

**A Study of Gillespy Neighbors
In Shawangunk Precinct
Ulster County, New York
Pre-1800**

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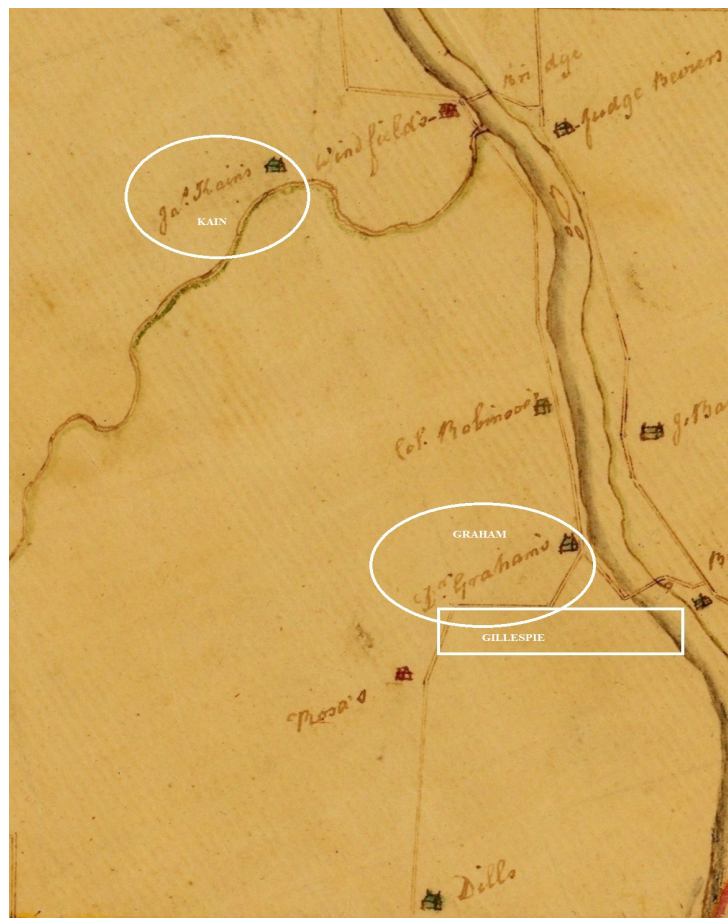
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Introduction

A transcription of a 1770 deed from James Gillespy to Matthew Bevier Jr.¹ was recently discovered (or re-discovered),² which describes property in Shawangunk precinct west of the Walkill River. Here is what we've been able to glean about this property so far:

1. 1770 deed of James Gillespy and wife Mary to Matthew Bevier Jr. Description: west side of Walkill, south of a lot below where George Grahams now lives, corner of land now owned by Dirk Rosa (Roosa), Lot #2, 129 acres. Johannes Hardenburgh Jr. was a witness; also mention of Abraham Bevier Jr.
 - This James Gillespy acquired this property in 1759 by quit claim from his mother, Mary, wife of James Gillespy Sr., who wrote his will in 1749 and presumably died thereabouts.



1798 Map of Shawangunk,³ editing by D. Hart

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- 1 Deed transcription was located at Ulster County Historical Society at Bevier House Museum in Kingston, New York by D. Hart. The identity of the transcriber is unknown. The original deed is also housed in the archives at UCHS, and its provenance is also unknown.
 - 2 Many thanks to Gillespie researcher, Douglas Hart, for the extent of his work, and sharing it.
 - 3 Map of the Town of [Shawangunk](#), Ulster County. By Johs. Bruyn. Certified February 1st, 1798, by Joseph J. Hasbrouck, Supervisor. Identifier: NYSA_A0273-78_426. Date: February 1 1798. Contributor: Bruyn, Johs. (surveyor). Source: New York State Archives. New York (State). State Engineer and Surveyor. Survey maps of lands in New York State, ca. 1711-1913. Series A0273-78, Map #426.

Now here is related evidence which subsequently helps us add to the picture of Gillespy's in Shawangunk:

2. 1779 tax assessment lists.⁴ Based on deeds and wills of the time, we can infer geographic proximity for the names found on the assessment list. Basically, the assessor was going from one farm to the next along a selected route. In the assessments for the Shawangunk precinct, William Gillespy was living near to Dirk Roosa, a name mentioned as having land bordering the Gillespy property in 1770. Apparently this particular Shawangunk property came back into the Gillespy family by this time. Curiously, however, the acreage William was taxed for was only 78 acres. Maybe it wasn't the exact same property, or maybe it was a subset of the original 129 acres – it's hard to tell without more data.
 - The Roosa's were living next to Dr. James G. Graham, also seen on the 1798 map.
3. 1791 will of Derick Roosa dated 4 Aug 1791, proved 7 Aug 1797. Witnessed by William Gillespy, Matthew Gillespy, Mary Gillespy.
4. 1797 UC Deed OO-325, William Gillespie Jr. (son of Samuel & Esther) and wife Martha of Montgomery sold this *exact* property (reference to lot #2 and 129 acres) to Matthew Gillespie of NYC, more recently of Montgomery. Further land description says land on the west side of the Walkill that was formerly devised to James Gillespy, close to a lot formerly of Gorge Gillespy. This deed was executed shortly before the death of Matthew Gillespie late in 1797.

