

**Gillespys on Hill Ave.
Montgomery, New York
1790-1800**

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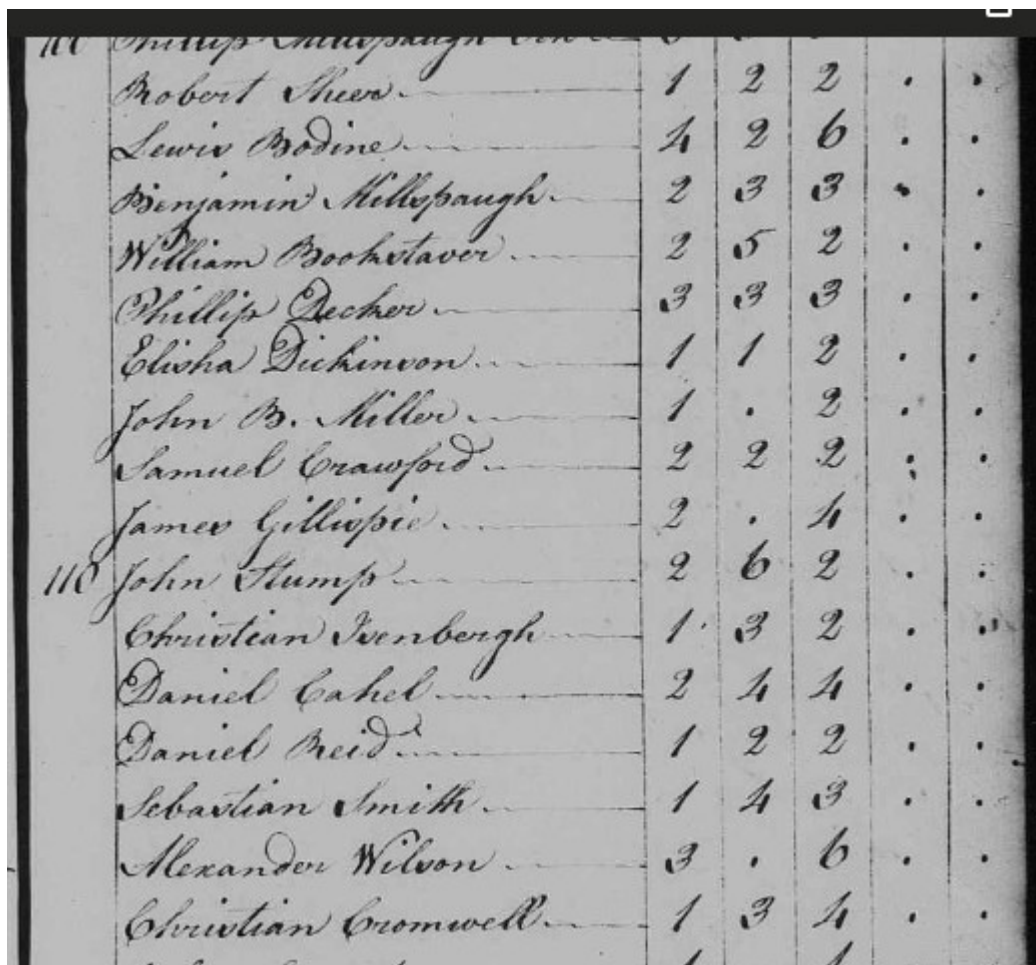
Introduction

This article is a continuation in a series of articles I've been working on to map different Gillespy characters and identify them as much as possible. See my [research library](#) for my 2020 articles on this subject, my [research blog](#), and my [NY Gillespys map](#) where I will continue to plot different Gillespys as I research them.

This article's goal is to map and possibly identify the James Gillespie in 1790 census of Montgomery, Ulster, NY.

1790 Census

Montgomery town was part of Ulster County at this time.



