

Some notes about Lawrence Marr Sr's children

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Compiled By Sheri Sievers and Robert Moody, 2024.

Thomas (~1739 - ~1801)

Turbutt, Northumberland County, PA, is where Thomas and Joseph went from Northampton County. Their families tended to stay close enough to Milton that as Turbutt was carved into smaller pieces, most of them were still in the neighborhood. There were several locations for the Marr clan in what was then Northumberland County.

Mount Bethel, Northampton, PA, tax lists from 1761 – 1767; 1773 – 1790.

Turbutt, Northumberland, PA, tax lists 1798-1801.

Thomas was not found on any 1800 census. His location is known from tax lists in Turbutt through March 1801.

The 1761 Northampton tax assessment tells us he was born before 1741 and also most likely the oldest son of Lawrence Sr. We assumed before the 1801 tax list was located that he died sometime between 1793 and 1800 possibly on the way to Canada. His son Richard doesn't move to Canada until after 1800 census, so the 1801 tax record is further proof that Thomas was still alive in 1800.

It is probable that his designation on the tax lists as "Gentleman" in 1800 and 1801 is because he was essentially a retired landowner with sufficient means that he didn't have to work or rely on others for support. His sons Richard and Lawrence are in the 1800 census, only Lawrence was found in the 1810 census and neither were found in the 1820 census.

William (~1740 - ~1789)

In 1790 all of the sons' families are still in Mt. Bethel. William has died, but his family still lives here. The Lemons are still there and for the most part, so are the Britains, both were families close to the Marrs. Northumberland County's 1790 census is not broken down into Townships.

- Mount Bethel, Northampton, PA, tax lists from 1761 – 1764; 1767 – 1790.
- The 1761 tax lists tell us he was born in 1740 and presumably the second son of Lawrence Sr.
- William marries in 1764 based on the tax lists (he changes from being recorded as single to married).
- Not found on any tax list after 1790. William died between a deed poll signed 4 Feb 1789 and 2 Aug 1790, the as-of date of the 1790 census where his wife is enumerated with their 4 sons.

"That William Marr owned land in spite of a lack of grantee deeds can be affirmed by an indenture dated 9 April 1798, acknowledged same day, recorded 31 May 1800, at which time Joseph Hunt patentee of Bucks Co., Pennsylvania, for a consideration of 150 pounds conveyed to Daniel Shannon of Upper Mt. Bethel beginning at a hickory tree by land of now or late William Marr, west by David Owen and Hector McNeil. This is probably one of the two parcels that "David Marr late of Northumberland County and now of Upper Canada," evidently acting as attorney for the heirs of William Marr, conveyed by mortgage to Jacob Segefuss on a deferred payment plan extending from 1806 to 1812, dated 7 May 1806, for a consideration of £222.8.11, "land which lays northwesterly of the creek running through lands, together with all buildings ... which will more fully appear," additional description not found in Mt. Bethel records; witnesses Philip Kratzer and Philip Foresman. The grantors were David Marr, John Marr, Joseph Marr, William Marr, Alem Marr and Samuel Kerney and wife [Eleanor Marr], the last five being children of William Marr. Missing are Ann Marr, widow, which suggests she may have died in Canada, and Mary, wife of John Bender."

William's sons were reportedly in Canada since 1799. There is no evidence of them in PA in the 1800 census. William's son, Joseph, is recorded in the 1798 Federal Direct Tax list in Mt. Bethel so he was still in PA at that date.

Columbia County Deed Index: 1772 – 1814:

Wm Marr – Aron Levy 1809. Pg 369 - at FamilySearch

David (~1743 - ~1807)

By 1800, David's family appears to be located in White Deer Township across the West Branch of the Susquehanna in what is now Union County, but which was then still Northumberland County. They're not in Turbut Twp.

