

Knight, Mahlon and His Descendants

Supplement 1979

READING ROOM

MAHLON KNIGHT
AND HIS DESCENDANTS
1784 - 1975

SUPPLEMENT - 1979

INFORMATION ESTABLISHING
FAMILY RELATIONSHIP TO
LOYALISTS JOSHUA AND
JOHN KNIGHT OF NEW
BRUNSWICK, 1783.

MAHLON KNIGHT

United Empire Loyalist
of Kingston, Upper Canada, 1784

pub Orangeville, Ontario
1975

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION, April 1979

I. Generation

(1) ISAAC¹ KNIGHT - (GRANDFATHER)

- b. 1665/6, pr England, poss. London
- m. Mary Carver, d/o John & Mary (Lane) Carver, 7 June 1699, Byberry,
Philadelphia Co. PA
- d. 22 May 1750, Abington, Philadelphia (now Montgomery) Co. PA

We have not yet found a record of the exact date this first Isaac Knight came to America, though it is possible he was a passenger on one of the ships from England which arrived on the Delaware River in 1682 or 1683. According to one source (Elwood C. Parry, in his article "Traitors By Choice or Chance"), Isaac was the grandson of the widow Elizabeth Shorter, a London glover, who was a "First Purchaser" of land from William Penn. Her name is included in the "First Catalogue of Purchasers of Land in the Province of Pensilvania," in Group III, for 250 acres, along with 29 others, most of them artisans from London. Each Group contained 10,000 acres, or two shares, which were offered at £100 per share. The first ship to sail with settlers who had invested in Penn's province was the *Bristol Factor*, which reached New Castle on the Delaware in December 1681. By the end of April 1682, all the shares of the First Catalogue had been sold.

According to Pennsylvania records, Elizabeth Shorter received warrants for land in 1683; she had 250 acres north of the city in Philadelphia County, and a city lot measuring 99 x 300 feet on "Fourth Street from Delaware," at the corner of Mulberry Street. She appears to have received only half of this lot in 1683, and in April 1690 appeared before the Commissioners of the Board of Property to request the whole lot, which was granted. She also appeared before the Commissioners in February 1691 regarding her right to four acres of Liberty Land, and this is the last record we have found of her. Her city lot was surveyed in 1701, and she is given as the "taker-up," but we do not know if she was still living at that date.

Her acreage in Philadelphia County (present-day Montgomery County) was located north of the city on Susquehanna Street Road in Abington Township, and according to Mr. Parry, she helped her grandson Isaac Knight purchase an additional 250 acres before 1700. He adds that "Abington High School now

stands on part of that ground."

So it is possible that young Isaac Knight came to America with his grandmother in the early 1680's. We know that he was a Quaker, but have no record whether Elizabeth Shorter was. Of Isaac's parents, nothing is known at present; whether either of them came to America, or died in England. By the time Isaac married 17-year-old Mary Carver in June 1699, he was a substantial property owner in Abington, and a member of the Abington Monthly Meeting of Friends.

Mary CARVER was the daughter of John Carver and Mary Lane, who were married at St. Alban's Priory in Hertfordshire, England, before they sailed for America. John Carver, too, was one of Penn's First Purchasers, appearing in Group VII as purchaser of 500 acres. Family tradition claimed he came on the *Welcome* with Penn himself, but this is now considered "improbable" by researchers. His daughter Mary was one of the first children born of English parents in Pennsylvania, and some biographies say she was born "in a cave near Philadelphia four days after her parents arrived." The date was 28 October 1682. The Carvers were a Quaker family, and "A Testimony" regarding Mary (Carver) Knight was published in A Collection of Memorials Concerning Divers deceased Ministers and others of the People called Quakers, in Pennsylvania, New-Jersey and Parts adjacent . . ., printed in London 1788. It says in part:

". . . Her parents settled at Byberry in Philadelphia county and educated her in our religious profession. When about eighteen years old, she married Isaac Knight, and became a member of Abington particular meeting. Some time after she appeared in meetings in a few words in simplicity and innocency, and in the exercise of her gift, though small, visited divers meetings in some of the adjacent provinces, from whence she generally produced accounts of friends acceptance of her services. And continuing in a steady perseverance, according to her talent, as she advanced to old age, her zeal for the cause of truth and good of souls manifestly increased; frequently recommending faithfulness, and a daily watchfulness against the enemy of souls, whom she often said, 'Was unwearied, and had followed her all her life long, being yet as busy as ever, to draw her mind from off her watch.' . . . Toward the close of her days, bodily weakness increased, yet she was remarkably diligent in attending meetings, and with ardency exhorted all, 'To come, taste, and see for themselves that the Lord is good, for he had been good indeed to her soul,' . . . She seemed so filled with love to God, love to her friends, and love to her fellow-creatures in general, that we have reason to believe God was with her, and that her last days were her best days. A good end crowns all. She departed this life, the 4th of the third month, 1769, and was buried at Abington the 6th of the same month, aged near eighty-seven years."

Mary's father, John Carver, took up by patent 590 acres of land in the northeastern part of Byberry Township along Poquessing Creek, near the city of Philadelphia, and also had a lot on Walnut Street in the city. His Byberry property included the site of the old homestead, which remained in the family for six generations, having descended successively from father to son, all of whom were named John, until 1864. He was a maltster by profession, and the malt-

house was continued until the fourth generation, when the business became so poor that it was given up. His will was executed 26 2nd mo. 1713, probated 8 Nov 1713, and names wife Mary and son John as executors; mentions also sons James and Richard, and daughter Mary Knight.

The marriage of Isaac Knight and Mary Carver is recorded by Abington Monthly Meeting: "Whereas Isaack Knight of the Countey of Philladellphia in the province of Pennsillvania Yeoman; and Marey Carver Daughter of John Carver of the same Countey; Havinge published theire intentions of mariage accordinge to the Laws of this province; And alsoe before severall meettings of y^e people of God Called Quakers; And Having Consent of y^e said Meettings and also of Parents and relations concerned they the s^d Isaack Knight and Marey Carver upon the seventh day of the fourth month 1699; Appeared in a solem Assembly of y^e people aforesaide; mett together at the house of y^e saide John Carver; Hee the said Isaack Knight did then and there take the said Marey Carver to wife; Promising to be unto her A Loveing and faithfull Husband untill death should seperate y^m And the said Marey Carver Did in Like manner take the said Isaak Knight to be her husband promising to be unto him a Loveing faithfull & obedient wife untill seperated by death; In further Testimony whereof the s^d Isaak Knight and Marey Carver (Assumeinge her husbands name) did hereunto subscribe their names in the presence of those wittnesses under written."

It is likely that Isaac and Mary lived on the Abington acreage all their lives; the births of their children, and their own deaths, were all reported in Abington Meeting records. The History of Montgomery County says that Isaac Knight erected a mill on Tacony Creek, below Abington Station, before 1725. In 1734 an Abington tax return shows Isaac Knight has 100 acres, and his son Isaac Jr. another 100.

Abington Monthly Meeting records show "The departure of Isaac Knight, Senior, who departed this life the 22nd of 3rd month 1750 in the Eighty-fifth year of his age." He wrote his will "the 25th day of the 2nd month 1750," in which he gave "unto Marey my dearly beloved wife all my household goods . . . , the Room at the east end of my house and the Room over the parlour and the seller under the parlour and the sume of seven pounds and ten shillings everey half yeare during her natural life and the keeping of a horce and a Cow which she has liberty of Chusing of each out of my stock and to have fire-wood Cut and haled to the dore." He ordered that the "half part of the mill" which he owned be sold, but son John to have the refusal of it. John was to have an acre of land at the lower end of the meadow, "commonly caled the Indian corne medow," and ten pounds. Son Isaac received the rest of the real estate, and was to pay each of the five daughters forty pounds at ten pounds a year, to start three years after their father's death.

Children:

- i. Sarah, b. 25 Oct 1701, Abington. She was still living in 1750 when her father named her in his will; probably married.
- (2) ii. Isaac, b. 6 Mar 1707/8, Abington.
- iii. Jonathan, b. 5 Apr 1710, Abington; d. 20 Mar 1731, Abington.
- iv. Ann, b. 30 June 1712, Abington. Possibly the Ann who m. Dennis Conrad about 1733 at Abington. Living 1750.