110	Phillip Molybaugh					
	Robert Sheer	1	2	2	.	.
	Lewis Bodine	4	2	6	.	.
	Benjamin Molybaugh	2	3	3	.	.
	William Bookstaver	2	5	2	.	.
	Phillip Decker	3	3	3	.	.
	Elisha Dickinson	1	1	2	.	.
	John B. Miller	1	.	2	.	.
	Samuel Crawford	2	2	2	.	.
	James Gillispie	2	.	4	.	.
110	John Stump	2	6	2	.	.
	Christian Vonbergh	1	3	2	.	.
	Daniel Cahel	2	4	4	.	.
	Daniel Reid	1	2	2	.	.
	Sebastian Smith	1	4	3	.	.
	Alexander Wilson	3	.	6	.	.
	Christian Cromwell	1	3	4	.	.
		1		1		

These names are notable:

- Alexander Wilson is especially important, more on that later
- [John B. Miller](#) – lots of Germans around
- [William Bookstaver](#)
- John McKinstry – close by – he has many ties to all Gillespys

1800 Census

Note: Montgomery town became part of Orange County in 1798.

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	William Neal	2	1	.	1	.	1	.
	Samuel Miller	2	1	1	1	.	1	3
	Christian Isenberg	1	.	1	.	2	1	
12/10	John B. Miller	1	.	.	1	.	2	2
	John Slater	.	.	1
	Friedrich Decker	1	1	1	1	.	2	.
	William Gillespie Jr	2	1	.	1	.	1	1
	James Crawford	2	1	.	2	1	1	1
12/15	James Hill	.	1	2	.	1	.	1
	John Williams	.	.	.	1	.	1	.
	John Lewis	1	.	1	.	.	2	.
	Johann Robinson	1	1	2	1	1	2	.
	David Madine	2	.	.	1	.	2	.
12/20	John Simpson	2	.	1	1	.	.	1
	Daniel Wilkins	2	1	.	1	.	2	.
	William Soper	1	.	.	1	.	2	.

The biggest thing to note here is the top of the page. In the 1790 census, James Gillespy and Samuel Crawford were between John B. Miller and Christian Isenberg. Then in 1800 census, we see John B. Miller and Christian Isenberg enumerated next to each other, and very nearby is William Gillespy Jr. and James Crawford.

A photograph of a handwritten list on aged paper. The list consists of names followed by horizontal lines and numbers. The names are written in cursive. The numbers are written in a simple, blocky font. The list is organized into two columns, with the first column containing names and the second column containing numbers. The names are: Daniel Wilkins, William Soper, Phillis Decker, Abraham Dickinson, Matthew Keenburgh, Johannis W. Youngblood, William Bookstaver, Lewis Bodine, Samuel Hunter, Adam Deemar, Isaac Hillsbaugh, David Elliot, John Hutchelony, and William Miller. The numbers are: 2, 7, 8, 1, 1, ., ., ., 3, ., ., ., 1, ., ., ., .

Daniel Wilkins	2
William Soper	7
Phillis Decker	8
Abraham Dickinson	1
25 Matthew Keenburgh	1
Johannis W. Youngblood	.
William Bookstaver	.
Lewis Bodine	.
Samuel Hunter	3
30 Adam Deemar	.
Isaac Hillsbaugh	1
David Elliot	.
John Hutchelony	.
William Miller	.

Note that Samuel Hunter now appears next to Lewis Bodine, and up the list from Bodine is Bookstaver, Keenburgh, Dickinson, Decker, Soper.

1798 Map

Based on the names seen in the 1790 and 1800 census clips, this is my estimation of where the census enumerator was at the time:



Given the order of names in each census list, and assuming that the enumerator was visiting each family in some kind of order, I am estimating that the enumerator was traveling from east to west in 1790, and from west to east in 1800.

Deeds

These deeds do not include any for Gillespy or Crawford (none found for this time period). But I picked the following deeds because they include other names found nearby Gillespy in the 1790 and 1800 census. These deeds confirm that the area where the Gillespys were living lies near the border of two patents (10K-acre J. Schuyler patent and 8K-acre P. Schuyler patent).

