Newtown Butler (see Figure 14).⁶⁹ The lands surrounding Cavancarragh and Derryhillagh are located in the Barony of Tirkennedy, which were granted to servitors (i.e., those who served the king in Ireland as soldiers or government officials) and to the native Irish (i.e., the Maguire clan).⁷⁰ However, British settlement in this part of Tirkennedy was sparse in 1659.⁷¹ Indeed, in Derryhillagh, only eight Irish people were living in the townland during the 1659 Census of Ireland and none were British.⁷² The town of Cavancarragh was not listed in the Census.

Figure 14 – British Settlements in County Fermanagh (1630)



⁶⁹ Johnston, John (1979), "English Settlement in County Fermanagh, 1610-1640," *Clogher Record*, 10 (1), 137-143.

⁷⁰ Johnston, John (1980), "Settlement Patterns in County Fermanagh, 1610-1660," *Clogher Record*, 10 (2), 199-214.

⁷¹ Johnston, J.D. (1980), "Settlement and Architecture in County Fermanagh, 1610-41," *Ulster Journal of Archaeology*, 43, 79-89.

⁷² Pendar, Seamus (1939), *A Census of Ireland, circa 1659 with Supplemental Material from the Poll Money Ordinances (1660-1661)*, Dublin, Ireland: The Stationary Office, Government Publications Sale Office.

Little migration from Scotland and England occurred after 1622 in County Fermanagh, and the Scottish and English populations in the County mostly grew naturally from this time forward.⁷³ It seems likely that British migration into the townlands surrounding Cavancarragh and Derryhillagh came from neighboring areas, such as Enniskillen (English), Ballinamallard, or Lisgoole (Scottish). The earliest accounts of the Wilson surname in Fermanagh comes from the 1630 muster rolls, which listed all able-bodied men capable of military service (see Table 4).

Only one Wilson individual is found near Tirkennedy in Castle Coole – George Wilson, who is likely of English origin given that his undertaker (estate owner) was English. The English and Scottish tended to reside in areas managed by their kinsman, and this was especially true for Scots. Indeed, Scottish settlers often lived on estates owned by other Scots because of their great dislike of an English landlord.⁷⁴

Table 4 – List of Wilson Men from the County Fermanagh Muster Rolls (1630)

Name	Barony	Undertaker	Undertaker Nationality
Wilson, Archibald	Clankelly	Hatton	English
Wilson, Michael	Clankelly	Balfour	Scottish
Wilson, William	Clankelly	Hatton	English
Wilson, John	Magheraboy	Archdall	English
Wilson, John	Magheraboy	Widow Hamilton	Scottish
Wilson, Richard	Magheraboy	Archdall	English
Wilson, Robert	Magheraboy	Archdall	English
Wilson, Robert	Magheraboy	Archdall	English
Wilson, Thomas	Lurg	Hanings	English
Wilson, William	Lurg	Flowerdew	English
Wilson, Robert	Knockninny	Butler	Scottish
Wilson, George	Tirkennedy	Atkinson	English

Other than the 1630 muster rolls, no other records exist for County Fermanagh listing British inhabitants by name and townland until the Freeholders' records, which listed men who either owned their land outright or who held it for the duration of their life.⁷⁵ Freeholders' records were not censuses and so no guarantee can be made that it includes all settlers of British origin. The earliest Freeholders' records in County Fermanagh are from the 1740s and 1750s. In the area of Cavancarragh and Derryhillagh (inclusive of Enniskillen), six different Wilson heads of household are found between the years 1749 and 1753, as shown in Table 5.⁷⁶

⁷³ Johnston (1980), "Settlement Patterns in County Fermanagh, 1610-1660".

⁷⁴ Johnston (1979), "English Settlement in County Fermanagh, 1610-1640".

⁷⁵ Northern Ireland Direct Government Services (n.d.), *About freeholders' records*, accessed 8 September 2021 from <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/about-freeholders-records>.

⁷⁶ Freeholders' Records, database, *Public Record Office of Northern Ireland* (PRONI, www.apps.proni.gov.uk, accessed 8 September 2021).

