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NOTES ON THE FILSON FAMILY

BY JOHN WALTON*, PH.D.

Wesleyan College, Macon, Georgia

AUTHOR'S NOTE—During the past twenty years, the author has collected a great deal of information about the Filson family. Since a comprehensive history of the family is impossible with the data that are available, a summary of the information in the author's files is presented here with the hope that the errors may be corrected by persons who have more accurate information. Also, it is hoped that others who are working on their respective branches of the family will find some help in the information that has been compiled.

On the basis of present evidence, the theory of one common immigrant ancestor for the Filson family is not tenable. Such a theory is not adequate at the present time to explain all the miscellaneous information about the family that has been collected. However, with progress in the accumulation of family history and in the solution of perplexing problems of the origins of certain branches of the family, it may be possible for all Filsons in this country to claim one John Filson of Chester County, Pennsylvania, as their common progenitor.

John Filson came from the north of Ireland to Chester County, Pennsylvania, prior to 1740. If there were other immigrants of the name who were not sons of this John Filson, no record of them has come to the attention of the author. John Filson was one of the numerous Scotch-Irish who settled in Pennsylvania during the early part of the eighteenth century. While the evidence for this statement is from secondary sources, it is so consistent that there can be little presumption of doubt.

The name Filson, especially in its variant form, Philson, gives a clue to the origin of the family. Originally the name was Philipson, and, as such was not uncommon in Scotland. The short form was used as early as 1469, when one Fergusius or Fargus *Philson*e resided in Aberdeen.⁽¹⁾ Many of the Scotch-Irish and lowland Scotch surnames end in *son*, and while the use of this patronymic is not exclusive with the Scotch-Irish, it is characteristic of many of their names.

The earliest references to the Filson family in this country place the family, for the most part, in East Fallowfield Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania.

*EDITOR'S NOTE: Dr. John Walton was born in Fleming County, Kentucky. He received the degrees of A.B. from Transylvania College, M.A. from the University of Kentucky, and Ph.D. from the Johns Hopkins University. During World War II, Dr. Walton served as a Special Agent in the Counter-Intelligence Corps. He is a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, Phi Beta Kappa, and other patriotic and honorary societies.

February, 1731/32, petitions were addressed to the court for a division of the township by the north branch of Doe Run, now called Buck Run, and the request renewed seven years later, but it was not until 1743 that the matter was accomplished. At the time of this division we find among the inhabitants of the eastern part the names of Blelock, Bentley, Dennis, Fleming, Filson, Hanna, Hayes, and Mode . . .⁽²⁾

The names of Will Filson, Davison Filson, and Samuel Filson appear as "East Fallowfield Taxables" in 1753, and the names of Davison Filson and John Filson as "Land Owners" in 1774.⁽³⁾

A third reference to the family from the same source reads:

About the year 1740, John Filson, William Hanna, Francis Boggs, James Blelock, and others residing in East Fallowfield Township and vicinity, erected a house of worship on the Strasburg road, in that township and were organized into a congregation under the name of "Doe Run Presbyterian Church" . . .⁽⁴⁾

On March 10, 1887, Mr. J. Smith Futhey, Chester County historian, published a newspaper account of John Filson, the first historian of Kentucky, and grandson of the first John Filson. In this account Mr. Futhey writes of the family as follows:

The Filson family were of Scotch-Irish origin, and on their emigration to this country settled in East Fallowfield Township, at and around where the old Doe Run Presbyterian Church now stands, on the Strasburg road. The emigrant ancestor of the family in this country was John Filson, the grandfather of the subject of this sketch. He came over prior to 1740, as in this year he, and others associated with him, were instrumental in the organization of the Doe Run Presbyterian Church, and the erection of its first place of worship on the grounds, and to the site of the present church buildings—This John Filson died in 1751.⁽⁵⁾

Since the traditions and such evidence as there is lead to the conclusion that the family is Scotch-Irish, a brief digression from the family history itself to the origins of this influential cultural group should be made. The name Scotch-Irish is misleading. It does not indicate, ordinarily, a mixture of Scotch and Irish. It is rather a convenient name for Americans whose ancestors were Scots living in Ireland before they came to this country. Before going to Ulster, they were Lowland Scots, and were probably of the same stock as the English immediately south of them. Their

migration to Ulster and from there to America is one great chapter in the history of the Voelkerwanderung in the western world.⁽⁶⁾

I

JOHN FILSON, IMMIGRANT

JOHN¹ FILSON, the immigrant from northern Ireland, died between September 3, 1748, when his will was signed, and April 29, 1751, when it was ordered to record at West Chester, Pennsylvania.⁽⁷⁾ From this will, we learn that John Filson left a widow, Jane, and four children:

1. Davison² Filson.
2. John² Filson.
3. William² Filson.
4. Margaret² Filson.

That there were other children is shown by two deeds; one dated December 10, 1753⁽⁸⁾ from Davison Filson and others to Samuel Filson, and the second dated June 8, 1767,⁽⁹⁾ from William Filson to Davison Filson. These deeds show that, in addition to those named in his will, John Filson had the following children:

5. Robert² Filson.
6. Samuel² Filson.
7. Elizabeth² Filson (wife of George Liggett).
8. Jane² Filson (wife of James Patton).