1788 Cahill and Howell to Smith

UCD [LL-272](#)

1 April 1788 Daniel Cahill and John Howell both of Montgomery to Johannis Smith of same place one full and equal fifteenth part of the Philip Schuyler patent (8K-acre tract), lands formerly granted to John Evans, Lot No 11 of the said division

right on the line btn 2 patents 8K-acre and 10K-acre

mentions William Sharpas, dec, his dau Elizabeth

Theopheld Bache of NYC merchant and exr for late Elizabeth Sharpas

12 May 1785 conveyed onto David Cahill and John Howell

commissioners assigned: Christopher Tappen, Corn. Schoonmaker, and Thomas Moffatt¹

surveyed into 4 allotments

Daniel and John get 1/15th

paid by Johannis Smith

adjoining Hill (I think a name not a geographic feature), Henry Crans, “a pretty large swamp”

1791 John McKinstry to Samuel Hunter²

UCD [LL-150](#)

1 Feb 1791, John McKinstry of Montgomery & wf Martha and Samuel Hunter of Sgk precinct, tanner, part of a tract of land commonly called the 10K-acre tract located in Ulster County on west side of Walkill, Lot No. 11,

1. Beg at white oak tree marked with 2 notches on 4 sides and EF on the SW side standing in the NE corner of said Lot No 11
2. and runs thence NO 69 deg and 15 min W along a line of trees former marked for the NE bounds of said Lot No 11, 16 ch and 6 L to a stake
3. then SO 20 deg and 30 min W, 62 ch and 80 L to the SW bounds of the said lot No 11, 16 ch and 6 L to the most southerly corner of the said lot No 11
4. then along the same south 68 deg and 30 min E about 63 ch and 18 L to the place of beg
5. cont 100 ac

Also all that certain piece or parcel of lands joining on the W side of the above described 100 ac

1. BEG where the line crosses a run of water at a little bridge

1 See also my article, [Partitioned Patents in Montgomery Precinct, Tracking Gillespy/Hunter to Searsburgh](#); MA Schaefer; 5 May 2020.

2 Remembering Capt. John Gillespy sold his residence and mill to John McKinstry in 1786. See my article [A Life on the Line, Capt. John Gillespy](#) 1741-1810, Ulster/Orange, NY; MA Schaefer; 12 April 2020.

2. and runs thence along the said line NO 20 deg and 30 min E, 18 ch to a ditch at the edge of a meadow
3. then along the said ditch SO 76 deg W, one chain and 8 L to a stone fence
4. then along the same SO 20 deg and 30 min W, 8 ch and 28 L to the Highway
5. then along the same to place of beg
6. cont one acre, 3 rods and 37 perches

