

THE LANNING FAMILY  
Of  
NEWTOWN, QUEENS COUNTY,  
LONG ISLAND  
NEW YORK

And Of  
BURLINGTON, HUNTERDON,  
SUSSEX, WARREN,  
MERCER, and CUMBERLAND  
COUNTIES, NEW JERSEY

And Of  
NORTH CAROLINA

U.S./CAN  
919,273  
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Compiled by  
Lewis D. Cook, F.G.S.P., F.A.S.G.  
(1940-1970)

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

On a trip to New York in the Summer of 1990, this editor had the delightful opportunity to meet with a fellow Lanning-Researcher, Mrs. Jeannette Tyson, of Toronto, Ontario, Canada. She and her husband had just returned from a genealogy trip to New Jersey and Pennsylvania. While doing research on her husbands' lines, the two of them visited the Library of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. It was there that Jeannette came across a gem of a book called "The Lanning Family of Newton, Queens County, Long Island, New York, and of Burlington, Hunterdon, Sussex, Warren, Mercer, and Cumberland Counties, New Jersey, and of North Carolina." Actually, not really a published book, but the research notes of a renowned, accredited genealogist by the name of Lewis Daniel Cook (1895-1981).

When Mrs. Tyson visited the Library, she only had enough time to photocopy but a few (8) pages of Cook's "Lanning Family"--those that appeared to fit in with her own family lines. She was kind enough to share a copy of this information with me. This was an exciting discovery because of its thoroughness. But I longed to obtain a **complete** copy of this priceless, yet unpublished work. The Historical Society agreed to make a photocopy of the book for me, since it was not copy-righted. (Thank you, Moriah Hall). The copy you hold in your hand has been made to be deposited in the Family History Library of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Salt Lake City, Utah, to be used by any future Lanning researchers interested in their heritage.

As you can gather from the glowing memoria that follows, Lewis Cook was very well thought of as a genealogist. He analyzed and corrected the work of others who have written about the Lanning Family: Rev. Eli Cooley and Rev. W. A. Williams. He worked by documentary evidence and also made extensive surveys of the cemeteries of New Jersey, the Death and Marriage Notices of the Trenton Newspapers, and County Clerks' Records. He also had access to several *Lanning Family Bibles*. We Lanning descendants owe Lewis Cook a debt of gratitude for his scholarly research.

This handwritten notes on this manuscript are those of Mr. Cook, and since this appears to be a rough draft, page enumeration is not very accurate.

January 1991

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LANNING FAMILY OF NEWTOWN, QUEENS COUNTY, L.I., N.Y.,  
AND OF BURLINGTON, HUNTERDON, SUSSEX, WARREN, MERCER,  
AND CUMBERLAND COUNTIES, N.J., AND OF NORTH CAROLINA.

Compiled by Lewis D. Cook, F.G.S.P., F.A.S.G., 1940-1970.

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LANNING OF NEWTOWN, L.I., N.Y., AND OF HUNTERDON CO., N.J.

by Lewis D. Cook, F.A.S.G., of Philadelphia.

The Rev. Eli F. Cooley (1781-1860) stated in his Early Settlers of Trenton and Ewing, Old Hunterdon County, N.J., 1883, that

"There is a tradition in his family that three brothers of the name of Lanning came originally from Wales and settled on Long Island (N.Y.). They removed soon afterward to New Jersey. One bought land in the northern part of the colony, another in the southern part, and Robert, from whom the Lannings of this part of the colony descend, settled at Maidenhead, now Lawrenceville."

A documented study is now presented of Dr. Cooley's Lanning Family:

JOHN LANNING is found in the records of Newtown, which fronted on the East River, in Queens Co., L.I., opposite Manhattan Island, in the following items of 1681 and 1682, his surname spelled phonetically by the town clerk as "Lennen". He was deceased by 1688, in which year the name of "the widow Lanning" appears in the town minutes. She was evidently the Elizabeth Laning of Newtown who conveyed to "my two sons Robert Laning and Richard Laning, after my decease" her house and ten acre lot in Newtown by deed of gift dated 16 April 1688. Those two sons removed to Maidenhead Twp., Burlington Co., N.J., by 1699, as hereinafter is shown. The 1698 Census of Newtown lists no Laning, (TAG 24: 133).

6 Dec. 1681, John Lennen enters an action of debt against Thomas Etherington. 7 Feb. 1681/2, The Court finds Etherington to pay 3 pounds and the cost of suit. By deed of 16 Aug. 1681, Theophilus Phillips of Newtown conveyed to Henry Mayle, Sr., of the Island of Nevis, a tract of land at Mashpat Kills, in the bounds of Newtown, bounded east by the highway, west by the land of



2

John Lennen, on the north by the commons, and on the south by Justice Betts' land, with also an orchard at the same Kills, bounded by land of John Lennen and Justice Betts.