Table 5 – List of Wilson Men from the Freeholders' Records (1749-1753)

Year	Name	Townland
1749	Wilson, Richard Sr.	Derryhillagh
1749	Wilson, Richard	Derryhillagh
1751	Wilson, George	Enniskillen
1751	Wilson, Robert	Ballydoolagh
1751	Wilson, Thomas	Killyvilly
1753	Wilson, William	Derryhillagh

Based on the Freeholders' records in Table 5, no Wilsons are identified as living in Cavancarragh, which suggests that the Robert Wilson found in Cavancarragh during the 1766 Religious Census most likely had not yet migrated to this townland or had not yet acquired a lease. However, there are two Wilsons in Derryhillagh – Richard Wilson Sr. and Jr. It is probable that the Richard Wilson Jr. in the Freeholders' records in 1749 is the same Richard Wilson found in the 1766 Religious Census. It seems that Richard Wilson Sr. identified in 1749 likely died by 1766 and the Widow Wilson in Derryhillagh was his wife (see Table 2).

While Robert Wilson was not found in the Freeholders' records in Cavancarragh, there is a Robert Wilson in Ballydoolagh, which is a tier two townland of Derryhillagh and a couple of miles from Cavancarragh. It is possible that this Ballydoolagh Robert Wilson moved to Cavancarragh between 1751 and 1766 as no Wilsons are found in Ballydoolagh in 1766.

5.5.2 Theories of Migration Based on Historical and DNA Evidence

Up to this point, no early records establish a definitive location within County Fermanagh for the ancestral origin of John Wilson (d. 1799), who was likely born between 1714 and 1718. Robert Wilson of Cavancarragh does not appear in this townland until 1766, which is after the presumed birth range for John Wilson. So, it seems unlikely that John Wilson lived at any point in Cavancarragh.

In absence of any other early records for the Cavancarragh and Derryhillagh areas, two competing theories are proposed. First, the ancestors to the Wilsons of Cavancarragh and Derryhillagh were in their respective townlands much before 1749 and may have arrived the area during the Ulster Plantation in the early 1600s. It's possible that no records survived to the present day to prove otherwise. Alternatively, the Wilsons could have migrated into this area from other places in Fermanagh or neighboring Ulster counties in the decades just before 1749 in search of better land and prosperity. Indeed, this area of Tirkennedy was sparsely populated by British settlers prior to 1659,⁷⁷ and many early settlers were greatly disappointed with conditions in their new Ulster home and began migrating internally within Northern Ireland.⁷⁸

⁷⁷ Johnston, J.D. (1980), "Settlement and Architecture in County Fermanagh, 1610-41".

⁷⁸ Livingstone, Peadar (1969), *The Fermanagh Story: A Documented History of the County Fermanagh from the Earliest Times to the Present Day*. Monaghan, Ireland: Cumann Seanchais Chlochair.

Indeed, Castle Coole, which was an Ulster Plantation manor associated with ownership of the area where Derryhillagh and Cavancarragh are found, changed ownership in 1655 from an English landlord to a Scottish landlord.⁷⁹ Castle Coole is located just to the East of Enniskillen and a couple of miles from Derryhillagh. If the Wilsons were Scottish, as believed, then they may have moved into this area at this time.

Regardless, Derryhillagh, or the townlands immediately surrounding it, may be the original homestead for the Wilsons no matter when they arrived the area. Two early publications on the historical accounts of the region provide some valuable insight as to why this might be. The first is an 1881 publication of the historical deeds and family documents in the possession of Somerset Richard Lowry-Corry, who is The Earl of Belmore, and was at that time the owner of Castle Coole, which is one of the original manors associated with the Ulster Plantation. Castle Coole, or Manor Atkinson, as it was also known, is located just to the east of Enniskillen and a couple of miles from Derryhillagh and Cavancarragh. The Earl of Belmore describes a 1707 improvement to Castle Coole and in doing so mentions a Wilson farm on the outskirts of this improvement in the townland of Killyvilly, which is a tier two townland of Derryhillagh:

*"[The improvement] took up most of the townland of Killyvilly – the rest being held by one Wilson, a descendant of whom still holds a portion of the original holding, and is I think the only tenant now holding land in the manor who could trace his family back in the male line, in the same farm, to this time. There may be some indeed whose ancestors were undertenants, but I have no means in my possession of identifying them."*⁸⁰

The second publication is from 1919 and states that the Far Mill near Derryhillagh has been "for about two centuries connected with the name of Wilson".⁸¹ In support of the evidence from the two publications is that most of the Big Y-DNA matches previously presented have ancestral origins to and around Derryhillagh, although this may be related to the coordinated effort of another researcher to recruit local Wilsons to participate in these tests.⁸² Furthermore, two autosomal DNA matches identified earlier and found on FamilyTreeDNA also have Wilson ancestral origins in or near Derryhillagh (see Figure 11).

