

Welcome to Gillespie Street

The Lands of James Gillespy

In Pine Bush

Mongtomery Precinct

Ulster County, NY

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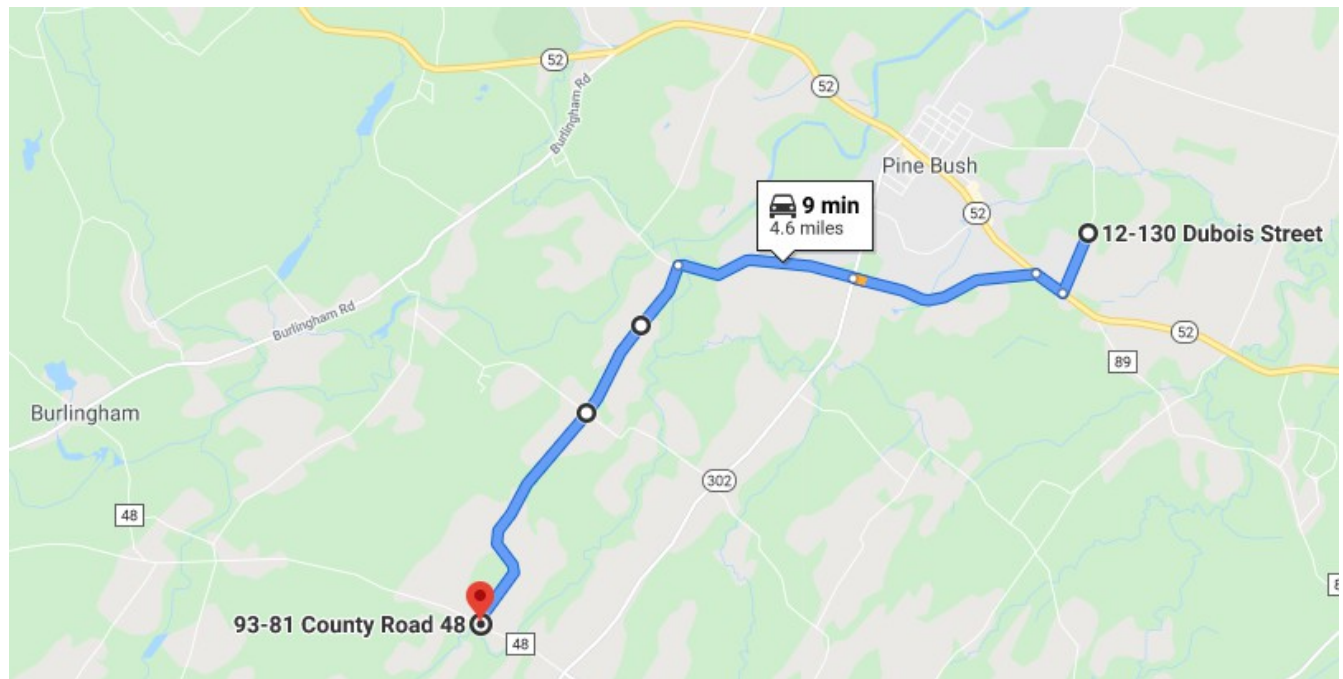
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Introduction

During my recent research of Gillespys in Pine Bush, New York, it was hard not to notice this:



But Gillespie Street is not the road where Samuel Gillespy's property was located. Here is a map that shows Samuel's property in the northeast and the route to what is today called Gillespie Street:



Surely there must have been Gillespys on this road for it to be given that name. And yes, according to later maps, we see that a Gillespie lived near the end of that road.¹



Finding no other record of Gillespies along that road, all I could think was that it was the later presence of Samuel's descendants that caused this road to get the Gillespie name. OK, moving on. But in so doing, I stumbled upon a surprise.

This article discusses a 1788 deed from James Gillespy of Montgomery precinct to David Stout of New Windsor. The land was in Montgomery Pct, and the total sold to Stout was 119.5 acres, described in two adjoining lots, one of 50 acres and one of 69.5 acres. Where were these acres located? That is the subject of this article.

¹ This [1875 map](#) shows "J.G. Gillespie" had 130 acres along this road. I believe this label was a mistake, rather it should have been "J.C. Gillespie" aka Jonathan Crawford Gillespie who, indeed, did own several properties in the area. Jonathan was a grandson of Samuel and Esther (son of Stephen who died 1839).