"Know all men by these presents, that I, Elizabeth Laning, of Newtown in Queens County, do for divers good considerations moving me thereunto, do freely give unto my two sons, Robert Laning and Richard Laning, after my decease, my now dwelling house and land, ten acres more or less, lying in the bounds of Newtown, fronting north on the highway that goes to the Kills, on the west by Joseph Reed's lot, on the east by Thomas Stevenson's lot that he bought of John Hart, and on the south by Jeremiah Reeder's land. The aforesaid house and land I do freely give as aforesaid to my two sons Robert and Richard Laning as their free land of inheritance, to them and their heirs forever, as witness my hand and seal this sixteenth day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand six hundred eighty eight, in the third year of His Majesty's Reign. (signed) Elizabeth (her mark) Laning"

Children of John and Elizabeth ( ) Laning:

- 2      1. Robert Laning, Sr., b. in or before 1667; d. after 1752.
- 3      11. Richard Laning b. in or before 1670; d. after 1742.
- 3-a    iii. John Laning b. in or before 1675; d. in 1733-1739.

2/

2. ROBERT LANING, born in or before 1667, son of John and Elizabeth Laning of Newtown, Queens County, L.I., N.Y., removed to Maidenhead Township, Burlington County, N.J., now Lawrence Township, Mercer County, where his name is found of record as one of the 28 men "all of Maidenhead" to whom a 100 acres tract there was granted by Deed of 18 March 1698/9, for a "meeting house, burying ground, and school house", part of the West Jersey Society's 15,000 acres tract above the Falls of Delaware, by the Society's agents, Jeremiah Basse and Thomas Revell, (N.J. Archives 21: 517). "The inhabitants above Assenpink (Creek) ordered by the Court to be a Township of themselves by the name of Maidenhead", per minutes of the Burlington County Court of 20 Feb. 1696/7, (published 1944, page 191).; it was thus set off from Hopewell.

Robert Laning was appointed Constable of Maidenhead on 10 December 1706, and Collector of Taxes there on 13 September 1709. He was named one of three executors in the will of Theophilus Phillips of Maidenhead, dated 18 November 1708, and with John Read he made the inventory of the personal estate of Johannes Opdyck of Hopewell Township, dated 24 March 1728/9, (N.J. Archives 23: 364, 347).

Robert Laning settled in that part of Hopewell Township which was set off as Trenton in 1720, as the following abstract of a mortgage given by him in 1737 indicates. Maidenhead, Hopewell, Trenton, and Amwell formed Hunterdon County, set off from Burlington in 1714. The list of Freeholders eligible for jury duty in Hunterdon County in 1741 included: Trenton Township: Robert Lanning, Stephen Lanning; Maidenhead Township: Robert Lanning; Amwell Township: Richard Lanning (Genealog. Mag. N.J. 37: 50).

Quote: The 26th August 1703. We underwritten, having the day and date hereof, at the house of Ralph Hunt in Maiden Township, heard read the agreement made the 20th April 1703 between Doctor Dand...

mortgaged his 244 acres plantation in Trenton Township, said County, to the Loan Office thereof, for 36 pounds, with description same as in the above deed, and "excepting thereout 20½ acres formerly sold to Thomas Lambert," Robert Laning discharged this mortgage on 26 April 1739, and on that date mortgaged the same plantation again to the Commissioners of the Loan Office, for 73 pounds 3 shillings, which he discharged on 24 April 1752, as shown in the Mortgage Book C: nos. 111 and 139, now in the office of the Secretary of State, Trenton, N.J.

The estate of Robert Laning, Sr. is not found in the probate records of Hunterdon County, so the year of his death, after 1752, and the name of his wife or widow, have not been recovered here. Cooley says, in his Trenton and Ewing, 1883, page 152, that "Robert Laning is thought to have married Miss Hart", evidently confusing Robert Laning, Sr., with his son Robert Laning, Jr.

Children of Robert Laning, Sr. (Named by Cooley, above.)

- 3/  
4 1. Stephen Laning b. about 1710; d. 1781.
- 5 11. Daniel Laning bapt. 6 May 1713; d. 1772.
- 6 111. Richard Laning b. about 1718; d. after 1786.
- 7 1v. Robert Laning b. about 1702; d. after 1749.
- v. Frances Laning bapt. 13 sept. 1715 in Hopewell Twp., Hunterdon Co., N.J., (Penna. Genealog. Mag. 19: 283); she married, as his first wife, Jonathan Furman of Trenton Twp., said Co., who d. testate in 1779, (N.J. Archives 34: 194; and Cooley p. 152).
- vi. Mercy Laning d. after 1777; married Elijah Jones of Trenton Twp., said Co., who d. testate in 1779, (N.J. Archives 34: 277).

(h) Mary Howell b. 9 Feb. 1788; mar. no. 26 Nathaniel Laning.

(i) Rhoda Howell mar. Ralph Laning. See under no. 28.

(j) Obadiah Howell unmar.

(k) Abigail Howell d. in 1831 aged 34 yrs.

(l) Hannah Howell mar. William Marcellus. (Cooley p. 139

vii. Elizabeth Laning mar. Henry Pierson.

viii. Mary Laning mar. one Cook, and had issue: (a) Rebecca Cook; (b) Elias Cook. and (c) Hannah Cook.

ix. Mercy Laning d. 21 Aug. 1839, aged 83 yrs., unmar. in Ewing Twp., per obit in the N.J. State Gazette, Trenton.

