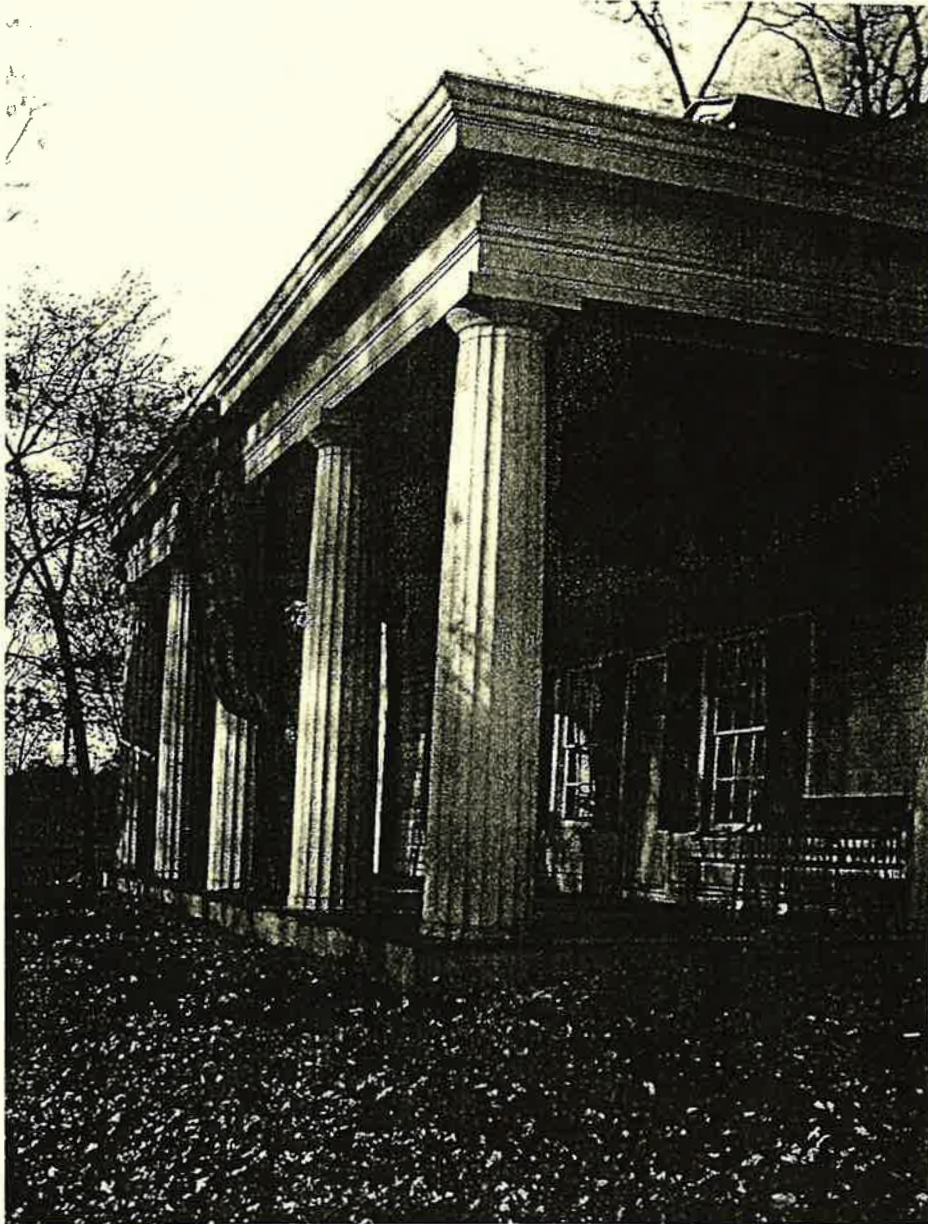


History of the Robinson House, with an emphasis on the Robinson family, 1745-1851



Submitted to the
Naaman's Heritage Association

by

Nedda E. Moqtaderi
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Cover photo: View of Robinson House, circa 1914. From scrapbook "Robinson Family of Naamans-on-Delaware," Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

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Introduction

This report presents the results of archival research focusing on the Robinson House, a historic house with two outbuildings on a parcel measuring just over one acre, located at the intersection of Philadelphia Pike and Naaman's Road in Brandywine Hundred, New Castle County, Delaware. The house is owned by the Delaware State Museums and managed by the Naaman's Heritage Association (NHA). Historically, this property was owned for just over a century by several generations of the Robinson family. The property that remains today is a small portion of the Robinson family's once extensive land holdings in northern New Castle County.

In commissioning this research, the NHA sought to investigate the history of this legendary building and to clearly document the facts of its history. The first phase of research presented herein focuses on the tenure of three generations of Thomas Robinsons who lived at the site between 1745 and 1851, which encompasses the date when Thomas Robinson (1) purchased the property through the date when Thomas Robinson (3) sold the house and surrounding land. The earliest years of the property's history from 1676 through the 1745 are summarized in order to provide the necessary context for the remainder of the Robinson family narrative. This report does not address the time period following the 1851 sale of the property.

Project Goals and Research Methodology

The primary goal of this report is to document and elucidate the historical occupations of the Robinson House, with an emphasis on the Robinson family tenure. In particular, the research undertaken for this report sought to provide a solidly researched and clearly documented factual narrative of the property's history and its owners. This research presented herein attempts to clarify oral traditions long associated with the property and to provide a factual framework for the interpretation and public presentation of the house to the public by the Naaman's Heritage Association.

A variety of written, graphic, oral, and material resources were utilized to reconstruct the physical, social, cultural, technological, and economic history of the property. The archival research was designed to achieve the following:

- 1) to establish the nature and extent of the information contained within extant historical documents;
- 2) to establish a base history of
 - a) the property and its occupants;
 - b) the activities undertaken by the Robinson family at the site and elsewhere;

- c) the construction and expansion of the house and other structures at the property; and
- 3) to provide documentation of generally accepted information about the Robinson House and to utilize this documentation, whenever possible, to confirm or disprove oral traditions about the Robinson house and family.

Research towards these goals began with thorough search of New Castle County deed records, and other documents as necessary, to supplement existing data and to establish a complete chain of property ownership for the property. With property owners' names established, research efforts then turned to focus on the biographical and social history of the Robinson family, which included gathering genealogical, demographic, physical, social, and economic data about the family from a range of documentary sources. As documentation was collected, the researcher established biographical research files for the individuals who owned and lived at the Robinson House and for other Robinson family members who lived at adjoining properties (now demolished). The following sources illuminate the social, economic, and cultural history of the Robinson family:

- 1) New Castle County Deed Records and other land records, at the New Castle County Recorder of Deeds and Delaware Public Archives.
- 2) Chester County Deed Records at the Chester County Archives and Records Administration, West Chester, PA.
- 3) New Castle County Probate Records, including wills, probate inventories, estate administration, and Orphans' Court records, housed on microfilm at the Morris Library of the University of Delaware and Delaware Public Archives.
- 4) United States Population Census Records (1800-1850) on microfilm at the Delaware Public Archives
- 5) New Castle County Tax Assessment Records on microfilm at the Delaware Public Archives.
- 6) Real estate advertisements in various eighteenth and nineteenth century newspapers at the Historical Society of Delaware.
- 7) New Castle County Road Books on microfilm at the Delaware Public Archives.
- 7) Newspaper accounts and advertisements in the *Pennsylvania Gazette*. Available on CD-ROM at the University of Delaware Morris Library.
- 8) Genealogical records of the Robinson family available at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.
- 9) Various primary documents (many photocopies from an uncited source) collected by the Naaman's Kill Questors and now in the Robinson House Collection, Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs (DOHCA), Dover. This collection was not catalogued at the time of research and as such, references to it appear simply as Robinson House Collection, DOHCA.

- 10) Published secondary sources devoted to the history of Colonel Anthony Wayne.
- 11) The writings and papers of George Washington available transcribed, compiled, and indexed, and several compiled itineraries of George Washington.
- 12) Chester County Probate Records, including wills, probate inventories, estate administration, and Orphans' Court records, housed at the Chester County Archives and Records Administration, West Chester, PA.
- 13) Correspondence and other primary documents related to Thomas Robinson available at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia and the Chester County Historical Society, West Chester, PA.
- 14) Graphic documentation in the form of historic maps and atlases, and photographs of the house.

This report also includes a brief review of the architectural history of the house. The plan drawings included in Appendix D and the comments incorporated into the report are the work of Jeffrey E. Klee, an architectural historian and doctoral candidate at the University of Delaware. Klee provided basic architectural analysis and commentary on the building's evolution. In the future, additional investigation of the building will expand upon this basic knowledge of the building's construction and evolution.

Report Organization

This report is presented chronologically, beginning with the early history of the Robinson House property and then continuing through the three generations of the Robinson family who lived at the Robinson House. For sake of clarity in describing the several generations of Robinsons (each with its own Thomas Robinson), the author has assigned the numbers (1), (2), (3), and (4) to the four Thomas Robinsons discussed. Though Robinson (4) actually predates Robinson (3) in birth order, the author has chosen to assign the numbers in this way due to the fact that Robinsons (1)-(3) are a direct line and are the three men who occupied the Robinson House, whereas Robinson (4) never lived in the house.

The report relies often on direct quotations from eighteenth-century correspondence and the author has chosen to preserve original spelling. In cases where original spellings are not understandable, the word has been replaced and appears in brackets.

A series of appendices provides supporting information, graphics, and selected primary documents referred to in the narrative. The items in these appendices, most notably the timeline and family trees, are intended to provide easy reference for the Robinson House docents.

Early Property History

Sometime before July 1675, Edmund Andros, Deputy Governor of the Province of New York, granted 1,000 acres to Charles Jansen, Wolle Rawson, Olle Nielson, Hans Hopman, John Hendrickson, and Hans Olleson. This grant included land that extended from the Naaman's Creek in New Castle County to the Marities Creek in Upland County, Pennsylvania (the precursor to Chester County).¹ This patent was reconfirmed in March 1676 under the English government. The 1,000 acre patent nearly delineates the current boundaries of Marcus Hook, Pennsylvania and extends into New Castle County.²

Though little is known about the six men who formed this partnership, it seems that they were a combination of Swedish and Dutch individuals formed together in a business alliance for land speculation and development. After receiving the 1,000-acre grant, it seems that the six men divided the land, with Wolle Rawson holding title to land in the southern portion of the original grant, which included land in Marcus Hook and New Castle County. Preliminary research focused on Wolle (aka Olle, Wooley, or William) Rawson indicates that he was a Swedish citizen, who came to the Swedish settlements on the Delaware River in 1654.³ By the end of the seventeenth century, Wolle Rawson had established a mill on the northern bank of the Naaman's Creek, not far from its mouth at the Delaware River. In July 1697, Rawson sold the seven-acre parcel including the mill, mill race, and a house to Jasper Yeates.⁴

By the first quarter of the eighteenth century, Wolle Rawson had died, and in April 1728, his heirs sold a 107-acre portion of his property to Thomas Moore. This parcel of land included "all that messuage or tenement plantation and all the piece or parcel of land thereunto belonging," which was bounded by the Delaware River to the east, the Naaman's Creek to the south, and the land of Jasper Yeates and William Rawson to the west and north, respectively.⁵ See Map C1. in Appendix C.

When Thomas Moore purchased the 107-acre property from the Rawson heirs, he presumably moved into the messuage (or dwelling) that was noted as being part of the property. Though the location of this house cannot definitively be determined, deeds and other documents narrow it down to one of two locations—on the east side of the Kings Road near the mills or on the west side of the King's Road, at the current site of the Robinson House. Preliminary architectural analysis of the Robinson House indicates that the first period construction of the house clearly dates circa 1730, and as such, it is possible that it was standing when Moore purchased the land. If it was not standing at the time of purchase, Thomas Moore built it soon after he bought the property and before his 1736 death. Thomas Moore's home (the Period I portion of the Robinson House) consisted of a two-story, one-room, plank framed house atop a stone foundation. It most likely had exposed ceiling joists on the first and second floors and a large cooking hearth

along the east wall with a winder staircase behind.⁶ See Appendix D1 for floor plans.

In addition to purchasing the 107 acres of land, Thomas Moore also bought the 7-acre mill parcel, which had been the property of Jasper Yeates until his death in 1720.⁷ Though the date of the mill property transaction is not recorded, it probably occurred not long after Yeates's 1720 death. The mill, which is later identified as a grist mill, also included saw milling operations during Moore's ownership, for his estate inventory several years later refers to items "belonging to ye saw mill."⁸ It is possible that the plank framing of his home, a very unique framing style in the Delaware Valley, exists due to the presence of the saw mill.⁹

In December 1736, Thomas Moore died, leaving his widow Mary, four sons, and two daughters. In addition to owning land at Naaman's Creek, Moore also owned a 950-acre plantation with a mill in Caln Township, Chester County, which Moore's administrator, Joseph Cloud, sold within several months of Moore's death, in order to pay his debts.¹⁰ After Thomas Moore died, his moveable estate at Naaman's Creek was inventoried. This inventory records the contents of Moore's home and also identifies the mill, a blacksmith shop, and a cider mill on his property. At the time of his death, the Moores' house was furnished with five beds, a case of drawers, two tables, six chairs, one chest, and a looking glass. The inventory also records "a mullatta woman and her child" living on the property. See Appendix F1 for Thomas Moore's probate inventory.

The estate administration for Thomas Moore records rent paid for the Naaman's Mills, which suggests that Moore may not have participated in the milling operations himself. Alternatively, this rent may represent a new situation brought about by Moore's death. Either way, it seems that Moore's heirs attempted to keep the mills operating following Thomas's death.¹¹ However, the Moore heirs clearly were not successful in their attempts to continue the milling operations, for in July 1745 Joseph Cloud petitioned the New Castle County Orphans' Court for approval to sell Moore's New Castle County property to settled debts of £700. The Court approved his request and ordered the sale of Moore's real estate so as to repay the outstanding debts.¹² Soon after, Joseph Cloud placed an advertisement in the *Pennsylvania Gazette* announcing:

On Wednesday, the first Day of January next, will be exposed to sale, by Public Vendue, Naaman's Creek Mills, and about 85 acres of land, thereto adjoining, being part of the real estate of Thomas Moore, deceased, at which time attendance will be given on the premises by Joseph Cloud, Administrator of the deceased. By order of the Orphans Court.¹³

As he stated in the advertisement, Joseph Cloud offered a portion of Thomas Moore's estate at a public vendue on January 1st. At the sale, a trio of Philadelphia merchants—Thomas Robinson, Peter Rowland, and John Rowan—purchased the property.¹⁴

Thomas Robinson (1), 1714-1766

Thomas Robinson (1) arrived in Philadelphia from Dublin, Ireland in the spring of 1738. The twenty-four-year-old quickly established himself as a merchant, shipping agent, and importer of Irish indentured servants. By the summer, he was booking passage and cargo on ships to Ireland, which returned with finished goods and servants he would then sell.¹⁵ Though the Irish trade was not as extensive as the trade with other parts of the British Isles and the West Indies, it did play a role in Philadelphia's mercantile dealings and centered on export of flaxseed, lumber, flour, and rum, and the import of servants, beef, candles, and butter. In the 1730s, when Robinson arrived in Philadelphia, only ten or eleven ships cleared Philadelphia for Ireland each year. However, the Irish trade would grow over the course of the following decades to reach a height of thirty-six ships departing annually for Ireland in the first half of the 1750s. Clearly, Robinson was on the forefront of a growing business opportunity and within several years of arriving in Philadelphia would come to benefit from the increasing trade with Ireland.¹⁶

The first reference to Thomas Robinson's presence in Philadelphia and his direct involvement in the Irish trade comes in a June 29, 1738 announcement in the *Pennsylvania Gazette*

Just imported, in the Snow Hercules, a parcel of likely English and Irish servants, men and women, and are to be disposed of, by William Hartly, Thomas Robinson, and Lawrence Anderson, on board the said Snow, now lying off opposite of Market Street Wharf.¹⁷

By early November 1738, Thomas Robinson (1) was again announcing his intentions to sail to Ireland. This time on the Ship *Tryal* and with "extraordinary accommodations for passengers." It seems that Robinson was no longer working with the individuals he partnered with for the shipment on the *Snow*, but had instead entered into business with John Erwin. Erwin was an Irish Quaker who had arrived in Philadelphia in 1728 and who, by 1738, was the shipping agent for the ship *Tryal*.¹⁸ Erwin's relationship with Robinson was not solely a business one. In May 1739, Erwin would become his brother-in-law, when he married Thomas Robinson's sister, Mary, in Dublin, Ireland. The couple returned to Philadelphia shortly thereafter.¹⁹

Thomas Robinson (1) returned from Ireland sometime before August 1739 and moved into a house on Second Street.²⁰ The same month, Robinson joined the Philadelphia Quaker Meeting, where he was received on a certificate issued by the Dublin Monthly Meeting dated April 11, 1738.²¹ Evidently Robinson had received his certificate from Dublin meeting when he first left Ireland for Philadelphia. However, due to his short and undoubtedly busy initial stay in Philadelphia in the summer of 1738, he was not received as a member of the Philadelphia meeting until August 1739.²²

In January 1739, Thomas Robinson (1) married Sarah Mason in Salem, New Jersey.²³ Sarah (Sharp) Mason was one of seven children of Isaac Sharp, a merchant who settled in New Jersey after leaving Dublin, Ireland. Sarah was about 28 years old when she married Robinson and was the widow of Thomas Mason, a Salem merchant who died in Philadelphia in April 1738. Sarah Mason had at least one child, John born in March 1733, by her first marriage.²⁴ It seems that this child did not live to adulthood, because there is no mention of him in later records of the Robinson family.

After their marriage, Sarah and Thomas were living on Second Street in Philadelphia. In the autumn of 1741, Thomas Robinson is identified in the *Pennsylvania Gazette* as having a "house" on Front Street.²⁵ It is not clear whether this was a new residence or a business location, though it may have been a business house since in 1745 Robinson is again identified as being on Second Street.²⁶

In October 1741, Thomas Robinson (1) was again involved in booking passage to Ireland. With Robert Morris as its master, the *Snow Penguin* was scheduled to leave for Dublin and Newry. Morris and Robinson were accepting freight or passage on the ship, noting in particular that the ship had good accommodations for passengers.²⁷

Shortly after March 25, 1742, Thomas Robinson (1) announced his plans for an early April departure to Europe and requested that all those with demands against him bring their accounts to be settled. He also asked that all those owing money to him make payment to his wife, Sarah Robinson. This latter comment suggests that Sarah remained in Philadelphia while Thomas traveled to Europe.²⁸

Thomas Robinson (1) must have stayed in Ireland long enough to return to his original meetinghouse—the Dublin Monthly Meeting. However, by the fall of 1743, he was back in Philadelphia and was again being received at Philadelphia Meeting on a certificate granted by the Dublin Meeting in late May 1743.²⁹ Once back in the city, he did not stay settled for long. By early November 1743, Thomas Robinson and his brother-in-law John Erwin were making arrangements for the *Ship Grace and Mary* to set sail for Dublin.³⁰

Thomas Robinson (1) continued his active involvement in shipping and trade, but in 1745, he turned his attention to a new undertaking—the purchase of land in northern New Castle County along Naaman's Creek. Though one cannot know just how Robinson learned of the availability of property at Naaman's Creek, it is possible that he read of it in the announcement that Moore's administrator, Joseph Cloud, placed in the *Pennsylvania Gazette* late November 1745.

Thomas Robinson (1) attended this sale and, along with Peter Rowland and John Rowan, purchased land from the estate of Thomas Moore.³¹ Though the sale announcement had indicated that the property included 85 acres, the purchase

agreement actually records a 19-acre parcel, a 104-acre parcel, a 3-acre parcel with the house of Richard Moore (son of Thomas Moore), and the mill.³² Rowan and Rowland seem to have only provided start-up capital for the purchase, for by 1748 both had sold their shares in the property to Robinson.³³

With the purchase of the Naaman's Creek mills and the surrounding land, Thomas Robinson (1) apparently turned his full attention to his new business venture and discontinued some of his dealings in the city of Philadelphia. In the first two years of owning the property at Naaman's, Thomas Robinson seems to have maintained a close connection to Philadelphia, and may have even continued to live there. But in July and August 1747, Robinson advertised the sale of "a dwelling house and lot in Front Street." In describing the lot, he pointed out that it was well situated for a merchant, shop, or tavern keeper and also included a cooper's shop.³⁴ This is evidently the property from which Robinson had been conducting his shipping and merchant activities. In all likelihood, Robinson decided to sell this property so that he could focus his energies on his new business venture in northern New Castle County.

Robinson's interest in the mill at Naaman's may have been due in part to plans for exporting flour to Ireland. Due to crop failures in the British Isles, there was an occasional market in Ireland for Philadelphia-area flour and wheat and with Robinson's involvement in the Irish trade, he would have ready access to the market. Furthermore, though the Irish trade was beginning to reach its peak in the years leading to 1750, it would then begin to steady decline through the remainder of the century. Perhaps Robinson's business acumen and long-time involvement with the Irish trade gave him insight into this trend and helped bring him to the decision to expand his business dealings to the flour mill at Naaman's.³⁵

By October 1747, Thomas Robinson (1) had apparently sold his Philadelphia property and had set up permanent residence at Naaman's Creek. Nonetheless, Robinson continued to travel the twenty miles between Naaman's Creek and Philadelphia, surely to transact business relating to his mill and the sale of its superfine flour. On one of these trips along the Chester Road, he lost "an old black leather pocket book, with about twenty pounds paper money, and several flour invoices, and other papers of no use to any but the owner." Robinson asked that if someone found it, they should return the pocketbook to "B. Franklin, at the Post Office" or to himself at Naaman's Creek for a five pound reward.³⁶ Whether returning lost items to Benjamin Franklin was a convention in this time period or whether Robinson was a friend or associate of Franklin's is not known. Research conducted to this point does not identify any other links to Franklin, but further research focused on Philadelphia in the mid-18th century may be able to provide more detail on Thomas Robinsons social and business networks.

After purchasing the Naaman's property, Thomas Robinson (1) turned his attention to the milling operations and placed an advertisement in the *Pennsylvania Gazette* calling for "a good miller" with the further comment that "any person inclinable to

serve...shall have good encouragement."³⁷ Who had been serving as the miller from the time of purchase to this date? The answer to this question remains unknown at this stage of research, though it is possible that the mill sat idle for some time due to Moore's debts and during the time that Robinson was making arrangements to leave Philadelphia.

Once settled in New Castle County, Thomas Robinson seems to have transferred his prominent position in Philadelphia merchant society to his new home. In May 1749, Robinson was appointed as a Justice of the Peace for New Castle County.³⁸ Besides this appointment, there is little documentation of Robinson's activities at Naaman's or in New Castle County in the second half of the 1740s.

In October 1752, Thomas Robinson was again making arrangements to travel to Europe and requested that those with accounts and debts settle them with him immediately. As a note, he added that he would take "at the mill, the produce of this country for payment of debts."³⁹ Apparently Robinson left America to return to Dublin to settle the estate of his father, who had died in fall 1750.⁴⁰ Within a year, Thomas had returned to New Castle County.⁴¹

When Robinson purchased the property at Naaman's Creek, his family included his wife Sarah, and their children, Abraham, Margaret, and Jane. See Appendix B2 for Thomas Robinson (1) family tree. When the Robinsons moved to Naaman's, they were most likely living in the house that had formerly belonged to Richard Moore, which was situated on a three-acre parcel on the east side of the Great Road (Philadelphia Pike) and near the mills. Thomas Moore's widow, Mary, maintained a residence in her home (the Period I portion of the Robinson House) through May 1749, when she released her widow's right of dower to her house.⁴² At this point, Robinson probably moved his family from the house they had been living in to the one-room, plank-walled house on the west side of the Great Road.

In the years that the family lived at Naaman's Creek, Sarah gave birth to Thomas (2) in 1750 and Sarah in 1753. The Robinson household may also have included Thomas Robinson's five nieces and nephews, the children of his sister and brother-in-law, Mary and John Erwin, who died intestate within two weeks of each other in late 1756. Thomas assumed guardianship of their five children, though it is not known whether the children came to live with the Robinsons at Naaman's Creek or whether they remained in Philadelphia.⁴³

As his family grew and his milling operation became more developed, Thomas Robinson (1) continued to remain active in New Castle County. In June 1756, he was again appointed as a Justice of the Peace for the county.⁴⁴ During these years, he was also acquiring additional real estate in the southern part of New Castle County. In November 1757, he purchased several hundred acres of land in Appoquinimink and St. George's hundreds. Like his property at Naaman's, Robinson's land holdings in southern New Castle County were all located near a creek or a marsh, suggesting that Robinson bought these properties to assist in his

shipping endeavors, which most likely were dominated by selling flour from his mill. Several years after acquiring some of this land, Robinson advertised for the rental of “the house, lands, and benefit of a toll bridge at Apoquinimy (Appoquinimink).” The property was an old tavern that Robinson described as being well situated for trade due to the fact that shipping vessels would go up the creek to the wharf.⁴⁵ This accessibility for ships was undoubtedly critical to Robinson when he purchased the land and as such, an important factor to emphasize in the advertisement.

At his Naaman’s Creek property, Thomas Robinson maintained the Naaman’s landing, which surely provided ample opportunity for shipping and receiving goods, including the super fine flour that was a product of the mill.⁴⁶ Robinson’s mill and landing were clearly prominent locations in the community for many newspaper advertisements and announcements use it as landmarks in property descriptions and locations.⁴⁷

As Robinson’s wealth and prominence in New Castle County grew, it is possible that he chose to expand the size of his home. Preliminary architectural study identifies a two-room addition of back-to-back parlors constructed on the west end of the house sometime between 1750 and 1770. The documentary evidence suggests the earlier date due to Robinson’s success with the mills and the recent transaction that resulted in Moore’s widow releasing her right to the house. However, the precise date of this addition has not yet been determined due to extensive 20th-century renovations that obliterate the original finishes and construction. This frame addition expanded the house to a three-room, L-plan layout, which allowed for two formal rooms on the first floor. These rooms were heated by back-to-back corner fireplaces, which may have been ornamented with raised paneling. The new rear room was the largest and most likely the best finished and most brightly lit.⁴⁸ See Appendix D2 for floor plan.

Thomas Robinson (1) lived at Naaman’s Creek for over a decade, but chose to return to Philadelphia in 1760. From this point onward, deeds refer to him as being “recently of New Castle County, but now of Philadelphia.”⁴⁹ Presumably the entire family moved to Philadelphia with Robinson, though it is possible that Sarah and some or all of the children may have remained at Naaman’s while Robinson pursued new business opportunities in the city. However, by 1766, when Robinson died, the family was in Philadelphia.

After returning to Philadelphia, Robinson apparently added another outfit to his list of business ventures—a brewery located near Hamilton’s wharf. Research has not focused on this aspect of Robinson’s life, so little is currently known about this brewery or his business dealings during this time period. Robinson does appear in October 1765 among 400 Philadelphia merchants who signed the Philadelphia Non-Importation Agreements, which followed the Stamp Act and were intended to pressure British Parliament into repealing the tax.⁵⁰

On August 17, 1766, Thomas Robinson (1) died at the age of fifty-one.⁵¹ It seems that his death was sudden as he left no will and there is no record of doctor's services within the estate accounts. At his death, Robinson left his wife Sarah, and four children—Abraham (age 26), Margaret (age 22 and married to cousin Sharp Delany), Thomas (2) (age 16), and Sarah (age 13).⁵²

Robinson's widow, Sarah, and oldest son, Abraham, assumed the roles of administratrix and administrator for the estate. Among the first tasks in settling the estate was the completion of a probate inventory of Thomas's Philadelphia home. This inventory confirms the extent of Robinson's wealth and elite status as a prominent member of Philadelphia's merchant class. Entered first on the inventory is the impressive sum of £571.11.5 "cash in the chest." The inventory goes on to detail the contents of Robinson's home, which was substantially furnished in a gracious manner. The list begins with the items in Sarah and Thomas's bedroom, which featured a mahogany desk and dressing table and a bedstead, fitted out with a feather bed, several blankets, and bed curtains. At the window hung curtains, Chinese porcelain plates, a Delftware dish, and glass tumbler decorated the mantelpiece, and an "old swinging looking glass" hung on the wall.

