

RESEARCH NARRATIVES OF AFRICAN AMERICANS WHO WORKED AT OR LIVED NEARBY TO HOPEWELL FURNACE

Researched and written by students and the professor in English 472: Current Theories of Writing and Reading in Spring 2021 at Penn State Berks

INTRODUCTION

The project that led to these research narratives is a form of what is known in higher education as *community-based research*, a type of instruction that partners students, faculty, and community organizations to fill a community need. I, Laurie Grobman, Professor of English and Women's studies at Penn State University, Berks, taught an upper-level class in the Writing and Digital Media major in Spring 2021, and we collaborated on the African Americans at Hopewell Furnace project in collaboration with Jared Muehlbauer, Archeological Technician and Amy Roache-Fedchenko, Ph.D. Archeologist, both in the Northeast Archeological Resources Program at the National Park Service. I thank both Jared and Amy for this opportunity and for their assistance and support.

I received an email from Jared in September 2020 asking to partner with me and my students to “to better understand the experience and presence of African Americans at Hopewell Furnace” and “to use that research to provide a more accurate visitor experience at Hopewell Furnace NHS [HOFU].” And that is what I and my students did.

I am proud of the work my students did to recover and make known the lives of many enslaved, self-emancipated, and free African Americans who worked at and/or lived nearby Hopewell Furnace between 1771 and 1883 in Elverson, PA. As stated on the Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site website, “African Americans,”

The injustices of racial segregation contributed to the exclusion of African Americans from telling the story of the United States' industrial past. It is essential to learn about these historically overlooked stories to gain a better understanding about the communities who lived and worked at Hopewell Furnace. Future research will explore how people experienced life differently based on their ethnic and racial backgrounds. In so doing, Hopewell Furnace will connect local stories to the larger narrative of the United States' industrial history. (<https://www.nps.gov/hofu/learn/historyculture/african-americans-at-hopewell.htm>)

The historical narratives in this document add important and previously unknown information to the official history of Hopewell Furnace. Yet the content in these narratives was limited by time, space, cost, and access. It's important to note that few historical records exist on African Americans from the 18th through early 20th centuries, another legacy of slavery and racial injustice.

All but one narrative (I wrote about the Hill family) were written by undergraduate students, not professional historians, within the span of one semester in a course that included a great deal of other assignments. The students learned to write history while writing history. They made every effort to gather as much information as possible from multiple sources. Students have done their best to represent the historical evidence accurately and objectively. **Any inaccuracies are entirely unintended.** We present these narratives as a foundation for further

historical research and recovery. We also hope that living descendants of these individuals and families find out something, however small, about their family histories.

During the Fall 2021 semester, Nicholas Kopp, one of the students in the class, did a 3-credit internship at Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site under the supervision of Site Manager Jeffrey Jones. Limited by his schedule as a full-time college student and his other responsibilities at HOFU, Nicholas followed up and fact-checked as much of the information in these narratives as possible. I appreciate Nicholas' commitment to this work.

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RESEARCH NARRATIVES

JOHN ALLEN

Researched and Written by Elijah Shade

John Allen was not in any census for Hopewell. He was present in furnace records from 1837-1838, with his occupation as a Woodcutter (SM: 19:470; 38:133). He was present in the company store ledger, but the print on the ledger has suffered to age and is largely illegible.

Follow-up Information from Nicholas Kopp

Another record provided by Ancestry details information from the Pennsylvania and New Jersey Church and Town records, including St. Luke's Episcopal Church's recorded clergy. Allen's birth date is recorded as roughly 1823. He is described as a resident of Reading, Pennsylvania, and he died in 1900, meaning that he was 77. Given that we know John Allen was at Hopewell from 1837-1838 as a woodcutter, it is quite possible that he worked and lived near Hopewell for a time before traveling to Reading. The range in years would place him at approximately 14-15 years of age when he first appeared in Hopewell ledger records; furthermore, this age would make sense for a young man looking to earn wages through any available labor.

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### **JAMES ANDERSON**

#### **Researched and Written by Tessa Eberlein**

James Anderson was a black male from East Nantmeal who worked at Hopewell from 1829-1830. Ancestry had many entries for James Anderson, but no exact matches.

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TOM ANDERSON

Researched and Written by Tessa Eberlein

Tom Anderson was a mixed-race male from Warwick who was born in 1849 and 11 years old when he worked at Hopewell. He was present in the 1860 census and lived in dwelling 160 with family 170. It is unclear where in Berks County this dwelling was located.

This family was composed of 28-year-old Nathaniel Coleman, who was the head of the family, a day laborer with a personal estate value of 20, and born in 1832; 19-year-old Catherine Coleman, Nathaniel's wife who was born in 1841; 1-year-old Clara A. Coleman; and 8-month-old Nathaniel Coleman (junior, presumably). It is possible Tom Anderson was a nephew to either Nathaniel or Catherine. The family tree states that Nathaniel Coleman was the oldest of 5 boys to Isaac and Margaret Coleman and ended up having 11 sons and 4 daughters with Catherine. He died in 1885 at the age of 53. The lineage was unfortunately untraceable past this point, and Tom Anderson was never mentioned.



BENDIGS FAMILY

Researched and Written by Mackenzie Siegel

According to the 1850 census, Sarah and Susanna Bendigs lived in Union Township. At this time, Sarah was 28 and Susanna was 5. There are no records stating how they were related. Sarah and Susanna lived at residence 244 with three other people: Eliza Hill, Anna Maria Wilson and William Jacobs. In Hopewell's records, Sarah is found under the last name "Bendigo" and listed as working at the ironmaster's house from 1850 to 1853. In those records, according to Joseph Walker, it can be assumed that she was recorded as "negro Bendigo." There is no information for either Sara or Susanna after 1853.



BOARDLEY FAMILY

Researched and Written by Mackenzie Siegel

The Boardleys were one of the Six Penny Creek families.

William Boardley

In the 1840 census, William was listed on the census as Amilla, this changes with each census that he is featured in. He is listed as living in East Nantmeal with a household of seven free black individuals: Two males under ten years old, one in the 36-55 age range, two females under ten, one in the 10-24 age range and one female in the 36-55 age range. These numbers match up with his wife and children that were alive at this time. He can be found in the Hopewell records books SM 19: 253, SM 19: 467, SM 38: 130,305, 425 and SM 35: 125. I was able to collect some

information from SM 35, the time log for February in 1858, which listed that his first day was the 18th of that month and he worked until the end of the month.

The only other piece of information I was able to find about William was the 1850 census, where he was listed to be the head of the household and living with his wife and their eight children. They lived in Upper Merion in dwelling number 510.

Catharine Boardley

Catharine is listed in the 1850 census with William and all of their children. By the 1860 census, however, William is no longer listed and she is now the head of the household, living with two of her children Lidya and Henry, as well as Maryanne and Jane Johnson. Joseph Walker's book states that Catharine was living in one of the houses surrounding the AME Mount Frisby church, making her one of six black heads of house in Union township at the time. The next record of her is the 1870 census where she is listed as living with her son Henry and his wife Mary and their child in Chester, Pennsylvania. By the next census year Catharine is no longer listed. No death certificate was found for her, however in the lapsed time she would have been in her 80s which leads me to believe she passed between census years.

Based on the 1850 and 1860 census, I have come to the conclusion that William and Catharine had nine children total. In age order it would have been: Sarah, Anna, Edward, George, Wilkinson, Matilda, Israel, Henry and Lydia. I was able to find information on six of their nine children, but Sarah, George and Lydia did not have any continued record.

Anna Boardley

Anne or Anna was 17 during the 1850 census, and she was married to Isaac Cole. Their family lived in Six Penny Creek, and they still have living relatives there ("Six Penny Creek Community"). It is known that Ida (Miller) married into this family, connecting three different families in the community.

Edward Boardley

Edward was married to a woman named Laticia and they had nine children as well. By the 1900 census they had three of their grandchildren living with them. They did not lead to much information and their trails ran cold. He passed in May of 1905. At that time he was a night watchman at a jail.

Amanda Boardley

Amanda married a man named John Montier. They had two children named George and Catharine. Based on census records (1880) and John's death certificate (1932), John's father was Hiram Montier, who was a successful boot maker in Philadelphia. Hiram and his wife are the first African American portrait sitters in recorded history. Their wedding portraits are currently in a museum for this distinction. Hiram is also related to the first mayor of Philadelphia, Humphrey Morrey. Humphrey's son fell in love and had five children with one of the women who was formerly the family's slave. One of their children married a John Montier, and that is where Amanda's John story begins (Smyles 2018). George signed as the informant on Amanda's death certificate from 1948.

Wilkinson Boardley

There was a possible record in the 1860 census that Wilkinson was working for a Gerrett family along with his sister Matilda as “servants.” The last name is misspelled but all other information matched up. He moved to Philadelphia at some point and worked there according to city directories as a coachman for many years. He passed in 1888. There were no records indicating that he had married or had children.

Matilda Boardley

Matilda was working for a Gerrett family in 1860. Matilda did not appear on any other records.

Israel Boardley

According to the 1870 census, Israel’s place of residence was a prison, and he was listed as a convict. I could not find any information about the arrest or crime. However, all information matched, meaning this may be the correct Israel Boardley. There is also a death certificate that matches most information from 1872: it says he was a shoemaker at that time. His last name was listed as “Bordley,” and unfortunately, there was no image of the certificate.

Henry Boardley

Henry married Mary Jane (Jones) and they had ten children by 1900. Catharine, Henry’s mother, was living with them for some period of time.

Henry’s son, John, was born in 1891 and married a woman named Marie. They lived in Philadelphia and had at least two children. His son John Wilkinson Boardley Jr. married a woman named Barbara Baker and passed in 2002 in Florida. They had at least one son named John Wilkinson Boardley III. He married a woman named Cindy Jackson in 1994 and by 1997 they were divorced. There is no record that they had any children. As far as I can tell he is still alive and living in Florida.

Follow-up Information from Nicholas Kopp

Anna Mary “Annie” Boardley married Isaac Cole in 1864, as Mackenzie writes. In analyzing the Ancestry timeline record created by Dr. Benjamin Carter, the birth of their first child, Charles Cole, can be traced to 1865. Their second child, Martha Cole, was born in Giegertown on April 9, 1868. The family’s lived in Geiger Mills in the 1870 census. Two more daughters, Emma and Katherine Cole, were born in 1871 and about 1874 respectively. The family took residence in Union Township once again in the 1880 census. Isaac Cole’s passing in 1889 left Anna with her children in the Birdsboro area by 1900. Multiple other deaths in the family transpired during this time, including daughter Katherine in 1891 and brother Edward Boardley in 1905. Anna moved to Pottstown a few years before her death on June 25th, 1909.



JOHN BROWN

Researched and Written by Ryan Bizzaro

A census from June of 1860 showed a five-month-old John Brown living with members of the Fords and Talberts families, who were also Black individuals living around Hopewell. The

census didn't show any relationship between the two families. The oldest member that lived in the house was Joseph Talbert at 65.

The 1870 federal census has John now living with other individuals with the same last name. The family resided in Washington, Pennsylvania where John was one of 10 children for Thomas and Henryetta. He was the youngest boy and either the third or fourth youngest in the family as his sister Elisabeth's age is unknown according to the census. Another census was found involving John Brown still living in Washington, Pennsylvania, but this time, he's with his niece and two nephews. This census was from 1920 and it mentioned that John was a 60-years-old widow. The census also mentioned that John did have the ability to read and write and was a laborer.



POLLY BROWN

Researched and Written by Ryan Bizzaro

Polly was at Hopewell for six years. She began working there in May of 1831 and left in May of 1837. While at Hopewell, Polly's main responsibility was doing housework. The first bit of information on Polly was found in Book 19 on page 153 which had some of Polly's work documented from her first three years at Hopewell (May of 1831 through November of 1833). She earned \$43.35 for doing various tasks around Hopewell. Book 19, page 323 had her work documented from 1834 until November of 1835 where Polly received \$155 for services. The last page from the Hopewell records that information on Polly Brown was found on page 401 in book 19. This detailed her last year plus at Hopewell and her making over \$150 again as she made \$159.21.

The 1850 census described that Polly was born around 1826, and in 1850 she moved to Cumru Township with her husband David and their two young children, Mary and Catharine. Living with the Browns in their house was a 21-year-old by the name of Harriett Hornberger. Harriett was also African American and the 1850 census didn't mention her relationship with Polly and David.



STEPHEN BROWN

Researched and Written by Ryan Bizzaro

Stephen Brown was a woodcutter at Hopewell from April of 1837 until late January of 1845. The first bit of information on Stephen Brown I found was on page 487 in book 19. The wording on the page is starting to disappear from the page but it talks about Stephen making around 20 bowls for Mr. James. I also found out that during his time at Hopewell, Stephen would occasionally make goods for a Judge.

An 1860 census records that Stephen was born in 1815 so he worked at Hopewell from his mid 20's until his early 30's. After his time at Hopewell, Stephen and his wife Margaret, also

from Pennsylvania, moved to Binghamton, New York with their family. Stephen and Margaret had six children, including a 1 ½-year-old by the name of Georgianna Houk. I found no further information on Georgianna.

GEORGE BRYAN

Researched and Written by Elijah Shade

George Bryan was present in furnace records for 1816, registered as a Teamster from March 23 to September 5, 1816 (SM: 8 R: 21).

ISAAC BURTEN

Researched and Written by Charlie Haerberlein

Isaac Burten worked as a laborer and teamster at Hopewell Furnace from 1804-1805. He lived in East Nantmeal township according to the 1820 census. There was a lot of discrepancy about Isaac's last name, having him as Barten, Burten, Burden, and Barton. A tax discount record Isaac Barton around Chester County, PA in 1823 probably identifies this person as the Hopewell Isaac Burten.

BUTLER FAMILY

Researched and Written by Elijah Shade

The Butlers were one of the Six Penny Creek families. The Butler family at Hopewell consisted of two individuals, Charles and Sarah Butler. Charles Butler was born in 1770, and Sarah Butler was born in 1800. In a later ancestry record it is discovered that there may have been a third Butler known as John Butler, but his relationship to the rest of the Butler family and lack of mention in other records makes this uncertain.

According to Six Penny Creek's records, both Butlers were listed in the 1850 Union Township Census, and were both deemed incapable of reading and writing. Hopewell Furnace ledgers from 1850 to 1853 stated that Charles Butler "worked as a woodcutter, cutting forty-five cords at a rate of thirty cents per cord." A Friends of HOFU record dated that he was working as a woodcutter as early as January 1st, 1801.

