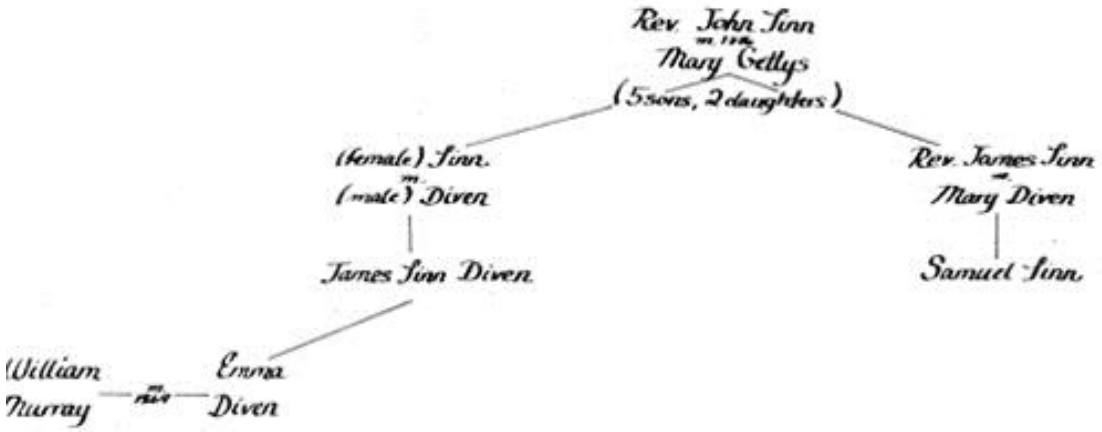
The Ancestry of Frank T. Craven and Nancy Manship Craven From Craven, Brook, Kitching, Gough, Manship, Kirkham, Durden, Murray, Diven, Linn, Junkin, Gettys, and Ramsey Surname Lines

The Gettys and Ramseys

This is only one chapter of the author's family history. Please see also http://www.melissacravenfowler.com (choose Melissa's Ancestry tab), where you can link into chapters about other lines in this family, access descendant outlines and genealogy reports, as well as the Forward, which explains the premises and format of all of these "chapters". --- Melissa Craven Fowler



Hand-drawn tree of the Linns, Gettys, and Diven lines of the family, as understood in 1977, long before this research was begun. (calligraphy by Melissa Craven, 1977).
Note: the James Linn / Mary Diven / Samuel Linn / Patton line shown here is incorrect!

Gettys Name Meaning

> The Scottish name Dalgetty may be accepted as the usual origin of the name Getty. The 300-year-old Parish of Dalgetty in the Midland Valley of Fifshire includes the small seaport town of Saint David's on the Firth of Forth….. from 1630 until today the great majority of Irish records for the Getty are found in the region comprising the major Scots areas of Ulster. While the greater volume of these records favor Ulster (Antrim and Down [1]) the Getty of the 17th and 18th centuries were more widely distributed geographically than later. [2]

[1] Of the six counties of the Plantation, Donegal and Tyrone were given almost exclusively to Scots; Armagh and Derry were prevailingly English; Fermanagh and Cavan showed both Scottish and English

In Scotland the name is usually found as Geddes. In Ireland, it was changed to Getty with the "s" being added in America. Other versions found include Gaddesh, Geddy, and Gettash.[3]

- **Samuel Gettys** (b. 1708 Northern Ireland – d. 1790 Gettysburg, York Co. PA) married **Isabella Ramsey** (1731 Northern Ireland – 1815 Gettysburg, York Co. PA) in 1750 in York Co, PA.

Samuel Gettys is the earliest of the Gettys line we can name. Can we trace Samuel's origins in Ireland and Scotland? Family lore [4], and some biographies of Samuel and his son James [5], suggest that he immigrated from Donegal, Ireland [6], perhaps with brothers Charles and Joseph (unsubstantiated [7]). A book by Robert Gettys [8] is useful for people trying to trace their lines in Ireland; unfortunately, nothing in his book ties in with Samuel [9] , and as the author wrote, the Gettys were widely distributed in Ireland. The difficulty of finding these men in their original homes in Scotland and tracing them through generations in Northern Ireland would make this task almost impossible -- as it would also be for the Linn and Diven lines.

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influence. The other three counties of the province, though not part of the Plantation, likewise had been the scene of settlement…Down and Antrim contained very successful colonies planted by the Scotsmen Montgomery and Hamilton, while Antrim also had Chichester's English colonists. Only Monaghan, of the nine counties, remained truly Irish, for only one successful "foreign" settlement was made therein.
King James had been explicit… to exclude all Highlanders from the Plantation…. Galloway, that region of the southwest which included the shires of Ayr, Dumfries, Renfrew, Dumbarton, and Lanark, provided the greatest number….The counties around Edinburgh came next in order, while a much smaller contingent came from the district lying between Aberdeen and Inverness in the northwest…. Ulster became the meeting-ground, after 1610, of three people of widely different culture and backgrounds – Scottish Lowlanders, English farmers and Londoners, and Irish natives…. The English element was, from the outset, the smallest number.
James G. Leyburn; The Scotch-Irish, a Social History; 1962. Pages 93-96

[2]The Getty of Ireland, 1631-ca 1865: Abstracts and notes: a general search of the records of Ireland, Robert C. Gettys, 1986

[3] A Gettys Line: Samuel through William—Onward. Mary Louise Getty Woodruff, 2001, pg 1A.

[4] http://genforum.genealogy.com/getty/messages/235.html

[5] such as Beyond the Gatehouse: Gettysburg's Evergreen Cemetery. Brian Kennel, Evergreen Cemetery Association, page 15.

[6] See above. James G. Leyburn; The Scotch-Irish, a Social History; 1962. Pages 93-96

[7] http://genforum.genealogy.com/getty/messages/235.html

[8]The Getty of Ireland, 1631-ca 1865: Abstracts and notes: a general search of the records of Ireland, Robert C. Gettys, 1986

[9] From A Gettys Line: Samuel through William—Onward. Mary Louise Getty Woodruff, 2001, pg v.

However, that does not mean no has tried! In her book "A Gettys Line: Samuel through William—Onward", Mary Louise Gettys Woodruff reviewed the research done by William Arthur Gettys. Among his papers was correspondence from the Presbyterian Historical Society of Ireland, dated September 21, 1962. The reply to his query indicated that Getty families settled in or near the town of Ballymoney, Co. Antrim. A William, John, David, and James Gettys (most likely Scottish settlers) were found among hearthmoney tax rolls of Antrim in 1669. Also listed were a Robert Getty and a John Getty in Antrim in a petition about protestant dissenters from 1704 - 1762. Again, no tie to any of these Getty men was possible for our Samuel.

Most researchers do believe Samuel was born in Northern Ireland and the birth date of 1708 has been suggested. However, the Hon. Edward McPherson, writing in the early 1890's, suggested Gettys came into (what is now) Adams Co., PA *not* from Donegal Northern Ireland, but from the Donegal Settlement in the northwest corner of (what is now) Lancaster Co, PA. Lancaster Co was referred to as the "third step of the Scots-Irish in moving westward from the Delaware River, principally from New Castle, Delaware".[10] Other researchers disagree that Samuel would have stopped in Donegal Settlement because it was out of the way for someone heading from New Castle, DE to Marsh Creek. We will probably never settle this question.

We find our first solid clues to Samuel Gettys' story in the early records Marsh Creek Settlement, where he may have settled about the same time as did the Linns (for more about that line, see http://www.melissacravenfowler.com and choose Melissa's Ancestry tab). This area became part of Lancaster Co in 1729; York Co in 1749; Adams Co in 1800.

Below are a few references for the history of that area:

> The most important **Scotch-Irish** migration to York County was the "Marsh Creek Settlement", of which the present town of Gettysburg is the center. As it was the policy of the Penns to push the Scotch-Irish to the frontier,….it was but natural that many of the early settlers should take up land in this locality. These early settlers seemed to have crossed the Susquehanna at Harris's Ferry and came through the South Mountains to what was then the western part of Lancaster County …... The name of this settlement is taken from Marsh Creek, a small stream. ….. As early as 1736, a goodly number of Scotch-Irish had settled here, upon the invitation of the Penns, to take up lands upon "common terms". During that year, the proprietaries had determined on surveying for themselves a manor in this territory. They did not look with favor, for some reason, upon the first Scotch-Irish settlers. Finally in 1741, an order was issued for the survey of a manor to be called "the Manor of Maske"….about thirty thousand acres……
>
> **Names of Early Settlers.**
> The following is a list of names [partial] of such persons as settled and made improvements in the Manor of Maske between the years 1736 and 1741:…..
> **Samuel Gettys** near Rock Creek and for land on Middle Creek, May 1740;….
> **William Ramsey**, 1740

[10] A Gettys Line: Samuel through William—Onward. Mary Louise Getty Woodruff, 2001, pg 1A.
On the subject of Scots-Irish, see James G. Leyburn, The Scotch-Irish, a Social History; 1962.

John Linn, April 1740;
Robert Linn, April 1740;
Adam Linn, May 1741 [11]

The names of early settlers in this list (which we have abbreviated) came from

A paper published in the Compiler, January 16, 1876, gives an interesting account of an old record paper found in the possession of the county surveyor. It is a report to Penn's agent of a list of settlers on the manor who had filed their claims upon lands, and included those who had taken out warrants as well as those who had not. To this valuable list of early settlers are added the names of those who took out warrants between 1765 and 1775, as appears on the records of the Department of Internal Affairs at Harrisburg. …..

Gettys, Samuel, May, 1740. Gettys, Saml., on Middle Creek, May, 1741. Gettys, Saml., 250 acres, June 17, 1765. [12]

The Adams County Historical Society provides us with this much more satisfying summary of Samuel's (and others') start in the area and of how his son James (1759 - 1815) came to be the "founder" of the now-famous town of Gettysburg:

……Settlers, mostly Scots-Irish, continued their migration west of the Susquehanna. Some settled along the banks of the Great Conewago Creek in present eastern Adams County, while other Scots-Irish settled in the Marsh and Rock Creek watersheds, the area of present Gettysburg. This latter habitation, referred to as the Marsh Creek Settlement, extended nine miles southwest of the Great Conewago Settlement towards Carroll's Delight. Though the number of original Marsh Creek settlers is not known, the general consensus of Gettysburg historians suggests that by 1741 as many as 170 Scots-Irish families had established homesteads about the future site of Gettysburg, and eight years later with the influx of settlers west of the Susquehanna, the inhabitants petitioned the authorities, and thus in 1749, York County was formed.

However, in 1740 the Penns established on paper their Manor of Maske, eventually seventy-two square miles of territory extending twelve miles in length north of the disputed province line [that between PA and MD] and stretching six miles wide. The Manor included much of the Marsh Creek Settlement. Its habitants then were considered squatters, and when the Penns attempted to lay out their manor in 1741, their surveyors met local resistance.

