

Research Report

Who was the father of William Boyd (1753-1836), who married Mary McMasters in 1778 in Bucks County, Pennsylvania

Research Report Table of Contents

1. Research Question	3
2. Limitations	3
3. Research Findings in Brief	3
4. Background Information.....	3
5. Research Strategy	6
6. Research Results.....	6
7. Presentation of Evidence.....	9
7.1 William Boyd (1753-1836).....	9
7.2 James Boyd of Northampton Township.....	13
7.3 John Boyd of Plumstead Township	17
8. Evaluation of Evidence	20
8.1 FAN Club Network	20
8.2 Geographic Timeline Discrepancy.....	21
8.3 Autosomal DNA Matches.....	22
8.4 John Boyd's Will Mention of his son William	22
8.5 Birth of William Boyd (1753-1836) in Plumstead Township.....	25
8.6 Church Affiliations	26
8.7 James Boyd and James McMasters.....	27
8.8 Naming Conventions for Children.....	27
8.9 Intergenerational Transmission of Literacy	28
9. Conclusion and Summary of Evidence	28
10. Future Research Suggestions.....	29
11. Table of Revisions	30
12. Appendixes	31
Appendix 1A: Boyd DNA Matches to Thomas Benson (1).....	31
Appendix 1B: Boyd DNA Matches to Thomas Benson (2).....	33
Appendix 2: Proof Argument for John Boyd of Plumstead.....	35

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List of Tables

Table 1 – Places of Residences for William Boyd	4
Table 2 – Early and Unconnected Boyd Common Pleas Court Cases	8
Table 3 – William Boyd Tax Records, Bucks County, 1778-1820	24
Table 4 – Common Pleas Case Summaries for John Boyd	37

List of Figures

Figure 1 – Relevant Locations in Central Bucks County	7
Figure 2 – Genealogical Evidentiary Network for William Boyd (1753-1836).....	10
Figure 3 – James Boyd’s Signatures.....	14
Figure 4 – Geographic Locations for Discussed Evidence Associated with John Boyd	36

Research Report

Who was the father of William Boyd (1753-1836), who married Mary McMasters in 1778 in Bucks County, Pennsylvania

1. Research Question

Who is the father of William Boyd (1753-1836), who married Mary McMasters in 1778 in Newtown, Bucks County, Pennsylvania?

2. Limitations

Because William Boyd was born in 1753 and was poor during his lifetime, no direct evidence was found linking him directly to his potential father. Only indirect evidence is available.

3. Research Findings in Brief

Research suggests there are likely two candidates for the father of William Boyd – James Boyd and John Boyd. Using a genealogical evidentiary network of purely indirect evidence, James Boyd is the stronger of the two candidates to be the father of William Boyd. Elizabeth, James Boyd's wife in 1783, may be William's mother.

4. Background Information

The earliest known account for William Boyd's formative years comes from his 1833 pension application for serving in the Revolutionary War. Despite being 80 years old at the time of his deposition, he provided a great amount of detail. Related to his service, William stated that about 1 June 1776, he initially volunteered for Captain Zephaniah Lott's company from his home in Northampton Township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania.¹ William volunteered a total of seven times completing his seventh term in early to mid-1778.

¹ Pension Application, William Boyd, Sergeant, Revolutionary War, "Declaration of William Boyd in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832", dated 9 April 1833, [Pension Application S.22.127](#), Pension Office, War Department, Washington, DC; online database with images, Fold3 (www.fold3.com, accessed 31 July 2018).

Tax records place William in Northampton Township, Bucks County in 1778.² On 22 October 1778, William Boyd married Mary McMasters at the Newtown Presbyterian Church.³ His Revolutionary War pension application stated that after the War, he resided in Northampton and then a short time in Upper Makefield Township in Bucks County. He further stated that he lived for a short time in Delaware County, Pennsylvania between the boroughs of Chester and Marcus Hook, and tax records support he resided there between 1790 and 1793.⁴ He additionally stated that he lived for a time in Chester County, Pennsylvania near New London Crossroads (near East Nottingham and New London Townships), then to Washington County, Pennsylvania, and then back to Chester County. Census and tax records confirm all but Washington County,⁵ but several of his children remained in Washington County providing indirect corroborating evidence to his testimony.⁶ See Table 1 on the next page for additional detail. Tax records in Chester County indicate William was a weaver by trade in his later years.⁷

William did not own land, but he did receive a pension for serving in the war, which he willed to his daughter Jane Boyd McDonald.⁸ According to his pension application, William was born in Plumstead, Bucks County on 23 January 1753. William entered the poorhouse in West Bradford, Chester County in 1829 and remained there until the death of his wife, Mary, in 1832, at which time he went to live with his daughter Jane McDonald. William and Mary appeared to be poor throughout their lives and several other instances support this fact, such as his youngest children (Jane, Mary, and Charlotte) being supported by Chester County for their education.⁹

² Bucks County, Pennsylvania Tax Records, 1782-1860, Wm Boyd (1778), Northampton, image 5 of 5; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 2 July 2022); citing Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Tax Records, 1782-1860, Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown.

³ U.S. Presbyterian Church Records, 1701-1970, Willm Boyd and McMasters (1778), Newtown Presbyterian Church, Baptisms, Births, Marriages, 1769-1812, p. 20, image 22 of 148; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 14 March 2022); Presbyterian Historical Society, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

⁴ 1790 U.S. census, Delaware County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Ridley, p. 92, image 2 of 2, Willm Boyd; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 24 July 2022); NARA microfilm publication M637, roll 8. And Pennsylvania, U.S., Septennial Census, 1779-1863, William Boyd (1793), Delaware County, Chester, image 6 of 20; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 24 July 2022); citing Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Harrisburg, record group 7.

⁵ Chester County, Pennsylvania Tax Records, 19th Century Tax Records, William Boyd (1802-1809), New London; database, Chester County Archives (www.chesco.org, accessed 2 July 2022). And 1800 U.S. census, Chester County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, East Nottingham, p. 866, image 1 of 3, William Boyd; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 14 March 2022); Family History Library Film 363339, roll 36. And 1810 U.S. census, Chester County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, East Nottingham, p. 202, image 4 of 5, Wm Boyde [Boyd]; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 14 March 2022); Family History Library Film 193673, roll 47.

⁶ For example: Malmat, Bonnie (1990), Abstracts of the Washington Reporter: Washington County, PA, Vol. 4 (1820-1822), Item 253, Monday, 11 Sep 1820. "On Thursday last by William Wallace Esq., Mr. John Boyd, of Williamsport to Miss Susannah Huffman, of Somerset Twp." And *The Daily Republican* (1884, July 22), "Capt. Ira R. Butler", p. 4, col. 1, Monongahela, PA; online database, <https://Newspapers.com>, accessed 14 March 2022. And 1850 U.S. census, Washington County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Carroll, p. 231b, image 8 of 35, William Boyd [Jr]; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 9 July 2022); NARA microfilm publication M432.

⁷ Chester County, Pennsylvania Tax Records, 19th Century Tax Records, William Boyd (1802-1809), New London; database, Chester County Archives (www.chesco.org, accessed 2 July 2022).

⁸ Chester County, Pennsylvania, will (book 17, p. 264), William Boyd (1835, Chester County), Recorder of Wills, Clerk of Orphans' Court, West Chester.

⁹ Chester County, Pennsylvania, Poor School Children Records, 1810-1842, Jane Boyd, Mary Boyd, Charlotte Boyd, children of William and Mary Boyd (1810), East Nottingham; Chester County Archives, West Chester.

Table 1 – Places of Residences for William Boyd

Date	Location	Source
1753	Plumstead, Bucks County, PA	Pension application ¹⁰
1776-1777	Northampton, Bucks County, PA	Pension application ¹¹
1778	Northampton, Bucks County, PA	Bucks County tax records ¹²
---	Upper Makefield, Bucks County, PA	Pension application ¹³
1790	Ridley, Delaware County, PA	U.S. Federal census ¹⁴
1793	Chester, Delaware County, PA	PA septennial census ¹⁵
1800	East Nottingham, Chester County, PA	U.S. Federal census ¹⁶
1802-1809	New London, Chester County, PA	Chester County tax records ¹⁷
1810	East Nottingham, Chester County, PA	U.S. Federal census ¹⁸
1810-1813	East Nottingham, Chester County, PA	Poor school children records ¹⁹
1817	New London, Chester County, PA	Poor school children records ²⁰
---	Washington County, PA	Pension application
1829-1832	West Bradford, Chester County, PA	Poorhouse records ²¹
1835	East Nottingham, Chester County, PA	Will record ²²
1836	East Nottingham, Chester County, PA	General Accounting office ²³

¹⁰ Pension Application, William Boyd, Sergeant, Revolutionary War, "Declaration of William Boyd in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832", dated 9 April 1833, [Pension Application S.22.127](#), Pension Office, War Department, Washington, DC; online database with images, Fold3 (www.fold3.com, accessed 31 July 2018).

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Bucks County, Pennsylvania Tax Records, 1782-1860, Wm Boyd (1778), Northampton, image 5 of 5; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 2 July 2022); citing Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Tax Records, 1782-1860, Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown.

¹³ Pension Application, William Boyd, Sergeant, Revolutionary War, Fold3 (www.fold3.com, accessed 31 July 2018).

¹⁴ 1790 U.S. census, Delaware County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Ridley, p. 92, image 2 of 2, Willm Boyd; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 2 July 2022); Family History Library Film 0568148.

¹⁵ 1793 Pennsylvania septennial census, Delaware County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Chester, p. 6, image 6 of 20, William Boyd; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 2 July 2022); Record Group 7, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Harrisburg, PA.

¹⁶ 1800 U.S. census, Chester County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, East Nottingham, p. 866, image 1 of 3, William Boyd; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 14 March 2022); Family History Library Film 363339, roll 36.

¹⁷ Chester County, Pennsylvania Tax Records, 19th Century Tax Records, William Boyd (1802-1809), New London; database, Chester County Archives (www.chesco.org, accessed 2 July 2022).

¹⁸ 1810 U.S. census, Chester County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, East Nottingham, p. 202, image 4 of 5, Wm Boyde [Boyd]; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 14 March 2022); Family History Library Film 193673, roll 47.

¹⁹ Chester County, Pennsylvania, Poor School Children Records, 1810-1842, Jane Boyd, Mary Boyd, Charlotte Boyd, children of William and Mary Boyd (1810-1813), East Nottingham; Chester County Archives, West Chester.

²⁰ Chester County, Pennsylvania, Poor School Children Records, 1810-1842, Charlotte Boyd, child of William Boyd (1817), New London; Chester County Archives, West Chester.

²¹ Chester County Pennsylvania, Poorhouse Admissions 1800-1858, William Boyd (1829, 1830, 1832), Book RQS; database, Chester County Archives (www.chesco.org, accessed 24 April 2022).

²² Chester County, Pennsylvania, wills (book 17, p. 264), William Boyd (1835, Chester County), Recorder of Wills, Clerk of Orphans' Court, West Chester.

²³ General Accounting Office, Final Payment Voucher, William Boyd (30 January 1836); database with image, Fold3 (www.Fold3.com, accessed 24 September 2018).

5. Research Strategy

Because William Boyd was born in 1753 in Bucks County, all adult male Boyds living in Bucks County around this time (+/- 30 years) were identified through multiple sources. Census records did not begin in Bucks County and/or Pennsylvania until 1790, so alternative record groups were utilized including land deeds, land patents, estate and orphan court records, civil and criminal court cases, and tax records. Records were obtained through Ancestry.com, FamilySearch.org, Fold3.com, and in-person visits to the Bucks County Archives in Doylestown, Pennsylvania. Autosomal DNA matches from descendants of William Boyd complimented traditional genealogical sources.

6. Research Results

During the investigated 1723-1783 time frame (and prior to it), land deed records at the courthouse indicate no Boyds owned land in Bucks County.²⁴ A search of land patents identified only one record for a Boyd, who lived outside Bucks County, receiving land in Bucks County.²⁵ Only one Boyd estate was probated during the time period, and no orphan court entries were found.²⁶ Abstracts of wills between 1685 and 1786 produced three mentions of Boyds in other individual's wills.²⁷ Eight Boyd individuals were identified through civil and criminal court records. While Bucks County tax records did not begin until 1778, which is near the end of the investigated time frame, it proved helpful to trace earlier Boyd mentions through time.

Analysis of the Boyd mentions in the record groups identified two strong candidates for the father of William Boyd, namely James Boyd of Northampton Township and John Boyd of Plumstead Township. A map highlighting these and other select central Bucks County locations is found on the next page (see Figure 1). James and John Boyd not only constitute the most record mentions, but also have the most amount of indirect evidence connecting themselves to William. James Boyd shares geography, FAN club connections (Friends, Associates, and Neighbors), and potentially DNA while John Boyd of Plumstead shares geography, an occupation, and a possible mention in his will.

Several other Boyd candidates were found in early court records (1740s-1760s) but were not found in later records. At least one of these individuals moved out of the area while for others nothing else is known. For transparency and potential future analysis, these individuals are noted in Table 2.

²⁴ Recorder of Deeds, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Index to Grantees, surname B (1684-1919); database with an image (www.familysearch.org), film 8067742. And Recorder of Deeds, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Index to Grantors, surname B (1684-1919); database with an image (www.familysearch.org), film 8067755.

²⁵ James Boyd of Abington, Philadelphia County (now Montgomery County, PA) received a land patent in 1748 in Rockhill Township, Bucks County. See Pennsylvania, U.S., Land Warrants and Applications, 1733-1952, James Boyd (1748), image 44 of 535; database with an image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 13 July 2022); citing Pennsylvania State Archives, Harrisburg.

²⁶ Recorder of Wills, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, General Index to Orphans' Court Records, Index A-G (1683-1958), p. 158, Doylestown; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), image 182 of 710.

