

Updated Case Studies

Of Gillespy/Gillespie Families

In Early Ulster/Orange/Dutchess, New York

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Boulder, CO

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Revision 1

Revision History:

- Case Studies of Gillespie Families in Dutchess & Orange, NY 1800-1830; 12 Oct 2012
- Case Studies of Gillespie Families in Ulster County, NY, 1800-1850; 22 Nov 2013
- A Research Update On Case Studies Of Gillespy/Gillespie Families In Early Ulster/Orange, New York, 8 October 2019

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Preface

I realize there are a number of areas in my NY Gillespie research where I am probably rocking the proverbial boat. The constant questioning on my part, and the occasional offering of new theories that might also explain established and emerging evidence, are not meant to be disrespectful of any research and/or theories that precede me. I am not a professional historian and I am learning as I go about the geography and culture of colonial New York. I am also not a certified genealogist, but neither am I a hobbyist. Genealogy is a serious endeavor to me, and I am solely responsible for presenting my research, sources, evidence, and analysis in a mindful manner. I trust the readers who care as much as I do about the correctness and completeness of family history to make sound judgments of their own about the veracity of my research.

Genealogy and family history do not happen in vacuum. Every day, I find reason to be grateful for all the previous and ongoing work of others, and I welcome the exchange of ideas. To keep moving forward, I think we just keep asking “How do I know what I think I know?” The answer should be recorded so that others asking the same, similar, or new questions can evaluate for themselves if the history we are telling about our families is true, not according to current or past beliefs, but in accordance with fact and logic. Such family histories are worth telling and passing along.

Finally, I am writing these words sheltered in place due to the pandemic of COVID-19 which has killed thousands of souls in Asia and Europe, and which is now spreading across North America. At the moment my family and friends and I have our health, but we are no less impacted by the anxiety of increasing uncertainty at every level of life. While our local, national, and global society is effectively shutting down, spring is upon us. The birds are returning, and the bulbs are pushing their way into warmer days. I am walking most days in the community gardens, and bicycling farther with fewer cars on the street. Opening windows, listening to the rain, waiting for the lilacs. Cleaning carefully, cooking creatively, reading history and poetry, watching sci-fi, writing letters and genealogy articles. All while thinking of our ancestors, and how they lived sometimes just to survive. I shall do no less as I know every intrepid soul on earth is now doing. May we turn our collective faces toward these times of such extreme hardship with the belief that a new day is coming.

MAS

Boulder, Colorado

March 31, 2020

Introduction

I've covered a lot of ground in my research of NY Gillespie's in the last several months. In the effort to update the information I previously published via [my research website](#), I realize that constantly cross-referencing related information between different articles is not practical if we're all looking for one source that summarizes Gillespie case studies in early Ulster/Orange/Dutchess, New York. So this is my best effort to combine my previous articles pertaining to Gillespie case studies with my latest research. The result is an article of longer page count than I prefer to post, but one that I believe is still worthwhile. With the completion of this article, I intend to remove the articles mentioned in the Revision History (see title page) from my website so that researchers are not confused by inconsistent and/or conflicting information.

I include here some of the introduction material from previous articles to give context for this research project.

First, how do I relate to any early NY Gillespie? At this point, the answer is Very Indirectly. I descend from Gillespie's who settled in Oakland and later Genesee county, Michigan in the 1850s. These Gillespie's migrated from Quebec, and from County Armagh, Northern Ireland before that. They were the children of John Gillespie and his second wife, Jane Woods. In 2010, we discovered that children from John Gillespie's first marriage had migrated to Michigan even earlier, in the 1830s. According to Michigan land patents, these Gillespie's had previously been of Orange County, New York. Thus began my research into Gillespie family groups with roots in Orange County, NY, which subsequently included the surrounding counties of Dutchess and Ulster.

In my initial research, I determined that the children from John Gillespie's second marriage arrived in the New York area just before the War of 1812, thus concluding that there was no connection between my Gillespie's and those Gillespie family groups that were in the Ulster/Orange/Dutchess area prior to 1812. However, recent DNA matches have suggested that my Gillespie's were indeed related to the Ulster/Orange/Dutchess Gillespie's, although the exact connection is still unknown. I have re-opened my research to study the Gillespie family groups found in early NY before 1810, not only to better understand their lives, but also in hopes of finding more exact clues about their origins.

Second, the focus of my previous case studies was mostly on men of the surname Gillespie (variant spellings can include GILLASPIE, GILLISPIE, GILLESPIE, GILLASPY, GALASPY, GLASPIE), and who had the given name of James, John, Robert, and Alexander. I did this because these given names carried through generations of my Michigan Gillespie's. I have since widened my NY Gillespie research to include men with the given name of William, Samuel, and Matthew. The given names of George, David, Joseph, and Thomas are of tertiary interest but they are not included here.

Third, a word about New York locales. After the British took over the Dutch colony of New Amsterdam in 1664, renaming it New York, 12 counties were formed in the New York colony in 1683, three of which were Dutchess, Ulster, and Orange. Most of the case studies described here pertain to these counties, and within Ulster/Orange, I am focused on the precincts of Mamakating, Hanover, Walkill, Shawangunk, New Windsor, and Newburgh. As my recent research has expanded, Albany county and New York county (two more of the original 12 counties) have also become of interest, as well as Rensselaer county which was formed from Albany in 1791. However, for this article I have not attempted to identify specific Gillespie family groups in these latter three counties, and any reference to those counties here is only suggesting ties to the Ulster/Orange Gillespie families.

Finally, the update of these Gillespie case studies is the result of renewed research efforts over the last seven months. I want to say I have it all figured out now, and we have certainly made progress in identifying (or beginning to identify) two Gillespie family groups.¹ We have furthermore begun to connect Rensselaer Gillespie's with Ulster/Orange Gillespie's,² which is also a leap in our understanding of these family groups. Still, not all the case studies described here fit into these family groups, and the evidence even suggests more missing characters who we haven't yet identified. All of which means there is more to the NY Gillespie story yet to discover and understand. Genealogy research is never done.

1 [Summary of Two Gillespie Family Groups](#) Serving Ulster/Orange, New York in the American Revolution; MA Schaefer, 2 November 2019.

2 [One James Gillespie or Two?](#) Troy, NY 1799-1803 & A Possible Brother of Robert Gillespie; MA Schaefer; 14 December 2019. This article introduces the Gillespie's of Rensselaer County, and an upcoming article is in process explaining more about their connections to the Gillespie's of Ulster/Orange.

Gillespie Family Groups

For the first time since I started cataloging NY Gillespie's, I will here attempt to group the case studies I have done into family groups, which, at the moment, I think of as distinct. But even now, I say that with some pause because there is a clear possibility that some of these family groups are related to each other. Whether such connections can be made is the subject of another article. For now, I will attempt to group the case studies in this article under the Gillespie family group to which I believe them to belong. Of course, my research is always ongoing, and so new understandings could lead to updates.

Note: Another Gillespie researcher, Douglas Hart,³ has generated a compendium of Gillespie family groups in early New York. You can contact him for more information you might be looking for with regard to Gillespie's in early New York.

- ***Dutchess Relations***
 - A.1 Alexander Gillespie of Clinton
 - A.2 John Gillespie of Poughkeepsie
 - A.4 James Gillespie of Fishkill
- ***DeNormandie Relations***
 - A.3 Dr. John DeNormandie Gillespie, 1777-1833
 - D.1 James Gillespie, brother of John DeNormandie
- ***Argyle Patent Relations***
 - B.4 Neil Gillespie of Argyle Patent
- ***Major John Relations***
 - B.1.1 Major John Gillespie of Hanover/Saugerties
 - C.6.2 Matthew, son of Major John
- ***Ulster/Orange Relations***

Some researchers classify these Gillespie's as the Montgomery Gillespie's, or the Pine Bush Gillespie's. For now, I have included here all those Gillespie's as well as those from other areas of Ulster to include Shawangunk and Mamakating.

- B.1.3 John Gillespie of Shawangunk
- B.2.1 James Gillespie Sr. of Shawangunk, d 1749
- B.2.2 James Gillespie Jr. of Shawangunk, son of James d 1749
- C.1.2 John Gillespie of Montgomery, 1746-1821
- C.1.3 John R. Gillespie of Newburgh, d 1810
- C.2.1 Pvt. James Gillespie, d 1780
- C.2.2 James Gillespie & Mary Moffat of Goshen
- C.2.3 James Gillespie & Betsey Moffat of Hamptonburgh
- C.2.4 James Gillespie, Father of Matthew
- C.3.2 Pvt. Robert Gillespie, d 1778
- C.4.1 William Gillespie of Shawangunk/Newburgh, 1737-1813
- C.4.2 William Gillespie, son of Samuel

³ Ancestry.com, userid = batjac11.

- C.4.3 William Gillespie of Bethel
- C.5.2 Samuel m. Esther Rainey
- C.5.3 Samuel, son of Samuel and Esther
- C.6.1 Matthew Gillespie Sr, 1742-1797
- C.6.3 Matthew moved to KY, 1775-1857
- C.6.4 Matthew, boat captain, 1772-1839
- Unplaced
 - B.2.3 James Gillespie of Hurley/Rochester
 - B.1.2 John D. Gillespie of Marbletown
 - B.2.4 Alexander H. Gillespie of Rochester
 - C.1.4 John Gillespie, m a Crawford
 - C.2.3 James Gillespie and Bestsey Moffat of Hamptonburgh
 - C.3.1 Robert Gillespie and Lea Crans
 - D.2 James Gillespie, 1790 NYC
 - D.3 James Gillespie, Revolutionary Pensioner

A. Gillespie's in Dutchess County

I did not find the Gillespie surname prevalent in Dutchess County prior to 1830. Of those I found, those discussed in this section were of interest to me.