- Mount Bethel, Northampton, PA, tax lists in 1764; 1767; 1769 – 1793.
- 1764 tax lists tell us he was born in 1743 and presumably the third son of Lawrence Sr.
- David is married before Oct 1764 based on the tax lists.
- From 1780 to 1782 was a private in Captain Long's Company of Militia in 5th Battalion, Pennsylvania. He followed his sons to Woodhouse, Ontario, Canada, in 1805 at age 57 and reportedly died there circa 1807.
- He was in White Deer Township (later Union County). The 1800 census has a David b. before 1755 and a Lawrence b. between 1756-1774, which fits David's eldest son b.1773. This family has been called Marr or Mear and possibly More.
- We found two warrants for David, both dated the same day in 1785 and adjoining one another. One the warrant said was 50 acres and the other was 70: <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-L99B-LFQT?view=fullText&keywords=David%20Marr&groupId=TH-1971-28761-10477-38> - Note that both the 1785 Marr warrants & Hugh Gaston 1751 warrants were surveyed the same day before all were sold to Jacob Sigafuss. It could be likely that the page about the neighbors of Hugh Gaston's 1751 warrant could have been who they were at the time of the 1804 survey, rather than the warrant? <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QSQ-G99B-L66C?view=fullText&keywords=David%20Marr&groupId=TH-1971-28761-10477-38>
- David Marr's warrant estimated at 50 acres later surveyed for 73: <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QSQ-G99B-21NJ?view=fullText&keywords=David%20Marr&groupId=TH-1961-28760-25941-1>
- The other David Marr warrant for an estimated 70 acres turned out to be 97 acres. <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QSQ-G99B-21JF?view=fullText&keywords=David%20Marr&groupId=TH-1961-28760-25941-1> **73 acres parcel Neighbors 1786:** Benjamin Stackhouse, vacant, Jacob Lemon, George Taylor, David & Wm. Marr, Nathaniel Green. **1804:** Vacant, Jacob Lemon, Mark John Biddle, Hugh Gaston, Hugh Gaston.
- **90 acres parcel neighbors in 1804:** Late George Taylor now Marks, John Biddle, Jacob Ehrenzeller, Peter Stifer, Nathaniel Green, Hugh Gaston and Hugh Gaston. (Couldn't find a survey map for Hugh Gaston's 1751 warrant, but the neighbors listed are almost exactly the same as the 90 acre parcel plus David Marr of course. Also can't figure out how exactly the two Marr parcels fit, but there's enough overlap to know they are near each other).
- There were apparently two surveys of the smaller piece of David Marr land. One was a draft survey by James Depui done in April 1786 for the April 1785 warrant. The survey returned was 71 acres. Note that the bordering land is on the bottom another parcel with David & William Marr & on the top Jacob Lemon.
 - <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QSQ-G99B-KKGR?view=fullText&keywords=David%20Marr&groupId=TH-1961-28759-16267-84>
 - but the later May 4th, 1804 Survey returned 73 acres 26 per.
 - <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QSQ-G99B-2553?view=fullText&keywords=David%20Marr&groupId=TH-1961-28760-18341-50>
- It is the same land rotated on the paper with Jacob Lemon on the bottom and Hugh Gaston land on the top. By 1804 William was dead and David had moved to Northumberland Co. if not Canada. But why is the David & William land now shown on the map as Hugh Gaston, when in 1806 Sigafuss bought it from David & William's heirs and a 2nd parcel from just David? Maybe this was another parcel that they shared that they sold to Sigafuss?
- Here's the warrant estimated at 50 acres: <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QSQ-G99B-21NJ?view=fullText&keywords=David%20Marr&groupId=TH-1961-28760-25941-1>
- The larger parcel of land was also surveyed on May 4th, 1804 survey for 97 acres for David Marr, <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-L99B->

[2525?view=fullText&keywords=Hugh%20Gaston&groupId=TH-1961-28760-18341-50](#) Note the neighbor on the top left is Jacob Ehrenzeller.

- But Jacob Ehrenzeller's Feb 1785 warrant & August 1785 survey show William Marr as his neighbor instead of David. <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-899B-2RM3?view=fullText&keywords=Ehrenzeller&groupId=TH-1961-28760-18341-50>

Joseph (1750 – 1796)

Joseph is the best documented of Lawrence Sr's sons. He appears on the 1793-1798 tax lists. Joseph died in 1796 according to his tombstone although he appears on tax lists after that year. Those later tax lists after 1796 must be his widow, who appears as Widow Mars in 1799 and in the 1800 census.