Nevertheless, the manor controversy was settled peaceably; those residents who could show that their lands had been improved prior to the establishment of the Manor received official title from the Penns. One of them was Samuel Gettys. On 16 April 1765 John Penn signed a warrant at the Lands Office at Philadelphia granting Gettys some 250 acres in Cumberland Township, York County, just west of Rock Creek. After the surveyor completed his duties that June, Gettys' homestead encompassed 381.5 acres….. [13]

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[11] History of York County Pennsylvania, George R. Prowell. J.H.Beers & Co., Chicago, 1907, pages 126-128.

[12] History of Cumberland and Adams counties, Pennsylvania Containing history of the counties; their townships, towns, villages, schools, churches, industries, etc.; portraits of early settlers and prominent men; biographies; history of Pennsylvania, statistical and miscellaneous matter, etc., etc., Warner, Beers & Co, 1886. Part III. History of Adams County. Pages 17-23

[13] Elwood W. Christ, Building a Battle Site: Roads to and through Gettysburg, Adams County History, pages 41-70, Volume 3, 1997. Adams County Historical Society.

More, from the history book, "A History of Adams County, Pennsylvania, 1700-1900" [14], regarding the Manor of Masque survey and resolution:

> Fortunately, the Penns at this time were not prepared to insist on their proprietary rights. The suspended attempts to run the [Manor] survey but also refused to issue warrants to the settlers whom they considered to be "squatters". Apparently, they decided to play a waiting game. There the matter rested for a number of years. By the 1760's, however, it appeared some sort of compromise was in order. In 1765, the Proprietors chose James Agnew and Robert McPherson, two prominent residents of the Manor, to compile a list of all the heads of families occupying manorial land on or before June 18, 1741. They promised to issue warrants to the settlers, that is, an order to survey the holding claimed by each occupant of the land. In turn, the settlers should permit the survey of the manor to proceed….
> In March [1797], an agreement was reached between Proprietors and settlers and beginning in 1798, deeds were granted and received with both parties apparently satisfied.

So Samuel is reported to have settled near Rock Creek; in 1741, on Middle Creek; and in 1765, he took out an additional 250 acres. Can we believe the 1740's dates?

> …those residents who could show that they had improved their lands received official title from the Penns, and one of them was Samuel Gettys. On April 16, 1765, John Penn signed a warrant at the Lands Office in Philadelphia granting Gettys title to a 250-acre tract in Cumberland Twp, York County, just west of Rock Creek. ***Though the warrant established that there had been settlement of the tract prior to June 18, 1741, it did not specifically identify the original settler, only that Gettys had agreed to pay Penn rents.*** As stated, Penn "condescended had agreed to grant [the land warrant] to said Samuel Gettys (sic) on the then common terms, the interest and Quitrent commencing from the first day of March, 1741 being the time of settlement of the said two hundred and fifty acres", but after the surveyor completed his duties that June, Gettys farmstead encompassed 381.5 acres". [15]
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>
> The Marsh Creek settlers,……along with all other eligible residents, were taxed and each fall many voted. They had complete access to county courts for such business as settling estates and entering suits. They founded and supported Five Presbyterian churches. Each year the county court appointed some of their numbers to serve as township tax collectors, constables, supervisors of highways, and overseers of the poor…..Thus, in most respects the Marsh Creek settlers gained an enviable standing in the western part of York County, but only a very few possessed warrants, surveys or patent deeds. Few could know the exact legal metes and bounds of the land which he or she claimed, because it had never been surveyed. Obviously, between 1741 and 1765 land changed hands as many new settlers came and many old ones died or moved on.
> On March 18, 1765, Governor John Penn wrote a letter directing James Agnew and Robert McPherson…..to prepare a list of the holders of real estate within what the community believed would be the eventual actual limits of the manor……less than a month later, they put their signatures to "A List of Names of Such Persons as Settled and made Improvements in the Manor of Masque Before the 18th Day of June 1741 with the Date of Each one Settlement Respectively"…….There are two reasons why one must use this list with care….. From its title, one may be led to believe it contained the names of people who had been living without interruption on certain tracts in the manor since before the warrant of June 18, 1741…..**The names on the Agnew-McPherson list are in fact those of heads of families occupying particular manor tracts in the spring of 1765. The dates of**

[14] A History of Adams County, Pennsylvania, 1700-1900, Robert L. Bloom, 1992. Pages 41- 43.

[15] A History of Samuel Gettys' Farmstead in the Marsh Creek Settlement, Adams County, Pennsylvania, circa 1736 to 1825. Elwood W. Christ, American Studies 596, Pennsylvania State University, Capital College. 1989.

settlement on the list are those when the particular tracts were first occupied. In many cases, the 1765 heads of families were the first settlers. In many others, the first settlers were one or more previous occupants, whose identities remain unknown. [16]

Even after 1765, because of the fact that the Penns were still playing a waiting game with the settlers in the manor, and even after settlers received legal warrants and surveys, few settlers had legal deeds to their properties. It was not until 1797 that the Penn family and the post-Revolution Commonwealth government came to agreements about the settlers and their land. At that time deeds began to be issued and the settlers were able to pay the £15.10.0 per hundred acres purchase money. [17]

Samuel owned many properties in his lifetime, which we will see further on in this story, but when the 1765 surveys of the Manor of Masque were finally made, his name was associated with 4 [18]:

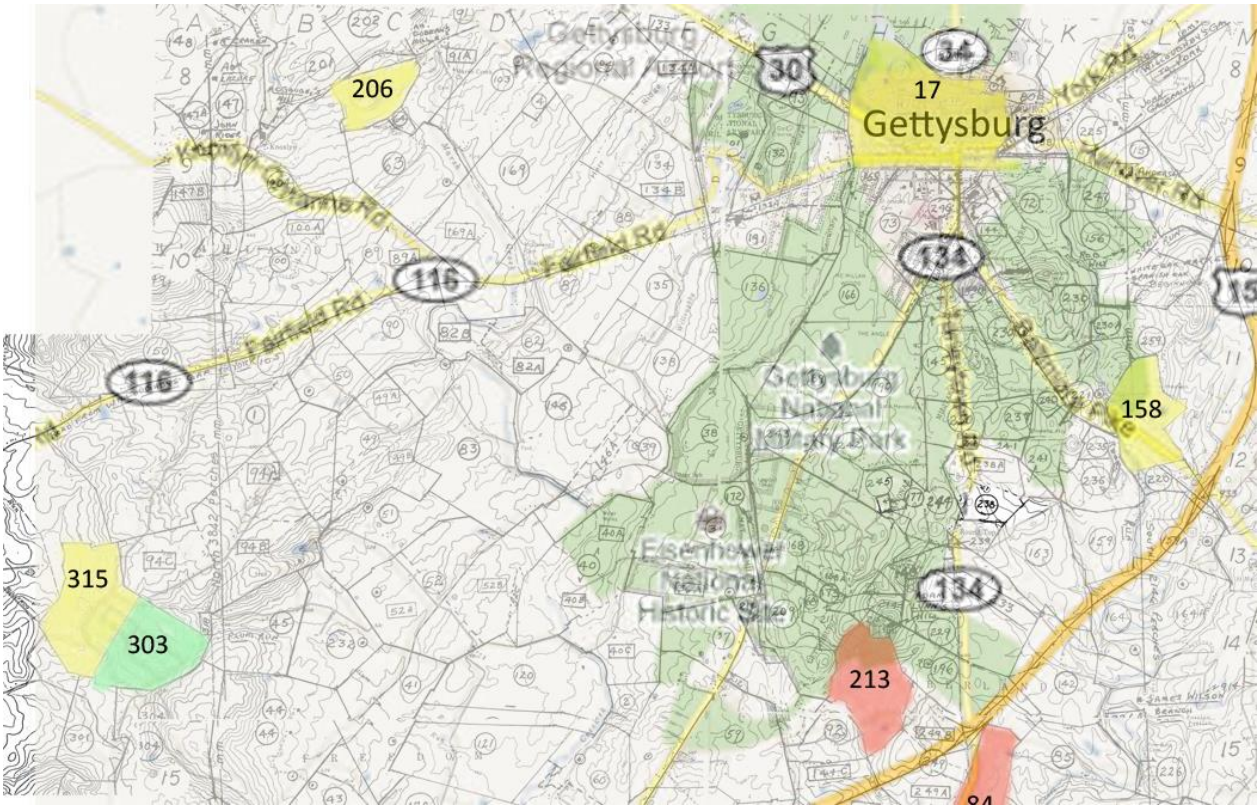
MM 17 and MM158 on Rock Creek
MM 206 on Marsh Creek and
MM 315 on Middle Creek – 250 acres

[16] The Manor of Maske: Its History and Individual Properties, Charles H. Glatfelter and Arthur Weaner, Adams County Historical Society, 1992. Page 11, 13-14.

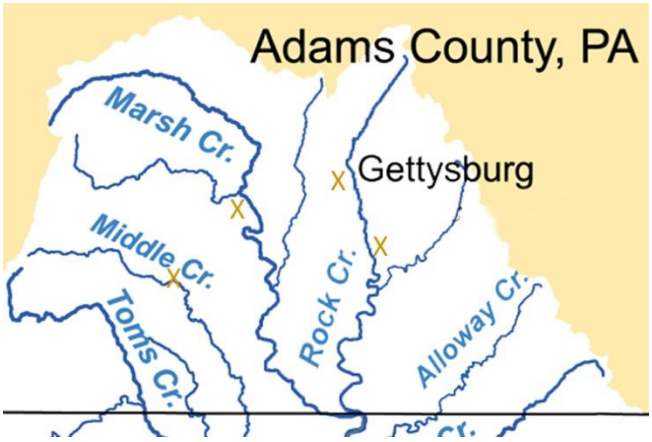
[17] The following is the process for legally acquiring land as described by the Pennsylvania Archives. The five basic steps in the NORMAL process (Manor of Masque was NOT a normal process!!) were:
Application – a request for a warrant to have a survey made…
Warrant – certificate authorizing a survey of a tract of land; initiates title of a property and provides basis for legal settlement, but does not convey all rights to the property.
Originally a warrant was an order to conduct a survey, specifying the amount of land to be surveyed and in early years, whether it was an original purchaser or not. .. [if not] a chain of title is given.
Survey – sketch of boundaries of the tract of land with exact determination of total acreage.
Return – verbal description of the property boundaries…
Patent – final official deed from the Penns or the commonwealth, which ensures clear title and all rights to private owner.
Life Along the Shermans, Dennis Hocker, 2010. http://www.perryheritage.com/

[18] The Manor of Maske: Its History and Individual Properties, Charles H. Glatfelter and Arthur Weaner, Adams County Historical Society, 1992

It was property MM 17, the 381-acre parcel, which made his name famous.