An additional observation in support for Derryhillagh as the ancestral homeland for the Wilsons comes from the faster rate of growth for Wilson families in and around the townland of Derryhillagh from 1749 (Table 5) to 1766 (Figure 12) to 1829 (Figure 13) as compared to the slower growth rate for the Wilson families around Cavancarragh for the same time periods. It seems that the Robert Wilson found in Cavancarragh during the 1766 Religious Census was the

⁷⁹ Lowry-Corry, Somerset Richard (The Earl of Belmore) (1881), *The History of the Two Ulster Manors of Finagh in the County of Tyrone and Coole, Otherwise Major Atkinson, in the County of Fermanagh, and their Owners*, London: Longmans, Green, & Co.

⁸⁰ *Ibid*, p. 149.

⁸¹ Trimble, W. Copeland (1919), *The History of Enniskillen with References to some Manors in Co. Fermanagh and other Local Subjects, Volume 1*, Enniskillen, Northern Ireland: William Trimble.

⁸² Colin Wilson of New South Wales, Australia, has done extensive research on Y-DNA for the Wilsons of Derryvullan Parish, County Fermanagh, colinwilson.aust@gmail.com.

pioneering Wilson in Cavancarragh whereas Robert's potential siblings and/or uncles remained around Derryhillagh.

It is quite possible then that Robert Wilson identified in Cavancarragh in 1766 migrated from Derryhillagh to Ballydoolagh prior to 1751 and then to Cavancarragh by 1766 in search of better land. Ballydoolagh is a tier two town of Derryhillagh, and no British settlers were living in Ballydoolagh in 1659 – only 18 Irishmen.⁸³ The matching segments from autosomal DNA with origins in Cavancarragh and its environs are larger than those from Derryhillagh suggesting the possibility of more recent connections to Cavancarragh.

Additionally, most of the autosomal DNA matches in Cavancarragh also have Bannon ancestry. Bannon is a native Irish clan residing in 1766 in Coolbuck, which is adjacent to Cavancarragh.⁸⁴ Bannons were Catholic.⁸⁵ The Wilsons were Protestant.⁸⁶ Intermarriage between the British and the native Irish was rare, especially in the 1600s.⁸⁷ Yet, despite this, evidence of an early Wilson-Bannon marriage was found in Cavancarragh and is discussed next.

Bannon descendants of a James Bannon (1768-1852) indicate that he was married to Sarah Wilson. A transcript of James' will, which was dated 1829, indicated he lived in Cavancarragh, had a wife named Sarah, and six daughters and one son, Robert.⁸⁸ It is possible James' son may have been named after Robert Wilson, who resided in Cavancarragh in 1766. In his will, James names his son Robert of Tattymacaul and Patt Bannon of Killee as executors (Patt's relationship to James is unknown). The will further mentions a promissory note to Thomas Wilson. What is interesting about the claimed marriage of James Bannon to Sarah Wilson is that the 31.6 cM DNA match shown in Figure 11 claims descendancy from Patt Bannon, who witnessed James' will and is named as an executor. It is possible that Patt Bannon is a brother to James and similarly married a Wilson, perhaps Sarah (Wilson) Bannon's sister. This would explain the 31.6 cM autosomal DNA match descending from Patt Bannon. More research is required to sort out the possible relationships between these Bannons and the Wilsons of Cavancarragh.

6. Conclusion

John Wilson (d. 1799) was likely born around 1714-1718, and Big Y DNA results suggests he was likely from County Fermanagh, Northern Ireland. Evidence also suggests he may have

⁸³ Pendar, Seamus (1939), *A Census of Ireland, circa 1659*.