²⁷ Pennsylvania USGenWeb Archives (2014), Bucks County PAgWeb Archives, Wills/Estate Records, accessed 12 July 2022 at <http://usgwarchives.net/pa/bucksp/wills.htm>.

Figure 1 – Relevant Locations in Central Bucks County

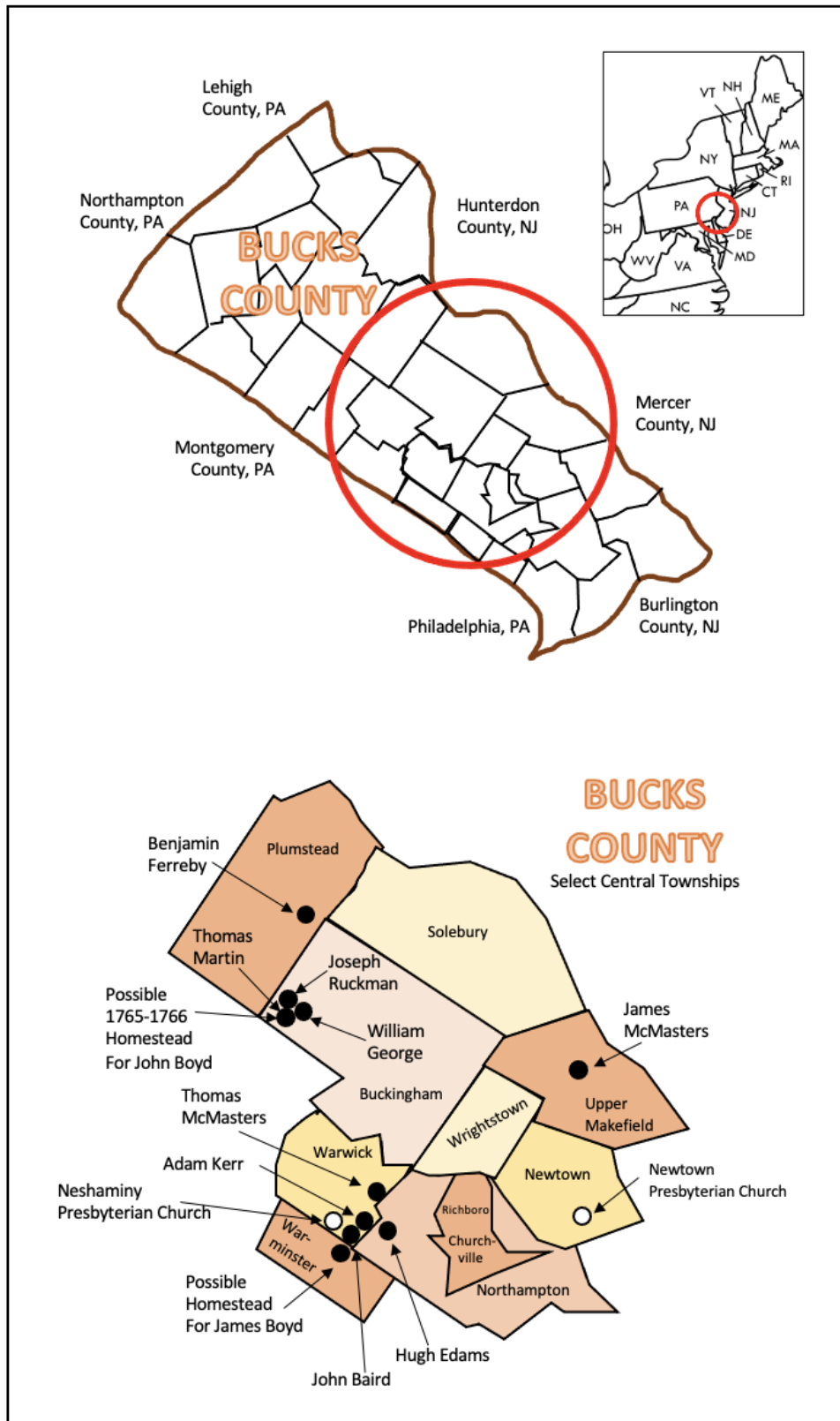


Table 2 – Early and Unconnected Boyd Common Pleas Court Cases

Date	Defendant	Plaintiff	Comments
1742	John Boyd, Thomas Boyd ²⁸	William Barnett	Sued for debt. Location of within Bucks was not stated and could not be inferred.
1745	Nathaniel Boyd ²⁹	Joseph Large (Buckingham)	Sued for debt.
1766	Joseph Boyd ³⁰	Jared Erwin (Hilltown)	Sued for debt. Jared Erwin is mentioned as a surety in two other court cases for John Boyd and wife Mary, who were from Buckingham and are later discussed in greater detail. ³¹ It is probable that Joseph Boyd moved to North Carolina as Joseph's son, James, stated in his Revolutionary War pension application that he served as his father's substitute from Surry County, North Carolina. ³² James stated he was born in Bucks County on 8 May 1763.
1768	Andrew Boyd, George Johnson ³³	Alexander Brown and son (Plumstead or Buckingham)	For failing to keep the peace. William Erwin was the surety for Andrew and George, and William Erwin is likely kin to the above Jared Erwin as both appeared in another case involving John Boyd and others, which is discussed later. ³⁴

²⁸ Bucks County, Pennsylvania, William Barnett v. John Boyd and Thomas Boyd (1742), Court of Common Pleas Appearance Dockets, September term, Book B, p. 185, Bucks County Archives (RG 3:1), Mercer Museum and Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown.

²⁹ Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Joseph Large v. Nathaniel Boyd (1745), Court of Common Pleas Appearance Dockets, September term, Book B, p. 416, Bucks County Archives (RG 3:1), Mercer Museum and Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown.

³⁰ Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Jared Erwin v. Joseph Boyd (1766), Court of Common Pleas Appearance Dockets, September term, Book D, p. 513, Bucks County Archives (RG 3:1), Mercer Museum and Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown.

³¹ Bucks County, Pennsylvania, The King v. Joseph Ruckman (1765), Court of Common Pleas, Doylestown; originals held at the Bucks County Archives, Mercer Museum and Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown, items no. 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2219, 2238, and 2315. And Bucks County, Pennsylvania, The King v. Mary Boyd (1765), Court of Common Pleas, Doylestown; originals held at the Bucks County Archives, Mercer Museum and Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown, items no. 2132, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2226, and 2226A.

³² Pension Application, James Boyd, Private, Revolutionary War, "Declaration of James Boyd in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832", dated 11 October 1832, [Pension Application S.12,269](#), Pension Office, War Department, Washington, DC; online database with images, Fold3 (www.fold3.com, accessed 9 July 2022).

³³ Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Alexander Brown and Son v. Andrew Boyd and George Johnson (1768), Court of Common Pleas, Doylestown; originals held at the Bucks County Archives, Mercer Museum and Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown, item no. 2454.

³⁴ Bucks County, Pennsylvania, The King v. William Durroh and Others (1766), Court of Common Pleas, Doylestown; originals held at the Bucks County Archives, Mercer Museum and Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown, items no. 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2269, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2275, 2276, 2280, and 2282.

7. Presentation of Evidence

The two candidates for William Boyd's father are James Boyd of Northampton and John Boyd of Plumstead. The evidence for each is graphically presented in Figure 2 on the next page in a genealogical evidentiary network. Linkages between evidence and William, James, and John are numerated and discussed one at a time starting with William. After all evidence is presented, correlations and evaluations of evidence are discussed in a subsequent section.

7.1 William Boyd (1753-1836)

Much of what is known about William's time in Bucks County comes from his Revolutionary War pension application.

Link 1 – Northampton and Newtown Townships

In William's Revolutionary War pension application, he stated he lived in Northampton at the time of his enlistment, and he remained there for several years afterwards.³⁵ He enlisted seven times – five times from Northampton and two times from Newtown. Bucks County tax records mark William as single and living in Northampton in 1778.³⁶

Link2 – Hugh Edams of Northampton Township

Also stated in William's Revolutionary War pension application is that he served as a substitute for someone else four times.³⁷ While he could not recall for whom he substituted two of the four times, he did recall twice substituting for Hugh Edams of Northampton. The fact that William remembered Hugh Edams' name, and not the others, suggests Hugh was well known to him or was possibly a prominent figure in his life.

Link 3 – Plumstead Township

According to his testimony recorded in William Boyd's Revolutionary War pension application, he stated his birth as 23 January 1753 in Plumstead Township, Bucks County.³⁸

Link 4 – Mary McMasters

On 22 October 1778, William married Mary McMasters at the Newtown Presbyterian church in Newtown Township.³⁹

³⁵ Pension Application, William Boyd, Sergeant, Revolutionary War, "Declaration of William Boyd in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832", dated 9 April 1833, [Pension Application S.22,127](#), Pension Office, War Department, Washington, DC; online database with images, Fold3 (www.fold3.com, accessed 31 July 2018).

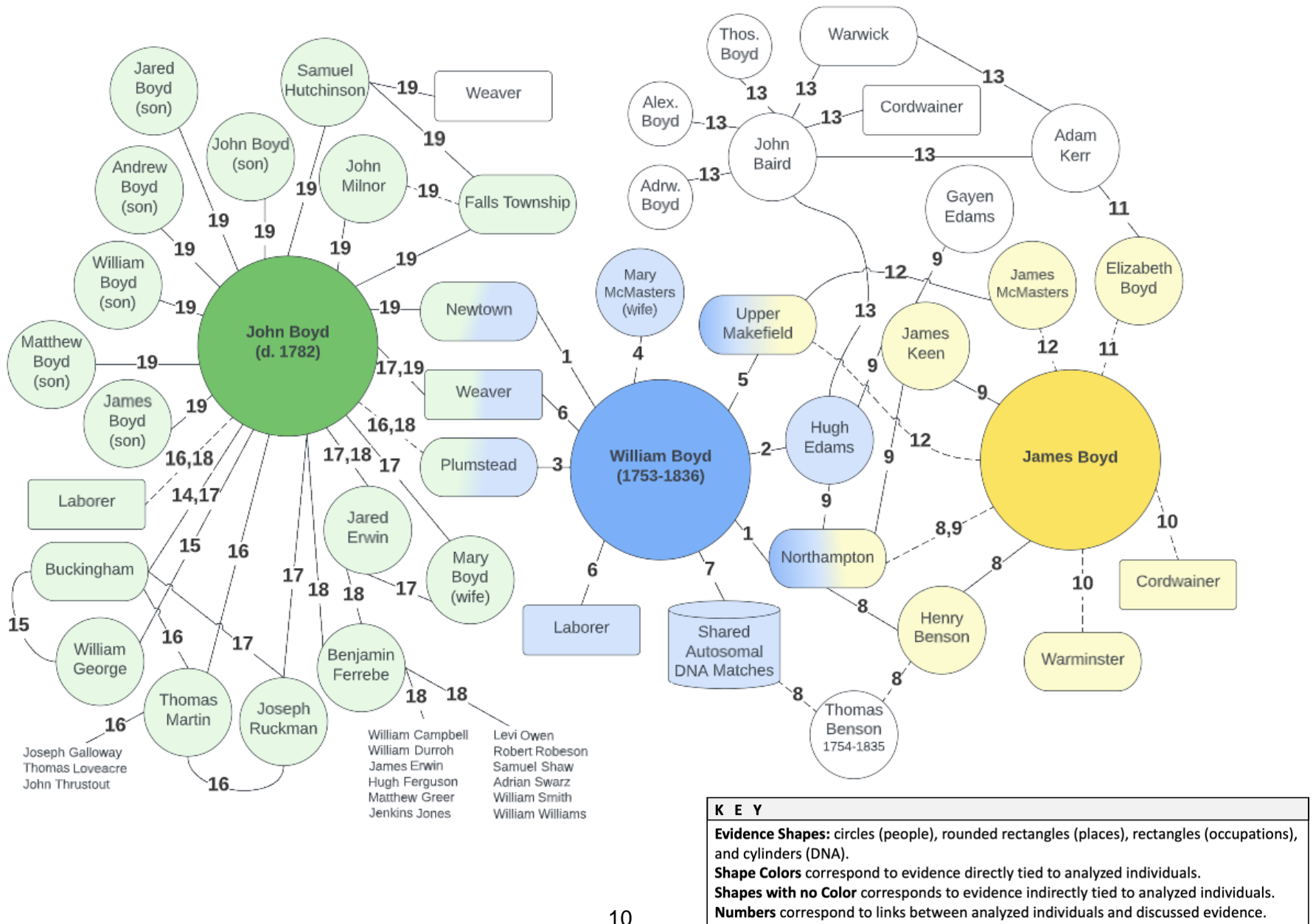
³⁶ Bucks County, Pennsylvania Tax Records, 1782-1860, Wm Boyd (1778), Northampton, image 5 of 5; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 2 July 2022); citing Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Tax Records, 1782-1860, Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown.

³⁷ Pension Application, William Boyd, Sergeant, Revolutionary War, "Declaration of William Boyd in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832", dated 9 April 1833, [Pension Application S.22,127](#), Pension Office, War Department, Washington, DC; online database with images, Fold3 (www.fold3.com, accessed 31 July 2018).

³⁸ *Ibid.*

³⁹ U.S. Presbyterian Church Records, 1701-1970, Willm Boyd and McMasters (1778), Newtown Presbyterian Church, Baptisms, Births, Marriages, 1769-1812, p. 20, image 22 of 148; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 14 March 2022); Presbyterian Historical Society, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Figure 2 – Genealogical Evidentiary Network for William Boyd (1753-1836)



Link 5 – Upper Makefield Township

In his Revolutionary War pension application, William stated he lived for a short time in Upper Makefield after leaving Northampton.⁴⁰ It's unclear when William lived in Upper Makefield, but he was last recorded in Northampton in 1778 and next recorded in Ridley, Delaware County, Pennsylvania in 1790.⁴¹

Link 6 – Occupation

In 1793, William was identified as a laborer in Delaware County, Pennsylvania tax records.⁴² However, Chester County, Pennsylvania tax records list him as a weaver between 1802 and 1809.⁴³ It appears he developed the trade later in his life as the earlier 1793 tax record delineated between those who were weavers and those who were laborers.