It appears to me that by 1779 William Gillespy, thought to be a son of James Gillespy Sr.,⁵ came back into control of the property sold by a James Gillespy in 1770. It's been suggested that Matthew Bevier Jr. defaulted so the land went back to Gillespy control, but the 1770 deed does say that James Gillespy received payment from Bevier for the property. Maybe William Gillespy bought it back from Bevier or maybe William married a Bevier? At this point, we can only speculate about how this property came back into the Gillespy family.

4 1779 Tax Assessment of Ulster County, NY State Archives, Albany, NY: facsimiles provided by Jay Campbell, February, 2020; with thanks.

I have two basic questions about these tax assessment lists, which require more research:

1. According to the 1790 census, several of the names shown residing in Shawangunk owned slaves, including William Gillespy. Were those slaves present in 1779 and were they assessed as real value? If so, at what rate? Were there any slave registers kept in Ulster County?
 2. In my previous research in Pennsylvania, I found that those who occupied the land were not necessarily the owners (indentured, or leasing, etc.) And, contrary to today's practice, it was the occupiers who paid the property tax, not the owners. I'm curious about the practice of land leasing in NY. See Ellis, David M. "Land Tenure and Tenancy in the Hudson Valley, 1790-1860." *Agricultural History* 18, no. 2 (1944): 75-82. Accessed February 20, 2020. www.jstor.org/stable/3739598, specifically p. 76 which states, "The system of three-life leases did prevail, however, in Ulster towns of Shandanken, Shawangunk, and Woodstock, all of which lay within the Great Hardenburgh Patent." See also *Gazetteer of the State of New York, comprehending its colonial history* by Thomas Francis Gordon; Philadelphia, 1836; p. 742, which describes leases in Shandanken and Wookstock, but not Shawangunk (at least in 1836, when this source was published).
- 5 The relationship between William and James Gillespy is my speculation based on the last six months of my research. See my [blog](#) and my [research articles](#), however take note that research is still in process and no conclusions have yet been documented in a genealogical proof statement.

So what can we learn about the Gillespy's of Shawangunk from this 1770 deed? Aside from the genealogical information about the names of James' parents (James and Mary) and wife (Mary), and a description of the location of the Shawangunk property, we also have mention in the deed of other names. This article will examine evidence pertaining to the acquaintances mentioned in the 1770 deed as well as the immediate neighbors appearing in later tax lists, censuses, and deeds for Shawangunk precinct.

NOTES:

- The genealogy of the two James Gillespy's mentioned in the 1770 deed and how they fit into the rest of the Ulster Gillespie family groups is still being researched and the findings will be covered in more detail in a forthcoming article. Wherever I suggest Gillespie relationships in this article, be aware the genealogical proof is still in process.
- The map shown on page 2 shows the closest Gillespy neighbors on the west side of the Walkill River, and this article focuses on those names. However, for the record, those on the east side of the river were also part of Shawangunk Precinct, though considered part of the town of New Hurley. Those names closest to the Gillespy property on the east side of the river included J. Banks, C. Bruyn (at the bridge), T. Jones, and B. Hasbrouck.
- It is also of important note that HUNTER and REA families lived along the Dwars Kill due west of the Gillespy property (not shown on the map clip in this article), literally only two miles away or less. So technically, the Hunter and Rea families were also neighbors, and these surnames are of particular interest in Gillespy/Gillespie research. However, my exploration of Hunter-Gillespy connections appears in a different (upcoming) article. This article focuses mainly on names found in 1770 James Gillespy deed.
- As I have begun to study various deeds pertaining to the Gillespy neighbors, I find occasional reference to the original land patents, which are, of course, completely foreign to me at this point. For my own reference, here is a list of patents that were found in Shawangunk Precinct.⁶

SHAWANGUNK.

Organized as a precinct December 17, 1743. Formed into a town March 7, 1778. The following patents were located in this town, viz: Barbarie patent; Van Dam, etc., patent; Peartree patent; Beekman, etc., patent; Shawangunk patent; Rutsen & Bruyn patent; Hoffman & Terwilliger patent; Peter Deyo & Son patent; Schoonmaker & Dubois patent; Broomhead patent; Ellison patent (3 tracts); Sacket patent; Abm. Hasbrouck patent; Stringham patent; Hardenbergh patent (2 tracts); DuBois patent; Leffert's patent; Butler patent; Dubois & Schoonmaker patent. Besides the above are three or four small patents, and a portion of two others on the north.

