

Research Report

Who was the father of Mary McMasters (1755-1832), who married William Boyd in 1778 in Bucks County, Pennsylvania

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Research Report

Who was the father of Mary McMasters (1755-1832), who married William Boyd in 1778 in Bucks County, Pennsylvania

1. Research Question

Who is the father of Mary McMasters (1755-1832), who married William Boyd in 1778 in Newtown, Bucks County, Pennsylvania?

2. Limitations

Because Mary (McMasters) Boyd was born in 1755 and was poor during her lifetime, no direct evidence was found linking her directly to her potential father. Only indirect evidence is available.

3. Research Findings in Brief

Research suggests there are likely three candidates for the father of Mary (McMasters) Boyd – Thomas McMasters, John McMasters, and Alexander McMasters. Using a genealogical evidentiary network of purely indirect evidence, Thomas McMasters is the stronger of the three candidates to be the father of Mary McMasters. Thomas lived in Warwick township near the border with Northampton Township in Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

4. Background Information

A timeline for the Mary (McMasters) Boyd is presented on the next page. Most sources for the timeline are inferred from records from her husband, William Boyd. As such, constructed on records from her husband William Boyd, Mary's places of residence can be inferred (see Table 1 on the next page).

Table 1 – Inferred Places of Residences for Mary (McMasters) Boyd

Date	Location	Source
1778	Northampton, Bucks County, PA	Pension application ¹
---	Upper Makefield, Bucks County, PA	Pension application ²
1790	Ridley, Delaware County, PA	U.S. Federal census ³
1793	Chester, Delaware County, PA	PA septennial census ⁴
1799	New London, Chester County, PA	Chester County tax records ⁵
1800	East Nottingham, Chester County, PA	U.S. Federal census ⁶
1802-1809	New London, Chester County, PA	Chester County tax records ⁷
1810	East Nottingham, Chester County, PA	U.S. Federal census ⁸
1810-1813	East Nottingham, Chester County, PA	Poor school children records ⁹
1817	New London, Chester County, PA	Poor school children records ¹⁰
---	Washington County, PA	Pension application ¹¹
1829-1832	West Bradford, Chester County, PA	Poorhouse records ¹²

¹ Pension Application, William Boyd, Sergeant, Revolutionary War, "Declaration of William Boyd in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832", dated 9 April 1833, [Pension Application S.22,127](#), Pension Office, War Department, Washington, DC; online database with images, Fold3 (www.fold3.com, accessed 31 July 2018).

² Ibid.

³ 1790 U.S. census, Delaware County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Ridley, p. 92, image 2 of 2, Willm Boyd; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 2 July 2022); Family History Library Film 0568148.

⁴ 1793 Pennsylvania septennial census, Delaware County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Chester, p. 6, image 6 of 20, William Boyd; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 2 July 2022); Record Group 7, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Harrisburg, PA.

⁵ Chester County, Pennsylvania Tax Records, 18th Century Tax Records, William Boyd (1799), New London; database, Chester County Archives (www.chesco.org, accessed 19 November 2022).

⁶ 1800 U.S. census, Chester County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, East Nottingham, p. 866, image 1 of 3, William Boyd; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 14 March 2022); Family History Library Film 363339, roll 36.

⁷ Chester County, Pennsylvania Tax Records, 19th Century Tax Records, William Boyd (1802-1809), New London; database, Chester County Archives (www.chesco.org, accessed 2 July 2022).

⁸ 1810 U.S. census, Chester County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, East Nottingham, p. 202, image 4 of 5, Wm Boyde [Boyd]; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 14 March 2022); Family History Library Film 193673, roll 47.

⁹ Chester County, Pennsylvania, Poor School Children Records, 1810-1842, Jane Boyd, Mary Boyd, Charlotte Boyd, children of William and Mary Boyd (1810-1813), East Nottingham; Chester County Archives, West Chester.

¹⁰ Chester County, Pennsylvania, Poor School Children Records, 1810-1842, Charlotte Boyd, child of William Boyd (1817), New London; Chester County Archives, West Chester.

¹¹ Pension Application, William Boyd, Sergeant, Revolutionary War, "Declaration of William Boyd in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832", dated 9 April 1833, [Pension Application S.22,127](#), Pension Office, War Department, Washington, DC; online database with images, Fold3 (www.fold3.com, accessed 31 July 2018).

¹² Chester County Pennsylvania, Poorhouse Admissions 1800-1858, William Boyd (1829, 1830, 1832), Book RQS; database, Chester County Archives (www.chesco.org, accessed 24 April 2022).

The only known accounts of Mary (McMasters) Boyd come from two sources. The first source is her marriage record where, on 22 October 1778, she married William Boyd at the Newtown Presbyterian Church.¹³ It is likely Mary lived in Northampton at this time as 1778, tax records indicate William Boyd resided in Northampton Township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania.¹⁴ Further, in William Boyd's 1833 pension application for service in the Revolutionary War, he indicated living in Northampton at the time of his service during 1776-1778 and remained there for several years afterwards.¹⁵

The second source for Mary (McMasters) Boyd is the poorhouse records in Chester County, Pennsylvania. Along with her husband William, Mary entered the poorhouse in West Bradford, Chester County in 1829 and remained there until her death in 1832.¹⁶ Based on Mary's age in the poorhouse records, she was born about 1755.¹⁷

An important caveat for this research report is that the marriage record for Mary McMasters to William Boyd does not list her first name.¹⁸ It only lists her last name, which reads "McMasters" (see Figure 1 on the next page). Therefore, it is quite possible that "Mary's" given name might not be Mary, and that the given name of Mary is William Boyd's second wife, although there is no evidence William married more than once. The first time William Boyd's wife's name is found in records is in 1810 in East Nottingham, Chester County, where William and Mary Boyd are listed as having three children (Jane, Mary, and Charlotte) requiring county assistance for their education.¹⁹ The next record group where Mary's name is listed is when she and her husband enter the poor house in Chester County in 1829.²⁰ It is possible that William married twice with Mary being his second wife. However, it is quite possible that William Boyd's first wife is the same woman identified in 1810 and 1829 as Mary is a frequently occurring name in the McMasters family as will be presented shortly.

¹³ U.S. Presbyterian Church Records, 1701-1970, Willm Boyd and McMasters (1778), Newtown Presbyterian Church, Baptisms, Births, Marriages, 1769-1812, p. 20, image 22 of 148; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 14 March 2022); Presbyterian Historical Society, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

¹⁴ Bucks County, Pennsylvania Tax Records, 1782-1860, Wm Boyd (1778), Northampton, image 5 of 5; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 2 July 2022); citing Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Tax Records, 1782-1860, Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown.

¹⁵ Pension Application, William Boyd, Sergeant, Revolutionary War, "Declaration of William Boyd in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832", dated 9 April 1833, [Pension Application S.22,127](#), Pension Office, War Department, Washington, DC; online database with images, Fold3 (www.fold3.com, accessed 31 July 2018).

¹⁶ Chester County Pennsylvania, Poorhouse Admissions 1800-1858, Mary Boyd (1829, 1830, 1832), Book RQS; database, Chester County Archives (www.chesco.org, accessed 24 April 2022).

¹⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁸ U.S. Presbyterian Church Records, 1701-1970, Willm Boyd and McMasters (1778), Newtown Presbyterian Church, Baptisms, Births, Marriages, 1769-1812, p. 20, image 22 of 148; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 14 March 2022); Presbyterian Historical Society, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

¹⁹ Chester County, Pennsylvania, Poor School Children Records, 1810-1842, Jane Boyd, Mary Boyd, Charlotte Boyd, children of William and Mary Boyd (1810), East Nottingham; Chester County Archives, West Chester.

²⁰ Chester County Pennsylvania, Poorhouse Admissions 1800-1858, William Boyd (1829), Book RQS; database, Chester County Archives (www.chesco.org, accessed 24 April 2022).

Figure 1 – Mary McMasters Marriage Record to William Boyd



5. Research Strategy

Because Mary (McMasters) Boyd was born about 1755, most probably in Bucks County, all adult male McMasters living in Bucks County around this time (+/- 30 years) were identified through multiple sources. Census records did not begin in Bucks County and/or Pennsylvania until 1790, so alternative record groups were utilized including land deeds, land patents, estate and orphan court records, civil and criminal court cases, and tax records. Records were obtained through Ancestry.com, FamilySearch.org, Fold3.com, Newspapers.com, and in-person visits to the Bucks County Archives in Doylestown, Pennsylvania. Autosomal DNA matches from descendants of Mary (McMasters) Boyd complimented traditional genealogical sources.

6. Research Results

During the investigated 1725-1785 time frame (and prior to it), land deed records at the courthouse indicate one McMasters mortgaged land in Bucks County.²¹ A search of land patents identified no McMasters entries.²² No McMasters estates were probated during the time period, and no orphan court entries were found.²³ Abstracts of wills between 1685 and 1786 produced five mentions of McMasters in other individuals' wills.²⁴ Four McMasters individuals

²¹ Recorder of Deeds, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Index to Grantees, surname M (1684-1919); database with an image (www.familysearch.org), film 8067748. And Recorder of Deeds, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Index to Grantors, surname M (1684-1919); database with an image (www.familysearch.org), film 8067814 and 8067815. And Bucks County, Pennsylvania, mortgage, James McMasters from Robert Forsman (1772), Book 14, p. 161-163, Recorder of Deeds, Doylestown; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), image 365-366 of 511, film 8067823.

²² Warrant Registers, 1733-1957, Bucks County, surname M; database with image, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Pennsylvania State Archives, accessed 16 August 2022 at <http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/bah/dam/rg/di/r17-88WarrantRegisters/BucksPages/r17-88BucksPageInterface.htm>.

²³ Recorder of Wills, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Estate Index A-R (1684-1939), p. 33, Doylestown; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), image 496 of 641. And Recorder of Wills, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, General Index to Orphans' Court Records, Index M-R (1683-1994), p. 1110, Doylestown; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), image 74 of 434.

²⁴ Pennsylvania USGenWeb Archives (2014), Bucks County PAgeweb Archives, Wills/Estate Records, accessed 16 August 2022 at <http://usgwarchives.net/pa/bucksp/wills.htm>.

were identified through civil and criminal court records.²⁵ Four McMasters individuals were identified in the Bucks County Poor Tax List records.²⁶ Bucks County local tax records did not begin until 1778, which is near the end of the investigated time frame, but it proved helpful to trace earlier McMasters mentions through time.

Searching the above record groups identified four unique male McMasters individuals, which are listed below:

1. Alexander McMasters
2. James McMasters (1736-1806)
3. John McMasters (d. 1768)
4. Thomas McMasters

One of the four potential McMasters candidates is immediately eliminated as a possible father for Mary (McMasters) Boyd after an initial review of evidence for reasons outlined below:

James McMasters of Upper Makefield identified a daughter named Mary in his will, but it is not likely she was Mary (McMasters) Boyd because James indicated his daughter Mary was unmarried at the time his will was written, which was in October 1806.²⁷ An excerpt from his will reads:

“I give to my three married daughters, Hannah, Margaret, and Sarah the sum of one hundred pounds apiece...and to my other daughter, Mary, I give two hundred and fifty pounds to be paid to her by my said two sons one hundred of it on the day of her marriage and the residue in two years afterwards and to be paid only to her issue when it arrives at age...”

James' daughter Mary likely remained unmarried late into life because court documents suggest she gave birth to a child out of wedlock in 1778.²⁸

Of the three remaining candidates, Thomas McMasters of Warwick Township, is the strongest candidate. Thomas shares geography, FAN club connections (Friends, Associates, and Neighbors), and potentially DNA. A map highlighting the relevant locations in present day Bucks, Chester, Delaware, and Philadelphia Counties in Pennsylvania and Hunterdon, Burlington, and Mercer Counties in New Jersey, which are discussed during the presentation of evidence, is found on the next page (see Figure 2).

²⁵ McNealy, Terry A. (2008), *Bucks County Criminal Papers, 1697-1786, Court of Common Pleas*. Doylestown, PA: Bucks County Historical Society. And Bryant, Thane (1994), *Bucks County Court of Quarter Sessions, Miscellaneous Papers, 1729-1840*. Doylestown, PA: Bucks County Historical Society.

²⁶ Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Poor Tax Lists 1721-1764; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), film 7899008.

²⁷ Bucks County, Pennsylvania, estate file, no. 3380, James McMasters (1806), Recorder of Wills, Clerk of Orphans' Court, Doylestown.

²⁸ Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Recognizance of Mary McMasters (1778), Court of Common Pleas, Doylestown; originals held at the Bucks County Archives, Mercer Museum and Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown, item no. 2869. Mary's surety was John Beaumont, who resided in Upper Makefield like James McMasters.

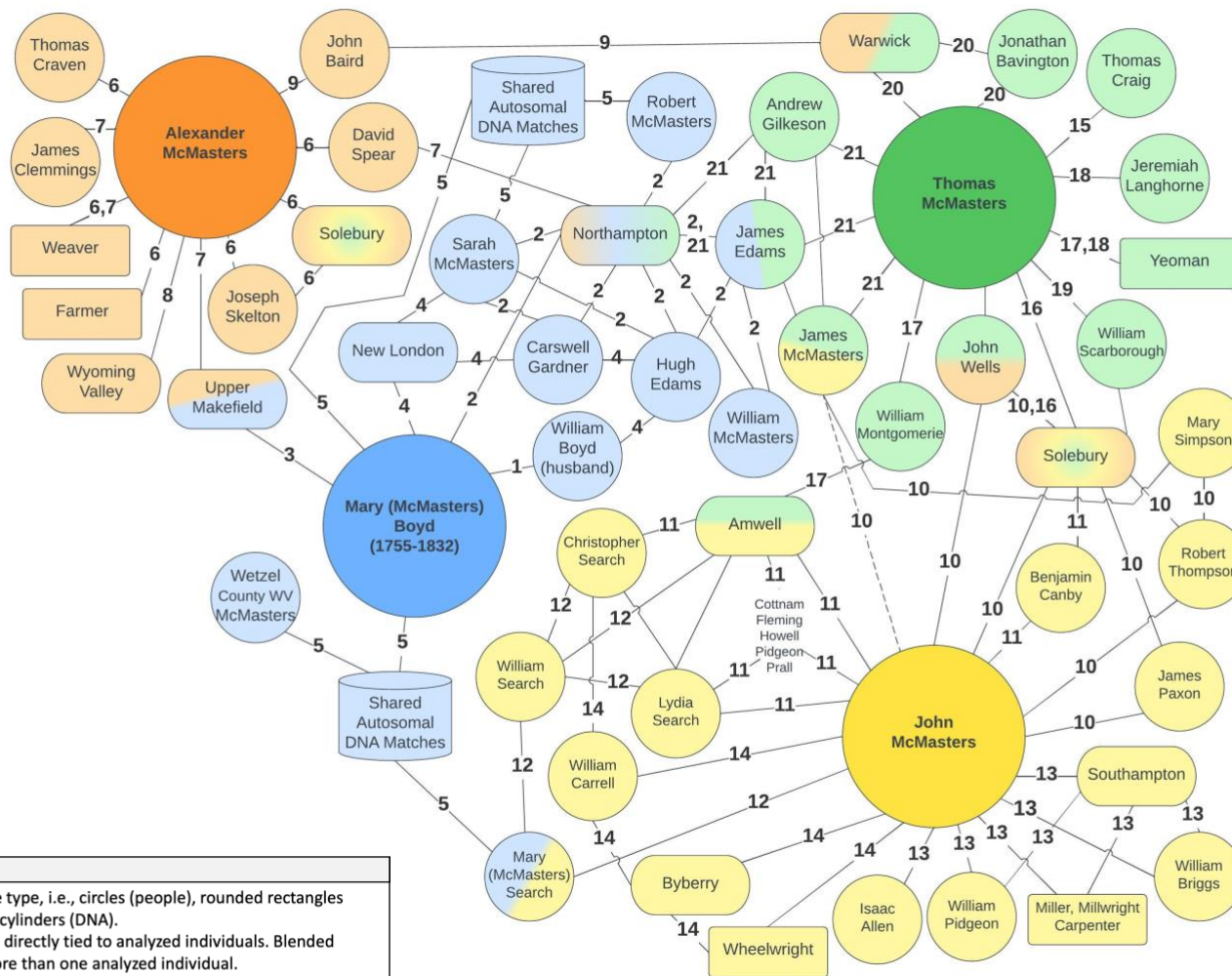
Figure 2 – Relevant Locations in Pennsylvania and New Jersey



7. Presentation of Evidence

The three candidates for Mary (McMasters) Boyd’s father are Alexander McMasters, John McMasters, and Thomas McMasters. The evidence for each is graphically presented in Figure 3 on the next page in a genealogical evidentiary network. Linkages between evidence and Mary, Alexander, John, and Thomas are numerated and discussed one at a time starting with Mary. After all evidence is presented, correlations and evaluations of evidence are discussed in a subsequent section.

Figure 3 – Genealogical Evidentiary Network for Mary (McMasters) Boyd (1755-1832)

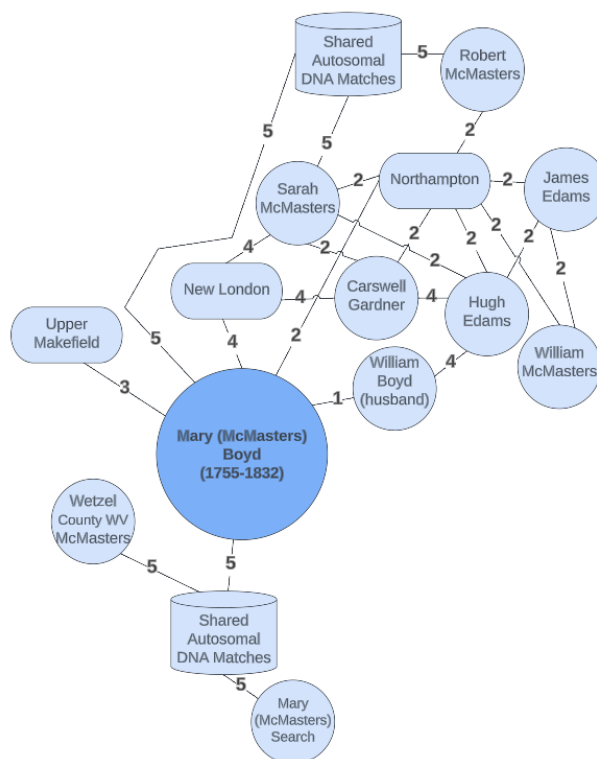


KEY
Shapes correspond with the evidence type, i.e., circles (people), rounded rectangles (places), rectangles (occupations), or cylinders (DNA).
Shape Colors correspond to evidence directly tied to analyzed individuals. Blended colors refer to evidence shared by more than one analyzed individual.
Solid Lines directly link evidence with analyzed individuals. **Dotted Lines** indirectly link evidence with analyzed individuals through reasonably discussed assumptions.
Numbers correspond to links between analyzed individuals as discussed in the report.

7.1 Mary (McMasters) Boyd

As is often the issue when researching women of this time, not many records are found for Mary (McMasters) Boyd. Much of what is known about Mary in Bucks County comes from Mary's husband's Revolutionary War pension application. A few records for Mary are found later in Chester County, Pennsylvania. Taken from Figure 3, Figure 4 below highlights only Mary (McMasters) Boyd's collection of evidence (Links 1-5).