Patents and Precincts

First, let's review the locale. Here is a map² of the northwest part of Ulster County, shown in pink. The town of Montgomery bordered the east of the Shawangunk Kill River. Montgomery became part of Orange county in 1798, and the town east of the Shawangunk Kill River became the town of Crawford in 1823.

Two important notes to make here:

- The southwest border of Ulster County was the town of Mamakating in Sullivan County. Sullivan County, established in 1809, was formerly part of Ulster County. See my recent article about Gillespys in Mamakating.³
- Notice the patent of Thomas Noxon on the southwest border. Notice that the eastern boundary line of that patent extends into Montgomery. The name of Thomas Noxon will come up in one of the deed descriptions discussed here.



2 NYPL Digital Collections; [Orange County Map & Ulster County Map](#).

See also Library of Congress Collections; [Map of Land Patents from Original Surveys](#): [Newburgh City Region, New York State]

3 [Across the Way, Gillespys in Mamakating Precinct](#), Ulster County, NY; MA Schaefer; 19 April 2020.

Now here is a map of the town of Crawford in Orange county in 1839, again showing boundaries of patents in that town:



History of OC

Philip Schuyler and others.

Among other parcels of land frequently mentioned in discussing titles in Crawford are the "8000 acre tract" on which Pine Bush is situated, and the "10,000 acre tract" next south of the "8000." The patents represented in Crawford are the following:

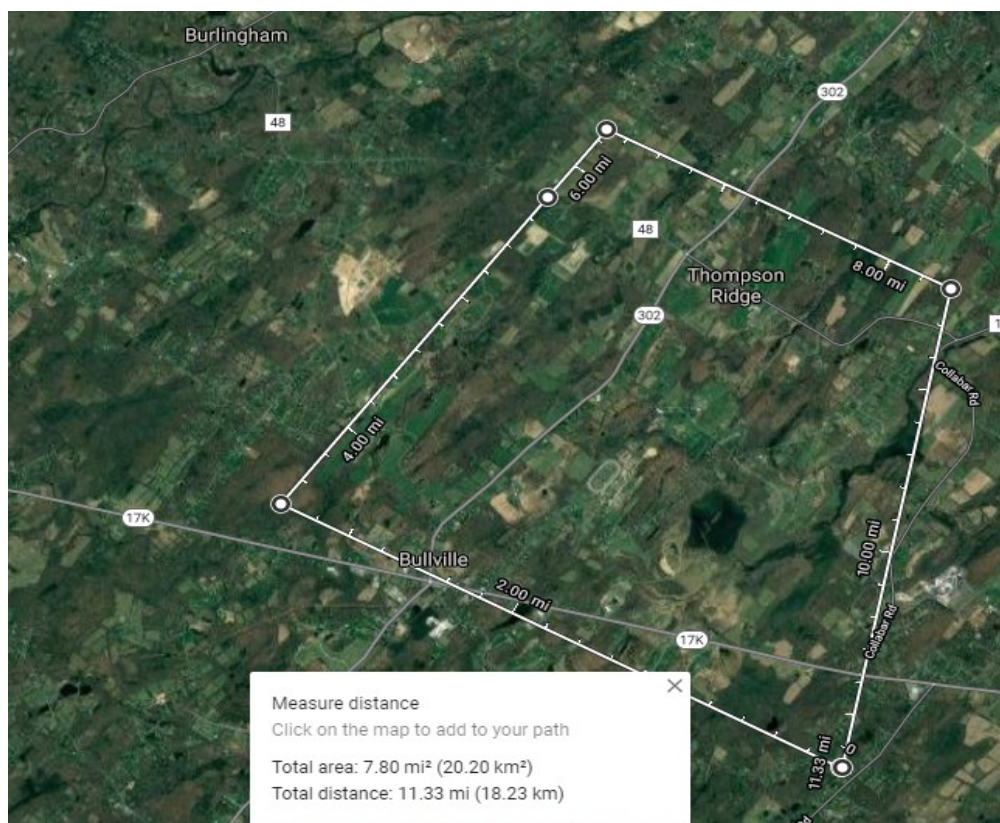
1. Thomas Ellison and Lawrence Roome, Nov. 12, 1750.
2. Frederick Morris and Samuel Heath, Jan. 24, 1736.
3. Jacobus Bruyn and Henry Wileman, April 25, 1722.
4. Philip Schuyler and others, 8000 acres, July 7, 1720.
5. Part of the patent to Jeremiah Schuyler and others, Jan. 22, 1719.
6. Part of Thomas Noxon's Patent, Feb. 21, 1737.

