

**Hunter & Gillespy**  
**Homesteads**  
**in**  
**Pine Bush, Orange, New York**

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## Introduction

In recent research, we've located the Gillespys who lived on Lot No. 2 in the Beekman Patent in Shawangunk Precinct<sup>1</sup> (probably the original settlers of this Gillespie family group), and we've located the residence and mill site of Capt. John Gillespy who lived on the Walkill/Hanover/Montgomery and Shawangunk precinct line.<sup>2</sup> Now I think it's time to take a look at Pine Bush.

[Pine Bush](#) is a hamlet located in the town of Crawford, an area once part of Ulster County which became part of Orange County in 1798.

The community was one of the four early nineteenth century settlements in the jurisdiction of the town. It has previously been known as "Shawangunk," "Crawford," and "Bloomfield." Another community named "Crawford" is located to the northwest in bordering Ulster County. This hamlet was an early terminus for a short line railroad, the Middletown & Crawford Railroad. This line was bought by the Erie railroad, which served the town until the 1970s.

Pine Bush became the home of David Hunter and Ensign, later Lieutenant Samuel Gillespie. These two men bought adjoining property from the same person, Isaac Hasbrouck Jr., on the same day, 15 June 1774. Theirs are the deeds we will focus on in this article. But who were these two men?

- David Hunter, 1748-unk, was the son of Robert Hunter and his first wife, Elizabeth, believed to be a Gillespie.
- The parents of Samuel Gillespie, 1742-1815, are unknown, but Samuel is believed to have been associated with the Robert Hunter family.<sup>3</sup> Samuel married Esther Rainey in 1769 and they had 12 children, and subsequently many descendants.

My current best guess is that David Hunter and Samuel Gillespy were first cousins, but the identity of Samuel's father has not been confirmed. But aside from possible family ties, I think the two men were otherwise close, probably also as friends. They not only bought adjoining property in Pine Bush in 1774, but they were also involved together in other land transactions in Montgomery Precinct in 1787. These latter transactions will be addressed in a separate article.

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1 [Hunter & Gillespy Homesteads in Shawangunk, Ulster, NY](#); MA Schaefer; 12 April 2020; Revision 1, 14 April 2020. [Gillespys in Shawangunk, Beekman Patent Lot No. 2](#); MA Schaefer; 19 April 2020.

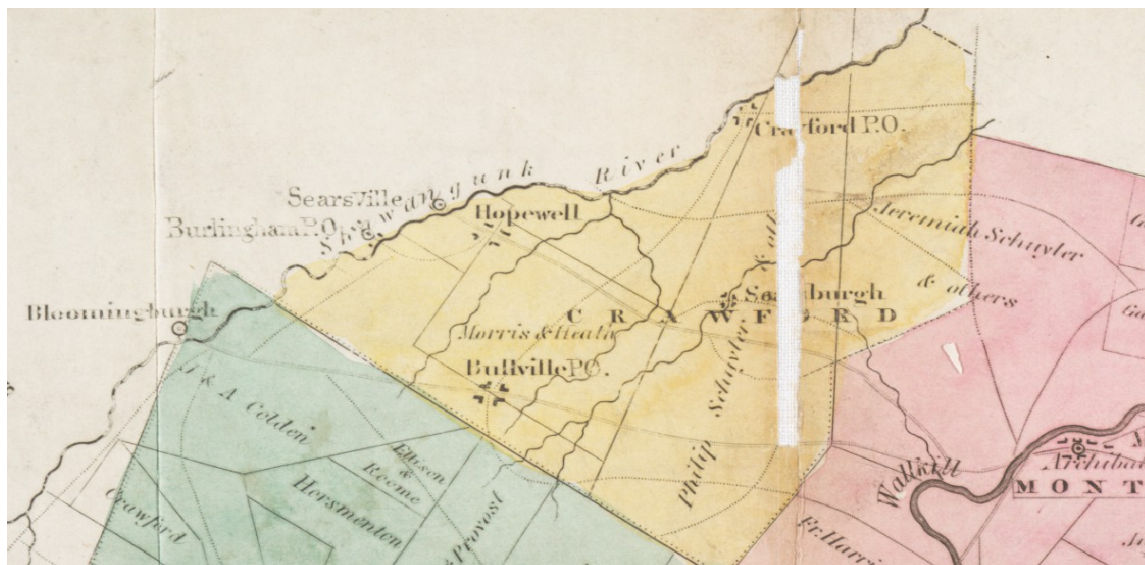
2 [A Life on the Line, Capt. John Gillespy, 1741-1810, Ulster/Orange, NY](#); MA Schaefer; 12 April 2020; Revision 1, 14 April 2020.