Jacobus Bruyn 1744—1747 | Joseph I. Hasbrouck 1812—1814

⁶ Proceedings of the Board of Supervisors of Ulster County, by Ulster County, N.Y. County Legislature, Kingston, NY, 1910; p. [305](#).

Gillespy Acquaintances

Matthew Bevier Jr. (1744-unk)

In the 1770 deed, James Gillespy sold his Shawangunk property to Matthew Bevier Jr. of New Paltz, a location which is, to my understanding, east of the Walkill River. I believe this Matthew Bevier was the son of Samuel Bevier (1715-1764) and Sarah LeFevre, and the brother of Abraham Bevier (1746-unk), the latter of whom can be found in the 1779 Shawangunk tax assessment, and on the 1798 Shawangunk map (located just north of the Gillespy property on the east side of the river).

It is further noted that Abraham Bevier Jr. was a witness to “reasure” a section of the 1770 written conveyance. I believe this person was the same previously mentioned Abraham Bevier, whose grandfather, also named Abraham was still alive in 1770.

Here are some additional references to Matthew Bevier Jr. of New Paltz

- <https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/L6MY-4WK>
- also a [Bevier family history](#) published in 1916

Note that it's not immediately clear to me why this Matthew Bevier was referred to as Junior in 1770. It implies there was an older man of the same name in the area, but so far, I have not determined who that might have been.

Johannes Hardenbergh Jr. (1729-1799)

Johannes Hardenbergh Jr. signed this 1770 deed both for the “reasure” of the conveyance (see also Abraham Bevier Jr, above), and as a witness to the signatures of the Gillespy's.

Here is a brief account of Hardenburgh's military service:⁷

Johannes Hardenbergh, Jr. (b. 1729), of Ulster County commanded five companies of New York levies in Gen. John Morin Scott's brigade at this time. Hardenbergh, who had been commissioned lieutenant colonel of Col. Jonathan Hasbrouck's 4th Ulster County Militia Regiment in October 1775, served frequently on active duty with his regiment between December 1776 and April 1778, and in February 1779 he succeeded Hasbrouck as colonel (see Colonel Hasbrouck's Statement of the Extra Services of His Regiment, 18 June 1778, in Hastings, Clinton Papers, 3:469, and O'Callaghan and Fernow, N.Y. Documents, 15:301-2).⁸

Captain/Major John Gillespy and Ensign/Lt. Samuel Gillespy served as officers in this Fourth Ulster militia, as well as other Gillespy's who served as Privates.

I suspect that the Hardenbergh's and the Bevier's knew each other through the LeFevre family (Joh. Hardenbergh Jr was married to Maria LeFevre and Samuel Bevier was married to Sarah LeFevre). Both families also appear to have been connected to the DuBois family.

Joh. Hardenbergh Jr. was assessed in the Shawangunk precinct in 1779, but by the 1790 census, he was living in Hurley, Ulster, NY. It is especially interesting to me that this Joh. Hardenbergh was the owner of the slave who would become known as [Sojourner Truth](#).

⁷ This person should not be confused with his father, also Johannes Hardenbergh, also a Colonel in Continental Army.

⁸ From <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/03-05-02-0438>.

Gillespy Neighbors

James G. Graham (1751-1815)

NOTE: This Graham family is thought to have been a different family group from the Graham's who descended from Robert Graham and Anna Garrett (see Appendix A for reference). This speculation is not proved, but should be considered in a conversation about Graham family groups in the Ulster area during this time period.

This James G. Graham was a medical doctor, with some reference found in records that he was a surgeon. I haven't found record that he served in the Revolution, at least on the American side. The following information gives a bit more insight:

Correspondence and documents of members of the Graham family of Wallkill, Ulster County, New York. Of principal importance are James G. Graham's notes of the lectures of Dr. Samuel Bard, taken while Graham was a student at the King's College medical faculty (now the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons) during the 1773/74 session. In addition there is a small volume of Graham's notes on his medical reading, undated but probably from the same period.

The correspondence is largely from George G. Graham, the brother of James, who joined the British Army in New York as a surgeon in 1778. Written from Quebec and London in the 1780s and 1790s, the letters are mostly about family matters and George Graham's duties as surgeon at the general hospital in Quebec. Other documents include George Graham's will and letters relating to his estate, 1799-1800. There are also letters of introduction from James Graham to Henry Rutgers and Samuel Latham Mitchill on behalf of his son, also named George G. Graham, who came to New York City in 1814 to study medicine.⁹

Other details about the life of James G. Graham:

- His parents were supposedly George and Elizabeth Graham,¹⁰ who settled in Shawangunk in the 1730s. Who were these people??
- It appears that James G's children were baptized at the Dutch Reformed Church in Shawangunk, but James was also very involved in St. Andrew's Church, Walden. James was a warden of this church in 1785 & 1805.
- He was a member of the state assembly in 1791 and the state senate from 1798-1801, and 1806-1809.¹¹
- He wrote about the discovery of mastodon [fossil bones](#): article by James G. Graham written in 1800.