In the 1860 Union Township Census, the Butlers are recorded as living with Levi (30), Ellen (25), Elizabeth (4), and John (26) Dehart, as well as Ellen Ford (6). ("Six Penny Creek"). Joseph Walker determined that they were members of a church that the black household surrounded called Six Penny Colored Church, or Mt. Zion Church. In the 1870 Census of Union Township, Charles Butler and Sarah Butler lived with Mary J. Johnson. In contrast to the

1850 Union Township Census, Charles Butler's birthplace was not listed as Pennsylvania, but instead, Maryland. Sarah and Mary J. Johnson's birthplaces were listed as Pennsylvania in this record. Mary J. Johnson at the time of the 1870 census was 8 years old, but no evidence of why she lived with the Butlers instead of the Johnsons that also lived in Union Township could be found.

Follow-up Information from Nicholas Kopp

Charles (age 60) and Sarah Butler (45) lived with the Deharts for several years in Union Township. The record also confirms their race as "black" and lists the dwelling number as 315. After examining the newspaper clip link, it appears that the Butlers of Hopewell are not directly connected to George T. Butler of Chester, PA. Coincidence is likely the case.



GEORGE CAIN

Researched and Written by Tara Anthony

George Cain

According to the Census records, George Cain was an African American male who was present in the Hopewell Furnace records from 1820-1831. The Friends of Hopewell Ledgers indicate that George Cain was a woodcutter between March 1st, 1820 and January 13th, 1831. There was little information about George Cain in the Hopewell Furnace digitized archives, and no indication on his relationship to John Cain. There is no clear evidence backing his date of birth or if he was married and/or had any children.

Follow-up Information from Nicholas Kopp

A black man named "George Cain," born in 1834 and listed as living in Washington, PA in the 1900 census, shows promise as a link to the George Cain of Hopewell. Of course, the Hopewell records referred to by Tara above do not correlate with the age of George Cain in Washington, though errors on either account may be the answer. He is described as a day laborer, living with his wife Mary at house number 35, Dewey Avenue. His birthplace is broadly listed as Pennsylvania, making Six Penny Creek or its surrounding area a potential location.



JOHN CAIN

Researched and Written by Tara Anthony

John Cain was an African American male in the Hopewell Furnace records from 1820-1851. The town he lived in is not known, and neither is his date of birth. The Friends of Hopewell Furnace Ledgers give us two different occupation periods: one being from March 1, 1820 to April 21, 1820, and the second from December 31, 1851 to March 31, 1852. The occupations were not named.


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## CHARLES COX

**Researched and Written by Tessa Eberlein**

Charles Cox was a black male from East Nantmeal who worked at Hopewell from 1800-1805. He was recorded in HOFU Ledger Books SM 42: 109 and SM 3:71. Joseph Walker mentions Charles Cox on page 310, stating how the name was apparently listed in records alongside the workers who had no family names. Anyone with a full name on this list was usually a long-term employee, and given that Charles Cox worked at Hopewell for a few years instead of the usual one year or handful of months, he may have been considered long-term.

Charles Cox also appears in the Hopewell Account Books under a log entitled "Account of Workman's Time for the Month of October 1805." I was unable to find a key to what the different dashes mean, but it states that Cox worked on the 1st, the 4th-5th, and the 8th through the 31st of October. Charles Cox's name also appears in the Friends of HF Leger Project, which states he held one job from October 15, 1800 to May 14, 1802 at Hopewell, and another from January 1, 1804 to June 7, 1805. Because this document lists Cox as having stopped working in June of 1805, it's unclear how there is a record of him working in October of that same year. My best guesses are that either these two aren't the same people, or Charles Cox wasn't paid after June, or the Friends of HF Leger Project has the final date wrong.

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CURTIS FAMILY

Researched and Written by Ryan Bizzaro

Samuel Curtis

Six Penny Creek's online record collection mentions that Samuel Curtis lived at the Ironmaster's House outside of Union Township in 1870 when he was 27, making his birthdate 1843. During his time living in the Ironmaster's house, Samuel Curtis was a laborer that didn't have the ability to read or write. Living with Samuel Curtis were members of the Hunsberger family, members of the Clingan family, William Jacobs, John Spencer, Elizabeth Thomas, and Hope. A. Joy. Six Penny Creek's website also mentioned that Charles Clingan was the head ironmaster at Hopewell Furnace in 1870.

An 1880 census record records Samuel living on Pearl Street in Philadelphia, where he was a coachman. Samuel was married to Catherin and they had a daughter, 9-year-old Mary Curtis. It is possible, but unconfirmed, that Samuel passed away in 1919 at the age of 76 while living in Washington, DC.

Catherin Curtis

Catherin, possibly Samuel's wife, was born either in 1848 or 1849. According to the 1880 census Catherin lived in Philadelphia, was a keeper of the house, and had the ability to read and write. Catherin's mother was born in Georgia and her father was born in Maryland.

Mary Curtis

Their daughter Mary attended school in Philadelphia the previous year. A 1930 census record described her as a salaried housekeeper for the Swanger family in Prospect Park, Pennsylvania (near Philadelphia). Mary appeared to have stayed around the Philadelphia area nearly her entire life but didn't have any children of her own.

Follow-up Information from Nicholas Kopp

A Samuel Curtis is listed as a black laborer in the Ancestry record found by Ryan Bizzaro. He was born in Maryland in 1841 and deceased by 1881 in Philadelphia. He is also listed as being married, a connection that aligns with his known marriage to Catherin. Though it is not certain, Samuel's residence in Philadelphia, his status as a married black man, and his close birth date all mark this record as a strong lead.



ENGLAND FAMILY

Researched and Written by Ashton Zillhardt

The Englands were one of the Six Penny Creek families. It is likely that, based on multiple sources, the Englands were all born in Pennsylvania and lived in Union Township at one time. It is unclear where they may have gone after the trail runs cold, but all of the Federal Census Records found indicate that the Englands lived in Union Township. Multiple members of the England family worked at Hopewell Furnace mostly in the 1870s with the exception of Thomas England who began working at the Furnace in 1849, according to the "Friends of Hopewell Furnace Ledger Project."

In addition, it was thought that there were two separate families with the last name "England." The Six Penny Creek Community website included two separate entries labeled "England." The first one discusses Lyara, Ellen, the Deharts (Harts), and Lizzie and Mary. The second entry discusses Samuel, George, John, and the Other Mary England born in 1840. In these entries, it was also stated that most if not all of them could not read or write. Mary (Lizzie's sister) was the only one who was believed to have gone to school. Neither entry listed anything about Thomas or Oliver England, so whether or not they belonged to either of these England families remains a mystery for the time being.

For now, it seems that Lyara and Ellen were sisters (lived with the Deharts/Harts at the time of the 1870 Census), Lizzie and Mary were listed as sisters in the 1880 Census, and Samuel, George, and John were listed as brothers in the 1880 Census separately from the girls. The three brothers' biological mother was Mary England (born in 1840). Any possible relationship between the two England families was not able to be identified.

Lyara and Ellen England

Lyara (9) and Ellen (8) were listed in the 1870 Federal Census as living with Mary E. Dehart (37) and Levi Dehart (40). Relationships between members of a household were not listed in this census record, but my best guess is that Lyara and Ellen are sisters due to their close age range and living under the same roof. However, their relationship to the Deharts (or Harts) remains unclear.

Mary A. England

Mary A. England (37) was also listed in the 1870 Federal Census. Her dwelling number and the Deharts' dwelling numbers follow each other consecutively, so the Deharts lived in Dwelling 372 and Mary A. England lived in Dwelling 373. Due to their close proximity and Mary A. England's age, I considered that Mary could have been Lyara and Ellen's biological mother. Mary would have been 28 years old when Lyara was born in 1861 and 29 years old when Ellen was born a year later in 1862.

Samuel England

In the 1880 Federal Census Record, Samuel England (23) was listed as "Saml. England" and as the head of the household. This census record states that he lived with his two brothers and mother -- George (25), John (5), and Mary (40) -- and that he was a collier at that time, reaffirming the information listed on the "Friends of Hopewell Furnace Ledger Project" website.

Joseph Walker directly references the England family just once. The reference includes an interesting detail about Samuel: "Homes in the Furnace area were rented to colored families—evidence that segregation in housing was not practiced. Two of these families scandalized the village, however, in the 1870's when Sam England and George Toogood traded wives without the aid of the law or the clergy" (310).

George England

George England (25) was also listed in the 1880 Census in the same household as Samuel. Ancestry Library referred to him as "Geo. England." He lived in Union Township and was labeled as a collier, and had a brother named Samuel.

A grave for a George England is located in Saint Michaels Cemetery in Birdsboro, Pennsylvania. The dates inscribed on the headstone are "1853 - 1924". The 1880 census indicates that George was 25 years old at the time it was taken -- making his actual birth year 1855. Since the grave's birth year is only 2 years off, I thought it might be possible that this could be the same George England.

John England

John England (5) was the last brother of Samuel's listed in the 1880 census records according to Ancestry Library.

Mary England

Samuel, George, and John's mother, Mary England, was 40 years old when the 1880 Census was recorded. I initially thought that this Mary England and Mary A. England were the same person, but the dates do not properly line up for that to be easily proven true. If this *were* the same Mary as Mary A. England, the age would be 7 years off from what it should have been in 1880. Therefore, I am not sure I can reasonably claim that the Mary England that mothered Samuel, George, and John is the same as Mary A. England from the 1870 Census record.

Lizzie and Mary England

There was another Mary England listed in the 1880 Census record as the sister of Lizzie England. This Mary England was born in approximately 1862 which made her 18 years old at

the time of this census. Lizzie (who was the head of the house) was born in 1860, making her 20 years old. It is also unclear from my research whether or not all of these Englands are related in some way since I have not been able to identify anyone from before the 1870 and 1880 censuses or after.

Thomas and Oliver England

The “Friends of Hopewell Furnace” website states that they both Thomas and Oliver worked at the Furnace (Thomas England’s occupation was listed as “woodcutter” while Oliver’s occupation was unspecified). No further information was found. It is worth noting that Thomas England is supposed to appear in one of the NPS’s digitized account books (SM 68 R: 200), but this page is not available in the digitized records currently.

Follow-up Information from Nicholas Kopp

Ellen, age 8 in 1870, is recorded as having lived alongside her sister, Lyara (age 9) in dwelling number 372, Union Township. The head of the dwelling, Levi, is age 40 and listed as a laborer (likely a woodcutter or collier, in connection with the records referred to in the Dehart family narrative). Mary E. Dehart is 37 and described as a “keeper of house,” meaning that she attended to the family home while Levi likely labored in the nearby woods.

Due to an exact match in age and their close proximity, it is intriguing that Mary E. Dehart and Mary A. England lived within the same social sphere. According to Dr. Ben Carter’s ongoing family tree concerning the Dehart and England families, Thomas England and Mary Dehart married at an unknown date and had at least four children together: Samuel, Lizzie, Mary and John. It is also possible that Thomas’ son George was their child, but this would imply that George (at the age of 23) impregnated Mary Dehart at the age of 10. Considering the different social and political views of the 1800s, however, this is not a far-fetched scenario.

Mary England is described as a housekeeper in her son Samuel’s (the head of the household) Union home (dwelling 221) in the 1880 census. Thomas’ death, which occurred between 1875 and 1880, rendered Mary a widow living in a household with her sons John, George and Samuel. Ashton separates the different depictions of Mary England because of their discrepancy in age, but the 1880 census record lists her birth date as “about 1840,” meaning that a variation of 7 years is reasonably within the margin of error. It is for this reason that I believe Mary A. England is the same Mary described in the 1880 census, especially when considering that the names of the sons are all a match.

An African American man named Oliver England, age 45, is listed as the head of household in New Castle, Delaware in 1900. It is possible that this Oliver moved from Six Penny Creek to Delaware and married a woman by the name of Mary, age 38. Mary and Oliver had several children, including their sons George (age 10 in 1900) and Oliver (6) as well as their daughter Minnie (8).

Unfortunately, death records of many England family members proved difficult to come by, such as in the cases of Thomas, Oliver and Mary A. England.



FORD FAMILY

Researched and Written by Brittany Katzaman and Troi Howell

The Fords were one of the Six Penny Creek families. This record presents research regarding Edward / Edington Ford, Henrietta Ford, Minty Ford, Joshua Ford, Miriam / Miram Ford, George Ford, Jane Ford, Henry Ford, and Mary E. Ford. Edward and Jane were married, as indicated by Ancestry Library and the 1850 Census. Their children were Henrietta, Joshua, George, Henry, and Mary E., who although they were not with their parents in the 1860 Census, were with George and Henrietta, who are confirmed as their kids. All of their birth years fall between 1850 and 1860.

Minty Ford lived in her own house, meaning she was possibly not a direct member of Edington Ford's family. Even still, it is possible that she was a relative of Edington, but a more distant relative, such as a grandmother, which would explain the age difference and the reason why she lived in another house. She was the head of her own household in the 1850 Census and could not read or write.

Miriam / Miram is only present in the 1880 Census records, whereas the rest of the Ford family does not show up beyond the 1860 Census. It is possible that Miriam may not have been directly related to the rest of the Ford's either, but simply shared their last name. It may also be possible that Miriam is a distant relative, like a brother to Edington, but there is no evidence to support that.

Edward (Edington) Ford

Edward, or Edington, Ford, was born in 1811 according to the HOFU African American Census Records. He was on record in Census Records from the 1820s, 1830s, and 1850s. The 1850s census notes that he could read and write and was a basketmaker at the Hopewell Furnace. He was present in Furnace Records from 1826-1845, and in the following furnace books: SM11: 261, SM54: 16, SM19: 472, SM38:135. He was recorded as the head of his household in the 1820 census, and there were three free people of color in his household; 1 male aged 14-26, 1 male over 45, and one female over 45. I believe that the male aged 14-26 is Edward, since he was born in 1811 and this record was from the 1820s.

In the 1830 census, Edward Ford was referred to as Edward "Fort." He is recorded to have been living with 2 females under age 10, 1 female aged 36-55, 1 female aged 55-100, 1 male aged 10-24, and 1 male aged 55-100. I am unsure who these people were since they couldn't possibly have been Edward's children or wife due to his age and the other records. In the 1850s, his wife, Jane Ford, and child, Henrietta Ford, showed up for the first time in the census. In the 1850 census, Edward is 39, which lines up with his birth year being in 1811. The dwelling house number of Edward's family is #143, but Minty Ford's house number is #144. This further suggests that Minty and Edward were not related, but proves that they did not reside together.

Walker's Chapter 15 mentions Edward (Edington) Ford one time, noting that he owned his own "team and was paid by the Furnace for hauling goods to and from Philadelphia" (Walker 314). It mentions Ford children, too, saying that "St. Gabriel's episcopal church at Douglassville listed three Ford... children baptized on October 8th, 1830" (Walker 311). The digitized account books have records for both Edward and Edington Ford, and tenures for both of them, although they are the same person. Edward is reported as a Woodcutter, and his tenures were from

03/14/1817- 08/26/1817, 01/01/1818- 01/13/1831, and 03/31/1836- 02/01/1839. Edington's occupation was not specified, but his only recorded tenure was from 01/02/1837- 01/24/1845.