3 [Updated Case Studies of Gillespy/Gillespie Families in Early Ulster/Orange/Dutchess, NY](#); MA Schaefer; 3 April 2020, pp. 28-29.

## Precincts and Patents

The precinct of focus in this article was originally called Walkill Precinct, part of which was later called Hanover Precinct. By the time of the deeds we are studying in this article, 1774, the precinct was called Hanover, so that is how I will refer to it here.

The following clip from a map of Orange County (1829-1839)<sup>4</sup> shows the northwest boundaries of Hanover Precinct. The town of Crawford is shown in beige color – this is our area of study. Also take note of the river shown flowing into the southwest corner of the Shawangunk Precinct – that is the Dwaar Kill River. The Hunter-Gillespy properties being discussed in this article are between the Dwaar Kill and the Shawangunk Rivers.<sup>5</sup>



This map is also showing us the boundaries of the land patents in the Hanover Precinct. We learned that the property of Capt. John Gillespy was in the Jeremiah Schuyler patent of 10,000 acres on the boundary with the Beekman patent in Shawangunk to the north. However, be careful to note that the Jeremiah Schuyler patent also includes much of the northeasterly parts of Crawford. The Philip Schuyler patent of 8,000 acres, west of the Jeremiah Schuyler patent, covered the central parts of Crawford.

of land in Ulster county, being part of the lands formerly granted to Capt. John Evans, (Plattekill),..... 178  
July 7. Petition of Phillip Schuyler and three others, praying a patent for 8,000 acres of land laid out for them in the county of Ulster, being part of the lands formerly granted to Capt. John Evans, (see page 172,)..... 179  
July 7. Petition of Capt. Joseph Budd and others, for a patent of confirmation for 1,500 acres of land in the

4 [Map of the Counties of Orange and Rockland](#), David H. Burr and Simeon Dewitt, cartographers, created 1829, published 1839, New York Public Library Digital Collections.

5 My note: The deeds refer to the Shawangunk River, but Google Maps labels the river northwest of Pine Bush as the Walkill River – which has always confused me to no end. I think the answer is that the [Shawangunk Kill](#) is the largest tributary of the Walkill River. Thus, Google labels it as the Walkill, but the river is known locally as the Shawangunk River.

## 1774 Hasbrouck Jr. to Hunter Deed

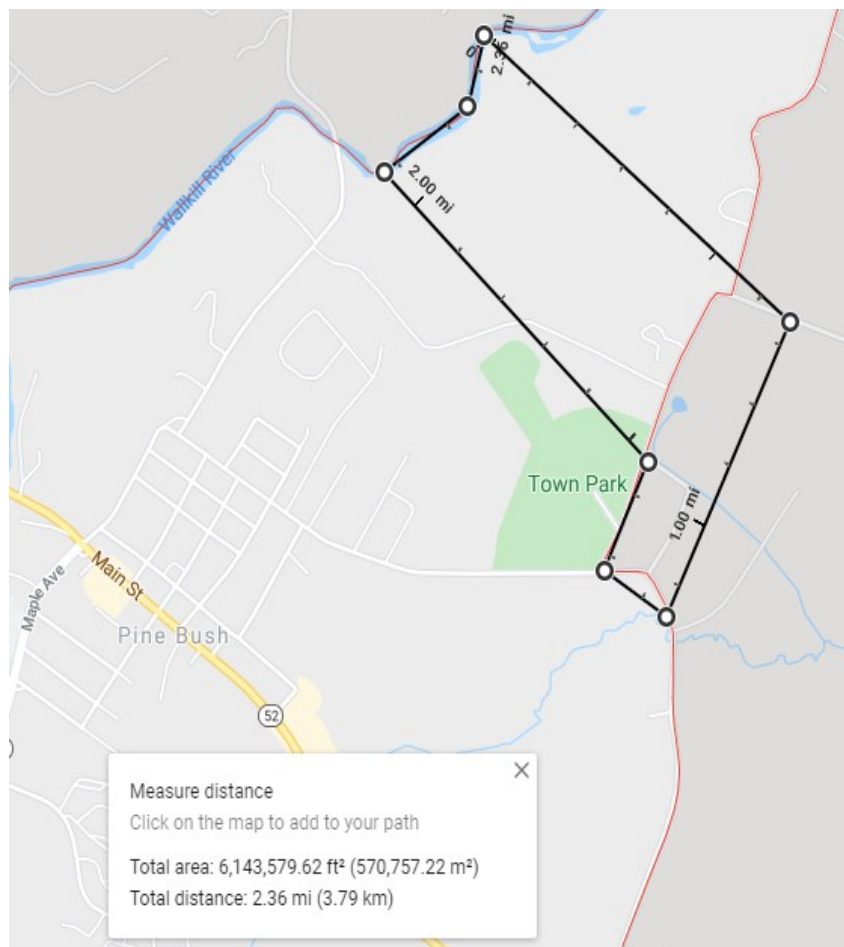
Ulster Deed [HH-197](#)