Joseph's son David was living with his Mother still in 1800, so he appears on the PA 1800 census separately as a taxable, but is hidden in her household in the 1800 Federal census. This is likely the David listed in Turbutt 1798-1802 (listed as single). According to his tombstone, he shouldn't be 21 in 1798 yet for another 2 years.

History of the land bought by Joseph Marr from Turbut Francis - The New Purchase was advertised by the land office Feb. 23, 1769. In 1764 officers who served under Colonel Bouquet made an agreement in writing with each other that they would apply to the Proprietors (the Penns) for a tract of land for their services, to be divided among themselves. Col. Turbutt Francis' tract was 2,775 acres, surveyed to him in one tract adjoining the tract bought by him in Montour County, embracing what is called Turbut township. The tract was called the "Colonel's Reward."

Joseph Marr bought part of this land from the widow of Turbutt Francis on July 2, 1792, a tract of land one mile square, lying on the east bank of the west branch of the Susquehanna River, embracing the northern part of what is now Milton, including the three farms north of that place. For this land he paid "four pounds per acre lawful money of Pennsylvania and a negro girl at the price of thirty pounds." He settled on the property in 1793 and immediately built a stone house beautifully situated on the banks of the river which still stands. In later years it was purchased from the family of Alem Marr, his son, by Moses Chamberlin. Joseph Marr died Sept. 18, 1796, aged forty-six years, and was buried in what was then the Marr burying ground, where the Lincoln Street schoolhouse stands. Later his remains were removed to the upper cemetery, where they now rest. Mr. Marr was an earnest and consistent member of the Episcopal Church, in his day called the Church of England. On Aug. 18, 1794, he and his wife Susanna gave a tract of land, in Church Lane, adjoining Upper Milton, to the trustees of the Episcopal congregation for burial and church purposes. He was one of the founders of the church of that denomination and the prime mover in the erection of the first church of that faith in Northumberland County. The church as an organized body dates back to 1793.

From Bell's History of Northumberland County, PA, 1891: JOSEPH MARR was born June 15, 1750, in Northampton County, Pennsylvania [that location is very likely incorrect as Lawrence Sr was in Amwell, New Jersey until long after that date]. In 1793, he settled on his purchase, where he lived until his death on September 3, 1796. His widow survived him until December 27, 1826. They were the parents of six children: Mary, who married Robert Martin; Hannah, who became the wife of William Hull; David, who died February 14, 1819; William, who died December 18, 1823; Joseph, who died October 5, 1804; and Alem, who became quite a prominent lawyer and politician and served two terms in Congress.

Lawrence Jr. (1756 – 1821)

We know from Harriette Marr Wheeler's books that Lawrence Jr didn't leave Mt. Bethel until after the 1796 tax list. He's listed as moved in 1797 and she didn't find him on Bloom Township, Northumberland County tax lists until 1802. He may have been there but not on the tax rolls till 1802. So Lawrence came to Northumberland/Columbia County after 1796, and he could in theory be in Fishingcreek in 1796, Briarcreek in 1797 and Bloom starting in 1798, but if Wheeler knew to look in all those places and didn't find him until 1802, so who knows.

Lawrence came back to Mt. Bethel apparently in 1794 as a renter and wasn't taxed. Wheeler found tax lists at Mt. Bethel through 1797. We weren't able to confirm her findings as those lists are available only at Pennsylvania Archives.

John (~1754 - ~1816)

- On the Mount Bethel, Northampton, PA, tax lists in 1775; 1782; 1785 – 1790.
- 1775 tax lists suggest he was born in 1754 and he is shown as married on that 1775 list.
- Rev War pension application in Columbia County and last known payment in January 1816 suggests he died near that date.
- 1790 Upper Mount Bethel census shows John with wife, 2 sons born after Aug 1774 and 2 daughters born before August 1790. No trace of these children have been found. Discussion below suggests his children may have been born between 1781 and 1790.
- A John Mars is listed in the 1798 PA US Direct Tax list in Northumberland County. He's living in a 16' x 18' log cabin on land owned by David Hanna.
 - https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/114742:2060?tid=&pid=&queryId=c1612abfd7bebb2e7119785ef212092&_phsrc=Qpb2762&_phstart=successSource
- Not found in the 1800 or 1810 censuses.
- Not found in Northampton County Orphans court records and index, 1752-1882
- Not found in Columbia County mortgage/mortgagor indexes.
- Not found in Columbia County Orphan's Court records (1814-1869).
- Not found in Columbia County Grantee/Grantor Indexes 1813-1973.