Figure 4 – Evidentiary Network for Items Pertaining Only to Mary (McMasters) Boyd



Link 1 – William Boyd

On 22 October 1778, Mary married William Boyd at the Newtown Presbyterian church in Newtown Township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania.²⁹

Link 2 – Northampton Township

In William Boyd's Revolutionary War pension application, he stated he lived in Northampton in 1776 at the time of his enlistment and remained there for several years afterwards.³⁰ It can be inferred that Mary lived in Northampton with her husband at this time as well.

²⁹ U.S. Presbyterian Church Records, 1701-1970, Willm Boyd and McMasters (1778), Newtown Presbyterian Church, Baptisms, Births, Marriages, 1769-1812, p. 20, image 22 of 148; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 14 March 2022); Presbyterian Historical Society, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

³⁰ Pension Application, William Boyd, Sergeant, Revolutionary War, "Declaration of William Boyd in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832", dated 9 April 1833, [Pension Application S.22,127](#), Pension Office, War Department, Washington, DC; online database with images, Fold3 (www.fold3.com, accessed 31 July 2018).

Also residing in Northampton Township at this time was Sarah McMasters (b. 1754), who married Carswell Gardner on 11 February 1778 in Northampton.³¹ Sarah's marriage was a little more than eight months earlier than Mary McMasters' marriage to William Boyd.³² Sarah was born one year prior to Mary, and she may be her sibling.

Both Carswell and Sarah (McMasters) Gardner were associated with Hugh Edams, who was the individual for whom Mary's husband, William Boyd, twice volunteered to serve in the Revolutionary War in his stead.³³

- On 28 March 1778 in Northampton, Sarah Gardner, along with Hugh Edams, witnessed the will of Christian Keiser.³⁴
- On 18 February 1789 in Northampton, Carswell Gardner, along with Hugh Edams, witnessed the will of Derrick Kroesen.³⁵

Hugh Edams was the son of James Edams, and both Edams resided in Northampton Township.³⁶ This father-son relationship is important because in 1782, an unmarried William McMasters was living with James Edams.³⁷ During the Revolutionary War, it is likely this same William McMasters served as a major from Northampton. While not listed on any official muster rolls, pension applications for three different individuals indicated each had served under major William McMasters from Bucks County. Specifically, one individual served from Warwick

³¹ Carswell Gardner purchased land in New London in 1792, and the deed indicated he was from Bucks County. The 1790 federal census indicates he resided in Northampton, Bucks County. Gardner's Revolutionary War pension application indicated he married Sarah McMasters in 1778 and that he later married Elizabeth Johnston in 1825. Sources: 1790 U.S. census, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, (inferred as Northampton based on land records from those enumerated around him), p. 157, image 25 of 87, Caswell Garner; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 19 November 2022); NARA microfilm publication M637, roll 8. And Chester County, Pennsylvania, deed, Robert Finney to Carswell Gardner (1792), Book G2, p. 285-287, Recorder of Deeds, West Chester; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), image 441-442 of 576, film 008067015. And Pension Application, Carswell Gardner, Sergeant, Revolutionary War, "Declaration of Carswell Gardner in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832", dated 21 August 1832, [Pension Application W.1409](#), Pension Office, War Department, Washington, DC; online database with images, Fold3 (www.fold3.com, accessed 19 November 2022).

³² U.S. Presbyterian Church Records, 1701-1970, Willm Boyd and McMasters (1778), Newtown Presbyterian Church, Baptisms, Births, Marriages, 1769-1812, p. 20, image 22 of 148; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 14 March 2022); Presbyterian Historical Society, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

³³ Pension Application, William Boyd, Sergeant, Revolutionary War, "Declaration of William Boyd in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832", dated 9 April 1833, [Pension Application S.22,127](#), Pension Office, War Department, Washington, DC; online database with images, Fold3 (www.fold3.com, accessed 31 July 2018).

³⁴ Pennsylvania, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1683-1993, Christian Keiser (1778), will no. 1584, vol. 4, p. 14-15, image 294 of 578; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 19 November 2022).

³⁵ Pennsylvania, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1683-1993, Derrick Kroesen (1789), will no. 3211, vol. 7, p. 33-34, image 341-342 of 514; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 19 November 2022).

³⁶ Bucks County, Pennsylvania, land deed, Samuel and Elizabeth Henderson, Francis and Margaret Baird to James Edams and Gayen Edams (1805), Book 43, p. 111-112, Recorder of Deeds, Doylestown; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), image 84-85 of 758, film 8067837.

³⁷ Bucks County, Pennsylvania Tax Records, 1782-1860, Wm McMasters (1782), Northampton, image 8 of 18; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 25 July 2022); citing Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown, Title no. 102, roll. 15.

Township,³⁸ another from Warrington Township,³⁹ and the last from New Britain Township.⁴⁰ All the above townships are located in west central Bucks County near or adjacent to Northampton Township.

In addition to Sarah McMasters and William McMasters, one other McMasters was found in Northampton Township at the same time. Recorded on the Northampton Township Revolutionary War Associator (supporter) list was Robert McMasters.⁴¹ It is probable that Robert, Sarah, and William, were Mary's siblings.

Robert McMasters married Esther Palmer in 1777 in New Jersey. While Robert's birth year is not known, his marriage bond suggests he was not underage⁴² and so he was likely born before 1766 and probably earlier giving his Revolutionary War service, which required men to be between the age of 16 and 60.⁴³ Robert served in the War in 1775, and if he was at the minimum age of 16, then he would have been born about 1759 or earlier. Thus, Robert is a contemporary of Mary (McMasters) Boyd.

Link 3 – Upper Makefield Township

In William Boyd's Revolutionary War pension application, he stated he lived for a short time in Upper Makefield after leaving Northampton.⁴⁴ It's unclear when William and Mary lived in Upper Makefield, but William was last recorded in Northampton in 1778 and next recorded in 1790 in Ridley, Delaware County, Pennsylvania, which is to the northeast of Chester Township in the same county.⁴⁵

³⁸ Pension Application, John McIntire, Private, Revolutionary War, "Declaration of John Weir in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832", dated 24 July 1833, [Pension Application S.2802](#), p. 5, Pension Office, War Department, Washington, DC; online database with images, Fold3 (www.fold3.com, accessed 18 June 2023).

³⁹ Pension Application, Andrew Long, Private, Revolutionary War, "Declaration of John Weir in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832", dated 9 September 1833, [Pension Application W.8063](#), p. 13, Pension Office, War Department, Washington, DC; online database with images, Fold3 (www.fold3.com, accessed 18 June 2023).

⁴⁰ Pension Application, John Weir, Private, Revolutionary War, "Declaration of John Weir in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832", dated 29 August 1833, [Pension Application S.22.573](#), Pension Office, War Department, Washington, DC; online database with images, Fold3 (www.fold3.com, accessed 18 June 2023).

⁴¹ Pennsylvania State Archives, Muster Rolls and Papers Relating to the Associators and Militia of the County of Bucks, Robert McMasters (1775), Northampton, Series 2, vol. XIV, p. 148; database with image, Fold3 (www.fold3.com, accessed 25 July 2022); citing Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

⁴² New Jersey Governor's Office (1777), Robert McMasters and Ester [Esther] Palmer (11 October 1777), Volume M, pg. 454; online database, New Jersey State Archives (<https://wwwnet-dos.state.nj.us>, accessed 23 June 2023).

⁴³ Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission (n.d.), *Revolutionary War Records Overview: The Military Association, 1775-1777*. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, accessed 23 June 2023 at <https://www.phmc.pa.gov/Archives/Research-Online/Pages/Revolutionary-War.aspx>.

⁴⁴ Pension Application, William Boyd, Sergeant, Revolutionary War, "Declaration of William Boyd in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832", dated 9 April 1833, [Pension Application S.22.127](#), Pension Office, War Department, Washington, DC; online database with images, Fold3 (www.fold3.com, accessed 31 July 2018).

⁴⁵ Bucks County, Pennsylvania Tax Records, 1782-1860, Wm Boyd (1778), Northampton, image 5 of 5; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 2 July 2022); citing Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Tax Records, 1782-1860, Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown. And 1790 U.S. census, Delaware County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Ridley, Willm Boyd, p. 92, image 2 of 2; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 2 July 2022); Family History Library Film 0568148.

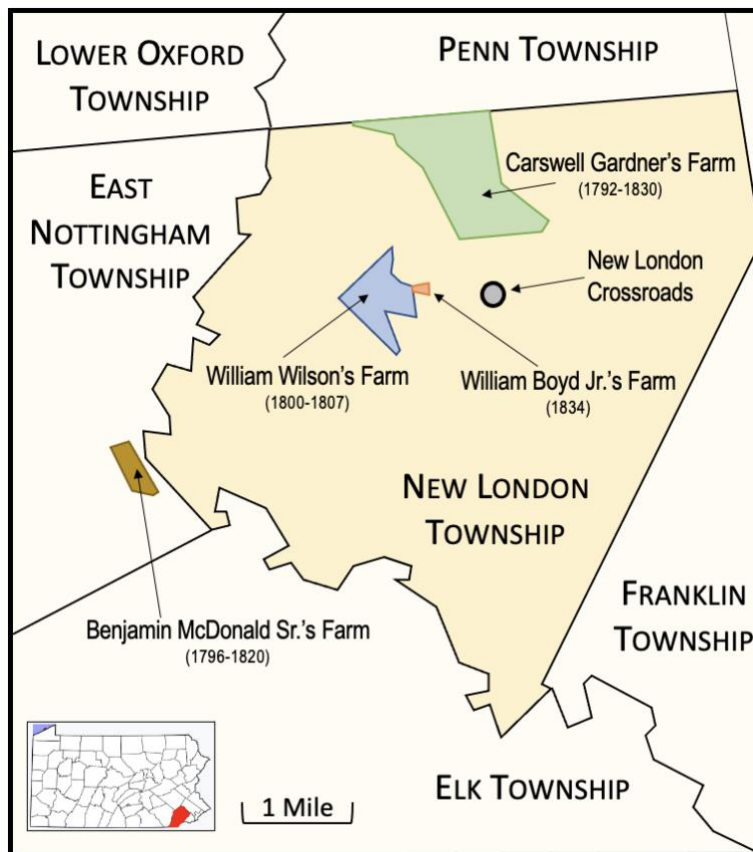
Link 4 – New London Township

By 1799, William and Mary (McMasters) Boyd were living in New London, Chester County, Pennsylvania.⁴⁶ Between 1799 and 1817, federal census and local tax records indicate William and Mary frequently moved between New London and East Nottingham Townships in Chester County (see Table 1 presented previously). These two townships bordered one another in southwest Chester County near the border with Maryland.

Residing in New London between the years 1792 and about 1825 were Carswell and Sarah (McMasters) Gardner. The Gardners lived in the north central portion of the township bordering Penn Township (see the map in Figure 5).⁴⁷ William and Mary (McMasters) Boyd arrived in the area around 1799.⁴⁸ While the exact whereabouts of where William and Mary lived in the New London - East Nottingham area, several of their children married local residents, all of whom resided within miles of each other.

One of Mary (McMasters) Boyd's daughters, Elizabeth, married John Wilson about 1809.⁴⁹ John was the son of William Wilson.⁵⁰ Another daughter, Jane, married Benjamin McDonald Jr. about 1818.⁵¹ Benjamin was the son of Benjamin McDonald Sr.⁵² The Wilsons lived a couple of farms away from the Gardners, and the McDonalds a couple of farms further west of the Wilsons (see Figure 5). Another of Mary (McMasters)

Figure 5 – McMasters in New London Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania



⁴⁶ Chester County, Pennsylvania Tax Records, 18th Century Tax Records, William Boyd (1799), New London; database, Chester County Archives (www.chesco.org, accessed 19 November 2022).

⁴⁷ Chester County, Pennsylvania, land deed, Carswell Gardner from Robert Finney (1792), Book G2, p. 285-287, Recorder of Deeds, West Chester; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), image 441-442 of 576, film 8067015.

⁴⁸ Chester County, Pennsylvania Tax Records, 18th Century Tax Records, William Boyd (1799), New London; database, Chester County Archives (www.chesco.org, accessed 19 November 2022).

⁴⁹ "Public Member Trees," database, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com>, accessed 5 March 2023, "Wilson120411" family tree by rwilson7135, profile for Elizabeth Boyd (b. 1784).

⁵⁰ "Public Member Trees," database, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com>, accessed 5 March 2023, "Wilson120411" family tree by rwilson7135, profile for William Wilson (d. 1804).

⁵¹ "Public Member Trees," database, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com>, accessed 5 March 2023, "Wilson120411" family tree by rwilson7135, profile for Jane Boyd (b. 1798).

⁵² "Public Member Trees," database, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com>, accessed 5 March 2023, "Wilson120411" family tree by rwilson7135, profile for Benjamin McDonald (1753-1824).

Boyd's daughters, Mary, was born about 1801 in New London Crossroads,⁵³ which is just to the east of the Wilson farm. A couple of decades later, a son of Mary (McMasters) Boyd, William Boyd Jr., purchased a small farm adjacent to the former Wilson farm.⁵⁴ It is probable that the Boyds lived nearby the Gardner, Wilson, and McDonald farms.

Link 5 – DNA Matches to Other Area McMasters

For this link, the autosomal DNA matches for descendants of Mary (McMasters) Boyd are analyzed for matches to descendants of Alexander, James, John, and Thomas McMasters. To do so, an extensive and systematic search process was used.

1. **Ancestry.com.** Because of Ancestry.com's large database of autosomal DNA test takers, efficient search functionality of test taker matches, and DNA tools (i.e., Shared Matches, ThruLines®, and SideView™), DNA analysis was administered using Ancestry DNA.
2. **Surname Search.** For each analyzed descendant of Mary (McMasters) Boyd to which the author had access, a simple surname search for McMasters and McMaster was used. Relevant McMasters matches were only considered if the match was on the appropriate side of the test taker's family tree (i.e., paternal or maternal) using Ancestry's SideView™ technology.⁵⁵ Unassigned matches were not used.
3. **EGGOS Shared Matches Search.** Because the previous step relies on the match having a built tree where the McMasters surname could be found, an additional search strategy was employed. The EGGOS search method identifies the Earliest Generation Group of Siblings (EGGOS) who are the children of the ancestor of interest (e.g., Mary (McMasters) Boyd) but who do not descend through the test taker's line.⁵⁶ The shared matches for kits associated with these siblings of the test taker's line are analyzed for possible McMasters ancestry, which may necessitate building out those matches' trees to discover the connection. In other words, if the test taker descends through Elizabeth Boyd (1784-1860), who is a daughter of Mary (McMasters) Boyd, then for that test taker, the shared matches associated with Elizabeth Boyd's siblings (e.g., William Boyd (1790-1875), Jane Boyd (1798-1943), etc.) are reviewed. In this example, the shared matches represent those who have ancestry from either Boyd, McMasters, or both.
4. **Cluster Membership.** To further ensure identified matches are associated with McMasters and not some other line of the test taker, relevant matches need to be part of a genetic cluster with other matches who similarly descend from Mary (McMasters) Boyd

⁵³ *The Daily Republican* (1884, July 22), "Capt. Ira R. Butler", p. 4, col. 1, Monongahela, PA; online database, <https://Newspapers.com>, accessed 14 March 2022.

⁵⁴ Chester County, Pennsylvania, land deed, William Boyd Jr. from Jehu Brown (1834), Book K4, p. 10-11, Recorder of Deeds, West Chester; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), image 282 of 546, film 8083351.

⁵⁵ Ancestry.com (2022 August 25). *How SideView™ Technology Splits Your DNA Results by Parent*. Accessed 13 June 2023 at https://support.ancestry.com/s/article/SideView-Technology?language=en_US.

⁵⁶ Wilson, Rick T. (2022, April 5). *Breaking Through 18th and 19th Century Brick Walls: 'Don't Let Go of Your EGGOS'*. Accessed 13 June 2023 at <https://myfamilypattern.com/breaking-through-18th-and-19th-century-brick-walls-dont-let-go-of-your-eggos/>.

and/or another McMasters subcluster, such as those descending from the paternal candidates of Alexander, James, or John McMasters. Although the identified McMasters match may itself be below 20 cM, Ancestry.com limits the presentation of the shared match among them to only those having 20 cM or greater, which increases the likelihood of those matches sharing DNA that is identical by descent (IDB, i.e., passed down from an earlier generation) rather than identical by chance (IBC, i.e., random DNA recombination creating a small segment that happens to match someone else).⁵⁷

The author of this report has access to the autosomal Ancestry DNA matches of 32 individuals who descend from four different children of Mary (McMasters) Boyd. According to the Coverage Estimator, a new research tool at DNA Painter,⁵⁸ 28.9% of Mary (McMasters) Boyd's DNA is represented by the 32 kits.

- 23 kits from Elizabeth (Boyd) Wilson (1784-1860)
- 2 kits from William Boyd (1790-1875)
- 6 kits from John Boyd (b. 1796)
- 1 kit from Mary (Boyd) Butler (1801-1874)

The author also has access to the DNA matches for other Bucks County McMasters, including:

- 3 kits from descendants of two different children of John McMasters (d. 1768)
 - 2 kits for John McMasters Jr. (1758-1845)
 - 1 kit for Margaret (McMasters) Flanigan
- 2 kits from descendants of Mary (McMasters) Search (1735-1785), who is probably a sibling to Alexander, James, John, and Thomas McMasters.
- 3 kits from possible children of Thomas McMasters of Warwick Township:
 - 2 kits for Robert McMasters (b. before 1766)
 - 1 kit for Sarah (McMasters) Gardner (b. 1754)

On the next page, Table 2 lists the six autosomal DNA clusters found among the 32 descendants of Mary (McMasters) Boyd. A seventh cluster was found by searching for descendants of Mary (McMasters) Boyd among the matches for the other kits to which the author has access descending from John McMasters (d. 1768), Robert McMasters, and Sarah (McMasters) Gardner. This seventh cluster comes from one of the descendants of Robert McMasters, who was probably a son of Thomas McMasters (see earlier discussion under Link 2). No other McMasters clusters were found for any other kits to which the author had access.

⁵⁷ Estes, Roberta (2022, May 12). *Ancestry Only Shows Shared Matches of 20 cM and Greater – What That Means & Why It Matters*. Accessed 13 June 2023 at <https://dna-explained.com/2022/05/12/ancestry-only-shows-shared-matches-of-20-cm-and-greater-what-that-means-why-it-matters/>.

⁵⁸ Perl, Jonny (2022). *How to use the new DNA Coverage Tool*. Accessed 30 June 2023 at <https://blog.dnainter.com/blog/how-to-use-the-new-dna-coverage-tool/>.