When searching on Ancestry Library, I used a variety of names that the Ford family members possibly could have been referred to as. When I looked up "Edington Forde," I found that he was married to Jane Ford, who was present in the 1850 census. Edington could read and write, but Jane could not. This source also reported that he had George Ford with Jane in 1844. Another spelling of Edward's name came up, and it was "Eddington Forde." He was present in the United States Federal Census for 1830 and was reported to have 6 free colored persons in his household. The census reported 1 male under 10, 1 male aged 10-23, 2 females under age 10, and 2 females aged 36-54.

On Six Penny Creek's site, Edington Ford was reported to have been employed as a laborer at the furnace for "just over three months at a wage of 9\$ a month" from 1835-1837. Six Penny Creek was affiliated with the Underground Railroad and provided work to fugitive free slaves. Edington Ford was reported to have been a member of the Six Penny Creek Community, which may imply that he was an emancipated slave. Despite this, I was unable to find anything about him being a slave. In the 1850 Census of Union Township, Edington, Jane, George, and Henrietta were reported to have been living in the home of John, Leri, John, and Mary Hart. He was not, however, reported in the 1860 Census.

Henrietta Ford

Henrietta Ford, in the HOFU African American Census Records, was recorded to have been born in 1848. She was present in the 1850 and 1860 Census Records, but was not present in any furnace records, which indicates that she was not employed by the furnace. In the 1850 Census Record, she was reported as being 2 years old, and in the 1860 Census, she was reported as being 4 years old. This is confusing because there is a 10-year gap between 1850 and 1860, yet Henrietta/ Henriette is reported as ageing only 2 years. I believe that the Census was reported for the entire decade, but I am confused why this was not specified. It is possible that Henreitta and Henriette were two different people, due to this disparity in age. When living with Edward and Jane Ford, she was reported to have been in house #281, and in family #156.

According to Ancestry Library, Henrietta Ford' was present in the Pennsylvania Death Certificates from 1906-1967. Her birth was reported to have been in 1849, though, which is one year off of the Henrietta Ford in the census. Even still, she was reported as present in the 1850 census. Her death is reported to have been on March 11th, 1912, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, which would have made her 64-65 years old at the time of her passing. In the 1850 Census, she was present, along with Edington and Jane. She was present in the 1860 census without Edington and Jane, and was reported to have been living in the Tolbert family (Joseph, George, Caroline, Martha, Mary, and Jane) home at age 4, along with a 5-month-old John Brown.

Minty Ford

According to the HOFU African American Census Records, Minty Ford was born in 1760. She was present in the 1850 Census, but no others, and was not present in the furnace records. In this 1850 Census, Edward, Minty, and Henrietta are present, but are not recorded as living in the same household. Minty's house number is #156, while Edward and Henreitta's house number is #155. Minty is significantly older than Edward, being reported as 90 in this census while Edward is only 39. They may have had some sort of relationship (Minty is possibly Edward's

grandmother) but it is uncertain. Minty is reported as the head of household in the 1850 census and is recorded as being unable to read and write.

On Ancestry Library and the Six Penny Creek website, this same information was repeated. She was only present in the 1850 US Federal Census and did not live in the home with Edward/ Edington Ford. This led me to believe that it was possible that Minty Ford had no relation to Edward's family, and that they merely shared a last name. The last name "Ford" is relatively common, so I do not think that it would be too far-fetched if they weren't related. Even still, their dwelling numbers were very close, so it's possible that even if they weren't related, they were acquaintances at the least.

Joshua Ford

Joshua Ford is present in the 1860 Census Records, and was born in 1856, making him 4 years old at the time of the census. He is not present in the Furnace Records. I believe that Joshua is a child of Edward and Jane since he shared their last name and resided with their confirmed children like Henrietta. His dwelling house number was #281, just like Henrietta's. In the 1860 Census, he is reported as living in the Tolbert household with Henrietta (4), Henry (11), and Mary E. (7) Ford. Edward and Jane were not present in the Tolbert household.

Miriam/ Miram Ford

Miriam/ Miram Ford is reported in the 1880 Census Records but was not present in the Furnace Records. In the 1880 Census, he was recorded as living with the Cole family, of which Isaac Cole, 57, was the head of household. He was 41 years old in this census, and his relationship to the family was referred to as "boarder," meaning that he was staying with them but had no blood relation. He was reported as being unable to read and write, and worked as a collier, meaning that he essentially mined for charcoal. Since he was born in 1838/ 1839, I speculate that he may not have been a child of Edward and Jane Ford. If he were, I think that he would have been present in not only the Furnace records from the 1830, 1840, and 1850, but also would have resided in the Tolbert household with the other children. This leads me to believe that he may have been either a different type of relative, like a brother to Jane or Edward, or not directly related to the family at all.

George Ford

George Ford was born in 1844 according to the HOFU African American Census Records. He was not present in the Furnace records, but he was present in the 1850 and 1860 Census Records. The 1850 Census says that George was 4 years old at the time of this data collection, and reports that he lived with Edington (39), Henrietta 2) and Jane (28) Ford in the home of the Hart's [John (65), Levi (19), John (18), and Mary (26)]. In the 1860 Census Records, he was reported as being 16 years old, and lived with the Tolbert family along with Henrietta (4), Henry (11), Mary E (7), and Joshua (4).

When I tried to search Ancestry Library, I was unable to find any further information about George. Based on the information I found, I can conclude that George was the son (possibly eldest) of Edward and Jane Ford, and that he was a sibling to Henrietta, Henry, Mary, and Joshua Ford.

Jane Ford

According to the HOFU African American Census Records, Jane Ford was born in 1822, and was present in the 1850 census. In the 1850 census, she is 28 years old, and is reported to be married to 39-year-old Edward/ Edington Ford. Jane is reported as being illiterate, meaning that she could not read or write. Present in her household in the 1850 Census were George and Henrietta Ford, which I believe to have been her children. I also believe that Mary, Joshua, and Henry Ford were her children. I believe that these were her children because George Ford was indicated as her child in her profile on Ancestry Library. I believe that since all of the children share her last name and lived in her house, they are her children. She was born in Pennsylvania. In the 1850 Census, she was reportedly living in the Hart household, along with another family (Nixons), and a man named Washington Lee.

Jane Ford was born in 1822 in Union Berks, Pennsylvania. She was living with the Hart Family and Nixon Family as well as someone named Washington Lee (Ancestry, Union, Berks, 1850). I also found another Jane Ford (28) who was also born in 1822 but was born in Greenville, Virginia, USA. She was living with Harriette Ford (2), Samuel Ford (31), Walter Ford (5), Josephine Ford (4), and Dorathy Harrison (Ancestry, Greenville, 1850). I believe the Jane Ford we are looking for is the Jane who was born in Union Berks Pennsylvania because the people she was living with also lived with her.

Most information from other sources revolved around Jane's relationship to Edington, and reported that she was his wife and the mother of his children. Based on this information, it can be concluded have concluded that she was his wife and the mother of the aforementioned children. She was married and had kids at a relatively young age.

Henry Ford

Henry Ford was, according to the Census Records, born in 1849, and was only present in the 1860 Census Records. This made him 11 years old at the time that the Census was collected, and the second eldest child of Edward and Jane Ford. In the 1860 Census Records, he is reported as having been living with the Tolbert family, along with his siblings Henrietta, Mary, Joshua, and George. His parents are not present, which raises questions about the reasons for their absence. It may be possible that the Ford children relocated when they got married off which could explain their disappearances in the records.

Henry Ford was present in the Friends of Hopewell Furnace Ledger Project. He was employed at the furnace from 07-01-1876 to 07-17-1876. He worked at the furnace for 16 days then disappeared from the records. Unfortunately, not all records are digitally archived and made it difficult to find more information regarding Henry Ford's occupation at the Furnace.

Mary E. / Marye Ford

The Census Records say that Mary E. / Marye Ford was born in 1853, making her 7 years old in the 1860 Census. The 1860 Census is the only Census record where Marye is recorded, and she is not included in any Furnace Records. In the 1860 Census Records, she is reported as having been living with the Tolbert family, along with her siblings Henrietta, Henry, Joshua, and George. Her parents are not present, which raises questions about the reasoning behind their absence. Like the other Ford children, there was very little available information about Mary E. / Marye Ford. From the information provided, I can conclude that she was the child of Edward and Jane Ford and lived in the Tolbert's household in the 1860s without her parents.

Ford and Talbert Family Connection

The Ford Family children and the Talbert Family lived together (Ancestry, Union Berks, 1860). According to the 1860 U.S. Census, George Ford (16), Henrietta Ford (4), Henry Ford (11), Mary E. Ford (7), Joshua Ford (4) and John Brown (5/12) lived with them (Ancestry, Union Berks, 1860). Joseph Talbert (65) was the oldest Talbert in the household. No evidence found supports the suggestion that the Ford Family and Talbert Family are related. The data says that Joseph Talbert is listed as a relative when looking up the other names, but it does not necessarily mean the Talbert family are related by blood to the Ford Family. It is possible that Joseph Talbert had provided lodging since he was the oldest of anyone living in the household and owned real estate, but this is only speculation. According to the 1860 Census, Joseph Talbert owned 100 in real estate and personal estate value of 25. This is a small amount compared to the Clingan Family that owned 10,000 real estate and 20,000 real estate values according to the 1870 Census data for Chas M. Clingan.

Follow-up Information from Nicholas Kopp

Jane Ford, the assumed wife of Edington, was born in 1822 and became the mother of two children, George (born in 1846) and Henrietta (born 1848). Her occupation or day-to-day activities are not confirmed, but it can be reasoned that she was a caretaker of the home and children.

The confusion surrounding Henrietta's birth year is likely brought about by an error in either of the census recordings. It is difficult to say if the 1850 census is more accurate or vice-versa, but Henrietta is speculated to be at least 4 by 1860. No other records could be found regarding Henrietta.



HAMPDEN FAMILY

Researched and Written by Tara Anthony

Rudolph Hampden

Rudolph Hampden is listed on the 1880 Census as an African American male born in 1819. According to Ancestry Libraries he was the head of his family's household, Father to William, John, Sallie, Ellie, Fred, Frank, and Gervis, and husband to Hannah Hampden. His occupation was listed as laborer who could not read or write. He lived in Union Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania with the shared dwelling number of 223 along with his family during the time of the 1880 Census. There is no information about Rudolph Hampden on the Hopewell Digitized Archives or Friends of Hopewell Ledgers as of yet.

Hannah Hampden

Hannah Hampden is listed in the 1880 U.S. Census as an African American female born in 1823. At the time of the 1880 Census Hannah was 57. She lived in Union Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania with the dwelling number of 223 with her family and husband Rudolph Hampden according to Ancestry Libraries and the Six Penny Creek site. Her occupation at the time of the Census was "keeping house" and could not read or write. Her children are: Ellie, John, Sallie,

William, Frank, and Fred. There was no information about Hannah in the Hopewell Digitized Archives or the Friends of Hopewell Ledgers because there are no records of her being at Hopewell.

Ellie Hampden

Ellie Hampden, according to the 1880 Census, was a black female. Her date of birth was 1879 and was only 1 when she was recorded in the Census. She lived in Union Township in Berks County, Pennsylvania with her siblings: Frank, Gervis/Lewis, John, Sallie, and William. She was born in Pennsylvania, and her dwelling number as given in the Ancestry.com records was 223. Her father's name was Rudolph Hampden and her mother's name is Hannah Hampden. While she was recorded by Six Penny Creek, Ellie Hampden isn't in the Hopewell Furnace Records (as of yet). As a result, nothing was found about her on the Friends of Hopewell Ledgers.

Frank Hampden

Frank Hampden is listed on the 1880 Census as an African American male born in 1863. At the time of the 1880 Census Frank was 17 years old and lived in Union Township in Berks County, Pennsylvania, with the dwelling number of 223. He is the son of Rudolph Hampden and Hannah Hampden, and the brother of Ellie, Gervis/Lewis, John, Sallie, and William. He worked as a laborer in 1880 at Six Penny Creek and could not read or write according to the Ancestry Library. No information was found on Frank Hampden in the Hopewell Digitized Archives or the Friends of Hopewell Ledgers, and he was not listed or present in the Hopewell records on the Census. He was, however, in the Six Penny Creek records, which listed him as living with his family and working as a laborer.

Fred Hampden

Fred Hampden is listed as an African American male on the 1880 Census. He was born in 1874 in Pennsylvania and his dwelling number is 223. He was six at the time of the 1880 census, and his parents are Rudolph Hampden and Hannah Hampden. On the Ancestry Library he was listed as both son and grandson of Rudolph Hampden and Hannah Hampden, and I am unsure which is more accurate. His marital status is listed as single. While Fred is listed in Six Penny Creek records under similar information as the Ancestry Libraries Census, he was not listed on Furnace records so therefore there is no information from the Hopewell Digitized Archives or the Friends of Hopewell Ledgers as of yet.

Gervis/Lewis Hampden

In the 1880 Census Gervis is listed as an African American male born in 1866 and was 14 by the time of the Census. On the Six Penny Creek and Ancestry Library sites, though, his name comes up as "Lewis". The names are the only thing that are different, and the other characteristics such as his age, birthplace, dwelling number (223), etc. are the same, so I believe Lewis may be his middle name or another name he went by in general. His parents are Rudolph Hampden and Hannah Hampden. In 1880 he lived in Union Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania and his occupation was a laborer. There was no information about Gervis/Lewis on the Hopewell Digitized Archives and Friends of Hopewell ledger as he was not in the Hopewell records at the time.

John Hampden

John Hampden is listed on the 1880 Census document as an African American male born in 1850. At the time of the 1880 Census John was 30 years old. He lived with his family in Union Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania with the shared dwelling number of 223. According to Ancestry Libraries, his mother was Hannah Hampden and his father was Rudolph Hampden. He stayed home and did not have a job according to the 1880 U.S. Census. No information was found on the Hopewell Digitized Archives or Friends of Hopewell Ledgers.

Sallie Hampden

Sallie Hampden is listed in the 1880 Census as an African American female born in 1858. At the time of the 1880 U.S. Census Sallie Hampden was 22. According to Ancestry Libraries she lived in Union Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania with her six siblings and parents Rudolph Hampden and Hannah Hampden, but no husband. Her dwelling number was 223, and no occupation was listed. There is no information about her on the Hopewell Digitized Archives or Friends of Hopewell Ledgers.

William Hampden

William Hampden is listed in the 1880 Census as an African American male born in 1860. At the time of the 1880 U.S. Census William was 20 years old. He lived in Union Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania with his family including his parents Rudolph Hampden and Hannah Hampden. His dwelling number (just like the rest of his family) was 223, and he was single. His occupation listed in Ancestry Libraries was a laborer, and he could not read or write. There was no information about William on the Hopewell Digitized Archives or the Friends of Hopewell Ledgers, but he was present in Six Penny Creek according to their Wikipedia pages.