John's children:

What we know is that by the August 1790 census, John and his wife apparently had 2 sons and 2 daughters, assuming that his wife was alive. If we assume 4 kids are often born within 8 years in those days, 8 years before 1790 is 1782. John appears for the first time on the tax lists in 1775 (taxed as married), but then he enlists in the war in 1776 and disappears from the tax lists until 1782. We know from his pension petition that he was in the regiment until Dec 1780. So, he could have come home in Jan 1781 and had 4 kids by 1790.

The two sons should show up at some point somewhere, assuming they survived. If they didn't, that might explain why there are no DAR/SAR records for his descendants as we're all classically bad on female genealogy and if he was indeed poor by age 61 in 1815, maybe he had no sons to help support him. If the sons were born first in late 1781 at the earliest, that would make them under 21 in 1800. We can't expect to see them on tax lists and census records before 1802 or 1811 if one was a newborn in 1790. So, 1810 and 1820 are when we can start looking for John's sons on census records. There is the possibility that the John Marr found in Turbutt township in 1820 & 1830 is a son of John, but it would be very hard to prove that.

Alem (~1760 - ~1786)

Despite reports in Columbia County histories that he was an early settler of Scott/Bloom township, we now believe he died before leaving Mt. Bethel.

- Mount Bethel, Northampton, PA, tax lists in 1781 - 1782; 1785.
- 1781 tax lists tell us he was born about 1760 and is presumably the youngest son of Lawrence Sr.
- Served in 6th PA Battalion, 3rd Company. Inactive Militia. Card date 14 May 1778.
- He doesn't appear in the March 1786 tax list or any thereafter so is presumed deceased between the 1785 tax assessment and the tax assessed in March 1786. If not deceased, he has left the area entirely.
- Joseph naming his last son, born in 1787, after his brother Alem, fits with Alem dying about 1786.

Mary (~1747 – 1823)

Born in about 1747 in Amwell. Lived in Sussex County, NJ, with husband Jacob Lemon (Loyalist). Family was in Ontario, Canada before the birth of her son, John, in Oct 1791. Died in Ontario in 1823. Vitals per Find-a-Grave cemetery transcription. Gravestone is broken.

Elizabeth (~1748 – 1815)

Born in about 1748 in Amwell. Lived in PA. Married Zeboeth Brittain who died in July 1790 of smallpox. Elizabeth died in 1815 in Columbia County. See "Britton Genealogy" by Elmer Garfield Van Name and other sources.

So David, John, and Lawrence Jr. plus Mary and Elizabeth, are living in 1800. David appears to have been in PA in 1800, apparently confirmed by those 1804 land records we found, and he is said to have gone to Canada in 1805 but not found in 1800. Mary is in Canada by 1791 and Elizabeth is widowed but in the 1800 PA census. Lawrence Jr is in the 1800 census.

Some documents related to David Marr & William Marr

Jacob Fatzinger's list of Marr documents he found, many for David & William Marr:

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QSQ-G99B-2Y4H?view=fullText&keywords=David%20Marr&groupId=TH-1961-28760-23399-7> Some of the docs on the list are likely below. Jacob was involved with the debunked effort to claim a connection to the Earl of Mar and gain access to the Earl's estate. Jacob only provided documents.