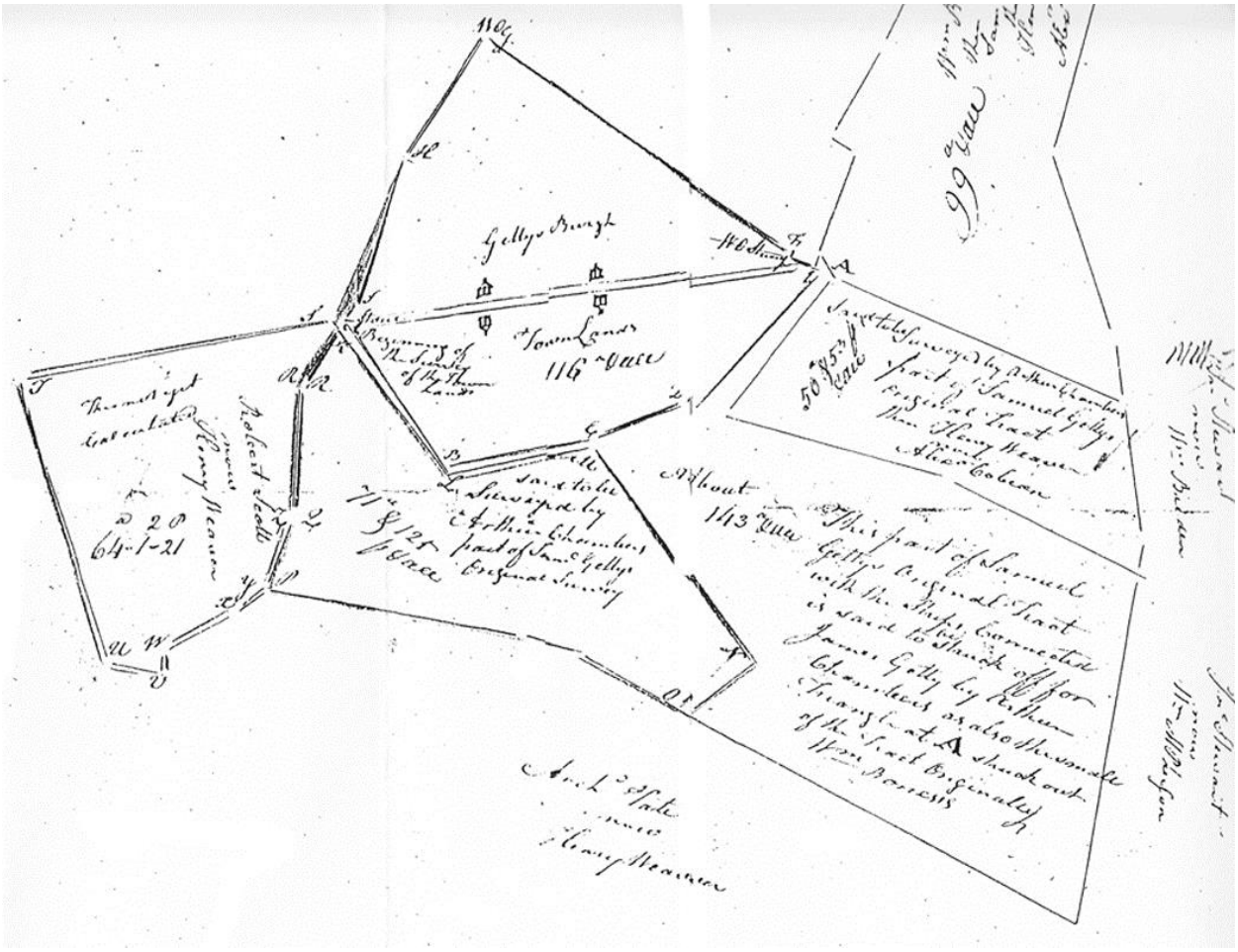
Map of Gettysburg Pennsylvania area, showing Manor of Masque survey tracts. Properties owned by Samuel Gettys (in YELLOW: MM 17 and 158 on Rock Creek; 206 on Marsh Creek; and 315 on Middle Creek – 250 acres).
John Linn (in RED), and William Ramsey (in seafoam GREEN: MM 303 – 250 acres).
(The Manor of Maske: Its History and Individual Properties, Charles H. Glatfelter and Arthur Weaner, Adams County Historical Society, 1992.)
Overlay of current map of Gettysburg area (Google maps, 2011).



By 1765, Samuel owned land on Rock Creek, Middle Creek, and Marsh Creek, all of which are tributaries of the Monocacy River.

This map shows those creeks' relation to the four pieces of Samuel's property (brown X's) and the Mason-Dixon Line. [19]

[19] Map taken from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Monocacy.png



Gettysburg Land Survey, MM 17, made in 1798.
The 116 acres purchased by Samuel's son James and on which he laid out his new town,
are represented by the pointed 5-sided figure, top center.
3 polygons on the right underside (north) are parts of Samuel's original tract.
Top right is part of another 99 acres owned by Gettys.
NORTH is "down" in this map.

So if we cannot trust the Agnew-McPherson list that Samuel was really in Marsh Creek in 1740, then when do we first find solid proof of him being there? In January 1760, Gettys was residing in Cumberland Twp and purchased "certain improvements and tract of land [in] Hamilton Township [20], Cumberland Co, from Solomon White of that locale". The next earliest date Samuel can be confirmed as a tavern owner is October 1761, when he was arrested for operating a tavern without a license. Elwood Christ concludes that these facts, viewed together, mean Gettys had established a profitable clientele

[20] A History of Samuel Gettys' Farmstead in the Marsh Creek Settlement, Adams County, Pennsylvania, circa 1736 to 1825. Elwood W. Christ, American Studies 596, Pennsylvania State University, Capital College. 1989.

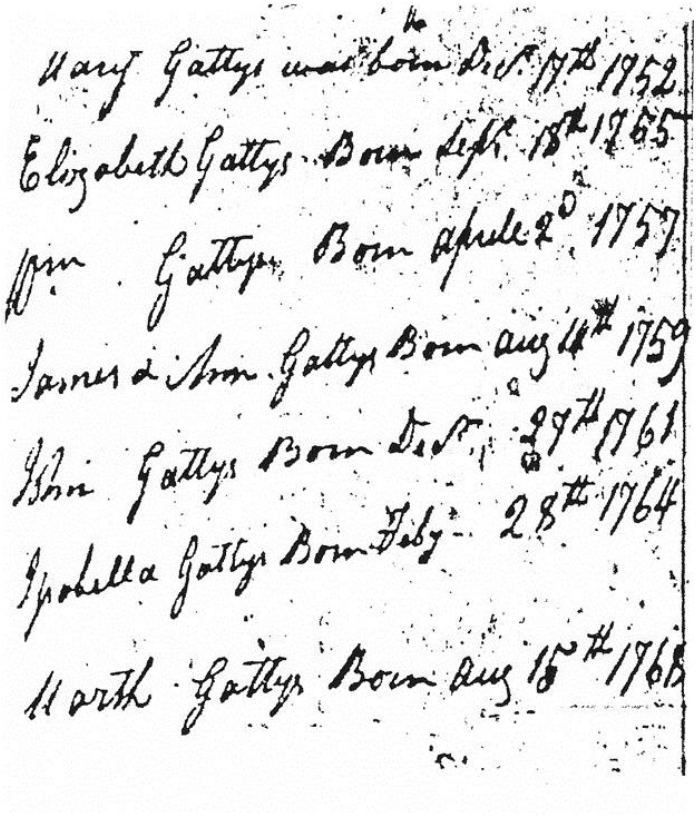
several years before 1761 [21]. Mary Louise Gettys Woodruff suggests that Gettys might not have agreed to pay the Quitrents from 1741 to 1765 had he not been in the area that long. The question of his arrival year in Marsh Creek is clearly not established.

Samuel Gettys and Isabella Ramsey were married about 1750, somewhere in Pennsylvania. Our best theory is that the Ramsey family was not yet in Marsh Creek in 1750, as the younger Ramsey children, Reynolds and Mary, were in Delaware and Philadelphia until the 1760's. Samuel may have been commuting between Marsh Creek and another place in PA or DE between 1740 and 1750, and the marriage may have happened elsewhere than in Marsh Creek.

Wherever the wedding took place, their children began arriving in 1752. Mary Gettys was said to have born in Marsh Creek, however, in 1752 [22], so we perhaps they were living there by that date. A family bible lists only 8 children born to Samuel and Isabella, although some have hypothesized there to have been more, based on names which James later ascribed to lots in his town. Those other names may have been those of cousins? Or fabrications.

[21] A History of Samuel Gettys' Farmstead in the Marsh Creek Settlement, Adams County, Pennsylvania, circa 1736 to 1825. Elwood W. Christ, American Studies 596, Pennsylvania State University, Capital College. 1989.

[22] Genealogy of the Linn Family, 1746-1928, compiled by W. H. Graham, Charlotte, NC, July 9, 1921, and A. G. Linn, Chattanooga, TN, Dec 1927, from data gathered from various sources.



The children of Samuel and Isabella Ramsey Gettys were:

- Mary Gettys, b. Dec. 17, 1752 d. 24 Sep 1823;

Elizabeth Gettys, b Sept 18, 1775 d. Sept 1788;

- William Gettys, b. April 2, 1757 d. 1813 Rutherford, NC;
- James and Ann Gettys, b. Aug. 11, 1759;
- John Gettys, b. Dec. 27, 1761 d. Apr. 19, 1777;
- Isabella Gettys, b. Feb. 18, 1764 d. Oct. 11, 1793;
- Martha Gettys, b. Aug. 15, 1768 d. Mar. 19, 1815.

A page from the Holland Family bible (Martha Gettys Holland), in the possession of Adams County Historical Society, Gettysburg, PA [23]

Samuel was a farmer, wagoner, and owned a store and tavern. A license to keep the tavern was issued to him in 1762 after he paid his £5 fine [24]. In July 1765, residents petitioned for a new road, which was laid out in 1769, and which passed by "Samuel Gattys" and by "Samuel Gatty's mill on Rock Creek" [25] -- which would mean he also owned a mill.