⁹ <https://library-archives.cumc.columbia.edu/finding-aid/graham-family-papers-1773-1825>

¹⁰ https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/183701324/james-g_-graham

¹¹ History of Ulster County, New York: With Illustrations and Biographical Sketches, by Nathaniel Bartlett Sylvester, Philadelphia, 1880, p. 163

- In his 1810 will, he mentioned five daughters but did not name them, but he did name wife Jemima, and son George G. Exrs were wife, Samuel Jackson¹², and Derrik Roosa and Derric Roosa Jr. (must be the next generation of Roosa's?).
- We might also take note that George G. Graham (son of James G.) along with Aldert Roosa Terwilliger were executors of the estate of Derick Roosa Jr. (1828). See Roosa, next section.

As for the Colden Store, there were no 1767/8 records for any James Graham. There were, however, two records for George Graham, possibly the father or older brother of James G. Graham.

20	218-08	1768-03-04	032	Graham	George	Smedes	0 13 0
21	250-05	1768-04-09	032	Graham	George	Lymon Terwillighom	0 4 6

James G. Graham was assessed in Shawangunk in 1779 near the Roosa's and William Gillespy. He was enumerated in Shawangunk from 1790-1810, always next to a Roosa.

Finally, James G. Graham appears to have been well acquainted with Justus Banks who lived across the river to the northeast. Their names appear together in two Ulster County deeds:

- HH-79, 16 Jul 1778 from Andrew Graham Sr. to Andrew Graham Jr. for natural love all his property in Hanover Precinct. James G. Graham and Justus Banks were witnesses.
- MM-128, 8 May 1794, the sheriff sold the land of Francis Kain at auction to James G. Graham and Justus Banks. See also page 10 for more detail.

Derick Roosa (1715-1797)

The [Roosa](#) family came to America in the 1600s. Derick's family¹³ lived in Shawangunk just to the west of the Gillespy property where today we find Roosa Rd. Derick Sr. was enumerated near William Gillespy in the 1790 Shawangunk census. When Roosa wrote his will in 1791, the witnesses were William, Matthew, and Mary Gillespy. We should note that in his will Derick referred to his son, Derick Jr., as Richard. This is a common Anglicization of the Dutch name Dirk or Derick.

Derick Roosa Jr., 1752-1828, does not appear to have married or had children. His 1827 will mentions only his siblings and nephews. To nephews Anthony and John Crispell, he bequeathed “a lot of about 30 acres adjoining the state road and Newburgh and Sullivan Turnpike road formerly belonging to Matthew Gillespie to be divided equally between them by a line to be seen from the turnpike southerly....”

The Roosa's lived on lands adjoining the Gillespys in the Beekman Patent in Shawangunk.¹⁴

¹² This might have been the Jackson in the title of the Supreme Court case involving Gillespy's. See my article [Introducing John Gillespy/Gillespie of Shawangunk, Ulster, NY](#); by MA Schaefer, 5 October 2019, page 8.

¹³ <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/2:2:3DLJ-PM6>
<https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/LYGB-6W1>

¹⁴ [Gillespys in Shawangunk, Beekman Patent Lot No. 2](#); MA Schaefer; 19 April 2020, pp. 4-5.

Francis Kain (~1744-unk)

Why do we care about the Kain family? The Kain¹⁵ surname does not appear in the 1770 James Gillespy deed. Here are my top reasons to look more closely at the Kain family:

- Proximity. James Kain is shown in the 1779 tax lists as living in proximity of William Gillespy. A James Kane was enumerated in Shawangunk in 1790, again in the same vicinity as William Gillespy, and James Kain was still shown in the same location on the 1798 map of Shawangunk.
- The will of James Kain written 15 May 1779 (before the tax assessment in December 1779) named his wife, Maghdalene,¹⁶ two nieces, and four siblings: **“I give and bequeath to my three brothers John Kain, Richard Kain, and Francis Kain and also my sister Mary, and to their heirs forever, which said money of boath real and personal estate is to be equally devided amongst them four, or to their heirs or assigns forever, who live in the Kingdom of Ireland, near Armagh....”** The way I read this, James had Kain relations in Armagh, which is the location where my Gillespie families were known to have lived.
- Francis Kain, oldest son of Robert Kain,¹⁷ seems to have had some connection to the Gillespy family. From the Colden Store records we find:

Page	Date	Acct#	Surname	FN	Prs at Store	Amt Spent
020-02	1767-08-27	066	Gillaspey	James	Fra^s Kain	0 1 3
041-07	1767-09-24	134	Kain	Frances	J M ?illaspey	0 19 0?
302-05	1768-06-07	134	Cain	Frances	Robt Gillaspey	0 2 0
390-02	1768-08-30	241	Kain	Francis	Mrs Gillaspy	0 1 9
439-07	1768-10-24	206	Gillaspy	Robert J [?]	Frances Kain	0 ? ?