1. 15 Jun 1774, Isaac Hasbrouck Jr of Marbletown and Mary, wf, one of the daughters of Jacobus Bruyn late of Bruynswick deceased to David Hunter of Hanover
2. part of Lot No. 15 formerly belonging to said Jacobus Bruyn which is one of two lots which on the division of a certain tract of 8k acres partitioned onto Phil Schuyler, Joh. Lansing Jr, and others fell to the share and dividend of him the said Joh. Lansing Jr and is butted and bounded as follows
3. beg at white pine tree marked standing at the SE bank of the Shawangunk River and a heap of stones gathered around said tree
4. and runs from thence south 46 deg east, 52 chains and 80 links to a heap of stones put up for the northerly corner of a lot of land laid out for Peter Millspaugh being also part or parcel of Lot 15
5. then running along the bounds of said Millspaugh lot of land south 35 deg and 30 min west, 38 chains and 90 links to another heap of stones put up for the westerly bounds of said Millspaugh lot of land and on the line of a lot of land laid out for Samuel Gillespy being also the division line between the said Millspaugh and said Gillespy
6. thence running along the line of said division north 48 deg west, 10 chains to a heap of stones laid together at the northerly corner of said Gillespys lot of land
7. thence running north 35 deg east, 11 chains and 40 links to another heap of stones laid together
8. thence running north 39 deg and 45 min west, 53 chains to the Sgk River
9. then down the stream of the same including all the turnings and windings to the place of beg
10. containing 141 ac.

My notes:

- In the 1779 tax assessment, I do not find that David Hunter was assessed for property near Samuel Gillespy. Where was he? He was assessed for 200 acres in an area that I believe was near the west bank of Walkill River. Perhaps David was leasing his property in Pine Bush?
- So far, I haven't had much luck finding more information about [Peter Millspaugh](#), mentioned in this deed. In the 1779 tax assessment, Samuel was living next to one Frederick Millspaugh who had 100 acres.

Here is the map plot for David Hunter's property:



As you will see in the next section, the property of Samuel Gillespy adjoins with Hunter's along the short southwest boundary shown here. Both properties shared the corner of what is now Red Mills Road and North Street/Dubois Road on the southeast corner of today's Pine Bush Town Park.

## 1774 Hasbrouck Jr. to Gillespy Deed

Ulster Deed [HH-193](#)