Table 2 – McMasters Autosomal DNA Clusters for Descendants of Mary (McMasters) Boyd

Clusters and Subclusters	No. of Matches	No. of Unique Children Lines*	Children Names for Unique Lines*	cM Range for Matches
Cluster 1 (DNA Tester 1, 4x great grandson of Mary (McMasters) Boyd via Elizabeth (Boyd) Wilson)				
Mary (McMasters) Boyd	5	2	Elizabeth, John	22-40
Mary (McMasters) Search	1	1	James	13
Unknown Matches	1	---	---	22
Cluster 2 (DNA Tester 1, 4x great grandson of Mary (McMasters) Boyd via Elizabeth (Boyd) Wilson)				
Mary (McMasters) Boyd	5	3	Elizabeth, William, John	21-853
James McMasters (1780-1852) of Wetzel WV	2	2	Josephus, Martha	23
Unknown Matches	19	---	---	21-34
Cluster 3 (DNA Tester 2, 4x great granddaughter of Mary (McMasters) Boyd via Elizabeth (Boyd) Wilson)				
Mary (McMasters) Boyd	4	2	Elizabeth, Margaret	34-788
James McMasters (1835-1896) of Wetzel WV	3	3	James, William, Eliza	21-24
Unknown Matches	8	---	---	20-51
Cluster 4 (DNA Tester 3, 4x great granddaughter of Mary (McMasters) Boyd via Elizabeth (Boyd) Wilson)				
Mary (McMasters) Boyd	9	2	Elizabeth, Margaret	21-56
Robert McMasters of Bucks PA	3	1	Edward	22-24
Unknown Matches	4	---	---	21-26
Cluster 5 (DNA Tester 4, 4x great granddaughter of Mary (McMasters) Boyd via Elizabeth (Boyd) Wilson)				
Mary (McMasters) Boyd	12	3	Elizabeth, William, John	20-2,852
James McMasters (1780-1852) of Wetzel WV	1	1	Josephus	22
Unknown Matches	19	---	---	20-34
Cluster 6 (DNA Tester 5, 4x great grandson of Mary (McMasters) Boyd via John Boyd)				
Mary (McMasters) Boyd	3	2	Elizabeth, John	43-123
Thomas McMasters (1787-1854) of Wetzel WV	1	1	Levina	21
James McMasters (1780-1852) of Wetzel WV	2	1	Josephus	22-28
Cluster 7 (DNA Tester 6, 4x great grandson of Mary (McMasters) Boyd via Elizabeth (Boyd) Wilson)				
Mary (McMasters) Boyd	5	1	Elizabeth	24-28
Mary (McMasters) Search	4	1	John	22-29
Robert McMasters of Bucks PA	1	1	Edward	28
Unknown Matches	15	---	---	23-51

*Unique lines represent the immediate children of a subcluster, e.g., Mary (McMasters) Boyd, etc.

Cluster Analysis

As observed in Table 2, no clusters were found with descendants of John McMasters (d. 1768) nor James McMasters (1736-1806). Similarly, none were found for Alexander McMasters, which is not unexpected since nothing is known about his family or whereabouts after 1765.

Mary (McMasters) Search. Within Clusters 1 and 7 are descendants of Mary (McMasters) Search, who was reportedly born in 1735 and is probably the sister to Alexander, James, John, and Thomas McMasters and thus an aunt to Mary (McMasters) Boyd. Additional information on Mary (McMasters) Search, and the Search family more broadly, can be found in Appendix 1.

While not detailed in this report, autosomal DNA matches to descendants of Mary (McMasters) Search were found across many of the 38 kits reviewed for Mary (McMasters) Boyd, John McMasters (d. 1768), Robert McMasters, and Mary (McMasters) Search. Most were unclustered for descendants of Mary (McMasters) Boyd, except those identified in Table 2.

The number of matches to Mary (McMasters) Search is greater than the number matches to any other Bucks County McMasters descendant save those descended from Mary (McMasters) Boyd. This is likely due to several reasons. First, Mary (McMasters) Search had ten children (seven of which were boys) who in turn had many children themselves making the number of her descendants quite large.⁵⁹ Second, the Search surname is fairly rare making it easier to trace than other names permitting these DNA matches to be more discoverable. It is probable that nearly all Search descendants in the US can be traced back to Christopher Search, who was the immigrant ancestor⁶⁰ and whose son William married Mary (McMasters) Search.⁶¹ Third and finally, Mary (McMasters) Search's family is well documented due to a family bible listing her name as well as all her children's names and birth years.⁶²

Robert McMasters of Bucks County. Clusters 4 and 7 include descendants of Robert McMasters, who was probably a son of Thomas McMasters of Warwick Township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania (see Link 2). However, the potential genetic link between the descendants of Mary (McMasters) Boyd and those of Robert McMasters is weak with matches found descending through only one of Robert's children, i.e., Edward.

McMasters of Wetzel County, WV. Interestingly, several clusters are found with a group of McMasters from Greene County, Pennsylvania who later migrated to Wetzel County, West Virginia. Clusters 2, 5, and 6 contain matches descending through the two only surviving children of James McMasters (1780-1852) and his wife Elizabeth (last name unknown): Josephus McMasters and Martha McMasters.⁶³ According to the 1850 census, James McMasters was born in Maryland.⁶⁴ However, in the 1880 census, his son Josephus indicated his father was born in Pennsylvania while his daughter Martha indicated Virginia.⁶⁵

⁵⁹ "Public Member Trees," database, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com>, accessed 18 June 2023, "Wilson120411" family tree by rwilson7135, profile for Mary McMasters (1735-1784).

⁶⁰ U.S. and Canada, Passenger and Immigration Lists Index, 1500s-1900s, Christopher Search (1728), port of Maryland, p. 392; citing Ancestry.com.

⁶¹ Search Family Bible (n.d.), image attached to gallery of Mary McMasters (1735-17884) in "Public Member Trees," database, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com>, accessed 18 June 2023, "Wilson120411" family tree by rwilson7135; image originally shared by Wm. Andrew Cottle, 25 June 2014.

⁶² *Ibid.*

⁶³ West Virginia, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1724-1985, West Virginia County Court (Wetzel County), Wills, Vol. 1-3, James McMaster (1852), vol. 1, p. 8-9; database with an image (www.ancestry.com), image 173 of 635; citing West Virginia County, District, and Probate Courts. And Recorder of Deeds, Wetzel County, West Virginia, James McMasters to Aaron Asher (1848), indenture, book 2, pg. 139; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), image 504 of 721, film 008293842.

⁶⁴ 1850 U.S. census, Wetzel County, [West] Virginia, population schedule, District 64, James McMasters, p. 8a, image 15 of 99; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 19 June 2023); NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 981.

⁶⁵ 1880 U.S. census, Wetzel County, West Virginia, population schedule, Center (District 103), p. 40b, image 18 of 53, Josephus McMasters; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 19 June 2023); NARA microfilm publication T9, roll 1415. And 1880 U.S. census, Wetzel County, West Virginia, population schedule, Center

Cluster 6 includes a match descending from Thomas McMasters (1787-1854), who was born in Pennsylvania, lived in Greene County, Pennsylvania in 1820 and 1830,⁶⁶ and then removed by 1840 to Tyler County, West Virginia,⁶⁷ which later became Wetzel County, West Virginia in 1846.⁶⁸

Cluster 3 includes matches descending from James McMasters (1835-1896) through several of his children. James (1835-1896) is the son of Thomas McMasters (1787-1854) found in cluster 6.

It is probable that the above James McMasters (1780-1852) and Thomas McMasters (1787-1854) were brothers and that their father was Thomas McMasters, who in turn could be the son of Thomas McMasters of Warwick. This theory is outlined in the proof argument in Appendix 2.

Non-Cluster Analysis

Among descendants of Mary (McMasters) Boyd, several autosomal DNA matches were discovered who can trace their ancestry back to Robert McMasters and Sarah (McMasters) Gardner, who were both previously discussed (Link 2) and are similarly believed to be children of Thomas McMasters of Warwick Township, Bucks County. These matches did not form clusters like those in Table 2 (i.e., no shared matches) but were found as matches among several descendants of Mary (McMasters) Boyd. These so-called unclustered matches were discovered using Ancestry's ThruLines®. To add possible validity to these ThruLine® discoveries, Ancestry's SideView™ technology indicate the matches are also associated with the appropriate paternal or maternal side of the test taker's family tree for their respective McMaster's ancestor.

Appendix 3A and 3B show how the two descendants of Sarah (McMasters) Gardner connect to the descendants of Mary (McMasters) Boyd. Despite the matches having no other shared matches from which to verify their relatedness is to their respective McMasters ancestor, it is worth noting that multiple child lines for Mary (McMasters) Boyd match these two individuals. It is probable that more matches to descendants of Sarah (McMasters) Gardner were not found because Sarah had only child,⁶⁹ and this may have limited her ability to pass on her "McMasters" DNA to subsequent generations.

(District 103), p. 32a, image 1 of 53, Martha Asher in Aaron Asher household; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 19 June 2023); NARA microfilm publication T9, roll 1415.

⁶⁶ 1820 U.S. census, Greene County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Cumberland, Thomas McMasters, p. 337, image 4 of 6; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 19 June 2023); NARA microfilm publication M33, roll 98. And 1830 U.S. census, Greene County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Whiteley, Thomas M Masters [McMasters, p. 366, image 3 of 20; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 19 June 2023); NARA microfilm publication M19, roll 162.

⁶⁷ 1840 U.S. census, Tyler County, [West] Virginia, population schedule, Not Stated, Thomas McMasters, p. 31, image 68 of 83; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 19 June 2023); NARA microfilm publication M704, roll 579.

⁶⁸ Wetzel County Commission (2023), *History of Wetzel County*. Accessed 19 June 2023 at www.wetzelwv.com.

⁶⁹ Pension Application, Carswell Gardner, Sergeant, Revolutionary War, "Declaration of Carswell Gardner in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832", dated 21 August 1832, [Pension Application W.1409](#), Pension Office, War Department, Washington, DC; online database with images, Fold3 (www.fold3.com, accessed 19 November 2022).

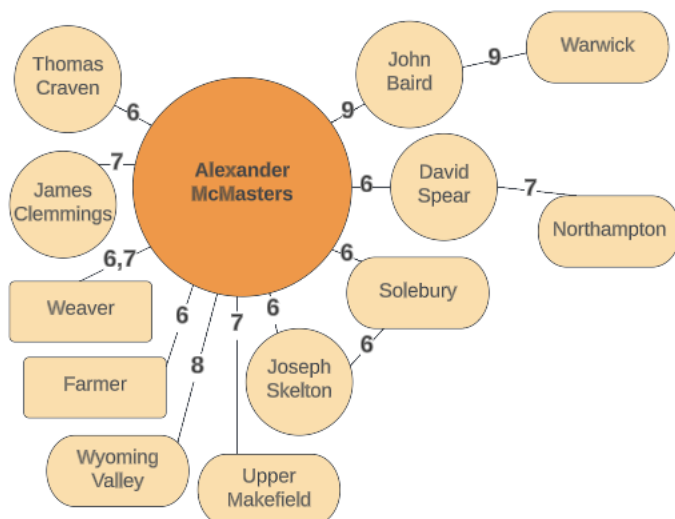
Appendix 3C shows how one descendant of Robert McMasters connects to multiple descendants of Mary (McMasters) Boyd through different child lines. Taken together with clusters 4 and 7 in Table 2, this unclustered connection to Robert McMasters provides additional, albeit still weak, support of a DNA connection to Robert McMasters.

7.2 Alexander McMasters

The evidence for Alexander McMasters is found in two different time periods – the mid 1700s and then again in the late 1700s. It is unclear whether all mentions are for the same individual, especially the early versus late mentions, but it is the authors supposition that they are same person as the evidence is believed to show. This report reflects this assumption.

Taken from Figure 3, Figure 6 below highlights only Alexander McMasters' collection of evidence (Links 6-9).

Figure 6 – Evidentiary Network for Items Pertaining Only to Alexander McMasters



Link 6 – Solebury Township

On 16 June 1757, Joseph Skelton sues Alexander for £27, which Alexander borrowed from Joseph on 14 November 1754.⁷⁰ Case documents identify Alexander as a yeoman (farmer) from Solebury Township, Bucks County but do not specify where Joseph was from. However, tax records suggest Joseph Skelton was also likely from Solebury.⁷¹

⁷⁰ Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Joseph Seilton [Skelton] v. Alexander McMasters (1757), Court of Common Pleas, Doylestown; originals held at the Bucks County Archives, Mercer Museum and Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown, items no. 6111A and 6111B. Note: Records in the Bucks County Archives lists Joseph Skelton as Joseph Seilton, which is likely a transcription error. Based on the manner in which other letters were written in the court record, "Seilton" was actually spelled as "Scilton", which was more frequently spelled as "Skelton".

⁷¹ McNealy, Terry A., and Frances W. Waite (1983), *Bucks County Tax Records, 1693-1778*. Doylestown, PA: Bucks County Genealogical Society, pg. 30 (Joseph Skelton, Solebury, 1761).

On 15 September 1757, David Spear sues Alexander McMasters. Case details are lost, but Alexander is identified as a weaver from Solebury.⁷² The residence of David Spear is not identified, but David later dies in Northampton Township in 1765.⁷³ Coincidentally, Alexander is later mentioned in David Spear's will where David gives his wife "a whiteish coloured colt that came from a loan mare I had of Alexander McMaster".⁷⁴ The will is dated July 1761.

In 1761, Alexander is listed in Solebury on the Poor Tax List, which is a record of residents paying the tax to support the poor rather than a list of poor residents.⁷⁵ Records indicate he is married.

On 10 March 1765, Thomas Craven sues Alexander for £33 for non-payment.⁷⁶ Alexander is mentioned as a yeoman from Solebury. It's unclear where Thomas Craven resided at this time, but tax 1775 records places him in Warwick Township.⁷⁷

Link 7 – Upper Makefield Township

On 13 December 1759, James Clemmings sues Alexander McMasters for £22.⁷⁸ Alexander is identified as a weaver from Upper Makefield Township.

Link 8 – Wyoming Valley, Pennsylvania

An excerpt from a Bucks County history book states, "Alexander McMaster was living in the Wyoming Valley at the time of the of the massacre, when he fled into Maryland, and then came to Bucks County".⁷⁹ The Wyoming Valley is in Northeastern Pennsylvania and covers about 25 miles across several counties. It's unclear to which massacre the text is referring. The most notable massacre occurred on 3 July 1778 during the Revolutionary War where Native

⁷² Bucks County, Pennsylvania, David Spear v. Alexander McMasters (1757), Court of Common Pleas, Doylestown; originals held at the Bucks County Archives, Mercer Museum and Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown, item no. 6137.

⁷³ Bucks County, Pennsylvania, estate file, no 1170, David Spear (1765), Recorder of Wills, Clerk of Orphans' Court, Doylestown.

⁷⁴ Bucks County, Pennsylvania, estate file, no 1170, David Spear (1765), Recorder of Wills, Clerk of Orphans' Court, Doylestown.

⁷⁵ Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Poor Tax Lists 1721-1764, Alexander McMasters (1761), Solebury, p. 62; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), film 7899008.

⁷⁶ Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Thomas Craven v. Alexander McMasters (1764-1765), Court of Common Pleas, Doylestown; originals held at the Bucks County Archives, Mercer Museum and Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown, item no. 7650.

⁷⁷ McNealy, Terry A., and Frances W. Waite (1983), *Bucks County Tax Records, 1693-1778*. Doylestown, PA: Bucks County Genealogical Society, pg. 61 & 63 (Thomas Craven or Thomas Craven Sr., Warwick, 1775).

⁷⁸ Bucks County, Pennsylvania, James Clemmings v. Alexander McMasters (1759), Court of Common Pleas, Doylestown; originals held at the Bucks County Archives, Mercer Museum and Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown, item no. 6461.

⁷⁹ Davis, William W.H., Warren S. Ely, and John W. Jordan (1905), *History of Bucks County, Pennsylvania: From the Discovery of the Delaware to the Present Time (Volumes 1 and 2)*, New York, NY: The Lewis Publishing Company, p. 242.

Americans attacked settlers in the valley at the behest of the British.⁸⁰ A lesser-known massacre in the Valley is the Indian Massacre of 1763.⁸¹

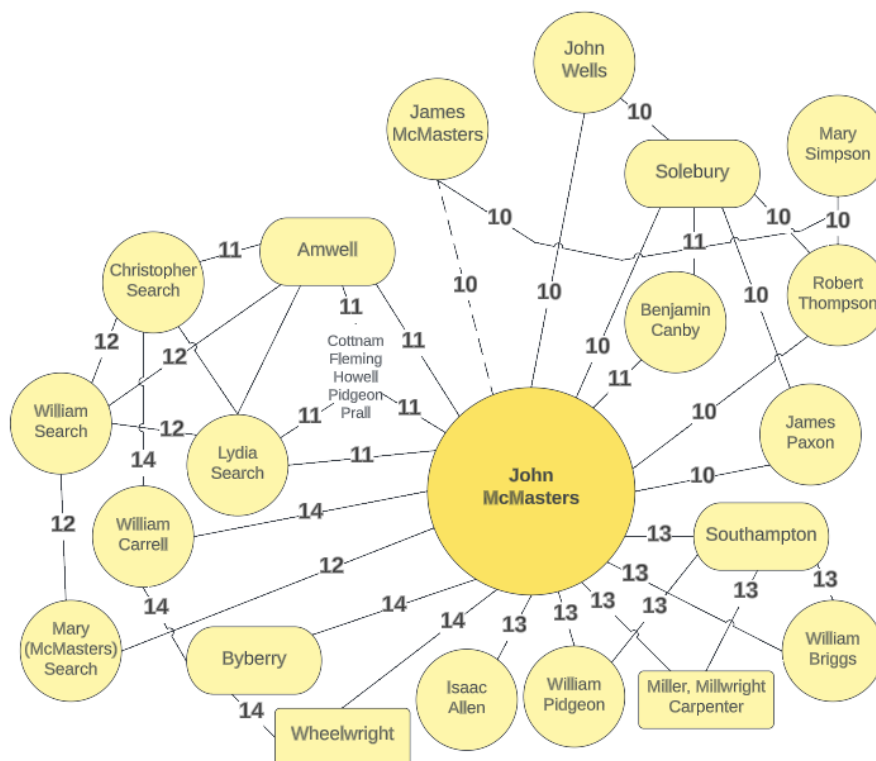
Link 9 – John Baird’s Estate

Listed in the inventory of goods and chattels for John Baird’s estate in 1791 is a £14 debt owed the estate from Alexander McMasters.⁸² The debt is marked “irrecoverable”, which suggests that either Alexander is unable to pay or perhaps he has died. Given the date in 1791, it is unclear whether this mention of Alexander McMasters is for the same individual discussed here or perhaps a son or nephew of said Alexander.

7.2 John McMasters

The evidence for John McMasters spans just 17 years but is across three counties in two states. Taken from Figure 3, Figure 7 below highlights only John McMasters’ collection of evidence (Links 10-14).

Figure 7 – Evidentiary Network for Items Pertaining Only to John McMasters



⁸⁰ Wyoming Historical & Geological Society (1895), *The Massacre of Wyoming. The Acts of Congress for the Defense of the Wyoming Valley, Pennsylvania, 1776-1778: With the Petitions of the Sufferers by the Massacre of July 3, 1778, for Congressional Aid*. Wilkes-Barre, PA: R. Baur & Son.

⁸¹ *Ibid.*, p. vii and x.

⁸² Bucks County, Pennsylvania, estate file, no 2328, John Baird (1791), Recorder of Wills, Clerk of Orphans' Court, Doylestown.

Link 10 – Solebury Township

John McMasters witnessed the wills for two individuals residing in Solebury. On 25 November 1747, John McMasters witnessed the will of James Paxon.⁸³ On 16 July 1748, John McMasters witnessed the will of John Wells of Solebury.⁸⁴ Thomas McMasters also witnessed the will, and Thomas is discussed later in the report.