> Before the American Revolution, Samuel Gettys owned or clamed possession of 381 acres of Cumberland Township land. He established a tavern in the Marsh Creek Settlement at the Intersection of the Nicholson's Gap and the Baltimore-Shippensburg Roads. This fortunate location

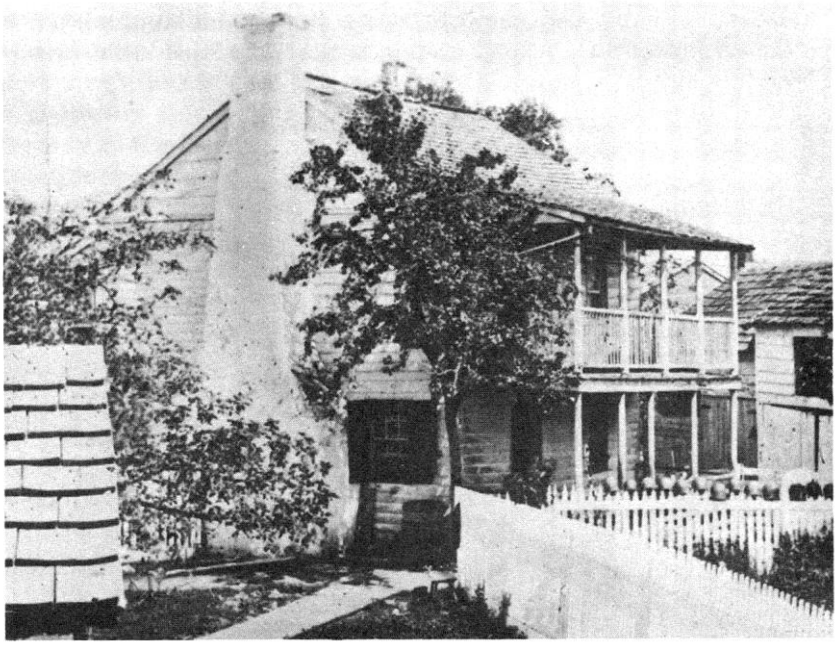
[23] A Gettys Line: Samuel through William—Onward. Mary Louise Getty Woodruff, 2001, page 1E

[24] A History of Samuel Gettys' Farmstead in the Marsh Creek Settlement, Adams County, Pennsylvania, circa 1736 to 1825. Elwood W. Christ, American Studies 596, Pennsylvania State University, Capital College. 1989.

[25] A History of Samuel Gettys' Farmstead in the Marsh Creek Settlement, Adams County, Pennsylvania, circa 1736 to 1825. Elwood W. Christ, American Studies 596, Pennsylvania State University, Capital College. 1989.

brought him some prosperity at first and may explain why his tavern became probably the best known in the region. [26]

The locations or existence of any structures (cabins, stores, or taverns) on his farmstead, earlier than a 1780's era log farmstead, is unknown. Gettysburg Historians feel that between 1769 and 1780, Gettys built a new dwelling, which consisted of a two-story log dwelling, 22' x 40', a log spring house, 12' x 14', and another out-building [27] [28].



Samuel Gettys' home/tavern. This frame structure served as the Samuel Gettys family and home from the 1780's. It also housed the popular Gettys tavern. In 1880, the historic house was destroyed by fire. [29]

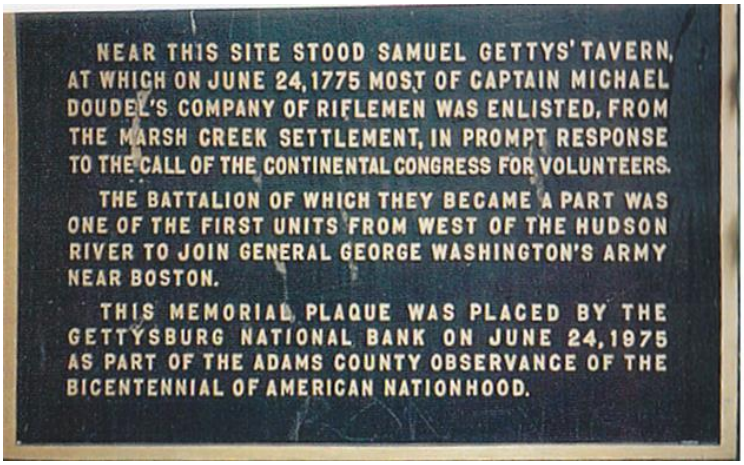
[26] A History of Adams County, Pennsylvania, 1700-1900, Robert L. Bloom, 1992. Page 49.

[27] A History of Samuel Gettys' Farmstead in the Marsh Creek Settlement, Adams County, Pennsylvania, circa 1736 to 1825. Elwood W. Christ, American Studies 596, Pennsylvania State University, Capital College. 1989.

[28] Living conditions for these early settlers were cramped with only the necessary basics for survival. Houses of the period were small cabins usually made of logs felled on their land. A cabin could be built in a few days and would have a door, perhaps a window, and a fireplace for warmth and cooking. Initially, a one-room cabin 12 feet by 12 feet would have served as kitchen, bedroom and parlor. It would have been expanded as resources allowed. A few pegs on the wall would serve as the main storage area for clothes, food, and supplies. A bench was simply a split log on top of a few cut logs that served as legs. Tables would be more split logs, or in deluxe accommodations, a few sawed boards. Most people slept on the floor on blankets. Perhaps a mattress of straw or dried leaves would exist in larger households.
The fireplace and chimney were often made of wood! The inside of the firebox and chimney would have been coated with clay and mud to "fireproof" the area. In more established homes a stone fireplace and chimney would be installed to reduce the fire threat.
Some homes were entirely built from stone but this was a time consuming endeavor that required the skills of a stonemason.
Life Along the Shermans, Dennis Hocker, 2010. http://www.perryheritage.com/

[29] Both photo and caption from A History of Adams County, Pennsylvania, 1700-1900, Robert L. Bloom, 1992. Page 50.

In March 1990, the Adams County Historical Society Newsletter published an article by Elwood Christ about the remains of Samuel's log house being unearthed under a municipal parking lot on Race Horse Alley, behind the Gettysburg National Bank. Research revealed the structure had suffered at least two fires. One of the foundations, and a debris field of plaster, mortar, and ceramics of the correct period, was believed to represent the easternmost corner of Gettys' log house. [30] We do not know if any of the materials was conserved or whether the new parking lot was built over top of the archeological remains.



Gettysburg marker describing the location of Samuel Gettys' tavern in the downtown area (left). Architect Elwood W. Christ, author of articles on Samuel's tavern and archeological investigations in the area of Race Horse Alley (right). (Photos by Mary Louise Gettys Woodruff)

Between 1765 and 1776, Gettys acquired additional real estate, interest in at least two mills, started a merchant house, and performed civic duties. The "house of Samuel Gettys" was known by most in Marsh Creek because it served as the tax payment location for township residents from as early as 1767 to as late as 1787. Also, for 4 years, Gettys was an "overseer of the poor". The tavern was a popular place for public meetings and served as a mustering place for the local militia during the American Revolution. [31] [32]

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[30] Adams Co Historical Society Newsletter, Volume 17, No. 3, March 1990.

[31] A History of Samuel Gettys' Farmstead in the Marsh Creek Settlement, Adams County, Pennsylvania, circa 1736 to 1825. Elwood W. Christ, American Studies 596, Pennsylvania State University, Capital College. 1989.

[32] Taverns and Boarding Houses
In the 18th and 19th centuries taverns were centers of information and refuge from the elements. Most provided travelers with only the most primitive accommodations. Travelers usually unrolled their own bedroll and slept on the floor.
Beds were rare luxuries in taverns with the sheets and blankets washed twice a year whether they needed washed, or not! Bathing was not common among the travelers either, so the establishments had a pungent "earthy" smell….
Food and drink was also served for travelers and local folk. Each establishment had its own home brew. Life Along the Shermans, Dennis Hocker, 2010. http://www.perryheritage.com/

By the end of the Revolution, Gettys had acquired additional acreage, some as far away as Fort Loudon, Franklin Co.[33] His fortune had grown. However,

> The American Revolution and the national fiscal policy adopted under the Articles of Confederation created a monetary calamity. The effects of the national depression, rapid inflation of and speculation in paper Continental money were causes behind the decline of Samuel Gettys' fortunes. Gettys owed more than 10,000 Pounds. Many of the debts were satisfied by proceeds generated by sheriff sales. The case that resulted in the sale of Samuel Gettys' farmstead was first heard before the York county court during the January Term 1784. Allegedly, Gettys owed 6,000 Pounds in *Peter Light (for the use of Henry Weaver) v. Samuel Gettys*, where the judge ruled in favor of the plaintiff. A writ of *fieri facias* was issued (the sheriff authorized to sell Gettys' property to recoup the debt) and the case was continued to the July Tern 1784.
>
> However, buyers for Getty's property were non-existent, for 1 year later the court issued a writ of *vendoni exponas*, requiring a sale to be made by the sheriff at any price. Case records indicated the suit was continued 8 more times with seven additional writs being issued until the April Term 1787. [34]

It would not be surprising to learn that Samuel and Isabella were slave owners. Janet Taylor told us that: "It appears the Linn slaves were the property of Mrs. Linn (daughter Mary Gettys Linn, 1752 -1823) and came to her from her family, the Gettys. Of course, by the law of the day, they became Rev. Linn's slaves upon their marriage. [35]

Gettys' fortune declined due to national depression, rapid inflation, and speculation in Continental currency. From 1782 to 1791, Gettys was named in 30 cases and owed more than £10,000. Some were resolved through sheriff sales and some continued until his death.[36] Despite financial reversals and the death of his daughter Elizabeth Fleming, Samuel continued as a merchant and innkeeper and assisted in veteran's affairs until his death. [37]

> During the turmoil of the Revolutionary War and in the years immediately following, Gettys suffered financial difficulties. According to Edward McPherson, Getty's problems came from his "heavy purchases of and dealings in Continental money". As a result, he eventually lost almost all his property, both personal and real estate. On April 19, 1785, at a sheriff's sale, his son, James Gettys,

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[33] A History of Samuel Gettys' Farmstead in the Marsh Creek Settlement, Adams County, Pennsylvania, circa 1736 to 1825. Elwood W. Christ, American Studies 596, Pennsylvania State University, Capital College. 1989.

[34] Elwood W. Christ, Building a Battle Site: Roads to and through Gettysburg, Adams County History, pages 41-70, Volume 3, 1997. Adams County Historical Society.

[35] Personal communication from Janet Grindall Taylor, author of "African Americans in Perry County 1820-1925", 2011.

[36] A History of Samuel Gettys' Farmstead in the Marsh Creek Settlement, Adams County, Pennsylvania, circa 1736 to 1825. Elwood W. Christ, American Studies 596, Pennsylvania State University, Capital College. 1989.

[37] A History of Samuel Gettys' Farmstead in the Marsh Creek Settlement, Adams County, Pennsylvania, circa 1736 to 1825. Elwood W. Christ, American Studies 596, Pennsylvania State University, Capital College. 1989.

acquired 116 acres of his father's land. Included in the sale were the family's dwelling and the tavern. [38]

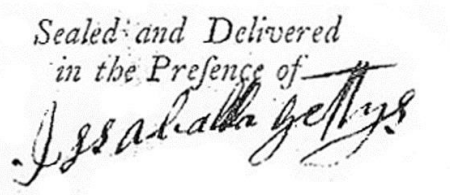
Samuel Gettys, Sr. was assigned at least one lot in the new town his son James laid out on the land bought in a sheriff's sale described above; his name appears on the original plat on East Middle St. (lot 141); Isabella's name is on several. We wonder if Samuel actually had that enough cash to purchase these or whether James gave the properties to them.