- v. John, b. 2 Nov 1714, Abington. This is possibly the John Knight, a baker of the city of Philadelphia, who made his will 5 Jan 1761, naming his wife Elizabeth, and children Charles, Rachel and John. He had property in Abington, as well as a number of lots in Philadelphia. One piece of property is "the house as I now liveth in, which house is at the Corner of Mulberry and fourth Street with the Bakhouse granereys and all the appurtinences thereunto belonging . . ." left to his son John. This could be the city lot which was first granted to Elizabeth Shorter; however, there were many Knight families in the Philadelphia area by the middle of the 18th century, and we need more information in order to identify this John Knight. His death was not recorded by the Philadelphia MM.
- vi. Mary, b. 31 Oct 1716, Abington; m. Nathan Bewley; still living 1774, when her name appears on a Philadelphia County tax list, Abington Twp. Her husband Nathan died in 1766. Only known children are Isaac and Mary Bewley. Daughter Mary Bewley married her cousin, Isaac Knight, son of Isaac², in 1772.
- vii. Rebecca, b. 7 Oct 1720, Abington; m. Joseph Griffith 21 May 1747, in Quaker ceremony at Abington MM. He was son of Evan Griffith of Gwynedd, Philadelphia Co.
- viii. Elizabeth, b. 22 July 1723, Abington; m. Robert Evans 17 Nov 1748, at Abington MM, son of Hugh Evans of Gwynedd Twp., Philadelphia Co.

Sources:

- A Collection of Memorials Concerning Divers deceased Ministers and others of the People called Quakers, in Pennsylvania, New-Jersey and Parts Adjacent, from nearly the first Settlement thereof to the Year 1787;* printed Philadelphia, reprinted London 1788
- A History of the Townships of Byberry & Moreland in Philadelphia, Pa.;* Joseph C. Martindale M.D.; Philadelphia, late 1800's
- History of Montgomery County, Penn.;* ed by Theodore W. Bean; Philadelphia 1884
- Index of Wills & Administration Records, Philadelphia PA 1682-1782;* Richard & Mildred Williams; Danboro PA 1971
- Passengers & Ships Prior to 1684--Penn's Colony;* comp by Walter Lee Sheppard Jr.; Genealogical Pub Co. Baltimore 1970
- Pennsylvania Archives; Second Series Vol 19; Third Series Vol 3
- Quaker Biographical Sketches 1682-1800;* Willard Heiss; 1972
- Records of the Abington Monthly Meeting of Friends
- Register of Wills, Philadelphia Co., Philadelphia PA
- The Welcome Claimants, Proved, Disproved & Doubtful, with an account of some of their Descendants;* George E. McCracken; Genealogical Pub. Co. Baltimore 1970
- "Traitors By Choice or Chance"; *Montgomery County, Penn. Historical Society Bulletin;* Elwood C. Parry Jr.; Fall 1968 & Spring 1969. (Unfortunately Mr. Parry is deceased--he apparently had much information about our Knight family.)
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II. Generation(2) ISAAC² KNIGHT (Isaac¹) (FATHER)

- b. 6 March 1707/8, Abington, Philadelphia (now Montgomery) Co. PA
- m. 1st Elizabeth Wright, d/o Joshua & Rebekah (Stacy) Wright, Nov. 1728, possibly at New Hanover, Burlington Co. NJ
- 2nd Mary (St. Clair) Thomas, widow, 6 June 1748, Abington PA
- d. Aug/Sept 1792, Abington PA

This second Isaac Knight of whom we have record was the father of our ancestor, Mahlon Knight. It appears that he early acquired acreage in Abington, perhaps from his father, on which to make his start in life. A tax return of 1734 shows that he owned 100 acres.