In 1751, John McMasters is found on the Poor Tax List in Solebury, Bucks County.⁸⁵ Tax records indicate “John MacMasters” is single and living at “Bob Tompsons”. Robert (Bob) Thompson was a miller by trade,⁸⁶ and he was the stepfather of Mary Simpson, who married James McMasters about 1760.⁸⁷ James McMasters was previously eliminated as a potential father to Mary (McMasters) Boyd and was probably a brother to John McMasters.

Link 11 – Amwell Township, Hunterdon County, New Jersey

On 5 October 1752, John McMasters was listed among the attendees for a Quaker wedding in Amwell Township, Hunterdon County, New Jersey.⁸⁸ The wedding was for Benjamin Canby of Solebury and Martha Whitson of Amwell. The wedding was recorded in the Kingwood, Hunterdon County Monthly Meeting records.

It is unclear whether John McMasters resided in Amwell or Bucks County at the time of wedding in 1752. A year earlier in 1751, John was recorded as receiving funds from the Bucks County Treasury for payment for some service which is unclear on county records.⁸⁹ Matthew Hughes made the payment, and Hughes resided on a piece of property in Buckingham Township but on the borders of Solebury and Plumstead Townships,⁹⁰ which is consistent with John’s earlier references for Solebury in 1747, 1748, and 1751.

About 1758, John McMasters married Lydia Search, who was a widow of Christopher Search of Amwell.⁹¹ (See Appendix 1 for additional information about the Searches.) Christopher Search’s estate was involved in several court cases to which John McMasters’ name appears as the husband of Lydia. In one of the court cases, Search’s estate was sued by Jacob Arnwine for

⁸³ Bucks County, Pennsylvania, estate file, no 572, James Paxon (1747), Recorder of Wills, Clerk of Orphans' Court, Doylestown.

⁸⁴ Bucks County, Pennsylvania, estate file, no 608, John Wells (1748), Recorder of Wills, Clerk of Orphans' Court, Doylestown.

⁸⁵ McNealy, Terry A., and Frances W. Waite (1983), *Bucks County Tax Records, 1693-1778*. Doylestown, PA: Bucks County Genealogical Society, pg. 12.

⁸⁶ Bucks County, Pennsylvania, estate file, no 3236, Robert Thompson (1804), Recorder of Wills, Clerk of Orphans' Court, Doylestown.

⁸⁷ Reeder, Eastburn (1971), *Early Settlers of Solebury Township, Bucks County, Pa., Compiled from Deeds, Wills and the Records of Friends' Meetings*. Doylestown, PA: The Bucks County Historical Society, p. 85.

⁸⁸ Moore, James W. (1900), *Records of the Kingwood Monthly Meeting of Friends, Hunterdon County, New Jersey*. Flemington, NJ: H.E. Deats, p. 12-13.

⁸⁹ Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Treasurer's Accounts, John McMasters (1751), Board of County Commissioners, Doylestown; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), image 391 of 594, film 008716905.

⁹⁰ Ely, Warren S. (n.d.), Buckingham and Solebury, Map Collection, SC-27, from the Collection of the Mercer Museum Research Library of the Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown, PA.

⁹¹ New Jersey, U.S., Abstract of Wills, 1670-1817, Christopher Search (1757), vol. 32, p. 284; database with an image (www.Ancestry.com), image 285 of 471; citing New Jersey State Published Archives Series.

merchandise Search acquired from Arnwine that remained unpaid.⁹² Arnwine used Abraham Cottnam as his attorney while the McMasters used William Pidgeon as their attorney, and Hunterdon County Common Pleas minutes book entries for the case spanned 1758 through 1761.

In another case, the Search estate sues Samuel Fleming for debt to which Fleming's goods and chattels were seized in 1762 as restitution.⁹³ Hunterdon County Common Pleas minutes book entries for the case spanned 1759 through 1762.

Two separate entries were found in the Hunterdon County Common Pleas minutes books for John McMasters without Lydia's name attached to it, but no court documents were found. It is possible that John may have been called as a witness in a case rather than the defendant or plaintiff. A 1759 entry for Abraham Cottnam v. John McMasters may be associated with the previously reported Arnwine v. Search case where Cottnam was the attorney for Jacob Arnwine.⁹⁴ A 1761 entry for Edward Prall v. John McMasters was found in the minute books with no additional details.⁹⁵ The attorney involved in this case was William Pidgeon. While no case details were found for Prall v. McMasters, it is worthwhile noting that Edward Prall was a witness to William Rittenhouse's 1761 will, and Rittenhouse was the father-in-law of Christopher Search through Christopher's first wife, Priscilla.⁹⁶

A final court case involving John McMasters was found in 1761 where it explicitly states that John was living in Amwell. The case was a New Jersey Supreme Court case where John was a tenant in possession of a piece of land under dispute between himself and Benjamin Howell.⁹⁷

While Amwell is referenced in all the prior cases and documents, it is probable that the location where John McMasters, Lydia Search, and Christopher Search resided is in present day Delaware Township, Hunterdon County and most probably in the vicinity of Rosemont. The supporting evidence for this is outlined in Appendix 1.

Link 12 – Mary (McMasters) Search

As outlined in Appendix 1, John McMasters is associated with Mary (McMasters) Search. Both married Search individuals around the same time in 1758. John married Lydia Search (Link 11),

⁹² Hunterdon County, New Jersey, Jacob Arnwine v. Lydia Search, executrix of Christopher Search, deceased (1760), item no. 5074, Court of Common Pleas, Trenton; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), images 288-296 of 738, film 008351192.

⁹³ Hunterdon County, New Jersey, Lydia Search, executrix of Christopher Search, deceased v. Samuel Fleming (1762), item no. 21751, Court of Common Pleas, Trenton; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), images 102-103 of 889, film 008351218.

⁹⁴ Hunterdon County, New Jersey, Abraham Cottnam v. John McMasters (1759), Court of Common Pleas Minute Books, Trenton; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), image 177 of 864, film 8218331.

⁹⁵ Hunterdon County, New Jersey, Abraham Cottnam v. John McMasters (1759), Court of Common Pleas Minute Books, Trenton; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), image 266 of 864, film 8218331.

⁹⁶ New Jersey, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1739-1991, Wm Rettenhousen (1761), vol. 13, p. 205-206; database with an image (www.ancestry.com), image 124 of 627; citing New Jersey Department of State.

⁹⁷ New Jersey State Archives, Supreme Court Case Files 1704-1844, Benjamin Howell v. John McMasters, tenant in possession (1761), Amwell, Hunterdon County, Case 17018; New Jersey Department of State, https://wwwnet-dos.state.nj.us/DOS_ArchivesDBPortal/index.aspx, accessed 21 August 2022.

and Mary (McMasters) Search married William Search (Link 5). Lydia was William Search's stepmother.

Link 13 – Southampton Township

Two documents tie John McMasters to Southampton Township, Bucks County. On 16 February 1762, John McMasters entered into a lease of indenture with William Briggs of Southampton, Bucks County.⁹⁸ It's unclear what the indenture was actually for, but given that both men were millers by trade, it was most likely related to employment. The indenture listed the goods and chattels to be forfeited to William Briggs should John default. The results of this transaction are unknown.

On 13 September 1765, William Pidgeon sued John McMasters for a £20 debt to which John borrowed from Pidgeon on 25 February 1764.⁹⁹ John was identified as "John McMasters of Southampton in Bucks County, millwright and carpenter". John was represented by his attorney, Isaac Allen.

Both Isaac Allen and William Pidgeon were not found in Bucks County tax records at this time or any other time.¹⁰⁰ Isaac Allen appeared to reside in Trenton, New Jersey¹⁰¹ (at that time Hunterdon County, New Jersey¹⁰²). William Pidgeon likely lived in Trenton as well, but he purchased multiple parcels of land in Hunterdon during 1763-1766 in Amwell, Burlington City, Nottingham, and Trenton and so his place of residence is unclear.¹⁰³ However, William Pidgeon is listed as an attorney in a county history book for Hunterdon County,¹⁰⁴ and he was previously associated with the McMasters and Searches. William Pidgeon was paid funds from the estate

⁹⁸ Bucks County, Pennsylvania, lease of indenture, John McMasters to William Briggs, (1762), Book 10, p. 418-419, Recorder of Deeds, Doylestown; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), image 324-325 of 398, film 7898966.

⁹⁹ Bucks County, Pennsylvania, William Pidgeon v. John McMasters (1765), Court of Common Pleas, Doylestown; originals held at the Bucks County Archives, Mercer Museum and Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown, item no. 7568.

¹⁰⁰ Negative search in McNealy, Terry A., and Frances W. Waite (1983), *Bucks County Tax Records, 1693-1778*. Doylestown, PA: Bucks County Genealogical Society.

¹⁰¹ See for example, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, assignment, Stephen Cormick to Isaac Allen, (1771), Book 13, p. 432-433, Recorder of Deeds, Doylestown; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), image 238 of 511, film 8067823. And New Jersey State Archives, Early Land Records, 1650-1900s, Isaac Allen from Joseph Peace (1767), Trenton, Hunterdon County, Reference A-V N(NJ), Folio 317 (SSTSE023); New Jersey Department of State, https://wwwnet-dos.state.nj.us/DOS_ArchivesDBPortal/EarlyLandRecords.aspx, accessed 6 September 2022.

¹⁰² Snyder, John P. (1969), *The Story of New Jersey's Civil Boundaries, 1606-1968*. Trenton, NJ: Bureau of Geology and Topography.

¹⁰³ New Jersey State Archives, Early Land Records, 1650-1900s, William Pidgeon from Samuel Fleming, sheriff (1763), Amwell, Hunterdon County, Reference T (WJ), Folio 22 (SSTSE023); New Jersey Department of State, https://wwwnet-dos.state.nj.us/DOS_ArchivesDBPortal/EarlyLandRecords.aspx, accessed 6 September 2022. And New Jersey State Archives, Early Land Records, 1650-1900s, William Pidgeon from Richard Saltar heirs (1765), Burlington City and Nottingham, Hunterdon County, Reference X (WJ), Folio 195 (SSTSE023); New Jersey Department of State, https://wwwnet-dos.state.nj.us/DOS_ArchivesDBPortal/EarlyLandRecords.aspx, accessed 6 September 2022. And New Jersey State Archives, Early Land Records, 1650-1900s, William Pidgeon from Charles Axford (1766), Trenton, Hunterdon County, Reference mortgage vol. 1 Folio 2 (CHNCL014); New Jersey Department of State, https://wwwnet-dos.state.nj.us/DOS_ArchivesDBPortal/EarlyLandRecords.aspx, accessed 6 September 2022.

¹⁰⁴ Snell, James P. (1881), *History of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties, New Jersey with Illustrations and Biographical Sketches of Its Prominent Men and Pioneers*. Philadelphia, PA: Everts & Peck, p. 206.

of Christopher Search in or after 1757,¹⁰⁵ and William Pidgeon also served as John and Lydia McMasters' attorney in another court case associated with Christopher Search's estate.¹⁰⁶

Link 14 – John McMasters' Estate

John McMasters died in 1768 in Byberry Township, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania.¹⁰⁷ John was identified as a wheelwright. Lydia McMasters was the executor of the estate, and John and David Loofborough were sureties. John's estate was appraised by John Britton and Silas Walmsly.

Debts owed the estate were from James McMasters, William Carrell, Sampson Chapman, William Heaton, Thomas Grooms, and John Lewis Jr. James McMasters is likely the James McMasters (1736-1806) who was eliminated as a possible candidate for Mary (McMasters) Boyd's father. William Carrell is likely the same person who witnessed Christopher Search's will in 1757.¹⁰⁸ Thomas Grooms is likely the same person who lived in Southampton Township, Bucks County in 1762.¹⁰⁹ William Heaton may be the same person who lived in Upper Makefield in 1762,¹¹⁰ which is where James McMasters also resided. It's uncertain where Sampson Chapman and John Lewis Jr. resided.

John's estate made payments to 19 individuals, of which nine were from Southampton Township, Bucks County (see Table 3).¹¹¹ Byberry Township in Philadelphia County is adjacent to Southampton and Bensalem Townships in Bucks County (see the earlier presented map in Figure 2).

¹⁰⁵ Hunterdon County, New Jersey, estate file, no 420J, Christopher Search (1757), Recorder of Wills, Clerk of Orphans' Court, Trenton.

¹⁰⁶ Hunterdon County, New Jersey, Lydia Search McMasters v. Samuel Fleming (1762), item 21751, Inferior Court of Common Pleas, Trenton; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), image 102-103 of 889, film 8351218.

¹⁰⁷ Pennsylvania, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1683-1993, John McMasters (1768), case no. 53, Administration Files, no. 10-72, image 306-315 of 433; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 6 September 2022).

¹⁰⁸ New Jersey, U.S., Abstract of Wills, 1670-1817, Christopher Search (1757), vol. 32, p. 284; database with an image (www.ancestry.com), image 285 of 471; citing New Jersey State Published Archives Series.

¹⁰⁹ Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Poor Tax Lists 1721-1764, Thomas Grooms (1762), Southampton, p. 72; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), film 7899008.

¹¹⁰ Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Poor Tax Lists 1721-1764, William Heaton (1762), Upper Makefield, p. 37; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), film 7899008.

¹¹¹ McNealy, Terry A., and Frances W. Waite (1983), *Bucks County Tax Records, 1693-1778*. Doylestown, PA: Bucks County Genealogical Society, pgs. 1, 9, 36, 45, 100, 103, and 104. And Philadelphia County PA Archives Tax Records (n.d.), Bibury (1769), accessed 7 September 2022 at <http://files.usgwarchives.net/pa/philadelphia/taxlist/bibury1769.txt>; citing Egle, William H. (1897), *Provincial Papers: Proprietary, Supply, and State Tax Lists of the City and County of Philadelphia for the Years 1769, 1774 and 1779*. Harrisburg, PA: Wm. Stanley Ray, State Printer of Pennsylvania.

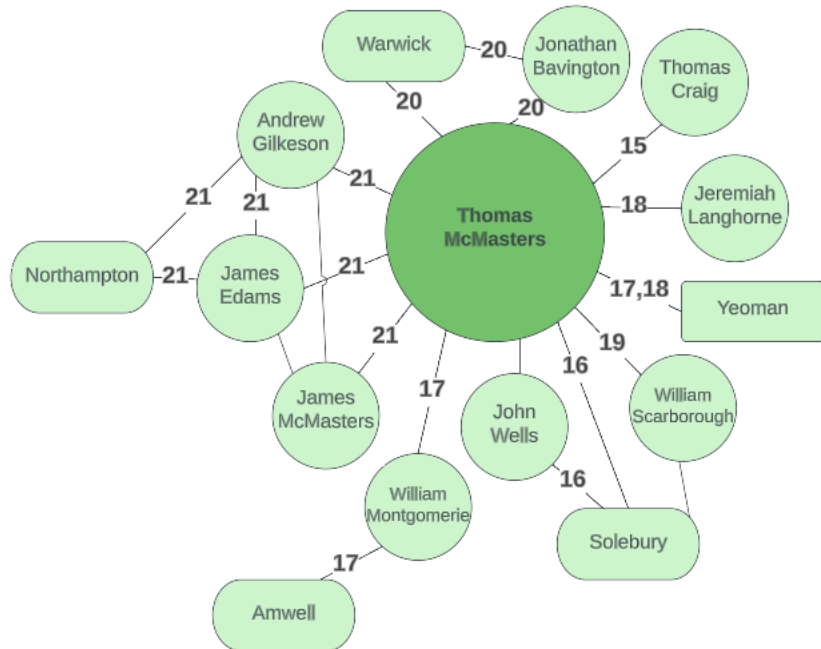
Table 3 – Payments Made from John McMasters Sr.’s Estate

Southampton Bucks County	Bensalem Bucks County	Middletown Bucks County	Byberry Philadelphia County	Unknown Location
Samuel Biles	Abraham States	Henry Comly estate	Alexander Edwards	Unnamed Doctor
John Blackledge	John Foster		John Loofborrough	John Roth
Derrick Krosen			David Loofborrough	
Thomas Stone			John Miller	
Garret Vansant			Thomas Peart	
Jacob Vansant				
Nicholas Vansant				
Amos Strickland				
Margery Strickland				

7.3 Thomas McMasters

The records for Thomas McMasters span from 1747 to 1784. Taken from Figure 3, Figure 8 below highlights only Thomas McMasters’ collection of evidence (Links 15-21).

Figure 8 – Evidentiary Network for Items Pertaining Only to Thomas McMasters



Link 15 – Thomas Craig v. Thomas McMasters

Thomas McMasters first appears in Bucks County records in 1747 where he is listed as having a £7 debt to the estate of Thomas Craig of Warrington and New Britain Townships, Bucks County.¹¹² Thomas' occupation and place of residence was not stated.

Link 16 – Solebury Township

On 16 July 1748, Thomas McMasters witnessed the will of John Wells of Solebury.¹¹³ John McMasters, who was previously presented in the report, also witnessed the will.

In 1751, Thomas McMasters is found on the Poor Tax List in Solebury, Bucks County.¹¹⁴ He is listed as married.

Link 17 – William Montgomerie v. Thomas McMasters

In 1753, Thomas McMasters is sued by William Montgomerie for a £20 debt.¹¹⁵ Thomas is listed as a yeoman (farmer) and identified as also going by "Thomas Masters". William Montgomerie is represented by his attorney, Benjamin Price.

William Montgomerie does not appear in Bucks County tax records, but he does appear to have lived in Amwell Township, Hunterdon County, New Jersey.¹¹⁶ This conclusion is further supported by the observation that William Montgomerie's attorney, Benjamin Price, practiced law in Hunterdon County¹¹⁷ and appears to have principally litigated matters of debt.¹¹⁸ Amwell is where the previously mentioned John McMasters lived after he married Lydia Search.

¹¹² Bucks County, Pennsylvania, estate file, no 548, Thomas Craig (1746), Recorder of Wills, Clerk of Orphans' Court, Doylestown.

¹¹³ Bucks County, Pennsylvania, estate file, no 608, John Wells (1748), Recorder of Wills, Clerk of Orphans' Court, Doylestown.

¹¹⁴ McNealy, Terry A., and Frances W. Waite (1983), *Bucks County Tax Records, 1693-1778*. Doylestown, PA: Bucks County Genealogical Society, pg. 12.

¹¹⁵ Bucks County, Pennsylvania, William Montgomerie v. Thomas McMasters (1753), Court of Common Pleas, Doylestown; originals held at the Bucks County Archives, Mercer Museum and Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown, items no. 5147A and 5147B.

¹¹⁶ Negative search in McNealy, Terry A., and Frances W. Waite (1983), *Bucks County Tax Records, 1693-1778*. Doylestown, PA: Bucks County Genealogical Society. And New Jersey State Archives, Early Land Records 1650-1900s, Richard Heath from unknown (1739, April 21), Amwell, Hunterdon County (William Montgomrie, owner of adjoining land), Book M, Part 2, (WJ Surveys, Folio 197, PWESJ0004); New Jersey Department of State, https://wwwnet-dos.state.nj.us/DOS_ArchivesDBPortal/index.aspx, accessed 29 April 2022.

¹¹⁷ Snell, James P. (1881), *History of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties, New Jersey with Illustrations and Biographical Sketches of Its Prominent Men and Pioneers*. Philadelphia, PA: Everts & Peck, p. 206.