When Samuel died, in 1790, his real estate was valued at £1764.[39] About him, the Pennsylvania Herald, March 24, 1790, wrote:

> Died, Monday night the 5th instant, at Gettysburg, Cumberland township, York County, after a few hours illness, deservedly regretted by his friends and acquaintances, Mr. Samuel Getty, Store-keeper.

We include these two examples (left and middle) of Samuel's signatures, from William Ramsey's will and from an inventory of Ramsey's "effects" (1777) as an indicator of Samuel's personal flare. Note the flourish which he used both times, which was presumably a trademark! The rightmost signature was on a John Linn estate document from 1794, and is clearly different (not to mention Samuel was dead by then). We have to wonder who was forging it, or perhaps this was the signature of his grandson?

Did Isabella forge Samuel's signature? Not likely. Isabella had her own regard as a witness—and her own flare. Here is her signature, as a witness for a John Linn estate file, 1777.



When son James Gettys built a new house in 1796, the old home was reserved for his mother, Isabella. The old homestead consisted of a two-story log dwelling, 22' x 40', a log spring house, 12' x 14', and another out-building. [40]

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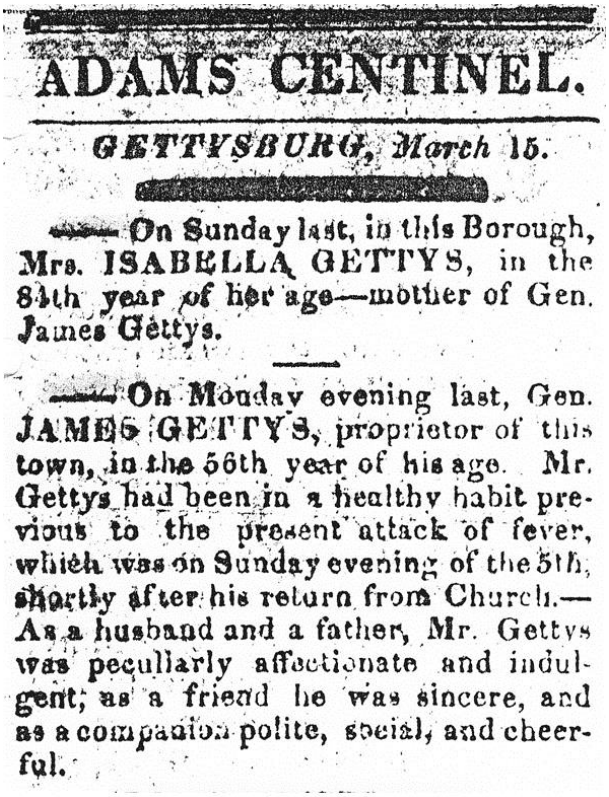
[38] A History of Adams County, Pennsylvania, 1700-1900, Robert L. Bloom, 1992. Page 49.

[39] History of Cumberland and Adams counties, Pennsylvania Containing history of the counties; their townships, towns, villages, schools, churches, industries, etc.; portraits of early settlers and prominent men; biographies; history of Pennsylvania, statistical and miscellaneous matter, etc., etc.**,** Warner, Beers & Co, 1886. Part III. History of Adams County. Page 182.

Isabella lived another 25 years, and assisted in operating the store. In 1800, before the newly formed Adams County built a courthouse, a room was leased at Gettys' tavern for the court session: $60 was paid to Isabella Gettys for room rent. [41] At the age of 84, Isabella was blind and being cared for by a granddaughter, Sally Fleming, (daughter of Elizabeth and John Fleming) when she and several other members of the family (son James, James' wife, daughter Martha Holland, granddaughter Sally Fleming, as well as Martha Ramsey) succumbed to an epidemic, which some believe was typhoid fever. [42]



ADAMS CENTINEL.

GETTYSBURG, March 15.

On Sunday last, in this Borough, Mrs. ISABELLA GETTYS, in the 84th year of her age—mother of Gen. James Gettys.

On Monday evening last, Gen. JAMES GETTYS, proprietor of this town, in the 56th year of his age. Mr. Gettys had been in a healthy habit previous to the present attack of fever, which was on Sunday evening of the 5th, shortly after his return from Church.—As a husband and a father, Mr. Gettys was peculiarly affectionate and indulgent; as a friend he was sincere, and as a companion polite, social, and cheerful.

On Sunday (March 12), last in this borough, Mrs. Isabella Gettys in the 84th year of her age, mother of General James Gettys.

(The Adams Sentinel, 1815.)

Both Samuel and Isabella were buried in Black's Graveyard, or the Upper Marsh Creek graveyard [43], northwest of Gettysburg, PA. The family story that James Gettys, Jr. may

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[40] A History of Samuel Gettys' Farmstead in the Marsh Creek Settlement, Adams County, Pennsylvania, circa 1736 to 1825. Elwood W. Christ, American Studies 596, Pennsylvania State University, Capital College. 1989.

[41] A History of Adams County, Pennsylvania, 1700-1900, Robert L. Bloom, 1992. Page 80.

[42] A Gettys Line: Samuel through William—Onward. Mary Louise Getty Woodruff, 2001, page 1A3.

[43] There were eleven Presbyterian congregations founded in what is now Adams County, only three of which remain. And lots of old Presbyterian cemeteries, some of which are maintained and some of which are not. Black's was the first graveyard for the Upper Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church, mainstream Presbyterians of the time. There were also congregations of dissenting and reformed Presbyterians.

have moved their remains to Evergreen Cemetery [44] is romantic but apparently not true. He did, however, move those of his father, James, there. We visited Evergreen Cemetery in 2011, and their interment records do not mention Samuel and Isabella, although they would not have been required to record re-interments in those days. Convinced the remains were still at Black's, descendants erected a new stone for the couple at the original site in 1998.

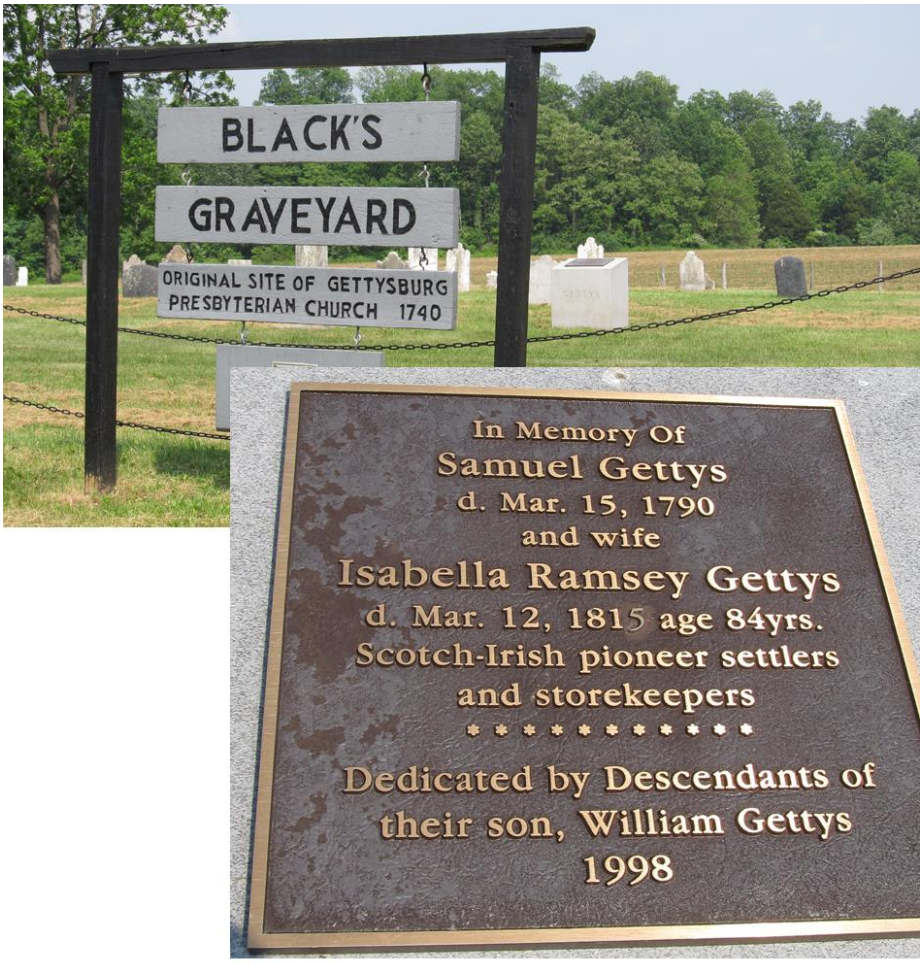
> Black's Graveyard, one of the oldest cemeteries in Adams County, marks the site of the first meeting house of the Upper Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church, now the Presbyterian Church of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. When this congregation, already meeting in 1740 and probably organized in that year, erected its first meeting house of logs in 1747, the plot of ground designated for burials was already being used as a graveyard. Although the earliest marked grave is 1746, it is likely that it was used as a burial ground even before 1740. …
> ……After the establishment of Evergreen Cemetery in 1856, many bodies originally interred in the Upper Marsh Creek graveyard were exhumed and reinterred in Evergreen Cemetery or other cemeteries. Between 1856 and 1870 the remains of many of the early families of the church and community were removed: Buchanan, Cobean, Edie, Ewing, **Gettys**, Hamilton, Hays, Horner, Jenkins, McConaughy, McPherson, Russell, Smith. [45]

> [Presbyterian Church underwent a schism about 1745 from the "Great Awakening", a religious transformation which began about 1738 by the Wesleys as well as George Whitefield]. Few denominations were more drastically affected by the great Awakening than the Presbyterians… Conservatives were contemptuous,,, dubious.. and sure the church would degrade itself by diluting its message and making religion "easy" for the common man.. other Presbyterians, however, regarded Whitefield as a true and timely prophet… by 1745, this divergence of opinion had reached a stage of such virulence that the Presbyterian Church underwent a schism… the bitterness of dissention that divided the Presbyterian Church gradually abated and by 1758, the breach between the Old Side and the New Side was formally healed….Nether side "won", but the church that came together in 1758 was considerable different from the church that came together in 1745….

James G. Leyburn; The Scotch-Irish, a Social History; 1962, Page 278-282

[44] Beyond the Gatehouse: Gettysburg's Evergreen Cemetery. Brian Kennel, Evergreen Cemetery Association, page 15.