A.1 Alexander Gillespie of Clinton

This name jumps out at me because several males in my branch of Michigan Gillespie's, including that of my gg-grandfather, were so named. Here's what I found of this particular Alexander Gillespie:

He was found in the same church records as those of the Grier's – the Pleasant Valley Presbyterian Church. As early as 17 Feb 1810, there is a record of an Alexander Gillespie from the Associate Reformed Church⁴ in New York (assume NYC) being accepted into the church. It looks like he was dismissed in 1822 because he was returning to NYC⁵, although there is some uncertainty about the reason for dismissal in my notes. Alexander Galaspie was enumerated in Clinton, Dutchess, NY in the 1820 census with one male over 45, one female 26-44, one male and one female 10-15, and one male under 10.

The only other Gillespie mentioned in the Pleasant Valley church records was a Mary Gillespie in 1812, with no remarks.

Here are the Dutchess county deeds pertaining to Alexander:

- 1812 – Alexander of Clinton purchased land just south of the Dutchess turnpike (DC deed 26-657)
- 1827 – Alexander of City/County of NY and wife Mary sold to Thurston, same land in 1812 deed located in Pleasant Valley. (DC deed 38-225)

An 1829 NYC directory listed Alexander Gillespie, weaver, living at 166 Spring.⁶

A.2 John Gillespie of Poughkeepsie

A will was recorded for a John Gillespie of Poughkeepsie on 25 May 1833.⁷ In the will, John bequeathed a house in Bloomfield, Essex, New Jersey to his beloved wife Esther, and asked that any other properties in New York be sold at auction with proceeds going to his daughter, Margaret – who is apparently at that time under the age of 21 as he makes stipulations about what should happen if she marries before 21. There is a mention of other conditions upon which things should be divided equally **among his brothers and sisters**, though they are not named. Finally, the executors were James Fort and John Bodden.

4 A Study of [Gillespy Religious/Church Associations](#) in Ulster County, NY; MA Schaefer, 12 March 2020.

5 This comes from my research trip to NY in 2012, and the research notebook is currently in storage so I can look up the exact reference. It probably comes from a source I found while working at the Dutchess County Genealogical Society.

6 Longworth's American Almanac: New York Register and City Directory, Thomas Longworth, 1829; familysearch.org.

7 Dutchess County Wills, I-319.

Here are the Dutchess county deeds pertaining to John of Poughkeepsie:

- 1832 – Westervelt of Poughkeepsie to John of New York City, land in Poughkeepsie (DC deed 49-448)
- 1833 – administrators of John's estate, James Fort and John Bodden sold farm to Leonard Carpenter (DC deed 51-602)

See also my [blog post](#) pertaining to this John Gillespie. It feels like he could have some connection to my Michigan Gillespie's but so far, I haven't found it.

A.3 Dr. John DeNormandie Gillespie, 1777-1833

According to my latest research, John DeNormandie Gillespie was the son of George Gillespie and Harriet Elizabeth DeNormandie. George Gillespie of Bristol, Bucks, PA, formerly of St. Mary's, Jamaica, wrote his will dated 1 Dec 1781 which named Elizabeth as his wife, and sons as DeNormandie (John), James, and George. Harriet Elizabeth Gillespie of Clinton, Dutchess, NY wrote her will on 3 Jun 1801, which mentions her sons as James, John DeNormandie, and George.

This John Gillespie was born around 1777, supposedly in New Jersey.⁸ He married Susan Maria Bedford at the Presbyterian Church in Goshen in 1808, and they had three children: Sarah, George D. and Harriet Elizabeth. He became a medical doctor, and he lived in both New York City⁹ and Dutchess county. He died on 26 April 1833 and was buried at the St. James Episcopal Churchyard in Hyde Park, Dutchess, NY.

Note that DeNormandie (as I believe this John Gillespie was sometimes called) was a different individual from John D. Gillespie of Marbletown (case [B.1.2](#)). This John DeNormandie Gillespie was about 14 years older, and he died before the John D. Gillespie of Marbletown.

See case [D.1](#) for research pertaining to James, brother of John DeNormandie Gillespie.

A.4 James Gillespy of Fishkill, 1820

This James Gillespie appears in the 1820 census of Fishkill, and, I believe, the 1830 census of Newburgh. In both censuses, this household had one individual, probably James, who was not naturalized. For this reason, I suspect that this James Gillespie arrived shortly before or after the War of 1812, and his household mostly likely contains individuals who made the trek to Michigan after 1830. These Gillespie's are likely the most directly related to my branch of Gillespie's.

But were my Gillespie's related to all those in the Ulster/Orange area who had been there long before the Revolution? DNA evidence has begun to suggest the answer to that is Yes.

8 Michigan death certificate #315, George DeNormandie Gillespie, died 19 March 1909 in Grand Rapids, MI. Parents were named along with their birth places. Informant was Josephine E. Wheelock, relationship to decedent unknown.

9 See 1810 US Federal Census, and [NYC directories](#) (NY Public Library Digital Collections). Biographical register of Saint Andrew's society of the state of New York; by MacBean, William M.; 1922; #748, p 3.

B. Gillespie's in Ulster County

The more I learn about New York jurisdictions, the harder it is for me to categorize my discussions because of people's movements and the changes of jurisdictional changes over time. With regard to Ulster county:

- Many of the southern towns went to Orange County in 1798. I will discuss Gillespie's who lived mostly in those towns in [Section C Gillespie's in Orange County](#).
- Sullivan county was split from Ulster County in 1809/ Those Gillespie's who lived mostly in those towns will be discussed in this section.

The jurisdictional areas of interest to me in this county are Mamakating and Shawangunk.

B.1 Gillespie Men Named John

B.1.1 Major John Gillespie of Saugerties, 1741-1810

I have categorized this John Gillespie in Ulster county because that's where he ended up. But I believe much of his life was spent in Hanover precinct (later Montgomery), and then New Windsor, so there is some cross-over here with Orange county.

The story of this John Gillespy has also been reproduced far and wide.¹⁰ To summarize, Major John (as I will call him here) came to America with his parents around 1740. His parents were purportedly John Gillespy b. abt 1716 in Glasgow, Scotland and Elizabeth Wilkins b. abt 1718 in Scotland. Major John was orphaned early on and went to live with his aunt (mother's sister), Martha Hunter, in New Windsor, NY. After serving with the English Navy in the French and Indian War, John bought a grist mill in Shawangunk area with his brother-in-law Matthew Smedes. John married Smedes' sister, Magdalena, in 1766. He later joined the Fourth Ulster Militia in the American Revolution as part of the regiment from Hanover (which included New Windsor, Hanover, Walkill, and Shawangunk) serving first as a captain and later as a major. After the war, he moved to New Windsor where he had a cooperage, a mill, owned a sloop, and was a justice of the peace. When his health began to fail, he moved to Saugerties to be near his son, and he died there in 1810. His wife Magdalena died in 1825. Children of Major John and Magdalena were: John I., Matthew, Benjamin, Elizabeth, Jason, Rachel, and Job.

At this point, Major John is considered of a different family group than the other Gillespie's found in early Ulster/Orange, but I think there's definitely room for some debate. The marriage record of John and Magdalena, clearly says that John was born in Walkill (either the precinct or the hamlet), which contradicts the story that he was born in Scotland. In addition, association with the Hunter name is a common denominator with other Gillespie family groups. Research on these possible ties continues.

B.1.2 John D. Gillespie of Marbletown, 1791-1854

First, I don't believe that John D. Gillespie of Marbletown was the same person as John DeNormandie Gillespie (case [A.3](#)), who was 20 years older and died in Hyde Park in 1833.

The first mention of John D. Gillespie is in 1818 for a christening of daughter Elizabeth at the First

¹⁰ Olde Vlster: An Historical and Genealogical Magazine, Volume 7, edited by Benjamin Myer Brink; Kingston, NY, 1911; "[Major John Gillespy and Family](#)" by John M. Taylor; p. 236.

Dutch Reformed Church in Rochester. Not only is the location of Rochester of interest, but so is the name of the mother: Sarah Smith. The Smith name has been tied to our Gillespie family back in Armagh, so we can wonder if the some of the Smith family in Armagh also made the migration to America. It can also be noted that an 1827 deed involves John D. Gillespie and wife Sarah along with several others, among them John H. Smith of Sullivan county.

John D. next appears in the 1820-1840 federal census of Marbletown, and again in the 1855 state census (it's not clear where he might have been at the time of the 1850 federal census). He was born in the 1790s, and although I have not done a complete study of every Gillespie household that had a male born in that time frame, when looking in the vicinity of Marbletown, the household of James Gillespie of Hurley and then Rochester (case [B.2.3](#)) seems like a good choice as John's father. If this is so, John D.'s mother was likely Elizabeth Brown who died in 1809. John D. was a blacksmith. He died in 1857 in Stone Ridge, Ulster, NY (2 miles from Marbletown).

A curious thing about John D.'s household in the 1830 and 1840 census is the presence of an older couple. In both census', the older couple is in the 60-69 age range, so either there were two different older couples in each census, or the age reporting on these census' was not exactly accurate. But who could the older couple be? If we surmise that the older couple was James Gillespie of Rochester, then he was enumerated twice in 1830, once in Rochester and again with John D. in Marbletown. If this is the case, James Gillespie was likely over 75 years old when he died. Or the older couple living in the household of John D. could be the parents of John D's wife, Sarah.¹¹ This is a question we can't answer at the moment.