5. DANIEL <sup>3/</sup>LANING, baptised 6 May 1713 in Maidenhead, now Lawrenceville, Mercer County, N.J., son of no. 2 Robert Laning Sr., (Penna. Genealog. Magazine 19: 281); died testate in Trenton Township, Hunterdon County, N.J., early in 1772, having survived his wife who is not named or mentioned in his will of 30 October 1771. "He married a sister of Jonathan Furman" states Cooley, Trenton and Ewing, p. 158. As the will of Richard Furman of Trenton Township, dated 13 February 1752, names sons Jonathan and Josiah Furman, and daughters Frances, Sarah Closson, Mary Clark, and Elizabeth

Kitchen, it was apparently the daughter Frances Furman to whom Dr. Cooley referred. Some indication of correctness of his statement is afforded by the Will of the son, Jonathan Furman, dated 14 September 1771, as it was witnessed by both Stephen and Daniel Laning., who were brothers of testator's first wife, Frances (Laning) Furman, (N.J. Archives 32: 124, and 34: 194).

Daniel Laning was named one of the 16 members of the Common Council in the charter for the Borough of Trenton, N.J., dated 6 September 1746, (Penna. Genealog. Magazine 9: 227). In the Presbyterian Churchyard at Ewingville, Ewing Township, formerly part of Trenton Township, now Mercer County, N.J., is found a fieldstone inscribed "D L", marking a grave in a Laning plot, which probably refers to the abovesaid Daniel Laning who died in 1772 in Trenton Township. Other such markers in the group are inscribed "E L, I L and P L", possibly referring to Enoch or Edward, Israel or John, and Phebe Laning, named hereinafter.

The Will of Daniel Laning, of Trenton Township, Hunterdon County, N.J., dated 30 October 1771 and proved 7 March 1772, devises to son John Laning 20 shillings; orders his real and personal estate to be sold, and of the proceeds, to son Robert Laning 80 pounds, and the residue to my children: Robert, Daniel, James, Enoch, Hannah, and Prudence; and appoints friend Samuel Tucker, Esq., and sons Robert and Daniel Laning, executors. The witnesses were Stephen Laning, Benjamin<sup>am</sup> Hart, and Charles Axford, Jr. The inventory of the personal estate, made by Stephen Laning and Richard Laning, was appraised at 77.5.0, (N.J. Archives 34: 296).

(Quote) By virtue of a writ of Fieri Facias to me directed, will be exposed to sale, by way of public vendue, to the highest bidder, at the house of Daniel Lanning, in Trenton Township, on Saturday, the 30th day of April next, to begin at 1 o'clock in the afternoon, horses, cattle, sheep, hogs, beds and bedding, tables, chairs, a cupboard and sundries. Also to be sold the same day, on the premises, between the hours of 12 and 5 o'clock in the afternoon, a certain piece or tract of land and plantation, in Trenton aforesaid, bounded east by Joseph and William Green, west by Jacob Carle and Abias Davis, north by Stephen Lanning, and south by David Howell and David Holden, containing 200 acres, more or less, late the property of Daniel Lanning, seized and taken in execution at the suit of Ebenezer Cowell, executor of David Cowell, deceased, and to be sold by MICAHAH HOW, Sheriff, (The New York Gazette or Weekly Post Boy, March 13, 1768; reprinted in N.J. Archives, 1st. ser., 26: 73.). The Rev. David Cowell, pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Trenton, died testate in 1760, (Ibid, 33: 94).

Children of Daniel and Frances (Furman) Laning:

- 12-a 1. Jemima<sup>4/</sup> Laning b. in 1774; d. 28 Aug. 1836; mar. Jasper Smith.
11. Hannah Laning d. "about 1830, aged 88 yrs.; mar. William Hart, son of Benjamin and Hannah (Cook) Hart, who d. in 1826, aged 88 yrs." They had issue:
- (a) William Hart
  - (b) Israel Hart mar. Mary, dau. of no. 13 Robert Laning.
  - (c) Jemima Hart mar. Joseph Pierson.
  - (d) Elizabeth Hart (Trenton and Ewing, p. 100)
111. Elizabeth Laning d. "at 90 yrs. of age; mar. Robert Furman, son of Jonathan and Frances (Laning) Furman." They had issue:
- (a) James Furman
  - (b) Frances Furman mar. Anthony Reed.
  - (c) Elizabeth Furman unmar., (Ibid. p. 75.)

-19

iv. Prudence Laning, b. in 1752; d. 6 June 1839 aged 87 yrs., widow of Samuel Cook, per grvst. in Presb. Chyd., Pennington, Hopewell Twp., Mercer Co., N.J., (Genealog. Magazine of N.J., 43: 38). She mar. Samuel Cook, b. in 1754, eldest son of Henry and Eleanor (Hunt) Cook of Maidenhead, now Lawrence, Twp., said Co., and he d. (testate) in Hopewell Twp. on 16 Jan. 1816 in his 63rd yr. per grvst. abovesd.<sup>#/</sup> They had sole issue: Daniel Cook, b. 16 July 1780, who d. (testate) in Hopewell Twp., on 20 July 1837 per grvst. He mar. 26 May 1804, with the Rev. Joseph Rue, of the Presb. Ch. of Hopewell, Pennington, officiating, Keziah Smith. She was b. 7 Oct. 1784, dau. of Joshua and Mary (Smith) Smith of Lawrence Twp.; and d. (testate) in Bridgewater Twp., Somerset Co., N.J., on 19 Jan. 1866 per grvst. with his. See Lee, Genealog. & Personal Memorial Mercer Co., pp 515, 717.

v. John Laning, "a physician, d. unmar., aged 80, at Reading, Pa., where he practised." -Cooley, p. 158. His estate is not found in Berks Co., Pa., probate records.