The eldest son of John¹ Filson was Davison² Filson, who married, first, Eleanor Clarke on June 22, 1752, in Olde Swedes Church, Wilmington, Delaware; and second, Agnes Boggs, on February 9, 1768, in the First Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia. Davison Filson's will was proved August 23, 1776, at West Chester, Pennsylvania.⁽¹⁰⁾

II

DAVISON² FILSON (JOHN¹)—DESCENDANTS

(1). DAVISON² FILSON's children by his first wife, Eleanor Clarke, were:

1. John³ Filson, born probably in 1747, died, unmarried, *circa* October 1, 1788; will proved November 28, 1788.⁽¹¹⁾ He is known for his early history and map of Kentucky,⁽¹²⁾ and for his part in the founding of Cincinnati, where he disappeared in the Fall of 1788.⁽¹³⁾

2. Robert³ Filson. Family tradition⁽¹⁴⁾ says that this Robert Filson married twice; that he moved to Franklin County, Pennsylvania; and that he had thirteen children (of whom later).

3. Ann³ Filson.

4. Elenor³ (Eleanor) Filson.

Davison² Filson's children by his second wife, Agnes Boggs, were:

5. Moses³ Filson.6. Jean³ Filson.7. Elizabeth³ Filson.

8. Rebecca³ Filson, the unnamed child mentioned in her father's will, born in 1776:⁽¹⁵⁾ married John Donaldson.⁽¹⁶⁾

(2). Robert³ Filson (Davison², John¹)⁽¹⁷⁾ by his first wife, name unknown, had:

1. Davison⁴ Filson, born July 15, 1771, in Chester County, Pennsylvania; married Agnes Hindman, daughter of James Hindman in 1793; moved to Franklin County, Pennsylvania,⁽¹⁸⁾ and later, *circa* 1803, to New Lisbon, Columbiana County, Ohio, where he died December 25, 1840. He was for many years an elder in the Presbyterian Church.

2. James⁴ Filson, lived and died in Path Valley, Pennsylvania; served in the Pennsylvania militia in Cumberland County; according to family tradition he was one of the first builders of Detroit, returning to Pennsylvania before his death.

3. Samuel⁴ Filson, married Mary Liggett and moved to Somerset County, Pennsylvania, *circa* 1800; later moved to Steubenville, Ohio.

4. Jane⁴ Filson, married Henry Biles in 1806; moved to Jefferson County, Ohio, in 1819. Henry Biles died in 1832; his widow moved to Steubenville, Ohio, in 1819, where she died in 1851.

By his second wife, name unknown, Robert³ Filson had:

5. Robert⁴ Filson, married Elizabeth Snyder in 1804, and died in Franklin County, Pennsylvania, in 1839.

6. John⁴ Filson.7. Joseph⁴ Filson.*8. William⁴ Filson.*9. Sarah⁴ Filson.*10. Elizabeth⁴ Filson.*

11. Martha⁴ Filson, married Thomas Burns in 1815, and died in 1818.

12. Hannah⁴ Filson, married John Burkholder in 1812. They moved to Ohio in 1840.

13. Isaac⁴ Filson, married Sarah Strother.

* These four children of Robert³ Filson moved to Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, where they kept a tavern. All died unmarried.

(1). Davison⁴ Filson (Robert³, Davison², John¹) and Agnes Hindman had:

1. Robert⁵ Filson, lived in Columbiana County, Ohio, all his life and was a member of the state legislature for many years.
2. Mary⁵ Filson, married James Hamilton of Columbiana County, Ohio.
3. Margaret⁵ Filson, married Samuel Ubrey.
4. Rachel⁵ Filson, died unmarried in 1872.
5. James⁵ Filson, died unmarried in 1861.
6. Samuel⁵ Filson, died in 1853.
7. Jane⁵ Filson, died in 1889.
8. John⁵ Filson.
9. William⁵ Filson.
10. Martha⁵ Filson.

