

John Graham (Jr), one of the legatees, was a minor child at the time of his father's death in 1743. His date of birth was about 1735. Existing legal records in Pennsylvania place this John Graham (Jr) and his wife "Jane" in Pennsylvania until 1765, at which time they appear to have moved away—probably to North Carolina.

These historical data notwithstanding, Herndon¹⁶ and Ray¹⁷ wrote that the John Graham (Jr), named in the will of John Graham who died in 1743 in Lancaster County, PA, married a Thomson daughter, and this Graham family was living in Prince Edward County, VA, by c. 1755.

Concentrating on the obvious errors made by Herndon and copied by Ray, Bulls turned her full attention to James Graham (Jr), and she sought to prove him as the husband of Mary Graham (widow of James), who bought land in Prince Edward County, VA, in 1755. This was the principal line of reasoning in her quest to prove also that this particular Mary Graham was a daughter of the Rev. John Thomson.

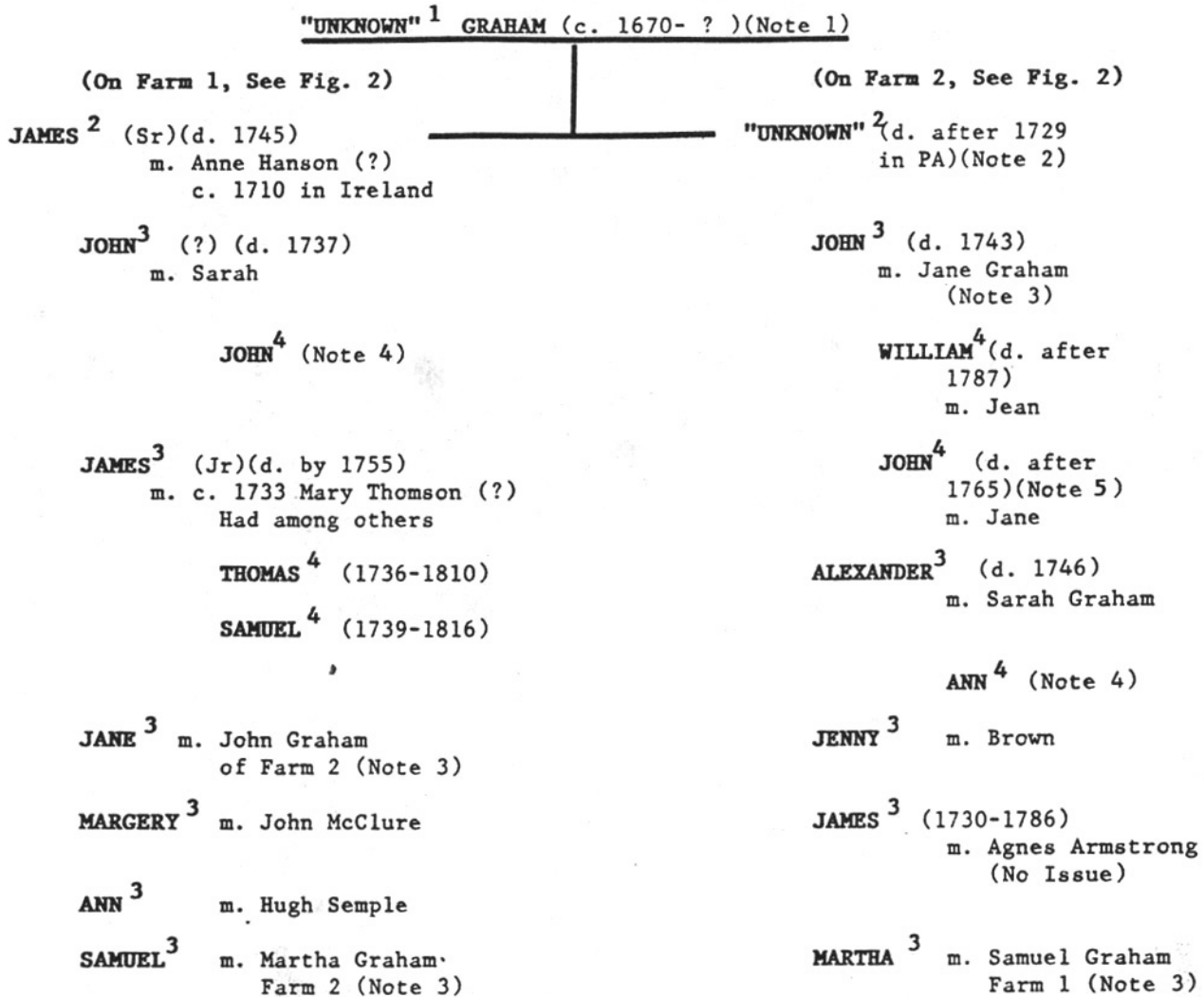
There are many reasons why the James Graham (Jr) of Hanover Township would be a candidate to be Mary Graham's husband: He was in the right age bracket, and he was a Presbyterian—not an Anglican or a Covenanter. In 1733, the year that James (Jr) is believed to have married Mary Thomson, her father was serving Middle Octoraro and Chestnut Level congregations. Chestnut Level (near Quarryville) is about 50 miles south of the James Graham (Sr) farm. Nonetheless, Rev. Thomson, who will be discussed in detail in a following chapter, traveled frequently among the frontier churches for Presbytery sessions and the like. Before the Hanover Church was established in 1737, James Graham (Sr) and family probably worshiped at the Derry Presbyterian Church. Thus, meetings between the young James Graham (Jr) and Mary Thomson were not only possible but probable.