13 vi. Robert Laning, b. 24 Feb. 1747; d. 4 Oct. 1828.

14 vii. Daniel Laning, b. say 1760; d. in Nov. 1815.

15 viii. James Laning b. 17 Apr. 1756; d. 20 Aug. 1844.

ix. Enoch Laning named in father's Will of 1771; d. young.

x. Israel Laning, not named in father's Will of 1771; d. young, says Cooley, p. 158.

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\* See "Anthony Cook of Ulster County, New York, And His Descendants In Mercer County, N.J." in The American Genealogist, vol. 48, (1972), page 53.  
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4/  
12-a. JEMIMA LANING, born in 1744, daughter of <sup>no 5</sup> Daniel and Frances (Furman) Laning of Trenton Twp., Hunterdon Co., N.J.; died 28 August 1836 in her 93rd year, per gravestone in the cemetery in Lawrenceville, formerly Maidenhead, said County, now in Mercer. She married in 1760-1769, JASPER SMITH, who was born in 1740, second son of John Smith of Maidenhead Twp., <sup>(and</sup> grandson of Jasper Smith of Bedford, Brooklyn, L.I., and of said Maidenhead Twp., Hunterdon Co., N.J., who died testate in March 1770, as see N.J. Archives 33: 394.) He died (testate) 10 April 1820 aged 80 years, per gravestone with his wife's as abovesaid. <sup>ff</sup> The Will of Jasper Smith of Lawrence Twp., Hunterdon Co., N.J., dated 7 May 1817 and proved 4 May 1820, devises his estate to wife Jemima; to grandson Charles Clark \$150.00; to son Asher Smith; to daughters Hannah Clarke, Sarah Scudder, and Elizabeth Hill; to son Asher's daughters, not named; to my daughter Prudence Patterson; to grandson Samuel Mershon; to son Enoch's children, not named; and appoints wife Jemima Smith, son-in-law Richard Hill, and nephew Daniel Cook execrs. Witnesses: Prudence Cook, Daniel Laning, William Wilgus. Cf Cooley, Trenton and Ewing, p. 158.

Children of Jasper and Jemima (Laning) Smith:

1. Asher Smith mar. by 1794, Sarah Smith, who was b. 12 Oct. 1773, and bapt. 28 Nov. 1773, dau. of James and Mehitabel Smith, (Hist. First Presb. Ch. of Morristown, N.J., part 2, p. 218). James Smith and family removed to Maidenhead, Hunterdon Co., N.J., where he d. testate in Jan. 1811, (N.J. Archives 41: 344). Mehitabel Smith, dau. of Asher and Sarah, b. 1795; d. 25 Feb. 1855, wife of James Brearley, per grvst., Lawrenceville.
11. Hannah Smith d. intestate in 1831; mar. Daniel Clark, who d. intestate in Maidenhead Twp., in 1803, (Ibid. 39: 84); son of Daniel and Elizabeth (Lott) Clark, (Trenton and Ewing, p. 40).

11. Sarah Smith b. in 1770; d. 30 Jan. 1853 aged 83 yrs. per grvst. in the Presb. Chyd., Ewing Twp., Mercer Co., N.J. She mar. Elias Scudder, who d. intestate in Trenton Twp., said Co., (N.J. Archives 41: 328), 20 Feb. 1811, aged 44 yrs., per grvst. as abovesd., son of Daniel and Mary (Snowden) Scudder. Issue:
- (a) Daniel Scudder, who d. in Jan. 1829 in Milton, Pa., deputy Atty. Genl. for Northumberland Co., Pa. He mar. 20 Oct. 1813, his first cousin, Grace Smith, dau. of Daniel Smith of Lawrence Twp., Hunterdon, now Mercer, Co., N.J., later bf said Milton, Pa., (Hist. Northumberland Co., Pa. 1891, p. 249).
- (b) Jasper Smith Scudder, who d. 20 Oct. 1877 aged 80 yrs., presdt. of the Mechanics and Manufacturers Bank of Trenton, N.J.
- (c) John Scudder, accidentally killed in 1840.
- (d) Abner Scudder, b. 6 May 1800, who d. 10 Nov. 1878 per grvst. in the Presb. Chyd., Ewing Twp. abovesd., (Cooley, p. 219).
- iv. Elizabeth Smith b. in 1771; d. 28 Jan. 1837; mar. Richard Hill, who d. intestate in Ewing Twp., Mercer Co., N.J., in Dec. 1826, aged 67 yrs. per grvst. in the Presb. Chyd. abovesd., (Cooley, 123).
- v. Prudence Smith b. in 1778; d. 6 June 1867 in her 90th yrs, per grvst. in the Presb. Chyd., Lawrenceville, Mercer Co., She mar. 1st William Mershon, who d. testate in Lawrenceville, in April 1814, (N.J. Archives 42: 268). They had issue:
- (a) Samuel Davies Mershon, b. 5 Dec. 1804 and d. 12 Sept. 1888, per grvst. as abovesd. He mar. 12 Dec. 1825, Mary Stockton Shreve, b. 5 Aug. 1809 and d. 18 Jan. 1892, dau. Caleb and Frances 31. (Hunt) Shreve of Lawrenceville. (Our Pioneers, Mershon, 1953, p. 14).
- (b) Mary Mershon, d. y. Prudence (Smith) Mershon mar. 2nd Joseph Patterson, who was b. 6 Mar. 1780 and d. 1 July 1838, per grvst. with hera. Issue:
- (c) Mary Patterson b. 18 May 1817 and d. 3 Jan. 1893; who mar. 25 May 1836, Allison Ely Perrine, M.D. He was b. 23 Oct. 1805

Feb., 1881, per grvst., Lawfenceville, N.J.; no

Daniel Perrin, 1910, p. 178).