The Knight family had connections in New Jersey, across the Delaware, as in 1728 an Isaac Knight was a witness to the will of John Comfort of Hunterdon Co. NJ, and in 1731 Isaac Knight was listed as a debtor to the estate of Lewis Thomas, schoolmaster of Burlington Co. NJ. And of course, in November 1728, Isaac² married Elizabeth Wright of New Hanover, Burlington County, NJ, according to Haddonfield Monthly Meeting Records.

Three WRIGHT brothers, Joshua, Thomas and Samuel, came to New Jersey from Yorkshire, England, probably in 1677 or 1678, when several groups of Quakers came to West Jersey. Joshua settled at "Nottingham near the Falls of the Delaware," and was a prominent man in the early days of West Jersey, a member of the Provincial Assembly. He married Elizabeth Empson, daughter of William Empson, in England on 10 April 1669, and their children, as named in his will, were Joshua, Robert, Thomas, Joseph, Samuel and Elizabeth, wife of Peter Fretwell. Joshua died 10 Aug 1695 at Nottingham in Burlington Co. NJ.

His son, the second Joshua Wright, married Rebeckah Stacy, daughter of Mahlon and Rebeckah (Ely) Stacy of Yorkshire, England. The Stacy family has lived in Handsworth Parish in the West Riding of Yorkshire since 1330 (some accounts say since the Norman Conquest). Mahlon Stacy and Rebeckah Ely, daughter of George Ely, were married 29 May 1668. In 1678 they embarked with a number of other Quakers on the ship *Shield* at Hull, together with their three daughters and several men and women servants. Mahlon settled at the Falls of the Delaware in West Jersey (present Trenton NJ), and took up by survey a tract of several thousand acres under a proprietary grant acquired before he left England. These first land transactions describe him as a tanner, of Dorehouse, Hansworth Parish, Yorke. He built a grist mill, and called his new home "Ballifield" after the ancestral home in Yorkshire. He held many important offices in the early days of the West Jersey colony, was one of the first land commissioners, a member of the Assembly, and also of the Council of Proprietors. A beautiful riverfront park on the Delaware at Trenton is called "Mahlon Stacy Park" in honor of the founder. He died 3 Feb 1704 in Nottingham Twp., Burlington Co. NJ. His will names his wife Rebeckah, and children Mahlon, Elizabeth, Mary, Ruth and Rebeckah, as well as Mahlon Kirkbride, son of his daughter Sarah Kirkbride who died in 1703.

Joshua Wright Jr., who married Rebeckah, daughter of Mahlon Stacy, was a large landholder in New Jersey, listing in his will dated 1740, 600 acres in Nottingham "adjoining upon Assunpink at Bear Swamp," a plantation adjoining Joseph Steward's, 200 acres upon Wading River in Little Eggharbour, and 590 acres in Nottingham near the Falls Pond at the mouth of Watson's Creek. His will* proved 31 March 1741, names wife Rebeckah, and children Mahlon, Nathan, David, Elizabeth Knight, and Rebecca. Elizabeth was born in 1708, probably in Burlington Co. NJ.

Isaac Knight and Elizabeth Wright were granted permission to marry by the Haddonfield, New Jersey, Monthly Meeting of Friends in November 1728, and the following month they were "reported to be married."

In 1729 Abington MM records that "Isaac Knight Junr. appear'd and Signified his Sorrow for Taking out a writt for a frd contrary to ye Discipline of friends which was Satisfaction to the Meeting."

Isaac and Elizabeth had seven children, the youngest of whom, Mahlon, was only two and a half years old when his mother died "27th day of 11th month 1746/7" (27 Jan 1747), according to the Abington MM records. In October of 1748 Isaac married again, Mary (St. Clair) Thomas, a widow, of Merion, Philadelphia County, in Quaker ceremony at Abington. Isaac's father died in 1750, bequeathing to Isaac the bulk of his remaining property.

By 1769, Philadelphia County Tax Records show that Isaac has 300 acres in Abington Twp., three horses, nine cattle, and no servants. He was taxed £45.13.0. In 1774 he has 150 acres (probably having disposed of some land to his sons), four horses, seven cattle, no servants; tax £29.12.0.