¹¹⁸ See for example: New Jersey State Archives, Supreme Court Case Files 1704-1844, George Okill v. Justus Gans (otherwise Justus Gantz of Amwell), attorney, Benjamin Price for Okill (1754), Hunterdon County, Case 28516; New Jersey Department of State, https://wwwnet-dos.state.nj.us/DOS_ArchivesDBPortal/index.aspx, accessed 29 April 2022.

Link 18 – Jeremiah Langhorne v. Thomas McMasters

In 1756, Jeremiah Langhorne's estate sued Thomas McMasters for a £14 debt.¹¹⁹ Thomas was identified as a yeoman, but his specific residency in Bucks County was not stated. Jeremiah Langhorne died in 1742 and resided in Middletown, Bucks County.¹²⁰

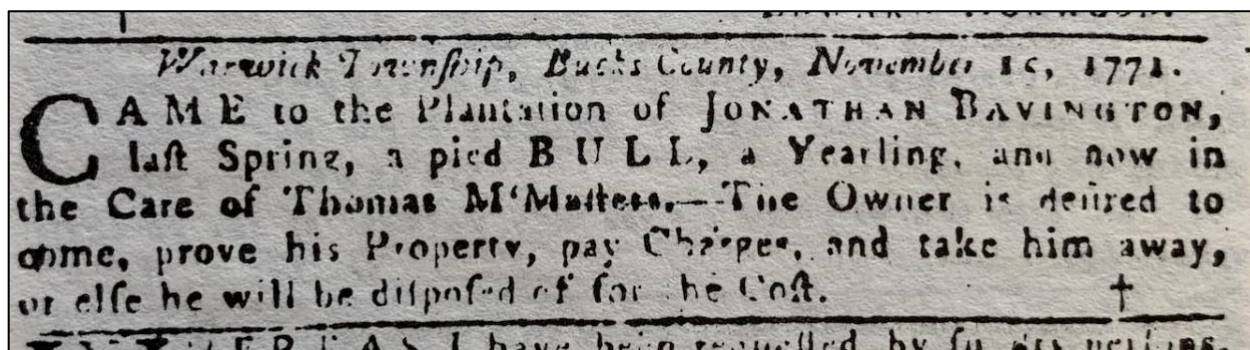
Link 19 – William Scarborough v. Thomas McMasters

In 1757, William Scarborough sued Thomas McMasters for reasons unknown as case details are lost.¹²¹ Neither Thomas' occupation nor residency within Bucks County was stated. William Scarborough likely lived in Solebury, Bucks County.¹²²

Link 20 – Warwick Township, Bucks County

Chronologically, the next record for Thomas McMasters does not appear until 1771 when an article, published in the *Pennsylvania Gazette* by Jonathan Bavington of Warwick Township, indicates a bull was found on Bavington's plantation and is now in the care of Thomas McMasters (see Figure 9).¹²³

Figure 9 – Thomas McMasters' Newspaper Notice (21 November 1771)



¹¹⁹ Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Jeremiah Langhorne estate v. Thomas McMasters (1756), Court of Common Pleas, Doylestown; originals held at the Bucks County Archives, Mercer Museum and Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown, item no. 5839.

¹²⁰ Pennsylvania, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1683-1993, Jeremiah Langhorne (1742), will no. 470, Will Book, vol. 2, pgs. 19-22, image 195-197 of 382; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 6 September 2022).

¹²¹ Bucks County, Pennsylvania, William Scarborough v. Thomas McMasters (1757), Court of Common Pleas, Doylestown; originals held at the Bucks County Archives, Mercer Museum and Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown, item no. 6086.

¹²² McNealy, Terry A., and Frances W. Waite (1983), *Bucks County Tax Records, 1693-1778*. Doylestown, PA: Bucks County Genealogical Society, pgs. 12 and 30. And Reeder, Eastburn (1971), *Early Settlers of Solebury Township, Bucks County, Pa., Compiled from Deeds, Wills and the Records of Friends' Meetings*. Doylestown, PA: The Bucks County Historical Society, p. 21-22.

¹²³ McNealy, Terry A. (1990), *Index to Bucks County References in the Pennsylvania Gazette, 1728-1789*. Doylestown, PA: Bucks County Genealogical Society.

In 1775, Thomas McMasters was marked as poor on Bucks County tax records for Warwick Township.¹²⁴

Also, in 1775, Thomas McMasters was listed on the Revolutionary War rolls of the associated company belonging to Warwick Township, Bucks County, which was taken on 21 August 1775.¹²⁵ According to Pennsylvania law at the time, participation in associated companies was voluntary preventing an approximation of Thomas' age.¹²⁶

Link 21 – Land Deed Witness for James Edams and Andrew Gilkison

On 24 May 1784, Thomas McMasters and William Simpson witnessed the payment made by James Edams to Andrew and Edith Gilkison for 60 acres of land in Northampton Township, Bucks County.¹²⁷ James McMasters, William Simpson, and Robert Mears Jr. witnessed the indenture. The property was located adjacent to the lands of Joseph Richardson, John Cummings, and Joseph Dungan near the border of Warwick Township.¹²⁸ It was also located near Jonathan Bavington's plantation where Thomas McMasters was reported living in 1771 (see Figure 10 on the next page).

James McMasters, one of the witnesses, is likely either a son of Thomas McMasters or James McMasters of Upper Makefield, who was previously eliminated as a father of Mary (McMasters) Boyd. One of the other witnesses, William Simpson, is probably related to Mary Simpson, who married James McMasters of Upper Makefield.¹²⁹

As an associate, James Edams holds an important indirect link with Thomas McMasters. In 1782, Bucks County tax records indicate that William McMasters was single and living at the residence of James Edams.¹³⁰ James Edams lived in Northampton Township but near its border with Warwick Township (see Figure 10 on the next page).¹³¹ William McMasters is likely a son of Thomas as no other married McMasters individuals were found living at this time in this location.

¹²⁴ McNealy, Terry A., and Frances W. Waite (1983), *Bucks County Tax Records, 1693-1778*. Doylestown, PA: Bucks County Genealogical Society, p. 63.

¹²⁵ Pennsylvania, Published Archives Series, 1664-1902, Series 2 (military and church records), vol. 14, part 03, Muster Rolls and Papers Relating to the Militia of the Company of Bucks, Thomas McMasters (1775), Warwick, p. 164, image 23 of 106; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 6 September 2022); citing Pennsylvania State Archives, Harrisburg.

¹²⁶ Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (2023). *Revolutionary War Militia Battalions and Companies*, accessed 17 May 2023 at <https://www.phmc.pa.gov/Archives/Research-Online/Pages/Revolutionary-War-Militia-Overview.aspx>.

¹²⁷ Bucks County, Pennsylvania, land deed, Andrew and Edith Gilkison to James Edams (1784), Book 22, p. 146-148, Recorder of Deeds, Doylestown; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), image 413-414 of 640, film 8067826.

¹²⁸ Ely, Warren S. (n.d.), Buckingham and Solebury, Map Collection, SC-27, from the Collection of the Mercer Museum Research Library of the Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown, PA.

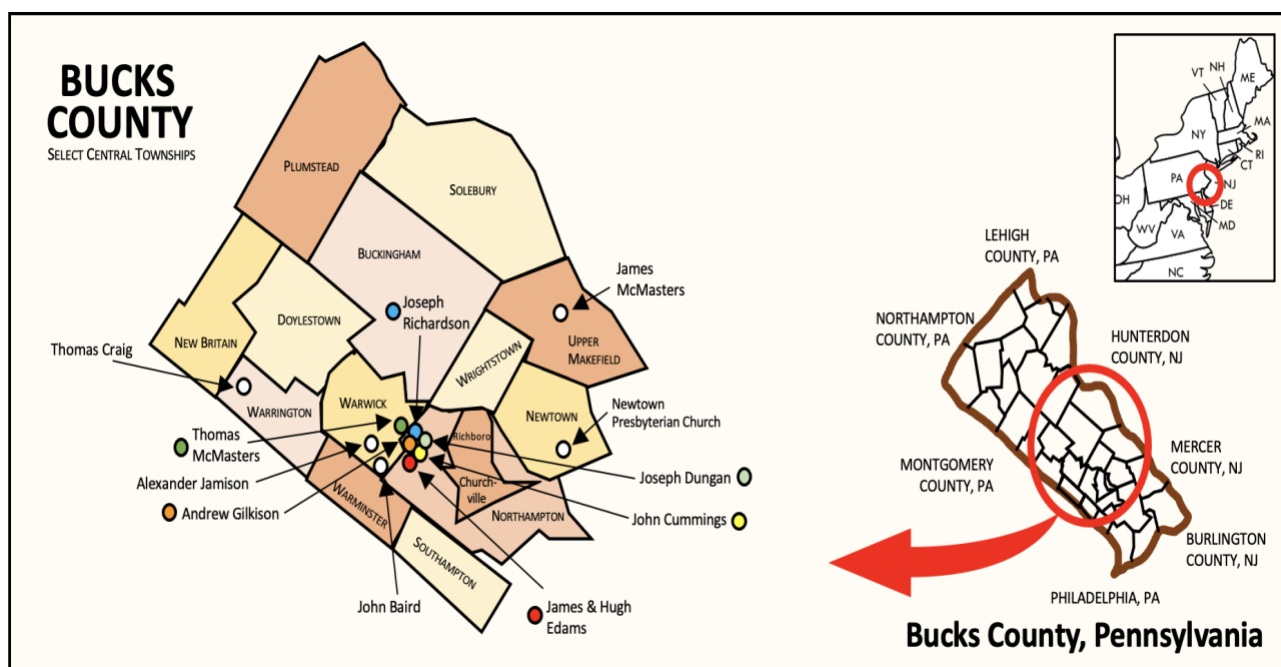
¹²⁹ Reeder, Eastburn (1971), *Early Settlers of Solebury Township, Bucks County, Pa., Compiled from Deeds, Wills and the Records of Friends' Meetings*. Doylestown, PA: The Bucks County Historical Society, p. 85.

¹³⁰ Bucks County, Pennsylvania Tax Records, 1782-1860, Wm McMasters (1782), Northampton, image 8 of 18; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 25 July 2022); citing Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown, Title no. 102, roll. 15.

¹³¹ Bucks County, Pennsylvania, mortgage, James Edams from Catherine Bullock, John Lock, and Joseph Howell (1759), Book 9, p. 552-553, Recorder of Deeds, Doylestown; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), image 329 of 590, film 007903008.

Further, James Edams was also the father of Hugh Edams,¹³² for whom Mary (McMasters) Boyd's husband twice served as a substitute during the Revolutionary War.¹³³ Hugh Edams was also associated with Sarah McMasters who married Carswell Gardner in Northampton Township eight months earlier than Mary's marriage to William Boyd.¹³⁴

Figure 10 – Localized Map of Northampton and Warwick Townships, Bucks County, PA



¹³² Bucks County, Pennsylvania, land deed, Samuel and Elizabeth Henderson, Francis and Margaret Baird to James Edams and Gayen Edams (1805), Book 43, p. 111-112, Recorder of Deeds, Doylestown; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), image 84-85 of 758, film 8067837.

¹³³ Pension Application, William Boyd, Sergeant, Revolutionary War, "Declaration of William Boyd in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832", dated 9 April 1833, [Pension Application S.22.127](#), Pension Office, War Department, Washington, DC; online database with images, Fold3 (www.fold3.com, accessed 31 July 2018).

¹³⁴ Pennsylvania, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1683-1993, Christian Keiser (1778), will no. 1584, vol. 4, p. 14-15, image 294 of 578; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 19 November 2022). And Pennsylvania, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1683-1993, Derrick Kroesen (1789), will no. 3211, vol. 7, p. 33-34, image 341-342 of 514; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 19 November 2022). And Pension Application, Carswell Gardner, Sergeant, Revolutionary War, "Declaration of Carswell Gardner in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832", dated 21 August 1832, [Pension Application W.1409](#), Pension Office, War Department, Washington, DC; online database with images, Fold3 (www.fold3.com, accessed 19 November 2022).

Finally, one of the neighbors listed in the Gilkison-Edams land transaction, John Cummings, was a son of John Cummings Sr.,¹³⁵ who, in 1752, witnessed the will of Henry Benson of Northampton¹³⁶ along with William Boyd's father, James Boyd.¹³⁷ Collectively, this seems to suggest that the Boyds and McMasters were members of a community with the Cummings, Edams, and Simpsons.

8. Evaluation of Evidence

All documents and mentions related to Alexander McMasters, John McMasters, and Thomas McMasters are evaluated here to determine their strength of association with Mary (McMasters) Boyd and whether any candidate can be identified as the probable father of Mary. The evaluation of evidence is organized into the following categories of indirect evidence: FAN Club, geography, and DNA evidence.

8.1 FAN Club

As visually shown in the previously presented Figure 3, Mary (McMasters) Boyd only has FAN Club (friends, associates, and neighbors) connections with Thomas McMasters. In fact, it appears to be the Edams family who facilitates the connections between Mary and Thomas. As previously discussed, Thomas McMasters served as a witness to James Edams' 1784 land deed transaction.¹³⁸ Hugh Edams, who was a son of James, was associated with Mary's husband, William Boyd. William twice served in the Revolutionary War in Hugh's stead in 1777,¹³⁹ which was prior to William's marriage with Mary.

Two potential siblings of Mary (McMasters) Boyd were also associated with the Edams. The first possible sibling is Sarah (McMasters) Gardner, who along with Hugh Edams witnessed Christian Keiser's 1778 will.¹⁴⁰ Sarah (McMasters) Gardner also had a granddaughter through her only child, Benjamin W. Gardner, named Sarah Jane Edams Gardner.¹⁴¹ Sarah (McMasters)

¹³⁵ Bucks County, Pennsylvania, estate file, no 1676, John Cummings (1781), Recorder of Wills, Clerk of Orphans' Court, Doylestown.

¹³⁶ Bucks County, Pennsylvania, estate file, no 789, Henry Benson (1752), Recorder of Wills, Clerk of Orphans' Court, Doylestown.

¹³⁷ Wilson, Rick T. (2022), *Who was the Father of William Boyd (1753-1836), who Married Mary McMasters in 1778 in Bucks County, Pennsylvania*. Retrieved 20 June 2023 from www.MyFamilyPattern.com.

¹³⁸ Bucks County, Pennsylvania, land deed, Andrew and Edith Gilkison to James Edams (1784), Book 22, p. 146-148, Recorder of Deeds, Doylestown; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), image 413-414 of 640, film 8067826.

¹³⁹ Pension Application, William Boyd, Sergeant, Revolutionary War, "Declaration of William Boyd in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832", dated 9 April 1833, [Pension Application S.22.127](#), Pension Office, War Department, Washington, DC; online database with images, Fold3 (www.fold3.com, accessed 31 July 2018).

¹⁴⁰ Pennsylvania, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1683-1993, Christian Keiser (1778), will no. 1584, vol. 4, p. 14-15, image 294 of 578; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 19 November 2022).

¹⁴¹ Pension Application, Carswell Gardner, Sergeant, Revolutionary War, "Declaration of Carswell Gardner in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832", dated 21 August 1832, [Pension Application W.1409](#), Pension Office, War Department, Washington, DC; online database with images, Fold3 (www.fold3.com, accessed 19 November 2022).

Gardner was born in 1754 and Mary (McMasters) Boyd was born in 1755 making the two contemporaries of one another.¹⁴²

The second possible sibling of Mary is William McMasters, who was listed as single on a 1782 tax record and was found living at the residence of James Edams.¹⁴³ Because only individuals aged 21 years or older were listed on county tax records, William was likely born in 1761 or earlier, which also makes him a contemporary of Mary and Sarah McMasters. William McMasters served as a major in the Revolutionary War for the company organized at Warwick Township.¹⁴⁴

Although not associated with the Edams, a third possible sibling is Robert McMasters, who is first found in the 1775 list of associators for the Revolutionary War from Northampton.¹⁴⁵ Robert, along with the other two possible siblings, suggests that Thomas McMasters had a family and resided in the Warwick-Northampton area (see Figure 10).

8.2 Geography

The evaluation of indirect evidence for geography is based on whether Mary (McMasters) Boyd resided in the same locations as any of her potential father candidates and whether their respective residences overlapped temporally. Thomas McMasters has the greatest geographic proximity with Mary.

While it is uncertain where Mary was born, she was born about 1755.¹⁴⁶ All potential candidates resided at some point in Solebury Township between 1751 and 1761 (see Links 6, 10, and 16).

Thomas McMasters' Geography

Mary likely lived in Northampton at the time of her marriage to William Boyd in 1778, which is where William Boyd resided.¹⁴⁷ Records note Thomas McMasters lived in Warwick between

¹⁴² Chester County Pennsylvania, Poorhouse Admissions 1800-1858, Mary Boyd (1829, 1830, 1832), Book RQS; database, Chester County Archives (www.chesco.org, accessed 24 April 2022). And for Sarah (McMasters) Gardner's date of birth, see Pension Application, Carswell Gardner, Sergeant, Revolutionary War, "Declaration of Carswell Gardner in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832", dated 21 August 1832, [Pension Application W.1409](#), Pension Office, War Department, Washington, DC; online database with images, Fold3 (www.fold3.com, accessed 19 November 2022).

¹⁴³ Bucks County, Pennsylvania Tax Records, 1782-1860, Wm McMasters (1782), Northampton, image 8 of 18; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 25 July 2022); citing Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown, Title no. 102, roll. 15.

¹⁴⁴ While William McMasters was not found on the 1775 list of Revolutionary War associators from Warwick, several individuals who served in the Warwick company mentioned William McMasters as the major within their application for a federal pension for serving in the War. See...

¹⁴⁵ Pennsylvania State Archives, Muster Rolls and Papers Relating to the Associators and Militia of the County of Bucks, Robert McMasters (1775), Northampton, Series 2, vol. XIV, p. 148; database with image, Fold3 (www.fold3.com, accessed 25 July 2022); citing Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

¹⁴⁶ Chester County Pennsylvania, Poorhouse Admissions 1800-1858, Mary Boyd (1829, 1830, 1832), Book RQS; database, Chester County Archives (www.chesco.org, accessed 24 April 2022).

¹⁴⁷ U.S. Presbyterian Church Records, 1701-1970, Willm Boyd and McMasters (1778), Newtown Presbyterian Church, Baptisms, Births, Marriages, 1769-1812, p. 20, image 22 of 148; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 14 March 2022); Presbyterian Historical Society, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. And Pension Application, William Boyd, Sergeant, Revolutionary War, "Declaration of William Boyd in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832", dated 9 April 1833, [Pension Application S.22,127](#), Pension

1771 and 1775, and he likely resided as a tenant farmer on Jonathan Bavington's estate during this entire time.¹⁴⁸ Jonathan's property was in Warwick on the border with Northampton and near James Edams' property (see Figure 10). In 1784, Thomas witnessed James Edams' land transaction suggesting he remained in the area.¹⁴⁹

Alexander McMasters' Geography

Records indicate Alexander McMasters lived in Solebury between 1757 and 1765¹⁵⁰ with one instance of him living in Upper Makefield in 1759, which is adjacent to Solebury.¹⁵¹ An account of Alexander in a Bucks County history book indicates he resided in Northeastern Pennsylvania during the Wyoming Valley massacre and returned to Bucks County after fleeing from the Wyoming Valley to Maryland.¹⁵² The reference to Alexander in the book contains no citations, and therefore needs further evaluation.