Smith b. in 1765; A.B. Princeton College 1787; d.

1810, in Wilton, Northumberland Co., Pa. His dau.

Grace Smith mar. her cousin, Daniel Scudder, abovesd. (Hist.

Northumberland Co., Pa., 1891, p. 246).

vii. Enoch Smith b. before 1765; admitted to the bar in Aug.

1798; d. 9 Feb. 1817, in Sunbury, Pa., (Ibid. p. 246). He

mar. and had issue mentioned in his father's Will of 7 May

1817, above, but is omitted in Cooley's account in his

Trenton and Ewing, 1883, p. 158, substituting one son

"Jasper, died 1832, young," of whom no evidence is found.

(3) i. George H. Roset.

(1) ii. Mary Ann Laning Roset, wife of Dr. John Livingston Lud

(2) iii. Elizabeth Virginia Roset, wife of John Brodhead.

(4) iv. Ellen B. Roset, wife of Anthony J. Drexel.

(5) v. Sarah Emily Roset, wife of Charles M. Smith.

SEE more

6. Sarah Laning ~~was~~ married Dr. Ezekiel Phelps of Owego.

7. Emily Laning married John Taylor of Owego.

\* See Memorials of the Reading Family, pp. 56, 70.

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Addenda by me, L.D.C., Nov. 6, 1969, Phila.

-The Van Sickle Family, 1880, p. 149:- #23 JOHN VAN SICKLE, son of Rynier and Rebecca (Firman) Van Sickle of Hunterdon Co. was born about the year 1779. He was married in Sussex Co. Oct. 7, 1802, to Prudence Laning, by whom he had three children: Robert, Rebecca, and John F.

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Memorials of the Reading, Howell etc. Families, 1898, p. 70

WILLIAM READING, son of Montgomery and Sarah (Reid) Reading Independence, Sussex Co., N.J., now Warren, born 15 Jan. 1786 at Tranquility, in that County, 25 August 1835; married 25 1807, Sarah Lanning, born 10 March 1788; died 11 November 18 daughter of Robert Lanning by his wife Sarah Coryell. In the returns of Warren County, they are styled "of Oxford", in the (Footnotes: See Lanning Family in Cooley's Trenton and Ewing Children of William and Sarah (Lanning) Reading: 9 q.v.

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From the Sussex County Clerk's Marriage Records, (New Jersey published in New Jersey Genesis, vol. 18, page 774:

"1798. James Howell, son of Samson Howell ye younger and his wife Elizabeth, of Hardwick, and Amelia Lanning, daughter of Robert and Sarah Lanning, of Independence, May 6, Jno. Coryell, J.P." (See page opposite:)

110  
La Marque, Texas  
July 15, 1965

Dear Rev. Lanning,

I am pleased that I have been of some little help and glad to know where we are on the Joseph line. From now on we have the proverbial hay stack.

In an effort to achieve some sort of sequence in this letter I shall begin with some references to the Town Minutes of Newtown (1653-1734) of which I have transcriptions.

"A court held by the councstable & offer seere desember the 6th 1681 Content titug Councstable.

"John Lonnon pll Enters an acction of debt against thomas Etherington def this acction is Referred to the next court."

"... ffebruary 7th 1681/2. upon the Acktion John Lonnon pll Thomas Etherington deftt the Court findes that the deftt is to pay to the pll three pounds with Cost of suite."

"March 7th, 1681. the Court Granteth Extion to mr. Lonnon against Thomas Etherington: according to Judgment past."

1681  
" Newtown on Long Island August the 16th yere 1681 Be it Known unto all men by these presents that I Theophilis phillips on newtown on Long Island In the west Riding of york sheere In amarica have do and by these prsents. sell a linat & make over unto Henry Mayle sener: of the Island of nevias a certayn peece or parcell of land Situated Lying and beeing att aplace Called Mashpat Kills & ~~xxx~~ the bound and Limits of the bove sd towne bound on the Eastward ssid withe hy way on the west ward side by the Land of John Lonnon on the north ward by the commons on the south ward by Justice Richard beets land; with a certayne orchard Situated In the same Kills bound ty the land of John Lonnons & Justis beets with three acors of Meadows Salt and fresh Lying on the South side of Long Island ..... witnesses: John Lawreson  
Ralph <sup>his</sup> Hunt  
hand