Although four of his sons, Joshua, Isaac, Mahlon and John, were loyal to the British Crown, and three of them were accused of treason during the Revolution, Isaac himself served on the Committee of Correspondence and Inspection, which attempted to establish a unified policy among the various colonies toward the oppressive acts of the British before the Revolution actually broke out.

In November of 1780, under "Forfeited Estates, Inventories and Sales," Pennsylvania Archives record money owing to "Isaac Knight and David Jordan D.C., To Keeping Two horses, Late the Property of Benedict Arnold, Confiscated, 32 Days Each @ £6 15 a Day. Recd the Above in full from Willm. McMullin one of the Agts. pr Isaac Knight. £432."

Isaac Knight is listed on the tax rolls in Abington Twp., Philadelphia Co., in both 1779 and 1780, and his name appears on the first U.S. Census in 1790, when there are two males over 16, and four females in his household.

* Recently the New Jersey Bureau of Archives & History, where NJ wills and inventories prior to 1900 are housed, realized that much handling of the fragile and irreplaceable old documents is causing serious damage; no copies will be made of any originals dated prior to 1817. Requests for copies will be filled from the printed abstracts in the NJ Archives; persons visiting the Bureau may make copies from microfilm.

He wrote his will 28 March 1792, "being far advanced in Years and through Sickness weak in Body, but by Divine Favour of sound Mind, Memory and Understanding, Blessed be God for the same and all his other Mercies and Favours, . . ." All his living children are named, as well as children of deceased daughter Rebecca, and as a specific legacy he left his silver watch to his son Isaac. He was "desirous that my Message and Plantation whereon I now dwell situate in Abington aforesaid should remain in my Family," and directed that any of the children who wished to purchase it should be able to do so for £50 less than the price to anyone else. The inventory lists a clock and a desk, a horse worth £4, sundry books, a walnut table, a looking glass, a pair of plated spurs and a pair of plated stirrups, as well as two guns, a pair of silver shoe buckles, three silver knee buckles, kitchen furniture, beds and linens, and 10 shillings worth of apples.

Children:

By First Wife:

- i. Joshua, b. 13 Nov 1731, Abington; m. Sarah Tyson, d/o John & Priscilla Tyson, 18 Dec 1753, Abington, in Quaker ceremony. He purchased 102 acres of land in Abington from his father when he married, and was a prosperous farmer and blacksmith. At the outbreak of the Revolution he remained loyal to the British King; he was obliged to abandon his property immediately after the battle of Germantown in 1777 and flee to New York City, where his family joined him. They took ship to Beaver Harbour, New Brunswick, in 1783 at the close of the war, and all Joshua's property in Abington was confiscated by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. In connection with his claim for restitution of his losses from the British Government, he wrote his father in April 1787:

"Honoured Father, I have to trouble thee once more concerning my losses, having been before the Commissioners to prove my claims . . . This has been the hardest winter ever known by the oldest inhabitant in this country; the snow is between two & three feet deep on a level in the woods at this time; there has been upwards of fifty moos killed within six weeks in this settlement which has been a grate relief to the inhabitants, provision being very scant, many families not having a mouthfull of meat nor bread for some weeks before-- . . . so concluding with love to thee and all our relations and friends, not forgetting our children."

Joshua's father left him £25 in his will "having heretofore assisted him considerably." Joshua died about 1806, and his known children are: Isaac, who remained in Penn.; Joshua; Priscilla; Jacob; and Jonathan, who may also have remained behind.

- ii. Mary, b. 10 Jan 1734/5, Abington; m. William Cleaver. Known children: Jonathan and Elizabeth.
- iii. Rebecca, b. 18 Sept 1736, Abington; m. William Mann at the First Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia, 14 June 1768; possibly lived in Chester Co. PA. She died before March 1792; had children.
- iv. Sarah, b. 21 Sept 1738, Abington; m. Jonathan Tyson, s/o Derrick & Susanna Tyson, 12 Oct 1762, in Quaker ceremony at Abington Meeting. Known children: Elizabeth, Elijah, Rebecca.

v. Jonathan, b. 4 Oct 1740, Abington; d. 28 Sept 1769, Abington. Not known if he married or had children.