The furnishings and decorative items throughout the rest of the house further express Robinson's elite status and participation in genteel society. Luxury items abound and include carpets, looking glasses, pictures, books, and a clock. Twelve leather bottom chairs, two tea tables, and 22 China plates suggest entertainment and social gatherings that clearly took place in the home. Items such as "old maps," a map of Pennsylvania, and a "jack, ensign, and penant for a vessel" identify Robinson's role as a shipping merchant.⁵³ See Appendix F2 for this inventory.

Though Thomas Robinson (1) had left his residence at Naaman's Creek six years before this inventory was created, the items in it express his extreme wealth and involvement with a luxurious lifestyle and suggest that his home at Naaman's may have been furnished with similar or many of the same items listed in the Philadelphia inventory.

It is not clear who occupied Robinson's Naaman's Creek residence in the 1760s, though Robinson evidently did not have possessions there when he did, for none are included in his probate inventory. It is possible that the home was being rented to the miller or the mill's overseer. Robinson's estate accounts record numerous individuals paying rent and bills to the estate. Further research of each of these individuals may reveal who was living at Naaman's during this time period.

With the extent of the deceased Robinson's land holdings, the settlement of his real estate was a complicated matter, which extended from Philadelphia to Chester and New Castle counties. Sarah and Abraham Robinson began the estate settlement in Philadelphia. Shortly after Thomas's death, Sarah and Abraham placed their first advertisement in the *Pennsylvania Gazette* calling for those indebted to or owed by Thomas Robinson's estate to come forward for settlement.⁵⁴

In April and May 1767, Sarah and Abraham advertised in the *Philadelphia Chronical* for the settlement of the accounts.⁵⁵ They also placed another advertisement in the *Gazette*.⁵⁶ It seems that the widow and son of Thomas Robinson received little response, for their final advertisement in the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, in September 1767, came with a stronger request and a stern warning:

Whereas the subscribers have repeatedly given notice to those indebted to the estate of Thomas Robinson, deceased, either by bond, note, or book debt, to come and discharge the same; and as little or no regard has been paid thereto, this must serve to acquaint them, that unless they come and pay off directly, their accounts will be put into an attorney's hands, without further notice. Sarah Robinson, Abraham Robinson.⁵⁷

Whether the debtors and creditors to Thomas Robinson's estate responded to this final announcement by Sarah and Abraham is not known. Sarah was clearly making every effort to finalize business and clean up the details of her husband's extensive estate. In late August, she advertised the rent of Robinson's "brew-house, malt-house, and dwelling in Water Street, near Hamilton's wharf."⁵⁸ This newspaper advertisement is the last one regarding Robinson's estate that appears in the *Philadelphia Gazette*.

Just as Sarah and Abraham Robinson were finalizing Thomas Robinson's Philadelphia estate, 27-year-old Abraham married Sarah Penrose at Christ Church in Philadelphia in March 1766. Sarah Penrose was the daughter of Bartholomew Penrose, a wealthy Philadelphia merchant, and the sister of Mary Penrose, who had married Anthony Wayne, a socially well-connected surveyor and land agent who would become prominent in the Continental Army.⁵⁹

If Sarah Robinson was successful in quickly renting her deceased husband's property, and it is likely she was since no further advertisements appear, she would have needed to locate a new residence. Brothers Abraham and Thomas (2) Robinson seem to have remained in the city since 1769 tax lists record an Abraham Robinson in Dock Ward and Thomas Robinson in Southwark.⁶⁰ Sarah may have lived with one of them. Future research in Philadelphia deed records would identify properties in the city that the Robinsons owned.

In 1772, Sarah, Abraham, and Thomas were among the charter members of the Southern District Meeting when the Philadelphia Meeting split into two districts.⁶¹ The Southern District extended south from the north side of Walnut Street, and included Moyamensing, Southwark, and Passyunk.⁶² The Robinsons' affiliation with the Philadelphia meeting indicates that they must have remained in Philadelphia for at least some time after the death of Thomas (1). By the mid 1770s, however, Abraham was established at the mill property at Naaman's and Sarah and her children Thomas (1) and Sally were spending at least some time at their Naaman's Creek residence.⁶³

With business in Philadelphia settled, the widow and her eldest son turned to settling details of Robinson's extensive land holdings in Chester County and New Castle County. However, it was not until October 1772 that Abraham Robinson petitioned the New Castle County Orphans' Court for the survey and division of his father's property. Why it took five years to initiate this process is not clear. However, during that time Abraham Robinson married and may have been occupied with establishing a new household and handling other items relating to the settlement of his father's estate. The late date of this phase of the settlement may also coincide with the time that Abraham officially relocated his residence to the mill property at Naaman's.

In New Castle County, the land holdings of Thomas Robinson (1) included "a messuage and plantation consisting of several different tracts of land, "situated on Naaman's Creek and bounded by the same Creek and the River Delaware and the line dividing the counties of Chester and New Castle, having a water-corn-grist Mill thereon erected and containing...220 acres." Robinson also owned "a plantation or tract of land, lying on the South side of Naaman's Creek, and bounding therewith the river Delaware, containing...128 acres." Furthermore, Robinson owned substantial holdings in Mill Creek, New Castle, Appoquinimink, and St. George's hundreds.⁶⁴

Once he had initiated the division of the land in New Castle County, Abraham Robinson appeared before the Chester County Orphans Court in December 1772 to request survey and division of his father's land holdings in Pennsylvania. Thomas Robinson had owned nine properties throughout Chester County totaling more than 688 acres, including two plantations in Tredyffrun Township, a plantation in Bethell Township, land in Chichester Township, and lots fronting the Delaware River in Marcus Hook. Finally, he also owned a tract called the "Mill land" part of which lay in Chichester Township and had been purchased from the administrators of Thomas Moore. This property was a portion of the Naaman's mill property purchased in 1745 that extended north from Naaman's Creek into Pennsylvania.⁶⁵

In August 1773, the New Castle County Orphans Court returned their division of the estate of Thomas Robinson (1) based on a survey completed by Anthony Wayne.⁶⁶ The property was divided among the four Robinson heirs, with the widow receiving her legally mandated one-third dower portion. Abraham Robinson received the fourteen-acre mill property that lay between the King's Road (Philadelphia Pike) and the Delaware River. Though much smaller in acreage than his siblings' portions, this property would have been incredibly lucrative with its milling operations and landing. See Map C4 in Appendix C for the property division.

Thomas Robinson (2) received three parcels—113 acres on the west side of the King's Road and extending across the north and south sides of Naaman's Creek; 21 ½ acres on the north side of Naaman's Creek and bounded by the Delaware River to the east and Abraham's property to the west; 27 ¼ acres located on the

west side of the King's Road and along the state line. He also received another three parcels in southern New Castle County. Robinson's daughters, Margaret Delany and Sarah Robinson, received other portions of land in New Castle County.⁶⁷

Thomas Robinson (2), 1750-1819

Thomas Robinson (2) was seventeen years old when his father died and twenty-three when the estate was finally settled and divided among the Robinson heirs. He received almost 161 acres in Brandywine Hundred alone and several hundred acres in southern New Castle County and Chester County, Pennsylvania. Though the specifics of his activities following his father's death are unknown, it is likely that he was occupied with schooling and then became busy with managing his extensive land holdings. He also more than likely assisted his brother in the operation and management of the Naaman's mills.

By December 1775, Thomas Robinson (2) was considering service in the Continental Army and expressed this interest with his friend Francis Johnston, who lived in Chester and served as Lieutenant Colonel of the Fourth Battalion. Johnston in turn relayed Robinson's comment to Anthony Wayne, who, in early December, had been selected to head up the Fourth Pennsylvania Battalion for the Continental Army.⁶⁸ In a postscript to Wayne, Johnston reported,

My friend Thos. Robinson, is willing to serve as Major in the Battalion—Pray keep yourself from the Solicitation of any person, until you have a favorable opportunity of serving a friend—that friend now offers, you must therefore do every thing in your power for him. If we find this will not succeed I am assured, we can with a deal of ease, get him recommended to Congress as a Captain.⁶⁹

Anthony Wayne took Johnston's recommendation to heart and on January 5, 1776, Thomas Robinson, Esq. was commissioned in Wayne's Fourth Pennsylvania Battalion. Though Robinson had not qualified for his desired rank of Major, he did receive the rank of Captain of one of the companies in the battalion.⁷⁰

Colonel Anthony Wayne was a close friend of the Robinson family, due in large part to the fact that his wife Polly's sister, Sarah, was married to Abraham Robinson. Wayne was also a close friend of Sharp Delany, who was married to Margaret Robinson, Thomas (2) and Abraham's sister.⁷¹ Delany was also a cousin to the Robinsons through their mother's line.⁷² Though the Robinsons resided primarily in Delaware, Thomas Robinson clearly joined the Pennsylvania line of the Continental Army due to his connections with Anthony Wayne, Francis Johnston, Sharp Delany, and others.

By the middle of January, Colonel Wayne was deeply involved in the struggle to organize a regiment of troops. This task was a difficult one, as evidenced by a January 12th communication to Congress signed by Wayne and several other Pennsylvania officers that complained of the difficulty of organizing their battalions. Throughout this time period, Captain Thomas Robinson, who headed up Company B, would have been busy following Colonel Wayne's orders to recruit his regiment to full force. In early February, Congress ordered the Fourth Pennsylvania to quarter "in or near Chester." They instead decided to locate at Marcus Hook for their training, but found no preparations there for their arrival, which prompted them to live in houses. While Wayne sought out supplies, such as blankets, for his men, he ordered his troops to continue their training and encouraged them to not harm the homes in which they were living.⁷³ During this time, Thomas Robinson participated in recruitment and provisioning for his men and recorded related expenses in his notebook.⁷⁴ Robinson was probably living at home at Naaman's Creek, located just under a mile from Marcus Hook. According to Wayne's Orderly Book, Robinson was present at Marcus Hook on February 29th and March 14th.⁷⁵

Robinson's company had evidently reached full size and was well-equipped by March 31st, when it began their march for New York.⁷⁶ Arriving in New York City, the Fourth Pennsylvania was met with accolades and comments for their notable appearance and discipline.⁷⁷ After passing through the city, the companies encamped on Long Island. Upon his arrival in New York in mid-April, Colonel Wayne found his men to still be poorly armed and clothed, but busily involved in creating defensive fortifications around the city.⁷⁸ In late April, Wayne received orders to begin immediately for Quebec, where his battalion would assist the Americans there who were trying to retain a hold on the St. Lawrence River.⁷⁹ After their brief encampment on Long Island, Thomas Robinson and his company headed for Quebec, traveling by way of Albany, where they were camped on May 16th.⁸⁰

In early May, Robinson's family were not aware that he had left Long Island yet, though they were aware that he was awaiting orders to march to Canada. Thomas's sister, Sally, wrote to Anthony Wayne in early May asking that Wayne take care of Thomas while the men were in Canada.⁸¹ On May 5th, Thomas's mother, Sarah, penned a letter to her son expressing her heartbreak about him going to Quebec and declaring her fear that she might not see him again. She articulated particular concern for the great distance that would be between them once he was in Quebec and prayed that he "may stay at New York so that [she] may hare (hear) from [him] often and...permit [her] to see [him] once mor..."⁸²

In early May, Abraham Robinson arrived at Long Island, hoping to see his brother, only to find that he had left for Quebec just days earlier. In a letter, written May 9th, Abraham explained that he and sister Sally had planned to come together to see Thomas off. After being convinced by her friends, Sally did not join Abraham on the trip. Abraham noted that it was for the best since "takeing leave of [Thomas] upon such an occation would be painful." Abraham added further that "the

disappointment of not seeing [Thomas] after coming would have gone very hard with her." "I judge this by my own feelings," he commented palpable sadness.⁸³

In his letter, Abraham also remarked that "Mamme has not heard you going on this expedition, I fear it will effect her very much when she comes to know is, as she always seem'd to dread your going upon it." However, Abraham attempted to ease the concern by adding that it was probably better that Thomas has been sent to Canada, as the two battalions that remained in Philadelphia were awaiting orders to go to Detroit, "which everybody thinks ten times more dangerous."⁸⁴

Letters written to Thomas during the time that he was marching to Canada repeatedly express a particular concern for his health and his weak constitution. Though the Canadian weather was a factor, these letters reveal that Thomas generally must have been prone to weakness and ill health. Abraham, in his May 9th letter, advised Thomas to take care of himself and cautioned that "when you catch a small cold, which may often be the case, take care to get clear of before you run any risqué of getting another. The country you are in will require the greatest cares even in a person of a strong robust constitution which is not so much the case with you as I could wish." Abraham concluded the letter with a postscript to rally his brother's mood, "I hope to see you return safe and well crown'd with Laurels this fall, however let what will happen I pray and hope that your conduct may prove becoming a Soldier, which I by no means doubt—God Bless you—Farewell."⁸⁵

Abraham wrote often to his brother during the spring of 1776. Writing on May 18th from Naaman's Creek, Abraham began his letter with some advice and a warning,

Dear Tommy, I now once more beg you may be very careful of yourself as the Country you are in is generally very sickly in the summer season being very subject to the augues and fevers which we all know you used to be very much afraid of when you was with us and had an opportunity of being better nurs'd than you can expect in camp....

In addition to the careful cautions about his brother's health, Abraham's letter also contained a description of an incident that took place between two British men-of-war, which came up the Delaware River from the Bay and were attacked by American gondolas near Christina Creek. This engagement was especially alarming to Abraham and his family, since it was so close to their home. He explained that "Our Folks was so much frightened that they have mov'd the goods from here. The House looks like a Deserted Castle." He goes on to say that their "Dear Mother is now in the City, she has not returned since the Alarm, she is pretty well and seems to have gotten over her uneasiness about your going to Quebeck a great deal better than I expected for the time. I believe the fright of the Engagement helped very much to drive her uneasiness away."⁸⁶

The house at Naaman's Creek was often empty during the spring of 1776, since Sally Robinson was living in Philadelphia, after leaving "the Country" because it

seemed “so very lonesome” without Thomas.⁸⁷ Mrs. Robinson, too, was in Philadelphia, though Abraham remained at his home at Naaman’s Creek. It is not possible from the existing correspondence to determine how frequently, if at all, Mrs. Robinson and Sally returned to Naaman’s Creek during the spring and early summer of 1776, though it seems that they were rarely there during this time period.

By May 22nd, Abraham was again penning a letter to “Tommy.” In this letter, he commented primarily on the state affairs with the campaign in Canada and expressed regret that Thomas’s company was the first armed and therefore the first exposed to the danger of battle. Abraham prayed that the “Allseeing Eye may extend his protection to [Tommy] and guard [him] against the Vicissitudes of Fortune.” As typical, he closed the letter with words of advice about Thomas’s health.⁸⁸

Thomas Robinson did not actually arrive in Canada until early June after approximately three weeks of marching north from New York. At some point during the march from New York to Canada, six of Thomas Robinson’s men deserted him, and he wrote to his brother asking that these men be advertised and returned to the company stationed at Chester. However, in his reply, Abraham expressed concern about not being able to do this, as the men at Chester had left the week before and he would not know what to do if any of the deserters were to be returned.⁸⁹

Once they reached Canada, the 4th Pennsylvania encamped on the south bank of the St. Lawrence River. There they met with patriot troops that were retreating to escape newly arrived British soldiers and the spreading smallpox. In a May 24th letter to her brother, Sally wrote that she was “rejoiced [that] the defeat at Quebec happened before [he] arriv’d there...I should be sorry to hear of my Brother retreating in such a hurry.” This comment is somewhat perplexing since Robinson and the 4th Pennsylvania would not see action in Quebec until June 9th. Sally could only have been referring to this first group of soldiers that had retreated down the St. Lawrence.

Perhaps more notable in Sally’s May 24th letter is her update on recent visitors to their home in Philadelphia. Casually, Sally noted that “General Washington arrive[d] in Town yesterday for to stay a few days with us.” This was her only comment on Washington’s visit, and she quickly moved on to reporting the other friends who are in town and visiting.⁹⁰ Sally’s ease and casual regard of Washington’s visit hints that it was not an uncommon or surprising occurrence. Though this is the only documented reference to Washington visiting the Robinsons (either in Philadelphia or at Naaman’s), it suggests that he may have visited in the past or that it would not be surprising if he did so again in the future.

General and Mrs. Washington had arrived in Philadelphia from New York on May 23rd with plans to stay elsewhere. The Washingtons had been invited to stay with John Hancock during their stay in the city; however, upon their arrival in the city, Washington received a note from Hancock expressing his regret that he could not

wait on them in person due to a severe case of the gout. This change in plans likely prompted him to seek out alternate accommodations, with the Robinsons being the chosen location. George Washington stayed in Philadelphia until June 5th, and during his visit, met with Congress to discuss military operations.⁹¹ There is no further comment regarding Washington's stay with Sally Robinson, but he most likely stayed throughout his entire visit.

Since Thomas Robinson's letters do not exist, it is difficult to assess his emotions or actions during this time. Despite the one-sided nature of the communication, the replies of Thomas's family often hint at the news and information he shared in his letters. In a May 12th letter to Abraham, Thomas had apparently told his brother of a novel idea for sleeping, simply wrapped in a blanket and lying on the ground. Abraham replied with shock that he hoped that Thomas did not "put it in Practice yet as there can be no necessity to run the Risque." "I like your sleeping in your Tent very well but on the ground I do not approve of," he concludes sternly.⁹² This final comment vividly illustrates Abraham's fatherly treatment of his often sickly younger brother.

Letters between the Robinson family and Thomas in late May, June, and early July 1776 do not exist in any known collections or repositories. This lack of letters may be due in large part to the fact that Thomas Robinson was active during the Quebec campaign, moving often and engaged in heavy battle at Three Rivers and elsewhere.⁹³ If letters were sent (and considering the frequency of earlier correspondence, they most certainly were), these communiqués may not have reached Robinson or they may have been damaged or lost. For whatever reason, the absence of letters is striking in comparison to the large numbers of letters from the spring and precludes a full understanding of Robinson's actions during this time period.

Though family letters are absent in June 1776, the correspondence of others provide a glimpse of Robinson's actions. In his orderly book on June 12th, Wayne recorded the brave character of his people in their battle at Three Rivers and offers thanks to several individuals, including Captain Robinson, who acted as "Gentlemen and Soldiers."⁹⁴ The next day, Wayne reiterated this praise, when in a letter to Benjamin Franklin and others, he singled Thomas Robinson out to offer accolades for proving himself "the Soldier and the Gen'tm." Wayne remarked that Robinson's "conduct has outgone the most Sanguine hopes of his friends."⁹⁵

The memoirs of John Lacey, a member of the 4th Pennsylvania, provide a different perspective on Robinson's actions during this time period. By mid-July, Robinson's company, along with seven others in the battalion, had returned to New York and were encamped at Ticonderoga, where they paraded on July 13th.⁹⁶ John Lacey comments on that time period, noting that Robinson was one of "the Colonel's favorites," who often had the pleasure of spending time in Colonel Wayne's tent.⁹⁷ He goes on to offer this far more expressive view on Robinson,

I know very little of Captain Robinson, he keeps himself very close within the vortex of the Colonel's Patrimony; but this I know when any extra duty is required, he is sure to be sick and never fails to faint at the sight of human Blood. Captain Moore is more of a bully... They two were Wayne's constant companion, inmates of the same Marquee, Dined, Supped, and lodged together. None of the other officers of the regiment were suffered to approach them or invited to eat or drink a drop, at the Colonel's Festive Board; no one trouble them, unless called there on business. The Colonel's partiality to them was such as to disgust all the other officers of the Regiment.⁹⁸

Though Lacey's comments can be considered the bitter remarks of a man who once had been passed over to command a company, they do touch upon, and provide support for, two issues that are apparent in the family correspondence—Robinson's sickly constitution and his close friendship with Colonel Wayne.⁹⁹ And while Lacey's words may be slanted due to his jealousy, they do provide one of the most colorful descriptions of Thomas Robinson and his manner at this time period.

The next letter in the family correspondence is one from Sally dated July 14th. She began her letter by noting her concern over whether Thomas has received any of the nine letters she had written since he had left New York for Canada. She has had some news by way of a Mr. Franks, who delivered a message from Thomas and reported that he looked "hearty." She then shared news of family and friends, noting that she had heard from the mills recently and "they are well." She also reported that their mother had gone "up with Nancy to stay the summer." It is not clear who Nancy is, but may have been an extended family member or friend.¹⁰⁰

In her letter of the 14th, Sally also comments in passing that Richard Peters has been appointed Secretary of War. The next piece of family correspondence reveals further detail about the role of Richard Peters in Sally's life. In late August, Abraham wrote to Thomas, now at Fort Ticonderoga, announcing exciting family news,

In my last to you I mentioned that I thought our sister and Capt. Peters would be married. I now inform you that I understand they were join'd in the Holy Bonds last Thursday night, I was not even acquainted at the time of their intentions of having it finish'd so suddenly, I cannot conceive the reason of our not having an invitation to the wedding therefore will wait until I see or hear from them before I undertake to be affronted, I think Sally has some good reason, otherwise I shall take it very hard.¹⁰¹

The speed of Sally's marriage evidently surprised Abraham, but allowed him to offer his thoughts on marriage and to express his hope that Thomas would one day be "join'd to some good girl with something pretty of an Estate that [would] enable [him] to live above the Frowns of Fortune."¹⁰²

Thomas must have received Abraham's news quickly and rapidly returned a congratulatory letter to his sister. In late September, Sally wrote to her brother to thank him for his wishes on her marriage. She also responded his desire to "have her picture," and she says that she "will sit for it directly and send it up."¹⁰³ This picture obviously was a painted portrait. It may have been a miniature which would have been easier to transport than a full size portrait.¹⁰⁴

On September 27th, Abraham Robinson wrote from Philadelphia to Thomas. Having just returned from a month of sitting in Convention in New Castle, Abraham shared news of the state and noted the formation of a Delaware battalion, which he had hoped Thomas could lead. However, many felt that it would not be appropriate to have a captain in the Pennsylvania Continental army preferred above those officers raised in the Delaware government, so Abraham withdrew Thomas's brother's name.¹⁰⁵

In October, Thomas was still encamped at Fort Ticonderoga. In a letter written on the 2nd, Abraham Robinson expressed uneasiness on behalf of himself and his mother at the thought that Thomas may be staying in New York all winter. It seemed that their concern was warranted for on October 11th, Thomas Robinson was granted "furlough from General Gates."¹⁰⁶ This furlough apparently was due to an illness from which Robinson suffered. Though the muster roll does not supply the reason for Robinson's furlough, a letter written by Anthony Wayne does. On October 13 and 14th, Wayne writes to his wife that Captain Robinson "is going to Fort George sick."¹⁰⁷ Fort George, located in Lake George, New York, was the headquarters and hospital of the Northern Army in 1776.¹⁰⁸

Thomas Robinson would not have been alone at Fort George, which was a busy and crowded hospital in the late summer and fall of 1776. In fact, General Gates commented to George Washington in a July 29th letter that "Everything about this army is infected with pestilence. To put this evil from us, a General Hospital is established at Fort George, where there are now between two & three thousand sick."¹⁰⁹ By November 1776, the hospital was less crowded with 400 patients, but was lacking an adequate supply of vegetables, good female nurses, and comfortable sleeping arrangements.¹¹⁰

October 1776 must have been a difficult time for Thomas Robinson due to his illness, the length of time that he had been away from home, and the poor conditions at the Fort George hospital. In late September and early October, Robinson seems to have been considering his future involvement in the Continental Army. In an early October letter, Sally Peters wrote to her brother and alluded to his consideration of resignation from the army. Sally commented that "she wishes to see him in peace but would be very sorry he should return whilst his presence is necessary where he is." Their mother also "longs to see [him] but says she would forfeit that pleasure rather than [he] would taint [his] honor by a resignation." Sally continued by describing the suffering of another man who had recently given up his commission.¹¹¹

Rather than resigning from service, Thomas Robinson had in fact received a commission, dated October 2, 1776, for the rank of Major in the Fifth Pennsylvania Regiment. Whether it was knowledge of this commission or the difficult conditions in northern New York that prompted Robinson to consider resignation is not known. There is no further discussion or comment on the issue of a resignation, but it seems clear from this correspondence that Thomas Robinson at some point in the fall of 1776 was contemplating the idea of leaving the army.

The October promotion did result in Robinson's involuntary resignation from another organization—the Quakers. Though Robinson had been active in the Pennsylvania battalion since January, his appointment to the rank of Major prompted his immediate disownment by the Southern District Meeting for accepting an office in the army.¹¹²

It seems that members of the Robinson family were not aware of Robinson's promotion, nor did they know that he had taken ill and was in the hospital at Fort George. As late as mid-October, they were still sending him mail at Fort Ticonderoga and making no mention of his being sick. On October 17th, Sarah Robinson wrote a letter to her son that accompanied a package of woolen goods to keep him warm at Fort Ticonderoga. In the package, Mrs. Robinson sent "two pare of mild worsted stockings marked TR" and "a pare of mild gloves." She also wanted to send a warm cap, but was not able to get one in town, but hoped to make one soon. In true maternal fashion, she also implored him to let her know if there was anything else he needed, so she could send it.¹¹³

Thomas Robinson was still recuperating at Fort George in early November, and by the middle of the month he was still not well. His sickness had apparently not improved noticeably and Colonel Francis Johnston wrote to Anthony Wayne that "Poor Tom is so weak yet, that I must not part with him." Johnston was bound for Chester, Pennsylvania where he intended to open his quarters and embark on some recruitment.¹¹⁴ Instead of leaving Robinson in New York to get well, Johnston apparently took him with him to Pennsylvania. A November 26th roll of Captain Robinson's company at Fort Ticonderoga recorded Thomas Robinson "sick in Pennsylvania."¹¹⁵ Robinson spent December and early January recuperating, either at Naaman's Creek or in Philadelphia. During this time, it seems that he assisted Colonel Johnston in his recruitment efforts, for later in February he received \$2,000 "for the recruiting service."¹¹⁶

During his nearly two months at home, Robinson must have regained his health and energy, for by January 22nd, Colonel Robinson's regiment along with a Colonel Simon's regiment, together consisting of 700 men and officers, has arrived at Ticonderoga.¹¹⁷ In April 1777, Colonel Wayne wrote to Abraham Robinson describing the situation at Ticonderoga, noting that a party of thirty men and two officers has recently been killed by a group of American Indians commanded by a British officer. One who escaped from his captors reported that the enemy was

collecting at Montreal, Camelle, and St. John's, waiting to come in full force once the lake opened. As such, Wayne has asked all the Eastern states to send their troops at once, so that he would "hopefully" be ready to meet the British at any time. In confidence, he expresses some concern at his preparedness with the comment that that he has "not One Thousand men on the Ground."¹¹⁸

By the end of April, Thomas Robinson had left Ticonderoga, most likely to accompany Colonel Wayne, who had been ordered by General Washington to report to Morristown, New Jersey to take charge of a Pennsylvania brigade there.¹¹⁹ Not long after arriving in New Jersey, Thomas Robinson served as President of a General Court Marital held at Boundbrook, New Jersey on April 28th.¹²⁰

Throughout the summer of 1777, Thomas Robinson was encamped in New Jersey.¹²¹ At home on Naaman's Creek, members of Abraham Robinson's family surely witnessed the march of the American troops through Naaman's Creek in late August 1777 as General George Washington led them through northern Delaware and into Wilmington on his way to oppose General Howe who was landing at Head of the Elk.¹²² Oral tradition states that on this march Washington may have stayed at the Robinson House. However, the author of this report has not located any documentation that definitively supports this belief. Writings about Washington's itinerary during that time period do record him marching out of Philadelphia, through Chester and to Naaman's Creek on August 24th, 1777. However, at this point in the trip, diarist Timothy Pickering, Washington's Adjutant General, records that the army marched to Naaman's Creek with "the General and family advancing to Wilmington, a pretty town and well situated."¹²³ Because George Washington has been documented as staying with members of the Robinson family at their residence in Philadelphia in May 1776, it is imaginable that he may indeed have visited with the Robinsons at Naaman's Creek.¹²⁴ However, because Washington did not keep a journal of his own during this time period, there is no way to determine whether he did stay or if Pickering is accurate in his description of Washington's course of travel.¹²⁵

After passing through Naaman's Creek, George Washington spent more than a week in Wilmington, planning his movements against the British. He then went on to Chadd's Ford where he stationed troops to defend Philadelphia from the enemy troops advancing from Head of Elk in Maryland. On September 11th, George Washington led troops, including Thomas Robinson (2), into the Battle of Brandywine.