II.—NATURAL FEATURES.

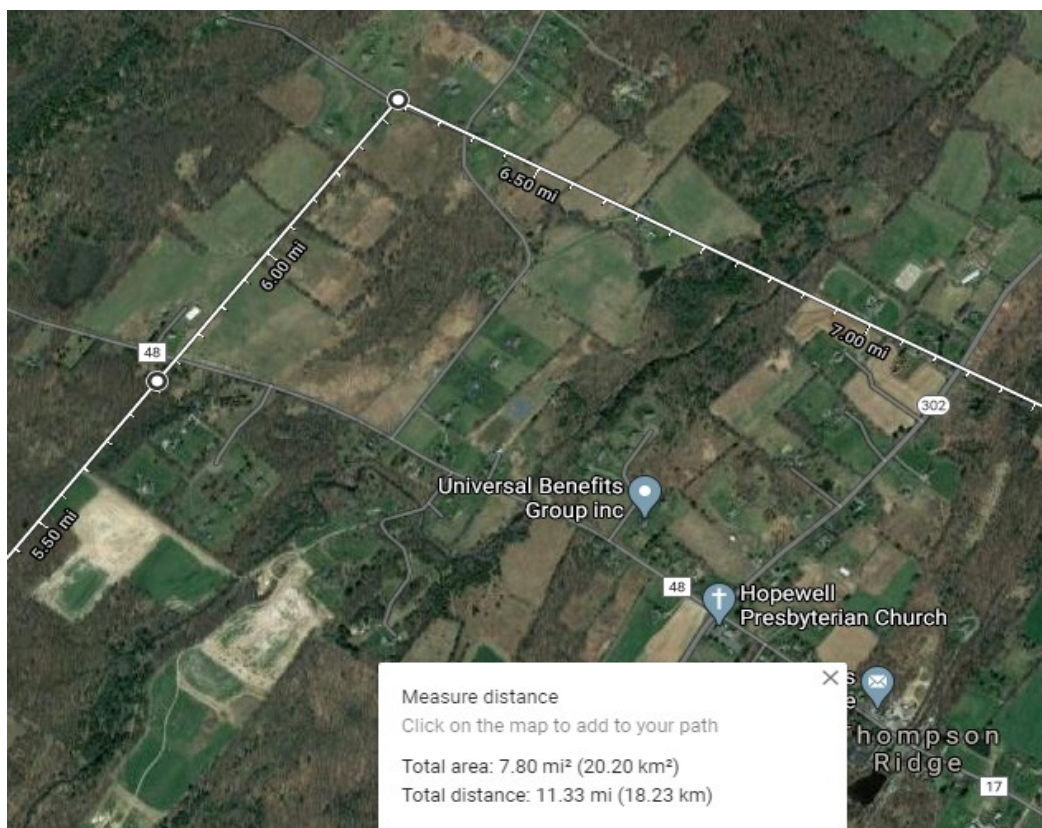
I've spent some amount of time trying to figure out the "10,000 acre tract next south of the 8000" resulting in no clear understanding of where the 10K tract was actually located. The area east of the Philip Schuyler patent and north of the Morris & Heath patent was known as the Jacobus Bruyn and Henry Williams (probably Wileman) patent⁴ and it contained 2000 acres, some of which extended past the river into Ulster. Given that I have seen this kind of reference in the Crawford deeds, there must be a good explanation, but at this time, I don't know what it is.

⁴ Library of Congress Collections; [Map of Land Patents from Original Surveys](#): [Newburgh City Region, New York State]

However, as we will see, the deeds I'm about to discuss in this article refer to the Morris & Heath (M&H) patent. The deeds discussed here tell us the northwest corner of the patent. Knowing the area of the M&H patent is 5K acres, I calculate 7.8125 square miles. See the following two satellite maps where I have attempted to estimate the boundaries of the M&H patent. I used the drawing on the 1839 patent map to estimate the shape of the patent and I also calculated the area of the P. Schuyler 8K tract to determine where its western boundary probably was (equal to the eastern boundary of the M&H patent). I can almost assure the reader that my estimation of the M&H patent bounds is *not exact*. But, as you will see in reading the following deeds, I also believe these drawing estimations are close enough to give us a general idea of property locations.



Zooming in on the northwest corner of the M&H patent:



It's easy to notice that the Hopewell Presbyterian Church was located within the M&H patent.