vi. Isaac, b. 10 Sept 1742, Abington; m. 1st his first cousin Mary Bewley, d/o Nathan & Mary (Knight) Bewley, for which the Abington MM drew up a testimony against them in 1772; m. 2nd Sarah _____. Isaac was a well-to-do farmer in Abington; in 1774 the tax rolls show he owned 200 acres, had five horses, three cattle, and one servant; tax £20.4.8. He was accused of treason during the Revolution by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, but surrendered and was discharged for lack of witnesses against him. He was named an executor of his father's will in 1792, and received as specific bequests £125 and a silver watch. His own will was written 7 March 1815, executed 11 April of that same year. Wife Sarah, son-in-law James Worth, granddaughter Mary Elizabeth Worth, and brother Mahlon are named -- no children are known other than the daughter who married James Worth.

(3) vii. Mahlon, b. 30 Sept 1744, Abington.

By Second Wife:

viii. John, b. 15 Mar 1749/50, Abington; m. _____. He had a farm of 104 acres near Abington which he bought from his brother Joshua, and was a tanner. John was a Loyalist during the Revolution, acting as a guide for the British forces; he fled to New York City, and in 1783 accompanied Joshua to New Brunswick. His property in Pennsylvania was confiscated, sold to the Commonwealth for £41,000, and turned over to the University of Pennsylvania. In 1784 he made claim to the Crown for compensation for his lost property, and did receive some £280 plus a £20 annual pension. He was married, as Joshua's letter from Beaver Harbour in 1787 mentions "John's wife has been sick this three weeks past and not any better . . ." Perhaps she died there -- John returned to Abington and died 6 May 1791. He left all his possessions to his father Isaac. If he had children, it appears none survived him.

ix. William, b. 11 Sept 1751, Abington; d. 1756, Abington.

x. Margaret, b. 16 Dec 1753, Abington; d. 1754, Abington.

Sources:

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Census, 1790, Montgomery Co. PA
Colonial Families of America, Vol IV; ed by George Norbury Mackenzie; New York 1907
Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy, Vols II & III; William Wade Hinshaw; Ann Arbor MI 1938
Historical & Genealogical Miscellany, Data Relating to the Settlement & Settlers of New York & New Jersey; John E. Stillwell; Baltimore 1970
History of Montgomery County, Penn.; ed by Theodore W. Bean; Philadelphia 1884
New England Historical & Genealogical Register, Vol. 27; Boston 1870

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New York Genealogical & Biographical Record, Vol 37
Orderly Book of the Three Battalions of Loyalists Commanded by Brig-Gen.
Oliver DeLancey 1776-1777, To Which is appended a list of New York
Loyalists in the City of New York During the War of the Revolution;
comp by Wm. Kelby; New York 1917
Pennsylvania Archives; Second Series Vol IX; Third Series Vols XIV & XV;
Sixth Series Vol XIII
Public Archives of Canada, B1164, A.O.12, Vols 40 & 42, Claims American
Loyalists
Records of the Abington Monthly Meeting of Friends
Records of the Haddonfield Monthly Meeting of Friends
Radnor Marriage Certificate Book
Register of Wills, Philadelphia Co., Philadelphia PA
The Loyalists of New Brunswick; Esther Clark Wright; New Brunswick 1955
"Traitors By Choice or Chance"; Elwood C. Parry Jr.; *Montgomery County,*
Penn. Historical Society Bulletin; Fall 1968 & Spring 1969

III. Generation

(3) MAHLON³ KNIGHT (Isaac² Isaac¹)

b. 30 Sept 1744, Abington Twp., Philadelphia (now Montgomery) Co. PA
m. Rachel _____, poss @ 1771/2
d. bet 1 Mar 1810 & 28 May 1819, Kingston, Frontenac Co. Upper Canada (now
Ontario)

Now we come to our ancestor Mahlon Knight, on whom we based our family history book published in 1975. At that time we had no information about his origins in the American Colonies, and had record of him only after he left New York City in 1783 at the close of the Revolution, and settled in Upper Canada.