General Washington had personally selected Thomas Robinson to lead a corps of 250 men into the battle at Brandywine. The men were subjected to a strong attack by the enemy, and though he performed bravely, Robinson was wounded and returned with only thirty of his men. In a letter written almost forty-three years later to artist John Trumbull, Robinson's brother-in-law Richard Peters recounts the events of that day, noting that they would make for an excellent painting. According to Peters, when General George Washington encountered Robinson on the

battlefield following the defeat, the usually composed General was so overcome with emotion that he “threw his arms around him and embraced him in a paroxysm of fervid affection and marked approbation, mixed with penetrating Regrets.” In his letter, Peters continues by explaining that,

The Colonel [Robinson] has often told me that he was more overcome by this unexpected reception, than by all the toils and dangers he had passed. Bleeding with wounds, almost prostrate with fatigue, and almost incapable before this to sit on his horse, he maintained his seat. What a moment of rapture was this for an honourably, yet inevitably defeated, soldier.¹²⁶

After receiving wounds at the Battle of the Brandywine, Thomas Robinson was sent to the hospital at Lancaster.¹²⁷ An October muster roll again notes Robinson as wounded. This is the last reference to the wounds he sustained at Brandywine, so it is unclear exactly how long it took him to recover.¹²⁸ There are not records that explain why Robinson was sent to the hospital at Lancaster. The walking wounded from Brandywine generally went to hospital facilities in Philadelphia, while the more serious injuries were sent to New Jersey hospitals. A historian of military medicine makes no mention of the Lancaster area hospitals receiving soldiers from Brandywine.¹²⁹

In the late fall of 1777, while Thomas Robinson was recuperating from the injuries he sustained at Brandywine, the area around Robinson’s home and the Naaman’s mills was an active place. On October 31st, George Washington, anticipating the arrival of enemy troops, ordered Brigadier General James Potter assisted by Captain Lee of the Light Horse to immediately “remove the running Stones from the Mills in the neighbourhood of Chester and Wilmington.” Washington dispatched Potter to several mills, including Robinson’s on Naaman’s Creek among them. He goes on to give detailed information about how the project should be conducted, noting that it should be done in the utmost secrecy using several wagons and “good Officers with sufficient parties” who were not to know of their destination until just before they were to go. Washington advised that the stones should be marked in a manner so as to know from which they came for future return and that they should be moved to a distance far enough that the enemy could not easily recover them. He also recommended that any flour in the mills should be removed as well, so as to prevent the British from securing it.¹³⁰

Potter and Lee must have undertaken this order in a timely fashion, and by November 3rd, 1777, Lee was writing to Washington to inform him of events that had the day before taken place at Robinson’s mill. Lee writes,

I fell in with a foraging party; on the appearance of my dragoons the enemy ran without giving one fire. A Captain of the Queens rangers, a factor from Baltimore County & seven mariners and soldiers were made prisoners.

The residents of the Robinson House would have been a close audience for this action.

After his commendable actions at Brandywine, Robinson was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and transferred to the First Pennsylvania Regiment, with a retroactively assigned date of rank of June 7th, 1777.¹³¹ In November 1777, Robinson may also have assumed another duty in relation to the war. Writing to George Washington, Thomas's brother-in-law Richard Peters requested that Washington appoint "proper spirited Officers" to collect shoes, blankets, and other necessary items for the army. He recommended Major Robinson as "a proper Person to be employed in Chester County as he well knows the People there." There is no evidence of a response or documentation of whether Robinson was actually appointed to this position, though it may have been something he did during his recovery after Brandywine.¹³²

The documentary record is silent as to Thomas Robinson's activities in the winter 1777-1778 and early spring of 1778, though considering the locations of his regiment, one would expect that he participated in the battle of Trenton and Princeton and wintered at Morristown and Valley Forge in 1777-1778.¹³³

May 1778 found Thomas Robinson again unwell, perhaps due to the difficult conditions that winter and spring. Writing to his colleague James Moore, Robinson reported that his health has been very bad that he is "under a Corse of Medisons that [have] brought [him] so low" that his friend would not recognize him. Robinson's letter is marked New London, where an army hospital for the Eastern Department of the Army was located.¹³⁴ Robinson apparently was attempting to conduct business while recovering from his illness, for he discusses a variety of administrative concerns, including procuring clothing for troops at Yorktown and settling ration accounts with the company.¹³⁵

Robinson's health had improved only slightly by June 2nd, when he wrote to General Wayne. Though his location is not identified, Robinson was presumably still in New London recuperating from his illness. He began his letter with apologies to Wayne for not writing earlier. Robinson's comments suggest his close allegiance to Wayne; with reverence, he wrote,

My not writing to you before this time I confess is a great Neglect of my Duty, but you may Depend upon it that it is not for want of the least Respect and Regard fro that I always had, and I am in hope that you don't Look upon it as such, for if I thought you did it would make me Wretched.

Robinson described his condition as follows: "My throat is very bad and I am taken Medison yet." He also states that he has been "so very bad that [he had not had] the Spirits to Write. But [his] disorder...is a little Better." He concluded the letter with the comment that he hopes he will be cured very soon so that he could once again be in the field performing the duty of his country.¹³⁶

What happened to Robinson in the months after this letter is not known. Men in his regiment were engaged in battle at Monmouth, but Robinson may not have been involved due to his poor health. By August 1778, the remaining men in the three Pennsylvania brigades were formed into two brigades, each consisting of four regiments. Thomas Robinson served as a Lieutenant Colonel of one of these regiments.¹³⁷

Again, there are gaps in Robinson's activities in the autumn of 1778, as there is little correspondence or other material dating to this time. During part of this time, he was encamped in White Plains, New York. In October, Thomas Robinson had just arrived in Fredericksburg, New York after departing from White Plains, where the conditions were poor and food was scarce. In a letter to Abraham, he characterized a recent British action, which resulted in the loss of thirty men, as the most "Cruel and Barberas...as has been since the War began." He mentioned that he and the troops were set to move next to Fishkill, New York, but those plans had just been changed. Thomas concluded the letter with personal comments and queries about the family. First, he bemoaned the lack of correspondence from his brother and questions what he might have done to receive this treatment from him. He also included concern for his mother's health, which was had not been good at last communication. He closed with well wishes to his sister, Sarah Peters, and to his nephew, Thomas Robinson (4).¹³⁸

By early November 1778, Thomas Robinson was back in Philadelphia after a two-week journey from an encampment in an unidentified location. Writing to Colonel Wayne, Robinson explained that the journey was a difficult one, considering his poor health. He did remark that he was feeling better now that he had arrived and would be heading "for the Country," mentioning he would "call on Mrs. Wayne on his way to [his] brother's." The letter also contained discussion of the "army's complaints" about poor rations and clothing and he informed Wayne that the Assembly has appointed a committee to correspond with the Commanding Officer of the Pennsylvania line and to supply them with the necessary items.¹³⁹

Thomas Robinson spent November and December at Naaman's Creek with his brother, where he lived according to the doctor's orders, but "to no purpose." At the end of December, he returned to Philadelphia, where he had no news to share for "nothing [is] going on."¹⁴⁰ During his recuperation at Naaman's Creek, it is possible that Thomas lived at the Robinson House. Alternately, he may have lived in his brother's home, across the King's Road near the mills. There is no documentation from this time period that offers a conclusive answer.

Thomas Robinson's activities in the decade between late 1778 and the late 1780s are again relatively unknown due to the absence of documentation. During this time, he was most likely engaged in a quieter existence than in previous years, conducting patrolling, raids, guard duty, and training.¹⁴¹ December 1779 brought the death of Thomas's mother Sarah, who was 67 when she died.¹⁴² This surely

would have brought Thomas home from his military actions to attend to family business resulting from his mother's death.

By the following December (1780), Thomas Robinson was encamped near Morristown, New Jersey, where he and the regiment would face their darkest days in the history of their military involvement.¹⁴³ The soldiers of Wayne's Pennsylvania line were experiencing growing frustration and anger due to poor rations, insufficient clothing, and months without pay.¹⁴⁴ On the night of January 1st, 1781, the angry men rebelled against Wayne's authority and defected. Wayne, writing to General Washington, explains that though the officers had made "Every possible exertion...to suppress it in its rise....the torrent was too Potent to be stemmed."¹⁴⁵ In the violent events, one officer was killed, two seriously wounded, and several injured from bayonets, stones, and clubs. Though no documentation of Robinson's specific involvement has been located, he was surely witness to this affair and was among the officers attempting to fight back the mutinous soldiers. Robinson must have suffered physically and emotionally due to his close affiliation with and allegiance to Colonel Wayne. Following the mutiny, Robinson, along with the other officers, gathered with Wayne to rejoin the mutinying troops and parlay their concerns about pay and rations to the necessary individuals.¹⁴⁶

It is not clear just who was living at the Robinson House while Thomas Robinson was wrapped up in the circumstances of the mutiny and then in the following year, when he was most likely involved at the Siege of Yorktown. The 1782 census of New Castle County records two women over the age of 18 in the household of Thomas Robinson. The identity of these women is not known. Sarah Robinson had died and Sally Peters was living in Philadelphia with her husband. They may have been hired domestic servants or tenants. Meanwhile, Abraham's household included himself, three boys under 18, six girls under 18, and 3 women over 18. Of the nine children under eighteen, eight were Abraham and Sarah's children. The remaining girl and two women over eighteen may have been relatives or servants.¹⁴⁷

In the summer of 1783, Thomas Robinson, along with the other members of his battalion, was furloughed and then discharged in November.¹⁴⁸ The documentary record is silent as to Thomas Robinson's whereabouts or activities in the years after his discharge from the Continental Army. At this stage, one can only assume that he returned to private life at his home at Naaman's Creek. As a triumphant war hero, he likely rested on his laurels following his active military service, during which he was often plagued with illness. He was honored with an induction into the Society of the Cincinnati on October 31, 1785.¹⁴⁹ During these years, he also may have played a role in Abraham's milling operations and business activities. Likewise, he would have focused his energies on his own property, where it seems that agricultural operations were expanding.

In March 1787, Abraham Robinson died at the age of forty-seven, leaving his wife, Sarah, and nine children. The widowed Sarah and her brother-in-law Thomas (2)

were appointed as the estate executors and set about the process of administering Abraham's estate. Thomas Robinson (2) quickly became involved in the complicated and extensive settlement and must have been very busy during the months after his death. One of the first things Thomas and his sister-in-law did was to place an advertisement for the lease of the grist mills, which are "fitted for merchant and country work with 2 pair of the best Burrs;" the [linseed] oil mill; and a saw mill. Along with the mills was available a mansion house with large bake house and a cooper's shop.¹⁵⁰

Thomas Robinson (2) did not remain in private life for long after his return from serving in the Revolutionary War. In October 1788, he received an appointment as the fourth justice of the New Castle County Court of Common Pleas and Orphans Court.¹⁵¹ The next year, Robinson received his military pension when the Federal government issued him 450 acres of bounty land for his service as Lieutenant Colonel of the Pennsylvania Line.¹⁵² Land warrants were a customary way for the government to pay soldiers for their service. The land was typically in the west, and as a result many individuals did not use the warrant themselves, but instead assigned it to someone else.¹⁵³ Unfortunately, no additional paperwork exists regarding Thomas Robinson's pension, as the papers were destroyed in a fire at the war office in November 1800.¹⁵⁴

The mid-1790s were busy years in Thomas Robinson's life. In August 1794, he was again advertising the availability of his brother's mills at Naaman's Creek.¹⁵⁵ The following year, in March 1795, he advertised the rent or "let to the shares" of Naaman's Creek Plantation.¹⁵⁶ This announcement seems to refer to the land around his own home. He may have sought to rent a portion of the property, so that he could focus on his new role as Major General of the New Castle County militia.¹⁵⁷ On March 18, 1796, Thomas Robinson married Mary (Eyre) Coates at Christ Church in Philadelphia. Mary Coates was the thirty-five-year old widow of Isaac Coates.¹⁵⁸

During the 1790s, most likely coinciding with his appointment in the Delaware militia or with his marriage, Thomas Robinson (2) made the decision to expand the size of his home. A large and showy expanded residence was fitting for a triumphant war hero, newly married Major General, and wealthy land owner. To fit his elevated position in society, Robinson commissioned a stone addition for the east end of his home. The stone addition doubled the size of the house and radically altered the relationships between the principal rooms, shifting focus away from the back-to-back parlors on the west end of the house and to a large and highly finished room at the rear (northwest) corner. It is not clear what function this large new room served. Clearly, with its size, high ceiling, large windows, and high level of finish, it was a principle space used for a public purpose. A later estate inventory suggests that it may have served as a dining room or parlor, either of which would have served for the polite activities of receiving and entertaining distinguished guests.¹⁵⁹ See Appendix D3. for floor plan.

The larger and expanded house served Thomas's prominent new role as Major General and also accommodated his growing family. In the first four years of their marriage, Mary Robinson gave birth to three children— Thomas (3) was born in March 1797. In April 1798, Mary Robinson gave birth to a daughter, Mary, who lived only eight months. A son, Manuel, was born in June 1799 and lived only nine days. Later, between 1801 and 1803, Mary Robinson gave birth to three more children— Sarah, born in 1801; Mary, born in 1802; and Manuel, born in 1803.¹⁶⁰

A 1797 tax assessment for Brandywine Hundred provides additional detail about the nature of the Robinsons' property, which consisted of 200 acres of land, 160 of which were improved as fields, orchards, and pastures. On the property stood two dwelling houses, 2 small log houses, a blacksmith shop, and two barns. Together these buildings were evaluated at \$700. Robinson also owned \$200 worth of livestock and 60 ounces of silver plate valued at \$66.67. His total real and personal estate came to \$1,100.67.¹⁶¹

The year after the tax assessment was completed, road commissioners surveyed the Naaman's Creek Road to improve the existing, old road, which had been serving primarily the mill and landing.¹⁶² In December 1799, Naaman's Road was returned to the court and confirmed. The return describes the road entering Thomas (2) Robinson's property just north of a ford on the north branch of the Naaman's Creek and turning in front of Robinson's house at a distance of sixteen feet from the wall of his front yard. The road went on to cross the Philadelphia Road to a point between the two house occupied by the heirs of Abraham Robinson and continued beyond to its terminus at the Naaman's landing on the creek.¹⁶³ See Appendix E for photos of the Abraham Robinson buildings.

In 1800, at the time of the census, Thomas (2) Robinson's household included ten members. In addition to Thomas and Mary and their son, Thomas (3), the household included one male between the ages of 16 and 26 and two young women in the same age bracket. Also living in the household was a woman above the age of 45. It is not clear who these individuals were, but one was definitely Abraham's daughter Mary Robinson, who had joined her uncle's household in spring 1799.¹⁶⁴ The others may have been some of her siblings, and the older woman may have been Mary Robinson's mother or sister. The remaining three people included in the census are identified as "other free people," who may have been hired laborers or servants on the property or at the mill.¹⁶⁵ These laborers most likely lived in an outbuilding on the property or in a second story room of the house.

Through the early 1800s, Thomas (2) continued to oversee the mill property formerly owned by Abraham. He appeared before the Orphans Court several times to report on condition and request repairs. He was also involved with the guardianship of his nieces and nephews. In early January and again in early February 1803, Robinson advertised the availability for rent of the property, which included a large brick house, barns, stables, and outbuildings on twelve acres of

land; a linseed oil mill on 70 acres, which also included a dwelling and outbuildings; a forty-acre plantation “on the Great Road from Philadelphia to Wilmington,” which included a brick house and out houses.¹⁶⁶

A second advertisement placed by Thomas Robinson (2) at the same time includes the rental of his own property, identified as the “Naaman’s Creek Plantation” and described as follows,

Containing about 400 acres, 80 of which are extraordinary meadow, and about 250 arable land, the whole in complete order for grazing...There are on the premises two large Bearing Orchards of the best kind of fruit, two large Dwelling houses, a blacksmith shop, two Barns, a complete Granary, out stables, Hay houses, cider house with the works all in complete order, carriage houses, milk houses and Ice house filled with ice, with every convenience for a Farm and Dairy for at least 30 cows—It is very near to market being but twenty miles from Philadelphia and seven from Wilmington...
For terms apply to Thomas Robinson, At the Premises.¹⁶⁷

This advertisement, which was dated December 27th, and appeared February 9th, 12th, and 16th provides the most detailed, written description of Thomas (2) Robinson’s property, but it raises questions about his intentions. Was he planning to move? If so, where? Was he considering a move across the road (Philadelphia Pike) to his deceased brother’s property, which was also available and being advertised in the papers, to take on the Naaman’s mills? The total property size of 400 acres suggests that Thomas was including some of his Chester County land in the land deal.

It has not been possible to determine what Thomas Robinson was planning when he placed this advertisement. It appears that he did maintain ownership of the Naaman’s Creek Plantation, as it is recorded under his ownership in tax assessments for the following year and he and his family did appear in the vicinity in the census records.

An 1804 tax assessment records Thomas (2) Robinson as the owner of 200 acres with 2 dwelling houses, 2 log tenements, 2 frame barns, and a black smith shop. Together the real estate totaled \$1800. His livestock included 2 horses, 2 cows, and 8 pigs weighing 300 pounds. Together the livestock totaled \$62, which represented a significant decrease since the last tax assessment. This may indicate that Robinson had changed his agricultural practices. The tax assessment also records two slaves—an 18-year-old female valued at \$50 and a 34-year-old male valued at \$60. These individuals were most likely engaged in agricultural and domestic tasks on the property. Thomas Robinson maintained his sixty ounces of plate valued at \$66.67.¹⁶⁸

There is no information recording Thomas (2) Robinson’s activities between 1804 and 1808. In the fall of 1808, Robinson’s health was failing, and his son, away at

boarding school, was concerned about the well-being of his father. The headmaster at the Doylestown school wrote on the younger Robinson's behalf inquiring about the elder Robinson's health. Evidently, Thomas Robinson (3) had written the week before inquiring about his father's health and had not heard any response. The headmaster reports that his student was doing well, but often dwelled on his father's poor health.¹⁶⁹ There is no additional correspondence on this matter, but presumably the elder Robinson's health improved for he would live another eleven years.

Between 1808 and 1811, Thomas Robinson (2) was embroiled in a Chancery Court case involving the estate of his deceased brother Abraham. The case centered on financial disagreements between Thomas and his nieces (Abraham's heirs) and their husbands. Though a detailed study of this case has not been conducted, it appears that the heirs questioned Thomas (2) Robinson's accounting of their father's finances.¹⁷⁰

In 1810, census enumerators again visited Thomas Robinson (2) to record the members of his household, which included Robinson and his children Thomas (3), Sarah, Mary, and Manuel. His wife Mary is not enumerated in the census, though was still alive at this time. Her absence from the census may represent an error in reporting. In addition to the members of the immediate family, the census also records two individuals in the "other free" category and also indicates eight slaves on the property. This number of enslaved individuals is remarkable, since Robinson's eight slaves represented just under half of Brandywine Hundred's entire slave population of twenty.¹⁷¹ The fact that the Robinsons increased their slaves eight-fold within a ten year period suggests that they were expanding their farming operations, or perhaps relying on enslaved labor for other activities on their property or at the Naaman's mill. Without additional documentation of these individuals, it is difficult to determine in what activities they were engaged at the property. Future research may reveal more information about the nature of the Naaman's Creek plantation's products and industries.

By 1816, Thomas (2) Robinson's land holdings in New Castle County had been reduced by seventy acres. The assessment for that year records Robinson as the owner of "two farms, good buildings, a tenement included" on 130 acres. The reference to a tenement suggests tenant farming of the land. Robinson's real estate was valued at \$1,170. Robinson's livestock was \$142. His total amount of silver plate had reduced to 40 ounces, valued at \$44. For 1816, Robinson total evaluation was \$1,506.¹⁷²

In December 1819, sixty-nine-year-old Thomas Robinson died at Naaman's Creek. In his will, written just weeks before his death, Robinson devised that his real estate be equally divided between his four children, Thomas (3), Sarah, Mary, and Manuel. In particular, he directs that Thomas (3) is to have his "Homestead farm or plantation" and that if the value of that property exceeds that of the shares of the other children, Thomas would need to pay his siblings the remaining sum. Finally,

Robinson appoints his son and his nephew, Richard Peters, Jr., as the administrators of his estate. Strangely, nowhere in this will does Thomas mention his wife Mary.¹⁷³

Robinson's executors undertook the task of administering the estate and settling the accounts. In June, Thomas Robinson (3) hired two appraisers to complete the probate inventory of his father's moveable estate. (See Appendix F for inventory). This inventory provides detailed information on the contents of the Robinson House at the time of Thomas's death. His home was well furnished and appointed with decorative items. Though not recorded room-by-room, the general order of the inventory helps to reconstruct room use in the Robinson House. Robinson's bedroom included his bed, a bureau, dressing glass, one easy chair and two other chairs, and a clothes press. A secretary and bookcase with a library valued at \$50 also occupied this room or another one nearby.

The dining room contained a table with eight chairs and side board with knife cases set atop it. The floor was carpeted and the room featured other accessories such as a looking glass, a clock, a gin case, linens, silver plate, glass ware, and dining implements, such as knives and forks and tableware. An adjoining room, with its piano and stool, four tables, and twelve chairs, was clearly furnished for entertaining and gatherings of people. A carpeted parlor with curtains at the windows featured a sofa, eight chairs, and a table. A map, a telescope, and a spy glass in this room suggest Robinson's study of the world around him.

The inventory also records the items in outbuildings, which provides insight into the function of other buildings situated on the property. A carriage shed housed the "family carriage" valued at \$250 and a gig and harness at \$125. A barn provided storage for a variety of agricultural tools and stores of wheat, corn, oats, and rye. Robinson's herd of livestock, including horses, oxen, cows, and hogs, also occupied a portion of the barn or another outbuilding. Located in a root cellar or other form of cold storage were ten bushels of turnips, three "lots" of potatoes, and a supply of pork.

At the completion of the inventory, Thomas Robinson's moveable estate was found to total \$1,977.48. Though the particular items are not identified, the inventory notes that Mary Robinson purchased several items from her husband's estate. The remaining items were most likely divided among his children, as no sale records exist.¹⁷⁴ See Appendix F3 for this probate inventory.

The settlement of the deceased Thomas (2) Robinson's estate took five years and was not finalized and entered into record until 1825. Though the accounts are not very detailed, they do provide some insight into life at the Robinson House in the years after the elder Robinson's death. These accounts note receipt of cash for the "rent of farms and produce sold." They also record payment of wages to servants, as well as money necessary for repairs, taxes, and "family and other incidentals

expenses,” which were most likely paid out by Mary Robinson or Thomas Robinson (3) as they managed the household and farm.¹⁷⁵

Thomas Robinson (3), 1797-1854

The 1820 census records Mary Robinson as the head of the Robinson household. At the time, the home also included her twenty-three-year-old son Thomas (3), who had inherited the property and most likely was taking on many of the responsibilities his father had once had. The Robinson household also included two girls between the ages of ten and sixteen. Since daughters Sarah and Mary Robinson would have been in their late teenage years at this point, these younger girls were most likely domestic help living in the household or in an outbuilding. The other people listed in the census are seven “free colored” individuals—two males under 14, one male between 14 and 26, two females under fourteen, and two females between the ages of 14 and 26.¹⁷⁶ It is impossible to determine if any of these individuals were those counted among the slaves in the 1810 census, though it is likely that some indeed were and had been manumitted in the intervening years. These “free colored” people were most likely engaged as agricultural or domestic labor.

As part of the settlement of the estate, the real estate of the deceased Thomas (2) Robinson needed to be appraised to determine if it was being equally divided among the heirs, as stipulated by their father’s will. For some reason, this appraisal did not occur until August 1830, when a group of local men were sent out to inspect and appraise the property. At this time, Thomas Robinson (3) was living on the “Homestead Farm” in the Robinson House. The Upper Farm, which lay partly in New Castle County and mostly in Chester County, Pennsylvania, was being rented to a man named Samuel Goodly. The appraisers determined that the Homestead Farm totaled \$4,720, while the “Upper Farm” totaled \$4,040. Because Manuel Robinson had died sometime between 1819 and 1830, the division was made between Thomas Robinson (3), Mary Robinson, and Sarah (Robinson) and her husband James Thomson. Thomas took the Homestead Farm he inherited from his father, while the Thomsons took the Upper Farm, and Mary received a one-third portion of the real estate’s combined value (\$2,929.00).¹⁷⁷ See Map C4 in Appendix C.

Sometime between 1820 and 1830, it seems that Thomas (2) Robinson’s widow, Mary, left Naaman’s Creek. She does not appear in her son’s household in 1830, and when she died on December 18th, 1833, the 72-year-old widow was living “at her residence in Philadelphia.”¹⁷⁸

Thomas Robinson (3) married Ellen Maria Brackett in July 1825 and lived in the Robinson House with his family at Naaman’s Creek until sometime in the second quarter of the nineteenth century when they left New Castle County, presumably to move to Philadelphia. After his wife died in 1845, he married Caroline Brackett (most likely Ellen’s sister). In 1851, when Thomas and Caroline Robinson sold the

property to Abner Vernon, they were living in Philadelphia. Robinson's profession or activities in Philadelphia have not been researched. He died in March 1854.¹⁷⁹

Conclusion

Architecturally and historically, the Robinson House is a rare and unique part of Delaware's history. Though much of the landscape associated with the eighteenth- and nineteenth-century history of the area is lost, the Robinson House stands today to tell a compelling story of the Robinson family, of their prominence as land owners in the Naaman's Creek area and beyond, and of their significant role in local and national history. The continuous association of one family for more than a century provides a unique opportunity to focus on the personalities, activities, and relationships of multiple generations of the Robinson family who lived in the house. In particular, the Robinson House exists as a record of the success of the three generations of Thomas Robinsons who occupied the house from 1745-1851.

The research undertaken for this report produced a substantial body of genealogical, social, and historical information for the Robinson family and their home. Together, this data provides the Naaman's Heritage Association with an enhanced understanding of the social, cultural, and architectural history of the property and will guide them in their management, interpretation, and stewardship of the Robinson House. Future research efforts will expand knowledge and understanding of the pre-1745 and post-1851 histories of the site. Furthermore, expanded contextual and tangential research will also help to further investigate particular aspects of the Robinson family history addressed in this report. A full study of Abraham Robinson and his family and their activities at the mill will also serve to further enhance knowledge of the Robinson family at Naaman's Creek. Ultimately, when coupled with the existing documentation, expanded research efforts will enable the Naaman's Heritage Association to create a continuum from the earliest European settlement through the present that tells the story of the Robinson House and its residents.

Notes

¹ Albert Cook Myers, *William Wharton's Land Survey Register, 1675-1679* (Wilmington: Historical Society of Delaware, 1955): 62-63.

² Warren Johnson, Unpublished notes on Olle Rawson, Emailed to the author (March 2003) and included in Robinson House research files.

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ Chester County Deed A-1-191, Chester County Archives and Records Administration, West Chester, PA. (Chester County deeds are hereafter referred to as CCDR and the Archives is abbreviated as CCA).

⁵ CCDR G-1-524; Benjamin Smith, *Delaware County Land Titles, Atlas Showing the Titles, Grants, and Patents* (1880), Photocopy on file in the Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs (DOHCA), Robinson House Collection, Dover, DE.

⁶ Jeffrey E. Klee, E-mail Correspondence to R. Hester and N. Moqtaderi, 24 July 2003; Klee, Jeffrey E., Floor Plans for the Robinson House (Periods I, II, and III), July 2003.

⁷ New Castle County Deed Q-1-324, New Castle County Recorder of Deeds, Wilmington, DE (New Castle Co. deeds are hereafter referred to as NCDR).

⁸ Probate Inventory for Thomas Moore, Chester County Estate File #591, CCA.

⁹ Jeffrey E. Klee, Personal Communication with the author, July 2003.

¹⁰ Chester County Orphans Court, Decedents, Thomas Moore, CCA.

¹¹ Thomas Moore, Estate File # 591, CCA.

¹² New Castle County Orphans Court, Thomas Moore (1745), C-1-59. On microfilm at the University of Delaware Morris Library, Newark, DE. (Hereafter referred to as NCOC).

¹³ *Pennsylvania Gazette*, 28 November 1745.

¹⁴ "Conditions stated by Joseph Cloud from the sale of Thomas Moore's land," Naaman's Papers, RG 9200.N03.000, Delaware Public Archives (DPA), Dover, DE.

¹⁵ Daniel A. Graham, *The Robinson Family: The Abraham Robinson Family of Dublin, Ireland, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Naaman's Creek, Delaware, A Biographical and Genealogical Sketch* (Ellicott City, MD: By the author, 1989, reprint 1999): 3.