Link 7 – DNA Matches to Descendants of Thomas Benson

Across several descendants and through lines from different children of William Boyd and Mary McMasters, autosomal DNA matches are found to Thomas Benson (1754-1835). According to Thomas Benson's Revolutionary War pension application, he was born 6 September 1754 in Bucks County (another mention in his deposition stated the year 1755). He also stated that he removed with his family to Rowan County, North Carolina in 1763.⁴⁴ This date coincides with his father's purchase of land in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina on 27 June 1764 in an area just south of present-day Rowan County.⁴⁵ The importance of this DNA match is discussed later in the linkage William Boyd has with James Boyd of Northampton.

The DNA matches to Thomas Benson are graphically depicted in a figure in Appendix 1A and 1B, and each appendix represents a separate genetic cluster who all match one another. The hypothesized relationship between the Boyds and Bensons are represented by blue lines and blue boxes. The DNA tester whose DNA matches were evaluated are represented by green boxes while the pertinent Boyd and Benson individuals who match the DNA tester are represented by yellow boxes. A corresponding table groups all kits within each genetic network based on their relationship to either the Boyds, Bensons, or unknown.

⁴⁰ Pension Application, William Boyd, Sergeant, Revolutionary War, "Declaration of William Boyd in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832", dated 9 April 1833, [Pension Application S.22,127](#), Pension Office, War Department, Washington, DC; online database with images, Fold3 (www.fold3.com, accessed 31 July 2018).

⁴¹ Bucks County, Pennsylvania Tax Records, 1782-1860, Wm Boyd (1778), Northampton, image 5 of 5; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 2 July 2022); citing Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Tax Records, 1782-1860, Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown. And 1790 U.S. census, Delaware County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Ridley, Willm Boyd, p. 92, image 2 of 2; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 2 July 2022); Family History Library Film 0568148.

⁴² 1793 Pennsylvania septennial census, Delaware County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Chester, p. 6, image 6 of 20, William Boyd; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 2 July 2022); Record Group 7, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Harrisburg, PA.

⁴³ Chester County, Pennsylvania Tax Records, 19th Century Tax Records, William Boyd (1802-1809), New London; database, Chester County Archives (www.chesco.org, accessed 2 July 2022).

⁴⁴ Pension Application, Thomas Benson, Private, Revolutionary War, "Declaration of William Boyd in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832", dated 20 May 1833, [Pension Application S.8066 North Carolina](#), Pension Office, War Department, Washington, DC; online database with images, Fold3 (www.fold3.com, accessed 11 July 2022).

⁴⁵ Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, land deed, Thomas Benson (1764), Book 2, p. 388-389, Recorder of Deeds, Charlotte, database with an image (www.familysearch.org), image 631 of 803, film 007548126.

The genetic cluster in Appendix 1A was identified on Ancestry.com and comprises of 23 shared DNA matches, but only select and relevant matches are displayed in the figure. Nine matches either do not have trees attached to their DNA results or it is unclear how they are related to the DNA tester. Nine matches descend from William Boyd and five from Thomas Benson. To conserve space, smaller DNA matches (in cM) are not displayed if a larger match on the same line is already represented. Three unique lines descending were identified through different children of William and Mary (McMasters) Boyd, namely Elizabeth (Boyd) Wilson, John Boyd, and Mary (Boyd) Butler indicating that the family line of interest within the cluster is likely William Boyd and Mary McMasters. Similarly, matches descend through two different children of Thomas Benson (1754-1835), and shared DNA between the Benson matches and the DNA tester range between 24 cM and 30 cM. Despite the probable common ancestor originating from the early 1700s, the relatively high amount of shared DNA observed here is likely related to the long generations for the Benson testers. A final comment: two of the “unknown” DNA matches have origins to Warwick, Bucks County from the early 1800s (Stewarts), but with unknown parentage.⁴⁶ Because Ancestry does not provide segment data, triangulation and the DNA segment on which all test takers match one another could not be determined, which is a limitation of the analysis for this genetic network.

The genetic cluster in Appendix 1B was also identified on Ancestry.com and includes 33 shared matches, but only select and relevant matches are displayed. Twenty-eight matches either do not have trees attached to their DNA results or it is unclear how they are related to the DNA tester. Four matches descend from William and Mary (McMasters) Boyd and one from Thomas Benson. To conserve space, smaller DNA matches (in cM) are not displayed if a larger match on the same line is already represented. Four unique lines descending through different children of William and Mary (McMasters) Boyd were identified, namely Margaret (Boyd) Pollock, Elizabeth (Boyd) Wilson, William Boyd, and John Boyd indicating that the family line of interest within the cluster is likely William and Mary (McMasters) Boyd. Only one Benson match (24 cM) was found descending from Thomas Benson (1754-1835), but interestingly, four of the unknown matches reportedly descend through Samuel Boyd Patton (1784-1869), who was born in South Carolina and whose middle name may offer a clue to a family connection. Also, two additional unknown matches descend through John G. Boyd (1817-1893), who was born in Pennsylvania and lived near William and Mary (McMasters) Boyd’s son, John Boyd (b. 1796), in Coshocton County, Ohio in 1850.⁴⁷ Outside of this genetic cluster, descendants of John G. Boyd are part of three other Boyd clusters with descendants of William and Mary (McMasters)

⁴⁶ One of the DNA matches descends from Margaret C. Stewart, (b. 1844) daughter of Joel T. Stewart (b. 1813) and Sarah Ann Price (b. 1818), while the other match descends from Martha Amy Stewart (b. 1849), daughter of Joel and Sarah Stewart. Joel is the son of William Stewart and grandson of John Stewart (d. 1830) of Warwick. See Pennsylvania, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1683-1993, John Stuard [Stewart] (1821), will no. 6085, vol. 10, p. 824, image 450 of 511; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 24 July 2022). And Pennsylvania, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1683-1993, Elizabeth Stewart (1876), will no. 14252, vol. 19, p. 456, image 283 of 623; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 24 July 2022).

⁴⁷ 1850 U.S. census, Coshocton County, Ohio, population schedule, Perry, p. 75b, image 18 of 32, John Boyd; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 25 July 2022); NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 670. And 1850 U.S. census, Coshocton County, Ohio, population schedule, Pike, p. 36a, image 11 of 26, John G. Boyd; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 25 July 2022); NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 670.

Boyd,⁴⁸ but appear not to have McMasters DNA but do share Parker DNA suggesting they may perhaps descend through a sibling of William Boyd (1753-1836).

While the genetic clusters in Appendixes 1A and 1B individually provide some evidence of a connection between the Boyds and the Bensons, collectively the evidence is greater. Across both appendixes, DNA matches converge on William Boyd (1753-1836) on the Boyd side and on Thomas Benson (1754-1835) on the Benson side. It seems quite possible Thomas Benson's mother may have been a Boyd as theorized in blue in the appendixes. Indeed, it seems more likely that Thomas Benson's mother was a Boyd rather than William Boyd's mother being a Benson given that no other connections with Bensons other than the Thomas Benson line has been found among the 31 DNA kits of William Boyd descendants to which the author has access. These kits represent individuals descending from four different children of William Boyd.

7.2 James Boyd of Northampton Township

The evidence connecting James Boyd to William Boyd is found in two different time periods – the 1750s and then again in the late 1770s and early 1780s. It is unclear whether all mentions are from the same individual, but it is the authors supposition that they are same person as the evidence is believed to show. This report assumes they are the same person.

Link 8 – Will of Henry Benson of Northampton Township

On 14 December 1751, James Boyd and John Comins [sic, Cummings] witnessed the will of Henry Benson of Northampton, which was proven on 11 March 1752.⁴⁹ Based on land records, the Cummings lived in Northampton,⁵⁰ but no land or tax records at this time indicate where James Boyd resided.

In his will, Henry leaves £10 to his father Thomas half of which he gives to his sister Elizabeth “if she marries or not marries”. He additionally leaves £15 to his sister Elizabeth “if she behaves herself honestly and chastely”. He appoints his “trusty friends William Ramsey and Thomas Benson” as his executors. It's unclear whether the executor Thomas Benson is his father or a possible brother or cousin as no descriptor is given to Thomas Benson other than “trusty friends”. William Ramsey lived in Warwick on the border of Warminster near Northampton.⁵¹

⁴⁸ In evaluating the DNA matches associated with three descendants of John G. Boyd through two different genetic lines, they appear not to have any McMasters DNA suggesting they may descend through a sibling or cousin of William Boyd (1753-1836). However, John G. Boyd descendants do share Parker DNA with descendants of William Boyd. Current analysis suggests that a parent or grandparent of William Boyd (1753-1836) may have been a Parker. Indeed, William Boyd's (1753-1836) grandson through his son William (1790-1880) was named Parker Boyd. See “Public Member Trees,” database, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com>, accessed 22 July 2022), “Wilson120411” family tree by rwilson7135, profile for Parker Boyd (b. 1824) and John G. Boyd (1817-1893).

⁴⁹ Bucks County, Pennsylvania, estate file, no 789, Henry Benson (1752), Recorder of Wills, Clerk of Orphans' Court, Doylestown.

⁵⁰ Bucks County, Pennsylvania, mortgage, John Cummings estate to James Edams (1784), Book 22, p. 144-146, Recorder of Deeds, Doylestown; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), image 412-413 of 640, film 008067826.

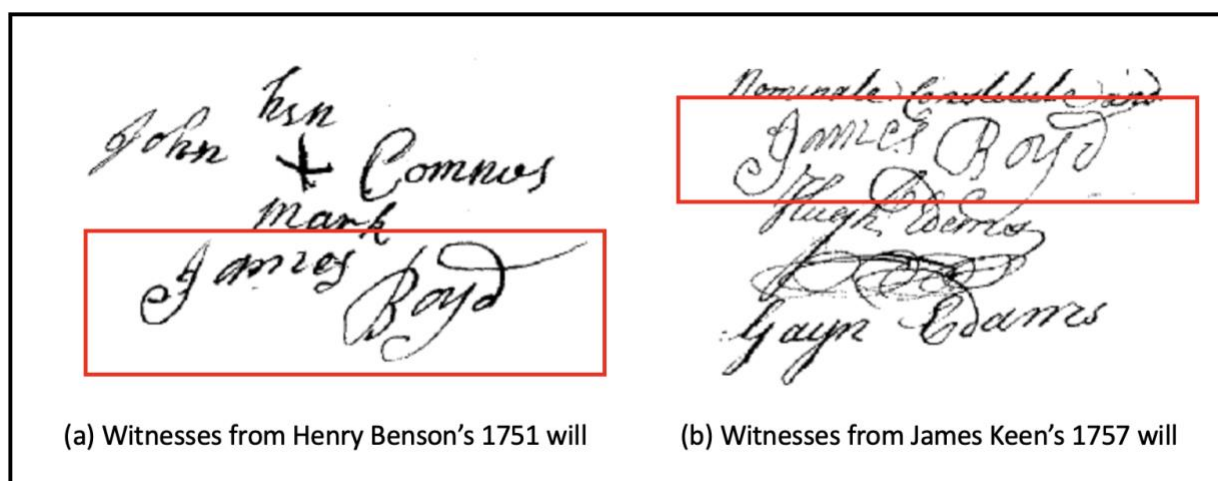
⁵¹ Bucks County, Pennsylvania, mortgage, William Ramsey from Richard Ashfield (1741), Book 6, p. 435-437, Recorder of Deeds, Doylestown; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), image 441-442 of 445, film 007898965.

Link 9 – Will of James Keen of Northampton Township

On 13 November 1757, James Boyd, Hugh Edams, and Gayn [sic, Gayen] Edams witnessed the will of James Keen of Northampton (also spelled Kain in the estate record), which was proven on 15 March 1758.⁵² Based on land records, the Edams lived in Northampton,⁵³ but no land or tax records at this time indicate where James Boyd resided.

Based on the signatures of James Boyd on Henry Benson’s will (Link 8) and James Keen’s will (Link 9), it is probable that it is the same James Boyd. As shown in Figure 3, both signatures have similar pen strokes associated with the “J” in James and the “B”, “y”, and “d” in Boyd.

Figure 3 – James Boyd’s Signatures



Link 10 – Warminster Township Tax Records

During the years 1778, 1779, 1781, and 1782, James Boyd was listed in Bucks County tax records as married and living in Warminster Township, which is adjacent to Northampton.⁵⁴ Specifically, on the 1781 and 1782 taxes, he is listed as a cordwainer (shoemaker).

⁵² Bucks County, Pennsylvania, estate file, no 950, James Keen (1758), Recorder of Wills, Clerk of Orphans' Court, Doylestown.

⁵³ Hugh Edams did not own land, and so it is likely he lived with his father, James Edams. See Bucks County, Pennsylvania, mortgage, James Edams from Catherine Bullock, John Lock, and Joseph Howell (1759), Book 9, p. 552-553, Recorder of Deeds, Doylestown; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), image 329 of 590, film 007903008.