Text within the Bucks County history book makes two references to Alexander McMasters. First, it indicates he resided in the Wyoming Valley at the time of the massacre. There were two massacres in the Valley, and it is unclear to which massacre is being referenced. If it is the 1763 massacre, Alexander is found in Bucks County records in 1761 and then not again until 1765 suggesting that this could be a possibility.¹⁵³ If it is the 1778 massacre, which occurred on July 3rd, it is quite probable that Alexander and his family could not have escaped into Maryland and then returned back to Bucks County in time for Mary McMasters to marry William Boyd in October 1778. Escaping to Maryland in a timely fashion would require Alexander to float down the Susquehanna River for approximately 280 miles into Maryland and then travel by road or other means back to Bucks County. While not impossible to make this journey in three months, the timeline is potentially tight given the dire circumstances.

Office, War Department, Washington, DC; online database with images, Fold3 (www.fold3.com, accessed 31 July 2018).

¹⁴⁸ McNealy, Terry A. (1990), *Index to Bucks County References in the Pennsylvania Gazette, 1728-1789*. Doylestown, PA: Bucks County Genealogical Society.

¹⁴⁹ Bucks County, Pennsylvania, land deed, Andrew and Edith Gilkison to James Edams (1784), Book 22, p. 146-148, Recorder of Deeds, Doylestown; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), image 413-414 of 640, film 8067826.

¹⁵⁰ Bucks County, Pennsylvania, David Spear v. Alexander McMasters (1757), Court of Common Pleas, Doylestown; originals held at the Bucks County Archives, Mercer Museum and Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown, item no. 6137. And Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Joseph Seilton [Skelton] v. Alexander McMasters (1757), Court of Common Pleas, Doylestown; originals held at the Bucks County Archives, Mercer Museum and Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown, items no. 6111A and 6111B. And Bucks County, Pennsylvania, James Clemmings v. Alexander McMasters (1759), Court of Common Pleas, Doylestown; originals held at the Bucks County Archives, Mercer Museum and Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown, item no. 6461. And Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Thomas Craven v. Alexander McMasters (1764-1765), Court of Common Pleas, Doylestown; originals held at the Bucks County Archives, Mercer Museum and Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown, item no. 7650.

¹⁵¹ Bucks County, Pennsylvania, James Clemmings v. Alexander McMasters (1759), Court of Common Pleas, Doylestown; originals held at the Bucks County Archives, Mercer Museum and Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown, item no. 6461.

¹⁵² Davis, William W.H., Warren S. Ely, and John W. Jordan (1905), *History of Bucks County, Pennsylvania: From the Discovery of the Delaware to the Present Time (Volumes 1 and 2)*, New York, NY: The Lewis Publishing Company, p. 242.

¹⁵³ Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Poor Tax Lists 1721-1764, Alexander McMasters (1761), Solebury, p. 62; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), film 7899008. And Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Thomas Craven v. Alexander McMasters (1764-1765), Court of Common Pleas, Doylestown; originals held at the Bucks County Archives, Mercer Museum and Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown, item no. 7650.

The second undocumented reference for Alexander in the history book indicates he was the father of James McMasters (1836-1806), who was previously eliminated as the father of Mary. While not directly pertinent to whether Alexander could be the father of Mary (McMasters) Boyd, it does call into question whether these accounts in the history book of Alexander are accurate. It is quite probable that an earlier researcher misattributed James McMasters' father as Alexander. In the original 1761 Poor Tax List, Alexander McMasters is listed as married and James McMasters is similarly listed on this page but crossed out twice – appearing both on the married list and the singles list.¹⁵⁴ It's unclear why James was crossed out, but the individual providing this information for the Bucks County history book might have made the inference that Alexander was his father because they both appeared in the same township, in same year, and on the same document with Alexander married and James single.

It seems less likely that Alexander is the father of Mary (McMasters) Boyd if the assumption that Alexander resided in the Wyoming Valley in July 1778, which, if true, is the most likely massacre for him to be in attendance given that it is the more famous of the two massacres and thus more likely to be written about in the Bucks County history book. Even if Alexander wasn't at the 1778 massacre, he has no direct ties to Northampton or Warwick at the same time as Mary. His name is found in John Baird's 1791 probate record,¹⁵⁵ but it is unclear whether this is for him given that the last reference for him was in 1765. Finally, while Alexander and Mary both resided in Upper Makefield, they did so at very different times. Mary and Alexander's timelines are summarized in Table 4 on the next page.

¹⁵⁴ Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Poor Tax Lists 1721-1764, Alexander McMasters and James McMasters (1761), Solebury, p. 62; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), film 7899008.

¹⁵⁵ Bucks County, Pennsylvania, estate file, no 2328, John Baird (1791), Recorder of Wills, Clerk of Orphans' Court, Doylestown.

Table 4 – Respective Timelines for Alexander McMasters and Mary (McMasters) Boyd

Date	Alexander	Mary
1757	Solebury ¹⁵⁶	
1759	Upper Makefield ¹⁵⁷	
1761	Solebury ¹⁵⁸	
1763	Wyoming Valley, PA? ¹⁵⁹	
1765	Solebury ¹⁶⁰	
1778	Wyoming Valley, PA? ¹⁶¹	Likely Northampton ¹⁶²
Post 1778	Unknown	Upper Makefield ¹⁶³

¹⁵⁶ Bucks County, Pennsylvania, David Spear v. Alexander McMasters (1757), Court of Common Pleas, Doylestown; originals held at the Bucks County Archives, Mercer Museum and Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown, item no. 6137.

¹⁵⁷ Bucks County, Pennsylvania, James Clemmings v. Alexander McMasters (1759), Court of Common Pleas, Doylestown; originals held at the Bucks County Archives, Mercer Museum and Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown, item no. 6461.

¹⁵⁸ Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Poor Tax Lists 1721-1764, Alexander McMasters (1761), Solebury, p. 62; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), film 7899008.

¹⁵⁹ Davis, William W.H., Warren S. Ely, and John W. Jordan (1905), *History of Bucks County, Pennsylvania: From the Discovery of the Delaware to the Present Time (Volumes 1 and 2)*, New York, NY: The Lewis Publishing Company, p. 242.

¹⁶⁰ Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Thomas Craven v. Alexander McMasters (1764-1765), Court of Common Pleas, Doylestown; originals held at the Bucks County Archives, Mercer Museum and Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown, item no. 7650.

¹⁶¹ Davis, William W.H., Warren S. Ely, and John W. Jordan (1905), *History of Bucks County, Pennsylvania: From the Discovery of the Delaware to the Present Time (Volumes 1 and 2)*, New York, NY: The Lewis Publishing Company, p. 242.

¹⁶² U.S. Presbyterian Church Records, 1701-1970, Willm Boyd and McMasters (1778), Newtown Presbyterian Church, Baptisms, Births, Marriages, 1769-1812, p. 20, image 22 of 148; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 14 March 2022); Presbyterian Historical Society, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

¹⁶³ Pension Application, William Boyd, Sergeant, Revolutionary War, "Declaration of William Boyd in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832", dated 9 April 1833, [Pension Application S.22.127](#), Pension Office, War Department, Washington, DC; online database with images, Fold3 (www.fold3.com, accessed 31 July 2018).

John McMasters' (d. 1768) Geography

Records indicate John McMasters lived in three different counties in the Greater Bucks County area. From at least 1747 to about 1758, he resided in Solebury, Bucks County.¹⁶⁴ From 1758 to about 1762, John resided in Amwell, Hunterdon County, New Jersey.¹⁶⁵ John later appears in Southampton, Bucks County between 1762 and 1765¹⁶⁶ and later dies in neighboring Byberry, Philadelphia County in 1768.¹⁶⁷ No records have been found indicating or suggesting Mary (McMasters) Boyd resided in these areas other than to deduce that she might have been born in Solebury. Regardless, all potential candidates for her father resided in Solebury at this time as well.

Considering John McMasters died in 1768, it is possible that his children could have gone to live with other family members until they reached their majority. However, this seems less likely based on where John's other children and stepchildren resided after his death. Evaluation of records suggest he had at least three children with Lydia Search: John McMasters Jr. (1758-1845), Thomas McMasters (1760-1843), and Margaret (McMasters) Flanigan. All three of these children married in Philadelphia between 1782-1786,¹⁶⁸ and at least two of them spent time in Chester Township, Burlington County, New Jersey from 1780 onwards (i.e., John and Thomas McMasters). Chester is just across the Delaware River from Philadelphia. John McMasters' widow, Lydia (Search) McMasters is similarly found residing in Chester Township in 1796 through 1797.¹⁶⁹ John's son Thomas remained in Chester for the remainder of his life,¹⁷⁰ while John's son John and daughter Margaret lived the remainder of their lives in the Southwark district of Philadelphia, which is the old town situated on the Delaware River.¹⁷¹

¹⁶⁴ See for example, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, estate file, no 572, James Paxon (1747), Recorder of Wills, Clerk of Orphans' Court, Doylestown. And New Jersey, U.S., Abstract of Wills, 1670-1817, Christopher Search (1757), vol. 32, p. 284; database with an image (www.Ancestry.com), image 285 of 471; citing New Jersey State Published Archives Series.

¹⁶⁵ See for example, New Jersey, U.S., Abstract of Wills, 1670-1817, Christopher Search (1757), vol. 32, p. 284; database with an image (www.Ancestry.com), image 285 of 471; citing New Jersey State Published Archives Series. And New Jersey State Archives, Supreme Court Case Files 1704-1844, Benjamin Howell v. John McMasters, tenant in possession (1761), Amwell, Hunterdon County, Case 17018; New Jersey Department of State, https://wwwnet-dos.state.nj.us/DOS_ArchivesDBPortal/index.aspx, accessed 21 August 2022.

¹⁶⁶ See for example, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, lease of indenture, John McMasters to William Briggs, (1762), Book 10, p. 418-419, Recorder of Deeds, Doylestown; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), image 324-325 of 398, film 7898966. And Bucks County, Pennsylvania, William Pidgeon v. John McMasters (1765), Court of Common Pleas, Doylestown; originals held at the Bucks County Archives, Mercer Museum and Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown, item no. 7568.

¹⁶⁷ Pennsylvania, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1683-1993, John McMasters (1768), case no. 53, Administration Files, no. 10-72, image 306-315 of 433; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com), accessed 6 September 2022).

¹⁶⁸ Gloria Dei Church, Swedes Church, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, John McMasters and Elizabeth Boxon (12 October 1782) and John Flanighans and Margaret McMasters (22 October 1782), Church Records 1636-1789, Film 511804, Image Group Number 8104381, image 623 of 658. And Pennsylvania, U.S., Compiled Marriage Records, 1700-11821, Christ Church, Philadelphia, Thomas McMasters and Eliz. Palmer (25 October 1786); database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com), accessed 19 June 2023), p. 173, image 173 of 286.

¹⁶⁹ Burlington County, New Jersey, Tax Ratables, 1778-1822, Lydia McMasters (1796), Chester; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), film 865464, image 576 of 1,005. And Burlington County, New Jersey, Tax Ratables, 1778-1822, Lydia McMasters (1797), Chester; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), film 865464, image 585 of 1,005.

¹⁷⁰ New Jersey, U.S., Deaths and Burials Index, 1798-1971, Thomas McMasters (20 August 1844), Colestown, Burlington County; database (www.Ancestry.com); citing Family History Library film 543521.

¹⁷¹ See for example, 1790 U.S. census, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Southward, p. 364, image 9 of 66, Jno (Porter) Flannagan; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com), accessed 1 November

John McMasters' (d. 1768) stepchildren similarly remained in the Philadelphia area after John's death. Christopher Search Jr. (1744-1794) resided for a time in Byberry before moving to Southwark.¹⁷² Thomas Search (d. 1799) also resided in Southwark.¹⁷³ Lydia Search (daughter of Christopher and Lydia Search) married in Philadelphia in 1780, but her subsequent whereabouts are unknown.¹⁷⁴

Geographically, the residential and community orbit for the children and stepchildren of John McMasters' (d. 1768) appears to have been Philadelphia and its immediate environs rather than Bucks County. It is quite possible that after the death of her husband, Lydia (Search) McMasters, and thus some of her children, remained in the Byberry area for a time given that her son Christopher Search remained in Byberry until 1789 after which he removed to Southwark.¹⁷⁵ Lydia and her McMasters children might have then moved to Chester, New Jersey around the time of the Revolutionary War.¹⁷⁶ It is presumed that Lydia's son, Thomas McMasters, served in the New Jersey regiment in 1775.¹⁷⁷ Lydia's other son, John McMasters (1758-1845), is listed as single in 1780 in Chester but removes to Southwark by 1783.¹⁷⁸ Therefore, it appears less probable that Mary (McMasters) Boyd would have left her half-siblings, step-siblings, and stepmother to reside in Northampton, Bucks County. Although, it is possible that Mary could be a daughter of John McMasters (d. 1768) from a marriage prior to Lydia Search and that Mary went to live with other relatives in Northampton after the death of John McMasters in 1768, but this seems less likely.

8.3 Autosomal DNA

While the DNA analysis does not conclusively indicate Mary (McMasters) Boyd is the daughter of Thomas McMasters of Warwick, the analysis does suggest a stronger genetic connection

2022); Family History Library Film 0568149. And City Directories for Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, John Flanagan (1793), p. 46, T. Dobson Publishers; database with image, *Fold3* (www.fold3.com, accessed 1 November 2022).

¹⁷² Recorder of Deeds, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Christopher Search to Malcolm McCloud (1789), land deed, book D23, p. 62-64, database with an image (www.familysearch.org), image 324-325 of 570, film 008067363. And Recorder of Deeds, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Christopher Search from Joseph Walton (1779), land deed, book D9, p. 96-100, database with an image (www.familysearch.org), image 333-335 of 572, film 008067356.

¹⁷³ Pennsylvania, U.S., Tax and Exoneration, 1768-1801, Thomas Search (1774), Southwark, Philadelphia, p. 458, image 91 of 631; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 23 June 2023); Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, Records of the Office of the Comptroller General, RG-4, film 332.

¹⁷⁴ Pennsylvania, U.S., Compiled Marriage Records, 1700-11821, Swedes' Church, Philadelphia, Lydy Search and Edward Stricklin (5 March 1780); database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 19 June 2023), p. 508, image 222 of 276.

¹⁷⁵ Recorder of Deeds, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Christopher Search to Malcolm McCloud (1789), land deed, book D23, p. 62-64, database with an image (www.familysearch.org), image 324-325 of 570, film 008067363.

¹⁷⁶ Burlington County, New Jersey, Tax Ratables, 1778-1822, Thomas McMasters and Lydia McMasters (1796), Chester; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), film 865464, image 576 of 1,005. And Burlington County, New Jersey, Tax Ratables, 1778-1822, Thomas McMasters and Lydia McMasters (1797), Chester; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), film 865464, image 585 of 1,005.

¹⁷⁷ U.S., Revolutionary War Rolls, 1775-1783, Thomas McMasters [McMasters] (11 November 1777), Private, 3rd Regiment; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 19 June 2023), image 488 of 684; citing NAID publication M246, no. 602384.

¹⁷⁸ Burlington County, New Jersey, Tax Ratables, 1778-1822, John McMasters (1780), Chester; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), film 865464, image 570 of 1,005. And Pennsylvania, Tax and Exoneration, 1768-1801, John McMasters (1783), Southwark, p. 359; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 19 June 2023), image 360 of 631; citing Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, record group 4, roll 336.

with those from the Northampton-Warwick areas of Bucks County, i.e., Robert McMasters and Sarah (McMasters) Gardner. No DNA clusters were found connecting descendants of Mary (McMasters) Boyd to the other paternal candidates of John or Alexander McMasters.

While the identification of the Wetzel County, West Virginia McMasters requires further investigation, the correlation of evidence in Appendix 2 suggests these McMasters might be connected to Thomas McMasters of Warwick through a possible son named either James or Thomas McMasters. In fact, the James McMasters who witnessed the 1784 land deed between James Edams and Andrew Gilkison might be a son of Thomas McMasters of Warwick rather than James McMasters (1736-1806) of Upper Makefield.

9. Conclusion and Summary of Evidence

Based on the evidentiary network presented in Figure 3, the evidence for the father of Mary (McMasters) Boyd (1755-1832) appears stronger for Thomas McMasters of Warwick than it does for Alexander, James, or John McMasters. Therefore, the conclusion of the research report is that Thomas McMasters is the assumed father of Mary (McMasters) Boyd.

The strongest evidence supporting Thomas as the father includes:

1. Geographic and temporal connections with Northampton Township, Bucks County (links 2 and 21), which is the neighboring township to where Thomas McMasters resided. Thomas lived on a property in Warwick Township on the Northampton Township border.
2. Shared FAN club association with the Edams family of Northampton Township, Bucks County (links 2, 4, and 21) as well as Sarah (McMasters) Gardner, William McMasters, and Robert McMasters, who are similarly from Northampton.
3. Autosomal DNA matches among descendants Mary (McMasters) Boyd and descendants of Sarah (McMasters) Gardner and Robert McMasters of Northampton Township, Bucks County (Link 5).
4. Geographic and temporal connections with New London, Chester County, Pennsylvania, through Sarah (McMasters) Gardner.

10. Future Research Suggestions

1. While a genetic link is identified with the McMasters of Greene County, Pennsylvania and Wetzel County, West Virginia, a definitive documentary link between the respective McMasters in Bucks County and Greene/Wetzel Counties has not been established. cursory investigation into the records of each county has been made, but a more systematic approach is needed including:
 - a. Reviewing early land records in both Greene and Wetzel Counties associated with their FAN club to see if any McMasters' names are mentioned that might hint to the father of James, Jacob, Thomas, and Martha and the husband of Elizabeth. FAN club members include Lantz, Eckleberry, and Estle.
 - b. Review civil and criminal court records for McMasters mentions.

- c. Review poorhouse records for McMasters mentions.
2. Robert McMasters (potential son of Thomas McMasters of Warwick) married Esther Palmer in New Jersey. Thomas McMasters (son of John McMasters (d. 1768)) married Elizabeth Palmer in Philadelphia. Thomas and Elizabeth (Palmer) McMasters later lived in New Jersey. Could these two Palmer women be related, and if so, might it help illuminate further McMasters connections?

11. Table of Revisions

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

Version	Date	Change Description
1.0	07/05/2023	Initial publishing
1.1	08/01/2023	Correction for the number of children for Mary (McMasters) Search from nine to 10. Citation for Lydia Search McMasters residence in Chester, Burlington County, New Jersey in 1796-1797.

12. Appendixes

Appendix 1: Mary (McMasters) Search and the Search Family

Due to the important connections between the McMasters and Search families, additional information is offered to further explicate and interpret evidence in support of the father of Mary (McMasters) Boyd.

Intermarriages Between McMasters and Searchers

As stated in the full report, it is probable that John McMasters (d. 1768) was a brother to Mary (McMasters) Search and so it is important to discuss the Searches and Mary (McMasters) Search in greater detail as it contextualizes some of the evidence presented for John McMasters (d. 1768).

Mary (McMasters) Search was reportedly born in 1735 and died 1784.¹⁷⁹ She married William Search (1736-1806) about 1758, which is based on the birth of their first child, James Search (b. 1759).¹⁸⁰ William Search was the son of Christopher Search (d. 1757).