⁸⁴ The 1766 Religious Census of Ireland, County Fermanagh, database, *Public Record Office of Northern Ireland* (PRONI, www.apps.proni.gov.uk, accessed 21 August 2021); Tenison Groves transcripts.

⁸⁵ Livingstone, Peadar (1969), *The Fermanagh Story: A Documented History of the County Fermanagh from the Earliest Times to the Present Day*. Monaghan, Ireland: Cumann Seanchais Chlochair.

⁸⁶ The 1766 Religious Census of Ireland, County Fermanagh, database, *Public Record Office of Northern Ireland* (PRONI, www.apps.proni.gov.uk, accessed 21 August 2021); Tenison Groves transcripts.

⁸⁷ Johnston (1980), "Settlement Patterns in County Fermanagh, 1610-1660".

⁸⁸ Transcript of James Bannon's will, dated 1829 and extracted from the Registry of the Diocese of Clogher, County Monaghan, Northern Ireland; transcribed by E. Brown, Tampa Bay, Florida, U.S.

been Scotch-Irish with his ancestors being part of the Ulster Plantation.⁸⁹ No autosomal DNA matches or 18th century documentary evidence connects him with other Wilson families or Irishmen in Bucks County, Pennsylvania where he first appears in the 1740s. It is probable that John came to America as a young man on his own. Many emigrants from County Fermanagh in the 18th century were children of plantation settlers who realized conditions in Ulster did not live up to their expectations.⁹⁰ Until the year 1770, many hundreds left each spring to the U.S. and Canada.⁹¹ Upon arrival to Bucks County, John likely worked at Thomas Pryor's mill in Solebury Township like many of the Wilsons back in Derryhillagh who also worked at or owned mills.⁹²

According to a historical account of Scotch-Irish immigration into the U.S., the first wave to arrive American shores landed in Philadelphia and began migrating up the Delaware River entering Bucks County by 1720.⁹³ It is probable that John was a latter participant of this first wave. The same text indicates subsequent waves of Scotch-Irish immigration into Pennsylvania came after 1766 moving through areas, such as Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, up the Susquehanna valley settling in places like Mifflin County, Pennsylvania. This latter path is the route the Wilsons associated with the Burgess and Cosgrove families in the DNA County Fermanagh Cluster traveled after the Revolutionary War.

In answering the research question proposed by this report, it appears that John Wilson's (d. 1799) ancestral homeland is County Fermanagh with further ancestral roots in Scotland. If born in County Fermanagh, it is probable that John was born in or near Derryhillagh. The Robert Wilson who appears in Cavancarragh in 1766 is most probably a close relative of John given the number of autosomal DNA matches and the size of the matching DNA segments for these individuals who descend from Cavancarragh ancestors. It is possible that Robert might be John's father, but it seems more probable that Robert is a brother to John. Robert was not a common forename in John Wilson's (d. 1799) descendants, but it was in the Wilson/Burgess clan. Furthermore, no additional information is known about Robert other than his appearance in the 1766 Religious Census of Ireland so it is uncertain whether Robert was John Wilson's age suggesting a sibling relationship or much older suggesting a paternal relationship.

Documentary evidence of John Wilson's (d. 1799) baptism or other records may exist in County Fermanagh, but none were found online. Other records may be available in person at local offices or genealogical centers in Ireland, but this is unlikely given that most early records were destroyed in 1922 during the Irish Civil War or did not survive to the present day.

⁸⁹ Chapman Brothers (1887), "Robert J. Wilson" in *Portrait and Biographical Album of Linn County, Iowa*.

⁹⁰ Livingstone, Peadar (1969), *The Fermanagh Story: A Documented History of the County Fermanagh from the Earliest Times to the Present Day*. Monaghan, Ireland: Cumann Seanchais Chlochair.

⁹¹ *Ibid.*

⁹² Trimble (1919), *The History of Enniskillen with References to some Manors in Co. Fermanagh and other Local Subjects, Volume 1*.

⁹³ Ford, Henry Jones (1915), *The Scotch-Irish in America*, Princeton, NJ: The Princeton University Press.