Land of James in Montgomery

UCD [KK-232](#), 23 May 1788

from James & wf Mary of Montgo pct
to James Stout of NW pct

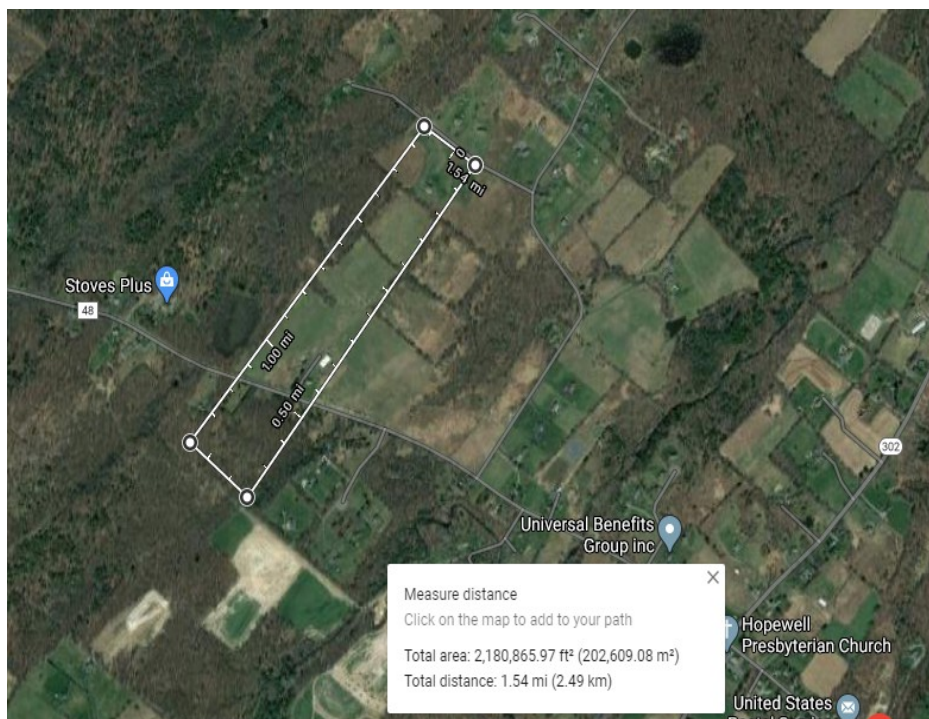
First Lot

land in Montgo pct

tract of land granted to Hercules Brown in 1786

- beg at most northerly of a corner of a tract of land granted to Fredk Morris & Samuel Heath where there is a large white oak tree marked with three notches and a blaze on four sides and A1 on the southeasterly side
- and runs thence along the line of the said tract south 42 deg and 20 min west, 61 chains 80 links
- then north 47 deg 30 min west, 8 chains, 50 links to the line of the land granted to Thomas Noxen
- then north 40 deg 30 min east, along the line of the said tract 61 chains and 80 links
- then south 47 deg 30 min east, 8 chains 50 links to the place of beg
- containing 50 ac

Here is my estimation of the this lot's location – just east of the Shawangunk Kill River with Burlingham on the west side of the river.



Note that this lot was NOT in the M&H patent, but the southeast border of this lot adjoined the northwest border of the M&H patent. The northeast corner of this lot was the northwest corner of the M&H patent.