We now know he was a Quaker, born at Abington a few miles north of Philadelphia, "30th day of 7th month 1744," the son of Isaac Knight and Elizabeth his wife, as recorded by the Abington Monthly Meeting of Friends. Further on, the record states "Elizabeth the wife of Isaac Knight, Jr. died the 27th day of 11th month 1746/7.* She was Elizabeth Wright, the daughter of Joshua Wright." So Mahlon lost his mother while still a toddler, and was brought up by a step-mother, Mary (St. Clair) Thomas, whom his father married in June of 1748.

One expects that he attended the Quaker schools and meetings, growing up

* Before 1752, Quaker "plain dates" began the year in March-- that was the first month, second month was April, and so on. So a date written "11th month 1746/7" would be the next-to-last month in the Quaker year 1746. By our present system, it would be January 1747. Thus, "double-dating" is used before 1752 to clarify exactly which month and year is meant.

in the rather austere atmosphere of a Quaker household. His father was a prosperous farmer, and owned much fine land at Abington. Mahlon was a tailor, and does not appear to have acquired any of the family land, as his brothers did. In 1769, when he was 25 years old, he was listed on the tax records of Philadelphia County, in Byberry Twp.; he did not own any land and was not taxed. His name is listed along with two distant cousins in the Carver family, Isaac Carver and Ann Heaton, also John Davis, who married Isabel Carver. We don't yet know why he did not settle in Abington, but instead seems to have been living among Carver relatives in Byberry.

Sometime during these years Mahlon committed a "Transgression" against Quaker discipline and was disowned by the Abington Meeting. We do not know what the transgression was, or the date -- perhaps his wife Rachel was not a Quaker, and he was dismissed for "marrying out of unity."

He was a Loyalist to the British cause when the Revolution broke out, as were his brothers, and no doubt either went with Joshua and John to New York City, or joined them there. According to Elwood Parry, "on July 5, 1783, a meeting of Quakers was held in Joshua's house at 36 Chatham Street, New York, to complete plans for the mass exodus of Tories to Nova Scotia. The site chosen was Beaver Harbour, then in that province. . . ." It appears that Mahlon, his wife, and sons Isaac and Cornelius may have been members of this party of Quakers and Anabaptists led by his brother Joshua which embarked for Beaver Harbour (now in New Brunswick). He did not settle there, however, but traveled on up the St. Lawrence to Montreal, where he and his family wintered in 1783-4, and landed at Cataragui (Kingston), Upper Canada, the following spring, where our book took up the story.

Mahlon was for some years an active member of the Anglican Church in Kingston, but Abington Monthly Meeting records dated 29th of 11th mo. 1802 state: "A paper was received signed by Mahlon Knight acknowledging and condemning his Transgression for which he was disowned by this Meeting some years ago, which appearing satisfactory was accepted."

In 1804, Rufus Hall, a Quaker of New York State, was traveling in Upper Canada, and on March 8th he recorded in his journal: "at Grassy Point . . . thence I went to Kingston and visited the widow of my Friend Aaron Brewer, deceased. . . . In the afternoon, had a solid opportunity in Mahlon Knight's family." The "solid opportunity" bore fruit, for in that same month Mahlon requested a Certificate from Abington MM to Adolphustown MM in Upper Canada. His Certificate of Removal from Abington was dated 30th of 4th mo. 1804, and received at Adolphustown 20th of 12th mo. of that same year.* So at the age of 60 years, Mahlon's thoughts turned back to his Quaker upbringing and he returned to his church. There does not seem to be any record at Adolphustown of his wife Rachel's joining that Quaker Meeting, or of their children, though we do know that son Cornelius was a Quaker, from the notation on the 1851 census. Cornelius' wife Phebe was Wesleyan Methodist, as was their son Jonathan, our

* It was the discovery of this Certificate of Removal for Mahlon Knight, by Mr. William Britnell of the Canadian Friends Historical Association, in a search of the Adolphustown MM records, which turned our search to the Philadelphia area.

forebear who settled in Sidney Twp., Hastings Co. Ontario.