HART FAMILY

Researched and Written by Nicholas Kopp

The African American Hart family of Hopewell Furnace (not to be confused with the white Hart family in the area), all born in Pennsylvania, were certainly contributors to the industrial and communal structure of the village. The Harts were one of the Six Penny Creek families. John Hart Sr. is listed in the Hopewell labor account ledgers as a woodcutter since as early as 1803. Much is yet unknown about John's past leading up to his arrival at the village, but census records, existing narrative interpretations, and Hopewell documents have assisted in sharing his family's identity.

John Hart Sr.

John Hart Sr. was born in 1785 in Pennsylvania. It is currently unknown as to which county or region that he was born in, but it is clear that he arrived in Hopewell Village as early as 1803. According to the digital account pages provided by Hopewell's online collection, John became employed as a woodcutter at the age of 18. This information was gathered from a time account of labor in April of 1803 ("Search..."). He began working on Tuesday, April 19th of that year, devoting much of his daily routine to the task most days of the week. It is uncertain where John

resided for many of his early adult years, but the 1850 census confirms that John shared a home with his children, Levi, John Jr., and Mary Hart. In this home there were other families as well, such as Dianna and John Nixon, Edington, Jane, George and Henriette Ford, and Washington Lee. I surmise that John Sr. was a friend of these people, having worked alongside them in the village for many years (he was 65 in 1850).

According to the collaborative documentation of the Six Penny Creek Community, John was paid roughly 26.5 cents for each cord of wood that he cut. From 1850-1853, John cut approximately 153 cords (“Six Penny Creek...”), totaling about \$40.50 (nearly 1,365.65 today). The equivalent of roughly \$1,300 over three years was not particularly a liveable wage for one person, necessitating John’s resourcefulness in living amongst other African American tenants in order to reduce the cost. His sons, John Jr. and Levi Hart, both worked alongside him from the years from 1848-1853, continuing a family legacy within the village.

I also believe that another of John’s inclinations to remain at Hopewell may have been related to the local church, referred to as “Six Penny Colored Church” or “Mt. Zion Church.” In the 1860 census, John and his family were recorded as tenants within Charles Butler’s home, a dwelling located very close to the church. As a member of a residence within the church community, I speculate that John and his family, along with Charles Butler and his family, were members of Mt. Zion Church.

I found difficulty in procuring records of John Sr.'s death, but one record from 1854 lists a “John Dehart” as deceased at the age of 69. Due to the fact that the African American Hart family of Hopewell was also referred to as “Dehart” in several census documents, it is unclear as to whether or not this truly is the John Hart (or Dehart) Sr. of Hopewell. The connection between name and age does show promise, however.

Mary Hart

Born in 1824 according to the 1850 census, Mary Hart seems to be the firstborn child of John Hart Sr. and an unknown mother. Relatively little is known about her due to a lack of records, but it is clear that she lived among her siblings and the other African American families that the Harts resided with, including the Butlers and the Fords. Beyond census records, Mary is seldom mentioned, rendering it difficult to provide an in-depth account of her life.

Levi Hart

Levi Hart was the firstborn son of John Hart Sr. and was born in 1831. Levi, like his father, was a woodcutter during his early adulthood. His term of labor began in January of 1848 (“HOFU...”), meaning that Levi was about 17 when he began working alongside his father. Levi’s occupational record as a woodcutter continues until 1853, though it is unclear if he cut wood after this point or took on another task entirely. Levi is also confirmed to have lived with Mary Hart, as well as Lyan and Elizabeth England, in the 1870 federal census.

I have reason to believe that Levi was also a Union soldier in the Civil War. The 1863 Civil War Draft Registrations Records list one “Levi Hart,” a black man born in Pennsylvania in 1831, as an enlisted soldier of the Army. This suggests that Levi was an active fighter in the Union’s defense against the Confederacy. Another interesting element of the Draft Records is that they indicate Levi’s status as “married.” An exact name of a spouse could not be found, but it may be possible to uncover more details of his marriage with further research. The exact date of Levi’s death is yet unknown to me.

John Hart Jr.

The younger son of John Hart Sr. and an unknown mother, John Hart Jr. was born in Hopewell Village in 1832. Like his father and his brother Levi, John Jr. took on the role of a woodcutter as a young adult. His occupational term began on the 1st of January in 1848, the same date as his brother. John Jr. was roughly 16 at that time, making him the youngest of his family to begin working as a woodcutter. His first term as a woodcutter reportedly ended on the 28th of March in 1853, though he likely continued to cut wood after this period (“Six Penny Creek...”).

John Jr. lived among his siblings and the other African American families, notably the Butlers, Fords, Nixons, and Washington Lee, until at least 1860 (the final conclusive census record). Due to the family’s inclusion in the church community area, it is likely that John, along with the rest of his family, were members of the Mt. Zion Church.

Though it is a less in-depth source than Levi’s enlistment record, several John Harts from Pennsylvania are recorded to have served as soldiers within the Union. It may be possible that, like his brother, John Jr. joined the war effort and left Hopewell for a time. John’s enlistment is certainly a possibility given his age and physical aptitude as a woodcutter. Additionally, one “Jonathon Heart” is listed as an enlisted soldier in Union Township. Despite the irregular spelling, this may in fact be John Hart Jr.

Death records are either non-existent or difficult to acquire regarding John Hart Jr., prompting the need for further inquiries in the future.

Ellen and Elizabeth Hart

Like Mary, Ellen and Elizabeth are unfortunately not represented well in any existing documents. Save for Federal census records, both are mentioned sparingly, but some important details can still be discerned. Ellen was born in 1835, presumably as another daughter of John Hart Sr. and an undocumented mother. Ellen is confirmed to have lived with Charles and Sarah Butler, the owners of the household, during the 1860 census. No documents detailing her occupation or day-to-day activities could be found, but it can be reasonably assumed that she was also a member of Mt. Zion Church.

Elizabeth Hart, born in 1856, is the youngest documented member of the Hart family that I could find. It is uncertain who her parents were, considering that the rest of the family would have been old enough to have children. Seeing as Ellen (age 4) and Ellen (25) are mentioned together in the 1860 census, it is my theory that Ellen was Elizabeth’s mother. This theory is further strengthened by the fact that both family members lived together in the home of the Butlers. Death records of Elizabeth and Ellen, like those of the other family members, are either non-existent or difficult to uncover.

Follow-up Information from Nicholas Kopp

John Dehart was born in 1785 in Pennsylvania. He had two sons (Levi and John) and one daughter (Mary) between 1830 and 1834. He died on September 16, 1865, in Brownsville, Texas, having lived a long life of 80 years. It is uncertain why he moved to Texas exactly, especially since this area was a Confederate landscape.

Mary Dehart married Thomas England (as mentioned in Thomas’ record) and became a part of the England family.



HILL FAMILY

Researched and Written by Laurie Grobman

The records provided from the NPS and Hopewell list six individuals with the last name Hill as present at or near Hopewell Furnace in the 19th century. There is solid evidence that Wilkinson Hill is the father of Benjamin Hill and Eliza Hill. No evidence has been found to this point that connects Isaac Hill, Herman (Harmon) Hill, or Charles Hill to Wilkinson and his family. According to the Friends of Hopewell Furnace records, Wilkinson Hill started working at Hopewell on 1830-08-02 and ended on 1847-04-03, totaling 16 years, 8 months. I don't find any records of Wilkinson prior to 1837 from what's been digitized. However, Joseph Walker says "Another Negro who worked for the Furnace for a long period of time was Wilkinson Hill, a laborer on monthly salary from 1827 to at least 1846." Wilkinson Hill appears in the East Nantmeal Census in 1940 and in the 1850 Federal Census in Philadelphia. I found account book records for Wilkinson Hill from 1837 through 1846. Therefore, Wilkinson Hill left Hopewell in 1846, 1847, 1848, 1849, or 1850; whether he lived somewhere else before Philadelphia is also unknown.

The first record I found is May 1837 with a "Balance from Ledger" of \$62.24. Therefore, he had been working there prior to May 1837. The records indicate that Wilkinson earned a total of \$1237.92 (in today's dollars, approximately \$40,851.36) between 1837-1846, excluding the two months that are unreadable in 1845. In six of those years, he earned over \$100. Wilkinson was paid for work as a laborer in 1837 and through half of 1838. He was paid for hostler work from the second half of 1838 through 1842. Wilkinson was paid three times in 1844 for hostler work, and once for labor. He was paid two payments in 1846 as a laborer.

Wilkinson also made steady purchases of store goods and sundries during these same years of 1837-1846. The only specific items noted in the records were in Cash Books that I found from Joseph Walker's book. Wilkinson's notable purchases included:

- Potatoes, \$3.00 Jan 1846.
- Payment of \$20.00 to Thomas Kirby (or Herby) Aug 26, 1843.
- Payments to Dr. Minan on Oct 1843 (5.00), Apr 2, 1844 (5.00), and Oct 21, 1844 (3.00)
- Payment to James Culbertson for tuition (\$1.15). According to Walker, this tuition payment was for his son, Benjamin, but the ledger record does not specify anyone's name, including Benjamin's or Eliza.
- Payment to Dr. Ludwig for postage on a letter \$.25
- Postage on Oct 3, 1844 paid for a letter sent to his brother. I have not found information about Wilkinson having a brother.

Wilkinson made payments to 27 different individuals (possibly a handful are companies; it's hard to read). Among those people, Aquilla Broadley, Thomas Lambert, and Robert Hart are African American.

His two highest payments were to Michael Sandy, \$20 in 1839, and Thomas Hossier for \$23.34 in 1845. In addition, Wilkinson Hill paid the following people more than once:

- John Painter, twice in 1838 and twice in 1839 for total of \$5.73. According to Stanton, there were two Painter families associated with Hopewell, and both families had a John Painter.
- Ahashibiah Clemons in 1840 (7.12 ½) and then in 1841 (13.23 ½) for a total of 21.35;

- Thomas Hosser, in 1844 (8.56), 1845 (23.34), and 1846 (7.00) for a total of 38.90, and
- Clingan Feiffelfinger, twice in 1845 for a total of \$2.50.

The 1840 Federal Census in lists Wilkinson Hill residing in East Nantmeal, Chester, PA, as the head of the household. Historian Joseph Walker writes in his book that Wilkinson Hill paid John Care \$12/year to rent a house in the Hopewell Village. Their agreement includes provisions that Care would furnish rails to fence the lot and "to put on a new upper floor and a new six Light window sash and glass." In addition, Care would provide materials in exchange for Wilkinson giving a week of labor to build a chimney. Whether this is the house Wilkinson lived in in 1940 is unclear. But if Wilkinson Hill and his family lived in Care's home in the Village, Hill may be one of the only African Americans to live in the Village, apart from those who lived in the Ironmaster's house.

In 1840, Wilkinson was living with one free Black male 36-54, two free Black females under 10, two free Black females 10-23 (one of these women may have been his daughter, Eliza, who would have been around 23 in 1840), one free Black female 36-54, and one free Black female 55-99. The free Black woman age 36-54 may be Hannah Hill (58), who was recorded as living in Wilkinson's household in Philadelphia in the 1850 Federal Census. One of the Black girls under 10 may have been another Hannah Hill, their daughter, who according to the 1850 Federal Census Record is 15 years old and living with Wilkinson Hill and Hannah Hill (58) in Philadelphia. Joseph Walker documented Eliza Hill and Benjamin Hill as Wilkinson's daughter and son, respectively, both working at Hopewell, but Walker did not mention either of the Hannah Hills. The younger Hannah Hill would have been born around 1835.

By 1850, according to the 1850 US Federal Census, Wilkinson Hill lived in Roxborough, Philadelphia, PA in Dwelling number 219, Family no. 219. He is listed as a Black male, 54 years old, and born in "about 1796" in Maryland. The record lists Wilkinson Hill as a farmer in the agriculture industry. The Census records Wilkinson as unable to read or write, yet he sent a letter to his son in 1844, according to the ledger records. Household members include Hannah Hill, 58, and Hannah Hill, 15. The older Hannah Hill, possibly Wilkinson's wife, was born in 1792. The younger Hannah, possibly Wilkinson's daughter, was born 1835, while Wilkinson was still at Hopewell.

There are two Federal Census records for Wilkinson Hill in 1860. I believe there are two records because it's possible that Wilkinson lived with the William V. Anderson family as a servant and also kept a home for both the older and younger Hannahs, at the same time. In one 1860 federal census, Wilkinson Hill, a Black, 55-year-old male, born in about 1805, is living in dwelling no. 1700 in Ward 5 Southern Division, Philadelphia, and his family no. is 2458. His occupation is listed as coachman. The record indicates that he cannot read and write. In this record, Wilkinson is listed as having been born in Pennsylvania, not Virginia. However, there are inconsistencies, especially regarding his age (listed at 55 in 1860, 54 in 1850) and the older Hannah Hill's age (listed at 58 in 1850, 57 in 1860).

This census record also lists household members Mary J. Hill (age 28), Maria Hill (age 22), and Hannah Hill (24). This younger Hannah's age could be consistent with 15 in 1850 depending on when during the year the census was taken. But this is the first time Maria Hill and Mary J. Hill have shown up in the records. Hannah's census record in 1860 lists her as a "relative" of Wilkinson Hill.

A second 1860 Federal Census lists a Wilkinson Hill, Black male, living in Philadelphia Ward 5 Southern Division, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in dwelling number 1543, family number 2245. He is recorded here as 55 years old, having been born in about 1805. This Wilkinson Hill's occupation is servant, and he is recorded as unable to read and write. His birthplace is listed as Pennsylvania. The birth year and age are the same in both 1860 censuses.

This Wilkinson Hill record has him living in the household with one mixed race individual, Mary Ann Morris, and several other white individuals: William V. Anderson, 60; Anna P Anderson, 55; John Emory, 35; Emily N Emory, 27; Henry O Emory, 41; Anna Morris, 23; Sarah Rodgers, 23; and Elizabeth Hazzard, 24.

Further research identifies the Anderson family for whom Wilkinson worked as a servant as related to the Colonial Philadelphia Penroses. William V. Anderson's 1860 Federal Census record is consistent with Wilkinson Hill's. William V. Anderson is recorded in the 1850 Census as a white male 52 years old, born in Pennsylvania in "abt 1798" and living in Pine Ward in Philadelphia, dwelling no. 622, family no. 771. His real estate is valued at \$55,000, and he is a merchant in a nonspecified retail trade. He lives with his wife, Annie Anderson, 55, and son Charles Anderson, 25.