About the same time as Mary McMasters married William Search, John McMasters (d. 1768) married Lydia Search, who was the second wife of Christopher Search (d. 1757). Lydia's maiden name has been reported in online family trees as Lott, but it remains undocumented and unsubstantiated.¹⁸¹

To better visualize the multiple relationships between the Searches and the McMasters, Figure 11 on the next page visualizes the intermarriages among them. Although John McMasters and Mary (McMasters) Search appear on different generational levels, this is an artifact of whom

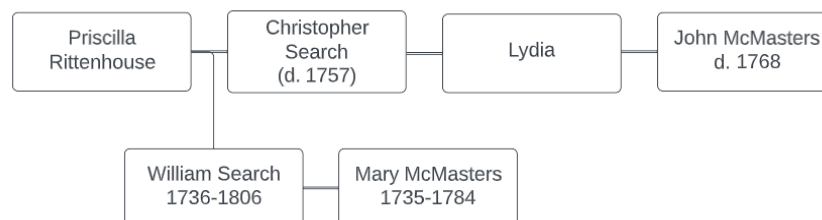
¹⁷⁹ *Find A Grave*, database with images (<https://findagrave.com>, accessed 1 September 2022), memorial 198032769, maintained by CC (contributor 48986187), originally created by Zoe Tom (contributor 47000374); citing Prallsville Cemetery, Hunterdon County, New Jersey, USA.

¹⁸⁰ William Search and Mary McMasters Family Bible, published in 1834, Brattleboro Press office and sold by Lincoln, Edmonds & Co. and William Peirce, Boston, MA, in the possession of Anabel Rogers MacPherson, Portland Oregon; image and notarized transcription, Raymond F. Parish, notary public, Portland Oregon, 21 October 1980; citing "Public Member Trees," database, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com>, accessed 1 September 2022), "Cottle" family tree by Wm. Andrew Cottle, profile for Elijah Search (1772-1848), attached media originally shared by Wm. Andrew Cottle, 25 Jun 2014.

¹⁸¹ The maiden name of Christopher Search's second wife, Lydia, is reported to be Lott, but online family trees do not support this supposition with documentation or inferences. While it is unclear where the surname Lott originated for Lydia, one possible explanation may be that earlier researchers misattributed the origin for one of William Search's (1736-1806) sons named Lott Search. Lott Search was not biologically related to Lydia, as William Search was the son of Christopher Search and his first wife, Priscilla Rittenhouse. It is probable that the name of William's son, Lott, originated from Priscilla Rittenhouse's line as she has a brother named Lott Rittenhouse. Source: William Search and Mary McMasters Family Bible, published in 1834, Brattleboro Press office and sold by Lincoln, Edmonds & Co. and William Peirce, Boston, MA, in the possession of Anabel Rogers MacPherson, Portland Oregon; image and notarized transcription, Raymond F. Parish, notary public, Portland Oregon, 21 October 1980; citing "Public Member Trees," database, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com>, accessed 1 September 2022), "Cottle" family tree by Wm. Andrew Cottle, profile for Elijah Search (1772-1848), attached media originally shared by Wm. Andrew Cottle, 25 Jun 2014. And New Jersey, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1739-1991, Wm Rettenhousen (1761), vol. 13, p. 205-206; database with an image (www.ancestry.com), image 124 of 627; citing New Jersey Department of State.

they married rather than to suggest Mary was a daughter or niece of John. In fact, it is probable they were siblings.

Figure 11 – Relationships between the McMasters and Searches



Places of Residence in New Jersey

The Searches resided in what was then Amwell, Hunterdon County, New Jersey, which is across the Delaware River from Solebury Township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania (see Figure 2 presented earlier). It is probable that the Searches resided near present day Rosemont in Delaware Township, Hunterdon County, which was created from Amwell in 1838. In the 1750s, Rosemont was called Cross Keys Tavern and later called Rittenhouse.¹⁸²

According to a history of Hunterdon County, many of the individuals Christopher Search and John McMasters were associated with while in Amwell lived in this vicinity, including the Woolvertons, Howells, Rittenhouses, Van Dolahs, Flemings, and Hoaglands, as briefly summarized below.¹⁸³

- Charles Woolverton and Joseph Howell witnessed Christopher Search's 1757 will.¹⁸⁴
- Christopher Search's first wife, Priscilla, was a daughter of William Rittenhouse.¹⁸⁵
- Christopher Search witnessed the 1740 will of Adrian Hoogland.¹⁸⁶
- Christopher Search witnessed a 1738 land transfer of the Van Dolah farm near Rosemont.¹⁸⁷
- John McMasters was a tenant in possession of property owned by Benjamin Howell in 1761.¹⁸⁸ Benjamin Howell was the brother of Joseph Howell, who witnessed Christopher

¹⁸² D'Autrechy, Phyllis B. (1992). *Hunterdon County Place Names*. Flemington, NJ: Hunterdon County Cultural and Heritage Commission, p. 53.

¹⁸³ Snell, James P. (1881), *History of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties, New Jersey with Illustrations and Biographical Sketches of Its Prominent Men and Pioneers*. Philadelphia, PA: Everts & Peck, p. 371-373.

¹⁸⁴ New Jersey, U.S., *Abstract of Wills, 1670-1817, Christopher Search (1757)*, vol. 32, p. 284; database with an image (www.Ancestry.com), image 285 of 471; citing New Jersey State Published Archives Series.

¹⁸⁵ New Jersey, U.S., *Wills and Probate Records, 1739-1991, Wm Rettenhousen (1761)*, vol. 13, p. 205-206; database with an image (www.Ancestry.com), image 124 of 627; citing New Jersey Department of State.

¹⁸⁶ Honeyman, A. Van Doren (1918), *Document Relating to the Colonial History of the State of New Jersey, First Series, Vol. 30, Calendar of New Jersey Wills, Administrations, Etc., Volume 2 – 1730-1750*. Somerville, NJ: The Unionist-Gazette Association, Adrian Hoogland (1740), p. 245.

¹⁸⁷ Snell, James P. (1881), *History of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties, New Jersey with Illustrations and Biographical Sketches of Its Prominent Men and Pioneers*. Philadelphia, PA: Everts & Peck, p. 373.

¹⁸⁸ New Jersey State Archives, Supreme Court Case Files 1704-1844, Benjamin Howell v. John McMasters, tenant in possession (1761), Amwell, Hunterdon County, Case 17018; New Jersey Department of State, https://wwwnet-dos.state.nj.us/DOS_ArchivesDBPortal/index.aspx, accessed 21 August 2022.

Search's will.¹⁸⁹ In the 1733 will of Daniel Howell, who was the father of Benjamin and Joseph Howell, Daniel appoints William Rittenhouse as one of his executors and Samuel Fleming was one of the witnesses.¹⁹⁰

¹⁸⁹ Honeyman, A. Van Doren (1918), *Document Relating to the Colonial History of the State of New Jersey, First Series, Vol. 30, Calendar of New Jersey Wills, Administrations, Etc., Volume 2 – 1730-1750*. Somerville, NJ: The Unionist-Gazette Association, Daniel Howell (1733), p. 248.

¹⁹⁰ *Ibid.*

Appendix 2: McMasters of Greene County, Pennsylvania and Wetzel County, West Virginia

The McMasters of Greene County, Pennsylvania and Wetzel County, West Virginia became a research interest for this report based on their similar Pennsylvanian origin and the DNA matches discovered among several descendants of Mary (McMasters) Boyd.

Based on evidence collected and analyzed by this author, this McMasters family appears to be headed by Thomas and Elizabeth McMasters, as outlined below. The family was principally reconstructed using census records, but other records, including land deeds, were used.¹⁹¹

Thomas McMasters (d. between 1806-1810) and **Elizabeth** (d. after 1820)

1. **James McMasters** (1780 MD – 1852 WV), m. Elizabeth (b. 1795 VA)
 - 1.1. Josephus (Cephas) McMasters (b. 1816 WV), m. Catherine Eckleberry (b. 1817 PA)
 - 1.2. George McMasters (1820-1844)
 - 1.3. Martha McMasters (b. 1825 WV), m. Aaron Asher (b. 1832 WV)
2. **Jacob McMasters** (1784 PA – 1844 PA), m. Delilah Estle (1785 PA – 1872 PA)
 - 2.1. Alfred McMasters (1811 PA – 1883 PA), m. Margaret
 - 2.2. John McMasters (1813 PA – 1852 OH), m. Elizabeth
 - 2.3. Minerva McMasters (1818 PA – 1895 PA)
 - 2.4. Thomas McMasters (1818 PA – 1848 PA)
 - 2.5. Jacob H McMasters (b. 1820 PA), m. Elizabeth
 - 2.6. Delila McMasters (b. 1828 PA), m. Johnson Waychoff
 - 2.7. Eliza McMasters (b. 1829 PA), m. Henry Crago
 - 2.8. James McMasters (1835- PA – 1862 VA), m. Rachel Lemley
3. **Thomas McMasters** (1787 PA – 1854 WV), m. Catherine Estle (b. 1787 PA)
 - 3.1. Levina McMasters (b. 1826 PA), m1. Enoch Anderson, m2. Matthew Carney
 - 3.2. James McMasters (b. 1835 WV – 1896 WV), m. Sarah Cross
4. **Martha McMasters** (b. 1794 PA), m. William Estle (1778 – 1858)
 - 4.1. John Estle (1815 PA – 1865 PA), m. Drucilla Hill
 - 4.2. Thomas Estle (b. 1814 PA), m. Elizabeth Estle
 - 4.3. Enoch Estle (b. 1822 PA), m. Harriet Neel
 - 4.4. Elizabeth Estle (b. 1830 PA), m. Peter Deems
 - 4.5. Harriet Estle (b. 1834 PA)
 - 4.6. Margaret Ann Estle (b. 1845 PA)

¹⁹¹ While the author holds high confidence with the identification and interpretation of the so-called Greene County, Pennsylvania and Wetzel County, West Virginia McMasters family members beginning with the 1820 census, some caution is exercised prior to 1820 as fewer records were found documenting potential family members.

The earliest record found in Greene County, Pennsylvania is for Thomas McMasters and Jacob McMasters, who are listed on the voting rolls for Greene Township.¹⁹² James McMasters, who was old enough to vote, is not listed and was perhaps living elsewhere or failed to qualify to vote. The voting record for Jacob McMasters is likely for Jacob McMasters (1784-1844), although it should be noted that Jacob's date of birth is unsourced on Find a Grave.¹⁹³ Assuming 1784 is correct, Jacob would have been about 22 years old and eligible to vote, which according to Pennsylvania law, men aged 21 and older could vote.¹⁹⁴

It is less clear for whom the 1806 voting record for Thomas McMasters refers. According to the 1850 census, Thomas McMasters (1787-1854) was born about 1787.¹⁹⁵ However, his death record indicated he was born about 1793.¹⁹⁶ Yet, 1820 and 1830 census records suggest he was born between 1780 and 1790.¹⁹⁷ If one assumes Thomas was born anywhere between 1787 and 1793, it still makes him under the age of 21 and likely ineligible to vote.¹⁹⁸ If this is accurate, then the 1806 voting record may refer to another individual named Thomas McMasters.

By 1810, no McMasters households are listed on the federal census for Greene County. It is probable, James (1780-1852), Jacob (1784-1844), and Thomas (1787-1854) were residing in someone else's home if they were still in the county. Based on the birth years for their respective children, all appear to marry between 1810 and 1820, and thus all begin to appear in Greene County or Tyler County census records starting in 1820 as their own respective head of household as described in the next section.

¹⁹² Greene County, Pennsylvania, Board of County Commissioners, Voter Lists and Returns, 1801-1807, Jacob McMasters (#70) and Thomas McMasters (#74), Greene Township, 16 October 1806; Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Pennsylvania State Archives, Record Group 47, Records of County Governments, Roll LR 446.

¹⁹³ *Find A Grave*, database with images (<https://findagrave.com>, accessed 27 June 2023), memorial 229179703 maintained by Paul K. Jensen (contributor 48492805); citing Smith Cemetery #2, Jefferson Township, Greene County, Pennsylvania, USA.

¹⁹⁴ Pennsylvania State Archives (n.d.), Pennsylvania Constitution of 1776. Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Harrisburg. Accessed 27 June 2023 at <http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/portal/communities/documents/1776-1865/pennsylvania-constitution-1776.html>.

¹⁹⁵ 1850 U.S. census, Wetzel County, [West] Virginia, population schedule, District 64, Thomas McMasters, p. 11b, image 22 of 69; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 27 June 2023); NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 981.

¹⁹⁶ West Virginia, Wills and Probate, 1724-1985, Wetzel County Court, wills, James McMaster (1852), image 173 of 635, book 1, p. 8-9; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 27 June 2023).

¹⁹⁷ 1830 U.S. census, Greene County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Whiteley, Thomas M Masters [McMasters], p. 366, image 3 of 20; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 27 June 2023); NARA microfilm publication M19, roll 162. And 1840 U.S. census, Tyler County, [West] Virginia, population schedule, note stated, Thomas McMasters and Cephas McMasters, p. 31, image 68 of 83; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 27 June 2023); NARA microfilm publication M704, roll 579.

¹⁹⁸ Pennsylvania State Archives (n.d.), Pennsylvania Constitution of 1776. Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Harrisburg. Accessed 27 June 2023 at <http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/portal/communities/documents/1776-1865/pennsylvania-constitution-1776.html>.

The McMasters Siblings

In 1820, James McMasters is found in Tyler County, West Virginia,¹⁹⁹ and portions of Tyler would later become Wetzel County in 1846.²⁰⁰ On the Tyler County personal property tax list for 1820, James was listed as “a lame man”.²⁰¹ James remains there until 1852 when he dies.²⁰² Figure 12 on the next page identifies the requisite locations on an area map.

Jacob McMasters is found in Greene County, Pennsylvania from 1820 through 1840²⁰³ and dies there in 1844.²⁰⁴

Thomas McMasters is enumerated in Greene County in 1820 and 1830²⁰⁵ but removes to Tyler County, West Virginia by 1834 when he purchases 50 acres on Sugar Run of Fish Creek.²⁰⁶ In the same year, James McMasters’ minor son, Josephus (Cephas) McMasters, also purchases 100 acres of land on Sugar Run of Fish Creek.²⁰⁷ In 1840, James McMasters and Thomas McMasters are enumerated adjacent to one another.²⁰⁸ Sugar Run of Fish Creek is about two miles west of the town of Hundred between the towns of Littleton and Knob Fork in eastern

¹⁹⁹ 1820 U.S. census, Tyler County, [West] Virginia, population schedule, not stated, James McMasters, p. 85, image 7 of 12; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 27 June 2023); NARA microfilm publication M33, roll 140.

²⁰⁰ FamilySearch Wiki (2022). *West Virginia County Creation Dates and Parent Counties*. Accessed 24 June 2023 at https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/West_Virginia_County_Creation_Dates_and_Parent_Counties.

²⁰¹ Tyler County, West Virginia, Commissioner of Revenue, Personal Property Tax Lists, James McMasters (1820); database with an image (www.familysearch.org), image 612 of 886, film 8151822.

²⁰² West Virginia, Wills and Probate, 1724-1985, Wetzel County Court, wills, James McMaster (1853), image 173 of 635, book 1, p. 8-9; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 27 June 2023).

²⁰³ 1820 U.S. census, Greene County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Cumberland, Jacob McMasters, p. 336, image 3 of 6; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 27 June 2023); NARA microfilm publication M33, roll 98. And 1830 U.S. census, Greene County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Jefferson, Jacob M Marsters [McMasters], p. 323, image 13 of 16; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 27 June 2023); NARA microfilm publication M19, roll 162. And 1840 U.S. census, Greene County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Jefferson, Jacob McMasters, p. 127, image 10 of 19; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 27 June 2023); NARA microfilm roll 461.

²⁰⁴ Pennsylvania, Wills and Probate Records, 1683-1993, Greene County Register of Wills, Jace McMasters (1844), image 369 of 615, book 2, p. 197; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 27 June 2023).

²⁰⁵ 1820 U.S. census, Greene County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Cumberland, Thomas McMasters, p. 337, image 4 of 6; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 27 June 2023); NARA microfilm publication M33, roll 98. And 1830 U.S. census, Greene County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Whiteley, Thomas M Masters [McMasters], p. 366, image 3 of 20; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 27 June 2023); NARA microfilm publication M19, roll 162.

²⁰⁶ Tyler County, [West] Virginia, Recorder of Deeds, land deed, Thomas McMasters from James Bowman (1834), Book 8, p. 479-480; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), image 550 of 629, film 8590685.

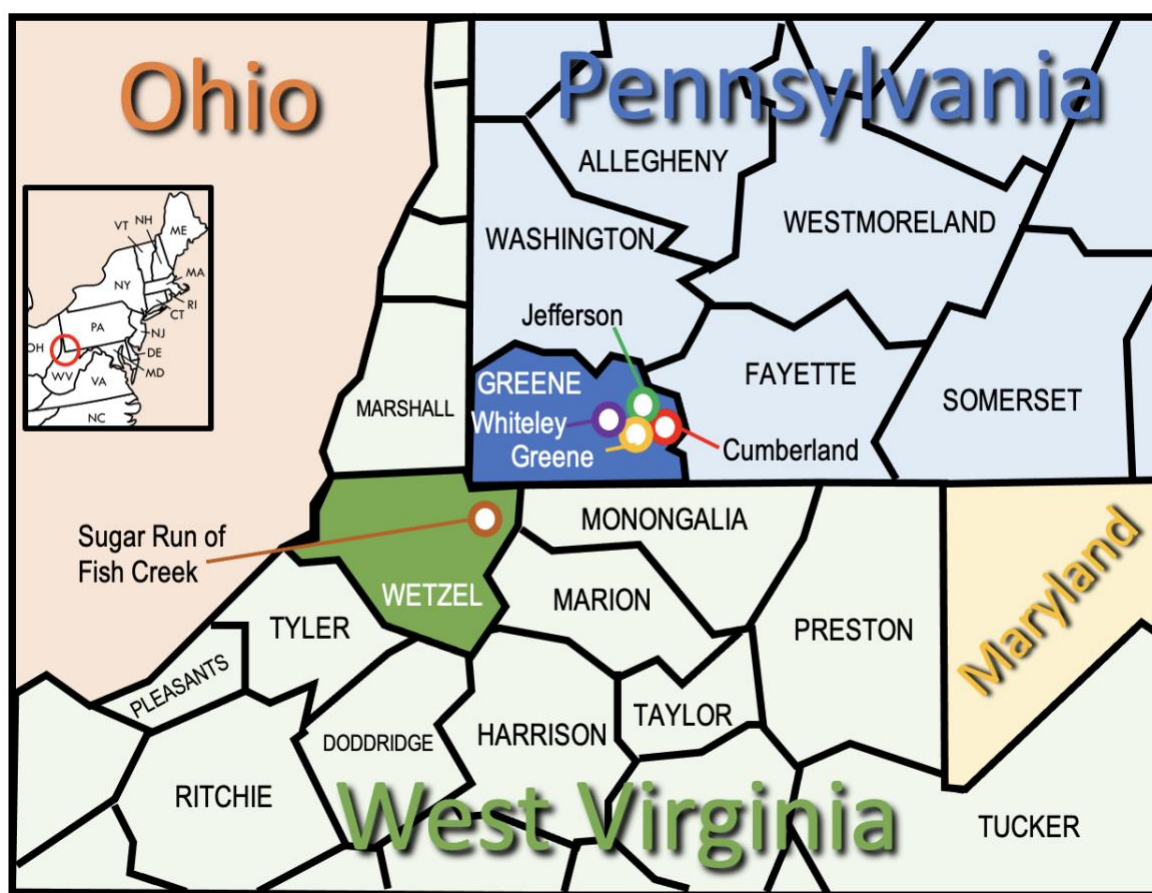
²⁰⁷ Tyler County, [West] Virginia, Recorder of Deeds, land deed, Cephas McMasters from Lot Lantz (1834), Book 5, p. 126-128; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), image 364-365 of 801, film 8590684.