Surveys:

1751 Warrant for Hugh Gaston in "Upper" Mt. Bethel joining land of David Marr - This anachronism (Upper Mt. Bethel) implies that the list was made later, so perhaps the names of lands bordering don't guarantee that David Marr owned land in 1751, but rather the warrant bordered lands currently owned by David Marr at the date of the list. <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QSQ-G99B-L66C?view=fullText&keywords=David%20Marr&groupId=TH-1971-28761-10477-38> (This is likely the source for Fatzinger saying in his letter that he had evidence of David Marr living in Mt. Bethel as early as 1751)

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QSQ-L99B-2B9W?view=fullText&keywords=David%20Marr&groupId=TH-1961-28760-23399-7>

1765 warrant for Levan land bordering on David Marr, William Marr & Jacob Lemmon - earlier than we find taxlists showing land ownership

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QSQ-L99B-LDQB?view=fullText&keywords=David%20Marr&groupId=TH-1971-28761-10477-38>

April 1785 - warrant for David Marr in Mount Bethel (improvement interest to commence from 1780)

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QSQ-G99B-21JF?view=fullText&keywords=David%20Marr&groupId=TH-1961-28760-25941-1>

April 1785 - 2nd warrant for David Marr joining his other land (improvement interest to commence from 1773)

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QSQ-G99B-21NJ?view=fullText&keywords=David%20Marr&groupId=TH-1961-28760-25941-1>

April 1785 - Jacob Lemmons warrant including an improvement joining David Marrs (improvement interest to commence from 1783)

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QSQ-899B-29M2-7?view=fullText&keywords=David%20Marr&groupId=TH-1961-28760-25941-1>

April 1785 - survey for David Marr for 71 acres, 99 perches, bordering land of Jacob Lemmon, and David & Wm Marr

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QSQ-G99B-KKGR?view=fullText&keywords=David%20Marr&groupId=TH-1961-28759-16267-84>

Jan 1785 Taylor warrant bordering on land formerly of Alexander Gasting (Gaston) now in possession of David & Wm Marr and bordering on an improvement of Jacob Lemmons:

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q57-L99B-299R-J?view=fullText&keywords=David%20Marr&groupId=TH-1961-28760-25941-1>

1804 Survey - This also appears to be the same piece of land survey drawn from the opposite direction, but where the land for David & Wm are shown above, on this survey map it shows Hugh Gaston. (does that mean the land Jacob Sigafus/Zeagenfus bought from David & William is different than the land that Hugh Gaston appears to own according to this survey?)

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QSQ-G99B-2553?view=fullText&keywords=David%20Marr&groupId=TH-1961-28760-18341-50>

David Marr Warrant - new owner Jacob Zigafus at time of survey 1804

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QSQ-G99B-L6PS?view=fullText&keywords=David%20Marr&groupId=TH-1971-28761-10477-38>

David Marr warrant and Hugh Gaston warrant, surveyed to Jacob Sigafuss

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q57-L99B-LFQT?view=fullText&keywords=David%20Marr&groupId=TH-1971-28761-10477-38>

Deed between Jacob & Peter Zeagenfuse in 1820 for 140 acres of land in Upper Mt. Bethel Twp that Jacob had previously purchased from David Marr & wife and the heirs of William Marr: Joseph Marr, William Marr, Alam Marr, Ann Marr, John Marr and Samuel Rona & wife

<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSNL-8SX5-R?view=fullText&keywords=John+Marr&groupId=TH-909-69041-66783-71>

Joseph Marr & Possibly David Marr family Northumberland Co. warrants/deeds (some William Marr, son of Lawrence in Bloom twp)

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSHM-GSW1-R?view=fullText&keywords=David%2CMarr%2CMarr%20David%2CDavid%20Marr&groupId=M9CZ-2VT>

White Deer Township:

<https://www.localgeohistory.pro/en/pa/government/pa-white-deer-township/> The same website for Turbot twp is rather confusing and might make one draw the wrong conclusions

- <https://www.localgeohistory.pro/en/pa/government/pa-turbot-township-northumberland/>

Columbia County townships that came from Northumberland County

townships: <http://www.pagenweb.org/~columbia/twpsnow.htm>

Bloom Township:

Scott formed out of Bloom in 1853 (Bloom Twp. Columbia County formed out of Bloom Twp, Northumberland County in 1813) > Bloom formed out of Briar Creek Twp. in 1798 > Briar Creek Twp formed out of Fishingcreek Twp in 1797 > Fishingcreek formed out of Wyoming Twp in 1789. > Wyoming an original 1772 Township.