The 1860 census record lists William "Vanderson" as a "relative" of Wilkinson Hill. I'm fairly certain they are not brothers, though that depends in part on whether Wilkinson was born in Virginia or Pennsylvania. And one or both would have to be mixed race if related by blood. To date, I've found no evidence for that. In addition, "Vanderson" was an error in the record; the name is William V. Anderson and is confirmed.

Emilie Norwood (Anderson) Emory is the wife of John Emory, according to the Daughter of the Revolution Lineage Books cited on Ancestry.com. Emilie Emory was born in Philadelphia and is a daughter of William V. Anderson and Ann [Penrose] Anderson, his wife. granddaughter of William Penrose and Hannah Norwood, his wife. And a descendant of Thomas Penrose. (DAR ID. Number: 28736)

Wilkinson Hill died on December 11, 1862, according to his death certificate. The death certificate lists his birthplace as Virginia, born in about 1800. He is listed as married, living at 528 Buckley Street, and with an occupation as a coachman, which is consistent with the 1860 Federal Census record in which he is living with the older and younger Hannah Hills, Mary J. Hill, and Marian Hill. However, the house number does not match, and no streets are listed in the 1860 census. Wilkinson was buried on December 12, 1862, in Olive Cemetery in Philadelphia. Olive Cemetery was Philadelphia's second rural cemetery for African Americans and has an interesting history. Founded in February 1849 at 46th Street and Girard Avenue in West Philadelphia, the cemetery closed in 1920, and its remains were moved to Eden and Mount Zion Cemeteries in 1923. At one point during its history, Olive Cemetery was owned by Stephen Smith (1796-1873), a former slave established the Zion Mission and founded the Home for Aged and Infirm Colored Person, which is presently the Stephen Smith Home. Smith was one of the wealthiest black men in America. I did not find any online records for Wilkinson at either Eden or Mount Zion Cemeteries. I would like to visit and see whether his gravesite is identifiable.

Benjamin Hill

Historian Walker states that Wilkinson Hill "apparently was related" to several other Hopewell employees who bore that family name. According to Joseph Walker, Benjamin, who died in 1841, is Wilkinson's son. Walker states that Benjamin was apprenticed to either Hopewell Furnace or to Clement Brooke, in the late 1820's and early 1830's. He was educated in the

Village school “at Furnace expense from 1830 to 1834,” according to Walker. A payment tuition from Wilkinson’s account to James Culbert is identified as a tuition payment in the furnace account books. Walker also claims this tuition was for Benjamin. The ledger record does not specify anyone’s name, including Benjamin or Eliza.

Walker also states that Benjamin worked for two years as hostler for \$6 per month until a general wage increase in 1836 raised his pay to \$7, and his account balance of \$20.00 was credited to Wilkinson’s account in 1841, presumably after Benjamin’s death. I was unable to find any additional records for Benjamin Hill, in part likely because he died at a young age.

Eliza Hill

According to historian Walker, Eliza Hill is Wilkinson’s daughter. (Ch 15). Eliza Hill, age 33, is listed in the 1850 Census of Union Township as living in the household of the owner of the furnace (the ironmaster's house in the Village), Charles Clingan. Charles Clarigan and his three family members, along with a gardener and a young woman. Sarah (28) and Suzanna (5) Bendigs, Anna Maria Wilson (23), and William Jacobs (50) also lived there. The Bendigs and Jacobs are Black. Eliza Hill was listed as being born in Pennsylvania. Walker notes that Hopewell Furnace ledgers from 1850-1853 indicate that Eliza Hill was employed doing housework by the furnace for one week at a wage of a dollar and twenty-five cents per week. At this time, 1850, Wilkinson and Hannah Hill were living in Philadelphia, Benjamin Hill was deceased, and Eliza remained at Hopewell.

Older Hannah Hill

As noted earlier, Hannah Hill, a black woman, is listed as a household member in Wilkinson’s house in both the 1850 census and one of the 1860 censuses. No records for Hannah exist in the Hopewell Furnace records. Hannah Hill was born in approximately 1792 according to the 1850 census which lists her at age 58. Her 1850 census record is consistent with Wilkinson’s, and her 1860 census record is consistent with one of his.

A death certificate in 1875 for Hannah Hill is likely this same woman. It lists her birth date as approximately 1792, birthplace as Pennsylvania, and she is recorded as a widow. That’s consistent with Wilkinson having died in 1862. Hannah died on July 29, 1875, in Philadelphia at age 83. I found no other information about this Hannah Hill. Whether she was the mother of Eliza and Benjamin Hill is unknown; no Hannah Hill has been identified in the Hopewell Furnace ledgers.

Younger Hannah Hill

The 1860 Federal Census lists Hannah Hill, a Black female, 24 years old, as a relative of Wilkinson Hill and living in his household in Philadelphia Ward 5 Southern Division, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in dwelling number 1543, family number 2245. She is employed as a cook.

A death certificate for a Black female, Hannah Hill, born “abt 1836,” lists her death on March 15, 1866 at age 30. She was unmarried and employed as a domestic. She lived on Buckley Street (consistent with the 1862 death certificate Buckley Street address for Wilkinson). She was buried in Olive Cemetery on March 18, 1866. A second death certificate has identical information except she is listed as employed as a servant. She died four years after Wilkinson and nine years before her mother, Hannah.

HILTON FAMILY

Researched and Written by Tara Anthony

The Hilton family was one of the Six Penny Creek families. The Hilton family consisted of six members in total: the mother and father James and Ann/Anna, and their four children Amanda, William/N WM, Harriet, and Julia. According to the 1870 Ancestry Libraries document Hiram Washington was also part of the Hilton household as of 1870 working at Hode Carrying, though the reason for his living with the Hiltons was not clarified.

James Hilton

James Hilton is listed in the 1870 U.S. Census as an African American male born in 1825. On the Census document from Ancestry Library, he is 45 at the time of the 1870 Census. His home as of 1870 was in Warwick Township in Chester County, Pennsylvania with the dwelling number of 57. His wife was Ann/Anna Hilton and he had four children (Amanda, William, and Harriet.) In the Ancestry Library, there was also a man by the name of Hiram Washington living with the Hiltons during the 1870 Census. James had a personal estate value of 50 and, according to the Six Penny Creek Wiki site, he worked as a Farm Laborer. His post office is Cupola. He was also present in the Union Township Census Records. James Hilton doesn't seem to be recorded in any of the Hopewell databases like the Ledger and Digitized Archives.

Ann/Anna Hilton

Ann Hilton is listed in the 1870 U.S. Census as an African American Woman born in 1832. The Census document found in the Ancestry Library says she was 35 during the time of the 1870 Census. Her home as of 1870 was in Warwick Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania with the dwelling number of 57. She was a mother to four children and was married to James Hilton. Her occupation was keeping house, and she could not read or write. Like James, her post office was listed as Cupola in the Ancestry Libraries. In the U.S. Census records from Ancestry Library, Ann is listed as being born in Pennsylvania, but in the Six Penny Creek records Ann was actually born in Maryland. She was also present in the Union Township Census Records. There was no information about her in the Hopewell records or ledgers.

Amanda Hilton

Amanda Hilton is listed in the 1870 U.S. Census records as an African American female born in 1856. At the time of the Census in 1870 she was 14. Her home in 1870 was in Warwick Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania. The Ancestry Library record shares that she was born in Pennsylvania, but according to the Six Penny Creek wiki site she was actually born in Delaware and not Pennsylvania. Amanda is their oldest child, so Ann and James must have lived in Delaware for a short time and moved to Pennsylvania shortly after Amanda's birth because two years later Ann gave birth to Amanda's brother William. Amanda's dwelling number was 57, and her post office was Cupola. She had three siblings and her parents are Ann Hilton and James Hilton. Amanda is also present in the Union Township Census. There is no information about her in the Hopewell records and ledgers.

William Hilton

William Hilton is listed in the 1870 U.S. Census as William H. Hilton, and African American male born in 1858. At the time of the 1870 Census William was 12 years old. According to Ancestry Library, William is named “N Wm Hilton” and he lived in Warwick Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania in 1870 with his three siblings and parents, James Hilton and Ann Hilton. His dwelling number was 57, and his occupation was a farm laborer like his dad James Hilton. His post office is Cupola, and he could not read or write. Unlike his sister Amanda, William was born and raised in Pennsylvania. There is no Information about William in the Hopewell Digitized Archives or Ledgers, though he is present in Six Penny Creek records.

Harriet Hilton

Harriet Hilton is listed in the 1870 U.S. Census as an African American female born in 1861. At the time of the 1870 Census, according to Ancestry Library, she was only 9 years old and lived in Warwick Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania with her three siblings and parents, James Hilton and Ann Hilton. She was born in Pennsylvania with her siblings William and Julia, and her dwelling number is 57. She didn't have an occupation listed, and her marital status is single. There is no information about Harriet in the Hopewell archives and ledgers.

Julia Hilton

Julia Hilton is listed in the 1870 U.S. Census as an African American female born in 1869 to parents James Hilton and Ann Hilton. According to the Ancestry Libraries Julia Hilton was 8 or 12 in 1870, which does not match up with the birth date provided in the Census document. If Julia was 8 or 12 her birthday would have been between 1858-1862 not 1869. Though in the Six Penny Creek records Julia was only 9 months during the 1870 Census, so the Ancestry Libraries may have some discrepancies concerning this piece of information. Julia lived with her family in Warwick Township, Chester, Pennsylvania under the dwelling number of 57. Her post office is Cupola. There is no information about Julia in the Hopewell Archives or Ledgers as of yet.

Follow-up Information from Nicholas Kopp

James Hilton and his family lived in Union Township until at least 1870. He could not read or write, nor could his wife Anna. It is likely their children were given the opportunity to attend the children's school sessions at Hopewell. Hopewell's elementary school sessions involved white and black children, meaning that the Hilton children could partake in the lessons.



WILLIAM JACOBS

Researched and Written by Kevin Bonmer

William Jacobs was born around the year 1800 and lived in Union, Pennsylvania. According to Joseph Walker, Jacobs worked at Hopewell for most of his life as a laborer and a teamster. Jacobs is credited as being the longest employed black worker at Hopewell Furnace with sixty. There are no records that suggest William had family members at Hopewell. When he got too old to work Furnace, management assigned someone to care for William Jacobs which I would take to mean he lived at Hopewell until his death. A certificate on Friends of Hopewell Furnace

Ledger Project has Jacobs without an occupation beginning January 15, 1881 and which ended on October 22nd, 1894 which I would assume to be the year he passed.

SAMUEL KELLARS

Researched and Written by Kevin Bonmer

No information was found about Samuel Kellars aside from Hopewell Furnace's records showing that he was present at the Furnace between 1800-1802. There was no listed occupation, though that may mean he was a laborer. He started working at Hopewell on February 10th, 1800 and was recorded to have ended on May 14th, 1802. Nothing much more is known at this point although I did attempt to find a birth and death certificate but to no avail. It would be presumptuous to make any assumptions of what Kellars' purpose for being at the Furnace was without further information.

THOMAS LAMBERT

Written and Researched by Kevin Bonmer

Thomas Lambert was born in 1791 and lived in Union, Pennsylvania. In late August of 1817, Lambert began working at Hopewell as a laborer. It wasn't until January of 1820 that he got a more clear occupation title as that of a woodcutter. He continued working at Hopewell for many more years until 1852. His last name may have been Lambern, who lived with three of Black people.

MILLER FAMILY

Researched and Written by Charlie Haeberlein

The Miller family first appeared in the Hopewell area in the 1870 census, living primarily within Union Township. The Millers were one of the Six Penny Creek families. This is where the family stayed, even after many members ended up disappearing from record, presumably from their deaths. Robert and Jeremiah Miller were the heads of the Miller household and originally hailed from. Robert was married to Rosanna, and they had three daughters, Mary J, Rebecca, and Ida.

Jeremiah Miller

Born around 1833, Jeremiah Miller was first listed in the 1870 census and living with the other four members of the Miller family at the time, including his brother and his wife and children. Coming from Virginia alongside his brother Robert, they worked the land as colliers and farmers

to play their part in sustaining the community. His name was written as "Jumanah" in the 1870 census records, and in 1880 as "Jere." While the future two decades did not have a lot of information, there was a strong assumption based on the findings within the 1900 census that showed Jeremiah Miller lived within the Berks County Almshouse near the original home of the Millers.

Robert Miller

Born around the same time as his brother in 1833, the first listing of Robert was found in 1870 as his family of two little girls and his wife were living within Hopewell. There was also an early document stating that there was a Robert Miller from Virginia around the same birth year, around 1828, who was drafted into the Civil War around June 1863. The personal data of his unit and regiment are unknown as it is not stated in any documents relating to Robert's service.

In the 1880 census, Robert was he was labeled as a widower and was living only with Ida. In 1900, Robert was living with Ida and her children, presumably in Robert's home due to Ida's status of being a widow.

Rosanna Miller

Rosanna was born around 1844 and her only mention is from the 1870 census. It was extremely difficult to find any details about her and I surmise she may have died while giving birth to Ida. Robert is labeled as a widower by the 1880 census.

Mary J. Miller

Mary was born in 1869 according to the 1870 census, a child of Robert and Rosanna Miller, but there was no mention of her existence after this census.

Rebecca Miller

Rebecca was born around 1867. I located a marriage certificate of a Rebecca Miller dated in 1889, and even though that was a common name at the time, the fact that the certificate originates from Berks County marriage records of 1889 makes a good case to believe this is the Hopewell Rebecca. The trail ran cold for Rebecca after the discovery of her marriage records as her husband was not listed anywhere.

Ida Miller

Born late 1870, Ida Miller was the most documented member of the Miller family due to her being the youngest out of all of them, making it more possible to find surviving documents surrounding her existence. Her mother is unknown other than it possibly being Rosanna as it said her mother was from Pennsylvania. The next known documentation of Ida showed her marrying Alfred Cole in 1887 based on the Berks County marriage records, the same Cole family of the most well-known family of African Americans that lived within Hopewell. By 1900, however, she was now listed as a widower on the census and was living with her father Robert, presumably because she had no ability to live on her own or support her children without their father's help. Ida had 9 children but only 5 survived by the time of the 1910 census, living in the same general area of the Miller homestead, but now without her father, Robert Miller, who more than likely passed away from old age.

This was the first census that stated her father was from Virginia and mother was from Pennsylvania, helping the notion that Rosanna was her mother once again. It didn't seem that Ida

Cole-Miller moved her family anywhere by the time of the 1920 census, showing all the children from the 1910 census survived up until then. There was also a mention of Ida's death in 1928 at the age of 58, expressing that she was labeled as passed away within the same general area as the home she had been living in for so long. The only odd part of this death certificate was the mention of Ida's mother, a woman by the name of Emma Watson who was never mentioned before this time frame. There was a mention of an Emma Watson in the 1860 census, but she was only 4 years old at the time, so she was only 14 years old during the time of Ida's conception, and considering that Robert Miller would have been 37 years old at that time, this is highly unlikely.