²⁰⁸ 1840 U.S. census, Tyler County, [West] Virginia, population schedule, note stated, Thomas McMasters and Cephas McMasters, p. 31, image 68 of 83; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 27 June 2023); NARA microfilm publication M704, roll 579.

Wetzel County.²⁰⁹ James dies there in 1852²¹⁰ and Thomas in 1854.²¹¹ Josephus McMasters was the informant for Thomas McMasters's death.

Finally, Martha McMasters is enumerated with her husband, William Estle, in Greene County in 1820 through 1840.²¹²

Figure 12 – Greene County, PA and Wetzel County, WV Area Map



²⁰⁹ Google Maps (2023), Sugar Run, 39°40'40.5"N 80°31'30.8"W (39.677926,-80.525214). Google.com. Accessed 27 June 2023 at <https://www.google.com/maps/place/39°40'40.5%22N+80°31'30.8%22W/@39.6782394,-80.5288507,16.46z/data=!4m1!3m1!3m7!1s0x8835f10d67f9263b:0x37837289db4cb050!2sCo+Rd+8%2F8,+West+Virginia+26033,+USA!3b1!8m2!3d39.7086369!4d-80.569833!16s%2Fg%2F1v1vdvww!3m3!8m2!3d39.677926!4d-80.525214?entry=ttu>.

²¹⁰ West Virginia, Wills and Probate, 1724-1985, Wetzel County Court, wills, James McMaster (1852), image 173 of 635, book 1, p. 8-9; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 27 June 2023).

²¹¹ Wetzel County, [West] Virginia, Clerk of the County Court, death record, Thomas McMasters (1854), image x of x, book x, p. x; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), image x of x, film 250196.

²¹² 1820 U.S. census, Greene County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Cumberland, William Estell, p. 337, image 4 of 6; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 27 June 2023); NARA microfilm publication M33 roll 98. And 1830 U.S. census, Greene County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Cumberland, William Estle, p. 336, image 19 of 22; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 27 June 2023); NARA microfilm publication M19 roll 162. And 1840 U.S. census, Greene County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Jefferson, William Estol, p. 128, image 12 of 19; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 27 June 2023); NARA microfilm publication M704 roll 461.

A Possible Mother for James, Jacob, Thomas, and Martha McMasters

In 1820, Elizabeth McMasters is enumerated in Greene Township, Greene County, Pennsylvania.²¹³ Elizabeth is shown to be 45 years of age or older. Living with her is one male aged 16 to 25.

While Jacob, Thomas, and Martha are enumerated elsewhere in Greene County in 1820, it's noteworthy that a couple of households away from Elizabeth McMasters is Lot Lantz, who sold the property on Sugar Run of Fish Creek in Tyler County, West Virginia in 1834 to Josephus McMasters, who was minor son of James McMasters.²¹⁴ In this transaction, Lantz notes that he sells it "for and in consideration of the sum of twenty five dollars as well as for other consideration to him". Lantz also notes that Josephus' father, James, has made improvements to the land. In the same year, Lantz sells other neighboring properties on or near Sugar Run at the rate of \$1 per acre²¹⁵ compared to Josephus McMasters' rate of \$0.25 per acre. It's unclear whether the discounted acreage cost and other considerations is because of James McMasters' improvements, James' condition as "a lame man",²¹⁶ or some other relationship between Josephus McMasters and Lot Lantz. It is uncommon for a minor child to purchase land on his own, especially if his father was still alive. Josephus would have been about 17 years old at the time of purchase.

A Possible Father for James, Jacob, Thomas, and Martha McMasters

No records have been found suggesting who James, Jacob, Thomas, and Martha's father might have been.²¹⁷ However, the most common male names among the first two generations of the family previously listed are James and Thomas, each with three occurrences. This may be a hint toward their father's name.

Indeed, the 1806 voting record in Greene Township, Greene County, Pennsylvania previously mentioned may in fact be for the father rather than the son. This could explain in part why no McMasters were enumerated in 1810 in Greene County but were in 1820. The Thomas who voted in 1806 may have died by 1810 with all members of the family dispersing into neighboring households. James, Jacob, and Thomas would then have been enumerated as tick marks on the 1810 census in someone else's household rather than as a head of their own household,

²¹³ 1820 U.S. census, Greene County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Greene, Elizabeth McMasters, p. 340, image 3 of 6; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 27 June 2023); NARA microfilm publication M33 roll 98.

²¹⁴ Tyler County, [West] Virginia, Recorder of Deeds, land deed, Cephas McMasters from Lot Lantz (1834), Book 5, p. 126-128; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), image 364-365 of 801, film 8590684.

²¹⁵ Tyler County, [West] Virginia, Recorder of Deeds, land deed, Lot Lantz to George Waid (1834), Book 5, p. 94-95; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), image 348 of 801, film 8590684. And Tyler County, [West] Virginia, Recorder of Deeds, land deed, Lot Lantz to Richard Anderson (1834), Book 5, p. 95-97; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), image 349-350 of 801, film 8590684. And Tyler County, [West] Virginia, Recorder of Deeds, land deed, Lot Lantz to William Sharpneck (1834), Book 5, p. 97-99; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), image 349-350 of 801, film 8590684.

²¹⁶ Tyler County, West Virginia, Commissioner of Revenue, Personal Property Tax Lists, James McMasters (1820); database with an image (www.familysearch.org), image 612 of 886, film 8151822.

²¹⁷ No McMasters entries were found in the grantor/grantee land indexes, probate/will records, census records, taxation records, and court records. A manual search of the witnesses for land deed transactions dated between 1800-1813 (volume 1 and 2) similarly found no McMasters mentions. The first record and only early McMasters mention in county records is the 1806 voting record.

especially because all would have been single in 1810. By 1820, James, Jacob, and Thomas were married and thus enumerated in the 1820 census as their own head of household. No other records were found for any McMasters prior to 1844,²¹⁸ which is when Jacob McMasters died.

If the Greene and Wetzel Counties McMasters are headed by a Thomas McMasters, as the 1806 voting record could be interpreted, then it might further be suggested that this Thomas is a potential son of Thomas McMasters of Warwick Township, Bucks County and thus a possible sibling to Mary (McMasters) Boyd. Not only would his age likely be commensurate with Mary (McMasters) Boyd, but DNA matches to descendants of Mary (McMasters) Boyd and the “Thomas” naming pattern of the Greene/Wetzel McMasters provide for an interesting theory. This needs to be investigated further.

A Possible McMasters FAN Club Connection between Bucks County and Greene County, Pennsylvania

A weak FAN club connection can be made between the McMasters of Greene County and the McMasters of Warwick and Northampton Townships in Bucks County.

Outside the 1806 voting record, siblings Jacob McMasters (1784-1844), Thomas (1787-1854), and Martha (McMasters) Estle first appear in Greene County records in the 1820 census where all were enumerated in Cumberland Township.²¹⁹ Similarly residing in Cumberland Township was Alexander Jamison from Warwick Township in Bucks County.²²⁰ In 1800, Alexander Jamison mortgages his land to Thomas Craig of Warrington Township in Bucks County.²²¹ Thomas Craig is likely a son or nephew of the Thomas Craig in Warrington who sued Thomas McMasters of Warwick for debt in 1747 (see Link 15). Stated within the land transfer document, Alexander Jamison’s son, William, acts as his attorney traveling to Bucks County to execute the mortgage. One of the witnesses on the Bucks County portion of the document was John Wier, who was likely the same individual from New Britain Township who stated in his Revolutionary War pension application that he served under Major William McMasters from Northampton Township (see Link 2).

In nearby Whitely Township in Greene County was Henry Darrah, who was a brother-in-law to Alexander Jamison.²²² When Darrah died in Whitely in 1806, his executors were William

²¹⁸ Ibid.

²¹⁹ 1820 U.S. census, Greene County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Cumberland, Jacob McMasters, p. 336, image 3 of 6; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 27 June 2023); NARA microfilm publication M33, roll 98. And 1820 U.S. census, Greene County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Cumberland, Thomas McMasters, p. 337, image 4 of 6; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 27 June 2023); NARA microfilm publication M33, roll 98. And 1820 U.S. census, Greene County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Cumberland, William Estell, p. 337, image 4 of 6; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 27 June 2023); NARA microfilm publication M33 roll 98.

²²⁰ Colonial and Revolutionary Families of Pennsylvania, Volume II, Alexander Jamison, p. 1150-1151, image 499-500 of 517; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 2 July 2023).

²²¹ Greene County, Pennsylvania, land deed, Alexander Jamison to Thomas Craig (1800), Book 1, p. 458-459, Recorder of Deeds, Waynesburg; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), image 236 of 389, film 8036073.

²²² Colonial and Revolutionary Families of Pennsylvania, Volume II, Henry Darrah, p. 1149, image 498 of 517; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 2 July 2023).

Eckleberry and John Lantz.²²³ Providing a possible association is that James McMasters' (1780-1852) son, Josephus McMasters, married Catherine Eckleberry and purchased land in Wetzel County, West Virginia from Lot Lantz. John Lantz is probably the adopted brother of Lot Lantz.²²⁴ While Catherine Eckleberry's parents are not definitely proven, online family trees suggest they were Valentine Eckleberry and Alice Cumberledge,²²⁵ who married in Greene County, Pennsylvania²²⁶ and removed to Tyler County, Virginia around 1838,²²⁷ which is probably around the time Josephus McMasters married Catherine Eckleberry.²²⁸

The above geographical correlations for the Jamisons and Darrahs do not guarantee that the McMasters residing in Cumberland Township, Greene County knew the Jamisons and Darrahs nor that the McMasters were from the Warwick/Northampton Township area of Bucks County. However, it does indicate that there was a migration of families from west central Bucks County (see Figure 10) to eastern Greene County (see Figure 12) around the same time as the McMasters first appear in Greene County records in 1806.

²²³ Pennsylvania, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1683-1993, Greene County, Henry Dorrah (1806), will no. 89, p. 54-55, image 62-63 of 615; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 2 July 2023).

²²⁴ "Public Member Trees," database, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com>, accessed 2 July 2023, "Minor Family Tree of Greene County, PA" family tree by sandykaymissj profile for Lot (Minor) Lantz * (1786-1862). And "Public Member Trees," database, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com>, accessed 2 July 2023, "Kramer Family Tree" family tree by Samantha Kramer, profile for John Sr Lantz (b. 1749-1817).

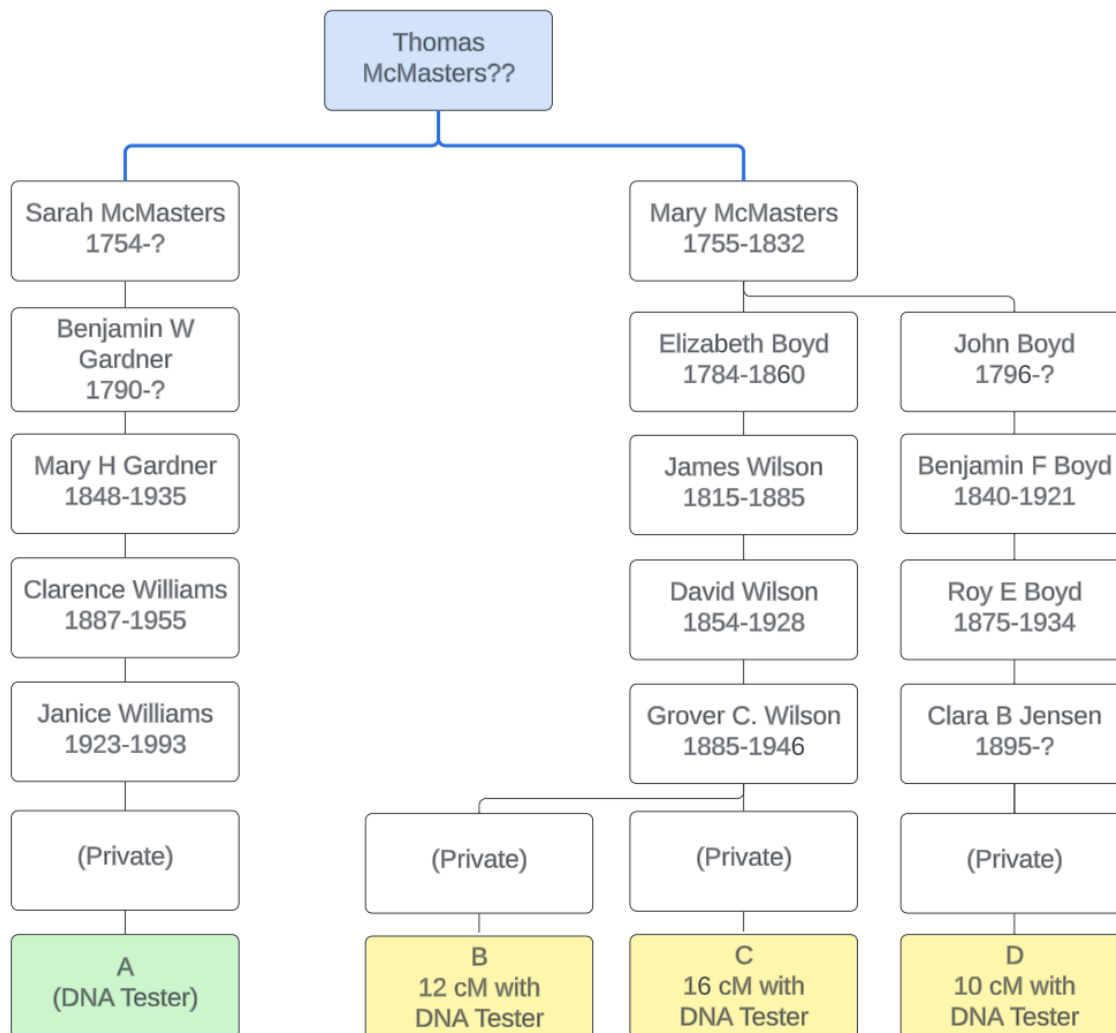
²²⁵ "Public Member Trees," database, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com>, accessed 5 July 2023, "McMasters Family Tree" family tree by randymcmasters0714 profile for Catherine Eckelberry (1819).

²²⁶ Pension Application, Valentine Ecelebery, private, War of 1812, [Pension Application WO9390 and WC5386](#), Pension Office, War Department, Washington, DC; online database with images, Fold3 (www.fold3.com, accessed 5 July 2023).

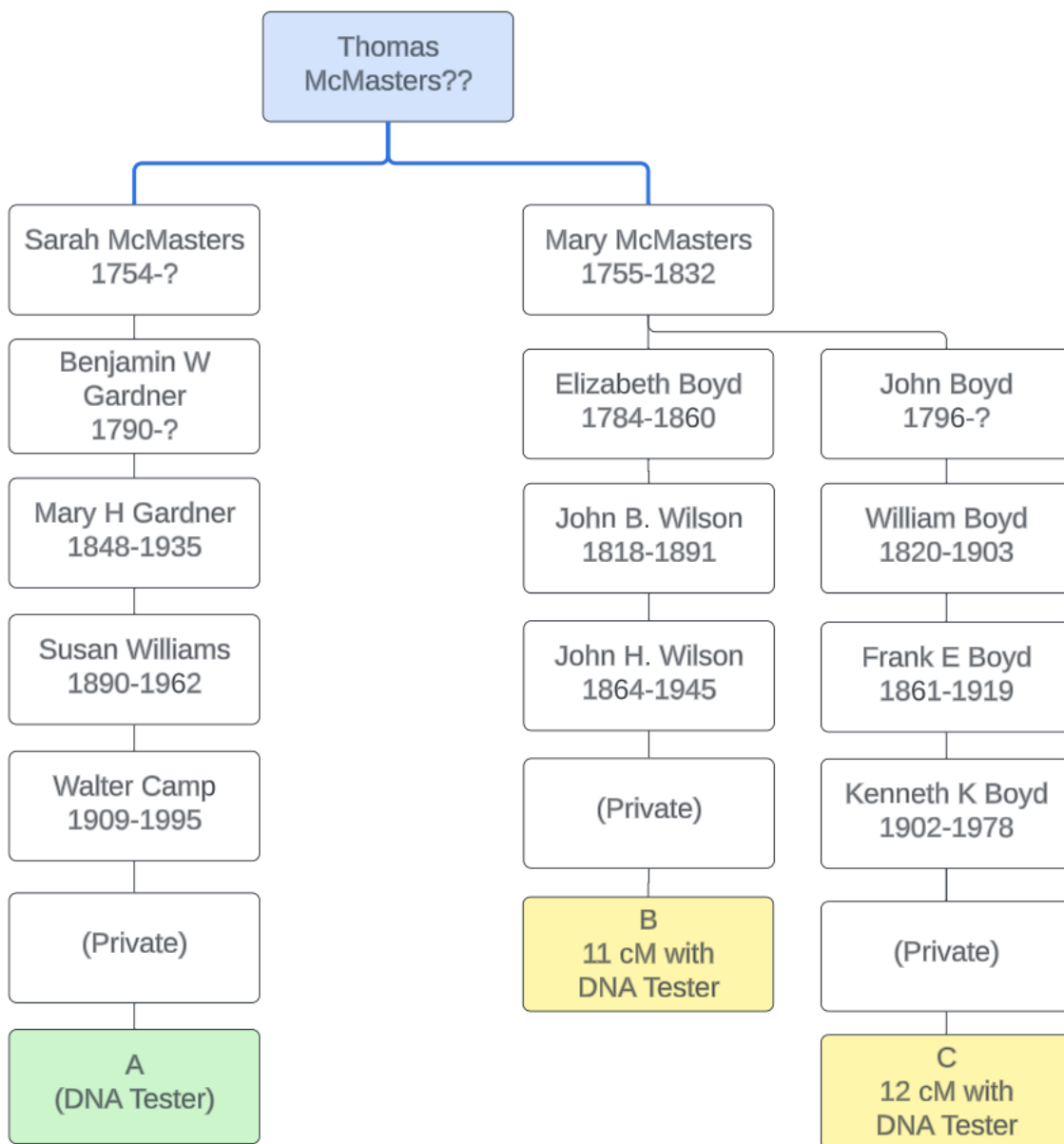
²²⁷ Tyler County, West Virginia, Commissioner of Revenue, Personal Property Tax Lists, Volentine Eacleberry [Valentine Eckleberry] (1838), p. 6; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), image 15 of 877, film 7833942.

²²⁸ Josephus and Catherine (Eckleberry) McMasters first child was born about 1838. See "Public Member Trees," database, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com>, accessed 5 July 2023, "Wilson120411" family tree by rwilson7135 profile for Josephus McMasters (1816).

Appendix 3A: McMasters DNA Matches to Sarah (McMasters) Gardner (1)



Appendix 3B: McMasters DNA Matches to Sarah (McMasters) Gardner (2)



Appendix 3C: McMasters DNA Matches to Robert McMasters