James Graham (Jr) was the only young adult of record bearing this name in the Derry-Paxtang-Hanover communities in c. 1733, when it is projected that he married Mary Thomson. A cousin, James Graham (b. 1730), brother of John, would move onto the records later. When he died in 1786, the younger James left a will¹⁸, which gives extensive information about the interrelationship of these two families.

Bulls compiled all the Graham family records for Hanover, Paxtang, and Derry townships, and her collection of data forms the basis for Figures 2 and 3 and the notes thereon. These figures fully explain the genealogical history of the Graham families of immediate interest in Pennsylvania.

Figure 3

Graham families of interest in Pennsylvania



Notes on Figure 3:

1. This Graham forbear was probably born in Scotland. He may have been one of the Graham men killed in the "Killing Times", but this has not been proved. He likely emigrated to North Ireland, but he probably did not come to America.
2. It cannot be proved that this man (brother of James (Sr)) lived on Farm 2. Given that his son James was born in 1730, however, he certainly came to America.
3. First-cousin marriages, which were then common practice.
4. John Graham, son of John and Sarah, and Ann, dau. of Alexander and Sarah (mother of both children) became wards of James (Jr) after Alexander's death in 1746.
5. This John Graham is the man Herndon and Ray said married a Thomson daughter and was in the Buffalo settlement in Prince Edward Co., VA by 1755. Bulls proved this claim to be in error.

CHAPTER 2

The French and Indian War

After she had developed the family history shown in Figs. 2 and 3, Bulls turned her attention again to the genealogical literature, seeking more information on James (Jr) of Farm 1. She projected him as the unidentified husband of Mary Graham (widow of James) in Prince Edward County, VA. Thus, she believed that he was one of our forbears, and she sought all available information about him. She found some records that appear to be, beyond reasonable doubt, about this James Graham (Jr); however, no known Pennsylvania record after 1756 positively correlates with him.

Let us consider what we know about James Graham (Jr):

In the late 1740s, animosities arose between the Scotch-Irish settlers and various Indian tribes, especially those across the Susquehanna River and beyond the mountains. From time to time, some of those Indians and their French allies would make incursions into the settled areas.

In 1747, leading citizens in Lancaster County organized themselves into an association for the common defense, and a James Graham then living in Paxtang Township was named a Captain in this militia. His name appears in various historical lists, but Pennsylvania records give only names of the appointed men and offer no genealogical data on them. This Captain James Graham was most likely James Graham (Jr) of Farm 1, but then living on Farm 4 with his wife and small children. His cousin James Graham (b. 1730) was too young to have served in this capacity.