[45] http://www.gettysburgpresbyterian.org/history/4.html



Black's Graveyard, Belmont Rd, Gettysburg, PA. (Photo by author, 2011)

Now to the marginally more "famous" Gettys, son James:

During all the court cases against Samuel, one of the purchases of Samuel's land was a 116-acre parcel from MM 17, purchased by his son James. On that 116 acres, in the mid-1780's, James and his surveyor laid out a town, the town of Gettysburg.

> Nonetheless, one buyer did come forth after the April Term 1785 – James Gettys, Samuel's middle son, for John Forsythe surveyed a 116-acre parcel containing "the quantity of land sold to James Gettys as the estate of Sam'l Gettys on the [19th] day of April 1785 by virtue of Sundry Writs of *ven. exponas.*" and executed by the sheriff on 9 October 1785. However, the sale was not confirmed by the York County of Common Pleas until the October Term 1786. [46]
>
> James Gettys was an enterprising man, of sound judgment and bold dashing financial schemes. He built a house large and commodious enough to throw open his doors to the public, or chance travelers

[46] Elwood W. Christ, Building a Battle Site: Roads to and through Gettysburg, Adams County History, pages 41-70, Volume 3, 1997. Adams County Historical Society.

> passing, as a house of accommodation for "man and beast". He soon saw that a little trading store would be a good investment, and he opened one, and, perhaps so far, unconsciously, he was forming the nucleus for a town. Just when these things occurred cannot now be accurately known, but from chance records we do know that as early as 1787 it is referred to by Rev. Dobbin in one of this marriage certificates, as "Gettistown". It is supposed that Gettys built his hotel and residence as early as 1783, and soon after this the locality began to be called after him, instead of "Marsh Creek Settlement". [47]
>
> Between 19 April 1785 and 10 January 1786, John Forsythe laid out James Gettys' 116 acres into 210 numbered lots, and thus "Gettysburgh" was born. [48]

Interesting that this author thought James to have been "enterprising" and getting the idea about having a little inn and store – the author not realizing that James' store had first belonged to Samuel! Edward McPherson wrote in the Gettysburg "Star and Sentinel" (June 1876) of a note written from Samuel to James, instructing him about store patron accounts. [49] James must have helped manage the store in the 1780's, the time of this note.

About 1796, James Gettys built a new house, a two-story brick home, to serve as his new tavern and home. [50]

While we are frankly more interested in Samuel and Isabella's daughter Mary (our GGGG-grandmother) than in their son James, and others have written comprehensive biographies of James, nevertheless it's hard not to discuss him a little bit. The Pennsylvania Archives brings us one very interesting tidbit about the visionary town builder: On December 13th 1802, Lieutenant Colonel of the 20th regiment of the Pennsylvania Militia, James Gettys, was convicted of:

> "unofficer like conduct etc. and severely sentenced, by the Court, to pay certain fines and undergo certain penalties. The proceedings of which Court martial having been laid before the Commander in chief, the sentence passed upon each defendant, was this day approved and confirmed….. The conduct of the defendant has been highly reprehensible and indignant; the sentence merciful, the laws must be faithfully executed and all seditious and mutinous practice discountenanced and punished…. I do therefore approve the sentence of the said General Court Martial in the case of the Commonwealth against the said James Gettys….." [51]

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[47] History of Cumberland and Adams counties, Pennsylvania Containing history of the counties; their townships, towns, villages, schools, churches, industries, etc.; portraits of early settlers and prominent men; biographies; history of Pennsylvania, statistical and miscellaneous matter, etc., etc.**,** Warner, Beers & Co, 1886. Part III. History of Adams County. Page 182

[48] Elwood W. Christ, Building a Battle Site: Roads to and through Gettysburg, Adams County History, pages 41-70, Volume 3, 1997. Adams County Historical Society.

[49] A Gettys Line: Samuel through William—Onward. Mary Louise Getty Woodruff, 2001, page 1A2.

[50] A History of Samuel Gettys' Farmstead in the Marsh Creek Settlement, Adams County, Pennsylvania, circa 1736 to 1825. Elwood W. Christ, American Studies 596, Pennsylvania State University, Capital College. 1989.

[51] Executive Minutes of Governor Thomas McKean, 1799-1808, Pennsylvania Archives, Series 9, Vol III, pages 1880-1881.

Less than a year after his court martial, the same governor named James as Sheriff of Adams County. [52] At his death, James was referred to as “General”, a rank perhaps earned during the War of 1812.

James Gettys was also a slave-owner….

> James Gettys had a mulatto slave girl known only as Sidney. According to the terms of his will, on his death, the slave girl was to become the property of his wife until her death at which time the slave was to be free. However, as both James Gettys and his wife died within four days of each other, and the Gettys family became extinct in this area with the one surviving son moving away, it is not known whether the slave became free on their deaths or not until slavery was abolished in Penna. in 1820.
>
> Sidney married a black man by the name of O'Brien but the date of the marriage is not known. She had a daughter born December 12, 1821 who, according to the family Bible, was named Getty Ann Snaveley. It is not known whether the child was born before or after her marriage to O'Brien, or where the name Snaveley came from, but possibly this was the name of the child's father. [53]

Of interest may be the tradition among the descendants of Getty Ann, that Getty Ann was the daughter of James Gettys and Sidney:

> The record implies that Doll most likely was a slave of the Gettys family and that about 1795 she gave birth to Sidney…..in James Gettys’ estate papers and in the 1860 census Sidney is listed as a “mullato”…. the possibility exists that Sidney might have been the daughter of Doll and James Gettys, Sr. But no written evidence or verbal tradition supports this scenario.
>
> The Stanton family verbal tradition, however, indicating that Getty Ann was a daughter of Sidney and James Gettys, Sr., cannot hold. Gettys died in 1815, six years before Getty Ann was born. Nonetheless, Getty Ann could have been the daughter of Sidney and James Gettys, Jr. [54]

James and his wife were victims of the illness which took multiple members of the family in 1815. His brother William had moved to North Carolina between 1783 and 1790, where he died in 1813. James Gettys, Jr. moved to Athens, TN in 1826, and his brother Robert died in 1816, leaving Gettysburg with no surviving members of Samuel’s family with the Gettys surname. [55]

James Gettys, Jr. was forced to apprentice himself to a tanner in order to learn a trade, as his father’s estate (valued in excess of $12,000) together with his debts at the time of

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[52] Executive Minutes of Governor Thomas McKean, 1799-1808, Pennsylvania Archives, Series 9, Vol III, page 1970.

[53] http://www.emmitsburg.net/archive_list/articles/history/gb/people/oldest_family.htm

[54] Elwood W. Christ, On the Trail of Sidney O’Brien: an inquiry into her family and status: was she a slave or servant of the Gettys family of Gettysburg? Has her daughter, Getty Ann, a descendent of James Gettys? Adams County History, pages 43-57, Volume 5, 1999. Adams County Historical Society.

[55] Beyond the Gatehouse: Gettysburg’s Evergreen Cemetery. Brian Kennel, Evergreen Cemetery Association, page 15.

his death, left James, Jr. with very little. His father's will, which directed his executor to split his estate among his wife and two sons, effectively conveyed what was left to James, Jr., as his wife had died in the same week as he had, and the other son, Robert Todd Gettys, died the following year. In Tennessee, James Jr. built an 11 - room house on a farm, built and operated a grain mill, paper mill, lumber and oil mill. In 1865, he had the remains of his parents (but not his grandparents) moved from Black's Graveyard to Evergreen Cemetery in Gettysburg, erecting a fine marker to his parents. He died in 1879.

The fine marker James Gettys, Jr. erected for his father's remains at Evergreen Cemetery, Gettysburg, PA.

In the distance is the New York State memorial at Gettysburg National Cemetery.

(Photo by author, 2011)

About the Ramseys (also spelled Ramsay):

Samuel Gettys' wife Isabella Ramsey Gettys was the (probably) Northern-Ireland-born daughter of William Ramsey who came to America from Ireland in the early-to-mid-1730's [56]. The family arrived in the colonies in or before 1736, according to John Wilson:

> …. a distinguished family of Scotch-Irish Presbyterians. William Ramsey immigrated to America about 1736 and was living at York County, Pa., when he died in 1777. His wife fell into the sea and drowned in the passage to America. Their son, Reynolds Ramsey … was apparently born on the voyage. Reynolds Ramsey was a burgess, village treasurer and road supervisor at Cumberland Township of York County, Pa. …. Reynolds Ramsey in 1761 married Naomi Alexander, daughter of Francis and Jane Alexander. ….Reynolds Ramsey operated a mill at Miller's Town, eight miles from Gettysburg. After his sons had left Pennsylvania, he sold the mill and moved into Gettysburg. In the Revolution, Reynolds Ramsey was at Valley Forge, Trenton and Princeton. He also supplied the Patriot army with flour, but he would refuse to accept British gold when offered by those believed to be in league with the enemy. [57]

Well, that is one family story. But according to the "The Twentieth Century Biographical Dictionary of Notable Americans", William arrived in New Castle in 1730. [58]

It is believed that Isabella was born in Northern Ireland in 1731, based on the age published with her death notice. Reynolds' grave-marker says he was born in New Castle, DE in October 1736. If William did arrive in 1730, then perhaps Isabella was born in the Colonies in 1731, or perhaps she was older than her gravestone claimed and was indeed born in Ireland. Nor is it clear whether Reynolds was born of the first wife on the sea voyage, and the birth was registered when they landed (?), or was the son of a second marriage in Delaware.

The version favored by Ramsey researchers is that Isabella was the daughter of William's first wife (maybe named Mary, and maybe Elizabeth Reynolds Ramsey, the latter an as-yet unsubstantiated claim by some researchers), who may indeed have died on the voyage to America. And that Reynolds Ramsey and another daughter Mary were the children of his second wife Martha [59] and were born in Delaware a few years after William and Isabella arrived.

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[56] The Ramsey project at http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ramsey/indexDNA.html has found that all of the Ramsey male direct descendants of William match in DNA; however there have been no matches to lines out of the USA found--- yet. In other words, DNA results have not yet given us any clue as to what part of Scotland or Ireland William came from. One family researcher feels that William came from Dundee, Scotland, but we have not yet seen any justification for that belief.

[57] **"**Hamilton County Pioneers - the Rice Family**"** http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/26463806/person/1874635698/story/15391942-6f9a-4d2f-96e4-83d42dd115df?src=search

[58] The Twentieth Century Biographical Dictionary of Notable Americans. Vol. IX Rossiter Johnson, ed., Boston: The Biographical Society, 1904.