B.1.3 John Gillespie of Shawangunk

This John was the son of Matthew Gillespie (case [C.6.3](#)) & Maria Tiers. I have written about him at some length in another article.¹²

B.2 Gillespie Men Named James

B.2.1 James Gillespie Sr. of Shawangunk, d. ~ 1749

This man, as well as his son, James Gillespie Jr. (case [B.2.2](#)), are new to my case studies, and I am excited to bring them on board because I think they will be key to our understanding of the early Gillespie family groups in Ulster/Orange. Who was James Gillespie Sr. of Shawangunk?

According to a 1770 deed from James Gillespie of Shawangunk to Matthew Bevier Jr., the grantor, James Gillespie, acquired the Shawangunk property in 1759 by quit-claim from his mother, Mary. The land had been bequeathed to James by his father, also named James Gillespie, who wrote his will in 1749. We are assuming that James Gillespie Sr. died around the time that he wrote his will (1749), and that his widow, Mary, either died or remarried in 1759 when she turned the land over to her son, James Gillespie Jr (case [B.2.2](#)).

I'm still in the process of figuring out this James Gillespie. Given that he presumably died 27 years before the Revolution, none of the Revolution records I've located apply to him. In fact, of the pre-

11 All early references (church records and deeds) refer to his wife as Sarah. Not until the 1855 state census do we see the name Jane. So either Jane is a second wife, or his wife Sarah might have also been known as Sarah Jane.

12 Connecting to Early Gillespie's, [Introducing John Gillespy of Shawangunk, Ulster, NY](#), Circa 1806-1880; MA Schaefer, 5 October 2019.

Revolution records I've located, only one pre-dates 1749, that being mention of a James Gillespy who was part of the Ulster County militia in 1738.¹³ In my opinion, this guy was one of the original Gillespie's to the Ulster area.

But what else can we say about James Gillespie Sr.? He wrote his will in 1749,¹⁴ and he presumably died around that time, though we can't know how old he was when he died. James Sr. had a wife named Mary who apparently lived until at least 1759, and he had a son, James Gillespie Jr. James Sr. had acquired 129 acres on the west side of the Walkill River, but we don't know when he acquired it or that he lived there. If he did, the neighbors mentioned in the 1770 deed were George Grahams and Dirk Rosa.¹⁵

B.2.2 James Gillespie Jr. of Shawangunk

This man was the son of James Gillespie Sr. (case [B.2.1](#)) and his wife, Mary. James Jr. acquired 129 acres in Shawangunk in 1759 by quit-claim from his mother, Mary, and the sold it in 1770 to Matthew Bevier Jr. That's what we know for sure, not much more. The problem with identifying this James Gillespie is that we don't know how old he was in the 1770 deed. When his mother quit-claimed him the Shawangunk property in 1759, was he 20 years or was he 50 years old? It seems more likely that he was younger because of the gap in time between his father's bequest (1749), and when he took possession of the property (1759). But we don't know for sure.

Of all the records pertaining to men named James Gillespie who might have been alive in 1770 in Ulster, New York, which might help us further identify this individual?¹⁶

1. He might have been the James Gillespy who enlisted in 1763 in Capt. James Clinton's company to guard the western frontiers of Ulster and Orange counties. James was age 24 (b abt 1739), born in Ireland, came from Capt. Neely's militia.
2. He might have been the James Gillespy in Mamakating Precinct who signed the 1775 pledge as well as a 1779 petition to the governor for more forces to guard the western frontier. If so, this would imply that after selling the Shawangunk property in 1770, James Jr. relocated to Mamakating Precinct.
3. He might have been the James Gillespy in Hanover Precinct who was a member of the 1778 Association of Exempts. If so, this would imply that after selling the Shawangunk property in 1770, James Jr. relocated to Hanover Precinct.
4. He might have been the James Gillespy Jr. listed in the 1779 rolls of the 4th NY Regiment as having provided ammunition. The fact that this James was not listed as one of those fighting implies to me he was perhaps among those exempt (age or handicap). The Junior designation tells us there was another older James Gillespie in the area in 1779, and if the older James was not also exempt, then he was among the fighters. My feeling is that younger James in 1779 had some how become handicapped.
5. He might have been the James Gillespie of the 4th Regiment who was killed in 1780 (case [C.2.1](#)).

13 [A Study of Men Named James Gillespie](#), Early Ulster & Orange Counties, NY, 1730-1820, Rev. 2, MA Schaefer, 12 December 2019, p.6.

14 So far, this will has not been located, if it still exists.

15 [A Study of Gillespy Neighbors in Shawangunk](#) Precinct, Ulster County, NY, Pre-1800, MA Schaefer, 24 February 2020.

16 A Study of Men Named James Gillespie, Schaefer, December 2019.

6. He might have been James Gillespie Sr., case [C.2.4](#), thought to be brother of William, Samuel, Matthew, and Robert. The children of James Sr. are thought to include James Jr (+ Mary Brown Bannerman), Andrew, Matthew, Joseph, Josiah, Abigail, Margaret, and Jane/Jennie. This is the James who died in Montgomery in 1810, and his son Matthew was made executor.
7. He might have been the James Gillespie who married Mary Brown Bannerman (case [C.2.5](#)).
8. He might have died or removed from New York shortly after the 1770 deed was executed and so he was not one of the remaining men named James who we are trying to identify.

To make things even more complicated, this James might have been a combination of candidates shown above. For example, perhaps he signed the pledge in 1775 *and* then he was killed in 1780. Or perhaps he joined the militia in 1763, but then became injured and was a member of the Association of Exempts in 1778. And so on. Confirming the identity of this James Gillespie will be a challenge.

Finally, it can be noted that the 1779 tax assessments of Shawangunk show that a William Gillespie occupied 78 acres of property near the neighbors described in the 1770 deed.¹⁷ How that William Gillespie, (believed to be case [C.4.2](#)) came into possession of the property 9 years after James Gillespie sold it is not known, and how William was related to this James Gillespie is still only conjecture.

B.2.3 James Gillespie of Hurley/Rochester

This James Gillespie has been a long-time mystery because I've never been able to find ties between him and any other Gillespie family group. For awhile, I thought he was the brother of John DeNormandie Gillespie (case [A.3](#)), but now I don't think so (case [D.1](#)). So what do we know about this James Gillespie?

- We can first identify him in the 1800 census of Hurley. Hurley is about five miles southwest of Kingston, which is where Major John Gillespie (case [B.1.1](#)) could also be found in 1800. It is unknown whether these two family groups are related; I have so far not found any connection. Note that Hurley is different from New Hurley, which is a location close to Walkill.
- James was first married to Elizabeth Brown. They attended the Dutch Reformed Church Rochester where two of their daughters, Margaret and Jennet, were baptized.
- In 1808, James Gillespie ran an ad in the Ulster Gazette to sell his business because of ill health in the family. His wife, Elizabeth, died in 1809 and was buried at the Old Hurley Burying Ground.
- According to findagrave, there is a James Gillespie buried in the same cemetery as Elizabeth whose vital dates were 1755-1809. However, this information was according to DAR records, and after searching the DAR genealogy site, I could not find a James Gillespie with these dates.
- I contend that James Gillespie of Hurley did not die in 1809, but rather after his first wife's death he relocated to Rochester where he was enumerated in 1810. That household appears to be a continuation of the 1800 Hurley family, showing probably Margaret and Jennet previously mentioned, as well as a male born in the 1790s. This same household shows an older female who could be a second wife, which would be consistent with Elizabeth Brown's death in 1809.
- The History of Ulster County mentions that James Gillespie of Rochester was a merchant.

¹⁷ [A Study of Gillespie Neighbors in Shawangunk](#) Precinct, Ulster County, NY, Pre-1800, MA Schaefer, 24 February 2020.

- The 1820 census shows the addition of four children under 10, one male and three females to the James Gillespie household. The older male found in the 1820 census is no longer present in this household, but he was old enough that he could have been out on his own by then. In fact, a young couple headed by John D. Gillespie (case [B.1.2](#)) appears in Marbletown in 1820. I contend that John D. was the oldest son of this James Gillespie.
- an 1825 deed names the wife of James Gillespie of Rochester as Margery. The deed mentions a court case and an auction/sale of land in Rochester where James and Margery were residing. Other names mentioned in the deed include Schoonmaker, Davis, Dupuy, Chambers, and Cantine.¹⁸
- the 1830 census shows a male in the 60-69 age bracket, so I guesstimate James-Rochester's age at 65, making his approximate year of birth around 1765.

B.3 Alexander H. Gillespie of Rochester

Alexander H. Gillespie first appeared in Rochester, Ulster, NY in 1840, Rochester being the previous residence of the James Gillespie of Rochester (case [B.2.3](#)) who I am so curious about. This Alexander H. was of the right age to have been the young male found in the household of James-Rochester in 1820.

In 1840, Alexander had three children under 10, and he was married to Jane Houghtaling (a very common name found in the Old Hurley Burying Ground, by the way). Curiously he also had four adults in his household in the 50-59 age category. I have to wonder if these are not parents of the couple, although the age category does not exactly fit to be James-Rochester, who I have already speculated might have been living with John D. Gillespie in 1840. It does seem more likely, however, that James-Rochester would be living in the same town where he had spent much of his life with his youngest son's new family.

By the next census in 1850, Alexander then appeared in Rosendale, Ulster, NY – closer to Marbletown. What's curious about Rosendale is that there were Bodley's there. There is a post on the ancestry message boards from somebody looking for parents for Rachel Gillespie who married Peter Bodley,¹⁹ and they suspect maybe John D. Gillespie of Marbletown was her father. Perhaps Alexander H. is also a consideration. In any case, by the time of the 1855 state census, Alexander H. was found in Marbletown along with John D. John D. was older by quite a bit and he was in Marbletown until his death in 1857 at the age of 63. Alexander was also in Marbletown for the rest of his life, and died in 1880.