Why were Gillespy's picking up items for Francis Kain and vice versa? It seems easy to infer that perhaps Francis Kain was somehow Gillespie-related. But I think we have to tread carefully here. We must consider that:

- The Colden Store records don't say where their customers were living. The Colden Store was located in Hanover Precinct, but it was on the road from Sullivan (Mamakating) to Newburgh, so it's likely that those living in nearby precincts stopped at the store as they were traveling the turnpike.
- We know there was more than one James Gillespy at this time period (1767-68). Was the James Gillespy seen in the 1767 Colden Store record the same James Gillespy who sold Shawangunk property in 1770 to Matthew Bevier Jr.? Or was he one of two James Gillespy's (Sr. and Jr.) found in the 1779 tax assessment in Hanover?

15 Alternate spellings include Kaine, Kane, Cain, Caine, Cane

16 Maghdelena's maiden name was Winfield, a surname you see directly east of the James Kain property on the 1798 map.

17 Francis was named as eldest son of Robert Kain in Robert's 1774 will, proved 1775, UC Wills A-134.

It is also worth noting that Francis Kain seemed to have had some connection to Graham's as well. See these entries from the Colden Store:

Page	Date	Acct#	Surname	FN	Prs at Store	Amt Spent
019-09	1767-08-27*	130	Ghrames	Andrew Jr	Kain	
020-01	1767-08-27	058	Graham	Thomas	Fra's Kain	0 6 6
064-02	1767-10-16	130	Graham	Andrew Jr	Francis Kain	0 4 6
064-03	1767-10-16	002	Graham	Andrew	Francis Kain	0 11 6
401-06	1768-9-13	241	Kain	Frances	Andrew Graham's daughter	0 5 0

*Note same date as Francis Kain transaction on Gillespy acct.

The genealogy of the Kain family is complicated, and one can get lost in a number of rabbit holes pertaining to this family (I can attest). See Appendix B for my research notes. For this discussion, we know that Francis Kain married an Elizabeth Graham at the Shawangunk RDC on 18 Feb 1766. Francis' sister, Margaret Kain, married Andrew Graham, the predominant given name we see in the table above. And yet in the 1779 tax assessment, we find only Andrew Graham Jr. in Hanover Precinct rather than in Shawangunk Precinct where Francis Kain was living. In fact, Andrew Jr. was double-taxed because his father, Andrew Graham Sr., had “removed within enemy lines.”¹⁸

There has been at least one other passing reference to a Gillespie-Graham connection,¹⁹ so maybe the connection between Francis Kain and Gillespy's was through the Grahams? But beyond the Kain's and Gillespy's living in the same general area, we still don't have enough evidence to come to any conclusion about how the Kain's and Gillespy's might otherwise be connected.

However, I did find two Ulster County deeds involving Kain's that were of interest:

HH-258: 25 Apr 1772, recorded 1785. Robert Kain and wf Mary²⁰ to Jacob Millspaugh, west side of Paltz River (also Walkill River) *in Hanover Precinct*, part of a tract of 1000 acres granted by letters patent to David Galatian, dec, father of said (?) James, 173 ac. Wits were Thomas Knox and **James Gillespy**.

I believe this property was just across the precinct line between Shawangunk and Hanover. It appears that Jacob Millspaugh had a son named Adam, and so possibly the residence of A. Millspaugh on the following map²¹ shows where this property was located.

18 1779 Tax Assessment of Ulster County, NY State Archives, Albany, NY; Hanover Precinct, last page.

19 DAR Ancestor #A044822; application of Enid Crawford Pierce submitted 1 October 1919. Much of the information in this application is incorrect, in my opinion. Capt. John Gillespie was known to have married Magdalena Smedes, whereas the application names his spouse as Mary Graham. The source of a spouse named Mary Graham is unknown and, to my knowing, has never been sourced elsewhere.

20 Presumed Robert Kain Sr.

21 Map of the Town of Montgomery, Orange County. January 25th, 1798. David Galatian, W. H. Smith. Identifier: NYSA_A0273-78_360. Date: January 25 1798. Source New York State Archives. New York (State). State Engineer and Surveyor. Survey maps of lands in New York State, ca. 1711-1913. Series A0273-78, Map #360.



It should be noted that James Gillespy, both Sr. and Jr., were assessed in Hanover precinct in 1779. Gillespy's who lived in Hanover Precinct and their neighbors will be discussed more in an upcoming article.

[MM-128](#): 8 May 1794, John Sleght, sheriff, to James G. Graham and Justus Banks, based on the judgment against [Francis Kain](#) for 139 pounds of debt, which was recovered at the Supreme Court in Albany, but there were more costs, so sheriff auctioned off Francis Kain's land, part of a tract of land formerly conveyed by Johannis Hardenbergh of Rosendale onto Jacob Rutsen & by sundry conveyances of the last will of Robt Kain of Sgk, dec, FK became seized of Lot #1 (?) of said tract, property description includes division line between lands of estate of Jacob Hasbrouck dec; 140 ac.