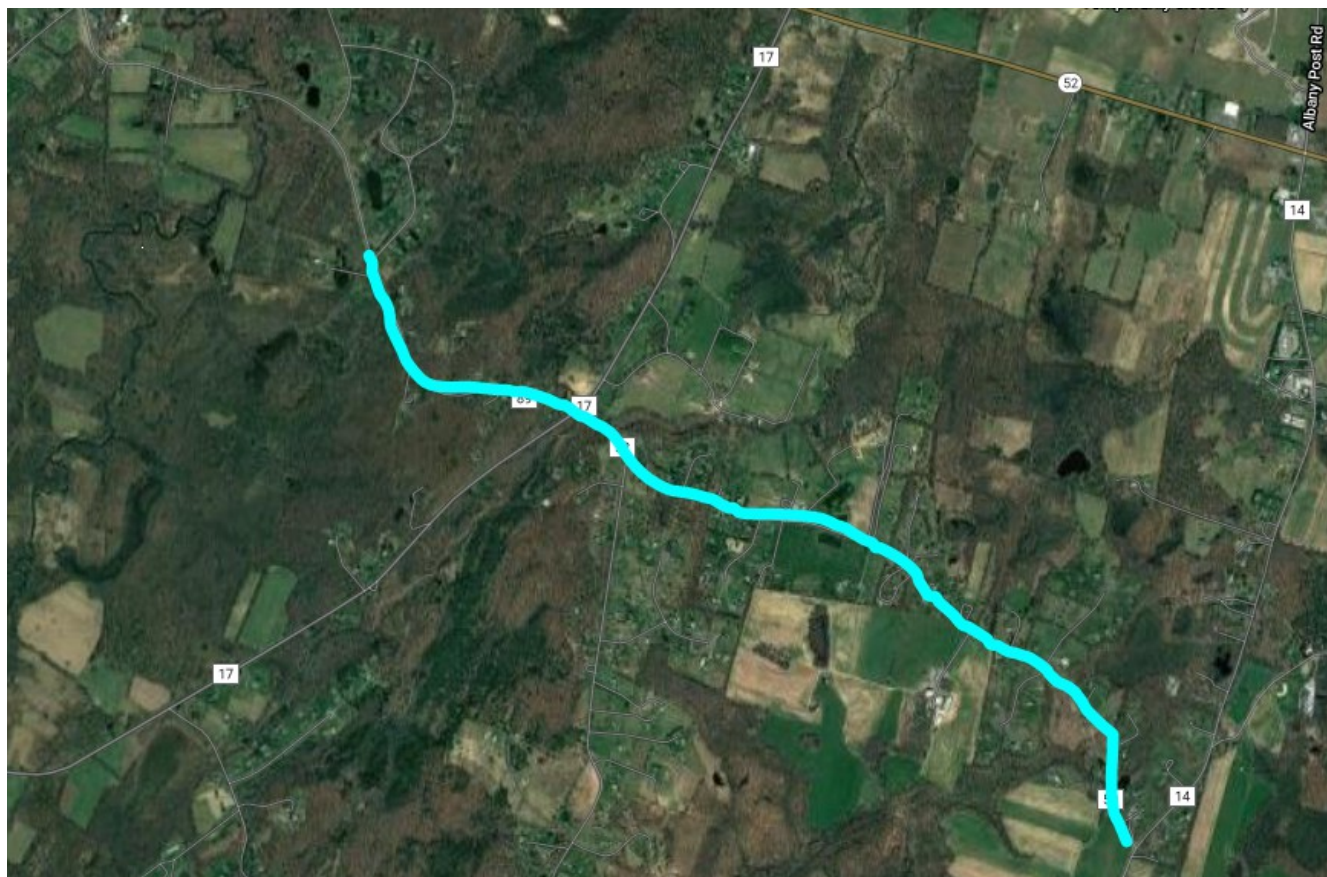
1791 Bodine to Mould

UCD [LL-227](#)

5 Jul 1791, Lewis Bodine of Montgomery and Wylie his wf to Johannes Mould Jr land being in town of Montgomery, part of Lot No. 11 in 10K-acre tract (J. Schuyler patent) mention of Philip Millspaugh, James Latta, John McKinstry (in tenure), Jacob Millspaugh, Matthias Kimbergh, Frederick Kimbergh, the road to the Walkill

Discussion

The road we're talking about, the one where Gillespys lived in 1790 and 1800, is today called Hill Ave. The road starts in the southeast where it intersects with Albany Post Road (Route 14). Also called Route 52 from that point, the road passes Bookstaver Lane, where we might guess that William Bookstaver lived. The road continues northwest, and after it crosses Route 17, it becomes Route 89. Robert Graham lived just up the road on Route 17, and the original Graham's church is found on Route 89.



On the northwest end of the line I've drawn, I've stopped just short of where the Dwaar Kill crosses the road, to match the drawing I did of the [1798 map](#).