Follow-up Information from Nicholas Kopp

Ida was a student at the Hopewell school, learning reading and writing. She also lived in close proximity to the Hampdens and Kupps families.



William Miller

Researched and Written by Charlie Haerberlein

Evidence suggests that William Miller is not related to Robert, Jeremiah, Rosanna, Mary J, Rebecca, and Ida Miller.

William, born around 1831, lived in Warwick township, according to the 1850 census, working as a laborer alongside another Miller that was not listed in the preliminary list of African Americans provided by NPA archeologist Jared Muehlbauer. A draft record of a William Miller born around the same time indicates why he may have seemingly disappeared between censuses, this being because he was drafted into the Union Army around 1864. The 1880 census reference a William Miller of the same age range, now married to a Mary Miller, 46 in age, and working as a laborer around the same area as his previous home in 1850.



MORTON FAMILY

Researched and Written by Tara Anthony

Moses Morton is listed in the 1830 U.S. Census as an African American male, date of birth unknown, living in Union Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania in a home with six total free African Americans. Morton arrived at the Hopewell Furnace in 1829 and worked as a laborer for \$8 a month. He later put up the night stock for \$12 a month.

According to Joseph E. Walker, Morton had a wife and four children in total, two boys and two girls. They were all under 10 years old by 1830 (names of wife and children not given/unknown). Morton bought a cow for \$14 in 1831 and pastured it on Samuel Lloyd's land for 18 cents a week. Morton bought goods at the store and hired the village seamstress to sew for his family.

In April of 1832 a fire destroyed Morton's home, three out of his four children. The community started a subscription paper for Morton and raised \$18.75. Clement Brooke donated \$2.00, 12 others (mostly molders and clerks) donated \$1.00, Polly Kid (maid) donated half her salary for the week, and another maid donated 25 cents. On May 19 Morton sold his cow to David Smith for \$12.

Polly Brown--who later became Polly Kid--worked at Hopewell for six years, and her main job at the Furnace was housekeeping.



NIXON FAMILY

Researched and Written by Jeffrey Stango

The Nixons were one of the Six Penny Creek families.

Draper Nixon (William D. Nixon)

Born in Delaware in 1782, Draper Nixon was a male African American present in the 1840, 1850, and 1860 records. Draper was listed as the "Head of Household" in both the 1840 and 1850 records. Draper also had two "Free Colored Males" and four "Free Colored Females" living in the household. Draper employed two people working in Agriculture in 1840 and owned \$200 in real-estate in 1850 which he then either sold or gave William J. Nixon \$190 of the property value. The 1830 United States Federal Census Records also suggest that there were four African American persons living in his home at the time, those being "1 colored male age 55-99, 1 colored female under age 10, 1 colored female age 24-35, and 1 colored female age 55-99."

In October of 1853, Draper Nixon was sentenced to serve a one-quarter sentence in the Chester County Prison. He was charged with being the "perpetrator" of "conspiracy" in the *Chester County Prison Record Index: Quarter Session*. It is possible, however, that this criminal charge could have been placed on him due to courts at the time being horrifically biased against African American people. This was the only criminal charge that I was able to find on Draper, and this seemed to be a fairly common charge towards African Americans at the time.

Draper Nixon showed up in a multitude of *Chester County Tax Exonerations*, with the reason for each of the tax discounts being recorded as "Poor." According to the *Hopewell Furnace Main Ledger*, Draper Nixon began his life at Hopewell Furnace on September 1, 1834 and continued to work as a "Woodcutter" until May 1, 1839. He then transitioned into the role of a "Teamster" which he worked until an unknown date. Draper likely played some role in the founding of a local "Negro Church" as worded by Joseph E. Walker in his 1966 book titled *A Social and Economic History of Iron-Making Community*. The book states that there was an inscription on the top of the building that wrote "THE AME MOUNT FRISBY CHURCH FOUNDED IN AD 1856." His name was highlighted within the notes of the page's footer. The record for when Draper Nixon died from the *Federal Census Mortality Schedules* shows that Draper worked as a "Farm Laborer" before he passed away in January of 1870 at the age of 88. His cause of death was "Inflammation of Bowels" in Warwick, Chester, Pennsylvania. His wife Mary had already passed away before the time of his passing.

Mary Nixon

Born in 1791 in Pennsylvania, Mary Nixon was a female African American who is present in both the 1850 and 1860 census records. Mary Nixon was the wife of Draper Nixon and she passed away sometime before Draper's death.

The only other record I was able to find on Mary (and Draper) is a record that has dates that do not align properly, but it needs to be researched further to decipher whether or not it is a crazy coincidence. There is a *Pennsylvania, U.S. Marriage License* for an African American individual named Samuel Nixon in which he married Harriet Humphrey on March 9, 1888. This record states that the name of Samuel's parents were "William and Mary Nixon." Samuel's death certificate however from the *U.S. Death Certificates*, states that he died on January 15, 1915 at the early age of 48. This tells us that he was born sometime in 1867 and that he was married around the age of 21. This would make Mary Nixon 76 years old at the time of his birth, something that is obviously not possible. Maybe Samuel was the grandchild or an adopted child with Mary and Draper serving as the legal guardians?

William J. Nixon

Born in 1831, William J. Nixon was a Pennsylvania-born African American male who lived in Draper Nixon's household. William was present in the 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, and 1900 census records. William worked as a laborer, iron miner, and farm laborer throughout his life, and appeared to either have purchased or was given \$190 worth of real-estate from his father Draper. William was educated and could read, write, and speak English. According to the *Pennsylvania and New Jersey Town and Church Records*, William and Anna Mary Smith (who took Nixon as her last name) were married on November 15, 1881. The marriage took place in Philadelphia at the St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church. William and Anna had a 9-year-old boarder living with them named Lidy Robinson in the 1880 census. William was recorded as a widow by the 1900 census, which does not line up with the death certificate of Anna that will be touched on more in the Anna Nixon section.

William Nixon appeared on the consolidated list of Civil War Draft Records in the *Civil War Draft Registration Records 1863-1865*. In these records, he was 33 years of age on July 1, 1863. He was unmarried at the time and living in the 7th Congressional District (Warwick, Chester, Pennsylvania). In the *U.S. Civil War Muster Rolls 1860-1869*, William registered for the "22nd U.S. Colored Troops" unit in 1864 that fought in the Civil War. The record states that William was 30 years old at the time of enlisting (younger than the age 33 when he registered for the draft, so probably some errors) and he was enlisted and mustered on January 2, 1864 in Philadelphia.

A story written about a man named William Nixon was published in the *Philadelphia Daily Evening Bulletin* on September 26, 1870. "The Courts: The Carney Homicide" claims that William Nixon was tried for the homicide of another African American man named William Carney. Nixon drew a revolver after a confrontation with Carney and a woman named Mrs. Draper, resulting in Carney's death. I was not able to find any additional information on this case, and I am not certain it is the same William Nixon.

Anna Nixon

Born in 1847, Anna Mary Smith (maiden name) was a Pennsylvania-born African American female who became the spouse of William J. Nixon. William and Anna Nixon were married on November 15, 1881. Anna Nixon was present in the 1870 and 1880 census records, living in Draper Nixon's household, but there is no census record of Anna at a later date. Anna was

recorded with the working position of “Keeping House” in the *1870 U.S. Federal Census Records* where she lived in a household of just her and William Nixon in Warwick, Chester, Pennsylvania. Anna Nixon’s death is recorded in the *Pennsylvania and New Jersey Church and Town Records* on February 21, 1916 at the age of 72. She died in Philadelphia and was buried at the North Cedar Hill Cemetery.

As for some additional information that could be important in finding more info about Anna, she was listed in another census record with the name “Anne” or “Ann.” The *1880 U.S. Federal Census Records* stated that Anna’s father was born in Maryland and her mother in Pennsylvania. There is no information on the names of Anna’s parents. Through this record, we can also see some of Anna and William’s neighbors. Their names were Mclel Mock, Margaret Mock, Morris Mock, Eliza Frey, Annie Frey, Evan Filman, Mattie Filma, Warren Filman, Harold Filman, Theodore Filma, and Sallie Richards. Like mentioned earlier in the William J. Nixon section, Lidy Robinson, a boarder child, was living in the household at the time of the census.”

Amen Nixon (first name unconfirmed)

Born in Pennsylvania in 1833, Amen Nixon was an African American female according to the 1850 census. Amen lived in Draper Nixon’s household, but her name is uncertain, which made it incredibly challenging to find more information.

John Nixon

Born in 1790, John Nixon was an African American male that was present in census records for the years for 1850, 1860, and 1870. John worked as a Forgerman and owned \$300 in real-estate in the 1850 census. He later owned \$100 of real-estate and \$30 in personal estate in the 1960 census. John had the ability to both read and write.

In the *1850 U.S. Federal Census Records*, John Nixon was listed as the head of the household for an extensive list of people. The names of these people include African Americans John Hart, Levi Hart, Mary Hart, John Hart (Jr?), Dianna Nixon, Edington Ford, Jane Ford, George Ford, Henrietta Ford, and Washington Lee.

Dianna Nixon

Born in 1802 in Pennsylvania, Dianna Nixon was an African American female who married John Nixon. Dianna was present in the census records for the years 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880. Dianna Nixon was listed in the censuses under a multitude of first names, these being Dianna Nixon in 1850, Dina Nixon in 1860, and Dinah Nixon in 1870 and 1880. Her occupation was listed as “Keeping House,” and she did not have the ability to read or write English in any of the census records. Dianna was listed as “Widowed/Divorced” in the 1880 census after John Nixon presumably passed away.

Follow-up Information by Nicholas Kopp

The 1850 U.S. Federal Census features the Nixon family members John (age 60) and Dianna (46), Ford family members Edington (39), Jane (28), George (4) and Henrietta (2), and Washington Lee (60). All are African American and are recorded as being born in Pennsylvania.

Another census record from 1870 lists a “Dinah Nixson” living in the Birdsboro area and born in approximately 1802. Seeing as she is described as a 68-year-old black housekeeper, it is likely that this is Dianna Nixon with incorrect spelling.

WILLIAM PARKER

According to the 1820 U.S. Census, William Parker was an African American male, date of birth unknown. William Parker is present in the Hopewell Furnace records/Ledger from February 1st 1832 to February 13th 1833, and the occupation was not recorded. He lived in East Nantmeal Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania. The Ledger book SM19 on the Hopewell Digitized Archives shows the following transactions made by William Parker: a transaction of \$120 in February of 1832 (reason illegible), and another transaction of another \$120 in May of 1833 (reason illegible). Though the reasons are illegible, I believe these transactions may be William Parker's yearly wages, as the amount is fairly large for the time and the transactions were a year apart from each other.

JOHN PARKER

Researched and Written by Tara Anthony

John Parker was an African American male who was present in the Hopewell Furnace records from June 10th, 1825 to April 29th, 1826, according to Ledger book SM11: 342. No other information was found.

There is no evidence that John Parker is related to William Parker or Robert Parker, both African American males at Hopewell Furnace.

ROBERT PARKER

Researched and Written by Tara Anthony

Robert Parker is an African American male who was present at Hopewell furnace from November 21st, 1831 to December 1st 1831. The occupation is unknown. Ledger book SM19 shows the following transactions made by Robert Parker: a transaction of \$5 (reason and recipient name illegible), and another transaction of \$5 in November of 1831 (reason and recipient name illegible).

There is no evidence that Robert Parker is related to John Parker or William Parker, both African American males at Hopewell Furnace.

JOSEPH PENCE

Researched and Written by Tessa Eberlein

Joseph Pence was a black male from East Nantmeal, Pennsylvania and was present in the 1820 census. There is a single document on ancestry matching this name and location: an enumeration document stating Joseph Pence's enumeration date as August 7th, 1820. As the header is missing from this document, it is possible this was part of the 1820 census, or the enumeration was a document in and of itself. It also states that he was one of two people "engaged in agriculture," though his associate is unlisted. This document is likely a match, but because there is no birth date or subnote records to compare, certainty is not 100%.



TALBERT (TOLBERT) FAMILY

Researched and Written by Sabin Bottomstone

The Talbert family, referred to in some documents as the Tolbert family and even "Salbert" family, were African Americans native to Pennsylvania in the 1800s. I refer to the family as the Talbert family because it is the spelling I saw used most. The Talbert family remained primarily in Pennsylvania, notably in Union Township, at least up until 1860. The Talberts were one of the Six Penny Creek families.

Only one member of the family, Joseph Talbert, is confirmed to have worked at Hopewell, though sources differ on the length and nature of his career at the Furnace. One, the "Friends of Hopewell Furnace Ledger Project," lists one Joseph Tolbert as working from 1841 from January 1st to August 16th as a woodcutter, and for six years as a "gardner," from April 1st, 1846 to June 30th, 1852. Other members of the family, notably Mary and Jane, appear in document SM38 on page 321 of the "Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site: Financial Account Books Archive," a contra account ledger book spanning from 1837 to 1846. The other record where the Talberts are listed as appearing, document SM68 R:37, could not be accessed. Whether or not the other Talberts had involvement with the Furnace remains, as of now, unknown. What is definitely known is that, according to the 1860 Federal Census, the Talbert family, consisting of Joseph, George, Mary, Martha, Caroline, and Jane, lodged with the Ford family and one John Brown in dwelling number 281, all under the family number 281.

Joseph Talbert

Joseph Talbert was born in approximately 1795, 65 years of age when the 1860 Federal Census was conducted. As mentioned, Joseph was employed at Hopewell for a non-consecutive period of roughly seven years, occupying two different positions. He was the head of household for not only his family but the Ford family and the singular Brown (listed on the census as being 5 months old in 1860) as well. Occupying the position of head of house on record, Joseph had a real estate value of \$100 and a personal estate value of \$25. It is possible, considering that he owned property and was head of such a large household consisting of two unrelated families, that he boarded the Fords and John Brown for additional income. Unfortunately, information that

directly links this hypothesis to fact could not be found, however, it is not an unreasonable assumption to make considering how common a practice it was (HFNH Resource Study 51).

Joseph's exact time period at Hopewell is also uncertain. While the "Friends of Hopewell Furnace Ledger Project" suggests a lengthy stay, "A Comparison of Negro and White Labor in a Charcoal Iron Community" by Joseph E. Walker lists Joseph "Tolbert" as having only worked 26 days between 1850 to 1853 at a wage of ten USD per month, earning a total sum of 9.90 USD (494). Additionally, the "Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site Historic Resource Study" lists a Joseph Tolbert as working at Hopewell "as early as 1818, though both definitely by mid-century" (56). It could not be determined which record is more "accurate," though it is possible that Joseph took up additional work during his six-year employment between 1846 and 1852—considering four records indicate employment between 1850 and 1853, if one counts SM38 in addition to the Ledger Project, Walker's chapter, and the Resource Study, I am inclined to believe he was indeed employed in some capacity during this time. I found a gravesite for a Joseph Talbert on findagrave.com. The death date is 1886, however no other information is listed other than the grave's location being in Allegheny County.