This last deed pertaining to Francis Kain seems the most telling. Francis Kain does not appear in the 1790 or 1800 federal census, and given that I've not been able to learn anything more about him or his family, or whatever became of him, this deed tells us he was a person in debt. It further makes us wonder about all the trips to the Colden Store – maybe he was not picking up items for the Gillespy or Graham families, maybe the items were for himself and he simply couldn't pay for them. We know that Francis had Graham in-law's, so they might have been willing to help him financially. But again, we are left wondering about Francis' connection to the Gillespy's.

Conclusions

I have learned a lot about Shawangunk Precinct from doing this study, and how much of it was settled by Dutch and German settlers. But there were some Scots and/or Scot-Irish in there also. Of the names studied in this article, the Graham's and the Kain's are the most interesting as they might relate to James Gillespy of the 1770 deed. I am beginning to formulate a few ideas about Gillespy-Graham-Kain connections, but it's still early and more research is required.

Appendix A – Graham Family Groups

This is the earliest Ulster County reference I have seen for the surname Graham:

from History of Ulster County

side of Rondout Kill, and known by the name of Mumbackus, laid out for Leonard Beckwith.

1686—April 4—Description of a survey of 2000 acres of land lying upon both sides of the Well's River, in the town of New Pauls, beginning on the east side of the river, and at the south end of a small island in the river at the mouth of the river Chauwagung, laid out for **James Graham**.

This tract was at the junction of the Shawangunk and the Wallkill, on the east side or slope of the ridge or hill called Nescotack.

1686—April 5—Description of a tract of 83 acres on the north side of the Esopus

It so happens that I ran across several deeds involving Derick Roosa which refer to the place Noskotack. My friend, D. Hart., helped me to identify the place as Neskotak, which was/is generally located on the west side of the Walkill River around a hamlet called Guilford (referred to in the Roosa deed), around where the [Guilford Dutch Reformed Church](#) (now the Gardiner Reformed Church) can be located in Gardiner, New York. This is indeed the place where the two rivers come together, and it is a mere six miles from the place where Derick Roosa and James Gillespy were neighbors.

So who was this James Graham in 1686?? This excerpt²² might give additional clues:

a daughter of Colonel Thomas Ellison, and had several children.

Andrew Graham.

The Graham family of Orange County is of Scotch origin, and probably nearly related to that of James Graham of New York and Westchester, who was a merchant in New York City as early as 1678. To him were patented large tracts of land in Ulster County, Staten Island, and New Jersey. He succeeded Mr. Budyard as attorney-general of the province December 10, 1685, and was appointed to the governor's council October 8, 1687. When in Boston he shared the hard fortune of Governor Andros, and was imprisoned in the Castle. In 1691 he was made speaker of the General Assembly, and in the same year resumed his duties as attorney-general. He was again a member of the council in 1699. He died January 21, 1701, at his country seat at Westchester. The Grahams who settled in Orange County were substantial and liberal Churchmen. Andrew Graham was a vestryman of St. Andrew's in 1790, and subsequently warden. In that year James G. Graham was a warden of the parish.

²² Archives of the General Convention (Episcopal Church), edited by Arthur Lowndes, Volume 3, The Correspondence of John Henry Hobart 1802-1804, New York, 1911; p. 553

There were likely other Graham family groups in early Ulster county, and other researchers have suggested there were unrelated Graham families in the Hanover/Shawangunk area during this time period.²³ I tend to agree. In this round of research, I find these Graham families which could well have been distinct:

1. James G. Graham
2. James and John Graham
3. Robert Graham

James G. Graham

This person was discussed earlier in this article. We really don't know anything about his origins, or whether he had connections to the other Graham's in the area. More study would be required to fill in more details. The only thing we can say for certain is that he was a neighbor of James Gillespy in 1770, and in later years, he seems to have been an acquaintance of Kain's and Andrew Graham (see Robert Graham family group).

Summary of the James G. Graham family:²⁴

- married to Jemima Forbes (Forbisch) on 30 Oct 1776 in Kingston
 - Elizabeth, b 1779 + W H Hart
 - Anne, b 1784 + Jacobus Bruyn
 - Catherine 1789-1876 + Chichester Brown MD
 - Jemima 1790-1876
 - Maria 1791-1862
 - George G 1795-1860 + Catherine McCoy m 1820

James and John Graham

These two almost escaped my notice. The first time I read the will of Robert Kain Sr., I saw that the witnesses were John Graham, Samuel Irwin, and James G. Graham. Even though the vital dates of James G. Graham are unconfirmed, he was thought to have been born around 1751, which would make him only 23 years old when he witnessed Robert Kain's will. While possible, that doesn't seem likely to me. So I went back to look at the will more closely. I realized that my first reading of James G. Graham was really James **J.** Graham, and that in the summer of 1775, James J. Graham, merchant, went to the probate court in NYC to affirm being a witness on Kain's will. Who was James J. Graham, merchant, and how did he know Robert Kain, Sr.?