Here are some of my observations after this research:

- It's hard to tell if the land occupied by James Gillespy in 1790 and that occupied by William Gillespy Jr. in 1800 was the exact same land. They might have been, but even if not, they were close.
- The relationship between the James Gillespy in 1790 and the William Gillespy Jr. in 1800 is still a subject of research. We are assuming that William Gillespy Jr. was the son of Samuel Gillespy, but I've been having a few wonderings that there might have been more individuals named William than we yet realize existed. The point for now is that no conclusions about Gillespy relationships can yet be made.
- I have always assumed that the Samuel Crawford next door to James in 1790 was the Samuel Crawford who had married Margaret Gillespy. It should be noted that Margaret is still unplaced, and her relationship to James is still a matter of research. There also seems to have been more than one individual named Samuel Crawford around this time period, so a little care is necessary in making assumptions here.
- We can note there was also a Crawford next door to William Gillespy Jr. in 1800. At the moment, I have no idea who that James Crawford was.
- The biggest clue, in my opinion, about the identity of this James Gillespy in 1790 Montgomery is his proximity to Alexander Wilson. Here is a [family tree](#) of Alexander Wilson. Alexander Wilson was taxed in Hanover pct for 40 acres in 1779, so he might have been the Sr. Alexander Wilson who died in 1780. His son, Alexander Wilson Jr, is likely the one we see in the 1790 census.

The WILSON surname ties into Crawford and Gillespy by following this trail:

Point One

- Samuel Crawford and Margaret Gillespie married at First Presbyterian church in Goshen in 1785.
- It should be noted that John Gillespie married Martha Crawford at the same church in 1792. At the moment, I have not identified these individuals nor do I know if these two marriages pertain to the same Gillespie and Crawford families.

Point Two

The pension application for Samuel Crawford in 1833 includes an affidavit from Andrew Wilson (son of Alexander Wilson) which includes this information:

- Crawford's and Wilson's fathers lived within one-quarter mile of each other, and
- “there mothers are sisters”

According to my research:³

- The parents of Samuel S. Crawford were Samuel Crawford and Anna Kidd.
- The parents of Andrew Wilson were Alexander Wilson and Hanna Kidd.
- The parents of both Anna and Hanna Kidd were Alexander Kidd Sr. and Jane Calderwood.

This information is recited in “The Goodwill Memorial or The First One Hundred and Fifty Years of the Goodwill Presbyterian Church”, pp. 68-69.

Point Three

According to the same source:

- David Wilson, son of Alexander Wilson and Hannah Kidd, married Abigail Gillespie.
- Andrew Wilson, son of Alexander Wilson and Hannah Kidd, married Jennie Gillespie.

No other information is given about when these couples married, who the parents of the Gillespie women were, or even the children these couples had.

Point Four

According to the Royce and Gillespie Family Book, Abigail and Jennie Gillespie were the daughters of a Joseph Gillespie who died in NYC in 1772. “Of the two sisters, Jennie married Jonathan Crawford and produced two children. Abbie married David Wilson, “a boatman”, and had three children, Julia, Alexander and Nellie.” Note that this source names a different husband for Jennie Gillespie, but perhaps she had two husbands?

My working theory⁴ is that Abigail and Jennie were instead the daughters of James Gillespie Sr. (brother of Robert, William, Samuel, and Matthew). This theory is still being researched.

Point Five

What inference, if any, can we make from these relationships?

- Hanna Kidd + Alexander Wilson
 - David + Abigail Gillespie
 - Andrew + Jennie Gillespie
- Anna Kidd + Samuel Crawford
 - Samuel S. + Margaret Gillespie

If Abigail and Jennie were indeed the daughters of James Sr., and Margaret was of the same generation as Abigail and Jennie, and James Sr. was living next door to Samuel Crawford in 1790, then perhaps Margaret was also a daughter of James Sr. If not, then surely she was his niece. Again, it's probably too early yet to speculate about relationships except to notice there probably was one which seems to indicate a close family tie.

³ Preliminary research – these claims should be confirmed by those who need to be sure.

⁴ [One James Gillespie or Two? Troy, NY 1799-1803 and A Possible Brother of Robert Gillespie](#), MA Schaefer, December 2019.