In 1748, James Graham and James Wilson were appointed guardians of John and Ann Graham, minor children of John Graham (d. 1737) and Alexander Graham (d. 1746) respectively. The mother was Sarah Graham, who we believe was James (Jr)'s sister-in-law (through husband John, d. 1737) and cousin by marriage (through Alexander (d. 1746)). Again, cousin James Graham (b. 1730) was too young to have served as a guardian.

The 1751 tax rolls for Hanover Township, East End, indicate that a James Graham was then living on Farm 1. This is presumed to have been James Graham (Jr), although James Graham (b. 1730) reached maturity that year and could have owned this farm through some purchase arrangement that is not recorded. However, the younger James was only 21 and was not yet married; therefore, it seems logical to exclude him in favor of James (Jr). Inasmuch as he inherited Farm 1 in 1745, it is reasonable to argue that James (Jr) was living on Farm 1 in 1751, having moved back from Farm 4 in the 1750-1751 period.

As reported in Note 1 on Figure 2 (p.11), the James Graham associated with Farm 1 in 1756 was shown on the tax rolls as having "fled". This is the last known (but unproven) record in Pennsylvania on the man whom we project as our ancestor.

Recognizing that service in a local militia during the outbreak of the French and Indian War could have led to the demise of James Graham (Jr), Bulls searched every casualty list she could find. She postulated that he could have fallen in the Battle of the Forks, near Fort Duquesne, where General Sir Edward Braddock was defeated on July 7, 1755, but she found no James Graham on any casualty list.

After General Braddock's defeat near Fort Duquesne, the French urged their allied tribes to attack the settlers all along the frontier, and the situation deteriorated rapidly in the Paxtang/Hanover communities, which were exposed to the mountain passes. An incident of record involving local Scotch-Irish and the Indians occurred on or about October 25, 1755, when about 30 men from Paxtan Township, led by John Harris (for whom Harrisburg is named), Captain John McKee, and others, went

up the Susquehanna to investigate a reported massacre of some white settlers. On this occasion, the investigators were attacked by Indians and nine of the Paxtang men were reported as killed.

Numerous historical records describing the last months of 1755²⁹ tell of this and other similar events and of the associated fear and misery experienced in the Paxtang and Hanover communities, as many men were killed and women and children either killed or carried away by the marauding Indians. Urgent entreaties were sent to Philadelphia begging for assistance. Numerous people fled the area, as the 1756 tax lists show, and there were reports of "plantations" standing vacant.

In these same days, Rev. John Elder of Paxtang, who remained behind but always carried a musket into the pulpit, wrote to an official in Lancaster telling of the threat of an attack, which he considered to be imminent, and he spoke of his own family, and those of his neighbors, who had been evacuated to safer places. Elder implied that he and other men had remained behind to offer some protection against incursions into the settled areas.³⁰

On May 15, 1757, the people remaining in Hanover Township petitioned Governor William Denny for relief from the threat of Indian attacks. This document furnishes the best evidence of what happened in this community from the onset of hostilities in 1755.³¹

Here, in part, is the Hanover petition:

"We, in these parts, are at present [May 15, 1757] in the utmost Confusion, the Savage Enemy has again fallen on us afresh. Yesterday morning early they plundered the house of Alexr Martin, & carried his mother Captive, & this morning early they killed Thomas Bell, an honest responsible Dweller on the Frontier, within forty yards of his own house.

...

"We lost so many last year, that the greatest part of the Inhabitants nearest the mountain are fled long ago; our young men & servants are generally Inlisted, and the Provincials in the two Forts here are some way Employ'd, that in our Extremity we can have no assistance from them.

"In these our distressed circumstances, the greater part of the remaining inhabitants are now flying with wives and Children to places more remote from Danger, whereby above 15 miles in length [East to West] and 6 or 8 Breadth [North to South], in a few days will be altogether waste, & we who continue must either fall a sacrifice to Enemies Cruelty, or go with our wives and Children to beg our Bread."