Mahlon received a specific legacy of £100 in his father's will, dated 28 March 1792, to be paid one year after the father's death, plus payment of a debt Mahlon owed to a Jacob Jeanes, amounting to £16.8. In addition his share in the final distribution amounted to £180. The debt was paid off in 1794; no date is given for the final payments, but they may have been as late as 1815.

In April 1804 Mahlon Knight sold his three city lots in Kingston to the Honourable Richard Cartwright, a merchant and member of the legislative council. Today an imposing limestone mansion stands on the corner lot, and a plaque affixed to its wall reads: "Sir Richard Cartwright 1835-1912, Canadian Minister of Finance and Minister of Trade and Commerce, Advocate of Unrestricted Reciprocity with the United States, was born in this house December 24, 1835. His Father was the Rev. David Cartwright, Chaplain to the Forces and Curate of St. George." David Cartwright was a son of the Honourable Richard, who purchased the property from our ancestor Mahlon Knight.

Sources:

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Journal of Rufus Hall; *Yesteryears, A Quarterly Magazine for the Appreciation and Study of New York State History*, Vol. 2, p 44
Pennsylvania Archives, Third Series, Vol 14
Records, Abington Monthly Meeting of Friends, Penn.
Records, Adolphustown Monthly Meeting of Friends, Ont.
Register of Wills, Philadelphia Co., Philadelphia PA
The Parish Register of Kingston, Upper Canada, 1785-1811; Kingston, Ont. 1921
"Traitors by Choice or Chance"; Elwood C. Parry Jr.; *Montgomery County, Penn., Historical Society Bulletin*; Fall 1968 & Spring 1969
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KNIGHT FAMILY RECORD*BIRTHS*Robert H. Knight Family

KRISTIN ANNA DINSDALE, d/o R. Jay & Sharon P. (Hargraves) Dinsdale, b. 22 Apr 1978, Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.

LORNE CHARLES PILGRIM, s/o Charles R. & Joyce C. (Hargreaves) Pilgrim, b. 17 Nov 1978, St. Anthony, Nfld.

Samuel G. Knight Family

LORI RENAE ROGERS, d/o Donald N. & Marcia L. (Knight) Rogers, b. Baytown, Tex.

SARA GRACE ROGERS, d/o Donald N. & Marcia L. (Knight) Rogers, b. 11 Nov 1977, Baytown, Tex.

JUSTIN GRAHAM MILLER, s/o John G. & Renee (Fournier) Miller, b. 16 Sept 1978, St. Paul, Minn.

Frank Knight Family

RYAN DAVIDSON BARR, s/o H. Davidson & Joan K. (Poeltler) Barr, b. 8 April 1979, Summit, N.J.

*MARRIAGES*Robert H. Knight Family

ROBERT E. HARGRAVES & DOROTHY ELAINE TONON, d/o Victor & Dorothy (Clargo) Tonon, m. 20 Aug 1977, Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.

BARBARA M. HARGRAVES & JAMES SAMUEL McLEOD, s/o George & Ethel (Connors) McLeod, m. 20 May 1978, Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.

COLLEEN M. HARGREAVES & ROBERT BYRON TAYLOR, s/o W. Byron & Edna (Carridine) Taylor, m. 26 Aug 1978, Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.

JON D. DUNCAN & DIANE HAUCH, d/o Dr. & Helen (Thornley) Hauch, m. 14 Oct 1978, Sudbury, Ont.

JENNIFER A. HARGREAVES & NEIL TUTTLE, s/o M. & Becky Tuttle, m. 25 Nov 1978, Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.

Edwin H. Knight Family

WILLIAM E. CRUCHON JR. & KIM LEE PATRICK, d/o George M. & Tan Lon "Pearl" (Wong) Patrick, m. 12 Aug 1978, Hoquiam, Wash.

*DEATHS*Robert H. Knight Family

LAURA EVELYN (KNIGHT) DUNCAN, d/o Cecil G. & Kristin A. (Thorsteinson) Knight, b. 22 Aug 1914, d. 4 Feb 1977, Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.

ROBERT KENDALL KNIGHT, s/o Robert H. & Laura E. (Rorke) Knight, b. 6 Mar 1896, d. 24 Jan 1978, Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.

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