1688  
"Know all men by these presents that I Elizabeth Laning of newtowne in Queenes County Doe for Divers good considerations moveing me there unto Doe freely give unto my two sonns Robert Laning and Rich ard Laning after my Dicease my now dwelling house & Land tenn ackers more or less lying & being in ye boundes of newtowne frunting on ye north on the high way that goes to ye kills and on ye west by Joseph Reed's Lot & on ye East by thomas Stevensons lot that he bought of John heart & on ye South by Jeremiah Reeder's Land ye a fore said house & Land I Doe freely give as a fore sid to my two sonns Robert & Richard Laning as there free land. Of InMeritance to them and there heyres for Ever as witnes my hand & Seale this sixteenth Day of aprill in ye yeare of our Lord one thousand six hundred Eighty Eight in ye third of his maiesties Reigne

witnes  
Samuell moore  
Joseph Reede

Elizabeth <sup>her</sup> Laning  
do mark

Recorded by me  
William Gleane  
Clarke

att a towne meating April the 3th 1683  
Theophilus phillips is Chusen to ofiaia...  
the offis of a towne Clark for the tme 9.  
one yeare: to the best of his understandi..

Thomas Wand Const...

voted att the above sd towne meatind Jonat...  
hazard Chusen Counstabell:  
over seares Edward stevenson and samue..  
scuder Chusen

Xvoted that the widdow Lanning shall h...  
Eight acors of land: and hath with the Consent  
of Jarimi Reder Given her apon Exchange with  
his Land with hhis proviser that the sd J...  
Reder shall have Eight acors Joyning to  
the ball path in Lew of that Eight acors

Aprill 2th 1684

voated that Joseph Reede shall have Liberty  
to layd down his Land: that was Laid out att  
Jenerpar Swanp & to take it up next unto  
Xthe widdow Lannins land: not to take ~~ix~~ ~~xx~~ in the Littel  
swamp of water lying here unto the path that  
Goes to the Kills: Commond Called the Lower way  
to the Kills.

his

a legal instrument drawn between peter buckhout and Jacob petterson  
cering an estate at ~~XXXXXX~~ Maspath ~~XXXX~~ Kills dated 2th of march 1692  
signitures of witnesses were Edward Stevenson and Robert Laning.

March the 6th 1685/6

Land Layd out for Jerimiah Redder Runing  
Xby the Rare of the Widdow Lannins Land &  
Joseph Reedes Land And Runing in Lenth  
forty Rods and in breadth thirty two Rods

In an agreement between Jacob X petterson and peter Bochout on this 25 day  
of march 1692 signatures of wathesses were Edward Stevenson and Robert Laning  
and Edward Stevenson signed as clerk.

On the 26th day of April, 1695, Gersham Moore (s) made over a right to purchase  
(I think) to John Hunt, and the witness signatures were those of John <sup>his</sup> Lanning  
and Daniel Phillips. [The entry is followed by a resignation of the bill of  
sale by John Hunt in favor of Dereck Tenike. Signatures of witnesses:  
Benjamin Severns, William Gleane, and Edward Hunt. The clerk was Jeremiah  
Burroughs.]

(The Hunts are mentioned oge way or another about 125 times. One entry gives  
the birth of Edward son of Edward Hunt as Feb. 4, 1683/4) I have just now  
received your air mail of July 13 (my birthday). You sent only one copy of  
the material from Atlanta; perhaps you have in mind the material from Ashville.  
Do you want me to return it? I&X I'll be glad to copy it if you wish me to  
urn it... Other Hunt names in the records are Ralph, Samuel, ad Elizabeth.  
Some where in my notes I have notice of a Hunt's signing as a wponsor for a  
Lanning at the Inns of court. I have a feeling that when we find our way back  
to England, it will be with the Hunts. More on this later.

Now back to the Newtown transcriptions: Place them in chronological order and



andrus letter

Lennen

plaintiff

and it appears to be logical to presume (I am beginning to spell like the court clerks of old) that John Lannon (pl) was the husband of Elizabeth, the widow. As to the conditional deed made by her in 1688 in favor of her sons Robert and Richard, it is possible that John, the witness of 1695, if he were indeed a son, was a minor and the subject of the "Divers good considerations moveing" her. Yes, I have the material you sent from Atlanta and much of it is based on Cooley who is highly inaccurate. Rev. Cooley did not have access to records now available and for his time did a remarkable job. There is much mixing of generations. In his Genealogy of Early Settlers in Trenton published after his death (the one I have) and subsequent to his History of Trenton the statement made in Rev. William's book is changed leaving out the names of the Lanning brothers and the chapter is devoted entirely to the line of Robert:

"There is a tradition in this family that three brothers, of the name of Lanning, came originally from Wales, and settled in Long Island. They removed soon afterward, to New Jersey. One bought land in the northern part, another in the southern section of the colony, and Robert, from whom the Lannings of this part of the colony descend, settled in Maidenhead, now Lawrenceville. His land is found among the grantees of land on which to build a church in that village, in 1698-1699."