¹⁶ Arthur L. Jensen, *The Maritime Commerce of Colonial Philadelphia* (Madison, Wisconsin: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1963): 85-87.

¹⁷ *Pennsylvania Gazette*, 29 June 1738

¹⁸ Graham, 3.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*, 4; Albert Cook Myers, *Quaker Arrivals at Philadelphia, 1682-1750* (Baltimore: Southern Book Company, 1957): 117.

²⁰ *Pennsylvania Gazette*, 16 August 1739

²¹ William Wade Hinshaw, *Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy* Volume II (Ann Arbor: Edwards Brothers, 1938): 638.

²² Myers, 110.

²³ Graham, 4. Graham cites a New Jersey marriage license dated January 29, 1738/9 notes, "Thomas Robinson, Philadelphia, merchant, and Sarah Mason or Salem, widow" published in the *Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey*, Volume 18.

²⁴ Graham, 4.

²⁵ *Pennsylvania Gazette*, 29 October 1741

²⁶ *Ibid.*, 16 May 1745

²⁷ *Ibid.*, 29 October 1741

²⁸ *Ibid.*, 25 March 1742

²⁹ Hinshaw, 638

³⁰ *Pennsylvania Gazette*, 3 November 1743

³¹ Preliminary research suggests that John Rowan and Peter Rowland were connected to Thomas Robinson through their involvement in shipping and trade. Though they are largely absent from the *Pennsylvania Gazette* in the 1740s, by the 1750s, their names (particularly John Rowan's) appear frequently, most often in relation to ships bound to Ireland and elsewhere.

³² Conditions for the sale of the estate of Thomas Moore, Naaman's Papers, DPA.

- ³³ Deed, Peter Rowland to John Rowan for 1/3 share of Naaman's mills, 21 June 1746, Naaman's Papers, DPA; Bond, Thomas Robinson to John Rowan, 1 November 1748, Naaman's Papers, DPA.
- ³⁴ *Pennsylvania Gazette*, 23 July 1747
- ³⁵ Jensen, 85-86.
- ³⁶ *Ibid.*, 15 October 1747
- ³⁷ *Ibid.*, 22 March 1748
- ³⁸ NCCo Deed Record, Q-1-232; Gilbert Cope news clipping, Robinson Genealogy Folder, Historical Society of Delaware, Wilmington.
- ³⁹ *Pennsylvania Gazette*, 19 October 1752
- ⁴⁰ Graham, 8
- ⁴¹ *Pennsylvania Gazette*, 27 December 1753
- ⁴² Mary Moore to Thomas Robinson, Release of Dower, May 1749, Original in the Robinson House Collection, DOHCA.
- ⁴³ Graham (9) mentions Robinson's guardianship of the Erwin children. This author has not looked for administration or orphans court records for the Erwins, though these items may provide further insight into the Robinsons and the situation for the five Erwin children.
- ⁴⁴ NCCo Deed Record, S-1-138.
- ⁴⁵ *Pennsylvania Gazette*, 30 April 1761.
- ⁴⁶ Robinson's 1766 estate inventory records 49 barrels of superfine flour, which most likely came from his Naaman's mill. Administration of the estate of Thomas Robinson, #28-1766, Register of Wills, Philadelphia, PA.
- ⁴⁷ *Pennsylvania Gazette*, 10 June 1762 and need to cite others.
- ⁴⁸ Klee, E-mail and Floor Plans, July 2003.
- ⁴⁹ NCCo Deed Record, X-1-264.
- ⁵⁰ Graham, 10.
- ⁵¹ Hinshaw, 415. Though legend and some publications (Wilson, *Forgotten Heroes of Delaware*) have ascribed Robinson's death to Indians, there is no evidence that this is true.
- ⁵² According to Paul David Nelson in *Anthony Wayne, Soldier of the Early Republic* (20), Sharp Delany was an "intimate friend and neighbor" of Anthony Wayne. Within the next year, Abraham Robinson would marry Sarah Penrose, whose sister was married to Wayne. These close relationships between friends and family helped to determine the course of events for the Robinson family throughout the 1770s.
- ⁵³ Inventory of the estate of Thomas Robinson, Administration #28-1766, Register of Wills, Philadelphia, PA.
- ⁵⁴ *Pennsylvania Gazette*, 4 December 1766
- ⁵⁵ *Philadelphia Chronical*, 27 April 1767 and 11 May 1767 quoted in Graham, 10
- ⁵⁶ *Pennsylvania Gazette*, 7 May 1767
- ⁵⁷ *Ibid.*, 10 September 1767
- ⁵⁸ *Philadelphia Chronical*, 31 August 1767 quoted in Graham, 10
- ⁵⁹ Graham, 13; Paul David Nelson, *Anthony Wayne, Soldier of the Early Republic* (Bloomington, IN, 1985): 9-10. This union between Abraham and Sarah would later play an influential role in Thomas Robinson's military career.
- ⁶⁰ Graham, 13
- ⁶¹ *Ibid.*, 11
- ⁶² Jack Eckert, *Guide to the Records of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting* (Haverford College, Records Committee of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, and Swarthmore College, 1989): 160.
- ⁶³ See letters cited in Endnotes 85 and 86, which include references to Sarah Robinson and her daughter Sally being at their home at Naaman's Creek, but then returning to Philadelphia.
- ⁶⁴ NCOC, Thomas Robinson (1772), D-1-382
- ⁶⁵ Records of the Chester County Orphans Court, 1762-1774, CCA.
- ⁶⁶ The Orphans Court document refers to a detailed map identifying the divisions. However, this map is not filed with the Orphans Court records at the Delaware Public Archives and has not yet been located in any other repositories. The author searched for this item to no avail at the Delaware Public Archives, Historical Society of Delaware, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Chester County Historical Society, and William Clements Library.

- ⁶⁷ Edward Heite, "Report of Excavations at Naaman's, Brandywine Hundred, New Castle County, Delaware, 1971" Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs. On file with Delaware State Museums, Division of Archaeology. See Drawing 12, "Historical Composite Sketch Plan of Robinson Holdings."
- ⁶⁸ Nelson, 16; John B. B. Trussell, *The Pennsylvania Line: Regimental Organization and Operations, 1775-1783* (Harrisburg: Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commissions, 1993): 73.
- ⁶⁹ Francis Johnston, Chester, to Anthony Wayne, 18 December 1775, Transcribed in PHMB (31): 369.
- ⁷⁰ Commission, Thomas Robinson, 1776. Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Society Miscellaneous Collection, "Commissions," Box 16 A; Compiled Service Records of Soldiers who Served in the American Army During the Revolutionary War, National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), Microfilm, M-881, no. 818.
- ⁷¹ Nelson, 20
- ⁷² Graham, x
- ⁷³ Trussell, 74-75; Nelson, 17
- ⁷⁴ Thomas Robinson's notebook, 1776. Copy (original source unknown), Robinson House Collection, DOHCA.
- ⁷⁵ Colonel Anthony Wayne, Orderly Book, Fourth Pennsylvania Battalion, 1776. Transcribed in PHMB (29): 471-472
- ⁷⁶ [Thomas Robinson's notebook while serving in Anthony Wayne's Pennsylvania militia], 1776. Photocopy (original source unknown), Robinson House Collection, DOHCA.
- ⁷⁷ "Memoirs of Brigadier-General John Lacey," PHMB (25): 191-193
- ⁷⁸ Nelson, 18-19
- ⁷⁹ *Ibid.*, 20
- ⁸⁰ Trussell, 74-75; Sarah Robinson, Philadelphia, to Thomas Robinson, 30 April 1776, photocopy in Robinson House Collection, DOHCA.
- ⁸¹ Sarah Robinson to Anthony Wayne, 8 May 1776 quoted in Nelson, 20
- ⁸² Sarah Robinson, Naaman's Creek, to Thomas Robinson, New York, 5 May 1776, photocopy in the Robinson House Collection, DOHCA
- ⁸³ Abraham Robinson, New York, to Thomas Robinson, Quebec, 9 May 1776, photocopy in Robinson House Collection, DOHCA
- ⁸⁴ *Ibid.*
- ⁸⁵ *Ibid.*
- ⁸⁶ Abraham Robinson to Thomas Robinson, 18 May 1776, original in Robinson House Collection, DOHCA
- ⁸⁷ Sally Robinson, Philadelphia, to Thomas Robinson, 30 April 1776, photocopy in Robinson House Collection, DOHCA.
- ⁸⁸ Abraham Robinson, Naaman's Creek, to Thomas Robinson, Quebec, 22 May 1776, photocopy in Robinson House Collection, DOHCA.
- ⁸⁹ Abraham Robinson, Naaman's Creek, to Thomas Robinson, 26 May 1776, photocopy in the Robinson House Collection, DOHCA.
- ⁹⁰ Sally Robinson, Philadelphia, to Thomas Robinson, Canada, 24 May 1776, photocopy in Robinson House Collection, DOHCA.
- ⁹¹ William S. Baker, *Itinerary of General Washington from June 15, 1775 to December 23, 1783* (Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott Company, 1892): 39-40
- ⁹² Abraham Robinson, Naaman's Creek, to Thomas Robinson, 26 May 1776, photocopy in the Robinson House Collection, DOHCA
- ⁹³ Nelson, 25-27
- ⁹⁴ Colonel Anthony Wayne, Orderly Book, Fourth Pennsylvania Battalion, 1776. Transcribed in PHMB (30): 216
- ⁹⁵ Anthony Wayne to Benjamin Franklin, et. al., 13 June 1776 quoted in Charles J. Stille, *Major General Anthony Wayne and the Pennsylvania Line in the Continental Army* (Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company, 1893): 31
- ⁹⁶ "The Memoirs of John Lacey," PHMB (25): 343.
- ⁹⁷ *Ibid.*, 351.
- ⁹⁸ *Ibid.*, 353.
- ⁹⁹ Nelson (22) notes the fact that Lacey felt that Wayne had reneged on a promise to allow Lacey to command his own company.

- ¹⁰⁰ Sally Robinson, Philadelphia, to Thomas Robinson, Canada, 14 July 1776, photocopy in the Robinson House Collection, DOHCA.
- ¹⁰¹ Abraham Robinson, East Town Township, Chester County, to Thomas Robinson, Fort Ticonderoga, 25 August 1776, photocopy in the Robinson House Collection, DOHCA.
- ¹⁰² *Ibid.*
- ¹⁰³ Sally Peters to Thomas Robinson, 24 September 1776, photocopy in the Robinson House Collection, DOHCA.
- ¹⁰⁴ Closer analysis of the painting currently hanging in the Robinson House and thought to be Sally (Robinson) Peters may determine if this is the same portrait to which she refers in her September 24th letter.
- ¹⁰⁵ Abraham Robinson, Philadelphia, to Thomas Robinson, 27 September 1776, photocopy in the Robinson House Collection, DOHCA.
- ¹⁰⁶ Compiled Service Records, NARA, M-881, no. 818.
- ¹⁰⁷ Anthony Wayne to Polly Wayne, 13 and 14 October 1776, PHMB, Volume 31: 317.
- ¹⁰⁸ Mary Gillett, *The Army Medical Department, 1775-1818* (Washington D.C.: U.S. Army Center of Military History, 1990): 60
- ¹⁰⁹ General Gates to General Washington, 29 July 1776 quoted on www.fortwilliamhenry.com/archeology.htm
- ¹¹⁰ Gillett, 64
- ¹¹¹ Sally Peters, Philadelphia, to Thomas Robinson, 12 October 1776, photocopy in the Robinson House Collection, DOHCA.
- ¹¹² Graham, 21-22
- ¹¹³ Sarah Robinson to Thomas Robinson, Ticonderoga, 17 October 1776, photocopy in the Robinson House Collection, DOHCA
- ¹¹⁴ Colonel Francis Johnston, Albany, to Anthony Wayne, 17 November 1776. Quoted in Stille, 44-45.
- ¹¹⁵ Blair, John, et. Al., eds., *Pennsylvania in the Revolution: Battalions and Line, 1775-1783*, Volume 1 (Harrisburg: L.S. Hart, State Printer, 1880): 126
- ¹¹⁶ Compiled Service Records, NARA, microfilm, M-881, no. 818.
- ¹¹⁷ Anthony Wayne to General Schuyler, 22 January 1777, quoted in Stille, 48
- ¹¹⁸ Anthony Wayne, Ticonderoga, to Abraham Robinson, 1 April 1777, Chester County Historical Society, West Chester, PA
- ¹¹⁹ Nelson, 41.
- ¹²⁰ General Orders, George Washington, 28 April 1777, Transcribed in *Papers of George Washington*, Revolutionary War Series, Volume 9 (Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1999): 290.
- ¹²¹ Nelson, 42-45
- ¹²² *George Washington and Delaware*, Prepared for the Delaware State George Washington Bicentennial Commission (Dover: Public Archives Commission, 1932): 9
- ¹²³ Pickering's Journal quoted in Baker, 85-89
- ¹²⁴ Sally Robinson to Thomas Robinson, 24 May 1776. Robinson House Collection, DOHCA
- ¹²⁵ A Washington itinerary compiled by Philip Hubbard and available on the web site of National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (www.sar.org/history/gwslept.txt) records George Washington stopping at "Robinson's Inn" at "Naaman's Garden" on August 25, 1777. However, the itinerary's compiler does not cite the exact source of this reference. It is perplexing in its references to Robinson's Inn and to Naaman's Garden as there is no proof of an inn on the site, nor is there any other reference to Naaman's Garden. Since this reference cannot be substantiated to a particular source, this author has chosen to disregard it for the sake of this report. It is, however, worthy of additional research and investigation.
- ¹²⁶ Richard Peters to John Trumbull, Philadelphia, 21 January 1819, Dreer Collection, "Richard Peters, 1744-1831" folder, Historical Society of Pennsylvania.
- ¹²⁷ Gillett, 80-81. Several new hospitals were established outside of Philadelphia in summer and fall 1777.
- ¹²⁸ Compiled Service Records, NARA, M-881, no. 818.
- ¹²⁹ Gillett, 79
- ¹³⁰ George Washington to James Potter, 31 October 1777. Transcribed in *Papers of George Washington*, Revolutionary War Series, Volume 12 (Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 2002): 68.
- ¹³¹ Trussell, 76; Commission, Thomas Robinson, 1777, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Society Collection, Thomas Robinson file; Compiled Service Records, NARA, microfilm, M-881, no. 789.
- ¹³² Richard Peters, York, PA, to George Washington, 7 November 1777. Transcribed in *Papers of George Washington*, Revolutionary War Series, Volume 12 (Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 2002): 158

- ¹³³ Trussell, 33-37
- ¹³⁴ Gillett, 98
- ¹³⁵ Thomas Robinson, New London, to Major James Moore, at Camp, 16 May 1778, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Wayne Papers, Volume 5, page 37.
- ¹³⁶ Thomas Robinson to General Anthony Wayne, at Camp, 2 June 1778, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Wayne Papers, Volume 5, page 47.
- ¹³⁷ Stille, 158-159
- ¹³⁸ Thomas Robinson, Fredericksburg, to Abraham Robinson, 1 October 1778, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Volume 5, page 93. Note: This Thomas Robinson, son of Abraham, has been identified as Robinson (4). However, he is in fact, the third Thomas Robinson by order of birth date. Because he does not play a key role in the story of the Robinson House, I have chosen to number him as 4, and to number the son of Thomas Robinson (2) as Thomas Robinson (3), since he is in the direct line of residents of the Robinson House. Robinson (4) rose to prominence as a Captain in the Navy.
- ¹³⁹ Thomas Robinson, Philadelphia, to General Anthony Wayne, 11 November 1778, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Wayne Papers, Volume 6, page 7.
- ¹⁴⁰ Thomas Robinson, Philadelphia, to General Anthony Wayne, 30 December 1778, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Wayne Papers, Volume 6, page 47.
- ¹⁴¹ www.1stpb.org, History of the 1st Pennsylvania Brigade.
- ¹⁴² Hinshaw quoted in Graham, 11.
- ¹⁴³ Discharge of Joseph Gardener, December 1780, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Society Collection, Thomas Robinson file.
- ¹⁴⁴ ¹⁴⁴ www.1stpb.org, History of the 1st Pennsylvania Brigade.
- ¹⁴⁵ Colonel Anthony Wayne to George Washington, quoted in Nelson, 119.
- ¹⁴⁶ Nelson, 119-121.
- ¹⁴⁷ Ralph D. Nelson, et. al., *Delaware-1782 Tax Assessment and Census Lists* (Wilmington: Delaware Genealogical Society, 1994).
- ¹⁴⁸ Fred Anderson Berg, *Encyclopedia of Continental Army Units: Battalions, Regiments, and Independent Corps* (Harrisburg: Stackpole Books, 1972): 95.
- ¹⁴⁹ Certificate recognizing Thomas Robinson as a member of the Society of the Cincinnati, Original in the Robinson House Collection, DOHCA.
- ¹⁵⁰ *Delaware Gazette*, 28 March 1787
- ¹⁵¹ NCCo Deed Record, G-2-267
- ¹⁵² Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Application Files, NARA, microfilm M-804, no. 2068.
- ¹⁵³ www.gfo.org/revwar.htm, "Researching Your Revolutionary War Ancestor," A Genealogical Society of Oregon Research Guide, Compiled by Connie Lenzen, December 2001. This web site provides a basic and straightforward description of the pension records and bounty land warrants.
- ¹⁵⁴ Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Application Files, NARA, microfilm M-804, no. 2068.
- ¹⁵⁵ *Delaware and Eastern Shore Advertiser*, 30 August 1794
- ¹⁵⁶ *Ibid.*, 4 March 1795
- ¹⁵⁷ Graham, 22.
- ¹⁵⁸ *Ibid.*, 23.
- ¹⁵⁹ Klee, E-mail, and Floor Plans, July 2003; Inventory, Thomas Robinson, 3 June 1820. NCPR.
- ¹⁶⁰ Graham, Appendix, 2.
- ¹⁶¹ New Castle County Tax Assessment (NCTA), Brandywine Hundred, 1797, DPA.
- ¹⁶² New Castle County Road Papers, 1797, Oversize, RG 2805.27 (BC 354583), DPA.
- ¹⁶³ New Castle County Road Books, Volume 1, 1794-1809: 134-136. RG 2805.1, DPA; Edward Heite, "Report on the Excavations at Naamans (1971), Drawing 12.
- ¹⁶⁴ New Castle County Court of Chancery, R#16, DPA.
- ¹⁶⁵ United State Census of Population 1800, 145 (Hereafter referred to as USC).
- ¹⁶⁶ *Mirror of the Times and General Advertiser*, 8 January 1803.
- ¹⁶⁷ *Ibid.*, 9 February 1803.
- ¹⁶⁸ NCTA, Brandywine Hundred, 1804.
- ¹⁶⁹ M. Dukois, Doylestown, to General Thomas Robinson, Naaman's Creek, 21 November 1808, photocopy in the Robinson House Collection, DOHCA.

¹⁷⁰ New Castle County Court of Chancery, R#16, DPA. Because this case primarily involves Abraham Robinson, it has not been carefully reviewed or analyzed.

¹⁷¹ USC 1810: 205.

¹⁷² NCTA, Brandywine Hundred, 1816.

¹⁷³ Will, Thomas Robinson, written 24 November 1819; probated 13 January 1820. NCPR.

¹⁷⁴ Inventory, Thomas Robinson, 3 June 1820. NCPR.

¹⁷⁵ Settlement, Thomas Robinson, 8 December 1825. NCPR.

¹⁷⁶ USC 1820: 173.

¹⁷⁷ Valuation of the real estate of the late Thomas Robinson, 13 August 1830. Photocopy in the Robinson House Collection, DOHCA.

¹⁷⁸ USC 1830: 107; *Delaware Gazette*, 24 December 1833.

¹⁷⁹ Graham, 24; USC 1840; NCCo Deed Record, F-6-395.

Appendices

- A. Chain of Title
- B. Family Trees/Genealogical Information
- C. Maps
- D. Architectural Plan Drawings
- E. Photographs
- F. Selected Primary Documents
- G. Timeline
- H. Oral Traditions

Appendix A. Chain of Title for the Robinson House

Robinson House Chain of Title

Owner	Date	Acreege	Cost	Reference (unless otherwise noted, all are NCCo deeds)	Comments
Charles Jansen, Olle Rawson, Olle Nielson, Hans Hopman, John Hendrickson, and Hans Olleson.	28 March 1676	1,000	unknown	Referenced in Chester Co DR G-1-524. See also Duke of York Record, 1646-1679 (Wilmington 1903): 99-100, and <i>William Wharton's Land Survey Register</i> , 62-63.	Tract called Marities Hook. From Naamans Creek to Marrietes Creek (next upstream tributary).
Heirs of Olle Rawson to Thomas Moore	2 April 1728	107 acres	£233	Chester Co. DR G-1-524	At about the same time, Moore also purchased the 7-acre mill parcel from Jasper Yeates. This property was located on the north bank of the Naaman's Creek to the east of the King's Road.
Thomas Moore (1) to his wife Mary Moore and children and his administrator Joseph Cloud	December 1736/7	Exact amount not identified, but at least 131 acres based on later transactions	unknown	Moore died intestate leaving property to his six children; Referenced in Q-1-324	
Joseph Cloud to Thomas Robinson, John Rowen, and Peter Rowland, all merchants of Philadelphia	13 January 1745/6	104 acres (in two tracts), commonly called the Mill Land. Excepting Thomas Moore's mansion house and a piece of land lying between the Great Road and the Mill race (i.e., to the west of the road)	unknown	Conditions stated by Joseph Cloud from the sale of Thomas Moore's land, in the Naaman's Papers, RG 9200.N03.000, Delaware Public Archives	The 104 acres purchased at public vendue along with 1). 19 acres 2). ¾ part of 3 acres on east side of Kings Road, which includes the house of Richard Moore 3). ¾ part of the "water corn or grist mill with all the buildings and appurtenances thereunto belonging" Rowen and Rowland later sold their shares to Robinson (referenced in Q-1-324).
Mary Moore to Thomas Robinson	2 May 1749	House and lot, measuring 20 ½ perch	£10	Release of Dower, original in DOHCA RH Collection	This is the house parcel excluded from the original transaction.
Thomas Moore (2) to Thomas Robinson	2 May 1749	House and lot, measuring 20 ½ perch	£55	Q-1-445	This is the house parcel excluded from the original transaction. Thomas Moore (2) had purchased all rights to the house from his siblings. It seems that he and his mother lived in the house until this time.
Thomas Robinson (1) to Thomas Robinson (2)	1772	113 acres; N side of Naaman's Ck and W of road	n/a	OC D-1-447	In 1766 Robinson (1) died without a will. In 1772, his property was divided by action of the Orphans Court.

Robinson House Chain of Title

Thomas Robinson (2) to Sarah Peters Robinson, Mary Eyre Robinson, Manual Eyre Robinson, and Thomas Robinson (3)	24 November 1819	Not identified	n/a	Will	Indicates that Thomas Robinson (3) is to have "his homestead farm or plantation." If its value is higher than the shares of his siblings, then he is to pay them the balance, so that all shares are equal. Between 1819-1830, Manuel Eyre Robinson died, without heirs.
Thomas and Ellen Robinson and Mary E. Robinson to James and Sarah (Robinson) Thomson	19 August 1830	202 ¼ a.,	\$1,120	M-4-39	Land situated partly in DE and partly in PA. Thomson pay \$1,120 to Mary Robinson for her share.
James and Sarah P. (Robinson) Thomson and Mary E. Robinson to Thomas Robinson (3)	19 August 1830	n/a	\$1,800	L-4-277	Homestead Farm valued at \$4,720 and Upper Farm valued at \$4,040. Thomas owes \$1,800 to his sisters. This deed documents that transaction.
James W. and Sarah (Robinson) Thomson to Thomas Robinson (3)	4 May 1831	2 ¼ a., 20 p.	\$52.50	M-4-477	Lot or piece of land situated partly in DE and partly in PA.
Thomas (3) and Caroline Robinson to Abner Vernon	2 March 1851	"the contents be what they may"	\$5,600	F-6-395	Robinsons are living in Philadelphia at the time of this sale. Property is situated partly in DE and partly in PA. Excepts a part conveyed to the rail road company.
Abner and Esther Vernon to John Gray	18 March 1852	19 a., 122 p.	\$3,000	I-6-357	Both parties are from Brandywine Hundred.
John and Margaretta I. Gray to James W. Morse	17 January 1853	19 a., 122 p.	\$5,000	L-6-415	Gray identified as a farmer. Morse is a "gentleman" of Jersey City, NJ
James W. Morse to Anna Estelle Hoskins, wife of Francis Hoskins	8 June 1855	19 a., 122 p. (excepting 152 perches)	\$6,000	U-6-78	Morse is a "gentleman" of Brandywine Hundred Francis Hoskins is a merchant of Philadelphia. Morse sold the excepted strip of land (152 perches) to Rev. Lewis Lockwood on 20 April 1860 (I-7-195)

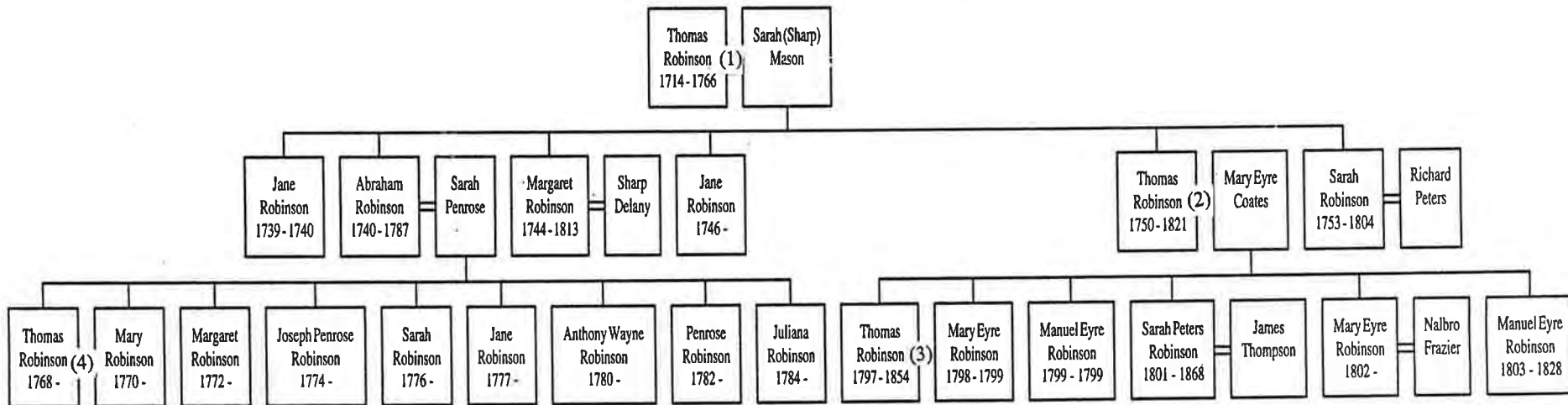
Robinson House Chain of Title

Francis and Anna Estelle Hoskins to David Franklin Ford	1 September 1860	17 a., 147 p.		L-7-214	Ford is identified as "eatinghouse keeper" of Philadelphia. Ford purchased the previously excepted 52-perch strip of land from Lockwood in April 1863 (R-7-359)
Charles W. and Edna A. Robinson	By 1907	?		Deed not located; Cited in Edward Heite report (1971)	Due to a break in the chain of title, it is not clear from whom the Robinsons purchased the property, though they were in possession of it by 1907.
Worth Steel	April 1917	appx. 14 acres		Deed not located. Memorandum from Worth Steel on file at the Robinson House.	Though Worth Steel purchased the property, Mrs. Robinson operated the Naaman's Tea House until 1935.
Claymont Steel to Colorado Fuel and Iron Corp.	26 June 1952	8 tracts	\$1.00	D-52-469	Claymont Steel was formerly Worth Steel Co.
Colorado Fuel and Iron Corp. to Phoenix Steel	30 September 1960	6 parcels (Robinson House is located on Parcel 6)	\$1.00	V-66-31	Howard Coleman is operating teahouse as a tenant during this time period (Cited in Ford, Martha, "The Robinson Manson and Blockhouse: History and Mystery (December 1974).
Phoenix Steel Corporation to Howard and Gertrude Coleman	15 October 1963	11.255 a.	\$1.00	Z-71-169	
Howard and Gertrude Coleman to Alfred Gilbert	30 December 1965	11.255 a.	\$145,000	K-76-245	Gilbert is a divorced man from Philadelphia
Alfred Gilbert to State of Delaware	2 June 1967	1.221 a.	\$55,000.00	Z-78-459	