So even though we cannot yet confirm any familial ties, it appears to me that John D. and Alexander H. were probably the sons of James Gillespie-Rochester (case [B.2.3](#)).

B.4 Neil Gillespie of Argyle Patent, 1714-1769

The story of Neil Gillespie is best told in the words of another long-time Gillespie researcher:²⁰

Neil Gillespie SR. & Family came to New York City in 1739, on the ship "Happy Return", as part of Lachlin Campbell's [Campbell Hall, New York] land grant scheme. He was born in Iveraray, Argyle

18 Ulster county deed; 29-31.

19 "Gillespie Family Ulster NY" & "Gillespie Family NY" by ElaneJelly, 27 February 2007.

20 Email correspondence, Frank Gillespie to MA Schaefer, "Gillespie Research"; 21 November 2013.

Country, Scotland about 1714. They came from the Isle of Islay, Argyle shire Scotland, and were the only Gillespie Family to come with LC. Neil G. was estate manager for Lachlin Campbell, who was probably a "Tactman" for the Campbells. Neil claimed to have been related [somehow] to the Campbells. Note.- The Campbells were Protestant Highlanders, not Jacobites, and were deeply involved with the British in the politics of the day. When the Land Patent scheme fell apart, Neil & Family went briefly to the Kakiate Patent, [In Today's Rockland County.] Then bought a farm in the "Wallkill Settlement" area in old Ulster County. Neil II was probably born in 1739 either on the Kakiate Patent, or on the farm in the "Wallkill Settlement." Neil II married Mary Van Winkle, their first born were twin boys born 2 April 1759, named John and Neil III.

Neil Sr. died in 1769, his will directed the Wallkill Farm be sold, and he split up his property in the Argyle Patent among his family, and the family moved upstate in 1770. The family did not do well, and through the years did not keep the property. The Neil II property was located near the Allan Family Massacre by the Le Loup Indian Group, Neil II was involved in the aftermath of this event. This is the same group of Indians involved in the Murder of Jane McCrea. The Gillespie family, with other locals, sought the protection of Burgoyne's Army and fled into his camp. Neil II & Mary were definitely Tory Sympathizers, but never took up arms against the Americans. A Neil Gillespie is listed as being a member of the Bounty Land Commission, the meaning of which I am not sure.

Please note, many mistakes found in early records, especially the Neils [Neals], I,II, III. Source information available if needed. NG I sons Gilbert & Angus, no records other than they came here. No mention in NGI Will. Location of Wallkill farm unknown, clues suggest it possibly somewhere near Coldenham, Just on the Ulster County side of the original Ulster/ Orange Border.

Neil Gillespy II & Mary Van Winkle probably married after the death of Neil I in Walkill in 1769 and the sale of the Walkill farm.²¹ I find no Van Winkle families in either the 1767-68 Colden Store²² records nor the 1779 tax assessments.²³ Wherever Neil II and Mary started their family, their children included a son named John Gillespie who was born in Albany County in 1790, and baptized in Saratoga County in 1791. It has been thought that this John Gillespie was the one who married Sarah McCreery and who served in the Revolution (case [C.1.2](#)), but it appears that John, the son of Neil Jr. and Mary Van Winkle, was a different individual, born after the Revolution, and who apparently ended up in Trimble, KY.

My Notes and Further Reading

- Argyle township is today located in Washington county, originally named Charlotte county. The county was formed from Albany county in 1772, and renamed in 1784 after the War of Independence.
- Lots of mention of Neil and family at the [Colden store](#) 1767-68 (just before he died).

21 Sadly, I have found no record of this deed.

22 [Daybook from Coldenham Store](#), Orange County Historical Society, database index of 1767-8.

23 1779 Tax Assessment of Ulster County, NY State Archives, Albany, NY: facsimiles provided by Jay Campbell, February, 2020; with thanks.

- Lots of good reading about the Argyle Patent:
 - [The Argyl Patent and Accompanying Documents](#), by Dennis Partridge, New York Genealogy
 - [The Argyle Patent](#) by NYGenWeb
 - [Argyle Patent Documents](#), blog by Renaissance Ann

C. Gillespie's in Orange County

First, let me speak to the county boundaries as they apply to this research. Both Orange and Ulster Counties were originally established in 1683. In [1798](#), the southern-most towns of Ulster were ceded to Orange County.

Next, I should speak of towns, which in New York refers to what I would usually call a township. A town in New York covers an area comprised of villages, sometimes also called hamlets.

During my research, I was organizing the Gillespie families by census town, and could not help notice the proliferation of Gillespie's found in Montgomery pre-1830, and no Gillespie's found in Crawford until 1830. This is because the town of Crawford was originally part of the town of Montgomery, which was settled around 1740. The town of Crawford became separate from the town of Montgomery in 1823 and includes the village (or hamlet) of Pine Bush, which was formerly called Crawford. Yeah, I know, confusing.

The jurisdictional areas of interest to me in this county are Walkill, Hanover (later Montgomery), New Windsor, Newburgh.

C.1 Gillespie Men Named John

C.1.1 John Gillespie of Crawford, 1725-1823

I believe now that the individual named John Gillespie identified in the DAR application for Ancestor #A044822 is incorrect in several of its assertions. The man described as an officer in Col. Hasbrouck's company was Captain/Major John Gillespie (case [B.1.1](#)). Major John Gillespie:

- was born in ~1741, not 1725
- married Magdalena Smedes, not Mary Graham
- did not have a daughter named Margaret
- died in Saugerties in 1810, not in Crawford in 1823.

The only sources listed in this application (which was approved by the DAR in 1919) corroborate the military service but have no other bearing on the family of John Gillespie. If there ever was a man named John Gillespie born in 1725, I have yet to find evidence of him. There might have been a John Gillespie married to Mary Graham, but again, no evidence of that has been found. And the parents of Margaret Gillespie Crawford are still unknown. However, the story in the application about there being six sons who served in the Revolution is interesting, especially now that I've located new records corroborating the capture and subsequent death of Robert Gillespie in 1777 (case [C.3.2](#)). Even so, the identity of the father of Robert Gillespie is still being researched.

C.1.2 John Gillespie of Montgomery, 1746-1821

This individual was a bit of mystery to me from the beginning. The only clues we have had about him were from another Gillespie researcher²⁴ who, after years of investigation, came to conclude that this John Gillespie was a descendant of Neil Gillespie (case [B.4](#)). In my latest round of research, I have come to another theory. Here is a summary of the evidence I have analyzed:

²⁴ Frank Gillespie, see "Gillespie Family Tree", ancestry.com, user = frgv8124.

First, after studying several Revolutionary sources with regard to this John Gillespie:

1. Starting with 1775 Pledge in Mamakating Precinct, a John Gillespie is mentioned as an inhabitant of Mamakating Precinct three times.
2. Also starting with the 1775 Mamakating Pledge and including several Revolutionary Rolls, the name of Pvt. David Gillespie appears together with that of Pvt. John Gillespie in the same companies. I tend to think that John and David were brothers.
3. Additionally, there is some evidence that there might have been a third John Gillespie who served in the Revolution, one besides Capt/Maj. John, and this Pvt. John. If true, he might have been the John Gillespie who died in 1810 (case [C.1.3.](#)) More research on this point is needed.

Second, we believe it was this John Gillespie who married Sarah McCreery in 1779 at the Good Will church. We think he is the same John Gillespie as mentioned above because of the pension application that Sarah filed after John's death in 1821. That document confirms the military service previously described.

Third, the identities of the children of John Gillespie and Sarah McCreery are still an open question. The censuses 1790-1820 indicate that the John Gillespie family had as many as five sons (male children) and two daughters (female children). The pension papers included a statement by a son named John, living in Sullivan county (1854). Also, Joseph Gillespie b. 1782 who married Hannah Sears is thought to be a son of John and Sarah, but again, that connection is unconfirmed. The only clue I have found so far is an 1805 deed²⁵ involving Joseph and Hannah Gillespie of Mamakating, witnessed by Benjamin Sears. The location of Mamakating seems to be a common thread in the life of this John Gillespie and his possible descendants.

Finally, my recent study of [New York bounty lands](#) pertaining to Gillespie's who died in the Revolution lead to a 1798 deed in Onondaga County involving John Gillespie and his wife, Sarah, of Montgomery, NY. I submit that the John Gillespie in the Onondaga deed was the same individual discussed here. The Onondaga deed was about selling interest in the bounty land granted to the heirs of James Gillespie who died in the Revolution in 1780. In my analysis of who would be considered next of kin to James Gillespie, I conclude that this John Gillespie was probably a sibling.²⁶ Given what we know of the life of Neil Gillespie and his descendants, I further believe that John, James, David, as well as other Gillespie's mentioned in the Onondaga bounty land deeds, were not descendants of Neil, but of a different Gillespie. Research pertaining to this new family group is ongoing.

C.1.3 John R. Gillespie of Newburgh, died 1810

This John Gillespie is also a subject of continuing mystery. A probate record for this John Gillespie named his widow as Polly, usually a nickname for Mary. John Gillespie was enumerated in Newburgh in the 1800 census and Polly appears in the 1810 census with four very small children. I can only think that Polly moved or remarried quickly after John's death as I don't find any guardianship papers for her young children nor clues about what became of any them. There remains a distinct possibility that members of this family group might have made the migration to Michigan.