I have been trying frantically since I received your confirmation of the N. C. Enos line to patch something from the N. J. Calendar of Wills. If I can check Cooley against irrefutable evidence, I may have something. The process is tedious and nerve wracking and so far has borne little fruit. We must be descended from John, Robert, Richard, or David. I should have mentioned them Robert, Richard, John, and David as Robert is clearly the oldest being mentioned first by his mother. He and Richard must be of age in 1688 as they are not named minors. If John is their brother, he had to be at least 21 when he served as a witness in 1695. Cooley himself is quiet as to John Williams is clearly in doubt (see your (3) with the (1660 ? - ?)). Judge William M Lanning, in my opinion, had his Johns confused. A later Dr. John Lanning who migrated to Pennsylvania was a bachelor. William's (6) John leaves us with a void of 100 years - years vital to our research. Now and then a Genealogical publication will carry a correction on addition to Cooley on Robert Lanning and I am sure there will be more. Everybody wants to tie onto Robert because he left so many tracks and clearly was an admirable person. We may belong there too - but I'm sure we both want to be sure. Both Cooley and Williams are quiet as to Richard. I cling to John, partly because of the name itself and partly because of the custom of naming first, second, and third sons for grandfathers and older brothers.

In 1702 William Reed bought 200 acres on Shabakunk Creek (branch of the Assunpink of Revolutionary War fame) from a Brierly who bought from Mahlon Stacey. Fifty acres of the 200 were assigned to John Lanning. Evidently the two of them bought together and divided. In The Presbyterian Church at Lawrenceville, edited by Harry J. Podmore: "The Maidenhead Church stood in the main highway between Hudson and Delaware." The first deed of 1698 I have already mentioned. In a deed or grant of 1710 both Robert and John are signers as are Daniel, Samuel, and Richard Hunt... Etc. Among N. J. marriage records, Susanna Lanning married John Reed, Hunterdon, 1733. I think this John Reed may be the son of William, and Susanna may be the daughter of John Lanning. Reeds married Lannings and Lannings married Reeds. The Reeds were numerous in N. J. and some of them came to N. C. Perhaps Reeds is named for them. You mentioned Joseph Lanning's marriage to Marcy Lawnesberry, Dec. 7, 1756. He may very well be our Joseph. The birth date of my John, Feb, 1757 offers no real problem. The old style calendar had the year begin in March instead of January. Prior to 1752 official records.

Until 1752



of January through February and I believe to March 25 carried both years as 3/9. As you know Presbyterians and other dissenters were much opposed to changing the calendar. You, no doubt, know too that Lannings have a reputation for hard-headedness. Since the birth record was personal and not official, the family chose to use the old style year. Other circumstances make the other possibility (forced marriage) unlikely. The Lownesberrys were a substantial and prominent family. They would not have tolerated that much of a delay.

Now to David - I am inclined to think he is of the second generation if we count Robert the first. He could be a son of Richard. Compare your Williams material with the following data: Thomas Shourd in his History and Genealogy of Fenwick's Colony:

"The family of Lanings are of Welsh origin. David Laning, their ancestor, emigrated from Wales in 1705, and settled in Burlington County, New Jersey. married a young woman of the same place about 1722 or 1733. They had two or more sons - Samuel and John Laning. A tradition in the family is 'that David, their father' was killed by a tree falling upon him.' Samuel the oldest was born about 1735. He subsequently married and had children. His son James Laning 15th of 6th mo., 1770; he married Hannah Trench 20th of second mo., 1774. James and his wife had 13 children - ten of them lived to mature age married and had children. William the eldest son of James and Hannah T. Laning, born 27 of 2nd mo., 1797; he married Ann Peterson of Philadelphia. She was born 4th of 10th mo., 1794. They had three sons and three daughters; Charles, John, William, Jane, Locerna, and Ann Laning."

There is considerable more to the sketch and few dates are given. After 1800 comes this bit, interesting because of the names: "John Whitacar Laning, the eldest son of Richard and Violet Laing married Emily, daughter of Jehiel and Phebe Westcott; they had four children: Elizabeth W., Milton W., Enos W., and Franklin N. Laning." The Whitacars were very careful of the spelling of their name for many years because of a reputed landed estate in England. If you are interested, I'll copy more.

Now to the Welsh origin. Mrs. Black of Atlanta, Ga., wrote to the National Library of Wales and she was told that Lanning was not Welsh. (She is of the John 1760 line and would be glad to fill that 100 year gap) I find in The General Armory, Sir Bernard Burke, 1884 edition, under LOWARCH (Holbwrch; Treasurer of Griffith ap Ilewellyn, Prince of North Wales, and ancestor of Caer valwch'ye Llanynys). Vert a stag trippant ar. attired or."

Well, this is ancient and a thing any family would be proud to own. I always have to look up arms terminology and the same may be true of you. Vert is green. Trippant, applied to stags and other beasts of chase, as passant to beasts of prey, etc., represented with one foot up as if on a trot. Ar. is white or silver. Or. is gold. In heraldry then, the shield itself is green; the stag, silver dressed in gold. The same book lists Lanine and Lanyon of Cornwall as early as the 1620 visitation. You can find the place name Lanyon on a good map (no doubt the castle is there). The arms are impressive - but I don't know whether you are interested in such things. In the 1620 visitation, John Lanyon is listed as the eldest son of Richard Lanyon, Esq., and William is listed as son of Edward Lanyon, second son of Richard Lanyon. One dictionary of English names gives Lanyng as a Dorsetshire name. Lanyon, Laning, Lannin are all versions of the name. It can be found in and around London by 1650. James Lannin of Stepney (London) Mass. in 1636 - He was a glover age 26, Ann Lanyon daughter of John Lanyon married Gabriel Holmes in London July 11, 1661. There were a number of Hunts with familiar given names (some in Stepney parish) and some were lawyers. In this country both Lannings and Hunts produced preachers, doctors, teachers, skilled artisans, business men and farmers. One more little bit: At St. Mabyn in Cornwall, Nicholas Lanning married Jane Reed, Dec. 26, 1699.