⁵⁴ Bucks County, Pennsylvania Tax Records, 1782-1860, James Boyd (1778), Warminster, p. 45, image 1 of 4; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 24 July 2022); citing Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown, collection title 102, roll 25. And Pennsylvania, U.S., Tax and Exoneration, 1768-1801, James Boyd (1779), Warminster, p. 100, image 1 of 32; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 24 July 2022); citing Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, RG-4, roll 320. And Pennsylvania, U.S., Tax and Exoneration, 1768-1801, James Boyd (1781), Warminster, p. 10, image 5 of 32; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 24 July 2022); citing Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, RG-4, roll 320. And Bucks County, Pennsylvania Tax Records, 1782-1860, James Boyd (1782), Warminster, p. 2, image 2 of 8; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 24 July 2022); citing Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown, collection title 102, roll 23.

Link 11 – The Commonwealth v. Elizabeth Boyd

During the March session of the Bucks County Court of Common Pleas, Elizabeth Boyd was examined in the case of Martin Murphy,⁵⁵ who stole one great coat and 21 yards of cloth from Peter Lukins, who likely lived in Warminster.⁵⁶ Elizabeth, who was identified as the wife of James Boyd, was charged with harboring said stolen goods.

As the case documents describe, Martin Murphy, who lived with Adam Kerr of Warwick,⁵⁷ came to the house of James and Elizabeth Boyd, who permitted him to stay the night. In the morning, John Craig came to the Boyd's home to apprehend Martin. Before turning himself in, Martin gave the coat and cloth to Elizabeth to dispose. Elizabeth claims she did not know what to do with it, and so threw it down in a haystack. It was recovered by Adam Kerr shortly thereafter.

It's not clear whether this James Boyd is the same James Boyd who witnessed the wills for Henry Benson and James Keen. If it is, it establishes his residence near the confluence of Warminster, Northampton, and Warwick where Adam Kerr of Warwick resided.

Link 12 – John Marks v. James Boyd

In the 1785 debtor case of John Marks v. James Boyd, there appears to be some connection between James McMasters of Upper Makefield and the James Boyd mentioned in the case. The Justice Dockets for John Chapman recorded the following statement about the case:

“Col. James McMasters appears and promises to pay within three months from the above date [9 April 1785] the above debt and cost [£2.5] or otherwise deliver the body of the defendant to the goaler of this County.”⁵⁸

It is unclear whether the case is for James Boyd of Northampton or some other James Boyd. In 1785, Bucks County tax records⁵⁹ indicate four different James Boyds were taxed in the following townships.

1. Falls (single)
2. Middletown (married; likely Reverend James Boyd)⁶⁰
3. Newtown (married; likely the son of John Boyd of Plumstead, which is discussed in Link 19 and in the Discussion of Evidence section)
4. Upper Makefield (married)

⁵⁵ Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Commonwealth v. Elizabeth Boyd and Commonwealth v. Martin Murphy (March 1783), Court of Common Pleas, Doylestown; originals held at the Bucks County Archives, Mercer Museum and Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown, items no. 3133, 3135, and 3155.

⁵⁶ Bucks County, Pennsylvania Tax Records, 1782-1860, Peter Lukens (1786), Warminster, image 5 of 11; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 13 July 2022); citing Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown, collection title 102, roll 23.

⁵⁷ Bucks County, Pennsylvania, land deed, Adam Kerr from Samuel Poak (1782), Book 19, p. 340-342, Recorder of Deeds, Doylestown; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), image 194-195 of 534, film 008067825.

⁵⁸ Justice Docket, John Chapman, 1783-1786, John Marks v. James Boyd (1785); database with image (www.familysearch.org), film 172927 item 1.

⁵⁹ Bucks County, Pennsylvania Tax Records, 1782-1860, James Boyd (1785), Upper Makefield, p. 30, image 2 of 2; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 22 July 2022); citing Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown, collection title 102, roll 26.

⁶⁰ Bucks County, Pennsylvania, land deed, Rev. James Boyd from Alexander Moore (1790), Book 25, p. 420-421, Recorder of Deeds, Doylestown; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), image 249 of 631, film 7896902.

It is possible that James Boyd of Northampton is the married James Boyd identified in Upper Makefield. If so, his placement here fits within the timeline William Boyd provided in his Revolutionary War pension application where he stated he lived for some time in Upper Makefield in between Northampton Township and Delaware County, Pennsylvania.

Link 13 – Estate of John Baird of Warwick

John Baird of Warwick provides no direct connection between James Boyd or William Boyd, but potential indirect evidence as to James' age and that he might have had other children. There are three Boyd mentions in the 1791 estate file for John Baird (1714-1791).⁶¹ Two of John's daughters married Boyds: Andrew Boyd married Sarah Baird and Alexander Boyd married Jennet Baird. The estate file also lists a £266 debt owed to John Baird from Thomas Boyd and Alexander Boyd. A son of John Baird, Francis Baird, married Margaret Edams, daughter of Hugh Edams, who was associated with both James Boyd and William Boyd. Hugh Edams was also a witness to John Baird's will.

The ages of Andrew, Alexander, and Thomas are unknown, but it can be inferred from other data. Two of John Baird's sons, John and Francis, were born in 1746 and 1759, respectively.⁶² It is probable that John's daughters, who married the Boyds, were born about this time as well. Sarah Baird married Andrew Boyd in January 1781 at the Scots Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia where one son, Thomas, is recorded being born in March 1782 and baptized 3 April 1782.⁶³ Therefore, it is probable that Andrew was born in the 1750s if he married in 1781.

While Jennet Baird and Alexander Boyd's marriage is not recorded, the birth and baptism for four of their children are recorded at the Scots Presbyterian Church: James (1773), John (1775), Robert (1779), and Alexander Jr. (1780).⁶⁴ Assuming James is the first child, then it is likely Alexander and Jennet married about 1772 suggesting that Alexander Sr. could have been born in the late 1740s. It is worth noting that the birth and baptismal record for their son James Boyd was recorded at the Scots Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, but the record stated James was baptized at the Neshaminy Presbyterian Church in Warwick.⁶⁵ The record also indicated that

⁶¹ Bucks County, Pennsylvania, estate file, no 2328, John Baird (1791), Recorder of Wills, Clerk of Orphans' Court, Doylestown.

⁶² "Public Member Trees," database, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com>, accessed 22 July 2022), "Wilson120411" family tree by rwilson7135, profile for John Baird (1746-1773) and Francis Baird (1759-1835).

⁶³ U.S., Presbyterian Church Records, 1701-1970, Andrew Boyd and Sarah Beard (1781), Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Scots Presbyterian Church, Register of Baptisms, Births and Deaths, 1767-1806; image 239 of 256; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 24 July 2022); citing Presbyterian Historical Society, Accession Number 95-0725 51i, box 2. And U.S., Presbyterian Church Records, 1701-1970, Thomas Boyd (1782), Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Scots Presbyterian Church, Register of Baptisms, Births and Deaths, 1767-1806; image 44 of 256; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 24 July 2022); citing Presbyterian Historical Society, Accession Number 95-0725 51i, box 2.

⁶⁴ U.S., Presbyterian Church Records, 1701-1970, John Boyd (1775), Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Scots Presbyterian Church, Register of Baptisms, Births and Deaths, 1753-1806, p. 17-1/4; image 30 of 112; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 24 July 2022); citing Presbyterian Historical Society, Accession Number 95-0725 51i, box 2. And U.S., Presbyterian Church Records, 1701-1970, Robert Boyd (1779), Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Scots Presbyterian Church, Register of Baptisms, Births and Deaths, 1753-1806, p. 24; image 38 of 112; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 24 July 2022); citing Presbyterian Historical Society, Accession Number 95-0725 51i, box 2. And U.S., Presbyterian Church Records, 1701-1970, Alexander Boyd (1780), Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Scots Presbyterian Church, Register of Baptisms, Births and Deaths, 1753-1806, p. 29; image 43 of 112; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 24 July 2022); citing Presbyterian Historical Society, Accession Number 95-0725 51i, box 2.

⁶⁵ U.S., Presbyterian Church Records, 1701-1970, John Boyd (1775), Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Scots Presbyterian Church, Register of Baptisms, Births and Deaths, 1753-1806, p. 12; image 24 of 112; database with image, *Ancestry*

Alexander and Jennet were “of the Forks of the Delaware”, which is in Northampton County, Pennsylvania and to the north of Bucks County, suggesting the family was quite mobile.

John Baird was a neighbor of Adam Kerr, who was previously mentioned in the Elizabeth Boyd case (Link 11). Both John and Adam lived in Warwick near the Warminster and Northampton borders.⁶⁶ Hugh Edams lived in Northampton near the border of Warwick.⁶⁷ This establishes that James Boyd likely lived somewhere in the confluence of Northampton, Warminster, and Warwick like the Bairds, Edams, and Kerrs. Given that James did not own land, it is probable he was a tenant on a local estate and may have moved around within the area. James Boyd was a cordwainer⁶⁸ and John Baird was similarly a cordwainer earlier in his life.⁶⁹ It is possible that James Boyd worked with or for John Baird, and if so, then it is probable Alexander and Andrew Boyd met the Baird daughters through this association.

7.3 John Boyd of Plumstead Township

The evidence connecting John Boyd to William Boyd is principally associated with geography, occupation, and a possible mention in John’s will. Before presenting the timeline of evidence associated with John Boyd, four Common Pleas court cases spanning 1765-1766 mention John Boyd that might be interpreted as two different individuals. However, it is the supposition of this author that they are the same person and will be treated as such. The arguments supporting this theory are discussed in Appendix 2.

Link 14 – Bucks County Poor Tax List

The earliest mention of John Boyd appears to be on the Bucks County Poor Tax List where he is found living in 1764 in Buckingham.⁷⁰ Records indicate he is married. The Poor Tax List is a record of residents paying the tax to support the poor rather than a list of poor residents.

(www.ancestry.com, accessed 24 July 2022); citing Presbyterian Historical Society, Accession Number 95-0725 51i, box 2.

⁶⁶ Bucks County, Pennsylvania, land deed, Adam Kerr from Samuel Poak (1782), Book 19, p. 340-342, Recorder of Deeds, Doylestown; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), image 194-195 of 534, film 008067825.

⁶⁷ Hugh Edams did not own land, and so it is likely he lived with his father, James Edams. See Bucks County, Pennsylvania, mortgage, James Edams from Catherine Bullock, John Lock, and Joseph Howell (1759), Book 9, p. 552-553, Recorder of Deeds, Doylestown; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), image 329 of 590, film 007903008.

⁶⁸ Pennsylvania, U.S., Tax and Exoneration, 1768-1801, James Boyd (1781), Warminster, p. 10, image 5 of 32; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 24 July 2022); citing Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, RG-4, roll 320.

⁶⁹ Bucks County, Pennsylvania, mortgage, John Beard from Thomas White (1759), Book 10, p. 5-7, Recorder of Deeds, Doylestown; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), image 103-104 of 398, film 007898966.

⁷⁰ Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Poor Tax Lists 1721-1764, John Boyd (1764), Buckingham, p. 83; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), film 7899008.

Link 15 – Will of William George of Buckingham Township

On 25 January 1765, John Boyd witnessed the will of William George of Buckingham.⁷¹ The other witnesses were Simon Mathew and David Evans. William George lived in Buckingham near the border of Plumstead and Doylestown Townships and lived a few farms away from Joseph Ruckman and the tenements of Thomas Martin, who are discussed in subsequent court cases.⁷²

Link 16 – Thomas Loveacre v. John Boyd

On 3 April 1765, an altercation took place in Buckingham involving Thomas Loveacre, Thomas Martin, John Thrustout, and John Boyd.⁷³ The case details are not clear, but it appears that Thomas Loveacre was a lessee of Thomas Martin, and John Boyd was a tenant in possession of the property through an agreement with John Thrustout. It seems that John Boyd and John Thrustout, with force and arms, entered the property of Thomas Loveacre, who appears to have also lived on the property. While no land records in Bucks County or Philadelphia (where some early Bucks County land records were sometimes recorded) indicate the exact location of the property, its inferred location was somewhere in Buckingham near the borders of Plumstead and Doylestown Townships. The location is derived from a 1763 mortgage record for Joseph Ruckman, which indicated that the Ruckman property bordered Thomas Martin's property.⁷⁴ The Ruckman deed is important because John Boyd and his wife were involved in another altercation eight months later with Joseph Ruckman and his apprentice, Lawrence Shrigley.⁷⁵ In the Loveacre v. Boyd case, John Boyd was referred to as "John Boyd laborer otherwise called John Boyd of Plumstead laborer".

⁷¹ Bucks County, Pennsylvania, estate file, no 1281, William George (1767), Recorder of Wills, Recorder of Wills, Doylestown.

⁷² Ely, Warren S. (n.d.), Buckingham and Solebury, Map Collection, SC-27, from the Collection of the Mercer Museum Research Library of the Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown, PA.

⁷³ Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Thomas Loveacre v. John Boyd (1765), Court of Common Pleas, Doylestown; originals held at the Bucks County Archives, Mercer Museum and Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown, item no. 7530 no. 1 and no. 2.

⁷⁴ Bucks County, Pennsylvania, mortgage, Joseph Buckman from Casper Wistar (1763), Book 11, p. 43, Recorder of Deeds, Doylestown; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), image 33 of 582, film 008035182.

⁷⁵ Bucks County, Pennsylvania, The King v. Joseph Ruckman (1765), Court of Common Pleas, Doylestown; originals held at the Bucks County Archives, Mercer Museum and Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown, items no. 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2219, 2238, and 2315.