25 Ulster county deeds, 19-190.

26 See my article, [Summary of Two Gillespy Family Groups](#) Serving Ulster/Orange, NY in the American Revolution, MA Schaefer, 2 Nov 2019, p. 3 and p. 6.

I did find one other clue pertaining to this John Gillespie: 1807 mortgage records in Dutchess county,²⁷ which used property in Phillipstown as collateral, twice. In these documents, John was noted as a carpenter. I have found no deed for the property mentioned, and it should be noted that this area became part of Putnam County in 1812. This Phillipstown clue feels like it should lead to some kind of AHA about John or Polly, but so far, I've not been able to make any further connection.

Finally, based on findings in my recent research, I have speculated that this John Gillespie was the son of Matthew Gillespie (case [C.6.1](#)) and Jane Neeley. Matthew died in 1797, and most of Matthew's children were mentioned in the will of their uncle, William Gillespie (case [C.4.1](#)), but not John. I think this could be because he (John) had died shortly before William wrote his will.

The story of this John Gillespie and what became of his wife and children after he died is still of intense interest to me.

C.1.4 John Gillespie, married a Crawford

I have added a new John Gillespie to this mix of case studies, one I previously overlooked:

John Galaspy married Martha Crawford on 11 Jun 1792 at the First Presbyterian Church in Goshen.

I'm aware of a few other Gillespie-Crawford marriages in the early NY Gillespie family groups:

- Samuel S. Crawford 1763-1840 married Margaret Gillaspy on 1 Mar 1785, also at the First Presbyterian Church in Crawford. One might guess this Gillespie-Crawford couple, one or both, might have been related to John and Martha.
- Abraham Gillespie 1788-1844, son of Samuel Gillespie and Esther Rainey, married Mary Crawford in 1812 at the Hopewell Presbyterian Church.
- A Jennie Gillespie married a Jonathan Crawford, but we don't know when or where, and what exactly Jennie's relationship was to other Gillespie's in the area.²⁸

What became of this couple, John and Martha? There were two John Gillespie's enumerated in Kingston in 1800, and they probably belong to the family group of Major John (case [B.1.1](#)). I find only two John Gillespie's enumerated in Orange county in 1800, one in Montgomery (probably case [C.1.2](#)), and one in Newburgh (probably case [C.1.3](#)). If we now have possibly three individuals named John Gillespie in Orange county and only two were enumerated in 1800, here are the possible scenarios:

- This John Gillespie died before 1800; whether he had children with Martha or what became of her are unknown.
- Martha Crawford died early, and John remarried to Polly Unknown; in this scenario, we are talking about the John Gillespie who died in Newburgh in 1810 (case [C.1.3](#)).
- John and Martha simply removed from the Orange county area. Other NY John Gillespie's were enumerated in Westchester and Saratoga counties in 1800. Outside of NY, there were John Gillespie's enumerated in PA, MD, DE, NC, SC, and Wash. DC.

²⁷ Dutchess County Mortgages, 12-21 and 13-265.

²⁸ Royce and Gillespie Family Book, Mary Royce Patton, 1962, p. 46.

C.2 Gillespie Men Named James

See also [B.2 Gillespie Men Named James](#) who I associated with Ulster County. There was almost certainly some cross-over from Ulster to Orange in the Gillespie family groups, especially among those named James.

C.2.1 Pvt. James Gillespie, d. 1780

- James Galasby (or Glasby and other spellings) served in the 4th New York Regiment under Capt. Benjamin Walker from Feb. 1777 until Feb. 1780 when James died.
- On 26 May 1783, Judge Landon issued letters of administration to William Gillespy, a sergeant in the 1st NY Regiment upon the estate of James Gillespy, private in the old 4th Regiment.²⁹
- In September 1790, 600 acres of bounty land were granted to the heirs of James Gillespie. The land was in Marcellus, Onondaga, New York, Lot #34, which was delivered to C. C. Schoonmaker for Wm. Gillespie, administrator.
- 20 November 1795, Onondaga Deed E-51.³⁰ Margaret Gillespie, and William Wallace and wife Elizabeth (Gillespie) of Ulster County, sold 2/5ths interest in Lot #34 which had been granted to James Gillespie, deceased.
- 1798, Onondaga Deed B-224.³¹ John Gillespie and wife Sarah, and Adam Libolt and wife Hanna (Gillespie) of Montgomery, Orange County sold 2/5ths interest in Lot #34 which had been granted to James Gillespie, deceased. Witnesses were William Hunter and Ann Gillespie.
- 1801 tax lists show that David Gillespie was living in Marcellus. Subsequent deeds and mortgages confirm that he and his family were living on Lot #34.

My conclusion from this evidence is that we can identify four Gillespie siblings with some degree of confidence: James (d 1780), John (~1746-1821) m. Sarah McCreery & served in the Revolution, David (~1754-1831) m. Abigail Mapes, also served in the Revolution and occupied the Marcellus land, and Margaret, probably an unmarried sister. Because Elizabeth Wallace and Hannah Libolt appear to have been from a younger generation, I am speculating they were the daughters of another Gillespie brother who had died prior to 1790. My feeling is that George Gillespie was that fifth sibling in this family group.

The idea that James, John, David, and George were siblings is further supported by the History of Ulster County which said the Articles of Association were signed by these Gillaspys who lived in the Mamakating precinct in 1775: James, John, David, and George.

See also my related [blog](#) post and [research article](#).

29 New York Genealogy and Biographical Records, Vol 1, p 187-88. Note that the source of this information is from a memorandum book of Judge Jared Landon who conducted probate in Rondout and Kingston while the British were occupying NYC.

30 By Cayuga County Clerk (parent county of Onondaga).

31 By Onondaga County Clerk.

C.2.2 James Gillespie & Mary Moffat of Goshen

This James is probably the one enumerated in Goshen in 1810 and his widow Mary appears in the same place in 1820. This James Gillespie died in 1817, and probate records show his wife was Mary, and his children were Sally, Eliza, Delila, Samuel, Martinus, and John, all born roughly between 1800-1812.

We don't know how old James was, but the vital dates for his wife Mary are 1781-1825, so I have calculated that James was born in the decade before 1780.

Given that my recent research has been particularly focused on men named James Gillespie, I've come across some new evidence, some of which might pertain to this James.

- Matthew Gillespie 1742-1797 (case [C.6.1](#)) and Jane Neeley had a son named James, and Matthew's brother, William Gillespie 1737-1813 (case [C.4.1](#)), became the guardian of Matthew and Jane's children around 1791.³² In his 1813 will, William named James as the son of his deceased brother Matthew.
- Several Orange County deeds³³ involved this James Gillespie and Jacob D. Smith and Daniel Milspaugh, among others. These associations have now lead me to believe that this was the James Gillespie associated with the Drowned Lands.³⁴

C.2.3 James Gillespie & Betsey Moffat of Hamptonburgh

Here is another new character, who may or may not be the same individual as case [C.2.2](#).

On 16 May 1802, a male child was christened at the church in Hamptonburgh,³⁵ and the parents were James Gillespey and Betsey Moffat. I have not seen the original record of this baptism to determine if there could be any transcription mistakes, but let's say the record is correct. What are the explanations?

- This James Gillespie was a different individual from the one in [case C.2.2](#). Hamptonburgh is less than five miles from Goshen, but given the number of Gillespie families in the area at this time, there could easily have been two individuals of the same name in the same area at the same time, most likely related, probably cousins.
- This individual was the same as the man in case C.2.2. Of the children attributed to James and Mary Moffat, a female named Sarah/Sally was born in/around 1802. If there was also a male born around that time, he was a twin and he died in infancy (perhaps why there is no given name on the baptism record for the child of James and Betsey). To explain two wives of the same maiden name (assuming maiden name, not previously married name), we might imagine that Betsey Moffat died after 1802 and before 1817 when James died. Perhaps James remarried to a sister or other relative of Mary, one named Betsey? This scenario seems plausible.

C.2.4 James Gillespie, Father of Matthew

For this individual, we have an 1810 probate record, a letter of administration, to Matthew Gillespie, son of James Gillespie of the town of Montgomery. Interestingly, there was a James Gillespie

32 [The Question of Two Gillespy Brothers Reported in a NY Supreme Court Case 1814](#); MA Schaefer; 3 April 2020.

33 Orange County Deeds, J-81 and 35-51, both executed in May 1805.

34 Gillespie Roots, [Drowned Lands!](#), MA Schaefer, 19 November 2014.

35 "New York Births and Christenings, 1640-1962", database, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:V2CH-636> : 21 January 2020), Betsey Moffat in entry for Gillespey, 1802.

enumerated in Montgomery in 1790 living next to Samuel Crawford, which I believe is significant. Samuel Crawford married one Margaret Gillespie in 1785. James Gillespie was probably related to Samuel Crawford's wife, Margaret, but how?

This particular James Gillespie has been the subject of focused research in recent months. If the only clues we have about him are that he lived in Montgomery and he had a son named Matthew, then we look at Gillespie men named Matthew (section [C.6](#)). In reviewing those individuals, the Matthew Gillespie who was the son of Jane Neeley, born around 1775 and later moved to Kentucky seems the most likely candidate. In fact, it was probably this Matthew who was enumerated in Montgomery in 1800. And yet we have evidence indicating that the father of this Matthew Gillespie was either William Gillespie 1737-1813 or Matthew Gillespie Sr. 1740-1797. Not James.