More on John: (1760?) Seven or eight years ago a Mrs. Bejack wrote me that in material her late father-in law (Lanning) had given her she found a brochure on a book that was to be published by Roscoe Lanning. She tried without success to locate Mr. Lanning or the book. Her son had an invitation to join Sons of the Revolution and she wanted him to go in under the Lanning line if possible. (He would be the John line). Evidently your friend is either the Roscoe or his son. If you can send me a copy of his material I will surely appreciate it. There may be some thing that will at least point the way. Thank you too for sending the Enns will. I have copied it. Do you have a copy of the 1821 land transaction? It sounds to me as if it may be in settlement of Joseph's estate. I read the Allen, Ky., census schedule of 1820 and found nothing. I'll continue following every lead I can get. Please feel free to make suggestions and to pass judgment on what I find.

You have asked me to make suggestions to you, too. This is a real privilege for I feel that you are in a spot of advantage. I wish I could have gone to Reeds with you. It was raining, the day I was there. I copied a few of the gravestones before the downpour drove me to the car. I spent the night in Lexington and made a few telephone calls (your sister didn't answer) ...that's how I discovered Emory. I think it would be both worthwhile and enjoyable to contact people by the name of Hunt, Reed, Potts, and others whose forebears came from N. J. Our family in N. J. and our family in N. C. were situated on the main road of travel and I'm sure the communities must have kept in touch with each other for years -- up to the time railroads took over much of the travel and finally the Civil War completed the break. You may be surprised at my naming Potts in connection with our family. The first N. J. Potts was a Friend and came in the ship Shield. (If his descendants may have saved the life of David Lanning (of the Robert line) who was a scout for George Washington. David, while spying out the Trenton situation was captured by the British (or Hessians) and confined in the basement of Potts's house. Potts assisted David in his escape in time for him to meet George Washington on the N. J. side of the Delaware (Coryell's Ferry .. with whom we also have a connection). George Washington asked for three men to go ahead of the column disguised as farmers so that they could locate the sentries of the enemy. One volunteer was David, another a Brierly, and I think the other was a Muirhead. Each took a different route. It seems David was first to be challenged: "Who goes there?" "A friend," he said. Then the question: "Whose friend?" With the answer "George Washington's," David ducked and the firing began. I found the anecdote in an old book by Edge who lived in the area. I think the Potts who came to N. C. was a presbyterian preacher and the creek is named for him. Although many of the early families could not write, a surprising number of them could and were quite literate. Robert Lanning must have been an educated man and if our Joseph made the entry of his birth in Emory's book, he too was educated. Stir up the Hunts, Reeds, Potts, etc., and we'll be sure to find something. I have notes on all of the early ones and I can help out in a reciprocal way. I have located a copy of the gravestones in the Jersey churchyard near you, but records need to be made of the others too.

If you go to N. J., visit the library at Trenton. They have many land records. You know land rights were challenged and many people had to buy their land twice. Try to find James Riker, Jr. book Annals of Newtown, in fact anything by Riker as he is often sighted on N. J. genealogy. Talk to people in Lawrenceville, Hopewell, Amwell (within a very few miles of each other) by the name of Hart, Reed, Furman, Price (I think a man named Price may still have some of the early Lanning land - Robert Line), Burroughs, Phillips, Scudder. One of the largest monuments in the Presbyterian cemetery at Ewing is LANNING. I made a picture of it. For what it is worth, there is a street named Lanning in Asheville, N. C. I was told he was a bootlegger.

Jerome said that there was so much simladiy in the initials that he received quite a bit of kidding at the time of the trial.

More Joseph -- For years I have been trying to establish the death date of our Joseph as well as his birth date. I don't remember whether I sent you a copy of the will of Joseph Lanning (1814). If we accept the 1731 birthdate for our Joseph, it would make his father at the very least 100 years old. I have found a number of Lannings in their nineties but none 100. He, Joseph, Sr., must be the Joseph mentioned as the brother of John (6) per Williams. Well, I have just rechecked and that wont work either.

As you can see, I have written this letter in jerks - fits and starts.

I hope you haven't lost the other copy of the Atlanta material. Let me know if you want the Ashville data returned. Is your mother a Tate? I keep running into the name on the Appalacian frontier. Your mentioning Daniel Boone's land made me think of a possible association. My mother was a Tillery and I am stuck on that line at about the same place in time with my Lanning line. I have visited Tillery, N. C., and the plantations there. When my forbear left the nest on Totuskey Creek, Richmond County, he headed for the frontier. I can go safely back to Samuel Tillery who died in 1728 (Spottsylvania County, Virginia).

I think the Becks (the family of our Joseph's second wife) were slave holders in Virginia.

I must go to the post office. I think I'll send the documents under separate cover and air mail the letter. If you receive this conglomeration under separate cover you'll know your photostats are on the way.

Cordially yours,

*Eunice (Lanning) Andrews -  
(Mrs. McKee) (Andrews).*