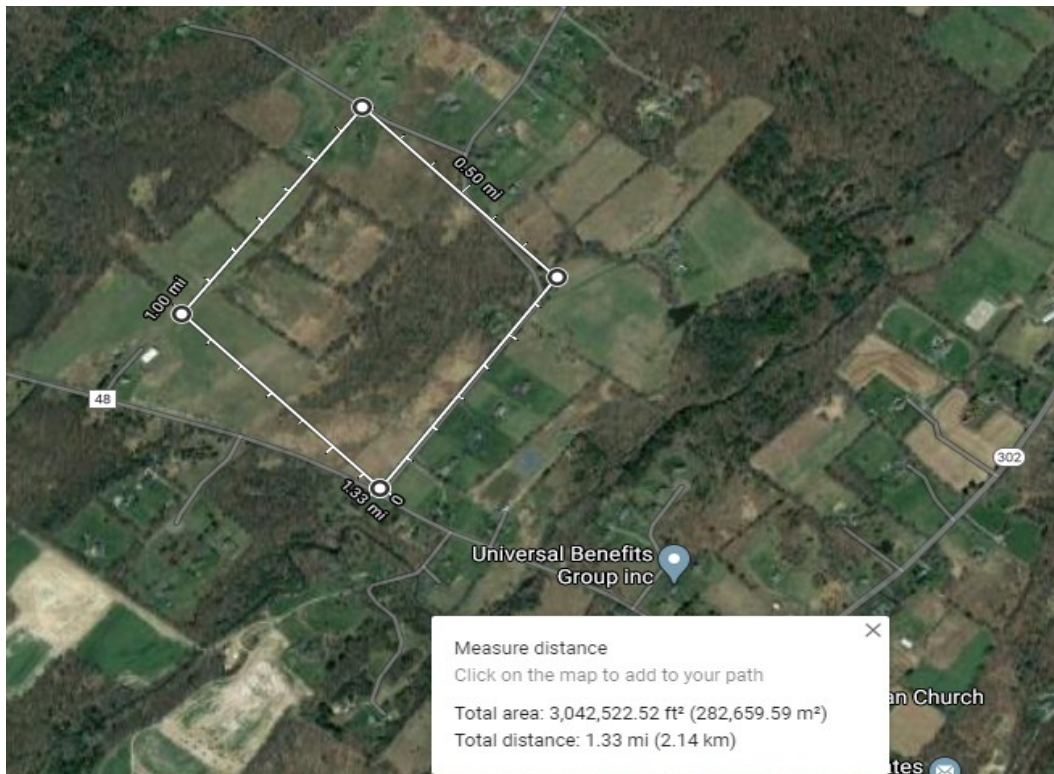
Second Lot

also lot in Montgo pct

being known in a certain map of a subdivision of Lot No. 1 of the general division of a certain tract of 5k ac which in and by certain letters of patent bearing date 10 Feb 1736 was granted to Saml Heath & Fredk Morris by the NW part of the lot No. 3

the said lot or parcel is bounded as follows:

1. beg at a small oak sapling marked for the northern most corner of the southeast part of said Lot No. 3 lately granted to John Shaffer
2. and runs thence along his line south 43 deg west, 27 chains, 49 links to a stake
3. then north 47 deg west, 25 chains 40 links to a stake and heap of stones in the nw bounds of the said tract
4. then along the line thereof north 43 deg east, 27 chains and 49 links to a large white oak tree marked with 3 notches on 4 sides and A on the south side thereof standing on the northerly corner of the tract
5. and then along the line of the tract south 47 deg east, 25 chains and 40 links to the place of beg
6. containing 69 ac and 8/10



Note that this lot WAS in the M&H patent and adjoined the previous lot on the northwest. The northeast boundary aligned with the entire northern boundary of the M&H patent. The Shafer family apparently owned the property that adjoined on the southeast.

Discussion

For reference, here is an [1851 map](#) showing J. Gillespie who had Shafer neighbors both to the north and the east.



We know from the 1779 tax assessments of Hanover that besides Capt. John Gillespie⁵ and Ensign Samuel Gillespie,⁶ two other Gillespies were living nearby at that time: James Gillespy Sr. and James Gillespy Jr. At the time, neither were assessed with any real property.

Given the deed evidence, however, I think there is very little question that before 1788 James Gillespy owned the property at the end of what is now Gillespie Street south of Pine Bush. At that point, James sold the land to David Stout, and apparently later Gillespys, sons and grandsons of Samuel, acquired the same and/or nearby property. Gillespies lived in this area south of Pine Bush for many years, at least decades, and thus the road was named for the Gillespie family.

For the record, James Gillespy was not a descendant of Samuel Gillespie. Curiously, the name of James does not appear anywhere in the lines of either John's or Samuel's descendants. The research to confirm Gillespy relationships is still in progress, but I have several reasons to believe that Samuel did have a brother named James, although they may not have been close in age or shared experience. Research goes on.

Nevertheless, it appears that James Gillespy was very likely the first Gillespy to live on the road south of Pine Bush, NY which later became known as Gillespie Street. 232 years later, it still is.

⁵ [A Life on the Line, Capt. John Gillespy](#) 1741-1810, Ulster/Orange, NY; MA Schaefer; Revision 1; 14 April 2020.

⁶ [Hunter & Gillespy Homesteads in Pine Bush](#), Orange, NY; MA Schaefer; 19 April 2020.