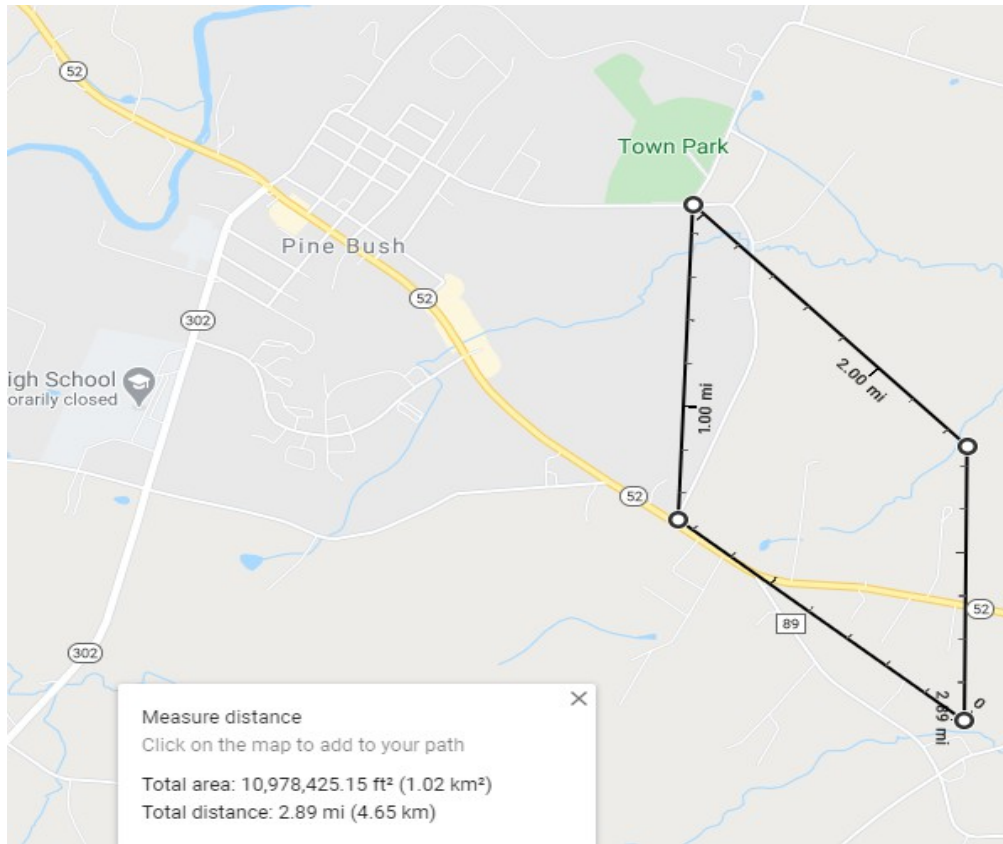
1. 15 Jun 1774, Isaac Hasbrouck Jr of Marbletown and Mary, wf, one of the daughters of Jacobus Bruyn late of Bruynswick deceased to Samuel Gillespy of Hanover
2. part of Lot No. 15 formerly belonging to said Jacobus Bruyn which is one of two lots which on the division of a certain tract of 8k acres partitioned onto Phil Schuyler, Joh. Lansing Jr, and others fell to the share and dividend of him the said Joh. Lansing Jr and is butted and bounded as follows
3. a heap of stones put up for the eastern most corner of Lot No 14 in the said 8k acre tract late of Allane Janet and on the line of the tract of 10k acres of land granted to Jeremiah Schuyler
4. and runs from thence along the said Lot 14 north 47 deg and 42 min west 59 chains and 20 links to a black oak tree marked with 3 notches on 4 sides
5. thence north 4 degrees east, 54 chains to another heap of stones put up
6. then south 48 degrees east, 59 chains and 20 links to the line of the aforesaid tract of 10k acres
7. then along the said line south 4 degrees west, 54 chains and 50 links to the place where it first began
8. containing 252 acres and 2 rods
9. paying forever a quit rent every year to the king of 2 shillings and 6 pence per hundred acres
10. wits David Bevier and Severyn Hasbrouck

In 1796, Samuel tried to sell 180 acres of this land (I think it was the same land) – see the following newspaper clip.<sup>6</sup> I'm not sure that he succeeded because Samuel's executors advertised the same property for sale after Samuel died in 1815. It seems reasonable to think Samuel was probably living on the other 72 acres of his original 252 acres.

FOR SALE.  
THAT valuable and beautiful Farm, whereon the subscriber now liveth, in the township of Montgomery, and county of Ulster, situated about 18 miles from Newburgh Landing, and upon a public road leading from Old Shungonek to Newburgh, containing 180 acres, 30 of which is good meadow land, off which there can be cut 40 tons of excellent hay yearly, with 70 acres of good plough land, and the remainder well timbered, and all in good repair, and well watered, with a large quantity of bog dirt, and a large young bearing orchard. On said Farm there is a beautiful dwelling-house, containing three rooms and an entry upon the floor, with a large kitchen adjoining, and cellar under the whole, with a well of good water at the door; likewise an excellent barn, 32 by 48, and well shingled and finished off in the best manners.—For terms, apply to the subscriber on the premises, who will give an indisputable title for the same.  
SAMUEL GILLESPIE.  
April 13. 91—d. 51. 97

<sup>6</sup> The Argus, or Greenleaf's New Daily Advertiser, Thursday, Apr 14, 1796, New York, NY, Issue: 292, Page: 3

Here is the map plot for Samuel's property:



It should be noted that Samuel's grave has been located off the road now called DuBois Road, seen on the map running northeast of the southwest property line. Samuel and Esther were buried on their own farm.