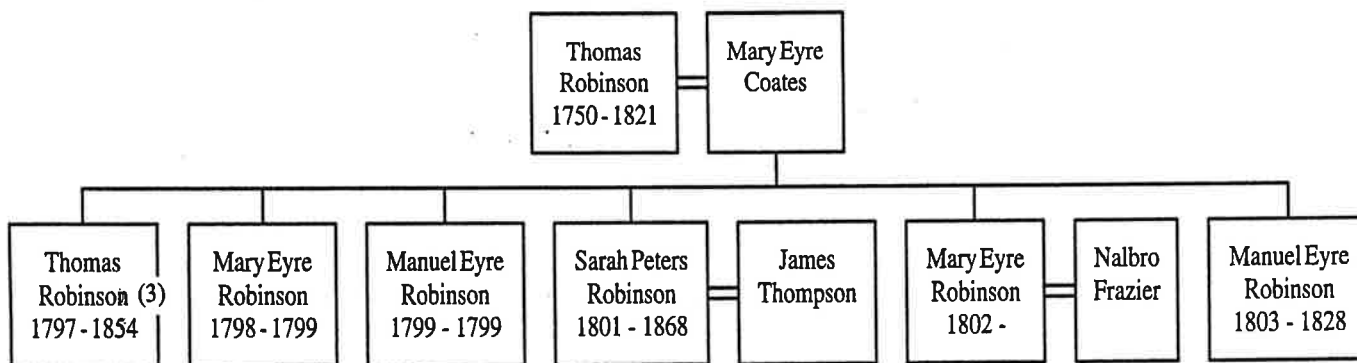
Appendix B. Robinson Family Trees/Genealogical Information

- B1. Descendants of Thomas Robinson (1)
- B2. Descendants of Thomas Robinson (2)
- B3. Descendants of Abraham Robinson
- B4. Genealogical Information about the Robinson Family (compiled by Daniel Graham)

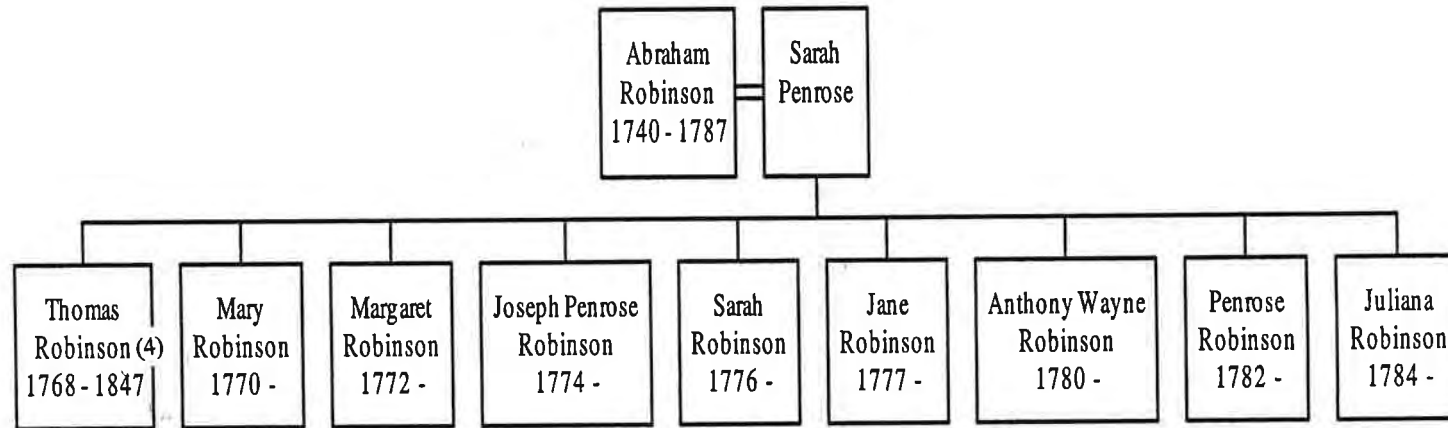
Descendants of Thomas Robinson (1)



Descendants of Thomas Robinson (2)



Descendants of Abraham Robinson



From Daniel Graham, *The Robinson Family: The Abraham Robinson Family of Dublin, Ireland, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Naaman's Creek, Delaware, A Biographical and Genealogical Sketch* (Ellicott City, MD: By the author, 1989, reprint 1999): Appendix.

THE ABRAHAM ROBINSON (c1687-1750) FAMILY OF DUBLIN, IRELAND,
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA, AND NAAMAN'S CREEK, DELAWARE

ABRAHAM ROBINSON, Quaker merchant of Dublin, Ireland was the son of Joseph and Elinor Robinson, and was born c1687/88. Married on 6mo 30, 1709 (30 Aug 1709), Jane Green, daughter of Thomas and Alice Green. Did not immigrate. Died in 1750 in Dublin, buried 8mo 1, 1750 (01 Oct 1750), issue.

1. JOSEPH ROBINSON, was born 4mo 23, 1710 at Maghiratin, Dublin. Marriage or death date unknown.

2. MARY ROBINSON, born 12mo 11, 1712, died young, no issue.

3. THOMAS ROBINSON, born 2mo 28, 1714 (28 April 1714) at Dublin, Ireland. Immigrated 1738, Philadelphia merchant, married Sarah (Sharp) Mason 1739 in Salem, New Jersey. Issue.

3A. JANE ROBINSON, born 28 June 1739, died 27 Apr 1740.

3B. ABRAHAM ROBINSON, born 28 June 1740, married 16 Oct 1767 Sarah Penrose, died 04 Mar 1787. Lived at Naaman's Creek, Del. Sarah died 21 Mar 1781.

3B1. THOMAS ROBINSON, born 29 July 1768, died 17 May 1847 and married Catherine Graham (1773-1836) by whom he had two children.

3B2. MARY ROBINSON, born 18 Nov 1770, died 1838, married James McIvaine.

3B3. MARGARET ROBINSON, born 01 Sept 1772, died 1833, marriage and issue unknown.

3B4. JOSEPH PENROSE ROBINSON, born 26 Oct 1774, died 1804, marriage and issue unknown.

3B5. SARAH ROBINSON, born 06 March 1776, died 11 June 1846. Married 14 Feb 1799, Thomas Perkins Jr., issue.

3B6. JANE ROBINSON, born 24 Nov 1777, died in 1855 or 56 and married Captain William Graham, issue unknown.

3B7. ANTHONY WAYNE ROBINSON, born 17 Sept 1780, died 30 Mar 1840 and married Sarah Adams by whom he had issue.

3B8. PENROSE ROBINSON, born 15 Nov 1782, died in 1846 and married Janet Bayly by whom he had four children.

3B9. JULIANA ROBINSON, born 05 Oct 1784, died 16 Jan 1867, married 02 Oct 1806 David Hoopes by whom she had seven children.

3C. MARGARET ROBINSON, was born 27 Oct 1744, married in 1764 Sharp Delany, died 1813, issue.

3C1. ANN DELANY, born in 1776, died unmarried, 06 Sept 1832.

3C2. MARY DELANY, born 1785, died unmarried, 20 Jan 1846.

3C3. SARAH DELANY, born April 1767, married 18 October 1788 James Moore, issue.

3D. JANE ROBINSON, born 12 June 1746, marriage and issue unknown.

3E. THOMAS ROBINSON, JR., born 30 Mar 1750 died in 1821, fought in the Revolution, married on 18 May 1796, Mary Eyre Coates, issue.

3E1. THOMAS ROBINSON, born 12 Mar 1797 and died 02 Mar 1854. He married twice. First to Ellen Maria Brackett, who died 27 June 1845, second, Caroline Brackett in 1847. - Issue by both wives.

3E2. MARY EYRE ROBINSON, born 30 Apr 1798, died 7 Dec 1799.

3E3. MANUEL EYRE ROBINSON, born 28 June 1799, lived nine days.

3E4. SARAH PETERS ROBINSON, born 02 Feb 1801, died 1868. Married Dr. James Thompson, issue unknown.

3E5. MARY EYRE ROBINSON, born 22 Jul 1802 married 01 Feb 1831, Nalbro Frazier, issue.

3E6. MANUEL EYRE ROBINSON, born 04 Oct 1803, died 08 Dec 1828.

3F. SARAH ROBINSON, born 08 August 1753, married Judge Richard Peters on 22 Aug 1776, buried 03 Dec 1804, issue.

3F1. RALPH PETERS, born 28 Nov 1777, married Catherine Conyngham, 02 Oct 1806, died 11 Nov 1842, they had numerous children.

3F2. RICHARD PETERS, born 04 August 1779, married Abigail Willing, 01 Mar 1804 and died 02 May 1848. They had issue.

3F3. MARIA WILHELMINA PETERS, born 26 Aug 1781, married William Shippen Willing, 06 Jan 1802. Issue unknown.

3F4. THOMAS PETERS, born Nov 1782, died 22 Sept 1784.

3F5. SARAH ROBINSON PETERS, born 05 Nov 1785; died 24 Sept 1850. Sarah did not marry.

3F6. THOMAS ROBINSON PETERS, born 04 Aug 1787, issue/marriage unknown.

4. MARY ROBINSON, born 25 Aug 1716, married 13 May 1739 at Dublin John Erwin, Philadelphia Merchant. Both John and Mary Erwin died in 1756, issue.

4A. JANE ERWIN was born c1740, married 1761 John Heaton, issue.

4B. JAMES ERWIN was born c1741/2, died 7mo 7, 1770, no marriage/issue.

4C. SARAH ERWIN was born c1744/45, married on 5mo 11, 1775 Benjamin Jones, hatter. Sarah died 18 May 1819 and Benjamin died 15 Apr 1840, issue.

4D. JOHN ERWIN was born c1752/53, died 8mo 11, 1769, no marriage no issue.

4E. ALICE ERWIN was born c1754/55, married 05 Dec 1775, Francis Johnston of Chester County, issue.

5. GEORGE ROBINSON was born 11mo 27, 1718 at Dublin, died 1719, buried 7mo. 1719.

6. ELINOR ROBINSON was born 1mo 12, 1720 at Dublin, died 12mo 22, 1725.

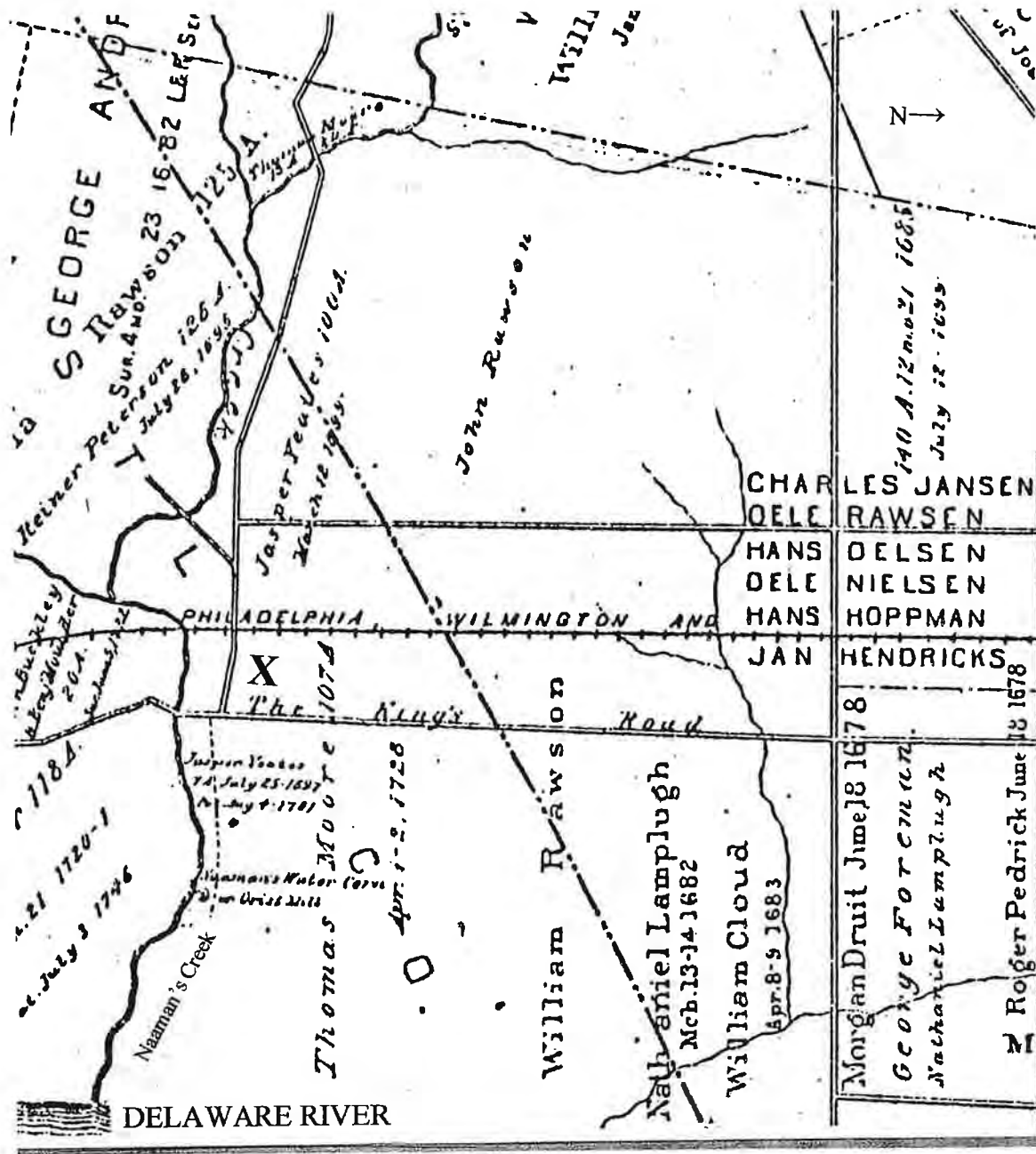
7. ABRAHAM ROBINSON was born 1721 at Dublin, died 5mo 15, 1725.

8. ABRAHAM ROBINSON was born 1725 at Dublin, buried 4mo 4, 1726.

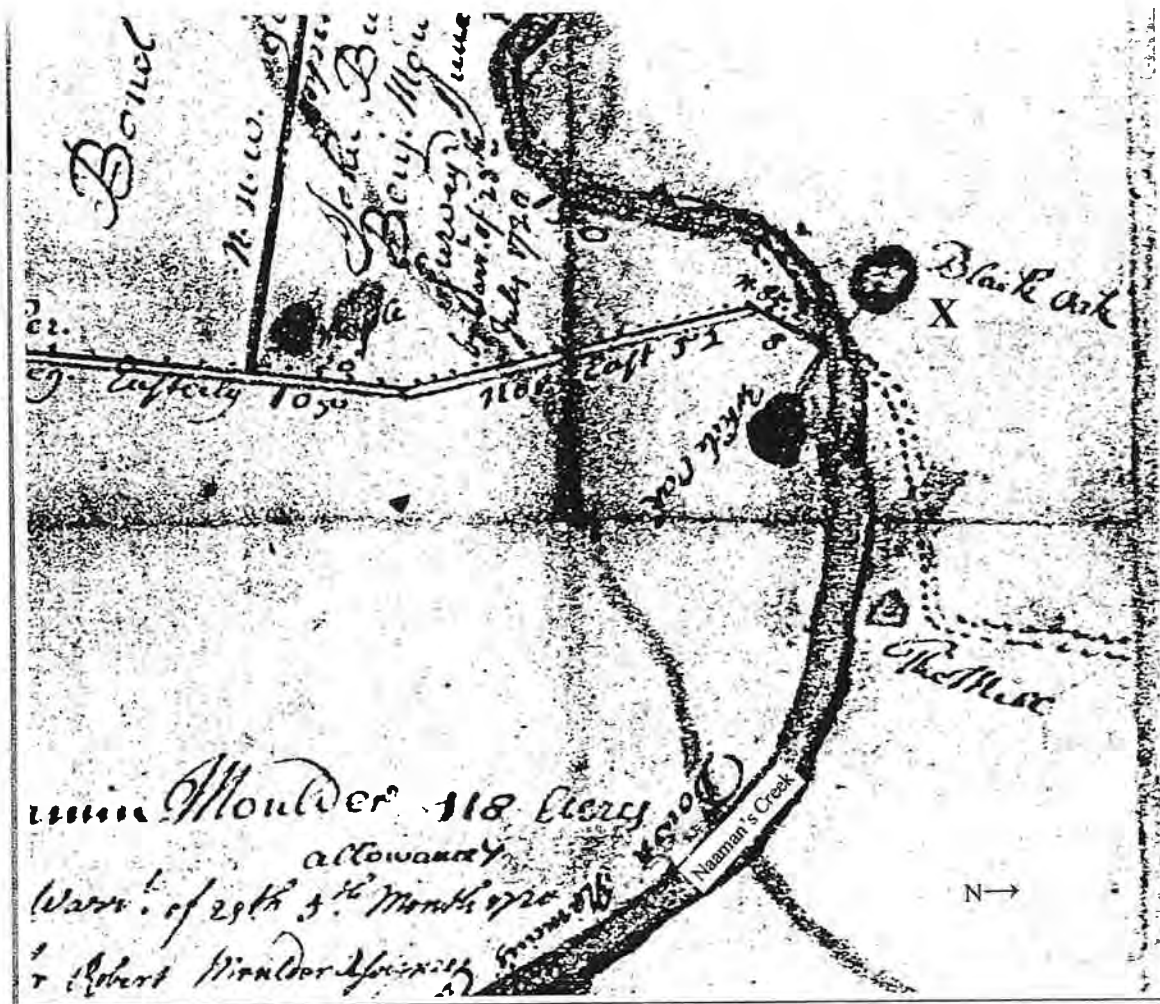
9. ELINOR ROBINSON was born 11mo 26, 1726 at Dublin, died 12mo 11, 1726.

Appendix C. Maps

- C1. Detail, property boundaries near Naaman's Creek, circa 1678-1740
- C2. Detail showing Naaman's Mill, 1744
- C3. Nicholas Scull Map, 1770
- C4. Sketch map of Robinson Properties, c. 1772
- C5. Rea and Price Atlas, 1849



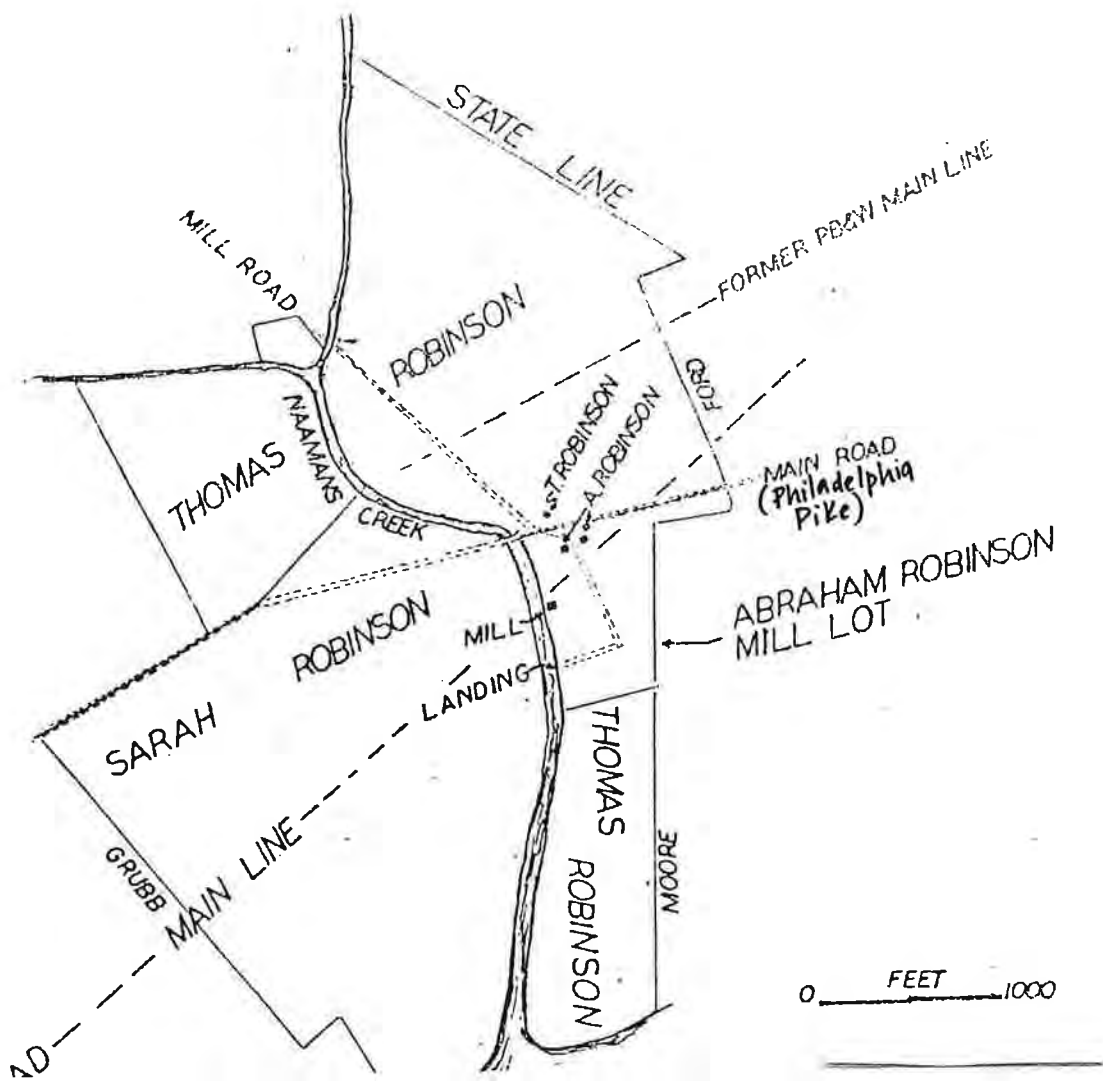
Map C1. Land Titles in the region around Naaman's Creek. Notice land of Thomas Moore (107 acres) and Naaman's Mill. Location of Robinson House marked with an X. From Benjamin H. Smith, Atlas of Delaware County Land Titles (1880), map photocopied in the Robinson House Collection, DOHCA.



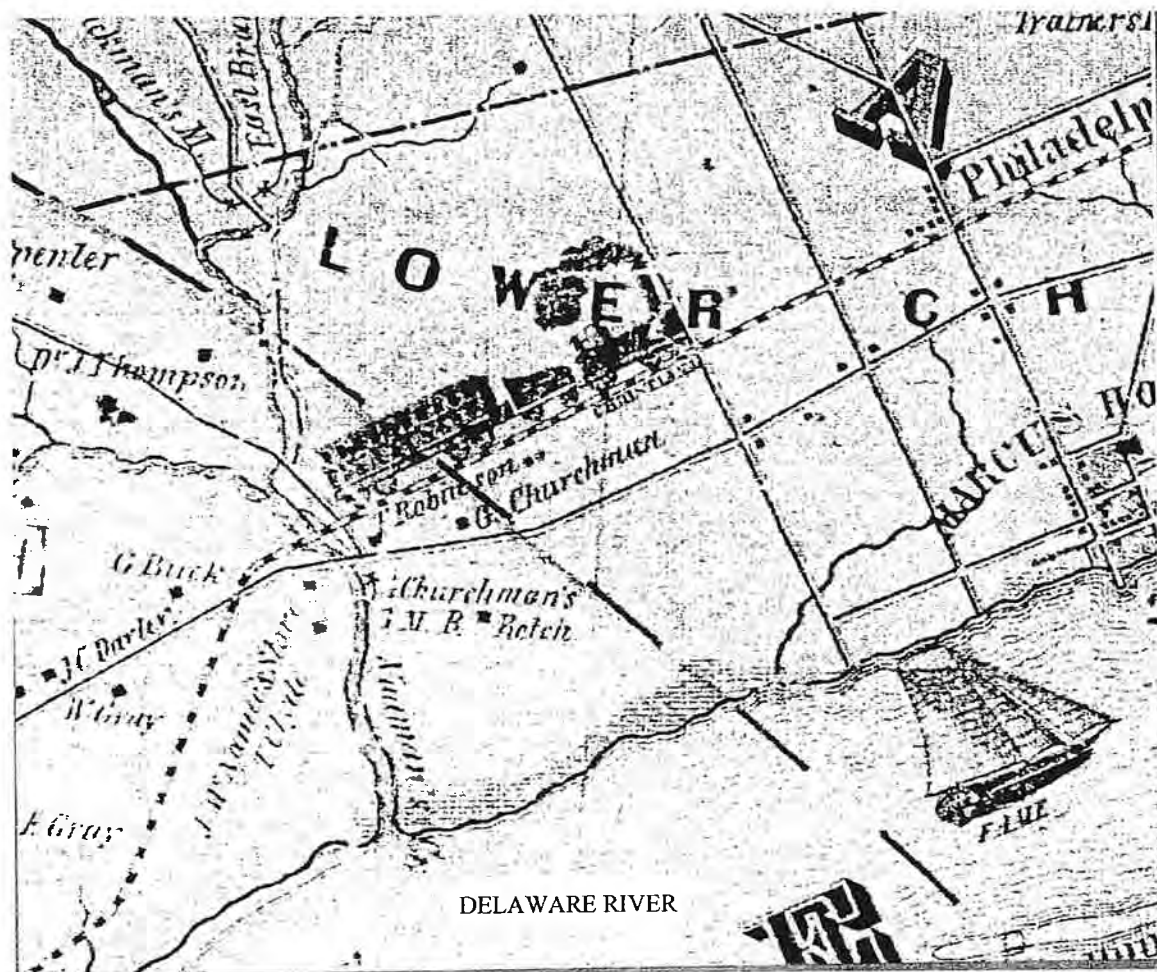
Map C2. Detail of Survey, 1744, showing the Naaman's Mill. Location of Robinson House added with X. From New Castle County Surveyor General's Returns M-P #95, RG#2555.008, DPA.



Map C3. Nicholas Scull Map, 1770. "Robeson's" property identified.



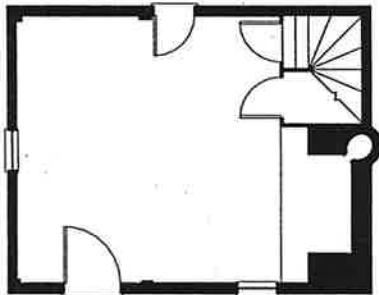
Map C4. Sketch map of Robinson Properties, circa 1772. This map compiles property descriptions from the 1772 division of Thomas (1) Robinson's land and from the 1799 Road Papers for Naamans' Road. From Edward Heite, "Report on the Excavations at Naamans," Drawing 12 (1971). See original source for more details on the sources for this drawing.



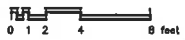
Map C5. Rea and Price Atlas of New Castle County. Notice properties of T. Robinson and Dr. J. Thomson. Both of these properties had been owned by Thomas Robinsons (1 and 2), and passed to Robinson (3) and Thomson at the death of Robinson (2) in 1819.