Link 17 – The King v. Joseph Ruckman and The King v. Mary Boyd

On 23 December 1765, Joseph Ruckman stole three sows and eight pigs from John Boyd of Buckingham. Joseph Ruckman was a farmer from Buckingham.⁷⁶ On 25 December 1765, Mary Boyd, wife of John Boyd, assaults Lawrence Shrigley, an apprentice of Joseph Ruckman, when she confronted him about the incident.⁷⁷ In case records, John Boyd is referred to as a weaver twice and as a farmer once. Several individuals provided evidence in the case with their sureties listed in parentheses after each name (sureties ensured the witnesses would appear in court):

- John Boyd of Buckingham (Jared Erwin of Hilltown)
- Mary Boyd of Buckingham (Jared Erwin of Hilltown)
- John Fell of Buckingham (Thomas Dyer of Plumstead)
- Thomas Fell
- John Hughes of Buckingham
- Nicholas Morris of Buckingham (Benjamin Fell of Plumstead)
- Lawrence Shrigley of Buckingham (Joseph Ruckman of Buckingham)

Mary Boyd pleaded guilty in her case “but as the circumstances appears much in her favor, the Court adjudge her to pay one copper fine to pay costs of suit”.

Link 18 – The King v. William Durroh and Others

On 15 April 1766, a group of individuals led by William Durroh, constable of Bedminster, marched on the home of Benjamin Ferreby of Plumstead (also spelled at times Fetherbe), yeoman, and beat John Reeder of Plumstead, laborer.⁷⁸ The group consisted of:

- John Boyd, laborer (Plumstead)
- William Campbell
- William Durroh, constable (Bedminster)
- Jared Erwin, blacksmith (Hilltown)
- James Erwin, yeoman (Plumstead)
- Hugh Ferguson, yeoman (Plumstead)
- Matthew Greer, yeoman (Plumstead)
- Jenkins Jones
- Levi Owen
- Robert Robeson, tavern keeper (Bedminster)
- Samuel Shaw, yeoman
- William Smith, peddler or yeoman
- Adrian Swarz, yeoman (Plumstead)
- William Williams Jr.

According to testimony given by Benjamin Ferreby, his wife Rebecca, and John Reeder, William Durroh and a group of others charged into Ferreby’s home on a rainy morning breaking through a locked door where Benjamin, his wife, and John Reeder were situated. William Durroh, John Boyd, and Robert Robeson grabbed Reeder and threw him out of the house. With force, William Durroh escorted Reeder to Justice William Erwin. Afterwards, James Erwin threw Ferreby’s goods out of his home and into the rain. Perhaps because of James Erwin’s actions, Benjamin Ferreby later broke into the home of James Erwin. As an unfortunate consequence of James Erwin’s actions, James Erwin’s land in Plumstead was sold at auction to compensate Benjamin

⁷⁶ Ibid.

⁷⁷ Bucks County, Pennsylvania, The King v. Mary Boyd (1765), Court of Common Pleas, Doylestown; originals held at the Bucks County Archives, Mercer Museum and Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown, items no. 2132, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2226, and 2226A.

⁷⁸ Bucks County, Pennsylvania, The King v. William Durroh and Others (1766), Court of Common Pleas, Doylestown; originals held at the Bucks County Archives, Mercer Museum and Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown, items no. 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2269, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2275, 2276, 2280, and 2282.

Ferreby for his losses.⁷⁹ Jared Erwin purchased James' land for £160. It is unclear what precipitated the series of altercations discussed in the case.

Link 19 – Estate of John Boyd

John Boyd died in 1782. His will is dated 28 January 1782, and he indicated he was a weaver living in Falls Township, Bucks County.⁸⁰ Samuel Hutchinson (weaver) and John Milner, both of Falls,⁸¹ witnessed the will, which was proven on the 9th and 12th of November 1782. John mentions his wife, Catherine, and six children: Andrew, James, John, Jared, William, and Matthew. He left something to each of his sons, but to his son William he leaves £15 and some of his wearing apparel. He appointed his sons James and John as executors, to which they both declined.⁸² John Thornton, Andrew McMinn, and Samuel Yardley are appointed the new executors. The inventory of John's estate, which indicated John last resided in Newtown, is appraised by Joseph Worstall and John Atkinson. Catherine appears to be John Boyd's second wife as an auditor's report on his estate indicated that furniture "was given by the widow to her son Benjamin previous to her marriage with John Boyd".⁸³

8. Evaluation of Evidence

All documents and mentions related to James Boyd of Northampton and John Boyd of Plumstead are evaluated here to determine their strength of association with William Boyd and whether either candidate can be the probable father of William.

8.1 FAN Club Network

Across the reviewed evidence, no common FAN Club network was found with William Boyd and John Boyd, but a common network was found with James Boyd, particularly with Hugh Edams of Northampton for whom William Boyd twice served as a substitute during the Revolutionary War in 1776 and 1777.

In the 1750s, it's unclear whether James Boyd lived in Northampton, but he was associated with Henry Benson and James Keen, who lived in Northampton. Brothers Hugh and Gayen Edams were other witnesses on James Keen's 1757 will. No other record for James is found in Northampton, but he appears in Warminster tax records during 1778-1782⁸⁴ and as a pewholder

⁷⁹ Bucks County, Pennsylvania, land deed, James Irwin by sheriff William Buckman to Jared Irwin (1767), Plumstead, Book 12, p. 41-42, Recorder of Deeds, Doylestown; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), image 456-457 of 582, film 008035182.

⁸⁰ Bucks County, Pennsylvania, estate file, no 1738, John Boyd (1782), Recorder of Wills, Recorder of Wills, Doylestown.

⁸¹ Bucks County, Pennsylvania Tax Records, 1782-1860, Saml Hutchinson and Jon Milnor (1782), Falls, image 4-5 of 15; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 28 July 2022); citing Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown, title no. 102, roll 4.

⁸² Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Orphan Court Records 1767-1787, Petition for Auditors, estate of John Boyd (1784), book B, p. 248, Orphans' Court, Doylestown, database with an image (www.familysearch.org), image 149 of 287, film 172917.

⁸³ Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Orphan Court Records 1767-1787, Accounts & Auditor's Reports, estate of John Boyd (1784), book B, p. 294, Orphans' Court, Doylestown, database with an image (www.familysearch.org), image 174 of 287, film 172917.

⁸⁴ Bucks County, Pennsylvania Tax Records, 1782-1860, James Boyd (1778, 1779, 1781, 1782), Warminster, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 24 July 2022).

at Neshaminy Presbyterian Church in Warwick in 1785.⁸⁵ William Boyd first appears in 1778 tax records in Northampton as single, which is the first year tax lists are available during this period.

8.2 Geographic Timeline Discrepancy

At odds with the above Northampton timeline is that William Boyd claimed to have been born in Plumstead in 1753. There is no record of James Boyd ever living in Plumstead, and James' witnessing of the Benson and Keen wills potentially places him in Northampton in 1751 and 1757, respectively. However, James was landless and likely a tenant and may have moved around to find work. Therefore, it is possible James may have resided for a short duration in Plumstead between 1751 and 1757.

While seemingly distanced on the Bucks County map, Northampton and Plumstead are not so geographically and socially separated. The area of Northampton at the confluence of Warwick and Warminster Townships and the center of Plumstead are only about 16 miles apart. There is also tradition of the two areas intermingling. Both areas were settled by the Scotch-Irish about 1720 with some settling in the area occupying present day Warwick, Northampton, and Warminster Townships around the Neshaminy Presbyterian Church while others migrated further north to the area occupying present day Bedminster, Plumstead, and Tinicum Townships around the Deep Run Presbyterian Church.⁸⁶ So interconnected were the areas that Reverend William Tennant served both churches during the 1720s and 1730s⁸⁷ and records documented several families from both areas intermarrying.⁸⁸

Yet, the Loveacre v. Boyd case indicates John Boyd was "of Plumstead", and William Boyd stated his birth location as Plumstead.⁸⁹ This potentially makes John a stronger candidate for William's father. It could be that John Boyd and James Boyd were brothers or cousins, and William moved to Northampton as a young adult for work where other relatives perhaps lived.

⁸⁵ Turner, D.K. (1876), *History of Neshaminy Presbyterian Church of Warwick, Hartsville, Bucks County, PA, 1726-1876*. Philadelphia: Culbertson & Bache Printers, p.312.

⁸⁶ Battle, J.H. (1887), *History of Bucks County, Pennsylvania*. Philadelphia: A Warner & Co. Publishers, p. 282.

⁸⁷ Davis, W.W.H. (1876), *The History of Bucks County, Pennsylvania: From the Discovery of the Delaware to the Present Time*. Doylestown, PA: Democrat Book and Job Office Printers, p. 326-327.

⁸⁸ For example, John Jamison (of Neshaminy) and Martha Grier (of Deep Run) in Davis (1876, p. 417-418), *The History of Bucks County, Pennsylvania*. And Hugh Mearns (of Neshaminy) and Rachel Vastine (of Deep Run) in Bucks County PGenWeb Archives (n.d., will 3.117).

⁸⁹ Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Thomas Loveacre v. John Boyd (1765), Court of Common Pleas, Doylestown; originals held at the Bucks County Archives, Mercer Museum and Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown, item no. 7530 no. 1 and no. 2. And Pension Application, William Boyd, Sergeant, Revolutionary War, "Declaration of William Boyd in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832", dated 9 April 1833, [Pension Application S.22.127](#), Pension Office, War Department, Washington, DC; online database with images, Fold3 (www.fold3.com, accessed 31 July 2018).

8.3 Autosomal DNA Matches

While much of the evidence presented in this report is indirect, the genetic clusters of autosomal DNA matches between the descendants of William and Mary (McMasters) Boyd and Thomas Benson are perhaps the strongest evidence of a family relationship between James Boyd and William Boyd because of James Boyd's association with the Bensons. Significant finding of the DNA analysis shows that:

- DNA matches within each cluster are found through multiple children of William Boyd and Mary McMasters.
- DNA matches across clusters are found through multiple children of Thomas Benson.

As discussed previously and theorized in Appendix 1A and 1B, it might be that Thomas Benson's mother was a Boyd. Although James Boyd witnessed Henry Benson's will, John Boyd could still be a brother to this female Boyd inasmuch as James could be. Yet, coupled with William Boyd's residence in Northampton in 1778 and his and James' association with Hugh Edams, the DNA evidence appears to support a stronger family connection with James Boyd compared to John Boyd.

One caveat with the analysis is that the DNA connection to Thomas Benson might be through Mary McMasters rather than William Boyd, but the witnessing of the will by James Boyd suggests the Boyd connection is more likely. Presently, there are no available DNA matches to sort out McMasters versus Boyd matches within the cluster.

8.4 John Boyd's Will Mention of his son William

John Boyd's 1782 will indicated he had a son named William who could be William Boyd (1753-1836).⁹⁰ In the year after John's death, his widow Catherine and sons James and Jared were taxed in Newtown, which was John's last place of residence,⁹¹ and they continued to be taxed in Newtown through 1789.⁹² It is unclear where John's other sons – Andrew, John, William, and Matthew – resided during this time.

Based on the order presented in John's will, Andrew appears to be the oldest. Since he was not called on to be an executor, he may have moved out of the area although an Andrew Boyd is

⁹⁰ Bucks County, Pennsylvania, estate file, no 1738, John Boyd (1782), Recorder of Wills, Recorder of Wills, Doylestown.

⁹¹ Bucks County, Pennsylvania Tax Records, 1782-1860, James Boyd, Garret Boyd, and Catherine Boyd (1783), Newtown, p. 17, image 2 of 3; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 24 July 2022); citing Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown, title no. 102, roll 26.

⁹² Bucks County, Pennsylvania Tax Records, 1782-1860, James Boyd, Jarred Boyd, and Catherine Boyd (1785), Newtown, p. 23, image 7 of 7; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 24 July 2022); citing Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown, title no. 102, roll 26. And Bucks County, Pennsylvania Tax Records, 1782-1860, James Boyd, Jarred Boyd, and Catharine Boyd (1786), Newtown, p. 13, image 8 of 9; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 24 July 2022); citing Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown, title no. 102, roll 26. And Bucks County, Pennsylvania Tax Records, 1782-1860, James Boyd, Jarret Boyd, and Catharine Boyd (1787), Newtown, p. 53, image 17 of 17; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 24 July 2022); citing Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown, title no. 102, roll 26. And Pennsylvania, U.S., Tax and Exoneration, 1768-1801, James Boyd, Jared Boyd, and Catharine Boyd (1788), Newtown, p. 29, image 44 of 48; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 24 July 2022); citing Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, RG-4, roll 321. And Pennsylvania, U.S., Tax and Exoneration, 1768-1801, James Boyd, Jared Boyd, and Catharine Boyd (1789), Newtown, image 47 of 48; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 24 July 2022); citing Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, RG-4, roll 321.

found in Nockamixon Township, Bucks County in 1790.⁹³ However, it cannot be discerned whether this is John's son. John's son John is not found in any tax or census records through 1790 despite him refusing to serve as his father's executor in 1784.⁹⁴ Matthew is found in Lower Makefield Township, Bucks County in 1789⁹⁵ and in Falls Township in 1790.⁹⁶

The whereabouts for John's son William is a bit more complex than his other sons. Table 3 on the next page lists all mentions of William Boyd in available tax records starting in 1778 through 1820.⁹⁷

From the table, there appears to be two different William Boyds during the evaluated time frame. The 1778 tax record in Northampton captures William Boyd (1753-1836), the subject of this report's query, while all other records appear to capture William Boyd, who is probably the son of John Boyd (d. 1782). The former William Boyd (1753-1836) married on 22 October 1778,⁹⁸ which was likely after the undated 1778 tax record. William was in Delaware County, Pennsylvania by 1790⁹⁹ and doesn't appear to have any other records in Bucks County between 1778 and the time he appears in Delaware County.

⁹³ 1790 U.S. census, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Not Stated [Nockamixon determined by neighbors and tax records], p. 215, image 54 of 87, Andrew Boyd; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 2 July 2022); Family History Library Film 0568148.

⁹⁴ Bucks County, Pennsylvania Tax Records, 1782-1860, John Boyd and James Boyd (1784), p. 180, image 7 of 53, database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 24 July 2022); citing Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown, title no. 102, roll 27.