[59] http://www.ramseyfamilyspa.org/f/Newsletter2005_02.pdf

Reynolds is an unusual first name in an era full of Williams, James, and Johns. It lends some credence to the idea that his mother's maiden name might have been Reynolds. In fact, one researcher, who has not shared his source with us, claims that Reynolds' mother was named Elizabeth Reynolds Ramsey. Until we spent some time studying "The Manor of Maske: Its History and Individual Properties" [60], we thought this was a footnote at best. However, in that text, we were interested to note a settler in the Marsh Creek Settlement by the name of Samuel Reynolds who warranted a property northwest of Gettys' MM 17. Reynolds was not in the Agnew-McPherson list as a settler in the area in 1740 or 1741; however, the text tells us his name was associated with tract MM 25, that he died in 1759, and that "Samuel Reynolds was an early manor storekeeper". [61] Named in his will [62] were wife Martha; unmarried daughter Mary; and brothers William, James and Robert; executors Brother-in-Law Samuel Perry & Uncle David Magaw. It is possible, though far from anything but conjecture, that Samuel or one of his brothers might have been Reynolds Ramsey's grandfather or other relative.
William Ramsey is said to have settled in the Marsh Creek Settlement in 1740 [63] , and like Samuel Gettys, we don't really know that William was in the Marsh Creek Settlement in 1740, just that *someone* was improving that property for which he got 1765 warrants. William warranted one piece of property, MM303, along Middle Creek. [64] A house on that property (Bullfrog Rd.) contains foundation logs in the cellar which date to 1749, so *someone* was improving the property. William? If so, then that house may have been the Ramsey homestead.

A property adjacent to Ramsey's MM 303 was owned by Samuel Gettys. The genealogist often asks how ancestors met their spouses; so often it is because they lived next door to each other. Which came first? Did William Ramsey and Samuel Gettys know each other before they came to the settlement and decide to purchase adjoining properties? Did they "commute" to Marsh Creek from elsewhere in order to improve their properties in preparation for bringing their families -- William particularly with a young family back in Delaware or Philadelphia? Or did Samuel and Isabella get thrown together in the 1740's because their properties along Middle Creek were side-by-side? We cannot answer this riddle.

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[60] The Manor of Maske: Its History and Individual Properties,
Charles H. Glatfelter and Arthur Weaner, Adams County Historical Society, 1992

[61] The Manor of Maske: Its History and Individual Properties,
Charles H. Glatfelter and Arthur Weaner, Adams County Historical Society, 1992, page 28.

[62] http://files.usgwarchives.net/pa/york/wills/reynolds-samuel.txt

[63] History of York County, Pennsylvania, George R. Prowell, J.H. Beers & Co., Chicago, 1907, page 128.

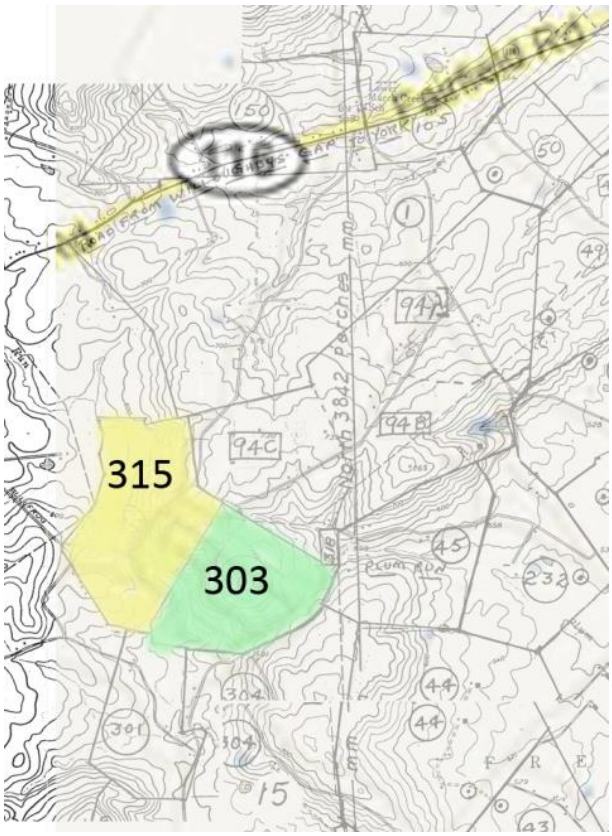
[64] The Manor of Maske: Its History and Individual Properties,
Charles H. Glatfelter and Arthur Weaner, Adams County Historical Society, 1992

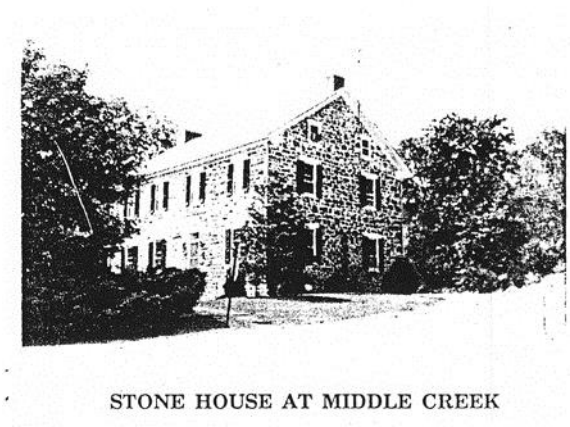
Map of Gettysburg Pennsylvania area, showing Manor of Masque survey tracts.

Property owned by William Ramsey (in GREEN: MM 303 – 250 acres).
And by Samuel Gettys (in YELLOW: MM 315 on Middle Creek – 250 acres).

(The Manor of Maske: Its History and Individual Properties,
Charles H. Glatfelter and Arthur Weaner,
Adams County Historical Society, 1992.)

Overlay of current map of Gettysburg area (Google maps, 2011).





STONE HOUSE AT MIDDLE CREEK

The home of Ken Farabaugh on Bullfrog Rd. is on the property once designated MM 315. This photo was part of an un-dated newspaper clipping, which stated that the house was originally built of logs in 1747, some of which could still be seen in the cellar. The stone addition was added in 1780. During a restoration, an inscription, “This is a happy house, Mary”, was uncovered on a bedroom wall.
It’s is unlikely that anyone from our lineage wrote that inscription, but it is a sweet story nonetheless. Additionally, it shows that *someone* was improving the property in the 1740’s.

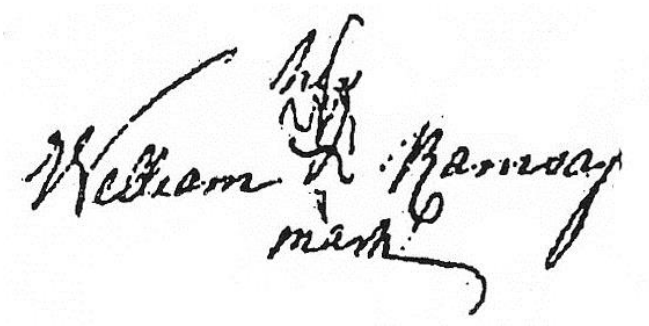
(Newspaper clipping attached to papers on property MM 315 at Adams County Historical Society)

William Ramsey died in 1777 and Martha Ramsey many years later, in the same epidemic as so many others in 1815. The county historical society does not have a burial site on record for them. Some Ramsey researchers are convinced their remains are in Black’s Graveyard or Lower Marsh Creek Cemetery. William’s will mentions only three people: son Reynolds, granddaughter Mary Clark, and grandson William Gettys,

one namesake who was singled out to receive the balance of his estate (but not namesake William Ramsey, son of Reynolds!) Mary Clark was most likely the daughter of Mary Ramsey and James Clark, who were married in New Castle DE in 1762. [65] We are not aware that Mary and James ever moved to the Gettysburg area, although Mary was to receive a heifer from William's will, which might indicate she was local.

> ……I do give and bequeath to my son Reynolds Ramsay ten pounds in one year after the Sale of the Effects. I do give and bequeath to my granddaughter Mary Clerk one Red heifer with Calf. I do give and bequeath to my grandson William Gettys the Remainder of all my personal estate and further I Do appoint my beloved wife Martha and my son in law Samuel Gettys to Be my executor…….

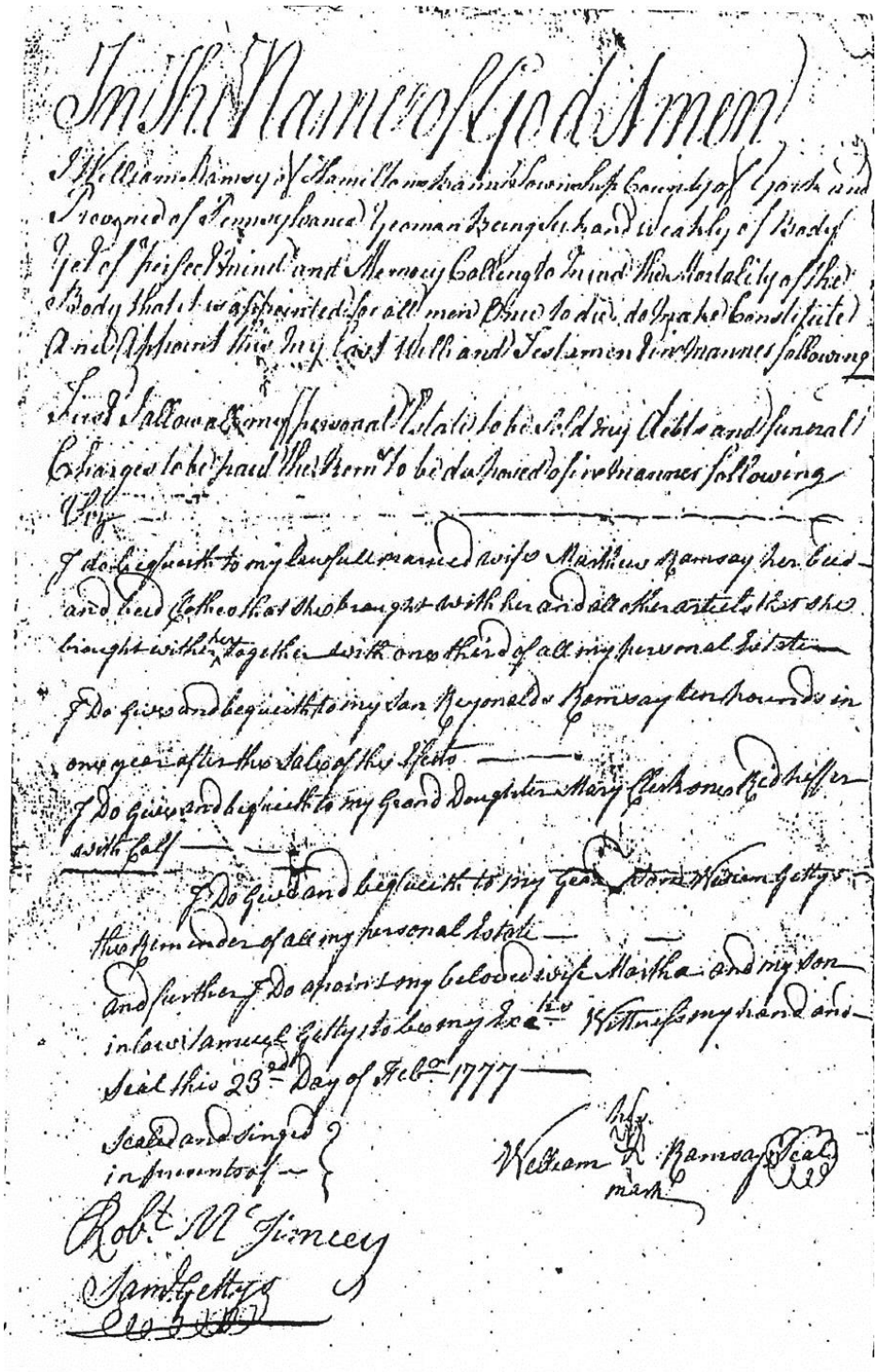
The papers associated with Ramsey's MM 303 property indicate that Reynolds owned it in 1785. Perhaps he purchased it from William Gettys, who moved to North Carolina sometime after 1783.