The Hanover petition was signed by 28 men, including Rev. Richard Sankey and a William Watson. No Graham name appears on the list, but the Graham farms lay within the deserted area cited. Likewise the Graham farms were near the mountains, so these inhabitants would have been those who "fled long ago".

The petition ends with the names of the 28 signers followed by this entry: "And many others". Thus, we cannot know for sure who remained.

Late in the 1750s and after the threat of Indian raids had passed from the Paxtang and Hanover communities, many of the families who fled in 1755-1756 returned to their farms. It is interesting to note that William Graham, son of John, may have remained on Farm 2 throughout the war. The tax records do not indicate that he fled. Neither did his closest neighbor, Rev. Richard Sankey, although both their farms were close to the mountains. Throughout the whole period, however, general conditions in the religious community were not good, and services at the Hanover

Church appear to have been suspended.

In 1759, Rev. Sankey and family transferred to the Buffalo Settlement Church in Prince Edward County, VA. Herndon, writing about Sankey in his essay on the Thomson family, gave this information about the Indian incursions into the Hanover neighborhood.³²

[Richard Sankey, b.c. 1710 in N. Ireland; came to America in 1735; m. Sara Thomson c. 1737] was ordained and installed as pastor of the Monada [Hanover] Presbyterian Church on 15 August 1738 [August 30, 1739?] and continued in that relationship until the summer of 1759 when he removed with his family and a large part of his congregation to the Buffalo River community in Prince Edward County, Va. The cause of the migration of about thirty-five families at that time from the Paxtang [Hanover] neighborhood was a series of Indian raids and massacres which grew in intensity from 1755 on, in the course of which 14 members of [Sankey's] congregation were killed."

The names of these 14 members killed have not been located in Pennsylvania records, although the 1756 tax assessor named some Hanover people as "killed". This same man wrote that James Graham (Jr) had "fled". Reason holds that the local tax assessor would have known if James (Jr) had been killed by the Indians.

Herndon wrote that Sankey and 35 families moved together to Prince Edward County, but this may not have been the case. Few if any members of the Sankey congregation seemed to have been worshiping in the Hanover Church in 1759. Thus, all or most of the 35 families probably left Pennsylvania in the 1755-1757 period, and Sankey came in 1759 after he was released by the Donegal Presbytery to minister to his former parishioners already in the Virginia Buffalo Settlement. Many familiar names—e.g., Cunningham, Shields, Graham, Watson, etc.—in the Paxtang/Hanover communities appeared later in Sankey's Virginia congregation.

Later in this text, evidence is presented to support the Bulls' thesis that Mary Graham (widow of James) moved in 1755 from Farm 1 in Hanover Township to the Buffalo Settlement in Virginia, where she joined her many relatives already living there—her brothers and sisters and step-brothers and step-sisters (all of Rev. John Thomson)—and numerous cousins. However, when Mary arrived in Virginia in 1755, Rev. Thomson was already dead (1753), having moved earlier to North Carolina.

Bulls never found absolute proof that James Graham (Jr) of Farm 1 and Mary Graham (widow of James) in Prince Edward County, VA, were married. Nonetheless, three pieces of corroborating evidence add significant weight to her thesis that James (Jr) and Mary (widow of James) were husband and wife. These are:

1. Mary Graham (widow of James) had, among others, a son named Thomas. Thomas, a proved forebear of Graham/Bulls, was born in 1736, presumably in Pennsylvania. In 1755, he was 20 years old. At the time when Mary first enters the records in Virginia, a Thomas Graham was in Pennsylvania, where he was involved with the friendly Indians in the vicinity of Harris Ferry.

One segment of Thomas's story is told in part by Conrad Weiser, a German farmer who came down from New York in 1723 and settled up the reaches of Swatara Creek. At that time, he found the lower Swatara so thickly occupied by the Scotch-Irish that he went further into the wilds for his German settlement.³³

Weiser would become a very important man who was involved in Indian affairs throughout the French and Indian War, and many of his writings are extant in the *Pennsylvania Archives* and the *Minutes of the Provincial Council*.