Appendix D. Robinson House Plan Drawings
Prepared by Jeffrey E. Klee, July 2003

- D1. Period I
- D2. Period II
- D3. Period III
- D4. Preliminary Architectural Review



DOOR AND WINDOW LOCATIONS
CONJECTURAL

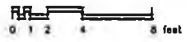
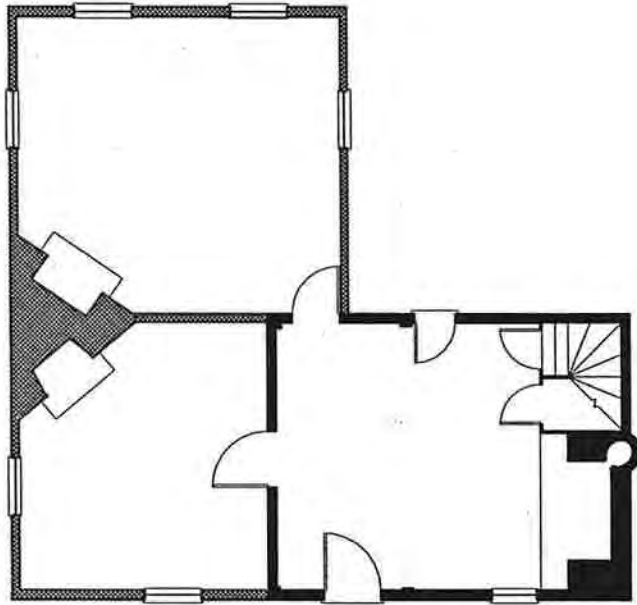


RECONSTRUCTED FIRST FLOOR PLAN

ROBINSON HOUSE, PI
CLAYMONT, DELAWARE

New Castle County
Surveyed 5/7/03
by J. Klee, N. MacLodert
Drawn by J. Klee

Fieldnote reference: JK 04-09

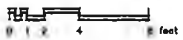
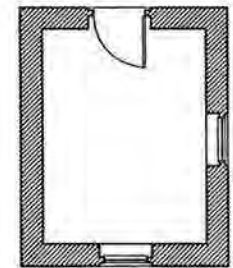
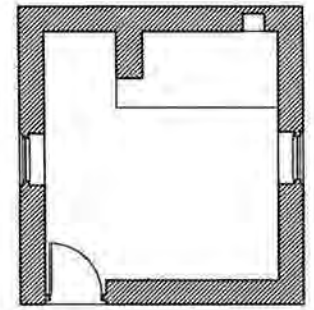
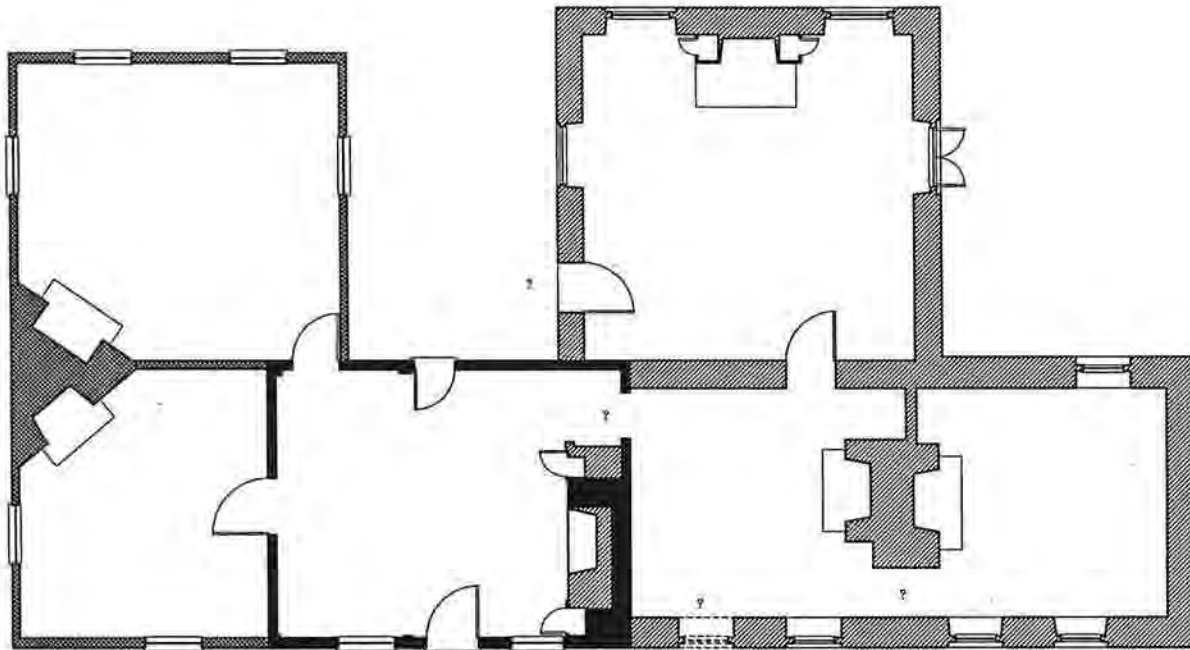


RECONSTRUCTED FIRST FLOOR PLAN

ROBINSON HOUSE, PII
CLAYMONT, DELAWARE

New Castle County
Surveyed 5/7/03
by J. Kline, N. Mottolodari
Drawn by J. Kline

Fieldnote reference: JK 94-99



RECONSTRUCTED FIRST FLOOR PLAN

ROBINSON HOUSE, PIII
CLAYMONT, DELAWARE

New Castle County
Surveyed 5/7/03
by J. Klee, N. Moctodart
Drawn by J. Klee

Fieldnote reference: JK 94-99

Preliminary Architectural Review of the Robinson House

Jeff Klee, E-mail Correspondence to Ray Hester and Nedda Moqtaderi, 24 July 2003

Ray,

I enclose the Robinson House plans. There remain some questions, but they won't be answered without doing some demolition, and maybe not even then. Many of the door and window locations are conjectural. In PIII, the most questionable portions are noted with a ?. That said, the broad outlines of the evolution are reasonably clear:

Period 1, before 1740:

A two-story, one room, plank-framed house, probably with exposed ceiling joists on the first and second floors, and a large cooking hearth along the east wall, with a winder stair behind. This is the ONLY plank-framed house that I or Bernie Herman know of in the Delaware Valley. As such, it is an extraordinary survival and I'd love to know more about it. The idiosyncrasy of the structural system, the exposure of major framing members, and the wide relieving arch in the cellar, suggest the early date.

Period 2, mid-18th century, probably before 1770:

The one-room house is enlarged to a three-room, L-plan layout. It is extended a full two stories to the west, with a shed in the rear, to allow two formal rooms west of the hall on the first floor. These are heated by back-to-back corner fireplaces, each probably ornamented with raised paneling. The new rear room is the largest, and probably the best finished and most brightly lit. It may look out over a formal garden. All evidence of the communication between these rooms and the original hall has been lost, but a likely solution would have been to replace the P1 gable window with a door, and insert a door into the c. 3'6" offset created by the larger rear room (as I've shown it). A new best chamber on the second floor MAY have been served by the large, unheated space over the rear shed as a servant's room. The front elevation was likely re-arranged, in this renovation, to be symmetrical, with a central door flanked by two windows. All of these changes point to a heightened (not necessarily new) interest in the material expression of refinement--the increasing partitioning of work from leisure spaces, the desire for symmetry in elevation, but not in plan, and the likely upgrade of interior finishes (raised paneling).

Period 3: c. 1790-1796

The stone addition doubled the size of the house and radically altered the relationships between principal rooms. It is no longer possible to make anything more than educated guesses about room uses based on the plan. Certainly, the new large room to the rear was a principal space, but was it a parlor? A receiving room? A large chamber? An office? Its size, high ceiling, and high level of finish (chair-rail, splayed windows, fireplace surround) indicate a public function for this space, but whether it was domestic-public or commercial/governmental-public is not at all clear. Might it have been built as a reception room for distinguished guests? At this time, the two surviving dependencies were also may have been built, and they are sited with respect to this new, large room. In other words, they are clearly set up to serve it. There is some suggestion of an earlier foundation on this side of the house, and in the 20th century, these were linked to the main house. It is quite possible that they were linked via a covered walkway when they were first built, as well. The role of the two smaller rooms that were added laterally, in front of this large room, is not clear. The level of finish here, and the scale, is less refined than the rear parlor. It would help to see the original fireplace openings. I am inclined to read them as servants', or slaves' spaces, but hesitate to commit to that hypothesis without looking more closely. Additionally, access to these spaces from the exterior is not clear. Where was the original door? It would help to see behind the large front pilaster on the outside, or behind the wall in the bathroom. In any case, these rooms are on the low end of the spatial hierarchy of the PIII house, like the two outbuildings. Some questions, for PIII: where is the stair? Is there a second stair in the stone addition? What is the spatial relationship between P1 and PIII? Where are points of access from outside to the two new rooms? Where is the principal chamber (possibly over the P1 hall, but this isn't clear)? These, and other questions, are unlikely to be answerable without some invasive investigation into the built fabric.

Appendix E. Photographs

- E1. Homes of Abraham Robinson (now demolished)
- E2. Naaman's Mills (now demolished)

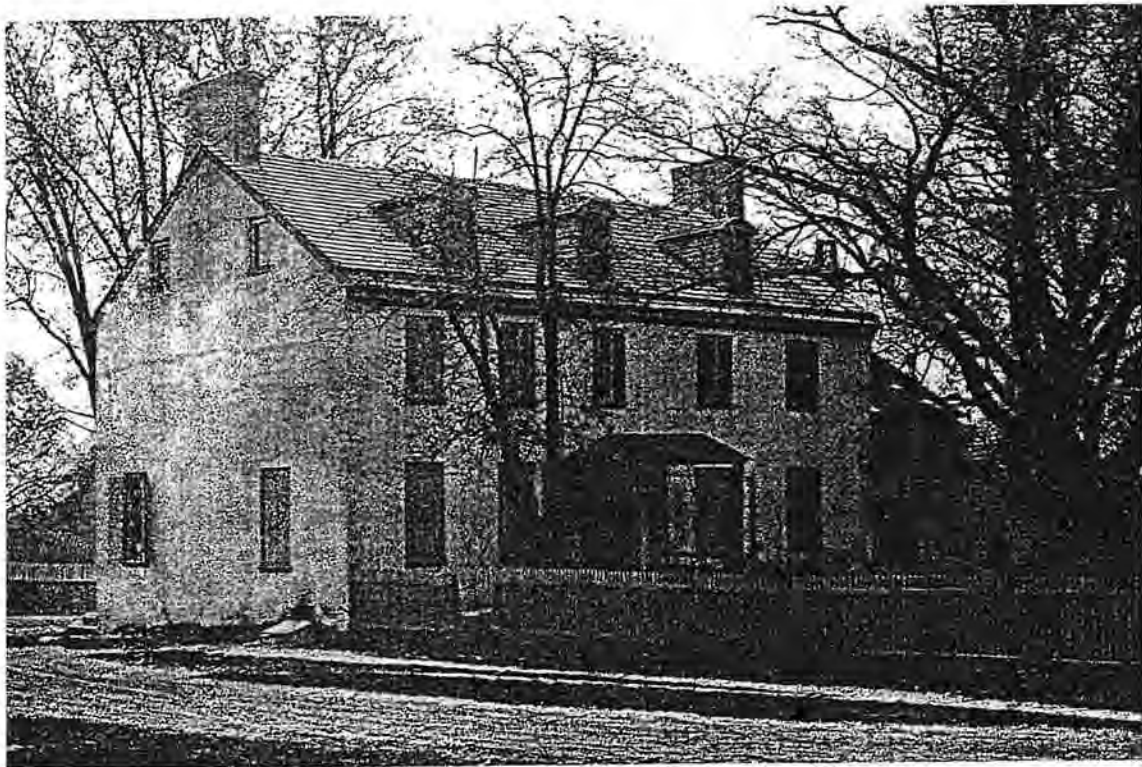
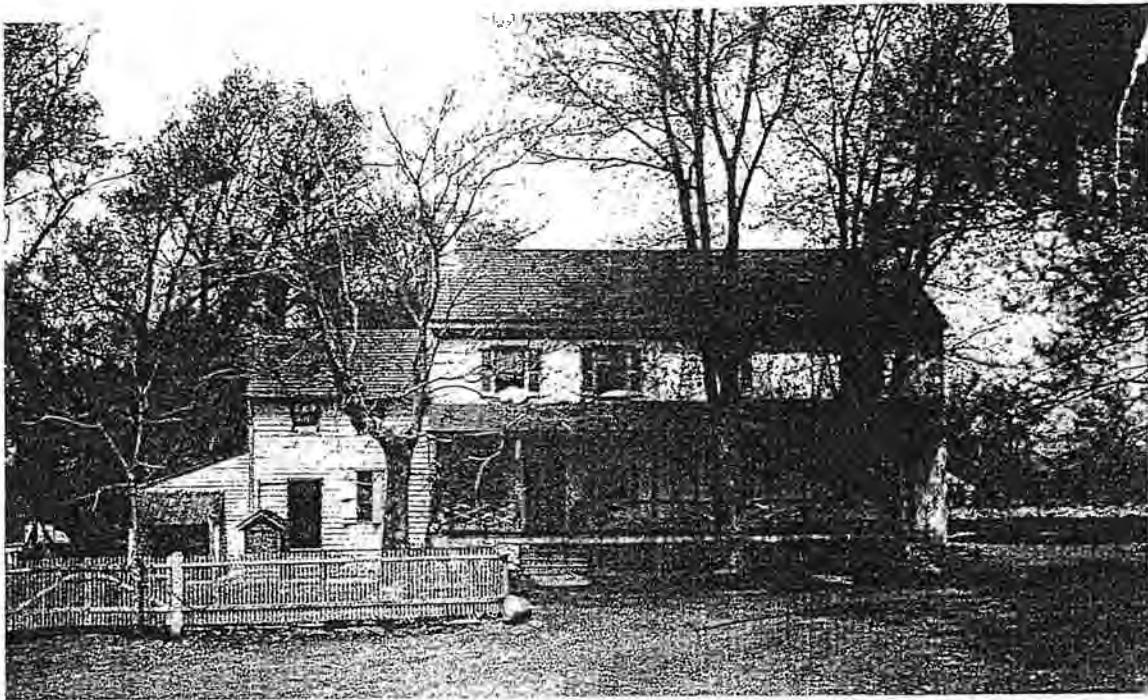


Photo E1. First and second homes of Abraham Robinson, located on east side of Philadelphia Pike, across from the Robinson House. Now demolished. Top house identified as the "Miller's House." From scrapbook "Robinson Family of Naamans-on-Delaware," Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

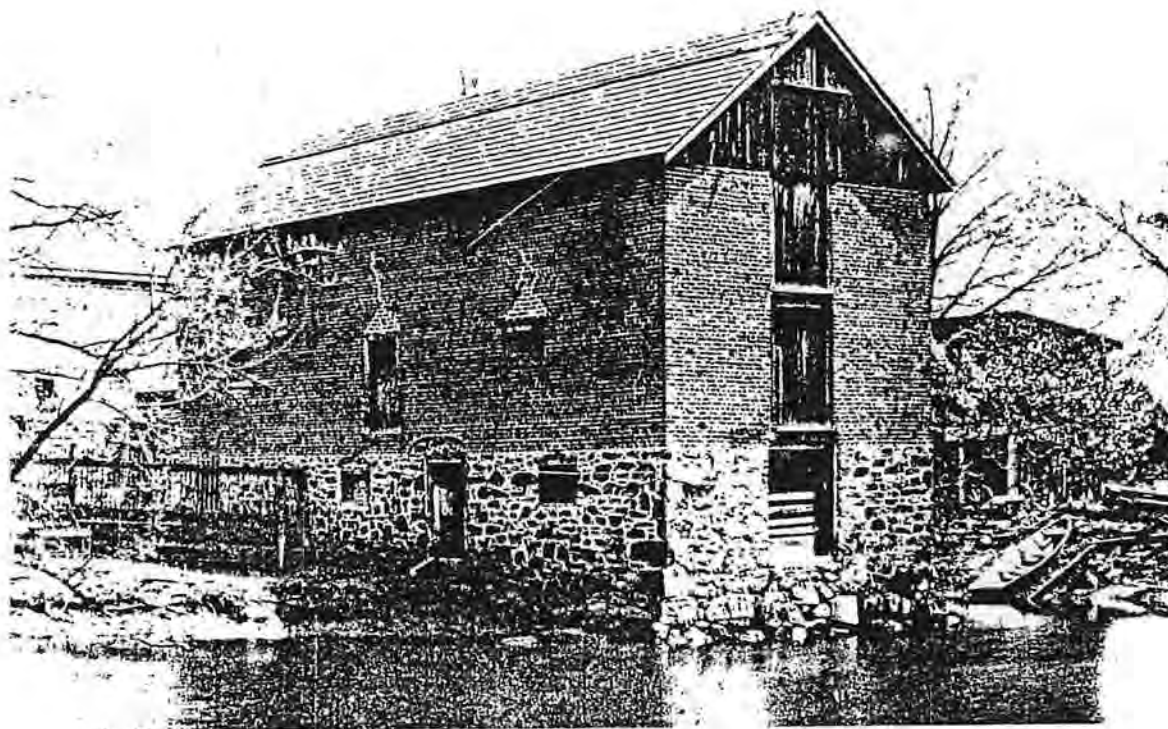
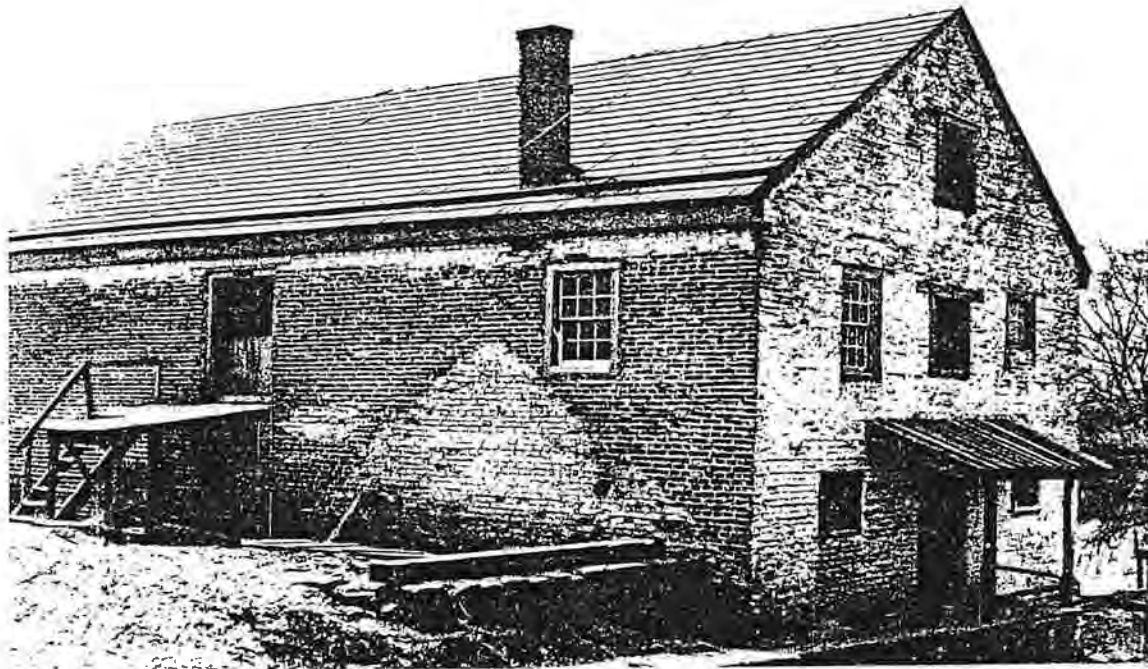


Photo E2. Naaman's grist mill (top) and grain storage building (bottom). Photo taken circa 1914. Now demolished. From scrapbook "Robinson Family of Naamans-on-Delaware," Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

Appendix F. Selected Primary Documents

- F1. Inventory of Thomas Moore, 1736
- F2. Inventory of Thomas Robinson (1), 1766
- F3. Inventory of Thomas Robinson (2), 1820

An Inventory of the Personal Estate of Thomas Moore late of Naman
 Crick in the County of New Castle Deceased appraised by William Clayton and
 Robt Parke the Third Day of January Anno Domini 17367-

7 Cows and one Steifer	20	
1 Yearling Calf (20) 28 Sheep and one Lamb 8:8:0	9	8
4 Cart Horses (16) 4 other Horses (13)	29	
Hay (15) Beer micks, Bras and Trough (2)	7	
one pair of Timber wheels, screw and Chain	10	
one Cart (4) 3 pair of Chains, 4 Coffers Blind hatters & frames (35)	5	15
2 pair Smiths Bellows, one Anvill one vice, and other Smiths Tools	16	10
2 Spades (6) Coffer & Shear (6) 3 hoes (9) 3 floues (7/6) 1 hand saw (6)	1	14 6
2 plows one pair of Irons and Swingle Trees	1	
2 Trubing axes & one Ox Chain (10) old Iron belonging to Sawmill 20	1	10
Scales Beam and Weights in the mill	3	10
1 feather Bed Beding and Bedsted	6	
1 feather Bed Beding and Bedsted	0	
1 Chaff Bed & Beding (20) one feather Bed & Beding (3.10.0)	4	10
1 feather Bed (3) one Chaff Bed (20)	4	
1 Grid Iron (5) 1 Cogcut Saw (30) 2 falling axes (10) 1 Grindstone (10)	2	15
1 Case of Drawers, 2 Tables, 6 Chairs, 1 Chest, 1 Looking Glass	4	12
Books (4) 1 warming pan & Chimney furniture (14) Tanned Leather (3)	1	1
3 pair Tonges (10) one fire shovell (2/6) 2 Table & 1 Dough Trough (15)	1	7 6
part of a Cask of M ^o about 100 weight	5	
3 Sewter Dishes and 12 plates (2) one poplar Chest (10)	2	10
15 1/2 Yards Dyaper (1.3.3) 2 Bras Candle sticks & 1 Iron D (3/6)	1	6 9
old Sewter, Copper, Earthen ware, & wooden ware in the kitchen	2	5
1 Chair (2) 2 Iron potts (20) 2 pair pot racks (12)	1	14
one Mellatta woman and her Child	40	
15 Acres of Wheat in the ground at Dares		

Wm Clayton
 Robt Parke

Philadelphia Aug. 25th 1766

Inventory of the Monies Goods Chattles & Effects late
The Estate of Thomas Robinson Deceased Appraised
by Samuel Morton & Daniel Williams

Cash in the Chest	£571-11-5
Wearing Apparel	10-0-0
Silver Watch	5-0-0
Wine Buckels & Shoe a?	1-5-0
A Mahogany Desk	9-0-0
An old Swinging Looking glass	1-7-6
An Old Oak Case of Drawers	2-0-0
Mohogany Dressing Table	2-5-0
Bedstead feather Bed, Boulders two Pillows two Sheets, one Blanket & a Counterpane, Bed & Window Curtains	10-0-0
China Soup Plates a Delf dish & Glass Tumbler on the Marble Pew	15-0-0
Bedstead Feather Bed Boulders two Pillows, one in Sheets, Blanket, Counterpane & Curtains	7-0-0
One pair Old Walnut Drawers	2-0-0
An old Trunk	2-0-0
Two Remnants of Cloth	5-10-0
An Old Oak Chest	1-5-0
One Covered & two pair Old Blankets	1-10-0
two Old Cloth Baskets	2-6-0
Bedstead Feather Bed, Boulders two pillows one pair Sheets, Blanket & Quilt	5-10-0
Case of Drawers of Wild Cherry	3-0-0
A Trunkle Bedstead, Small Feather Bed Boulders one Pillow one pair Sheets Blanket & Counterpane	3-10-0
Looking Glass & Small Table	1-10-0
Two Small Trunks	1-7-6
Bedstead feather Bed boulders & Pillow one, Pair Sheets & Coverlid	3-10-0
An Old Carpet & two Coverlids	2-5-0
Three Pictures & An old Chair	5-0-0
Cot Bedstead Small Bed one pair Sheets Blanket & a Coverlid	2-0-0
a hamper	2-6-0
Mohogany Desk & Book Case	15-0-0

£ 665-13-0

Brought forward ----- £ 665-13-11

Mohogany Table & Carpet	2-10--
Twelve leather Bottom ^{Walnut} Chairs	7-4--
A Looking Glass Six Pictures & Old Maps	5-15
Mohogany Tea Table	3--
A Small Walnut Table Carpet & Small Cheese Stand	1-12-6
Two Windsor Chairs	1-15--
A pair hand Irons fire Shovel & Tongs	2-10--
China Ware, two Wine Glasses & a Stone punch	1-15--
Bowl on the Mantle Piece	1-15--
22 China Plates Old Tea pots & Glasses and Some Delf Ware in the Buffet	2-4-6
Six Silver Table Spoons & two Tea Spoons & Strainer Weighing 17:8:12 -- a 8/6 p 1/2	7-8-1
Six Sheets, 48/- Six Small Table Cloths - 30/ on 1/2	4-13--
Six Boulton Cases, 15/ 10 pillow Cases - 10/-	1-5--
five hand Towels	1-5--
Eight d. Small	
A Clock & Walnut Case	
A Walnut Tea Table & Seven old Walnut Chairs	
A Couch Small Walnut Stand & Tea Board	1-15--
Tin Sugar Box Bread Basket Candle box & Sun ^d Old China	10--
An Old Walnut Table 25/- & Looking Glass 60/-	4-5--
Sundry dishes & Plates Stone Ware	1--
An old Map & two old Pictures	1-10--
An old Writing Pine desk & Ironing board & blanket	1-15--
A Small pine - d. & pine Corner Cupboard	1-15--
A pair hand Irons fire Shovel & Tongs	1-5--
Sundry Books	4--
A Map of Pennsylvania	1--
Jack, Ensign & Penant for a vessel	5-10--
A Barrel Part full of Rum	3--
Two Old Joint Stools & a Brush	2-6
Three old Maps	8/ 0-15--
Ten pewter dishes & Strainer 40/- 3 basons & 5 old plates	2-9--
12 Loop Plates & 22 Plates	3--
Sundry Copper Ware	5-17-6
A small Brass Kettle & Cover 15/- Six Brass Candlesticks 20/-	1-15--
Sundry Old Iron Pots	1-5--

£ 757-16-1

Brought Forward		£ 57-16-9
a Sack, Spit dipping pan & Grid Iron		3-10-
hand Irons, fire Shovel Tongs & frying Pan		1-2-6
Warming pan Sad. Irons, Old Iron Cannelsticks pott hooks Scissors & Sundry Old Tin Ware		1-8-
Two Old Tables & two Old Chairs		5-
Sundry Old Tubs & Pails		10-
One Glass Lanthorn & a Chafing Dish		6-
311 Bushells Bean - a 1/2 p		18-2-5
94 Bus ^{ls} Shorts - a 20 p		7-16-8
485 a ^o Maunt - a 3/9 p ^o		90-18-9
417 - a ^o damaged - a 3 p		62-11-
4 barrells beer Tower a 5 p		1-
2 hhd ^s a ^o - a 10 p		1-
70 Empty Barrells - a 2/6 - 13 half Barrells 1/6		9-14-6
16 Empty hhd ^s & two funnels		4-
9 three p ^o Casks		2-5-
30 Cord Wood - a 10 p		15-
6000 feet Oak Boards a £3 p		18-
An Old Roan Horse		2-
a Bay Horse		20-
2 Shoates		1-10-
An Old Bray & Geers		1-10-
16 Bushells Wheat - a 4 p		3-4-
a few a ^o damaged a ^o		15-
47 dozen Empty Bottles		5-19-6
49 ^{bu} Superfine Flour - a 33 p		80-17-
An Anchor		16-
David Boyles Bond dated 9 th Jan ^r 1765		14-
for fourteen Pounds		
Jacob Goodings Note dated 22 nd June 1757		37-
John Reynolds Note for		16-19-11
John Thomaker Note for		6-7-1
Jos. Barnets Bond dated 27 th Aug. 1762		66-2-
John Locke Note dated 29 th March 1762		18-5-9
William Cutths Bond - 28 th Nov ^r 1761		100-
Henry Shuttles Bond 1 st Apr ^l 1755		3-12-1
John Kerbins Bond - 28 th June 1763		25-
John Bards Bond - 30 th Decem ^r 1760		10-
James Sturlings Note 13 th a ^o 1763 (Interest)		7-15-18-3
		1448-5-3

Am^l. Brought forward ----- £1440-5-3
 James Hays Bond dated 29th Jan^y 1761 ----- 42
 Thomas Armstrongs^d dated 27th Nov^r 1761 ----- 13-10-⁰⁰
 Thomas Armstrong a^d d^r another bond 13-10-⁰⁰
 William Hageltons Note for ----- 100-⁰⁰
 Francis Harris Note for ----- 10-18-⁰⁰
 Robert Porters Order on William Darragh ----- 17-14-⁰⁰
 Christophor Jacobys dated 14th Jan^y 1740 ----- 100-⁰⁰
 William Punnells Bond dated 14 Octob^r 1765 ----- 160-⁰⁰
 Francis Harris bond 3 Sep^r 1764 ----- 251-12-4
 William Hellys Note & interest dated Apr^l 20th 1764 ----- 28-12-⁰⁰
 William Chothiers Bond for ----- 60-⁰⁰
 Daniel Tritch & Co^s Price Note ----- 31-6-2
 Daniel Dinges Note 26th Jan^y 1766 for ----- 40-⁰⁰
 Daniel Tritch Note 24 Decem^r 1765 for ----- 36-6-9
 M^r. M^r. Chanahan Bond dated 20th Apr^l 1763 ----- 30-⁰⁰
 Nathan Sheppard dated 17 Feb^r 1765 ----- 100-⁰⁰
 Benjamin Wetherbys^d Nov^r 1762 ----- 100-⁰⁰
 1 Silver Plate ----- wt. 14.5 ----- £ 957.5-11-⁰⁰

1 Salver ----- 14-8
 2 Coverings ----- 14-19
 1 Can of 7 Spoons ----- 26-⁰⁰
 6 Spoons ----- 13-3
 7 a^d of narrow Scoop ----- 15-11
 1 Scoop Spoon & Cream pott ----- 10-⁰⁰
 1 a^d ----- 8-8
 1 Square Cream Pott ----- 5-19
 6 Tea Spoons & Tonges ----- 2-12-⁰⁰ gr
 1 Bowl ----- 19-6-12
 1 Sugar Dish ----- 5-8-⁰⁰
 1 Pair Round Tatts ----- 6-7
 1 Small Salver ----- 4-14-12
 1 Panacan ----- 3-5-⁰⁰
 1 Pepper Box ----- 1-19
 5 Tea Spoons ----- 2-5
 1 Pair Tea Tonges ----- 1-4
 1 Tankard ----- 27-5

Inventory of Thomas
 Robinsons Estate
 Feb^r 1772
 £ 55

Dan^l. Williams
 £ 189-14-⁰⁰ and 8/6 for 80-14-7
 also omitted above ----- 4-⁰⁰
 £ 2660:9:1

*Inventory
Thomas Robinson
June 3rd 1820.*



[Faint, illegible handwritten notes and scribbles, possibly including a signature or date.]