Here is the point where I extended the research net. A search of any James or Matthew Gillespy anywhere in New York in the 1800 census leads us to Troy, Rensselaer, New York, a location ~100 miles north on the Hudson River. There we find several Gillespie's enumerated close together: James (twice), Andrew, Matthew, and nearby also Joseph. Thus began a new research effort³⁶ to see if there were any connections between the Rensselaer Gillespie's and those we've been studying in Ulster/Orange. There were,³⁷ enough to develop a new working theory:

- This James Gillespie was the brother of William 1737-1813 (case [C.4.1](#)), Matthew 1740-1797 (case [C.6.1](#)), Samuel 1742-1815 (case [C.5.1](#)), Robert d. 1778 (case [C.3.2](#)), and Barbara (m. John Neeley).
- This James Gillespie is likely the one who served in the 5th NY Regiment during the Revolution (the same regiment Robert Gillespie served with when he was captured at Ft. Montgomery in 1777).
- This is the James who was named in 1806 as a personal representative for the bounty land of Robert Gillespie in Sterling.
- The spouse(s) of this James Gillespie are unknown at this point, but his children are thought to have included James Jr (+Mary Brown Bannerman) (case [C.2.5](#)), Andrew, Margaret (Crawford), Matthew (case [C.6.4](#)), Joseph, Jane/Jennie, and possibly Josiah.

This individual might well be the same who sold property in Shawangunk property in 1770 (case [B.2.2](#)). If we are right about this James Gillespie, we're looking at a whole new understanding of the Gillespie family groups in early New York.

C.2.5 James Gillespie m. Mary Brown Bannerman

This James Gillespie married Mary Brown Bannerman, a widow, in 1777, and their children were William, Josiah, Susannah, Betsey, and James/John (twins).³⁸ He is thought to be the one who bought property in Little Britain in 1788,³⁹ and who was enumerated in New Windsor in 1790.

There has been a good amount of conversation & debate about how this James Gillespie might fit into the big picture.⁴⁰ Right now, we have two theories:

36 [One James or Two?](#) Troy, NY 1799-1803 and a Possible Brother of Robert Gillespie, MA Schaefer, 14 December 2019.

37 "[The Road to Sterling](#)", Gillespie Roots, MA Schaefer, 9 December 2019.

38 Royce and Gillespie Family Book, Mary Royce Patton, 1962, p. 46.

39 Ulster County deeds, KK-479, 7 May 1788, James Gillespy from Stout; KK-232, 23 May 1788, James Gillespy to Stout. Ulster County mortgages, 31 Jul 1790, James Gillespy of New Windsor, farmer, 50 acres in Little Britain

40 [One James Gillespie or Two?](#) Troy, NY 1799-1803 & A Possible Brother of Robert Gillespie; MA Schaefer; 14

- This James Gillespie was the same individual as case C.2.4, in which case, his marriage to Bannerman was a second one.
 - I see two reasons to favor this theory:
 - the dates of the two sets of children seem to fit (ie, they don't overlap)
 - if this James was the one who was 24 years old in the 1763 Ulster militia, then he was born around 1739, which makes him of a comparable age to Mary Brown Bannerman
 - My objection to this theory has been the presence of two James Gillespie's in Troy, NY in 1800, one Senior and one Junior. For this theory to be right, then the Jr. James in Troy in 1800 was somebody other than the James who married Bannerman, somebody who was also born before 1755 who we don't know about yet. Maybe I would go along with that, but then why was the Sr. James enumerated alone 1800? Where were his wife and children? Perhaps there was a separation, that's possible but also completely uncertain.
- This James was a different individual from case C.2.4. I have speculated that he was the son of James Gillespie (Sr), case C.2.4, but if that's incorrect, there was a different individual known as James Gillespie Jr. in 1800 Troy. So now we possibly have two James Gillespie Jr's?
 - One did live around Lansingburgh, at least up through 1803 because there are records of him owning property there. He might also have been a post rider between Lansingburgh and Saratoga.⁴¹ In my opinion, that James was the son of James Sr (case C.2.4), and the brother of Andrew, Matthew, and Joseph. Also, according to the 1800 census, it appears he had a family, one that looked somewhat like that of the Gillespie-Bannerman family. What became of him?
 - Perhaps this James, so far unplaced with other Gillespie family groups in these case studies, was the one living the South Ward in NYC in 1790 not far from Jane Deacon (widow of George Gillespie). We know that NYC was where both Alexander Bannerman and William Gillespie (case C.4.4), members of James' family group, also lived. Perhaps this James was one who became insolvent in either or both 1801 and 1811. And then what became of him that Mary Brown Bannerman decided to move to Sullivan county with her son, William? We can't say.

It would seem that no matter which of these two theories is right (if either), there is yet another James Gillespie Jr. in the picture who we have not yet identified. Sometimes the more we learn, the more we discover how much we don't know.

C.3 Gillespie Men Named Robert

C.3.1 Robert Gillespie (1774-1857) & Leah Crans

This is probably the Robert enumerated in the 1810, 1820, and 1825 census of Walkill. Several additional records for their children are recorded in the Dutch Reformed Church of Montgomery. Without knowing the exact birth order, children born generally 1796-1813 included Andrew, Caty Ann, Susan (John Smith), Parmelia (William Smith), Amanda (Daily), Alanson, Mary (van Buskirk), and

December 2029.

⁴¹ Farmer's Register (Lansingburgh, NY), 8 Nov 1803.

Jonathan, the last of these apparently dying before his father. Leah died in 1814 and is buried at the Brick Church in Montgomery. Robert was apparently living in Hartford, PA with his daughter Mary's family when his will was written. There was a Robert Gillespie family in Montgomery in 1800, but I'm not sure that family is the same as this one, mostly because of some older children, who might have been in fact another young couple who was somehow related. It can be noted there were Smith's and Sear's enumerated on the same sheet. The question always arises, where did this person come from? Is he associated with Gillespie's already in New York or was he another new immigrant on the scene? We're still not sure.

C.3.2 Pvt. Robert Gillespie, d. 1778

While visiting the New York State Archives in September, 2012, I found a land patent for a Robert Gillespie, deceased. The patent was dated 16 Aug 1807 and was for a military tract lot in the township of Sterling (Cayuga county). There were 12 legal representatives named in the 1807 state land patent: Ann, James, James Jr., Jane, John, Matthew, Olive, Polly (probably Mary, my notation), Samuel, William, Burr, and Barbara – all Gillespie's, and no relationships were stated. At the time, I just noted and filed this information because it appeared to have nothing to do with Gillespie's in Ulster/Orange, NY.

But renewed research has lead me to closer study of Gillespie's who served in the Revolution, and I did find a Robert Gillespie who served in the NY 5th Regiment. He was captured at the battle of Ft. Montgomery,⁴² and taken to the British prisons in NYC where he died. Robert's family, presumably his heirs, petitioned the NY Legislature⁴³ for bounty land in 1806, which was granted in 1807.⁴⁴ But was this Robert tied to the Ulster/Orange Gillespie's?

On 6 Sep 1807, William Gillespie of Newburgh, Orange, NY (case [C.4.1](#)) and his wife, Mary, sold their one-fourth undivided interest in Sterling lot #51 which had been granted to the representatives of Robert Gillespie, deceased. For \$1, William sold his interest to Andrew Gillespie of Lansingburgh, Rensselaer, NY. Andrew is thought to have been a son of James Gillespie Sr. (case [C.2.4](#)); research on this point is ongoing.

In my mind, this evidence effectively ties Robert Gillespie to the other Gillespie family groups in Ulster/Orange. Based on the laws stating who was considered the heir of a person who died intestate,⁴⁵ I surmise that those listed as Robert's legal representatives were his siblings, three of whom were living in 1807: William, Samuel, and James Sr. The descendants of another deceased sibling, Matthew Sr., included James Jr., John, Matthew, Jane, Ann, Mary (Polly), and Barbara. That leaves only the names of Olive and Burr as unidentified relations of Robert Gillespie, and subject to more research.

I can also be noted that Robert's capture and death match some of the narrative in the DAR application pertaining to John Gillespie of Crawford, 1725-1823 (case [C.1.1](#)). So we know that application did indeed contains some nuggets of truth!

42 Prisoners taken at Fort Montgomery and Fort Clinton, see <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/33419/33419-h/33419-h.htm> and <http://cdm16923.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/ref/collection/p16923coll7/id/16> (make these links work)

43 [Journal of the Assembly of the State of New York, Twenty-Seventh Session](#), Albany, 31 Jan 1804, p. 161

44 Revolutionary War Bounty Land Grants: Awarded by State Governments, L.W. Brockstruck, 1996, p 200.

The Balloting Book and Other Documents relating to Military Bounty Lands in the state of NY, Albany, 1825, p 28, 70, 79, 162

45 The colonial laws of New York from the year 1664 to ... v.1. New York (State), p 9.

Finally, two records at the Colden Store⁴⁶ pertaining to a Robert Gillespie are interesting:

- Matthew and Robert Gillespie apparently shared an account, #206. In one entry, Robert Gillespie is noted as the brother of Matthew.
- Francis Kain picked up items that were charged to account #206. Francis Kain seems to have had some relationship with the Gillespie's which might have been closer than neighbor.⁴⁷

C.4 Gillespie Men Named William

In all my recent research, I have attributed all records for a William Gillespie to one individual, the one who died in 1813 in Newburgh. I know better than that, and I've slowly started considering whether there were multiple individuals named William in the Ulster/Orange area during pre-Revolutionary and Revolutionary times.