Will of William Ramsey, February 1777, detail.
Note that William did not sign this himself; the central figure is an "X",
above and below which are the words "his mark". [66]

[65] http://www.ramseyfamilyspa.org/f/Newsletter2005_02.pdf

[66] A Gettys Line: Samuel through William—Onward. Mary Louise Getty Woodruff, 2001, page 2B.



In the Name of God Amen

I William Ramsey of Hamiltonbrann Township County of York and Province of Pennsylvania Yeoman Being Sick and Weakly of Body Yet of perfect mind and Memory Calling to mind the Mortality of the Body that it is appointed for all men Once to die do make Constitute And Appoint this my Last Will and Testament in manner following

First I allow all my personal Estate to be sold my Debts and funeral Charges to be paid the Rem.r to be disposed of in manner following Viz

I do bequeith to my lawfull married wife Martha Ramsay her bed and bed Clothes that she brought with her and all other articles that she brought with her together with one third of all my personal Estate

I Do give and bequeith to my Son Reynolds Ramsay ten pounds in one year after the Sale of the Effects

I Do give and bequeith to my Grand Daughter Mary Clerk one Red heffer with Calf

I Do Give and bequeith to my Gear Son William Gettys the Reminder of all my personal Estate

And further I Do appoint my beloved wife Martha and my Son in law Samuel Gettys to be my Exec.rs Witness my hand and Seal this 23.rd Day of Feb.r 1777

Sealed and singed in presents of

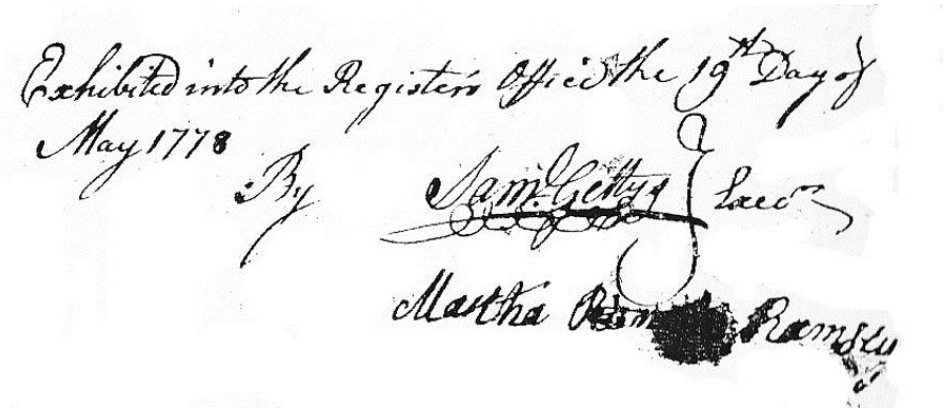
Robt. McTimcey
Saml. Gettys

William Ramsay Seal
mark

Will of William Ramsey, February 1777. [67]

[67] A Gettys Line: Samuel through William—Onward. Mary Louise Getty Woodruff, 2001, page 2B.

The 7-page inventory of William's "Effects" is an interesting glimpse of life in those times. It includes every item in the household (bible, clothing, shoemaker's and other tools, food items, cooking utensils and vessels, ploughs, livestock, furniture, "five silver teaspoons", yarns, bedding, firearms, wheat and rye "in the ground", etc.). It was signed by the executors:


Exhibited into the Register's Office the 19th Day of May 1778
By Sam. Gettys Exec.
Martha Ramsey

Martha signed this document herself, although clearly she was not used to this activity.

Reynolds Ramsey, Isabella's brother, grew up in New Castle, Delaware [68] and worked in Chester, PA before moving to Gettysburg after his marriage to Naomi Alexander in 1761. He told his grandchildren of his first-hand witness of conditions in Trenton and Valley Forge during the American Revolution. Family historians question him actually serving in the war as there are no service records in the National Archives, but perhaps he, like Samuel Gettys, provided supplies to the troops, hauling the produce of his mill to the troops in the east. He passed down a box of worthless Continental currency to his sons. Mary Louise Gettys Woodruff relates that the Continental army requisitioned Reynolds' mill for flour, so that could explain it. It would also have caused him grave financial losses after the War, like those of Samuel Gettys.

Reynolds and Naomi raised five children. It is said of Reynolds that he was a miller in the Marsh Creek area, in "Miller'sTown" 8 miles from Gettysburg, having purchased property from Samuel Gettys; and then moved into town after his sons had left Pennsylvania (which would mean the late 1780's or 1790's if we presume his sons would have reached the age of 20 before they left). Reynolds bought several lots in James Gettys' new town [69]: on Carlisle St. (lot 33), on Railroad St (lot 45), on Chambersburg St. (lot 111), and on York St. (lots 115 and 118).

Reynolds was listed as a merchant in 1799 Gettysburg tax records, assessed property value of $517. Also, he…..

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[68] http://www.ramseyfamilyspa.org/f/Newsletter2005_02.pdf

[69] History of Cumberland and Adams counties, Pennsylvania Containing history of the counties; their townships, towns, villages, schools, churches, industries, etc.; portraits of early settlers and prominent men; biographies; history of Pennsylvania, statistical and miscellaneous matter, etc., etc., Warner, Beers & Co, 1886. Part III. History of Adams County. Page 183

> …was village treasurer, collecting quit rents and dog tax, and market house rents, etc. Ramsey and Attorney Haight had their offices together…..Reynolds Ramsey was burgess in 1806-07 [70]

Reynolds and wife Naomi "removed" to Tennessee in 1808, following their son Francis Alexander and most of the rest of their children. Ramsey family reunions are now held in Knoxville, TN, where Francis built a house which is on the National Register of Historic Places. [71]

So the fact that Mary Ramsey was living in New Castle until marriage age (1762), and Reynolds lived there and began to work in Philadelphia until he moved to Gettysburg after marrying in 1761 MAY mean that William Ramsey was not in Marsh Creek in 1741. Along with the story of Samuel Gettys' arrival in Marsh Creek, and the marriage of Samuel and Isabella, we may not ever know the particulars. We should not forget, however, that historically, many homesteaders all over our country journeyed into new areas to "improve" their land claims, build a cabin and clear some trees, then went back to their families in more established areas, "commuting" as it were, for several years. This could have been the case with both Ramsey and Gettys.

The Gettys Line continued:

- **Mary Gettys** (b. 1752 Marsh Creek, York Co, PA – d. 1823 Tyrone, Cumberland, Pa) married **John Linn** (b. 1749 Manor Masque, Adams, PA – d. 1820 Tyrone, Cumberland, PA) in 1777.

The Gettys story converges with that of the Linns -- see http://www.melissacravenfowler.com (choose Melissa's Ancestry tab) -- in the next generation. Time after time, we have had to write that, on the subject of the women, the official record is silent. Such is also true for Mary Gettys Linn, daughter of Samuel and sister of James, except for her last will and testament, seen in the Linn chapter

- **Anna Jane Linn** (b. 1787 Sherman Valley, Cumberland Co, PA – d. 1838 Landisburg PA) married **John Diven** (b. 1778 Spring Twp, Cumberland, PA – d. 1839 Landisburg, PA).

- **James Linn Diven** (1819-190 Landisburg, Perry Co, PA) married **Elizabeth Junkin** (b. 1818 Cumberland PA – d. 1847 New Bloomfield, Perry, PA)

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[70] History of Cumberland and Adams counties, Pennsylvania Containing history of the counties; their townships, towns, villages, schools, churches, industries, etc.; portraits of early settlers and prominent men; biographies; history of Pennsylvania, statistical and miscellaneous matter, etc., etc.**,** Warner, Beers & Co, 1886. Part III. History of Adams County. Pages 185, 186, 243.

[71] http://www.nationalregisterofhistoricplaces.com/tn/knox/vacant.html
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ramsey_House_%28Knox_County,_Tennessee%29

- **Emma Diven Murray** (1846-1905 Landisburg, Perry Co, PA) married **William Murray** (1838- 1905 Landisburg, PA).

- **Mary Gettys Murray** (1877-1948) married **Frank Alfred Manship** (1877-1915) in 1910.

- **Nancy Manship** (1912 Denver CO -1991) married **Frank Tempest Craven** (1914-1962) in 1948.

P.S. The Jemison story

One of the historical facts which jump-started our interest in the colonial history of the areas in which the Gettys' homesteaded was the Indian raid in which Mary Jemison was kidnapped. Perhaps the Marsh Creek settlers were not in so much danger as were the Perry Countians, because the buffer provided by the mountain ridges to the west and north helped the Marsh Creek folks when it came to the worst Indian attacks during the French-Indian War. But did not entirely prevent these attacks. The kidnap of the Jemison child [72] happened during this period, in 1758, but Buchanan Valley is 12 miles from the closest Gettys or Ramsey property.

> During the so-called French and Indian War (1754-1763), damaging Indian raids interrupted the heretofore peaceful existence of the Pennsylvania settlers. Before this, Adams Countians had felt a measure of security from the protection afforded by a sort of buffer zone created by mountains to the west and Cumberland County settlements to the north. In 1754, however, the fall of Fort Necessity, an English military post further west, and the disastrous defeat of combined British and colonial forces under General Edward Braddock near there a year later opened Pennsylvania's frontier to Indian incursions.
> Adams Countians did not escape the result….from 1755 through 1759, spasmodic raids by Indians terrorized the inhabitants of the western part of the county. The eastern portion perhaps got some protection from forts, although no satisfactory evidence exists as to their location. [73]

[72] http://www.gettysburg.travel/about/history.asp
http://www.letchworthparkhistory.com/jem.html
http://colonial-america.suite101.com/article.cfm/mary_jemison_white_woman_of_the_genesee

[73] A History of Adams County, Pennsylvania, 1700-1900, Robert L. Bloom, 1992. Page 18.