George Talbert

Based on his age in the 1860 Census (23), it can be assumed that George was born in 1837. George is not listed in any Hopewell Furnace digitized ledger book, nor was he listed anywhere as being employed at Hopewell. An individual named George Talbert does appear in newspaper articles dated close enough around the time of the 1860 census, marking a possible connection.

To start, an article published by the *Lancaster Daily Intelligencer* on February 3rd, 1882 titled "Neighborhood News" references an incident where George Talbert was shot near the heart while walking with Mary White, a "colored married woman of Harrisburg" who was also injured by the bullet. The wound was listed in the article as being possibly fatal, though death records were unable to be located. It is interesting, however, that a member of Hopewell's Talbert family was named Mary and was only about twelve years older than George. Though unconfirmed it is still possible that while visiting his (presumed) married relative, George was shot in an unidentified skirmish.

Additionally, another individual who may be Hopewell's George Talbert appears in the *Harrisburg State Journal* in an article published April 19th, 1884 titled "A.M.E Zion Conference, The Philadelphia And Baltimore Conference In Session At Carlisle. Proceedings." Considering this article was published two years following the fatal shooting in 1882, it is unlikely the two Georges here are the same individual. Regardless, nothing is impossible and there is nothing that marks these as two separate individuals, or, indeed, the same individual. Admittedly, nothing that directly connects them or the George at Hopewell as one person either. Still, this George, along with a handful of other candidates, was permitted access to an African Methodist Episcopal Zion conference held in Carlisle, suggesting some connection and/or position with the church. It is not unreasonable to speculate, considering Hopewell's connection with Six Penny Creek and the Mount Frisby African Methodist Church, that George could have involved himself with the clergy.

Caroline Talbert

Caroline Talbert is recorded in the 1860 Census where she is listed as living with the rest of the Talbert family. It can be assumed that she was born somewhere around 1846, considering in 1860 she was fourteen years old. The only other possible lead found on her was less of a lead and

more of an observation: there was a family in the 1850 Census listed as “Tolbert” with near-identical names to the Talbert family at Hopewell. That family was also African American and, with the exception of a Lewis Tolbert and the addition of two Marias, matched closely to the Talbert family. This family also lived in Berks County, though the ages differ too much for them to be the Talbert family I was investigating. Still, for there to be two families with such close names in the same area is interesting, though ultimately a dead-end.

Martha Talbert

Martha was about nine years old in 1860, making her birth year 1851.

Mary Talbert

Mary appears in the Hopewell records even though it is unusual for women to do so at all. The SM38 ledger document records Jane and her purchased “homegoods” under Joseph’s account. However, the handwriting is difficult to decipher. At age thirty-five in 1860, Mary was also the third-oldest Talbert. Considering the ages, with her being younger than Jane, she is not likely to be Joseph’s wife, but with the age gap between her and Jane only around six years, she is also not Joseph and Jane’s daughter either. Mary and Jane may be sisters with a deceased mother, but that is conjecture.

As mentioned with George, if Mary was George’s sister, she perhaps married a man with the last name “White,” marking her as the woman walking with that George Talbert when he was shot in Harrisburg. No marriage records or any records that point to her moving to Harrisburg were found, however, but it is worth mentioning as a possible connection.

Jane Talbert

Aged 45 in 1860, Jane was the second eldest Talbert of the Hopewell Talberts. Out of any of them, she is the most likely candidate for the Talbert matriarch, though the twenty-four-year age gap between her and Joseph makes that questionable. Alongside Mary, she appears in the SM38 Page 321 ledger account, and much like Mary, that is about the end of the leads on Jane. Looking at the age of Jane compared to the other Talberts, it is believable that she or Mary may have been Martha’s mother. On the other hand, it is possible she was the sister to the rest of them, and that Joseph’s wife passed away prior to the 1860 Census being taken.

I will mention here, if only to help boost possible information about Jane, that the 1830 Census records indicate that three other people lived with a Joseph Salbert (which may actually be Talbert depending on the cursive used) in 1830. Of those three, there was one “free colored persons- Females - 10 thru 23” and two girls under ten, making the household size four. The Joseph here is between twenty-four and thirty-five years old, making it quite possibly the Joseph from the 1860 record if Salbert is indeed actually Talbert. This would make Mary one of the girls under ten, and Jane one of the ones between ten through twenty-three. George, Martha, and Caroline would not have been born yet, leaving one person unaccounted for, possibly Joseph’s wife.



JOHN THOMAS

Researched and Written by Troi Howell and Brittany Katzaman

John Thomas was present in the 1840 Census and lived in East Nantmeal. His year of birth was not available, which made it nearly impossible to adequately research him. According to an 1880 U.S. Census, John Thomas's date of birth may be 1849. It says he was living in East Nantmeal, Chester, Pennsylvania with his three year-old daughter Hannah Thomas. John Thomas was born in North Carolina. According to his family tree, John Harrison Thomas was born May 22, 1837 to Jesse Thomas and Susanna Maria Kerchner Christman. Jesse Thomas and Susanna also had a daughter named Elizabeth Thomas. This would make Elizabeth Thomas and John Thomas brother and sister.

In the 1840 Census, John was recorded as the head of the household. Within his household, there were two "free colored persons"; 1 male (aged 24-36) and 1 female (aged 36-55). Only one of those people was employed, presumably John since he was the head of the household.

We found no information indicating that John Thomas, Elizabeth Thomas, and James Thomas are related.



ELIZABETH THOMAS

Researched and Written by Troi Howell and Brittany Katzaman

Elizabeth Thomas

Elizabeth Thomas was living with William Jacobs (65), Samuel Curtis (27), John Spencer (19), and the Clingan Family. Since they are living together, it is likely that they are working for the Clingan Family. William Jacobs was living with Elizabeth Thomas when she was 24 in the 1870 U.S. Census. William Jacobs shows up again in the 1860 U.S. Census where he was living with the Clerigan Family. According to the 1870 U.S. Census records, William Jacobs was employed as a laborer for the Clingan Family. Seeing William Jacobs in both Census records, I believe he was working for the Clingan Family but was living with a different family in 1860 because their dwelling numbers are different. The Clerigan family number is 354 and the Clerigan dwelling number is 384. The Clingan family number is 339 and dwelling number is 304. Both the Clingan and Clerigan were white families living in Union Berks, Pennsylvania and were associated with Hopewell Furnace management,

There were other members living with the Thomas family. According to the 1870 U.S. Census, Elizabeth Thomas lived in Union, Berks Pennsylvania with Charlotte Hunsberger (37), Elizabeth Hunsberger (11), William Jacobs (65), Samuel Curtis (27), John Spencer (19), Chas M. Clingan (50), Maria F. Clingan (49), Chas B. Clingan(19), Hunter W. Clingan (14), Lulu W. Clingan (6). Out of everyone living in this household, only William Jacobs, Samuel Curtis and John Spencer are Black and laborers according to the Census data (Ancestry, Union Berks, 1870). Charlotte Hunsberger kept the house and Elizabeth Thomas was a domestic servant for the Clingans. Charlotte Hunsberger was living with a child named Elizabeth Hunsberger which makes Elizabeth Charlotte's daughter due to their age difference and same last name.

We found no information indicating that John Thomas, Elizabeth Thomas, and James Thomas are related.

JAMES THOMAS

Researched and Written by Troi Howell and Brittany Katzaman

James Thomas was present in the Furnace Ledger books in 1823 in account book number is SM11: 213. He began working there on 09/10/1823 and ended on 12/06/1823. James Thomas began as a laborer on Friday, August 22, 1823, and was credited with one-half day. He appeared on time sheets for every working day through September 23, but on the next day he worked one-half day and none for the next four days. On September 30th, he worked $\frac{3}{4}$ of the day and continued full employment until the first Saturday in November. The next week, he worked 6 full days, but on Monday, November 10th, he was absent. He managed half a day on Tuesday and 11 full days in succession. He missed 5 days at the end of November, and worked 5 and one-half in the first week of December. On Saturday, December 6th, he bought a hat and \$7.93 in cash. He had earned a total of \$23.79 in just over 3 months then disappeared from the record (Walker, 313).

We found no information indicating that John Thomas, Elizabeth Thomas, and James Thomas are related.

GEORGE WASHINGTON

Researched and Written by Tessa Eberlein

George Washington was a black male from Warwick who held a job in 1817. The sub notes on his record state: SM 8 R: 116. I did not find these subnotes in the Hopewell archives. However, an exact match to George Washington is on the Friends of HF Leger Project, which states he held a laboring position from June 21, 1817 to September 3, 1817.

WATSON FAMILY

Researched and Written by Daniel Gombar and Ja'niqie Jules

The Watsons were one of the Six Penny Creek families. This narrative covers 11 individuals including John Watson Sr. (head of household), Mary A. Watson (the possible first wife of John Watson), Louisa Boardley Watson (the mother of the children with John described in this narrative), and some of their children - John, Catharine, Caroline, Emma, Julia, Latita, John Jr., and Maria.

John Watson Sr.

John Watson was born around 1815 in Pennsylvania in an unknown region of state. Much of John's early life still remains a mystery because of a lack of records. It is believed that John arrived at Hopewell in the early 1840s; John had two documented stints as a woodcutter at the Furnace according to the Friends at Hopewell online database. His first documented appearance occurred on February 24th 1844, and ended on August 7th of the same year. The 1844 Hopewell "contra accounts" from the Hopewell's online ledgers seem to support this because their final entry shows that John received \$23.06 for cutting cordwood at the Furnace on August 7th. However, John may have appeared at the Furnace earlier than February 24th because the ledgers show that he gave \$3.00 to a man named George Zacharias on February 11th. Zacharias' relation to John and the furnace currently is unclear. Zacharias was a forge owner somewhere in Union Township from the 1830 to 1849 according to the Friends at Hopewell online database.

Watson made a \$15.00 payment to Leo Brooke on March 1st, a possible relative of the owners of the Furnace at the time. Also, John spent \$3.66 ½ on store goods on that same day, and, on May 7th, took \$1.39 ½ cash in full from the general store. From 1844 to 1850, John's life remains unknown as there are no records indicating his presence in/or around Hopewell in the time period.

John's second tenure at the Furnace is believed to have begun on January 31, 1850 when he was once again employed as a woodcutter. According to the 1850 federal census, John is listed as a laborer living in dwelling house number 7 and with family 151. He lived with a Mary A. Watson (25) and possibly had three children named Roseanna (8), Catherine (4), and John Jr. (1). John resided in the Six Penny Creek African American community close to Hopewell. The Friends of Hopewell Furnace online database listed John's second stint at Hopewell as ending on April 6, 1853. He may have taken another job nearby.

John's name again appeared in the 1860 federal census, but in a new dwelling with new family members. According to 1860 census records, he lived in House number 313 with Louisa (40) and children Julia (12), Maria (10), Emma (4), and Caroline (2), possibly his children. This change in the family could indicate a change in George's marital status; none of his family members from the 1850 census records appear in the 1860 record. Given Julia and Maria's age, there is a possibility that Louisa may have been divorced, widowed or in another relationship before meeting John. We surmise that Mary may have left the area for a new life with the children while John chose to remarry and continue his life in the area because there is no indication of Mary at the furnace past 1850 census; so far, we are unable to confirm this due to a lack of records.

At some point between 1860 and 1870, John relocated his family to West Chester, Pennsylvania as he showed up in the 1870 federal census working as a laborer in house 803 with the some of the same family members that appeared in 1850 and 1860 censuses, Louisa (45), Rosanna (27), Jehu [believed to be John Jr.] (22), Maria (19), Emma (15), John (22), James Smith [it is unknown who this individual is] (24), and Caroline (13). Although this can't be confirmed to be the John of Hopewell, an 1880 federal census was discovered that had a John Watson living on 233 Market Street in Chester, Pennsylvania as a laborer. Although we can't say for certain, this could be where John chose to spend his last years of life. We found no records have been located that indicated when or where John died.

Mary A. Watson

Mary A. Watson was born in 1825 and is a Black Female. She was possibly the first wife of John. She appears in the 1850 census for Union County. Ancestry.com identifies a woman named Mary A. Watson who moved to Philadelphia. All of the other information between this Mary A. Watson and the other Mary A. Watson matches. She worked as a shoe sewer. She lived with Mary A. Marsh (48) Rachel Watson (41) Lizzie Phare (14). In the family tree on Ancestry.com it shows that she is the mother of Roseanna, Catherine and John (Jr?).

Louisa Watson

Louisa Boardley Watson was born around 1825 in either Maryland or Pennsylvania; both the 1860 and 1870 federal censuses listed her birthplace in two different locations; no records have been found to confirm either of these claims. It seems that Louisa arrived in Union Township sometime before 1860 and could've had two children, Julia and Maria, before marrying John. According to 1860 federal census records, Louisa lived in House number 313 in Union Township with her inferred husband, John, and possibly four children Julia (12), Maria (10), Emma (4), and Caroline (2). Available records do not list an occupation for Louisa.

At some point in the 1860s, Louisa and John took their family to West Chester where John continued to work as a laborer and Louisa is listed as a provision dealer. According to Maggie Land Blanck, provision dealers are, "grocers who catered to larger businesses like hotels and restaurants or ships preparing for voyages. They provided meats, vegetables and sundries. Sometimes a hotel or restaurant owner went to the various city markets to purchase 'victuals'" (Grocers and Provisions Dealers).

Louisa lived with her husband, John, and children Rosanna (27), Jehu [believed to be John Jr.] (22), Maria (believed to be Marie) (19), Emma (15), John (22), Caroline (13), and James Smith (24), whose relation to the family is currently unknown. We found no further documentation of Louisa's life and her death.

Emma Louisa Watson

Emma Louisa Watson was born around 1856 likely in Union Township, Pennsylvania near Hopewell Furnace, according to the 1860 census. At some point between 1860 and 1870, she may have moved with the Watsons to West Chester, Pennsylvania. The 1870 federal census listed Emma C. Watson as a resident of the household, but the middle initial seems to be an error because all of the other names in the household line up with the names mentioned in the 1860 census in Union Township. Emma attended school in the West Chester area.

We believe that Emma moved to Smyrna, Delaware at some point in the mid to late 1870s. She is listed as a single servant in the 1880 federal census at house number 69 and it is stated that she could neither read nor write. Because of this, we are led to believe that her schooling in West Chester may have been brief, and she may have left the school system for unknown reasons. Although it cannot be confirmed, Emma may have briefly moved back up north to Pennsylvania because Philadelphia is listed as her residency on her marriage certificate. It is believed that Emma met her husband, Reverend John William Norris, in Smyrna because he is listed as a resident of the area on the marriage certificate. On November 4, 1886 the couple married in Pottstown, Pennsylvania.