21006 12M25
JUN 3 122D

(Amount Due found)	1872.00	
1 Black Cow, \$12	1 Red Knife 10 Whillanum 37	22.37
1399 & Peck 2 4 ⁰⁰ 5 4 ⁹⁵	64.95	
10 Bushell Turnips & 3 Sacks of Potatoes	17.50	
	<u>Dollars 1977.48</u>	

Appraisers { John Bollach
 Jesse Peck
 3rd Mo. 24. 1864

The Probationary Executors
 [Signature]

[Faint handwritten notes, possibly "P..."]

NEW CASTLE
 INVENTORI

Appendix G. Timeline for Robinson House

Summary Chronology for Robinson House Property

Before July 1675

Property called Marites (Marcus) Hook surveyed for Charles Janson, Olle Rawson, Olle Nielson, Hans Hopman, John Hendrickson, and Hans Oleson. The property is bounded by the Delaware River on the west, Naaman's Creek on the south, and Marites Creek on the north (Myers 1955: 62-63). In March 1676, Edmund Andros, Deputy Governor of New York, grants the 1,000-acre tract to the group of six men.

July 1695

Wolle (aka Olle or Wooley) Rawson grants 7 acres with a mill, house, and mill race, situated to the east of the Old Kings Road, to Jasper Yeates.

Before May 1720

Jasper Yeates dies, leaving the mills at Naaman's with "my share of lands, dwelling houses, and premises" to his daughter, Mary. Sometime after 1720, Mary (Yeates) Carpenter sells Naaman's mill property to Thomas Moore. The size of the parcel is not identified, but it is assumed to be the 7-acres with mill and other buildings.

April 1728

Thomas Moore purchases 107 acres "upon Naaman's Creek" from the heirs of Olle Rawson. This purchase includes the site of the Robinson House. It has not been determined if the house was built before Moore's purchase of the property. However, if it had not, Moore built a one-room, frame house with plank wall sometime after purchasing the land.

June 1738

By this time, Thomas Robinson (1) has arrived in Philadelphia and is busy as a shipping agent and merchant.

December 1736/7

Thomas Moore dies. Moore's widow, Mary, continues to live in the house.

January 1745/6

Thomas Robinson, a Philadelphia merchant, purchases a grist mill and parcels of land from Joseph Cloud, Thomas Moore's administrator. Parcels are—19 acres on Naaman's Creek; 3 acres to the east of the Old King's Road; and 104 acres, reserving Thomas Moore's mansion.

May 1749

Thomas Moore (2) quit claims the house and 20 ½ perches of land to Thomas Robinson. Mary Moore releases her right of dower for the same property to Robinson.

1760

Thomas Robinson leaves Naaman's Creek and resettles in Philadelphia, where he operates a brewery located near Hamilton's wharf. It is not possible to determine who

Note: This timeline is abstracted from report, "History of the Robinson House," by Nedda Moqtaderi (September 2003). As such all citations appear in full there.

lived in the Robinson House once Robinson returned to Philadelphia, though it may have been rented to a miller or mill overseer.

August 1766

Thomas Robinson dies in Philadelphia. At his death, Robinson owned 220 acres on the north side of Naaman's Creek (which includes the Robinson House), the Naaman's mills, and a 128-acre plantation on the south side of Naaman's Creek. He also owned extensive land holdings in southern New Castle County, Chester County, and Philadelphia.

1766-1772

Sarah Robinson, Thomas's widow, and her oldest son, Abraham, undertake the settlement of Thomas's extensive estate.

August 1773

Return of division of Thomas Robinson's New Castle County land holdings. Son Thomas Robinson (2) receives land "upstream from the mill" (including two house, one of which was the Robinson House). Abraham, receives 14 acres with the mills, house, and other outbuildings (across Philadelphia Pike from the Robinson House). Soon after receiving the property, Thomas Robinson expanded the house, by adding an addition on the west side.

January 1776

Thomas Robinson commissioned as Captain in Anthony Wayne's 4th Pennsylvania Battalion.

February-March 1776

Thomas Robinson at Marcus Hook for troop training.

Early April 1776

Robinson and his company depart for New York, where they encamp for a couple of weeks on Long Island.

Late April 1776

Sally Robinson, Thomas's sister, departs "the Country," because it seems "so very lonesome" without Tommy. Sally leaves the family home and Naaman's and spends the remainder of the spring and summer in Philadelphia.

Early May 1776

Robinson marches for Quebec, stopping on his way at Albany.

May 24, 1776

George Washington stays with Sarah and Sally Robinson in Philadelphia.

June 1776

Thomas Robinson takes part in the battle at Three Rivers, Quebec. Colonel Wayne praises him for proving himself "the Soldier and Gentleman."

Note: This timeline is abstracted from report, "History of the Robinson House," by Nedda Moqtaderi (September 2003). As such all citations appear in full there.

July-early October 1776

Thomas Robinson at Fort Ticonderoga.

Late August 1776

Sally Robinson marries Richard Peters.

October 2, 1776

Thomas Robinson commissioned as Major in the 5th Pennsylvania Battalion.

October 11, 1776

Thomas Robinson on furlough for illness. Sent to hospital at Fort George, New York.

November 1776-early January 1777

Thomas Robinson returns home. While there, he assists with recruiting in Chester. By January 22nd, Robinson was back at Ticonderoga.

April 1777

Thomas Robinson serves as president of General Court Martial in Boundbrook, New Jersey.

June 7, 1777

Thomas Robinson commission as Lt. Colonel of the 1st Pennsylvania Battalion.

August 1777

George Washington passes through Naaman's Creek on his way to Wilmington. No conclusive evidence whether he stopped at the Robinson House.

September 1777

Thomas Robinson involved in Battle of Brandywine. He sustains injuries and is sent to the hospital at Lancaster, PA.

October 1777

George Washington orders James Potter and Light Horse Harry Lee to remove the mill stones from Abraham Robinson's mill at Naaman's Creek. While doing so, Lee runs in with a British foraging party and takes several as prisoners.

May-June 1778

Thomas Robinson ill and in hospital at New London, CT.

November-December 1778

Thomas Robinson back in Philadelphia and then at Naaman's recuperating from illness.

December 1779

Sarah Robinson, Thomas's mother, dies.

Note: This timeline is abstracted from report, "History of the Robinson House," by Nedda Moqtaderi (September 2003). As such all citations appear in full there.

December 1780-January 1781

Thomas Robinson encamped at Morristown, New Jersey.

January 1783

Thomas Robinson and other members of the 1st Pennsylvania transferred to the 2nd Pennsylvania Battalion.

November 1783

Members of the 2nd Pennsylvania discharged.

October 31, 1785

Thomas Robinson recognized as member of the Society of the Cincinnati.

March 1787

Abraham Robinson dies. His widow, Sarah, and nine children continue to live in his house near the Naaman's mills. Thomas Robinson and his sister-in-law administer the estate. They advertise the mills available for rent.

1793

Thomas Robinson appointed as Major General of the Delaware militia.

May 1796

Thomas Robinson marries Mary (Eyre) Coates at Christ Church in Philadelphia.

1797

Tax Assessment of Thomas Robinson records 200 acres (160 improved) with 2 dwelling houses, 2 small log houses, blacksmith shop, and 2 barns. Valued at \$700. Livestock valued at \$200. 60 oz of plate (\$66.67). Total valuation \$1,110.67.

1800

Thomas Robinson's household includes 10 people—3 of whom are classified in the "other free individuals" category; these are most likely laborers (USC 1800: 145).

1803

Thomas Robinson advertises the rental of his "Naaman's Creek Plantation."

1804

Thomas Robinson assessed for 200 acres (160 improved) with 2 dwelling houses, 2 log tenements, 2 barns, and a black smith shop. (\$1800). Also, 2 horses, 2 cows, 6 pigs. (total value \$62). Two slaves (1 18-yr.-old female--\$50-- and 1 34-yr.-old male--\$60). 60 oz. plate (\$66.67). Personal tax \$500.

1810

Note: This timeline is abstracted from report, "History of the Robinson House," by Nedda Moqtaderi (September 2003). As such all citations appear in full there.

Thomas Robinson's household includes fifteen people, 8 of whom are slaves (USC 1810: 205).

1816

Thomas Robinson assessed for two farms (130 acres) with "good buildings and a tenement included" Value \$1,170. \$142 of livestock. 40 oz. plate (\$44). Personal tax \$150. Total \$1506.

December 1819

Thomas Robinson (2) dies and bequeaths real estate to be equally divided between his children—Thomas Robinson, Jr., Sarah Peters Robinson, Mary Eyre Robinson, and Manual Eyre Robinson. Thomas is to have the "Homestead farm or plantation" (which includes the Robinson House).

1820-1830s

Thomas Robinson (3) lives at Naaman's Creek, in the Robinson House.

1833

Mary Robinson, widow of Thomas Robinson (2), dies at her home in Philadelphia.

1851

Thomas Robinson (3) sells the Robinson House property to Abner Vernon. At the time of the sale, Thomas Robinson (3) lives in Philadelphia.

1854

Thomas Robinson (3) dies.

Appendix H. Summary of Oral Traditions

Oral traditions and Presence/Absence of Supporting Documentation

The chart below is a summarized effort at addressing the many oral traditions that have long been associated with the Robinson House. It is by no means a comprehensive review of every tradition associated with the house, but does include several of the widely-accepted ones.

Tradition	Presence/Absence of Supporting Documentation
Caesar Rodney changed horses there on way to Philadelphia to sign the Declaration of Independence	Search of Rodney's correspondence at the Historical Society of Delaware did not locate any documentation of this assertion.
Swedish Block House, c. 1654	Architectural review by Jeffrey Klee indicates that the construction and fabric of this building clearly date to the eighteenth century. Archaeological excavations by John Milner Associates failed to recover any seventeenth-century artifacts or features. Review of archival records and maps has not revealed any evidence to support this tradition. Wolle Rawson and partners did purchase the property in the late seventeenth-century, which may explain the rise of this legend.
Geo. Washington visited/stayed at the Robinson House	It is known that George Washington and his troops passed through Naaman's Creek on August 24 th . 1777. The troops camped at Naaman's Creek, but according to diarist Timothy Pickering, Washington continued on to Wilmington. It is very likely that Washington did stop at the Robinson House, due to his close connections with members of the Robinson family. However, there is no record of him spending the night at Naaman's on this date.
Marquis de Lafayette visited	No documentation located to date. However, research for this report did not focus on this issue. A search of the Lafayette Papers in the Library of Congress may provide more conclusive evidence.

<p>"Light Horse" Harry Lee visited</p>	<p>General Washington ordered James Potter and "Light Horse" Harry Lee to remove the mill stones from Robinson's mill at Naaman's, among others in the area. Lee would have been at Abraham Robinson's mill, though there is no definitive documentation of him being at the Robinson House. Considering the proximity of the Robinson House to the mill, it is possible, however, that he would have stopped there. More information of this event is included in the text of this report.</p>
<p>Harry Lee captured British officers eating there</p>	<p>Harry Lee writes of skirmishes with the British in the vicinity of Naaman's. His letter provides no further detail on whether he captured officers while they dined at the Robinson House.</p>
<p>British captured Harry Lee, he escaped via hidden stairs and tunnel to creek</p>	<p>No documentation of this has been located. Research focused on Harry Lee may provide more conclusive evidence to support or deny this legend.</p>
<p>Washington ate pears from orchard; thus the "Washington Pear"</p>	<p>In a letter written in the early 19th century, Thomas Robinson tells of a tree at the Robinson House that produced unique pears. He explains that it is named for Washington to commemorate this important individual. There is no documentation of Washington having eaten this pear. The original letter is in the Winterthur Manuscripts Library. A copy of this letter is on file at DOHCA.</p>
<p>The Kings Highway originally passed to what's now the rear of the house, thus the back was the original "front"</p>	<p>A review of historic maps and atlases does not support this tradition. There is no evidence that the King's Highway once passed by what is now the back of the house.</p>
<p>Several members of the Continental Congress visited</p>	<p>Documentation of such visits has not been located. However, considering Thomas (2) Robinson's prominence in the Revolutionary War and involvement in New Castle County government and Delaware militia, it is very possible that members of the Continental Congress visited. Research for this report did not include a review of letters, diaries, or itineraries for members of the Continental Congress.</p>
<p>The house was part of the Underground Railroad</p>	<p>There is no written documentation of this tradition.</p>

N-450

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Delaware
COUNTY: New Castle
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER: _____ DATE: _____

1. NAME
COMMON: Naaman's Tea House
AND/OR HISTORIC: Block House--Robinson House

2. LOCATION
STREET AND NUMBER: Naaman's Corner
CITY OR TOWN: Claymont
STATE: Delaware CODE: 10 COUNTY: New Castle CODE: 003

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> Site	<input type="checkbox"/> Private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> Restricted
<input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	Restoration planned in the near future.
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
OWNER'S NAME: State of Delaware, Public Archives Commission
STREET AND NUMBER: Hall of Records
CITY OR TOWN: Dover STATE: Delaware CODE: 19001 CODE: 10

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Recorder of Deeds, New Castle County
STREET AND NUMBER: Public Building
CITY OR TOWN: Wilmington STATE: Delaware CODE: 10

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE OF SURVEY: Delaware Heritage Buildings and Areas
DATE OF SURVEY: 1967 Federal State County Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Greater Wilmington Development Council, Inc.
STREET AND NUMBER: 300 Delaware Avenue, Suite 1320
CITY OR TOWN: Wilmington STATE: Delaware CODE: 19801 CODE: 10

STATE
COUNTY
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

7. DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	(Check One)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed <small>(Check One)</small>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site <small>(Check One)</small>
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE	
<p>The Robinson House and adjoining Blockhouse, often collectively called Naaman's, stand on a 1.2 acre plot in a rapidly developing commercial--industrial neighborhood, with a small shaded lawn and a paved parking lot. They comprise a group of connecting structures, painted white, some of stone and some frame, erected at different periods. The Robinson House is two-storey and attic, with dormer windows. The eastern end, of stone, was erected about 1723. The western portion of somewhat later date, is of wide, smoothly matched ship lapped with flush joints. To this has been added, still later, (c. 1915) a portico with fluted Doric columns and a recent one-storey enclosed porch. There have been many interior changes. The main floor retains much fine original woodwork. A modern one-storey frame section now connects an originally separate one-storey stone dependency and the Blockhouse with the main house.</p> <p>The Blockhouse, believed built in 1654 is a small square two-storey building. The first floor originally had no windows other than loopholes under the eaves. There is a narrow stairway to the upper room. A fireplace almost fills the east wall. Other than probably renewal of the roof and cutting of small windows, the structure is considered to be in its original condition.</p> <p>The surrounding country has changed beyond recognition. Once a center of waterpowered mills set in farmed country at a well-known bridge on the King's Highway, later Philadelphia Pike, it now has a steel mill in the immediate area and is developing as a major interchange on I-95 with accompanying commercial expansion and, nearby, greatly increased population pressure with widely varied classes of housing within a short distance.</p>	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATES (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phil.	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry	Ecology	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	itarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Blockhouse may be the oldest surviving building in Delaware. Johan Rising, in October 1651, selected a site on Naaman's Creek for a sawmill, the Colony's first in which blades newly brought from Sweden were to be installed the following spring. The Swedes customarily fortified their industrial installations, especially those equipped with imported implements. In September 1655, the Swedes were defeated by a Dutch expedition. Architects find the Blockhouse structurally compatible with such a history and purpose.

From the middle seventeenth century the immediate vicinity of the Robinson House has been a significant milling center. In 1701 a gristmill across the King's Highway was a landmark in the survey of the circular boundary now dividing Delaware and Pennsylvania. The mills and their supporting lands, including the Robinson House site, was purchased by a merchant, Thomas Robinson, in the period 1745-1751 and remained in his family about a century, the House being the home of the successive owners. It is an architecturally fine building.

Abraham Robinson, owner during the Revolution, was a brother-in-law of Anthony Wayne, who visited him there. Washington is known to have stopped on August 25, 1777, when the Army, moving to meet Howe, encamped nearby. The Robinson Mills were among those dismantled at Washington's order to prevent their use by the British. A later Thomas Robinson was a Major General of Delaware Militia from 1807 through the War of 1812. Some sources state that the Robinson House was an inn through much of the eighteenth and nineteenth century. It housed a fine restaurant from the early twentieth century until shortly before its purchase by the State of Delaware.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Howe owned this property

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Historic Houses and Buildings of Delaware, by Harold Donaldson Eberlein and Corliss V. D. Hubbard, Dover, Delaware, 1962, pp. 226-227.

Early Architecture of Delaware, by George Fletcher Bennett, Wilmington, Delaware, 1932, pp. 65-68.

Atlas of the State of Delaware, by D.G. Beers, Philadelphia, 1868, p. 7.

Atlas of New Castle County, Delaware, by G. W. Baist, Philadelphia, 1893, Plate 9.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES			
CORNER	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"	
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1.0

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	ACRES

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Leon deValinger, Jr., State Archivist

ORGANIZATION: Public Archives Commission, State of Delaware

STREET AND NUMBER: Hall of Records

CITY OR TOWN: Dover STATE: Delaware COUNTY: 10

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: Leon deValinger, Jr.

Title: Historic Registrar, State Liaison Officer for Delaware

Date: May 13, 1971

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date: _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Margaret Lawson, Lorraine West, Clyde Hess, Sarah Hess, David Little,
Anita Sterling, Anne McGhie, Andrew McGhie, Lauren Denton,
Vernalee Frey, Carol Brady and Dan Harkins

W3R Committee:

Naamans Heritage Association – Frances West, President

Claymont Historical Society – Carolyn Mercadante, President

Always the Garden, Claymont Historical Society and the Darley Society
Claymont Fire Department, True Value Claymont Hardware & Supply,
County Councilman John Carter, Claymont Lions Club,
State Senator Harris B. McDowell, County Councilman Bob Weiner,
State Representative Joseph Di Pinto, State Representative Diana McWilliams,
State Representative Robert J. Vailhura, Jr., State Representative Gregory F. Lavelle,
State Senator Cathy L. Cloutier, State Representative Wayne A. Smith,

And the following for their contributions:

Sunoco, Inc.
Honeywell

*The Claymont Historical Society would like to thank
the following sponsors for making this event special:*



The Robinson House

ROBINSON HOUSE, circa 1723
Claymont, Delaware

ROBINSON HOUSE

CA. 1723

Naamans Tea House

(1914–1964)

National Register of Historic Places in 1971

The oldest portion of this structure is believed to have been built circa 1730. In the 1740's the house and surrounding property were sold to Philadelphia merchant Thomas Robinson. Other holdings included a milling operation and landing on nearby Naaman's Creek. Following Thomas Robinson's death the house passed on to his son and namesake. Commissioned as a Pennsylvania Continental Army Officer at the outset of the Revolution, the younger Thomas rose to the rank of Lt. Colonel, serving with distinction during the war. The proximity of the Robinson House to one of the country's major transportation corridors made it a landmark for passing travelers and it is believed that many prominent figures stopped to visit. The house was sold by the Robinson family in 1851. For a time during the 20th century it was operated as a restaurant known as "Naaman's Tea House". The Robinson House was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1971.

Delaware Public Archives–2006 (NC –160)

Historic Marker dedicated Thursday, September 28, 2006 at 4:00 p.m.
1 Naamans Road, Claymont, DE 19703

Thursday, September 28, 2006

4:00 p.m. Historic Marker Dedication

5:00 p.m. Reception

5:30 p.m. W3R Tavern Dinner

Music: Delaware Militia
John and Jan Haigis

Attending: The Honorable Benjamin Franklin

CLAYMONT
· CHS ·
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Washington-Rochambeau
Revolutionary Route

The Claymont Historical Society, P.O. Box 184, Claymont, DE 19703

The Darley Society, P.O. Box 695, Claymont, DE 19703

Naamans Heritage Association, P.O. Box 695, Claymont, DE 19703

43084

N-450

10-72-00004-00

DELAWARE STATE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
DIVISION OF HISTORICAL & CULTURAL AFFAIRS
15 THE GREEN
DOVER, DE 19901

ARCHITECTURAL RESEARCH REPORT
OF THE
ROBINSON HOUSE
NAAMAN'S ROAD, CLAYMONT DELAWARE
FOR THE
DELAWARE STATE ARCHIVES COMMISSION

Robert L. Raley, A.I.A.
25 Buena Vista Street
Old Brandywine Village
Wilmington, Delaware 19801

8/10/71

FOREWORD

When submitting a report such as this, it should be realized that any architect must accept at face value many of the facts on which his suggestions are based. At present, the most important premise is -- that the structure known as the Block House was built by the Swedish Governor Johan Rising in 1654; and that the existing house is indeed the one lived in by the Robinson family from the 1740's until at least 1803. Unfortunately at present neither premise can be proved by documentation.

18th Century newspaper advertisements both imply and state positively that at least "two Dwelling Houses" stood on the property. The earliest notice was published in the Pennsylvania Gazette. (April 16, 1748)

Thomas Robinson of Naamans Creek wants a good miller, any person inclined to serve by applying to him shall have good encouragement.

Besides Robinson's own house, a tenant house must have been available for the new miller.

Following Thomas Robinson's death, c. 1776, his estate was divided among his children. Settlement apparently took many years, for in 1772, Anthony Wayne prepared a "Draught of the Land belonging to Mr. Robinson's Estate where George Gritt (sic) lives." This described a 112 acre tract in Chester County with an additional tract of 10 acres adjacent in New Castle. In this document Wayne specifically mentions a "Mansion House" and its location.

The Red represents the Circular line dividing the Counties of New Castle and Chester passing through the Mansion House. (Pennsylvania Historical Society, Wayne Papers)

The reference to George Gritt is less clear, for Wayne indicated another building on the property, north of the

Mansion House, in Chester County. Gritt could have been living in either building, on Thomas Robinson's property.

Thomas' son, Abraham, is thought to have received 14 acres of land and the Naaman's Mills. For some reason, perhaps due to declining health, Abraham offered to lease some property in 1786. This included a tenant house. He advertised in the Mirror of the Times and General Advertiser (July 5, 1786)

To Be Let or Rented on the Shares, a new Oil Mill in complete order, Situate on Naaman's Creek, New Castle County about twenty miles from Philadelphia ...If any person should incline to purchase they may also be accommodated with 69 or 70 acres of land, with a small dwelling house thereon adjoining the Mill. For terms apply Abraham Robinson near the Mill.

The most complete description of the industrial and farming complex appeared the following year (March 26, 1787) following Abraham's death.¹

To Be Let: The Mills situated on the head of the tidewater at Naaman's Creek and belonging to the Estate of Abraham Robinson, Esq., deceased. They consist of a Grist Mill completely fitted for Merchant and country work, with two pairs of the best Burrs, a saw Mill and Oil Mill both in good repair. The whole are within 20 miles of Philadelphia where the great road passes the Creek in a populous neighborhood within one mile of Marcus Hook having water carriage to the Mill...With the above will be rented a large brick Bake House, Coopers Shop and a small house where the miller or manager of the works may reside. The Mansion House, a large convenient brick building nearly adjoining the mill with paled Garden, Smoke House, & Stables and about 14 acres of land, etc.

Sarah Robinson, Executrix²
Thomas Robinson, Executor³

Advertisements using the exact wording quoted above, appeared in the Pennsylvania Gazette with the exception that the Pennsylvania advertisement (April 4, 1787) stipulated that the property would be "let for a term of years."

This land description at least agrees with the 14 acres mentioned in the 1766 Orphan's Court division of Thomas

Robinson's land. Scharf claims that,

about 1800 this property (Abraham's) and the brick mansion erected in 1790 on the opposite corner, belonged to Colonel Thomas Robinson, and were soon after sold by him. The latter house has since been Modernized. (History II, 908)

Scharf's date is of course not correct for as we have seen the Brick mansion house was advertised for rent in 1787 and was not described as "newly constructed" as the oil mill was the year before.

Another advertisement that same year (August 8, 1787) after a similar description of the mills further identified one of the houses:

With the above will be rented a stone dwelling house, a brick Bake House, a Coopers Shop and a few acres of land.

It is interesting that only two years later Christopher Colles in his Survey of the Roads of the United States of America, 1789, should show the twenty mile marker a short distance below the Delaware State boundary; and, approximately in the same relationship to Naaman's Creek, as the present building, a house labeled "Robertson". Colles was a very accurate surveyor and carefully noted mills and inns. In Delaware he indicated the Brandywine Mills but showed nothing on Naaman's Creek. Perhaps at this time the Robinson Mills were still unleased and not in operation. At any rate the name Robinson seems not to have made any impression on Colles, but then he failed to indicate the exact location of the State boundary.

Sarah Robinson, Abraham's widow, who had received the use of Abraham's estate including "rents, issues, profits, interests" for the benefit of their minor children, died in 1791 before the children had reached their majority. Sarah's will, much like that of her husband, also provided for their

support. From this time onward Thomas Robinson, Abraham's brother, appears to have control of the Naaman's property in spite of the fact that Sarah had appointed as her executors Sharp Delleny(sic) and Francis Johnson. Evidently settlement of Abraham's estate had not been made before Sarah's death, and Thomas was still acting as his brother's executor.

Somewhere there should be some documentation as to the activities taking place at Naamans from Sarah's death until 1803. From advertisement that year we learn that either the small stone house was enlarged or else a new house had been erected. The property was now described: (Mirror of the Times, Jan. 8, 1803)

...on premises two large Dwelling Houses, a blacksmith's shop, two barns, a complete Granary, out stables, Hay houses, Cider house with the works, all in complete order, Carriage houses, Milk houses and Ice house filled with ice.

Thomas Robinson
at the Premises

From this evidence one is forced to the conclusion that Thomas Robinson was living in the "Brick Mansion House" while trying to lease the Mill properties, and Manager's house. He was still living at Naaman's at the time of his death in 1819. Described as "Thomas Robinson of Naaman's Creek" in his will, he left to his son Thomas, his "homestead farm, or plantation with appurtances". While farming activities are indicated by such a description, milling activities are not. As a matter of interest "mills" or milling activities are not mentioned except in the advertisements, in any of the letters, wills, or other documents which I have examined.

Also, there is no mention of an Inn or Tavern being on the Robinson property in any of the 18th Century or earlier 19th Century advertisements. This tradition seems to have

become part of the Naaman lore during the present Century. Miss Jeannette Eckman refers to the building as having been used as a tavern during the Revolution, occupied as such by Washington, Lafayette, etc. (Delaware Guide, p. 321). The idea that this building was also an Inn in 1776 is stated in an unsigned paper entitled "The Story of Naaman's on the Delaware" (no date). Since Colles did not mention it, as he did "Blue Ball", "The Anchor", "The 3 Tuns" and taverns and inns in Delaware I would be reluctant at this time to support this thesis.

While these historical facts were not requested in the original context of this report, they are important in making any judgment concerning the future use of the building by the State of Delaware. Even so, these discoveries represent the result of only several days research in local repositories of historical documents in Wilmington and Philadelphia, and is not presented as an exhaustive study. A continuation of this documentary research is a necessity along with further archaeological studies. Together, they and further architectural studies, will eventually reveal the accurate history of this interesting building.