The earliest records I have found of any William Gillespie are in the Revolutionary rolls:

- In September 1775, William Gillaspj Jr. and James J. Gillaspj were both serving as privates in the company of Elias Hasbrouck in the 3rd NY Regmt. This record tells us that in 1775 there was an older William Gillespie somewhere in the picture.
- In August 1776, William Gillaspj was serving in the company Capt. John J. Grahams (selected from the militia of Ulster county).⁴⁸ He was 26 years old, b. ~1750 in Ulster, New York, and he had fair complexion, red hair, and blue eyes. Like the other two Gillespie's serving in that unit at that time (James, ae 42, and George, ae 21), William was a laborer. If William's reported age in 1775 was correct, it seems likely to me that he was a different individual from the William born ~1737 (case [C.4.1](#)).

Based on these records, there could well be more individuals named William Gillespy than I have accounted for here.

C.4.1 William Gillespie of Montgomery/Newburgh, 1737-1813

First, let's consider the man who died in 1813 in Newburgh, working backward from his death:

- His gravestone in the Old Town Cemetery in Newburgh, NY ascribes his age at time of death as 76 years old. This is how we estimate his birth year as 1737.
- His will identified two brothers, Samuel (case [C.5.2](#)) and Matthew, deceased (we presume case [C.6.1](#), but possibly some other?). It also named his wife, Mary (Wilkin), and several nieces and nephews. This William's will did not name any children, although this has been a subject of some question.⁴⁹ Furthermore, the will of his widow, Mary Wilkin Gillespie, also did not name any children.
- He is likely the one enumerated in the following censuses:
 - 1790 Shawangunk: 1 m < 16, 1 m > 16, 2 f, 4 slaves
 - 1800 Montgomery: 1 m 16-25, 1 m > 45, 1 f 10-15, 2 f > 45, 5 slaves

⁴⁶ [Daybook from Coldenham Store](#), Orange County Historical Society, database index of 1767-8.

⁴⁷ [A Study of Gillespy Neighbors in Shawangunk](#) Precinct, Ulster County, NY, Pre-1800, MA Schaefer, 24 February 2020.

⁴⁸ [United States Revolutionary War Rolls](#), 1775-1783, images, familysearch.org.

⁴⁹ [The Question of Two Gillespy Brothers Reported in a NY Supreme Court Case 1814](#); MA Schaefer; 3 April 2020.

- 1810 Newburgh: 1 m > 45, 1 f 10-15, 1 f > 45, 1 other free prs
- Around 1791, this William Gillespy was likely assigned to be the guardian of the younger children of his brother Matthew and his wife, Jane Neely, who had died in 1788, and to represent them in the partition of the Neely farm in New Windsor. This led to all kinds of trouble which eventually went to the NY Supreme Court and was decided after both William and Matthew had died.⁵⁰
- Records from the Presbyterian Church in Hamptonburgh show that William and Mary Gillespie were removed from the church rolls because they moved to Newburgh. The date of that removal is not recorded, but it appears to be some time before 1809.⁵¹ It should be further noted that his gravestone says that he was an “Elder in the Church of God” for 40 years.
- He was one of several personal representatives of Robert Gillespie (case [C.3.2](#)) who petitioned for bounty land, which was subsequently awarded in 1806 in Sterling, NY.⁵² In 1807, William and wife Mary of Newburgh sold 1/4th interest in Robert's bounty land to Andrew Gillespie of Lansingburgh, Rensselaer, NY for \$1.⁵³
- In 1788, Sgt. William Gillespie of Montgomery Precinct, Ulster, NY sold his bounty land in Marcellus, NY to John McKinstry of the same place.⁵⁴
- In 1783, Sgt. William Gillespie of the 1st NY Regmt. was made the administrator for the estate of James Gillespie of the old NY 4th Regmt. (case [C.2.1](#)).⁵⁵
- In 1779, William Gillespy was occupying Shawangunk property, which was likely the same property that James Gillespie (case [B.2.1](#)) had sold in 1770. How William came into possession of that property, or whether he was a renter, we do not know. William was definitely associated with neighbors of the area (1789 executor of estate of John Hunter, 1791 witness of will of Dirk Roosa [Matthew and Mary Gillespie were also witnesses]).⁵⁶
- Revolutionary rolls show that a William Gillespie served in the company of James Gregg in the 3rd NY Regmt (later rolled into the 1st NY Regmt) from June 1777-May 1780, starting as a corporal and then becoming a sergeant. It should be noted there was a different Sgt. William Gillespie from Connecticut who served with the 2nd Regmt of Light Dragoons.⁵⁷

The story of this William Gillespie is complex, but he was surely a key character in the story of the early NY Gillespie's.

50 Ibid.

51 Ancestry.com. U.S., Presbyterian Church Records, 1701-1970 [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2016; Original data: Church Registers. Presbyterian Historical Society, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; First Presbyterian Church of Hamptonburgh, Campbell Hall, NY, Register, 1796-1887; image 79/92 (note that this record was not indexed).

52 “[NY Bounty Lands](#)”, Gillespie Roots; MA Schaefer; 23 October 2019.

53 Seneca County Deeds, O-307 and O-309.

54 Cayuga County, Book FA-260-61.

55 [A Case of Two Sgt. William Gillespie's](#) in the American Revolution; MA Schaefer; 12 December 2019.

United States Revolutionary War Rolls, January 1780, shows two William Gillespie's in James Gregg's company, one was a sergeant and one was a corporal. Up until that time, William Gillespie had been a corporal and after that time he was a sergeant, so perhaps that particular roll is showing the transition to William's promotion.

56 [A Study of Gillespie Neighbors](#) in Shawangunk Precinct, Ulster County, NY, Pre-1800; MA Schaefer; 24 February 2020.

57 Ibid.

United States Revolutionary War Rolls, January 1777 noted as a Sgt from Huddersfield, CT, but in November 1778, he was noted as a corporal from New York. Not sure about this discrepancy.

C.4.2 William Gillespie, son of Samuel, 1770-1849

This William was the oldest son/child of Samuel Gillespie and Esther Rainey. He married Martha Millikin in 1794, and their children were Jason, Cyrenus, Susan, and Maria. By the 1800 census, he was identified as William Jr. to differentiate him from his uncle (case [C.4.1](#)).

This individual may or may not have been the one in a 1797 deed who sold the exact property previously owned by James Gillespie (case [B.2.1](#)) to Matthew Gillespie (case [C.6.1](#)).⁵⁸ If so, the deed identified him as William Gillespy Jr. of Shawangunk and his wife Martha.

William and Martha lived in Montgomery from 1800-1820, which later became Crawford.

C.4.3 William Gillespie of Bethel, 1778-1849

This individual was the son of James Gillespie (case [C.2.5](#)) and Mary Brown Bannerman.⁵⁹ He was a carpenter in NYC before relocating with his mother, wife, and children to Bethel, Sullivan, NY around 1811. He married first Mary Van Ripper and they had six children. Mary died in 1840, and in 1842 William married Ann Gillespie Brown. William and Ann are thought to have been first cousins once removed.

C.5 Gillespie Men Named Samuel

C.5.1 Samuel Gillespie Sr.

Here is the only documentation we have referring to this person:

GILLESPIE-ALLEN BIBLE RECORD⁶⁰

Contributed with Notes by Miss Elizabeth Horton

12 Grove St, Middleton, NY

The following records were copied from an old Bible sold at auction September 30, 1941 at the home of Rev. D.D. Wagoner, Thompson Ridge, Orange county, New York. The Bible was printed by Sage & Clough for Robert McDermut #248 and J & T Ronalds, 188 Pearl St New York, April 1806. --- Ed.

Samuel Gillespie was born Sept. 23rd, 1742; departed this Life 18th Sept., 1815 [His will on file in Goshen, N.Y., dated Aug. 14, 1815 and proved Oct. 11, 1815, mentioned his wife Esther, eight children, two grandchildren, and a niece Mary Dales. He was one of the several children of Samuel Gillespie, Sr., who, together with Robert Hunter and his family, came from County Armagh, Ireland, in 1727, and settled in Montgomery, Orange County, N.Y. Samuel, Jr., was a Lieutenant in the revolutionary War. Elizabeth, a sister of Samuel, Sr., married Robert Hunter as his first wife.]

The words in brackets are, apparently, those of Miss Elizabeth Horton. Who was Miss Horton? Presumably she was a descendant who lived 140 years after Samuel Gillespie died in 1815.⁶¹ Or was

58 Ulster County, New York, Deeds, OO-325, 9 Jun 1797, William Gillespy Jr. and wife Martha of Shawangunk to Matthew Gillespy of NYC, then Montgomery.

59 Royce and Gillespie Family Book, Mary Royce Patton, 1962, p. 46.

60 The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record, Vol LXXXVI, No. 1, January 1955, pp 25-27.

61 My assumption is that the Bible was passed down in the family of Samuel's daughter Ann Gillespie Allen.

she a contributor to NYG&BR? Irregardless, I am of the understanding that the bracketed words cannot be found in the actual family Bible, and thus Miss Horton's comments cannot be considered a primary source of evidence. At best, her words can be considered a secondary source and corroboration of other records. Other than this story, I have not found any actual records of Samuel Gillespie Sr.

C.5.2 Samuel, m. Esther Rainey, 1742-1815

Samuel married Esther Rainey, apparently in or around 1769, Esther being the daughter of James E. Rainey, who was a strict Covenanter. Samuel and Esther's children were William, Ann, Mary, Stephen, Susannah, Samuel, Nathaniel, Joseph, Abraham, David, Matthew, Esther.

Here are records that pertain to this Samuel:

- 1763, Samuel, age 19 (~1744) in Ulster County joined the Clinton's company from Capt. Graham's militia.
- 1774, Ulster deeds HH-193 Samuel fr Isaac Hasbrouck
- records of serving in the Revolution (1775 & 1784-85), first as an Ensign, later as a Lt.; serving in the company of Capt. John Gillespie (case [B.1.1](#)); later Major Gillespie⁶²
- 1787, Ulster deeds KK-6 Samuel to Miller
- 1789, Ulster deeds KK-439, Samuel fr Barclay
- lived in Montgomery, 1790-1810
- 1802 elected elder of the Graham (Associated Reform) Church; he probably attended Goodwill Presbyterian Church in Montgomery before that
- 1815 His will names most children (not Abraham, which is curious); and a niece, Mary Dales.