⁹⁵ Bucks County, Pennsylvania Tax Records, 1782-1860, Matthew Boid [Boyd] (1789), image 2 of 9, database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 24 July 2022); citing Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown, title no. 102, roll 8.

⁹⁶ 1790 U.S. census, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Not Stated [Falls determined by neighbors and tax records], p. 239, image 66 of 87, Andrew Boyd; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 2 July 2022); Family History Library Film 0568148.

⁹⁷ Bucks County, Pennsylvania Tax Records, 1782-1860, William Boyd and variation spellings (1778-1820), Bucks County, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 21 July 2022); citing Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Tax Records, 1782-1860, Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown.

⁹⁸ U.S. Presbyterian Church Records, 1701-1970, Willm Boyd and McMasters (1778), Newtown Presbyterian Church, Baptisms, Births, Marriages, 1769-1812, p. 20, image 22 of 148; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 14 March 2022); Presbyterian Historical Society, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

⁹⁹ 1790 U.S. census, Delaware County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Ridley, p. 92, image 2 of 2, Willm Boyd; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 2 July 2022); Family History Library Film 0568148.

Table 3 – William Boyd Tax Records, Bucks County, 1778-1820

Year	Location	Marital Status	Occupation	Comments
1778	Northampton	Single		Likely William Boyd (research subject)
1782	Solebury	Married		Likely William Boyd (research subject)
1787	Upper Makefield	Single		
1791	Upper Makefield	Single		
1793	Upper Makefield	Single		
1799	Solebury	Married		
1800	Upper Makefield	Married	Weaver	
1801	Upper Makefield	Married	Weaver	
1802	Upper Makefield	Married	Weaver	
1805	Upper Makefield	Married	Butcher	
1806	Upper Makefield	Married	Weaver	
1807	Upper Makefield	Married	Weaver	
1808	Upper Makefield	Married	Weaver	
1809	Upper Makefield	Married	Weaver	
1810	Upper Makefield	Married	Weaver	
1811	Upper Makefield	Married	Weaver	
1812	Upper Makefield	Married	Occupation	
1813	Upper Makefield	Married		
1814	Upper Makefield	Married	Weaver	
1815	Upper Makefield	Married	Occupation	
1816	Upper Makefield	Married	Occupation	
1817	Upper Makefield	Married		
1818	Upper Makefield	Married		Elizabeth (age 6) requiring county assistance for education
1819	Upper Makefield	Married	Occupation	Taxed for his estate
1820	Upper Makefield	Married	Occupation	Taxed for his estate

The later William Boyd may be the one who married Elizabeth Pidcock on 30 November 1796¹⁰⁰ and died in 1818.¹⁰¹ Bucks County Orphan Court records indicate that William Boyd (d. 1818) had three children, namely William, Jarret [sic, Jared], and Maria.¹⁰² What makes it probable that William Boyd (d. 1818) is the son of John Boyd (d. 1782) is that William (d. 1818) had a son named Jared as did John (d. 1782). The name Jared in the Boyd family may come from Jared Erwin, who may hint toward a family relationship. Jared Erwin twice served as a surety for John

¹⁰⁰ Bucks County Historical Society (1940), Marriage, Birth and Death Records from the Dockets of John Chapman, John Wilson, John Pugh, Josiah Y. Shaw, and William Fenton, Esquires Justice of the Peace of Bucks County, Pennsylvania; from the Diaries of William Fenton and George M. Childs; and from Manuscripts in the Collection of the of the Bucks County Historical Society, p. 18; database with image, *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org, accessed 23 April 2019), Family History Library Film 172927 item 1.

¹⁰¹ Bucks County, Pennsylvania, estate file, no. 4575, William Boyd (1818), Recorder of Wills, Clerk of Orphans' Court, Doylestown.

¹⁰² Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Gradians and Trustees file 1002, William, Maria, and Jarret (1819), vol. 5, p. 333, Recorder of Wills, Clerk of Orphans' Court, Doylestown.

Boyd (d. 1782) in 1765¹⁰³ and was involved in the 1766 skirmish, along with John and others, where John Reeder was assaulted at Benjamin Ferreby's home.¹⁰⁴ While it is uncertain exactly when William Boyd (d. 1818) was born, the 1810 census suggests he was born 1765 or earlier.¹⁰⁵ He also appears in the 1787 Solebury tax list as single, suggesting he was at least 21 years of age at that time making him born 1766 or earlier.¹⁰⁶ Tax records in Table 3 also indicate William Boyd (d. 1818) was a weaver like John Boyd (d. 1782).

8.5 Birth of William Boyd (1753-1836) in Plumstead Township

In his 1833 application for a Revolutionary War pension, William Boyd (1753-1836) claimed to have been born in Plumstead on 23 January 1753.¹⁰⁷ In a separate statement, he indicated his age (i.e., probably his date of birth) was copied into the family bible from a "confession of faith," which belonged to his father. It is unclear whether his Plumstead birth location and/or his date of birth was both recorded in the confession of faith. Based on the uncertainty for how his birth was recorded, two scenarios are possible.

First, William may have been born in Plumstead as he claimed, regardless of whether the confession of faith additionally indicated Plumstead as the location of birth. This scenario tends to favor John Boyd being the father because he was "of Plumstead" according to the Loveacre v. Boyd case.¹⁰⁸ In contrast, it seems less likely, although plausible, that James Boyd of Northampton would have moved back temporarily from Northampton to Plumstead between the 1751 and 1757 will signings for Henry Benson and James Keen.

Second, William might have conflated his birth location with other known facts about his father's previous residences or the birth locations of his older siblings. Indeed, he was 80 years old when he provided this information in his pension application, and his memory may have been compromised. In fact, he admitted to not remember all aspects of his military service in his pension application. Further, unless Plumstead was recorded in the bible or confession of faith, then William's knowledge of his birth location was second-hand as he would not have had the

¹⁰³ Bucks County, Pennsylvania, The King v. Joseph Ruckman (1765), Court of Common Pleas, Doylestown; originals held at the Bucks County Archives, Mercer Museum and Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown, items no. 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2219, 2238, and 2315. And Bucks County, Pennsylvania, The King v. Mary Boyd (1765), Court of Common Pleas, Doylestown; originals held at the Bucks County Archives, Mercer Museum and Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown, items no. 2132, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2226, and 2226A.

¹⁰⁴ Bucks County, Pennsylvania, The King v. William Durroh and Others (1766), Court of Common Pleas, Doylestown; originals held at the Bucks County Archives, Mercer Museum and Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown, items no. 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2269, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2275, 2276, 2280, and 2282.

¹⁰⁵ 1810 U.S. census, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Wm Boyd, Lower Makefield, p. 99, image 1 of 6; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 25 July 2022); Family History Library Film 193672, roll 46.

¹⁰⁶ Bucks County, Pennsylvania Tax Records, 1782-1860, William Boyd (1787), image 7 of 10, database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 24 July 2022); citing Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown, title no. 102, roll 8.

¹⁰⁷ Pension Application, William Boyd, Sergeant, Revolutionary War, "Declaration of William Boyd in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832", dated 9 April 1833, [Pension Application S.22,127](#), Pension Office, War Department, Washington, DC; online database with images, Fold3 (www.fold3.com, accessed 31 July 2018).

¹⁰⁸ Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Thomas Loveacre v. John Boyd (1765), Court of Common Pleas, Doylestown; originals held at the Bucks County Archives, Mercer Museum and Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown, item no. 7530 no. 1 and no. 2.

ability to form memories at his own birth and would have to had relied on someone else to provide this information.

It is conceivable that James Boyd was “of Plumstead” like John Boyd and moved to Northampton by 1751. William may have assumed he was born in Plumstead because his father talked about the family’s earlier residence there. Indeed, several other Boyd families lived in the Plumstead and Buckingham areas during the 1740s-1760s and appear connected to one another (see Table 2). If James Boyd of Northampton is related to those in Table 2, then perhaps this may have contributed to William’s belief of his birth occurring in Plumstead.

8.6 Church Affiliations

It is unclear why William Boyd and Mary McMasters married in Newtown when Neshaminy Presbyterian Church in Warwick Township, which served parts of Warwick, Northampton, Warminster, and other areas, was closer. Mary likely resided in Northampton as several other McMasters lived there at the same time including Robert,¹⁰⁹ William,¹¹⁰ and Thomas.¹¹¹ In fact, William McMasters is recorded in 1782 tax records as single and living at the residence of James Edams,¹¹² who is the father of Hugh Edams to whom William Boyd is associated.¹¹³ This may be how William met Mary.

Alternatively, Mary could have resided in Upper Makefield, Bucks County where Colonel James McMasters (1736-1806) lived and where William Boyd moved after residing in Northampton.¹¹⁴ Land and tax records indicate there were only two clusters of McMasters in Bucks County at the time – the area comprising the confluence of Northampton, Warwick, and Warminster Townships and Upper Makefield Township. The McMasters of Upper Makefield, who are likely kin to those McMasters who lived in Northampton, had a strong role in the establishment and growth of the Newtown Presbyterian church where William and Mary married.¹¹⁵ Despite James Boyd being a member of the Neshaminy Presbyterian Church,¹¹⁶ William Boyd may have married at the church the McMasters attended.

¹⁰⁹ Pennsylvania State Archives, Muster Rolls and Papers Relating to the Associators and Militia of the County of Bucks, Robert McMasters (1775), Northampton, Series 2, vol. XIV, p. 148; database with image, Fold3 (www.fold3.com, accessed 25 July 2022); citing Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

¹¹⁰ Bucks County, Pennsylvania Tax Records, 1782-1860, Wm McMasters (1778), Northampton, image 2 of 5; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 25 July 2022); citing Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown, Title no. 102, roll. 25.

¹¹¹ Pennsylvania State Archives, Muster Rolls and Papers Relating to the Associators and Militia of the County of Bucks, Thomas McMasters (1775), Warwick, Series 5, vol. V, p. 329; database with image, Fold3 (www.fold3.com, accessed 25 July 2022); citing Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

¹¹² Bucks County, Pennsylvania Tax Records, 1782-1860, Wm McMasters (1782), Northampton, image 8 of 18; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 25 July 2022); citing Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown, Title no. 102, roll. 15.

¹¹³ Bucks County, Pennsylvania, land deed, Samuel and Elizabeth Henderson, Francis and Margaret Baird to James Edams and Gayen Edams (1805), Book 43, p. 111-112, Recorder of Deeds, Doylestown; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), image 84-85 of 758, film 8067837.

¹¹⁴ Pension Application, William Boyd, Sergeant, Revolutionary War, "Declaration of William Boyd in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832", dated 9 April 1833, [Pension Application S.22,127](#), Pension Office, War Department, Washington, DC; online database with images, Fold3 (www.fold3.com, accessed 31 July 2018).

¹¹⁵ Marshall, J.L. (1990), *Early History of Upper Makefield Township, Bucks Co., PA*. New Hope, PA: Dodel Graphics, p. 11.

¹¹⁶ Battle, J.H. (1887), *History of Bucks County, Pennsylvania*. Philadelphia: A Warner & Co. Publishers, p. 282.

8.7 James Boyd and James McMasters

The 1785 John Marks v. James Boyd case¹¹⁷ and the 1785 tax record¹¹⁸ suggests that James Boyd may have followed his son (or vice-versa) from Northampton to Upper Makefield. Indeed, such a move fits the timeline William Boyd provided in his Revolutionary War pension application where he stated he lived for some time in Upper Makefield in between Northampton and Delaware County, Pennsylvania.¹¹⁹ The year 1785 fits in between William's 1778 tax record¹²⁰ in Northampton and the 1790 census in Delaware County.¹²¹

A reason for James McMasters to become financially responsible for James Boyd as stated in the Marks v. Boyd case may be because there is a family relationship between the two men. While it remains unproven at this time, this author contends that James McMasters is likely the uncle of Mary (McMasters) Boyd, and so it seems reasonable that he might assume the debt for his niece's father-in-law.

8.8 Naming Conventions for Children

Scottish people at this time tended to follow certain naming patterns as outlined below.¹²²

- 1st son named after father's father
- 2nd son named after mother's father
- 3rd son named after father
- 1st daughter named after mother's mother
- 2nd daughter named after father's mother
- 3rd daughter named after mother

According to known census records,¹²³ William and Mary appeared to have as many as 11 children, although only seven are known by name.¹²⁴ So, it is not possible to arrange them in accordance with the typical naming convention as outlined on the prior page. However, William and Mary had at least three sons, which provides only a partial correlational analysis with the

¹¹⁷ Justice Docket, John Chapman, 1783-1786, John Marks v. James Boyd (1785); database with image (www.familysearch.org), film 172927 item 1.

¹¹⁸ Bucks County, Pennsylvania Tax Records, 1782-1860, James Boyd (1785), Upper Makefield, p. 30, image 2 of 2; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 22 July 2022); citing Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown, collection title 102, roll 26.

¹¹⁹ Pension Application, William Boyd, Sergeant, Revolutionary War, "Declaration of William Boyd in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832", dated 9 April 1833, [Pension Application S.22,127](#), Pension Office, War Department, Washington, DC; online database with images, Fold3 (www.fold3.com, accessed 31 July 2018).

¹²⁰ Bucks County, Pennsylvania Tax Records, 1782-1860, Wm Boyd (1778), Northampton, image 5 of 5; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 2 July 2022); citing Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown, Title no. 102, roll. 25.

¹²¹ 1790 U.S. census, Delaware County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Ridley, p. 92, image 2 of 2, Willm Boyd; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 2 July 2022); Family History Library Film 0568148.

¹²² National Records of Scotland (n.d.), *Guides Forenames*, www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk, accessed 22 July 2022.