¹ Abraham's will was filed on February 25, 1787. (M 257) Besides his wife Sarah, he left minor children: Thomas, Mary, Margaret, Joseph, Sarah, Jane, Anthony, Penrose, & Juliana. His interest in an entailed estate in Ireland went to his son Thomas.

² Sarah Robinson was appointed Executrix of her husband's will. A sister of Anthony Wayne, she survived her husband by only four years. Her will was filed Feb. 27, 1791 (J-190). The same nine children were mentioned by name.

³ Thomas Tobinon, Abraham's brother, was appointed joint Executor along with Sarah. Thomas apparently living in Chester County was commissioned as Captain in the 4th Battalion of the Pennsylvania Troops, January 5, 1776. His will, dated 1817, named Thomas, Jr. and Richard Peters, Jr. as Executors.

Questers'
brochure

Delaware's Robinson House



The Robinson House (formerly Naaman's Tea House) located in Claymont, has been in the center of Delaware travel, commerce, and industry. Built 1723 in an area of water-powered mills and farms along Kings Highway (now Rt. 13 or Philadelphia Pike), the Robinson House (and its outbuildings) served as a miller's house, and private residence through much of the 18th and 19th centuries. This historic house of stone, brick, and shipboard planks was the residence of the prominent Robinson Family for over a century. George Washington, and Anthony Wayne, among other Revolutionary notables, were guests here.

Much of the original woodwork and fireplaces can still be admired in the Robinson House which now serves the Claymont community as a museum and social center by the Naamans Kill Questers.

daughter, Ann, had charge of this place, which she made popular by the dinners she provided. Henry Williamson was a later landlord. The house has long since been used as a residence.

Claymont is a hamlet, post-office and station on the Philadelphia and Wilmington Railroad, where the turnpike crosses Naaman's Creek. The latter name was applied to the locality until 1852, when the present title was appropriately selected. The soil here is of a clayey nature and the surrounding country is beautifully undulated, affording many fine sites for suburban homes, which have been well-improved by citizens of Philadelphia. The scenic beauty of the Delaware in the Claymont neighborhood is not excelled by any other point in the county. Much of the land below the station was long owned by William, John and Enoch Gray, but their fine farms have been subdivided and the old landmarks can no longer be traced. Near Naaman's Creek are several old buildings, antedating the period of the Revolution. One is a part of the present Frank Ford place and was long the home of General Abraham Robinson. General George Washington was a frequent guest at this house, and, it is said, that on the occasion of one of his visits, he was so much pleased with a new seedling pear that it was named for him, and that thus originated the celebrated Washington pear. "Mad Anthony" Wayne was also a guest of the Robinson family. About 1800 this property and the brick mansion, erected in 1790, on the opposite corner, belonged to Colonel Thomas Robinson, and were soon after sold by him. The latter house has since been modernized.

The history of the old mill at this place dates from the beginning of the eighteenth century, as in the survey of the circle line in 1701. The grist-mill and house of Jasper Yeates are shown as being on Naaman's Creek at this place. A part of the present building was put up in 1749 by Samuel Hendrickson, and appears to have been originally a one-story stone. Later, and at different periods, two stories of brick were added. Before the water-power became so feeble the mill was extensively operated. Large quantities of grain were brought from long distances, and having been converted into flour, were loaded on sloops lying on tide-water at the mill and taken to the Philadelphia market; and to facilitate this work a brick warehouse was erected on the creek. From 1835 on, Robert and George W. Churchman carried on business extensively, operating also a large lumber mill. The latter has been abandoned, but the grist-mill, supplied with improved machinery, is still in operation. Among the former industries of this place were the old mill of the Robinson family, at a point higher up Naaman's Creek, where ruins of the dam may still be seen, and the quarrying and shipment of blue stone. The former has long since passed away, and work on the latter was also suspended many years ago.

George W. Churchman, for a third of a century the

most prominent lumber merchant in the State of Delaware, was born at Darby, Pa., May 12, 1811, and died in Wilmington, February 24, 1871. He was of the sixth generation in direct line of descent from John Churchman, a native of Saffrin Waldren, in Sussex, England, who, in 1692, at the age of seventeen years, immigrated to America and settled in Pennsylvania under William Penn. The distinguished mathematician and philosopher, John Churchman, born 1753 and died in 1805, was a descendant of the same John Churchman. His brother, George Churchman, was a noted minister among a Society of Friends, and was the first person to make a complete map of the peninsula comprising Delaware and the Eastern Shore of Maryland.

George W. Churchman, the subject of this sketch, grew to manhood at Darby, Pa. He was the second son of Caleb and Martha Churchman. Their other children were: John S., Frances, Ann, Rebecca, Henry L., Sally and Martha. Their father was a farmer and cattle dealer; he also owned a bark-mill at Darby and was a neighbor and intimate associate of Stephen Girard.

George W. Churchman early in life acquired many of the excellent business methods of that great financier. After leaving school he engaged in business at Darby with his father, until he reached the age of twenty-one years. In 1832 he purchased the historic saw and grist-mill property at Naaman's Creek, now the site of Claymont, and the same year moved to Delaware and took charge of his mills. He engaged in the manufacture of lumber, and also bought in much of the grain from the surrounding country and ground it into flour for the trade. He prospered in all his business operations, and soon enlarged and improved the entire mill property, making it the most complete industry of the kind in the State.

In 1838 he became interested in the development of the lumber interests of Central Pennsylvania. He purchased large tracts of timber-land in Cameron and Clearfield Counties, in that State, and at once began operations. He spent much time in the lumber region, superintending the work of felling the trees, hewing the logs into square timber and forming the rafts which were conveyed down the Susquehanna. He was very successful in this business and soon made a fortune, all of which was lost by a freshet on the Susquehanna, the entire production of one year having floated down the river. Much of his valuable timber lands were yet uncleared and his credit was good. He went diligently to work, and within a very few years recovered from his disaster. He continued with great success in the business and, at the time of his death, owned pine and hemlock timber lands in Central Pennsylvania to the value of two hundred thousand dollars.

The preparation of this timber for the market was an exceedingly interesting and profitable business, and in the early years of George W. Churchman's career was one of the chief industries of the great

State of Pennsylvania. The timber came out of the mountain districts down the small streams in rafts to Lock Haven, then the greatest lumber market in the United States. From this point they were floated in charge of pilots, with the current down the Susquehanna to Marietta, where new pilots took charge and safely steered them through the dangerous rapids of the river to Peach Bottom. From thence other men piloted them to Port Deposit, the place of delivery, and the head of tide-water on the Susquehanna. From this point the rafts were towed down the Chesapeake Bay, up Elk River into Back Creek, where they were made into "lockings" of sufficient size and length to readily pass through the Delaware and Chesapeake Canal and its locks, to Delaware City and thence up the river. Nearly all rafts were sold by their owners at Lock Haven or Marietta, both of which were lively business towns, during the rafting season of the early spring months of each year. George W. Churchman prepared thousands of rafts on his lands in Pennsylvania, and sold them to the trade in New York, Philadelphia, Wilmington and elsewhere. The rafts sold in New York were towed up the Delaware to Bordentown, and from thence taken through the Delaware and Raritan Canal to their place of destination. A large amount of his own timber he conveyed in rafts to his saw-mill on Naaman's Creek, and there manufactured them into lumber on orders from nearly all of the leading ship-builders and manufacturing establishments in Wilmington and the surrounding country. He also sold square timber and lumber to the Philadelphia and Chester market.

His extensive business operations brought him into close relation and intimacy with a great many prominent business men of Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland, in all of which States he was known as an upright man of the highest honor and most sterling integrity. His indomitable energy, rare tact and comprehensive knowledge of the lumber trade made him one of the most prominent business men of his day in Delaware. In 1867 he moved to Wilmington, though he continued his interest in his timber trade until his death.

He was one of the organizers and became a director of the Mechanics' Bank of Wilmington, and was one of the promoters in the establishment of the First National Bank of Wilmington, which institution he lent his best influence, to further its growth and development.

In politics George W. Churchman was originally a staunch Whig, and later was the founder of the Know-Nothing party in Brandywine Hundred. When the Republican party was organized, he became an earnest advocate of its policy and principles, and continued a member of that party through the remainder of his life.

The lottery business, which had long been conducted in Delaware, contained many obnoxious features to the citizens of the State. Mr. Churchman was one of

the foremost in advocating the passage of the law to abolish it. In November, 1858, with that object in view, he became a candidate for the Legislature to represent Brandywine Hundred, with the avowed purpose of attempting to secure the passage of the required legislation. A bill was introduced and during the same session was passed, accomplishing the object desired. The efforts of Mr. Churchman in this work were appreciated by the people, and in 1860 he was re-elected to the same office and served as a member of the Legislature of Delaware during the first two years of the Civil War.

He was a member of the Society of Friends, and inherited the strong traits and marked characteristics of that religious people. With all his neighbors and associates, of all political parties or religious sects, he was universally popular and very highly esteemed. Especially was this the case in Brandywine Hundred, where he spent most of his useful life. He was instrumental in securing the establishment of a post-office and railway station at Naaman's Creek (now Claymont) and erected nearly all of the first houses in the village.

George W. Churchman was married January 31, 1838, to Ann Eliza Shull, of Delaware County, Pa. Their children were: Caleb, Frederick A., William H., George, Maria S. and Charles (deceased).

Amos H. Slaymaker and Benjamin Hartley merchandised many years ago at this place. Joseph McNamee was long successfully in trade, and was succeeded by George W. Lodge and others. This old and well-known stand is now occupied by Robert Casey, Jr. Claymont post-office is kept at the station by E. N. Baldwin, holding his appointment since 1885. The railroad through Claymont was completed in 1838, but a regular station was not established until many years later.

Since 1845 Dr. J. T. M. Cardeza has been a practicing physician in the hundred, and has been located at Claymont the past forty years. He graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1842, as also did his son, Dr. J. D. M. Cardeza, in 1877, and has been associated in practice with his father since that time. Since 1850 the elder Dr. Cardeza has been engaged in the collection of geological and numismatic specimens, having, in 1887, one of the finest collections in the State. He has separate buildings containing scores of casts and thousands of specimens, whose value has been placed at twelve thousand dollars.

At Claymont were fought several duels of historic note, and which created unusual interest at the time of their occurrence. The most important was fought Sunday morning, March 21, 1830, by William Miller, an attorney from Philadelphia, and Midshipman Charles G. Hunter, of the United States navy. The place was on the present Ford farm, near the State-line. Miller fell mortally wounded, and his death was greatly deplored, since he had been drawn into the contest by his friendship for one of the principals

of the quarrel. Hunter was dismissed from the navy by order of President Jackson, but was subsequently restored to his former rank, and distinguished himself by his service in the Mexican War. Nevertheless, his life seemed blasted, and he died a disappointed man. He also acted in the duel out of friendship's sake, and the fact that he had no enmity against poor Miller caused many of the leading men of the country to condone his offense and to unite in a petition for his restoration. Miller was at that time one of the most promising young lawyers of the city of Philadelphia, and very respectably connected.

The next duel was fought near where the turnpike crosses the State road, on the 4th of June, 1842, by General James Watson Webb, of New York City, and the Hon. Thomas F. Marshall, of Kentucky. This was brought about by a political quarrel in Congress, and had been anticipated some time before it occurred. Both parties cherished bitter and hostile feelings, and met with a purpose to do deadly work. Webb was wounded in such a way that the fight could not be prolonged beyond the first fire, much to the disgust of Marshall, who insisted upon having another shot. Through the intervention of friends the principals retired with their sense of honor partially satisfied, and, in time, the breach was still further healed.

Another duel was fought on the State line, near the large beech tree, on June 9, 1845, by Washington Keith and Morris Meredith, both of Philadelphia. At the first fire each was wounded, though not fatally, when a settlement was effected, and they retired nominally friends.

The Edgemoor Buoy Depot, of the Fourth District, is on the Delaware, below du Pont's wharf. The improvements were begun in 1880, and completed two years later, some of them being transferred to this point from the Christiana light-house. They consist of a wharf four hundred feet long, on which is a fog-bell and light-house of the fifth order; a depot building fifty by one hundred and forty feet; and a keeper's residence, on three acres of land. This is occupied by W. W. Simmons. The buoy depot was opened in 1881, and placed in charge of Capt. N. L. Henderson, who is still in control of the interests connected with it. This yard is the general depot of the district, which has forty-two lights within its bounds, placed from Barneгат, N. J., to the Virginia coast. About three hundred buoys are kept in stock at the depot of Edgemoor, some of them being sixty feet in length. The general supplies of oil and wood are also here kept, making it one of the most important stations of the kind on the coast.

Du Pont's wharf, next above the Buoy Depot, was established in the early part of the present century. But it has been important for a less period of time on account of the immense quantities of powder shipped from the du Pont works, about five miles distant. After 1825 several brick magazines were erected, from which the vessels transporting the powder were laden.

These are still in use, but on account of better shipping facilities near the works, most of the transportation has been diverted to those points.

Star of Bethel Lodge, No. 19, I. O. O. F., was instituted at the house of John Faulk, on Naaman's Creek road, July 10, 1849. The following were original members: John Faulk, John W. Lodge, Samuel Hanby, Isaac N. Grubb, Thomas I. Clayton, Benjamin F. Hanby, Samuel L. Grubb, John Smith, Samuel Hewes, Jr., Isaac Booth and John Freeland.

In 1853 Odd Fellows' Hall was erected at Grubb's Corners, and the meetings of Bethel Lodge have been held there ever since. It is a three-story building, valued at two thousand five hundred dollars, and has also been used by other societies. Bethel Lodge has prospered generally, and in 1887 had forty members.

Morning Star Lodge, No. 9, K. of P. was instituted in the above hall October 20, 1868. Its charter bears the names of Geo. K. Lloyd, Alexander Valentine, Charles Williams, Joseph Proud, Jacob K. Hanby, James Leach, William McKee, Owen Zebbley, George Phillips, Albanus Phillips, Wm. Phillips, Jesse M. Klair, John W. Kruby, Edward C. Pierce, Joseph W. P. Casey, William S. Orr, Uriel Pierce, Jacob Gordy, Ezra Pierce and Thomas Phillips. Its organization has since that time been successfully maintained, and in 1887 there were fifty members.

Lodges of Red Men, Good Templars and a Grange of Patrons of Husbandry for a time flourished in this hall, but have ceased meeting and surrendered their charters.

West Brandywine Grange, No. 13, P. of H.—This society was organized at Sharpley's school-house, August 9, 1874, with fourteen charter members, and John W. Day, Master. From the beginning the Grange succeeded in drawing to itself an aggressive, vigorous membership, which numbered one hundred and five in June, 1887, and comprised the best citizens of the western part of the hundred.

In 1886 a fine hall, thirty-eight by forty feet, and two stories high, was erected by the Grange, at Talleyville, which has been occupied since its completion. The committee having the work of building in charge was composed of Thomas J. Day, William A. Talley, J. A. Welden, John F. Sharpley and Lewis M. Miller. The hall is valued at fifteen hundred dollars and was controlled by Trustees Clark Webster, J. Walker Perkins and J. Atwood Weldon.

Religious Interests.—As early as 1682 several families belonging to the Society of Friends, or Quakers, settled within the bounds of Brandywine Hundred, and held their meetings at private houses. But in 1687 Valentine Hollingsworth gave the ground for a meeting-house and burial-place, where was soon after built the Newark Meeting-house, a small structure of poplar logs, which served its purpose about sixty years. In this building the Newark Monthly Meetings were regularly held until 1704, when they alternated with Centre, in Christiana Hundred; but in 1707 they

The Last will and Testament
of Thomas Robinson, of Adam's creek
in the county of New-castle and State of Delaware
is in manner and form following, that is to say:-

In the first place: I order and direct that my
just debts and funeral expences be fully paid,
satisfied and discharged:-

Item: - I give, devise and bequeath all my
Estate, real and personal, of what nature and
kind so ever, and wheresoever being & situated,
unto my children Thomas Robinson, junior, -
Sarah Peters Robinson - Mary Eys Robinson -
and Manuel Eys Robinson - to be equally divided
between them, share and share alike. To have
and to hold the same to them and their
heirs and assigns forever respectively:-

Item: My will and intent is that in the divi-
sion of my Estate, my son Thomas Robinson junr
shall have my Homestead farm, or plantation
with the appurtenances, and I give and devise
the same to him and his heirs and assigns:
But if at my decease the value of my said
homestead farms or plantation shall be greater

than the value of each of the shares of my other children above named of my Estate reals and personals, then I order and direct that my said son Thomas do pay to each of my said other children such sum of money as will make the share of each of my said other children equal in value to the share of my said son Thomas - and I do hereby charge the said farm or plantations so devised to my said son Thomas with the payment of the said sums to my said other children respectively: -

Lastly: I appoint my said son Thomas Robinson junior, and Richard Peters, junior, Esquire, Executors of this my last will and Testament hereby revoking all and every will and wills by me at any time heretofore made. In witness whereof I have hereto set my hand and seal the twentieth fourth day of November A. D. one thousand eight hundred & nineteen.

Signed, sealed, published and declared by Thomas Robinson, the Testator, as and for his last will and Testament in the presence of us, who at his request and in his presence, and in the presence of each other have set our names as witnesses hereto -

W. Bellville
Henry Clymes
Judson Hunt

Richardson

Newcastle County So. Before me personally appeared Doctor Nicholas
Bevill, Henry Clymer and Pearson Hunt, the three subscribing witnesses
to the above and foregoing Will, who being solemnly sworn on the Holy
Evangelists of Almighty God, did severally say, that they saw Thomas Robinson
the Testator sign and seal the above and foregoing Instrument of writing
and heard him publish pronounce and declare the same to be his Last Will
and Testament. That at the time of his so doing and saying he was
(to the best of their belief) of sound disposing mind and memory. And
that it was at the request of the Testator, in his presence, and in the
presence of each other they severally subscribed their names thereto as
Witnesses. In Testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand at
Newcastle the thirteenth day of January in the year of our Lord one
thousand eight hundred and twenty.

Erwin Thomas Reg.

In the Name of God I Anne Sarah Robinson of Brandy-
wine hundred in the County of New Castle and State of Del.
ware Widow do make and declare this my last Will and
Testament in the manner and form following:—

In the first place I give and bequeath to my Son Thomas Robinson
as a Testimony of my Affection for him a Piece of Plate such
as he shall choose of the Value of ten Quinias to be paid for by my
Executors hereafter named:—

I give devise and bequeath all the residue and Remains
of my Estate both real and personal to my Executors and the
Survivor of them, their or his Executors Administrators
and assigns forever In Trust for the Uses and Purposes following
to wit: that they or the Survivor of them shall and may sell
and dispose of the same within the Space of one Year of Conve-
nient to the best Advantage for the Benefit of my Children Mary
Margaret, Sarah, Joseph, Jane, Anthony, Purson and Juliana
Robinson to be equally divided among them or the Survivors
of them here and here alike and to be paid to them respec-
tively when of Age - the Boys of twenty one and the Girls of eigh-
teen years - And it is my Will and desire that my Executors
or the Survivors of them shall place the Monies arising from
the sale of my Estate out at Interest with good and sufficient
Security - the Interest or a proportionable part thereof to be
appropriated for the Education and Maintenance of my last
mentioned Children during their Minority according to their
respective Dividends:—

And further it is my will that if any of my Children shall
die under Age, the share of such Child so dying shall be
equally divided among his or her Brothers and Sisters on their

References I have and here alike - And lastly I do no-
-minate and appoint Nathl Dilleny and Francis Johnson
Esquires to be the Executors of this my Testament and last Will
revoking all others by me made In Testimony whereof I have
herunto set my hand and affixed my seal this twenty fourth
day of February. Anno Domini 1791.

Signed, sealed, published and declared in the presence of
Sarah Robinson
Margaret Penrose
G. R. Atlee Esq.

Personally appeared William R. Atlee Esquire one of
the subscribing Witnesses to the foregoing Will who being sole-
mnly sworn saith that he did see and hear Sarah Robinson
sign, seal, Publish, Pronounce, and Declare the foregoing Instrument
of Writing as her last Will and Testament, that at the time of so
doing and saying she was (to the best of his belief) of sound and
disposing mind and memory, that he did sign his name as an
Evidence thereunto, at her request in her presence and in the pre-
sence of Margaret Penrose, whom he did see sign as another Evi-
dence at the same time. In Testimony whereof I have here-
unto set my Hand at Newcastle April 20th 1791.

Wm. Bedford Esq.

April 25th - 1791

An Inventory of the Goods and Chattels of Sarah Robinson deceased appraised by us the Subscribers the day above

An Heiffer - - - - -	£ 4	#	#
A joint Note from Sharp Delany, Richard Peters and Thomas Robinson for £63. 15. with Interest due thereon - - - - -	171	3	#
A Note from Anthony Wayne for £117. 15. with Interest due thereon - - - - -	142	7	7
Wearing Apparel - - - - -	5	#	#
Three Shoats - - - - -	1	10	7
	£ 334	0	7

Thomas Mean
John James

New Castle County J^s

May 18th 1791. Then the Above Appraisers Thomas Mean & John James Esq^s - were qualified according to Law to the above Appraisment.

Before Joseph Tabbow

Francis Johnson surviving
 Executor of the last will and Testament
 of Sarah Robinson Deceased
 12 vs
 Thos Thomas Robinson Delany
 non pte

Dist 2000
 Entered 28 Dec
 1803 at 1/2 past
 3 o'clock P.M.

By virtue of a special warrant of attorney to
 me directed I appear for the above named Defen-
 dant Thomas Robinson Delany and confess
 judgment against him to Francis Johnson
 the Plaintiff for the sum of Two thousand pounds
 Money of our said Debt. besides costs of suit with
 release of arrears &c

Taken and acknowledged
 This 28th Dec 1803

Joseph Reed atty
 for Thomas T. Delany
 by special warrant

Wife issued on the above judgment to March
 Term 1804 Debt increased £1000 Interest from 25th
 April 1792 Costs \$9.70
 Recd. by the S^{ts} of Philadelphia Conty / divided on Real Estate

Inquisition held and ~~conducted~~

paid little to Sept Term 1804 ^{conditions upon as} recd by the Sheriff
to John Downes J. for \$4850

6th September 1804 Attorney
by writing filed agrees that the monies arising from
the sale in this case be considered as in Court.

24th Decr 1804 Motion by Mr Reed on the part of the
Plff to take the money out of Court and a counter
by Mr Lewis on the part of Defendant to take the
money out of Court Mr. Hop Claims to the amount
of \$224.92 on behalf of William Buckley and
that he may be permitted to take the same out
of Court 29th Decr 1804 after argument Court
sent the money to be paid to the Sheriff he
giving William Graham and James Mc Hwain as
security in four thousand Dollars to the amount
of Sharp Delany that he shall pay whatever
proportion of the monie they shall be intitled
to It is also agreed that the money claimed by
Mr Buckley remain in Court for the decision
of the Court the Motion of Mr Lewis to take the
money out of Court is refused and each of the
cases discharged.

19th March 1807 Death of Thomas R. Delany suggested
4th Dec. 1807 Plaintiffs attorney by writing filed suggests
the Defendants Death and substituted the names
of Thomas Hopkins and Andrew Jackson his son.
11th January 1808 monies remaining in Court.

J. Joseph Reed Esquire Prothonotary of the Supreme
Court of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania
Do hereby certify that the foregoing contains
true copies of the within Cause taken from
the Records of the said Supreme Court as the same
remain among the Records of my Office —

In witness whereof I have
subscribed my hand and
affixed the seal of the said
Supreme Court at Philadelphia
the Eleventh day of January
Anno Domini one thousand
Eight hundred and Eight.

Jos. Reed Proth.

D^r The Account of Thos^o Solomonson Surviving Executor of Sarah Robinson &c

1803

Dec^r 28th To the Amount of a Judgment to the Estate, by the late
Thomas R. Delany, for a House sold to him by the ^{a writing} Gov^r ^{Delany}
situate in Front Street near the Custom House in the
City of Ireland. \$ 4850

1805

March 20th By Cash advanced to Penrose Robinson and
Thomas Perkins by Joseph Reed Esq^r
Att^y at Law for the fees of ^{the} Estate on the Order
of Thos^o Solomonson Surviving Executor 540

27th By Cash advanced by Joseph Reed to Thos^o Perkins 180
\$ 720

Note on the 6th of Sep^r 1st 1804 The Attorneys by a Writing filed agreed
that the charges arising from the Sale of ^{the} ^{in this case,} be considered
as in Court; So that the Balance being four Thousand one hundred
& thirty Dollars still remains subject to the Order of Court.

New-Castle - July 28th 1809 This Day the above Account
was exhibited by me into the Registers Office Thos^o Solomonson
Surviving Exor of Sarah Robinson

The account of Sharp Delany Esq. now deceased, who in his life
 Robinson test of Grandywine Hundred in the County of Newcastle
 and credits of the Testatrix as came to his hands, as for his success
 Francis Johnston surviving Executor of the said Sarah Robinson dec^d as
 Delaney deceased as follows.

1791 April 25.	The exhibittants charge the accountant with the amount of the Goods & Chattels of the Testatrix as specified in an Inventory & Appraisement thereof filed in the Registers Office, the sum of \$ 28.	
	The exhibittants also charge the Accountant with the following Debts outstanding & due to the Testatrix at the time of her decease, as of List of outstanding Debts filed in the Register Office to wit:	
	A joint Note due from Sharp Delany, Richard Pelce & Thomas Robinson for £3. 15. equal to with Interest thereon from date of Inventory Apr. 25. 1792 to July 28 th 1809	170 186.23
	A Note due from Anthony Wayne for £17. 15. with Interest thereon from its date Oct. 9. 1787 to July 28 th 1809.	314 408.86
Robinson	With this sum £1. 19. 2 being 3/4 Interest on a Certificate which belonged to the Estate of Abraham and which Interest he gave to Sarah Robinson the Testatrix during her life.	5.22
	With Interest thereon from January 23. 1792 to July 28 th 1809	5.47
	Disallowed.	\$ 1117.78
	Item No. 4. included in Guardian Account \$40. 12	
	No. 6. ditto ditto ditto 2.08	
	No. 7 ditto ditto ditto " 80	43.00
	Examined, adjusted allowed & paid the 29 th day of November A. D. 1809. <i>Even Thomas Regis</i>	
	Dollars	1100.78

At the time was the acting Executor of the Testament and last Will of Sarah
 the Widow deceased; as well for so much of the Goods & Chattels rights
 and Charges payments & disbursements out of the same. Exhibited by
 and William Lewis Attorney for the Administrators of the said Sarah

		The exhibitants crave an Allowance to the Accountant for the following disbursements on behalf of the Estate of the Testator — to wit:		
1788	Dec. 13	1. By amount of Bond due from Testator to S. Delany the Accountant . . . L ¹⁰ . equal to . . . \$ 160.00		
		Interest from Dec. 13. 1788 to July 28. 1809.	198.00	358
		Funeral expences & Taxes disallowed for want of Vouchers		
1791	June 1.	2. By amount of the first Item of charge on the opposite side being the amount of Goods & Chattels appraised delivered to Mary Robinson for the use of the Family & Receipt \$ 28.00		
		Interest to July 28. 1809.	30.49	58.49
		3. By Cash paid for Receipt Book for the Estate . . . \$ 20		
		Interest to July 28. 1809.	20	" 40
	Oct. 21.	4. By Cash paid Mary Robinson for the use of the Family & Receipt Book \$ 20.00		
		Interest to July 28. 1809.	20.12	40 12
1793	Dec. 21.	5. By Cash paid Samuel Dilworth, repairs of House in Front Street. & Receipt Book . . . \$ 3.08		
		Interest to July 28. 1809.	2.77	5.85
1791	Apr. 28	6. By Cash paid Edward Gispell digging Grave & Dec. \$ 1.00		
		Interest to July 28. 1809.	1.08	2.08
	Aug. 24.	7. By debt Thomas Newlin Pleasunt & Receipt . . . \$ 40		
		Interest to July 28. 1809.	40	" 80
			\$ 465.74	
		An Allowance to the Executor for Care & Trouble	50	"
		Registering fees for settling & filing this Account . . . 3.07		
		Notary the Account including an attested Copy thereof	2.50	5.57
		Balance in the hands of the Executor to be disposed of agreeably to the Will of the Testator	639.47	
			Doll. 1100.78	
		Errors Excepted		