7. Future Research Suggestions

1. Identify a male Wilson to take a Big Y DNA test who has deep ancestral roots in Cavancarragh.
2. Obtain a copy of the original 1829 will for James Bannon, who died in Cavancarragh in 1852, and investigate whether the Bannon autosomal DNA matches connect with the Sarah Wilson who reportedly married James Bannon.
3. Request research assistance from the Fermanagh Genealogical Centre once they return to normal operations post-pandemic.
4. Attempt to locate land leases associated with the Freeholders' records for the Wilsons who lived in Derryhillagh and Ballydoolagh.
5. Review Bannon and Wilson land records for Cavancarragh to identify any family connections between the two families.
6. Travel to County Fermanagh and visit local genealogical centers and record depositories to see if other records exist that are not found online.

8. Table of Revisions

The following table records the changes made to the report since its initial publishing.

Version	Date	Change Description
1.0	01/02/2022	Initial publishing
1.1	08/03/2023	Addition of Table of Contents, List of Tables, List of Figures, and Table of Revisions. Added source citation for John Wilson's daughter's (Jane) marriage to Barak Michener.

9. Appendixes

Appendix 1: Proof Argument for the Parents of Bridget (Farry) Carr

Bridget (Farry) Carr is the immigrant ancestor for the County Fermanagh Farry Match. She lived with her sister, Mary Catherine (Farry) Patton, in Philadelphia.⁹⁴ The obituaries for both sisters indicate they were from County Fermanagh with Bridget's obituary more specifically stating Enniskillen,⁹⁵ which is the largest city in Fermanagh and about four miles from Derryhillagh and Cavancarragh. The death record for Mary Catherine (Farry) Patton lists her parents as James Farry and Mary Love. The source of this information was Robert Coyle, a policeman living in the same ward as Mary Catherine (Farry) Patton, but whose relationship to the deceased is unknown.⁹⁶ Bridget's death record lists her father as Charles and her mother as Mary Farry.⁹⁷ The informant was Bridget's son, Charles James Carr, who lost his father before the age of 10 and may have conflated his father's name (also Charles) with his maternal grandfather's name.⁹⁸

While the birth years for Bridget and Mary Catherine were never the same from census to census, Mary Catherine was always about one to two years older. According to census records, Mary Catherine was born about 1860 to 1861 and Bridget about 1861 to 1863.⁹⁹ Interestingly, the 1920 census appears to provide actual birth dates: Bridget (25 December 1861) and Mary

⁹⁴ 1900 U.S. census, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Philadelphia Ward 15, p. 5, family 101, image 10 of 18, Bridget Carr and Catharine Patton; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 12 September 2021); Family History Library Film 1241457. And 1910 U.S. census, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Philadelphia Ward 15, p. 14A, image 27 of 36, Bridget Can [Carr] and Catharine M. Patton; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 12 September 2021); Family History Library Film 1375404. And 1920 U.S. census, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Philadelphia Ward 15, p. 1B, family 17, image 2 of 13, Bridget Carr and Catharine Patton; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 12 September 2021); NARA microfilm T625, roll 1621.

⁹⁵ *The Philadelphia Inquirer* (1921, December 17), "Carr, Bridget E.", p. 21, col. 7, Philadelphia, PA; online database, <https://Newspapers.com>, accessed 12 August 2021. And *The Philadelphia Inquirer* (1926, February 9), "Patton, Mary Catherine", p. 26, col. 7, Philadelphia, PA; online database, <https://Newspapers.com>, accessed 12 August 2021.

⁹⁶ Pennsylvania Death Certificates, 1906-1967, Mary C. Patton [Patton], 5 February 1926 (certificate 3570); database, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 13 September 2021); Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission, Harrisburg, certificate number range 013001-016000.

⁹⁷ Pennsylvania Death Certificates, 1906-1967, Bridget Carr, 14 December 1921 (certificate 110834); database, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 13 September 2021); Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission, Harrisburg, certificate number range 110501-113500.

⁹⁸ 1900 U.S. census, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Philadelphia Ward 15, p. 5, family 101, image 10 of 18, [Charles] James Carr; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 12 September 2021); Family History Library Film 1241457.

⁹⁹ 1900 U.S. census, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania, Philadelphia Ward 15, Bridget Carr (b. 1861) and Catharine Patton (b. 1860). And 1910 U.S. census, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania, Philadelphia Ward 15, Bridget Can [Carr] (b. 1862) and Catharine M. Patton (b. 1861). And 1920 U.S. census, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania, Philadelphia Ward 15, Bridget Carr (b. 1863) and Catharine Patton (b. 1861).