According to a comprehensive family tree on Ancestry.com, around a year later, Emma and John had their first child, Harry Allen Norris, on November 13, 1887 in Smyrna. Three years later, Emma L. Norris, the couple's second child, was born in December of 1890. At some point

between 1891 and 1895, it is believed that Emma and John briefly moved their family to Washington D.C. because Emma is listed in the *Washington, D.C., U.S., Select Births and Christenings Records* kept by Ancestry. com. Also, the family tree mentions that John and Emma had their third child, Edith H. Norris, in Washington, D.C. on October, 18 1895. Shortly after 1895, it is believed that John and Emma moved to Baltimore, Maryland to raise their family as they are listed in the 1900 federal census as residing on 18 West Montgomery Street, in the city's 1st Ward.

John was a well-known African Methodist Episcopal minister in Baltimore, having authored a book, *The Ethiopian's Place in History*; two essays, "The A.M.E. episcopacy: a Paper Read Before the Baltimore A.M.E. Preacher's Meeting" and "Evolution Not a Fact: God and Man: Man and Monkey: The Bible a Fact: the Bible and Science Agree"; and served as an inscriber of another book, *Morgan's History of the New Jersey Conference of the A.M.E. Church, from 1872 to 1887*. (All documents' texts are available in the University of Pennsylvania's digital archives.) John and Emma remained in Baltimore for the remainder of their lives. The family changed residences at some point between 1910 and 1920 as the 1920 federal census documents showed the couple living at a new property on 437 Aisquith Street in Baltimore's Ward 5. The family tree listed Emma as passing away in February of 1928 in Baltimore; the 1930 federal census seems to corroborate this as it listed John as a widow still residing in Baltimore at the time. John lived until April 20, 1935, passing away in Baltimore.

John and Emma were survived by their three children. It is unknown if their first child, Harry, had any children or spouses as no record could be found. Harry passed away on January 18, 1952 in Maryland.

Their second child, Emma L. Norris-Smith, had two children, Neonta Smith and Bernice V. Smith. Emma's time of death and location is unknown. There is no documentation of her children beyond their presence in the family tree.

The third child, Edith H. Norris, married Hezekiah Savage, III on January 30, 1911 in Baltimore. According to the 1920 and 1930 censuses, Hezekiah and Edith resided with Emma and John in Baltimore; it is presumed they moved out of the residence sometime in the mid-1930s. They had their first child, Theodore Wilbur Savage Sr. on July 9, 1912 in Baltimore. Their second child, Thelma L. Savage was born in 1915 in Maryland. Their final child, Edyth E. Savage, was born in 1917 in an unknown. All three children resided with Emma and John from their birth until sometime in the 1930s according to the 1920 and 1930 censuses.

Edith passed away on October 23, 1966 in Baltimore. Hezekiah lived until age 91; he passed away in April of 1986 in Baltimore. Theodore married Mary Ida Williams in 1934 and have five children. Their first known child, Marida Mae Savage, was born on December 12, 1934. Their second son, Edward Norris Savage, was born on September 16, 1938; their three other children are currently unknown. Theodore passed away on August 5, 1999, and Mary died on November 22, 1991; both in Baltimore. Edyth married Anslow Evans at an unknown date; she died around 2005 in Baltimore while it is unknown when Anslow died. It is unknown if she had any children. There are currently no known records regarding Thelma's life and death.

Edith's second child, Edward, married an unidentified spouse and had a son and daughter at an unknown date in an unknown location; both children are currently unknown as well. Edward passed away on July, 25, 1986 in Baltimore.

Marida married Paul Lawrence Taylor Senior on June 28, 1953 in Baltimore. They had six children together, four boys and two girls. We found records on two of the children, Scott Barry Taylor, who was born on September 23, 1959 in Baltimore, and Kim Celeste Taylor born

on March 27, 1962 in Baltimore as well. At some point, the Taylors relocated to the Lower Hudson Valley as Marida passed away on April 15, 1994, in Wappingers Falls, New York and Paul died on March 25, 2006, in Poughkeepsie, New York. It is unknown if Kim was married or had children; she passed away on October 3, 2014 in Poughkeepsie like her father.

Scott relocated to Tampa, Florida where he married Evelyn Johnson at an unknown time and at an unknown location. Like his great-great grandfather, Scott was a pastor and had two children (names unknown). Scott passed away on June 20, 2018 in Tampa. Currently, his wife is a Christian teacher, theology scholar, and adjunct professor in Tampa, who, with her two children, are known sixth and seventh generation living ancestors of the Watsons at Hopewell Furnace. All of this information regarding Emma's lineage was retrieved from the comprehensive Watson family tree created by a user known as "PLTJR" on Ancestry.com.

Latita Watson

Latita Watson was born around 1842 in an unknown region of the state. She is listed in the 1860 federal census as working and living in the Iron Master's house with Charles Clarigan and his five family members and four other individuals. Latita was likely a servant for the Clagians. The whereabouts of Latita after Hopewell are currently unknown; a woman under the name "Lettie Watson" is listed in the 1870 federal census living at house 803 with the Watsons in West Chester. It stated she worked as a Laundress (a woman who launders clothing) and was born around 1845. Similarly, the same individual showed up in the 1880 census in West Chester, but in a different dwelling and listed as single. Since John and Louisa are listed as the inferred parents of Lettie and there is a discrepancy in the names, it is largely unknown if the Latita from Hopewell and the Lettie mentioned in the West Chester census are the same person or a completely different individual. The rest of Latita's life and death remain unknown as there have been no records found yet.

Roseanna Watson

Roseanna Watson was born in 1842 to Mary A. and John Watson. Roseanna, in the 1850 census, was at the time, 8 years old. According to the Times Tribune Scranton of 1898, Roseanna was in a newspaper article describing future trial dates and court cases. The article states, "Joseph Thomas assault and battery, Roseanna Watson, prox". According to the Ancestry family tree, there are no children linked to her name. There were also no death records or death certificates to her name.

Catharine Watson

Catharine Watson was born around 1846 in an unknown location. She appears in the 1850 census in Union Township, Pennsylvania living with the Watsons in dwelling house 7. At some point in the 1850s, Catherine left Union Township because she didn't show up in the 1860 federal census with John Watson. Catharine's life after the 1850 census remains largely unknown as no documents were discovered that may have pointed to her.

Caroline Watson

Caroline Watson was born around 1858 in an unknown location; although it is probable she was born near Hopewell Furnace due to the roots of the Watson family in the area. I cannot confirm this due to a lack of evidence. Caroline attended school in Union Township at age 2 according to the 1860 federal census; the school and grade she attended are currently unknown. Caroline

appeared to have moved with the Watson to West Chester, Pennsylvania at some point during the 1860s due to her presence in the 1870 federal census with the Watsons in house 803; the document listed her as 13 years old in 1870. Unfortunately, due to a lack of evidence provided in the research, Catharine's life beyond 1870 largely remains unknown as no documents were discovered that may have pointed to her presence.

Maria Watson

Maria Watson was born around 1850 in an unknown location; she appeared in the 1860 federal census at the age of 10. Due to her age at the time of the 1860 census, it is speculated that Maria may have been conceived in a past relationship of Louisa. Maria appeared in the 1870 census living with the Watson in house 803 in West Chester, Pennsylvania. Nothing is documented about her life during that time period or after due to a lack of evidence.

John Watson Jr.

John Watson Jr. was born around 1849 likely in Union Township. At some point in the 1850s, John left Union Township. It appears that John Jr. moved back with his father in West Chester, Pennsylvania because Jehu Watson (22) appears in the records; Jehu is believed to be a typo or a new name for John although this has not been confirmed. No further records were found.

Julia Watson

Julia Watson was born around 1848 in an unknown location. She is documented as going to school in the 1860 census, although the location of the school and the grade she was in are still unknown. No further records were found.

Follow Up Information from Nick Kopp

Mary A. Watson does not appear as the mother of John's children in the Six Penny Creek Ancestry tree. Mary A. Watson is likely Mary Ann Boardley before marriage.



GEORGE WILKINSON

Researched and Written by Elijah Schade

According to the HOFU database, George Wilkinson was a miner, and he worked from 1802-2-26 to 1802-4-01. He was then listed as working an "unknown labor occupation" from 1804-06-08 to 1805-09-02.

Unfortunately, no information could be found stating credits or earnings for George Wilkinson. George Wilkinson was listed as purchasing the following items and debts. These transactions occurred from 11/30/1807 - 11/08/1822:

1807:

- December 1, "Balance from Ledger (D) Folio 232... 17 pounds, 11 shillings, 7 pence.
- December 11, "Sundries" ... 11 pounds, 6 shillings, 5 pence.
- December 11, "Jacob Sheeler" ... 3 pounds, 11 shillings, 3 pence.

December 19, "(Illegible) Flour" ... 3 pounds, 5 shillings, 0 pence.
 December 29, "Flour" ... 3 pounds, 10 shillings, 0 pence.
 1808:
 June 24, "James Adain" ... 1 pound, 0 shillings, 0 pence.
 Balance: ... 27 pounds, 16 shillings, 9 pence.
 1822:
 November 15, "Hampton Forge" ... 0 pounds, 12 shillings, 5 pence.

I attempted to look up the two individuals Wilkinson paid, Jacob Sheeler and James Adain, in the HOFU records and only found one digitized file for Jacob Sheeler, but it was largely illegible due to age. James Adain did not yield any results, and the nature of these two in relation to George Wilkinson is unknown.

There is no indication that George Wilkinson was related to Hannah Wilkinson, who was at Hopewell from 1851-1852, according to the records.

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**HANNAH WILKINSON**  
**Researched and Written by Elijah Schade**

Hannah Wilkinson was listed as a "hired girl" from 1851-12-31 to 1852-03-31. No further information was found.

There is no indication that Hannah Wilkinson was related to George Wilkinson, who was at Hopewell from 1802-1805, according to the records.

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HENRY WILLIAMS
Researched and Written by Wyatt Conrad

Henry Williams was born in 1852 in Pennsylvania. At the time of the 1870 Census, Henry (age 18) lived with the white Trenn Family (1870 Census). Elizabeth Trenn, the head of the family, was a farmer; her son Clark is the only member of the family, aside of Elizabeth, who is listed as working on the farm at the time (1870 Census). Henry is also listed as working at the farm and was likely given a place in the household so he could more easily attend to his work.

Shortly after his time with the Trenn family, Henry resided at the Poor House of Chester County in 1871 at age 19 (1800-1910 Chester, County, PA, Poor House Admissions Index). Henry is not seen again in documents until his death in Philadelphia. Henry either died in 1874 at age 22 (and therefore born in Cumberland County, PA) or in 1878 at age 27 and married (and therefore born in Philadelphia, PA) (1803-1915 Philadelphia Death Certificates Index).

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## ISAAC WILLIAMS

### Researched and written by Wyatt Conrad

Isaac Williams worked at Hopewell Furnace from 1801 to 1802. He was born in 1775, according to the 1800-1910 Chester County Poor House Admissions Index. Isaac Williams does not appear in documents until mentioned in the will of his uncle (also Isaac Williams) in 1788; he received 5 pounds (1713-1825 Chester County, PA Wills).

In 1792, Isaac was a witness for the proving of William Thomas' will (1713-1825 Chester County, PA Wills). After this, records only show a life of debt and struggle for Isaac. Isaac seems to have spent his time moving (possibly looking for work). In 1797, he was listed in Goshen, Chester County (1740-1865 Chester County Tax Discount Index). By 1806, it was Charlestown, Chester County (1740-1865 Chester County Tax Discount Index). Then Honey Brook, Chester County in 1810 and East Whiteland, Chester County in 1819, and then again from 1856 to 1859 (1740-1865 Chester County Tax Discount Index).

Before then, he was listed in East Nantmeal, Chester County in 1820 (1800-1910 Chester County Poor House Admissions Index). Isaac was recorded at the Chester County Poor House in 1820, 1833, and 1834 (1800-1910 Chester County Poor House Admissions Index). Isaac also received many tax exonerations for many reasons: Gone (1797, 1806), Poor (1810, 1856, 1857), No Dog (1819), and Cripple (1859) (1740-1865 Chester County Tax Discount Index). Isaac also is recorded going to court in Chester county for Debt (1814), Larceny (1838), and an unknown reason (1840) (1740-1865 Chester County Criminal & Prison Record Index).

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### MAIN SOURCES OF EVIDENCE

Unless otherwise noted, all information in the narratives comes from the following four sources:

1. National Park Service NPS archeologist Jared Muehlbauer provided us with a list of 290 African Americans (including children). Most of the names were from transcribed Federal Census records of African Americans in the counties where Hopewell Furnace was located, East Nantmeal and Warwick townships in Chester County and Union Township in Berks County, from 1790-1900, excluding the 1890 census records destroyed in a Department of Commerce fire in 1921. Census records from the nineteenth century bring serious challenges. Census records are often inconsistent and leave people out; errors and ambiguities abound, often due to illegible handwriting. One of the most common issues we ran into was no clear-cut year of birth for individuals.
2. The 290 individuals included names of all African Americans in the *Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site Financial Account Books Archive* at <http://npgallery.nps.gov/hofu/>. These handwritten (and then partially digitized) furnace account books contain information about people working at the furnace; the most common records in this database are the workers' personal accounts with the furnace-

debits and credits. Only about one half of these records are digitized and due to COVID, we did not have access to the remaining print-only records stored at HOFU.

3. Friends of Hopewell Furnace Ledger Project at [friendsofhopewellfurn.org/ledgers/](http://friendsofhopewellfurn.org/ledgers/). Described as extractions from the original Ledger pages.
4. The fourth main source was Ancestry Library, which includes more than 30,000 Ancestry.com record collections and 11 billion records spanning the 1500s–2000s (<https://www.ancestry.com/cs/us/institution>). US Federal Census records were the most common source used in this research. Other archival records students found and utilized included death certificates, tax records, state and city directories, church records, findagrave.com, Civil War and other military records, and newspapers.
5. Many of the narratives cite information from Joseph E. Walker’s book, *Hopewell Village: A Social and Economic History of an Iron-Making Community*, published in 1966 by the University of Pennsylvania Press. This book is still today the most comprehensive history of Hopewell Furnace.
6. Many students also retrieved information from a Wiki site, “Six Penny Creek Community.” *Six Penny Creek Community - Iron Allentown Wiki*, [wiki.ironallentownpa.org/Six\\_Penny\\_Creek\\_Community#Hill](http://wiki.ironallentownpa.org/Six_Penny_Creek_Community#Hill). The site was developed by Dr. Benjamin Carter from Mu

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