Indeed, the 1779 tax assessment of Shawangunk shows one James G. Graham nearby to William Gillespy, and later listed next to each other we find a John Graham (39 acres) and a James Graham (19 acres) listed not far from where Francis Kain and his known relations were assessed.

There were only two other Graham's assessed in 1779 Shawangunk: Daniel and William. All the Graham's related to Robert Graham were assessed in Hanover.

23 "[GRAHAM!](#) February 2, 1768 at the Colden Store, Coldenham, New York" by Jay Campbell, 2 February 2018.

24 This tree is for general reference; the information here is not confirmed by me.

Also, I can't help but wonder if this John Graham was one who kept Graham's Tavern²⁵ which was across from the Shawangunk Reformed Church. More research is needed.

and has been in operation many years.

There were many taverns in this town in the olden time. Among the first was that kept by John Graham, near the site of the Reformed Dutch Church. This remained in the possession of the Graham family for many years. During the Revolution George Smith kept a tavern at Bruynswick. Among other old bonifaces there were Cornelius Louw. William T.

Finally, who was Capt. John Graham of the early Ulster militia? The same Capt. John Graham who, according to the pension file of James Crawford, deserted to the British around the time of the battle at Ft. Montgomery?²⁶

Robert Graham

It's hard to know where to start with the family group of Robert Graham Sr. because I have found no substantive documentation, but I also have not gone very far out of my way to research this family group in depth. Here is what most undocumented trees have to say, but I can't really vouch for the accuracy of any of them:

Robert Graham Sr. died 1766 + Anna Garret:

- Mary 1710-1774 + Robert Kain Sr. (I have my doubts about this one)
- Andrew 1714-1778 + Bell (?) Cool
- John 1718-1778 (Grahamsville?)²⁷ + Catrina Westbrook
 - Elizabeth who married Francis Kain ? (This is not at all certain, in my mind.)
- Robert 1722 - + Lea Terwilliger
 - Catherine who married Robert Kain Jr.
- Jane/Jennie 1728-1764 + Jacobus Bruyn
- Elizabeth 1721-1774 + Jas. Daley Jr

As we can see, a lot of people think these Graham's and the Kain's intermarried in several places. Remember that Robert Graham and Robert Kain were listed among the early settlers of Shawangunk. If true, it's likely these families were closely connected, but I sure would like to see/find a lot more documentation to support these claims.

One particular point of confusion for me is the son of Robert Graham Sr., Robert Graham Jr. Many if not most family trees say that Robert Graham Jr. married Lea Terwilliger (1725-1792). The will of Robert Graham Jr., written and proved in 1799, clearly names his wife as Ann, and his brother-in-law

²⁵ [The History of Ulster County, New York](#), edited by Alphonso Trumbour Clearwater, p 378.

²⁶ “**GRAHAM!** February 2, 1768 at the Colden Store, Coldenham, New York” by Jay Campbell, 2 February 2018.

²⁷ There's a great deal of lore about the John Graham who died in an Indian ambush in 1778. Whether this John Graham is the same person is a question mark to me. But this question is one to keep in mind because the incident was very well described in the pension application of Andrew Gillespie. Andrew was born in 1763 in Shawangunk and is thought to be a son of the James Gillespy who sold Shawangunk property in 1770.

as Jason Wilkin, making his wife Ann Wilkin. Was Ann the second wife of Robert Graham Jr.? Perhaps. But neither Robert nor Ann named children in their wills, and both specifically left legacies to the Reformed Church that would later be known as Graham's church. So this point is an open question: Was Robert Graham who married Ann Wilkin and who started Graham's church also the son of Robert Graham who supposedly died somewhere in the area in 1766? If not, then what were the origins of Robert Graham who died in 1799?

Putting that question aside, the points that are most important in this research about the Robert Graham who died in 1799 are:

- A connection with Samuel Gillespy, who was a trustee and later elder of the new Graham's church.
- A connection with Matthew Gillespy, deceased. Robert's will left a legacy to Ann Gillespy, daughter of Matthew, deceased, who was living with Robert at the time he wrote his will.

The Ann Gillespy mentioned in Robert Graham's will, 1787-1853, daughter of Jane Neely and one of the Gillespie brothers (Matthew or William),²⁸ married William Brown, and they removed to Bethel. Sixteen years after Brown died in 1826, Ann married William Gillespie,²⁹ also a widower and several years older than Ann. This William was the son of James Gillespie and Mary Brown Bannerman, and he was a cousin once removed from Ann. To my current thinking, both William and Ann descended from James Gillespy who sold his Shawangunk property in 1770.