Catherine (15 Aug 1860).¹⁰⁰ Bridget's death certificate lists her birthday as 24 December 1863, and no birth date is given on Mary Catherine's death certificate.¹⁰¹

Bridget and Mary Catherine's parents may have been James Farry and Catherine Bannon. The following baptismal records were found for the children of James and Catherine (Bannon) Farry in County Fermanagh:

1. Mary Cath Farry, 16 August 1858, James and Cath Bannon [parents], Thomas Love and Catherine Kelly [godparents], Tempo Parish, County Fermanagh¹⁰²
2. Bridget Farry, 14 Dec 1859, James and Catherine Bannon [parents], Catherine Kelly [godparent], Tempo Parish, County Fermanagh¹⁰³
3. Bernard Farry, 14 Dec 1861, James and Cath Bannon [parents], Paul Love and Mary McDonnell [godparents], location: Tempo Parish, County Fermanagh¹⁰⁴
4. Joseph Farry, 13 Mar 1864, James Farry and Catherine Bannon, location: Tempo Parish, County Fermanagh¹⁰⁵

Despite the inconsistency in dates across the 1920 census, death certificates, and the baptismal records, there are some similarities. The 1920 census lists Mary Catherine's birthdate as August 15 and the baptismal record indicates the baptism occurred on August 16. For Bridget, the 1920 census, death, and baptismal records all indicate December but different dates within the month. However, consistent with census records, the baptismal records indicate Mary Catherine was older by at least a year. Before the 1900s, birthdates were not generally required for identification and legal purposes and so many didn't think it was something important to remember and report accurately.¹⁰⁶

The death records for both Bridget (Farry) Carr and Mary Catherine (Farry) Patton suggest that their mother may have been named Mary. It is possible that their mother may have gone by her middle name (Mary) and that her first name was Catherine (or vice-versa) as suggested by the baptismal records. Indeed, Mary Catherine (Farry) Patton was recorded as Catherine in the

¹⁰⁰ 1920 U.S. census, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania, Philadelphia Ward 15, Bridget Carr and Catharine Patton.

¹⁰¹ Pennsylvania Death Certificates, Mary C. Batton [Patton], 5 February 1926 (certificate 3570). And Pennsylvania Death Certificates, Bridget Carr, 14 December 1921 (certificate 110834).

¹⁰² Ireland Catholic Parish Registers, 1655-1915, Northern Ireland, County Fermanagh, Tempo Parrish, Mary Cath Farry (16 Aug 1858), image 19 of 46, database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 13 September 2021); National Library of Ireland, Dublin, microfilm 05570/02.

¹⁰³ Ireland Catholic Parish Registers, 1655-1915, Northern Ireland, County Fermanagh, Tempo Parrish, Bridget Farry (14 Dec 1859), image 20 of 46, database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 13 September 2021); National Library of Ireland, Dublin, microfilm 05570/02.

¹⁰⁴ Ireland Catholic Parish Registers, 1655-1915, Northern Ireland, County Fermanagh, Tempo Parrish, Bernard Farry (14 Dec 1861), image 22 of 46, database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 13 September 2021); National Library of Ireland, Dublin, microfilm 05570/02.

¹⁰⁵ Ireland Births and Baptisms, 1620-1881, Northern Ireland, County Fermanagh, Tempo Parrish, Joseph Farry (13 Mar 1864); database (www.familysearch.org).

¹⁰⁶ Morton, Sunny Jane (n.d.), "Case Study: Conflicting Birthdates in Genealogy Records," *FamilyTree Magazine*, accessed 13 September 2021, <https://www.familytreemagazine.com/case-studies/problem-solving-with-sunny-conflicting-birth-dates/>.

