

Gillespie's in Dutchess County, NY

March 12, 2011

There is one reason I look in Dutchess County, NY, and that is found in a book called History of Oakland County, Michigan : a narrative account of its historical progress, its people, and its principal interests Record for History of Oakland County, Michigan : a narrative account of its historical progress, its people, and its principal interests (found on ancestry.com and no doubt elsewhere). On page 873, in reference to Mrs. George Cummings: "Her grandparents, James and Jane Greer, came from the north of Ireland to the United States at an early day, first settling in Matteawan, Dutchess county, New York state, where her father, Robert M. Greer was born in 1822. They moved to Michigan in 1832, settling in Bloomfield township."

I hope to cover in this report the different Dutchess County sources I have researched, but this first installment is to report a finding from my Feb. 2011 visit to the FHL.

Probably Not My Line

I found a will dated in 1801 by Harriet Elizabeth Gillespie (nee De Normandie). To her one son James, she leaves \$50 along with instruction to have a ring made which he should wear in her memory as well as in understanding of her leaving very nearly all the rest of a quite large estate to her other two sons, John DeNormandie and George. It was so strange, I had to copy it.

Harriet Elizabeth had been married to George Gillespie, and here is a copy of his will (he died in 1781 in Jamaica I think!), and here is his will:

- New York City Wills, 1780-1782

Page 510.--In the name of God, Amen. I, GEORGE GILLESPIE, of Bristol Township, County of Bucks, Pennsylvania, but late of St. Mary's in the Island of Jamaica, planter, being of sound and disposing mind. All my just debts and funeral expenses to be paid. My temporal estate to be disposed of; and I leave it to my dear beloved wife Elizabeth and my three sons, Denormandie, James, and George. My executors are to sell all my personal estate, except my negroes and such part of my household furniture as may be necessary for the use of my wife. Also, to sell, at publick vendue, my homestead farm whereon I now dwell, containing about 120 acres, and my small farm in Amwell Township, County of Hunterdon, containing about 79 acres. The proceeds to be put out at interest on good land security; one third to be paid annually to my wife during her life; the other two thirds to be applied towards the maintenance and education of my three sons. As I have £5,200 sterling money of Great Britain in the hands of Hibbert Purrier and Horton, merchants, of London, for my special use, some part of which has been drawn out, as will appear by my Books, what may be found due to me from them on a just settlement is to remain in their hands, they giving sufficient security and paying the interest thereof, until my three sons shall arrive at the age of twenty-one; interest to be paid annually to my executors for the use and benefit of my wife and children. My desire being to make as ample a provision for my dear wife while living, and for my children after her death, as my estate will admit of. Moreover, unto my loving wife, the use of all my negroes, to wit: Sam, Matilda, and Rosetta. The principal and

remaining part of my estate, to go to my three sons, when twenty- one, on condition, that my sons arriving at age shall pay unto their mother, annually during her life, one-third part. If all should die in nonage, and without lawful issue, then to my five brothers and sisters, equally. Although my negroes are only given to my wife during life, yet if they misbehave, and she should be inclined to part with them, she to make sale of all or part of them to an y purchaser, she being accountable to my children for the original sum of the purchase money.

I make my loving wife Elizabeth executrix, and my father-in-law, Doctor John Abraham Denormandie, now in Europe, Doctor Samuel Bard, in New York, my friends, John Clifford and John Lawrence, of the City of Burlington, executors.

There is also this:

- Interments in the ST. JAMES'S CHURCH GROUND

"Old Gravestones of Dutchess County, New York" by J. W. Poucher published in 1924, pages 130-1 37.

110. Gillespie, George Cuyler, only s. of John & Susan, d. 1816, Sep. 7, a. 2-3-11.

111. Gillespie, Harriott Elizabeth De Normandie, dau. of John & Susan, d. 1813, Dec. 29, a. 4- 5-10.

112. Gillespie, Harriott Elizabeth, wid. of George, & dau. of John Abraham De Normandie of Bristol, Pa., d. (no date on stone), a. 52 y. "Erected by her affectionate sons."

113. Gillespie, John De Normandie, d. 1833, Apr. 26, a. 56 y

(info from: <http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=jacquelinesr&id=I10343>)

So it should be noted here that nothing of this line looks familiar to what I know of my Gillespie line. This does not even say where George Gillespie originates from, and one might suspect England. Nevertheless, it does say he has 5 brothers and sisters who are not named. In addition, because the son, John DeNormandie Gillespie resided in Goshen, Orange Co., NY, it would be easy to keep running into him in research and wondering if he is related. As of now, I don't think he is. Still, it should probably be noted that John's son, George DeNormandie Gillespie became a Protestant Episcopalian bishop who served and died in Grand Rapids, Michigan.