¹²³ 1790 U.S. census, Delaware County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Ridley, p. 92, image 2 of 2, Willm Boyd; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 2 July 2022); Family History Library Film 0568148. And 1800 U.S. census, Chester County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, East Nottingham, p. 866, image 1 of 3, William Boyd; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 14 March 2022); Family History Library Film 363339, roll 36. And 1810 U.S. census, Chester County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, East Nottingham, p. 202, image 4 of 5, Wm Boyde [Boyd]; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 14 March 2022); Family History Library Film 193673, roll 47.

¹²⁴ "Public Member Trees," database, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com>, accessed 22 July 2022), "Wilson120411" family tree by rwilson7135, profile for William Boyd (1753-1836).

naming convention. Two sons are known (William and John), but the third son remains unidentified or may have died young. Therefore, the possibility remains that the missing son was named James in support of James Boyd of Northampton.

8.9 Intergenerational Transmission of Literacy

An interesting observation is that James Boyd and John Boyd appear to have been able to read and write based on James' ability to sign his name on the wills of Henry Benson and James Keen¹²⁵ and for John's ability to do the same on his own will.¹²⁶ William Boyd signed with an "X" on his Revolutionary War pension application and his own will indicating he was illiterate.¹²⁷

The absence of literacy transmission between William and his parents suggests that William was likely the first generation of Boyds to be born in America. A study of literacy in Colonial America finds that it was common for the children of literate parents to not learn to read and write especially if the parents were recent immigrants.¹²⁸ Access to education in Europe was generally easier than it was on the American frontier particularly for those socially and economically disadvantaged, which the Boyds appeared to be. The long hours worked by William and his parents may have hindered his formal and informal education.

9. Conclusion and Summary of Evidence

Based on the evidentiary network presented in Figure 2, the evidence for the father of William Boyd (1753-1836) appears stronger for James Boyd of Northampton than it does for John Boyd of Plumstead. Therefore, the conclusion of the proof argument is that James Boyd is the assumed father of William Boyd. It is also likely that James Boyd was born in Europe, probably in Northern Ireland or Scotland.¹²⁹ It is quite probable then that Elizabeth, who was identified in Link 11, is the mother of William.

¹²⁵ Bucks County, Pennsylvania, estate file, no 789, Henry Benson (1752), Recorder of Wills, Clerk of Orphans' Court, Doylestown. And Bucks County, Pennsylvania, estate file, no 950, James Keen (1758), Recorder of Wills, Clerk of Orphans' Court, Doylestown.

¹²⁶ Bucks County, Pennsylvania, estate file, no 1738, John Boyd (1782), Recorder of Wills, Recorder of Wills, Doylestown.

¹²⁷ Pension Application, William Boyd, Sergeant, Revolutionary War, "Declaration of William Boyd in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832", dated 9 April 1833, [Pension Application S.22,127](#), Pension Office, War Department, Washington, DC; online database with images, Fold3 (www.fold3.com, accessed 31 July 2018). And Chester County, Pennsylvania, will (book 17, p. 264), William Boyd (1835, Chester County), Recorder of Wills, Clerk of Orphans' Court, West Chester.

¹²⁸ Grubb, F.W. (1990), "Growth of Literacy in Colonial America: Longitudinal Patterns, Economic Models, and the Direction of Future Research," *Social Science History*, 14(4), 451-482.

¹²⁹ The intergenerational literacy transmission suggests William was the first generation born in America. Additionally, results from FamilyTreeDNA's Y-DNA Big 700 test from an unbroken male line through William Boyd's son John indicates that William's Boyd line (haplogroup R-FT102166) is closely connected to known descendants of William Boyd, 4th Earl of Kilmarnock, Scotland (1705-1746). This does not indicate that William (1753-1836) is a direct descendant of the Earl, but rather he likely descends from a common ancestor of the Earl many generations earlier. Source: Holton, Graham S., and Alasdair F. Macdonald (2020), *Declaration of Arbroath Family History Project*. Glasgow, Scotland: Foundation for Medieval Genealogy, Center for Lifelong Learning, University of Strathclyde, p. 67.

The strongest evidence supporting James as the father includes:

1. Shared autosomal DNA matches (Link 7) between descendants of multiple children of William and Mary (McMasters) Boyd and descendants of Thomas Benson (1754-1835). James Boyd witnessed the will of Henry Benson, who is likely the uncle of Thomas Benson (Link 8).
2. William Boyd and James Boyd share a common but small FAN Club with Hugh Edams (Links 2, 9 and 13) and the McMasters (Links 4 and 11).
3. William Boyd and James Boyd appear to share a similar timeline. Both appear to reside near the confluence of Northampton, Warminster, and Warwick Townships in late 1770s (Links 1 and 10) and then to Upper Makefield by 1785 (Links 5 and 11).

William's stated birth location of Plumstead is the only piece of evidence creating doubt on the conclusion that James Boyd of Northampton is William's father. As previously discussed, it is possible that William erroneously recalled or assumed the township of his birth.

Despite sharing geography and an occupation, the evidence for John Boyd of Plumstead is not as strong:

1. John Boyd's mention of a son named William in his will appears to refer to William Boyd, who died 1818 in Upper Makefield.
2. Currently, no DNA evidence is found connecting William Boyd's (1753-1836) descendants to descendants of John Boyd despite the author having access to 31 DNA kits for William's descendants through four of his children.
3. John Boyd and William Boyd share no common FAN Club networks.
4. While sharing the weaver occupation, William Boyd (1753-1836) appears to have developed the trade later in life and thus the skill does not appear to have been handed down from father to son.

10. Future Research Suggestions

1. Although good DNA evidence was found linking the Boyds and the Bensons (Links 7 and 8), stronger evidence is needed. For example, triangulated DNA matches are needed where it can be demonstrated that Boyd and Benson share DNA at the same location on the same segment(s). This can be accomplished by asking all DNA testers to upload their autosomal DNA to databases where segment data is available, e.g., FamilyTreeDNA, MyHeritage, or Gedmatch, or finding new Boyd/Benson DNA matches in these databases.
2. Develop a more thorough descendancy family tree for John Boyd (d. 1782) with the intent of identifying new or existing descendants who have tested their autosomal DNA. Preliminary and partial trees exist for two of John's sons, Jared Boyd and William Boyd (d. 1818),¹³⁰ but more work is needed.
3. More traditional genealogical research is needed on Alexander, Andrew, and Thomas Boyd, who are the probable sons of James Boyd of Northampton and who were associated with John Baird's estate (Link 13). Preliminary data for Alexander and

¹³⁰ "Public Member Trees," database, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com>, accessed 25 July 2022), "Wilson120411" family tree by rwilson7135, profile for Jared Boyd (b. 1834) and William Boyd (d. 1818).

Andrew were found in the Scots Presbyterian Church, but other records may exist with the church that might help to further develop descendancy family trees for them. Further, the baptismal record for James Boyd, son of Alexander and Jennet (Baird) Boyd indicated that the family may have lived for a time at the “Forks of the Delaware” in Northampton County, Pennsylvania presenting another location for additional research.

4. In 1800, a Thomas Boyd was living in East Nottingham, Chester County, Pennsylvania,¹³¹ which is where William Boyd (1753-1836) was similarly living at the time. Interestingly, Thomas was enumerated next to Benjamin McDonald, whose son, Benjamin Jr., would later marry Jane Boyd, daughter of William Boyd (1753-1836). It is unclear who the Thomas Boyd was, but the census record suggests he was born between 1756 and 1774, which could establish him as the Thomas Boyd mentioned as owing a debt to John Baird’s estate.
5. Locate a male Boyd descendant from Joseph Boyd who migrated to Surry County, North Carolina (see Table 2) and for John G. Boyd, who has an unknown connection to William Boyd (1753-1836) but is a member of the genetic cluster in Appendix 1B (see Link 7).

11. Table of Revisions

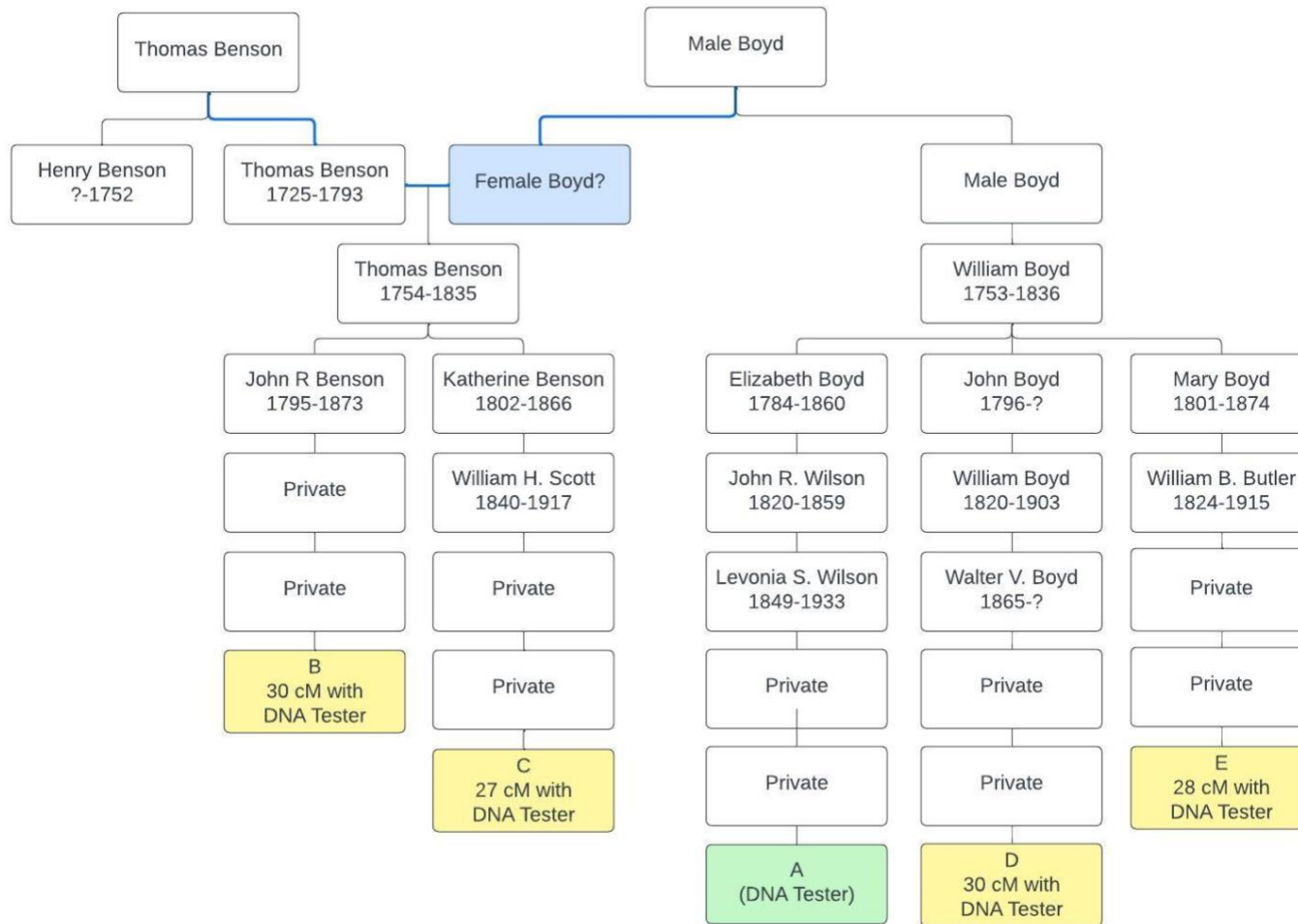
The following table records the changes made to the report since its initial publishing.

Version	Date	Change Description
1.0	08/23/2022	Initial publishing
1.1	08/02/2023	Addition of Table of Contents, List of Tables, List of Figures, and Table of Revisions.
1.2	10/05/2023	Addition of tables listing DNA matches for the Boyd and Benson genetic networks in Appendix 1A and 1B.

¹³¹ 1810 U.S. census, Chester County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Thomas Boyd, East Nottingham, image 2 of 3; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 25 July 2022); Family History Library Film 363339, M32, roll 36.