Further Study

Even though the deeds of James Gillespy refer to John Shafer, I have so far not found any deeds pertaining to that name. Given the date of the following deed (KK-152), I can't help wondering if the clerk meant to write Dedrich. Or maybe Dedrich had a middle name of Johannes or John and he was known by that name? It's hard to say. Nevertheless, the following deed:

- is close if not next to the Gillespy property
- describes a public road as well as a steep ridge – probably Thompson Ridge
- describes the mysterious 8K and 10K tracts; even without knowing exactly where these tracts are located, they nevertheless seem near the area we are discussing.

So there is more to learn here for those with time and interest, but I'm not sure we will learn much more about where the Gillespys lived in this region.

Land of Dedrich Shafer

[KK-152](#), 8 Apr 1788

Solomon Van Wagenen and wf Hannah of Marbletown
to Dedrick Shaver of Montgomery

lying and being within the limits and bound of a tract of land called or known by the name of the 8k acres in Montgo pct called Lot No 15 in the first allotment and No 1 in the first allotment (which said two lots now being in the actual possession of him the said Dederick Shaver by virtue of bargain of sale to him thereof made for one whole year by indenture bearing date the day next before the day of the of these presents and by force of the statute...) Lot No 15 in the first alotment

1. beg at a stake in a wild meadow standing in the sw corner of lot No 14 in the said first allotment
2. and runs from thence along the westerly bounds thereof south 4 deg 12 min westerly 3 chains and 41 links to a stone set in the ground marked No. 15 on the north side and a heap of stones round it, standing on the side of a hill or rise being the sw corner of the said first allotment
3. thence along the southerly bounds thereof south 67 deg 30 min east, 29 ch 86 L to a chestnut tree formerly marked with 3 notches on 4 sides and letters WX on the north and west sides standing in the sw corner of the 10k ac tract
4. thence along the westerly bounds thereof north 3 deg and 56 min east, 43 ch 41 L to the soutermost corner of the said lot No. 14 thence along the southerly bounds thereof north 69 deg 18 min west, 29 ch 60 L to where it first began
5. cont 124 ac

Lot No 1 in the 3rd allotment is

1. Beg at a stake and heap of stones put up in the southerly bounds of the 8k tract, 1 ch 70 links easterly of a public road at a foot of a steep ridge for the most southerly corner of that part of the said tract divided or supposed to have been divided and
2. runs thence along the SE bounds thereof north 33 deg 18 min east, 19 ch 20 L to a stake and heap of stones and 3 white oak trees standing near it marked with 3 notches and a blaze on 4 sides
3. thence south 55 deg 48 min east, 92 ch 35 L to a stake standing 6 links North from a maple tree marked with 3 notches and a blaze on 4 sides
4. No 11786. (not sure what this means) in the westerly bounds of the 2nd allotment
5. thence along the same south 35 deg west 19 ch 20 L to the 4th corner thereof being a heap of stones put up 3 ch easterly of the house wherein Benjamin Clearwater lives for the sw corner of the 5k ac
6. thence along the southern bounds of the said 8k ac north 54 deg 48 min w, 92 ch to where it first began
7. cont 180 ac 3/10

Further Notes:

See also Orange County deeds, Z-214 and AA-97. Both of these deeds are dated 1825 and involve George D. Shafer and mentions the adjoining farm of William Gillespie! This was likely the son of Samuel, who appears enumerated in Crawford in the 1830 and 1840 censuses.

Z-214

18 Feb 1825

George Dedrich Shafer of Crawford and his wf Catherine
to Daniel G Shafer of same place
\$4K!

Land situate in Crawford being the same left by will of Joel Dubois and by said had sold to said George

1. Beg at a stone set in the ground on the east side of a brook which runs from thence along the lines of **William Gillespie** and James Mould No 47 deg 30 min west, 77 ch, 40 L to a stake and stones
2. thence along the land late of Henry Mould So 42 deg 30 min west, 31 ch, 65 L to a stake and stones
3. thence along the lands of John Graham So 47 deg 30 min east, 90 ch, 56 L to a small basswood tree
4. thence along the land of John Hill No 19 deg east, 34 ch, 60 L to beg
5. cont 266 ac and 27 sq rods of land

56 ac of above desc land to taken off and out of the NW end or part of said lot by line drawn parallel to the line making the NW bounds of said farm and lot adjoining the lands of said Henry Mould which said 56 ac are not in xxxed to be conveyed hereby

AA-97, also mentions WG, and land along Pacanisink