28 See "[Introducing John Gillespy/Gillespie of Shawangunk, Ulster, NY](#)" by MA Schaefer, 5 October 2019, pp. 7-9.

29 Here's the order of events:

1. Ann Gillespy's first husband, William Brown, died in 1826. William Gillespie was named executor of William Brown's estate.
2. William Gillespie's wife, Mary Van Riper, died in 1840.
3. In 1841 William Gillespie signed over some Bethel land to the widow Ann Brown and her children for \$1.
4. In 1842, William Gillespie married Ann Gillespie Brown, his cousin once removed.
5. William Gillespie died in 1849. Ann Gillespie Brown Gillespie died in 1853.

Appendix B – Kain Research Notes

Here is an unverified summary of the family group of Robert Kain Sr. Most of these names, however, including those of husbands of daughters, were specified in Robert's will, dated 1774, proved 1775.

- wife was Mary, reportedly Graham, 1710-1774
 - Francis Kain + Elizabeth Graham (he was of Shawangunk, she was of Walkill); m 1766
 - Maria (Polly) + Abram Terwilliger
 - Margaret
 - Mary
 - James Kain Esq. 1746-1818 + Maria Schoonmaker
 - Robert Kain Jr 1753-1789 + Catherine Graham
 - John Kain d 1788 + Ida Hoffman
 - Margaret Kain 1746-1812 + Andrew Graham (probably Jr)
 - Catherine Kain 1752-1812 + John Laurence
 - Elizabeth Kain 1751-unk + Michael Johnson
 - Mary Kain + Robert Dunlap

Here is a summary of the main points I've learned in researching the Kain family:

- Supposedly Robert Kain and Robert Graham were among the earliest settlers of Shawangunk precinct.³⁰
- Robert Kain Sr. (d. 1775) had a wife named Mary, reportedly Mary Graham. In addition, by my count, three of Robert Sr.'s children married Graham's (Francis m. Elisabeth Graham, Robert Jr. m. Catherine Graham, and Margaret m. Andrew Graham). But as previously stated, there might well have been different Graham family groups in the area at the same time (see Appendix A), and in my opinion, more detailed research is required.
- James Kain, the Kain who was assessed nearest to William Gillespy in the 1779 tax assessment, was, I believe, the brother and not the son of Robert Kain Sr. James Kain Sr. was married to a Winfield (closest neighbor to the east), and his is the will that mentions other siblings in Armagh. The will of James Kain Sr. was written in 1779 (in the summer before the assessment, which took place in December 1779), and it was proved around 1793. However, I am sure that James Sr. died before 1790 when we see Magdalena Kain enumerated in Shawangunk. Magdalena Winfield Kain, wrote her will in November 1793, and that was proved in September 1794. The following year, the executors of James' will sold his property at auction – notably the property he owned was *on the east side of the Walkill River*.³¹

Given that both James Kain Sr. and his wife had died by 1794, who was the James Kain apparently occupying the premises seen on the 1798 map? He might have been the son of Robert Kain Sr., James Kain Esq. 1746-1818, the one enumerated in 1790 Shawangunk – but I

30 "[History of Ulster County, New York](#)" Extracted from Gazetteer of the State of New York, J. H. French, 1860, pp 660-669.

31 I'm beginning to believe that the farm of Robert Kain Sr. as well as property owned by his sons was on the east side of the Walkill. Research on this point is in process. The property occupied by James Kain (brother of Robert Kain Sr) on the west side of the river was likely acquired from the Winfield family (wife of James Kain).

somehow have my doubts. It could be that the author of the map (surveyor, Johs. Bruyn) knew who originally owned each farm and wrote those names even if the settler was no longer alive (e.g., we know Cornelius Bruyn died in 1777, but C. Bruyn appears on the 1798 map). This point is an open question, but I don't think it is one that has any immediate bearing on the question of how Francis Kain (nephew of James Kain Sr.) might have been connected to the Gillespy's.

- The real question is who was Francis Kain? He occupied land that his father, Robert Sr., had previously purchased from Cornelius Loew (apparently never recorded). He married Elizabeth Graham whose ancestry is unknown, and visited the Colden Store frequently and often on behalf of others (Graham and Gillespy). His name was found on the rolls of Hasbrouck's company stationed at Ft. Montgomery (a list that includes the name of George Gillespy). Francis was not found on any subsequent census, and in 1794 his land was sold at auction by the sheriff due to his debts. I believe his connection to the Gillespy's was more than acquaintance, but so far, I've not found evidence of a Gillespy family tie.

Nevertheless, there is no doubt that the Kain family of Shawangunk came from Armagh, which is a place where my Gillespie progenitor fought in the 1798 Rebellion. Just for fun, here are Kain names I found in Armagh:

1796 Flax Growers, County Armagh, Ireland

Kain	Alexander	Armagh	Armagh
Kairns	Barny	Armagh	Armagh
Kairns	John	Armagh	Armagh
Kane	Charles	Tynan	Armagh
Kane	John	Armagh	Armagh
Kane	John	Tynan	Armagh
Kane	Peter Quen	Ballymore	Armagh
Kane	Thomas	Tynan	Armagh
Kane	William	Kilmore	Armagh

<https://www.failteromhat.com/flax/armagh.htm>