Based on the wills of Samuel and William ([case C.4.1](#)), we can conclude that Samuel, William, and Matthew were brothers. Recent research also points to Robert ([case C.3.2](#)), James (case [B.2.2](#) or case [C.2.4](#)) and Barbara as siblings.

C.5.3 Samuel, Son of Samuel Sr. and Esther, b 1781

This Samuel married Margaret Gunning, and was named in his father's 1815 will. Note that this Samuel had brothers named Matthew and William, but they are not discussed in these case studies.

C.6 Gillespie Men Named Matthew

I find very few records of any Matthew Gillespy who served in the Revolution. There was one Pvt. Matthew Gillespie who served in William Telford's company of militia for 10 days in May-June 1779 to defend West Point, and another who deserted from Capt. Faulkner's company (not dated).

⁶² There is currently no known connection between the families of Lt. Samuel Gillespie and Major John Gillespie. However, research on this question is under way.

C.6.1 Matthew Sr. 1742-1797

- Marital life: married first Jane Neely in 1769, she died in 1788; married second Catherine Thompson.
- The names of his children included Barbara, John, James, Matthew, Jane, Ann, and Mary.⁶³
- This Matthew was likely the one enumerated in New Windsor in 1790. New Windsor was the location of the James Neely farm, and Matthew was bound to maintain the Neely farm and the Neely elders after his wife, Jane's, death.
- In 1797, it was presumably this Matthew who purchased property in Shawangunk which had been originally owned and sold by James Gillespie ([case B.2.1](#)). He purchased it from William Gillespie Jr. of Shawangunk and his wife Martha ([case C.4.2](#)). This transaction noted Matthew as a grocer who was previously of NYC and then of Montgomery. Matthew Gillespie died intestate a few months after the deed was executed, and a probate record in NYC named his wife Catherine as the executor of his estate. We don't yet know what became of the Shawangunk property after that.
- The probate papers pertaining to Matthew's estate⁶⁴ are interesting. Many names are mentioned including Ann Hunter, Samuel Gillespy, William Gillespy Jr., and Jason Wilkins. One name, however, is especially interesting: Alexander Bannerman. Alexander Bannerman who was a taylor (tailor) signed a statement verifying Matthew Gillespy's signature; which tells us that they knew each other. If the same person, this Alexander Bannerman was the son of Mary Brown, whose second husband was James Gillespy ([case C.2.5](#)). This Bannerman-Gillespy connection goes to support the premise that James Gillespie was indeed related to the other Ulster/Orange Gillespie's.
- In 1768, Robert Gillespie picked up items at the Colden Store on his brother Matthew's account. Also notable is that Francis Kain also picked up items on Matthew's account.⁶⁵

Based on the wills of Samuel ([case C.5.1](#)) and William ([case C.4.1](#)), we can conclude that Samuel, William, and Matthew were brothers. Recent research also points to Robert ([case C.3.2](#)), James ([case B.2.2](#) or [case C.2.4](#)) and Barbara as additional siblings.

C.6.2 Matthew, son of Major John, 1767-1791

This Matthew Gillespie was likely enumerated in the 1790 household of John Gillispie in New Windsor as one of the 7 males over 16. A 1791 newspaper article⁶⁶ described an accident where Matthew Gillespie drowned while being transported from a sloop to the shore in NYC.

C.6.3 Matthew, moved to KY, 1775-1857

This Matthew Gillespie was the son of Matthew Gillespie ([case C.6.1](#)) and Jane Neely. He married first Maria Tiers some time before 1799, and they had four children: Jane, Ester, John ([case B.1.3](#)), and

63 [The Question of Two Gillespy Brothers Reported in a NY Supreme Court Case 1814](#); MA Schaefer; 3 April 2020.

64 See Appendix B for my analysis about where these probate papers were filed.

65 A Study of Gillespy Neighbors in Shawangunk Precinct, Ulster County, NY, Pre-1800; MA Schaefer; 24 February 2020; pp.8-10.

66 New-York Packet, Thursday, Nov 10, 1791 New York, NY, Issue: 1216

James. It appears that Matthew and Maria separated, and Matthew married second Mary Borthick in 1814, and shortly afterward they moved to Franklin, Kentucky where they raised eight more children.

Note: Early KY records (deeds and probate) were either never recorded or were destroyed by a courthouse fire that occurred later in this county.

C.6.4 Matthew, Boat Capt, 1772-1839

As a result of searching for the Matthew Gillespie who was the son of James Gillespie who died in Montgomery in 1810 ([case C.2.4](#)), this Matthew Gillespie came onto my radar in the 1800 census of Troy, New York, which is the area where he appears to have spent most of his life. However, I believe that this Matthew was probably born in Ulster or Orange counties where he spent his early years. I have classified this Matthew under Orange County because Montgomery is where his father died.

Here is what I've learned of this individual:

- He was likely the brother of James Jr. ([case C.2.5](#) or another yet unidentified individual named James), Andrew, and Joseph – all found in the Troy & Lansingburgh area up to at least the War of 1812. Matthew, Andrew, and James were all associated as being skippers on the Hudson.
- He was likely the Matthew Gillespie named as character witness in Andrew Gillespie's pension application in 1832.
- He apparently married Mary (unk), and they had children Ann “Nancy” (Cook), Charles, Mary (Bradt), Hiram H., and George T. The Bradt family as well as some of the Cook descendants relocated to Wisconsin by 1850.

It should be noted that there were other men named Matthew Gillespie enumerated in Albany in 1850, one of whom was a boatman. The relationship of that Gillespie and others in Albany is still a subject of research.

D. Miscellaneous Gillespie Characters

The following characters have come up in my research, but they are either unplaced, or categorized in a different county, such as New York, Albany, or Rensselaer.

D.1 James Gillespie, Brother of John DeNormandie

This James Gillespie was the husband of Amy Amelia Denning 1778-1853.⁶⁷ Their daughter, Harriet E. DeNormandie Gillespie, died in 1827 and was buried at the Albany Rural Cemetery. According to Harriet's death notice,⁶⁸ only her mother and her uncle are mentioned. I take this to mean that this James Gillespie had died by 1827, or he was otherwise indisposed.⁶⁹

D.2 James Gillespie of 1790 NYC

This James Gillespie was enumerated in the South Ward with 1 free white male and 2 free white females. This listed on the same sheet as Jane Deacon, a name that appears in probate papers as the widow of Geoge Gillespy.

There was a James Gillespie listed in the 1786 NYC directory, along with Thomas Gillespie – they were both merchants living on William St. It should be noted that neither of these names appear in the 1790 directory.

D.3 James Gallaspy, Revolutionary Pensioner

This name appears in only one source,⁷⁰ and so far I've found no other clues about whether this pension application still exists today. If it did, it would likely answer a lot.

67 Encyclopedia of genealogy and biography of the state of Pennsylvania with a compendium of history, Lewis Publishing Company, 1904, p. 800.

68 Albany Argus & City Gazette, 2 January 1827.

69 It's been suggested that this was the James Gillespie who scuttled the Hummingbird and was later jailed for doing so. See [Maritime Gillespie's](#); MA Schaefer, November 2019; p. 3

70 New York in the Revolution as a Colony and a State; Albany; 1904; p. 272.

Appendix A

Ancestry.com has two collections that provide images of estate papers for one Matthew Gillespie (case [C.6.1](#)):

1. New York, Estate Inventories and Accounts, 1666-1822 for Matthew Gillespy Box 09: 1774 - 1822 (Ge – H). The papers in this collection are from a folder titled “Matthew Gillespy [Gillespie], Grocer, NYC, November 1794.” More than half of the images of these records cannot be read because of, I believe, poor filming.
2. New York, Wills and Probate Records, 1659-1999, Albany Admin and Inventory, 1776-1825, Craig-Green. The papers in this collection are from a folder titled “Matthew Gillespie, Farmer, Dec 14, 1799”. These records are readable, and are the ones I have transcribed here.

In comparing the two collections, I find the names on the files before and after Matthew's file are the same. In other words, I think we are looking at the same Box #9 of estate papers. But from where? New York County or Albany County?

Because my recent research has been focused on Gillespie's who lived in Albany and Rensselaer counties, I thought perhaps that Matthew Gillespie had some tie to Albany Gillespie's. He might have, but I don't think that's why Matthew's probate records were indexed with the Albany collection. See [New York Probate Records](#), the section called Surrogate Court's Records.

the court of probates and court of chancery handled estates of deceased persons who died in one county but who owned property in another.

In 1797, Albany became the New York state capitol, and the Court of Probates was located there. That court was replaced by the Court of Chancery in 1823. Meanwhile, Matthew Gillespy died in New York City, December 1797, while also owning property in Orange County.

As for the different file folders, I think it's somewhat reasonable to think that the 1794 folder was replaced with the 1799 folder, 1799 being the year of the probate. Somebody realized that the first one had been mislabeled – probably when going through trying to create an index of some kind. But that indexing must have occurred in the modern era after microfilming started. The first wrong file folder along with bad filming was created on one microfilm which apparently still exists along side another microfilm created later when the identifying folder for Matthew Gillespie was replaced, and the records pertaining to Matthew's estate were, thankfully, filmed correctly.

Can't prove a word of this – just my two cents.