12. Appendixes

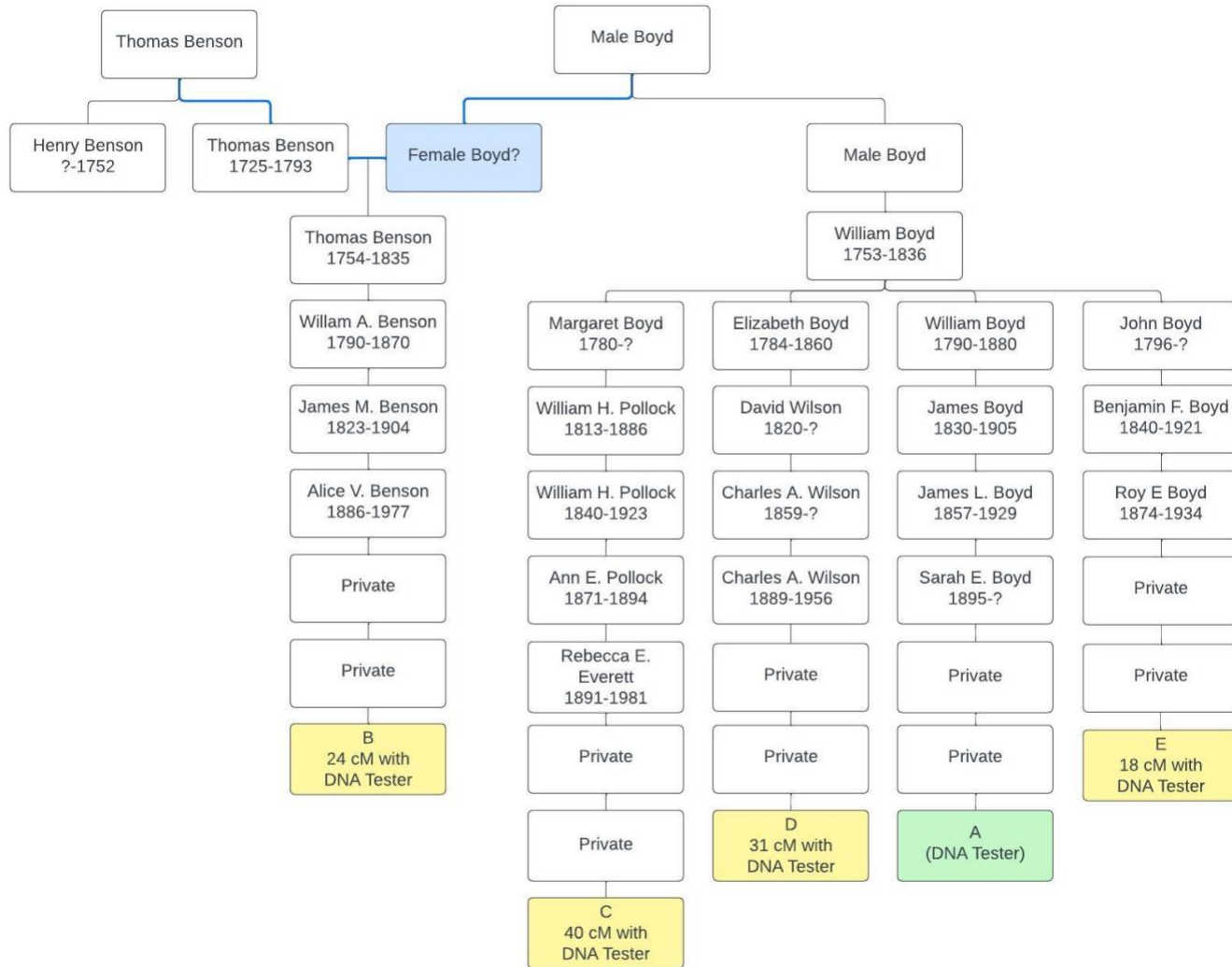
Appendix 1A: Boyd DNA Matches to Thomas Benson (1)



Appendix 1A: Boyd DNA Matches to Thomas Benson (1)

Kit	Shared cM	Parent Line	Child Line
Benson 1	30	Unassigned	Thomas, John
Benson 2	27	2	Thomas, Catherine
Benson 3	27	2	Thomas, Catherine
Benson 4	24	2	Thomas, Catherine
Benson 5	24	2	Thomas, Catherine
Boyd/McMasters 1	2,542	Both	Elizabeth, Robert
Boyd/McMasters 2	109	2	Elizabeth, Robert
Boyd/McMasters 3	104	2	Elizabeth, Robert
Boyd/McMasters 4	63	2	Elizabeth, Robert
Boyd/McMasters 5	31	2	Elizabeth, Sarah
Boyd/McMasters 6	30	2	John, William
Boyd/McMasters 7	20	2	John, Mary
Boyd/McMasters 8	28	2	Mary, William
Boyd/McMasters 9	25	2	Mary, William
Unknown (7 kits)	21 to 45	2	---
Unknown (2 kits)	9 to 21	2	Stewart in Bucks, PA

Appendix 1B: Boyd DNA Matches to Thomas Benson (2)



Appendix 1B: Boyd DNA Matches to Thomas Benson (2)

Kit	Shared cM	Parent Line	Child Line
Benson 1	24	Paternal	Thomas, William
Boyd/McMasters 1	1,736	Paternal	William, James
Boyd/McMasters 2	40	Paternal	Margaret, William
Boyd/McMasters 3	31	Paternal	Elizabeth, David
Boyd/McMasters 4	18	Paternal	John, Benjamin
Unknown (22 kits)	20 to 35	Paternal	---
Unknown (2 kits)	26 to 41	Paternal	Boyd in Ohio
Unknown (4 kits)	20 to 28	Paternal	Samuel Boyd Patton

Appendix 2: Proof Argument for John Boyd of Plumstead

A quick read of the evidence presented for John Boyd of Plumstead in the body of this report (Links 16, 17, and 18) might be interpreted as two different individuals because of the different occupations and residences stated for John Boyd. However, this report regards the evidence across the four Common Pleas court cases as referring to the same individual. The cases are listed below with greater detail provided in Table 4 at the end of Appendix 2.

1. 3 April 1765 – Thomas Loveacre v. John Boyd
2. 23 December 1765 – The King v. Joseph Ruckman
3. 25 December 1765 – The King v. Mary Boyd
4. 15 April 1766 – The King v. William Durroh and Others

Across the four court cases, the Poor Tax List, and the witnessing of a will, a timeline for John Boyd is established for the years 1764 through 1766. The Poor Tax List places John in Buckingham as early as 1764,¹³² Common Pleas court cases and the signing of William George's will confirm his residences in Buckingham in 1765 and the early part of 1766.¹³³ However, by April 1766, he appears to be back in Plumstead.¹³⁴

The only discrepancy in the above timeline manifests in how John Boyd's occupation is described across the four court cases (see Table 4 at the end of Appendix 2). In the Thomas Loveacre and William Durroh cases, John Boyd is referred to as a laborer whereas in the Joseph Ruckman and Mary Boyd cases he is referred to as a weaver. One mention in the Joseph Ruckman case states he is a farmer contradicting all. Yet there are two facts that act to minimize these discrepancies.

First, Jared Erwin of Hilltown is a common thread through three of the cases.¹³⁵ Jared appears as a surety for both John and Mary Boyd in the 1765 cases of John Boyd v. Joseph Ruckman and The King v. Mary Boyd. Jared is a surety when John is said to be a farmer as well as when he is said to be a weaver in these two cases. Along with John Boyd, Jared Erwin is also part of the group who confronts John Reeder at Benjamin Ferreby's home as described in the 1766 case of

¹³² Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Poor Tax Lists 1721-1764, John Boyd (1764), Buckingham, p. 83; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), film 7899008.

¹³³ Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Thomas Loveacre v. John Boyd (1765), Court of Common Pleas, Doylestown; originals held at the Bucks County Archives, Mercer Museum and Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown, item no. 7530 no. 1 and no. 2. And Bucks County, Pennsylvania, The King v. Joseph Ruckman (1765), Court of Common Pleas, Doylestown; originals held at the Bucks County Archives, Mercer Museum and Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown, items no. 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2219, 2238, and 2315. And Bucks County, Pennsylvania, The King v. Mary Boyd (1765), Court of Common Pleas, Doylestown; originals held at the Bucks County Archives, Mercer Museum and Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown, items no. 2132, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2226, and 2226A. And Bucks County, Pennsylvania, estate file, no 1281, William George (1767), Recorder of Wills, Recorder of Wills, Doylestown.

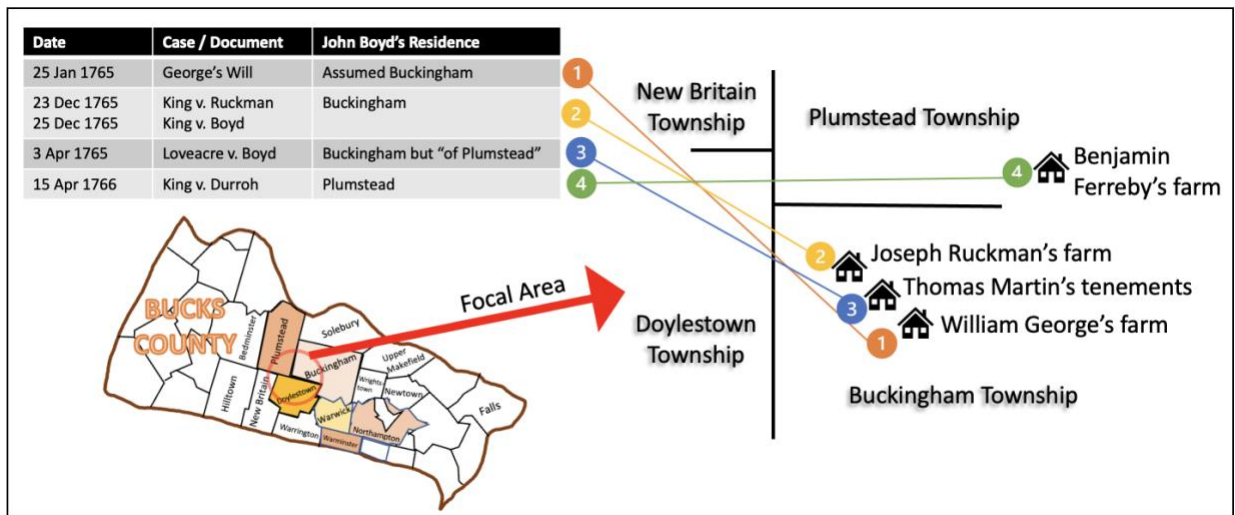
¹³⁴ Bucks County, Pennsylvania, The King v. William Durroh and Others (1766), Court of Common Pleas, Doylestown; originals held at the Bucks County Archives, Mercer Museum and Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown, items no. 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2269, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2275, 2276, 2280, and 2282.

¹³⁵ Jared Erwin is likely kin to either John or Mary Boyd. Sureties were often family or close friends. Supporting this supposition is that John Boyd's 1782 will lists one son named Jared Boyd, who may be named after Jared Erwin. See: Bucks County, Pennsylvania, estate file, no 1738, John Boyd (1782), Recorder of Wills, Recorder of Wills, Doylestown.

The King v. William Durroh and Others. In fact, across the three cases, Jared Erwin is sometimes referred to as a yeoman and other times as a blacksmith indicating that the inconsistencies do not rest solely with John Boyd’s identity. There appears to be no other Jared Erwin in Bucks County records at this time.

Second, across three of the cases, all major parties reside on neighboring properties in Buckingham (see Figure 4). Joseph Ruckman’s farm was adjacent to the land owned by Thomas Martin where Thomas Loveacre and John Boyd were tenants.¹³⁶ Also, the farm of William George, whose will John Boyd signed in 1765, was located a couple of farms away to the southeast of Thomas Martin’s tenements.¹³⁷

Figure 4 – Geographic Locations for Discussed Evidence Associated with John Boyd



Another possible explanation for the inconsistent occupational titles for John Boyd is that to the court recorder or constable, the laborer and weaver titles may have been viewed as interchangeable with one more broad of a descriptor (laborer) than the other (weaver). Alternatively, with the number of individuals involved in reporting evidence and acting as sureties, inaccuracies may have resulted as it did for Jared Erwin’s occupation being recorded as both a yeoman and blacksmith, which are clearly two different professions.

¹³⁶ Bucks County, Pennsylvania, mortgage, Joseph Buckman from Casper Wistar (1763), Book 11, p. 43, Recorder of Deeds, Doylestown; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), image 33 of 582, film 008035182.

¹³⁷ Ely, Warren S. (n.d.), Buckingham and Solebury, Map Collection, SC-27, from the Collection of the Mercer Museum Research Library of the Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown, PA.

Table 4 – Common Pleas Case Summaries for John Boyd

Date	Court Case	Specific Writ within Case	John's Occupation	John's Residence	Surety
14 Mar 1765	Thomas Loveacre v. John Boyd	John Boyd order to appear in court	Laborer	Of Plumstead	
11 Jun 1765	Thomas Loveacre v. John Boyd	Case summary	Not stated	Buckingham	
24 Dec 1765	John Boyd v. Joseph Ruckman	Nicholas Morris of Buckingham order to give evidence	Not stated	Buckingham	For Ruckman: Benjamin Fell, Plumstead
24 Dec 1765	John Boyd v. Joseph Ruckman	John Fell of Buckingham order to give evidence	Not stated	Buckingham	For Ruckman: Thomas Dyer, Plumstead, miller
25 Dec 1765	The King v. Mary Boyd	Lawrence Srigley of Buckingham order to give evidence	Not stated	Buckingham	For Srigley: Joseph Ruckman of Buckingham, tailor
26 Dec 1765	John Boyd v. Joseph Ruckman	John Boyd order to appear in court	Weaver	Buckingham	For John Boyd: Jared Erwin of Hilltown, yeoman
28 Dec 1765	John Boyd v. Joseph Ruckman	John Boyd gave evidence	Not stated	Hilltown	
28 Dec 1765	The King v. Mary Boyd	Mary Boyd order to give evidence	Not stated	Buckingham	For Mary Boyd: Jared Erwin of Hilltown, yeoman
29 Jan 1766	John Boyd v. Joseph Ruckman	John Boyd order to appear in court	Farmer	Buckingham	For John Boyd: Jared Erwin of Hilltown, blacksmith
Mar 1766	The King v. Mary Boyd	Lawrence Srigley gave evidence	Weaver	Bucks County	
22 April 1766	The King v. William Durroh and Others	John Reeder of Plumstead order to appear in court	Laborer	Plumstead	

Bucks County, Pennsylvania, **Thomas Loveacre v. John Boyd** (1765), Court of Common Pleas, Doylestown; originals held at the Bucks County Archives, Mercer Museum and Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown, item no. 7530 no. 1 and no. 2.

Bucks County, Pennsylvania, **The King v. Mary Boyd** (1765), Court of Common Pleas, Doylestown; originals held at the Bucks County Archives, Mercer Museum and Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown, items no. 2132, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2226, and 2226A.

Bucks County, Pennsylvania, **The King v. Joseph Ruckman** (1765), Court of Common Pleas, Doylestown; originals held at the Bucks County Archives, Mercer Museum and Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown, items no. 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2219, 2238, and 2315.

Bucks County, Pennsylvania, **The King v. William Durroh and Others** (1766), Court of Common Pleas, Doylestown; originals held at the Bucks County Archives, Mercer Museum and Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown, items no. 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2269, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2275, 2276, 2280, and 2282.