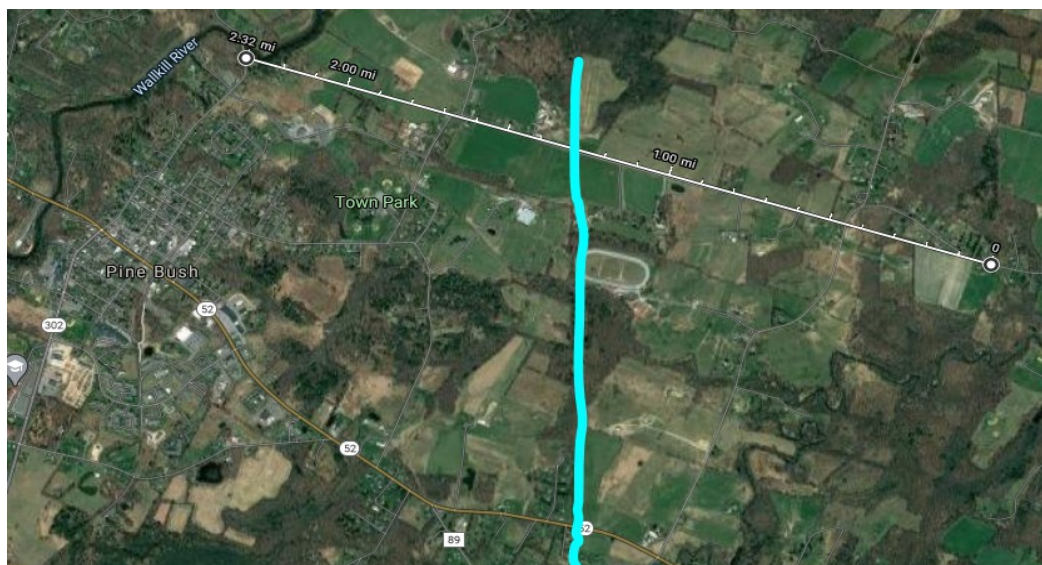
## Discussion

It took awhile to figure out where to locate the adjoining lots of David Hunter and Samuel Gillespie. These are the constraints that lead me to the placement I have presented here:

- Land of David Hunt must start on the SE bank of the Shawangunk River, and it meets with the northern boundary of Samuel Gillespie's property.
- Land of Samuel Gillespie runs along the boundary between the Philip Schuyler patent (8K acres) and the Jeremiah Schuyler patent (10K acres). That boundary runs northeast only 4 degrees.
- Land of Samuel Gillespie is “upon a public road leading from Old Shawangunk to Newburgh.” The most probable road is the Newburgh and Ellenville Turnpike, now Route 52.

The 1839 Crawford map (p. 3) shows the northern-most road going west from the Beekman Patent (BP) to the Shawangunk River (SR), and then from the river, we see a road running south. Because I now know exactly where the western boundary of the BP is, I have measured the distance from the BP

to the SR to be 2.32 miles. Using the satellite map, it's rather easy to see the north-south boundary line between the two Schuyler patents.



This distance from the Schuyler patent line to the SR is just over a mile. The farther south we move from the road I have mapped, the greater the distance between the patent line and SR. Potentially we could move north from the road I have mapped, but then we are moving away from the public road that also borders Samuel's land. So for now, I feel somewhat confident that the placement of these Hunter & Gillespy properties meets all the constraints described in the two deeds.

Finally, now that we can add Samuel's property location to the map of [NY Gillespys](#), we can see that the distance between Capt. John Gillespy and Lt. Samuel Gillespy was about 1.5 miles, depending on the route. In addition, both Gillespys were living catty-corner from Hunters, both sons of Robert Hunter and Elizabeth Gillespy. I think all this is rather strong evidence that John and Samuel were related, but the nature of their family connection is still a topic of research.