1900 census, as Catherine M. in the 1910 census, Catherine in the 1920 census, and as Mary C. on her death record suggesting a similar naming pattern may have existed for her mother.¹⁰⁷

The listed surname on Mary Catherine (Farry) Patton's death record for her mother is inconsistent with the baptismal records listed previously. The surname of "Love" may be an error on the informant's part where he conflated it with other known family members. In particular, a Thomas Love and Paul Love were godparents for the baptisms of Mary Catherine and Bernard Farry, respectively. There was only one Paul Love listed in Griffith's Valuation for County Fermanagh, and he resided in Ballyreagh, in Derrybrusk Parish,¹⁰⁸ which is a tier two townland outside of Cavancarragh. Paul Love married Catherine Cox in 1850 in Enniskillen.¹⁰⁹ Thomas Love may have been the individual who married Anna Bannon in 1840 in Enniskillen, and Anna might have been related to Catherine (Bannon) Farry.¹¹⁰ The Catherine Kelly, who was a godparent to Mary Catherine (Farry) Patton and Bridget (Farry) Carr, may have been the same Catherine Bannon who married Edward Kelly and resided in Mullanaska, which is a tier two townland to Cavancarragh.¹¹¹

Catherine (Bannon) Farry died at the age of 63 in Cavancarragh on 5 June 1879, and James Farry reported the death.¹¹² James and Catherine (Bannon) Farry's son, Bernard Farry, died

¹⁰⁷ 1900 U.S. census, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania, Philadelphia Ward 15, Catharine Patton. And 1910 U.S. census, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania, Philadelphia Ward 15,. Catharine M. Patton. And 1920 U.S. census, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania, Philadelphia Ward 15, Catharine Patton. And Pennsylvania Death Certificates, Mary C. Batton [Patton], 5 February 1926 (certificate 3570).

¹⁰⁸ Griffith's Valuation, County Fermanagh, Tirkennedy Barony, Derrybrusk Parrish, Ballyreagh, Paul Love (printed 1862), p. 163; database with image, *Ask About Ireland* (www.askaboutireland.ie, accessed 13 September 2021).

¹⁰⁹ Ireland Catholic Parish Registers, 1655-1915, Northern Ireland, County Fermanagh, Enniskillen Parrish, Paulus Love and Catherina Cox (12 September 1850), image 270 of 322, database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 13 September 2021); National Library of Ireland, Dublin, microfilm 05567/05.

¹¹⁰ Ireland Catholic Parish Registers, 1655-1915, Northern Ireland, County Fermanagh, Enniskillen Parrish, Thomas Love and Anna Bannon (27 February 1840), image 243 of 322, database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 13 September 2021); National Library of Ireland, Dublin, microfilm 05567/05.

¹¹¹ Edward Kelly's residence was determined through Rose Anna Leonard, who served as a godparent for Phillip Kelly, son Edward Kelly and Catherine Bannon. Rose Anna Leonard lived on the same property as Edward Kelly in 1862 in Mullanaska, which is a Tier 2 townland of Cavancarragh. See Griffith's Valuation, County Fermanagh, Tirkennedy Barony, Enniskillen Parrish, Mullanaska, Edward Kelly and Rosanna Leonard (printed 1862), p. 186; database with image, *Ask About Ireland* (www.askaboutireland.ie, accessed 13 September 2021). And Ireland Catholic Parish Registers, 1655-1915, Northern Ireland, County Fermanagh, Enniskillen Parrish, Phillipum Kelly (21 June 1868), image 173 of 322, database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 13 September 2021); National Library of Ireland, Dublin, microfilm 05567/05.

¹¹² Civil Records of Death, General Register Office Enniskillen, Catherine Farry (5 Jun 1879), Cavancarragh, No. 401, p. 63-1, database with image, Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media (www.irishgenealogy.ie, accessed 1 January 2022).

unmarried on 13 September 1881 in Cavancarragh at the age of 19, and his father, James Farry, again reported the death.¹¹³

Based on the preceding evidence, it is likely that Bridget (Farry) Carr is the daughter of James Farry and Catherine Bannon who lived near Tempo Parrish and resided at times inside and outside of Cavancarragh. Tempo Parish is a Catholic church parish and not a civil parish. Ecclesiastical parishes did not always correspond to civil parishes.

¹¹³ Civil Records of Death, General Register Office Enniskillen, Bernard Farry (13 September 1881), Cavancarragh, No. 47, p. 98-1, database with image, Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media (www.irishgenealogy.ie, accessed 1 January 2022).