(3). Samuel⁴ Filson (Robert³, Davison², John¹) and Mary Liggett had:

1. Samuel⁵ Filson, married Anna Starr, October 24, 1816; died in Steubenville, Ohio, 1867.
2. Joseph⁵ Filson, married Mrs. Hannah Starr Coulter, sister of the wife of his brother, Samuel. He died in 1841 in Cincinnati, Ohio.
3. Stephen⁵ Filson, born 1805, married Henrietta Narcissa Orithe Filson, daughter of Samuel and Mary Cooper Filson of Kentucky (see page 262).
4. John D.⁵ Filson, married, first, Hannah Wilkins, and, second, Rachel Johnson. He died in Steubenville, Ohio, in 1870.
5. Filson, eloped with a British officer by the name of Calhoun about 1815.

(1). Samuel⁵ Filson (Samuel⁴, Robert³, Davison², John¹) and Anna Starr had:

1. Mary Jane⁶ Filson.
2. Hannah⁶ Filson.
3. Harriet⁶ Filson, married John Jenkins, died in Steubenville, Ohio, in 1847.
4. Eliza⁶ Filson.
5. Narcissa⁶ Filson.
6. George Buchanan⁶ Filson, married Margaret Arthur, died in 1873.
7. Martha Ann⁶ Filson, born June 20, 1831, married Davison Filson on March 22, 1852.

(6). George Buchanan⁶ Filson (Samuel⁵, Samuel⁴, Robert³, Davison², John¹) and Margaret Arthur had:

1. Samuel⁷ Filson, lived in Atchinson, Kansas.

2. Lucy⁷ Filson, married Durant Thomas of Oil City, Pennsylvania.

3. Mary⁷ Filson.

4. George⁷ Filson.

5. William⁷ Filson.

(2). Joseph⁵ Filson (Samuel⁴, Robert³, Davison², John¹) and Hannah Starr Coulter had:

1. Stephen⁶ Filson.

(3). Children of Stephen⁵ Filson (Samuel⁴, Robert³, Davison², John¹) and Henrietta Narcissa Orithe Filson (Samuel¹ Filson of Kentucky) were:

1. Mary⁶ Filson, married Davis.

2. Samuel Joseph⁶ Filson, born October 22, 1834, married Elizabeth Gordon on July 26, 1857 (she was born August 4, 1839, and died February 24, 1899, a daughter of Joel Gordon of Edinburgh, Scotland); died May 8, 1889.

After the death of Stephen⁵ Filson in 1889, Henrietta Narcissa Orithe Filson married Jeremiah Hall of Flemingsburg, Kentucky.

(2). Samuel Joseph⁶ Filson (Stephen⁵, Samuel⁴, Robert³, Davison², John¹) and Elizabeth Gordon had:

1. Mary Belle⁷ Filson, born May 29, 1858; married, first, Louis F. Metzger on January 18, 1883, and second, William A. Hazelrigg, August 5, 1888.

2. Henrietta N.⁷ Filson, born February 1, 1860; married Dr. B. F. Carter, October 24, 1878.

3. Margaret Ann⁷ Filson, born May 24, 1862; died June, 1863.

4. Harriet V.⁷ Filson, born August 7, 1864; married John I. Matthews, March 25, 1884.

5. Elizabeth Gordon⁷ Filson, born November 5, 1867; married Thomas F. Breen, October 6, 1888.

6. Clara Myrtila⁷ Filson, born December 10, 1870; married Jerome Wate Stuart, December 23, 1903.

7. Fanny Fern⁷ Filson, born August 20, 1873; married J. P. Wood, February 18, 1898, died, September 1910.

8. Candace Viola⁷ Filson, born March 17, 1876; married D. W. Gardner.

9. Alexine Russell⁷ Filson, born March 2, 1879; married first, Charles Atkinson, April 17, 1901; and second, Frederick A. Ostermoeller.

(4). John D.⁵ Filson (Samuel⁴, Robert³, Davison², John¹) and Rachel Johnson (his second wife) had:

1. Mary⁶ Filson.
2. Edward⁶ Filson.
3. Frank⁶ Filson.
4. Ada⁶ Filson.
5. Ella⁶ Filson.

(5). Robert⁴ Filson (Robert³, Davison², John¹) and Elizabeth Snyder had:

1. William⁵ Filson.

2. Josiah⁵ Filson, born in Franklin County, Pennsylvania, in 1806; married Sarah Warden in 1825. In 1833 he was appointed by the governor as manager of public works of the western division of Pennsylvania, a position he held for nine years. He was a member of the firm of Bryan, Filson, and Lowe, manufacturers of iron. In 1850, he went by the overland route to California where he was elected commissioner of Placer County. In 1862, he returned to Steubenville, Ohio, and entered the Federal Army as master of transportation. After the war, he lived in Pennsylvania, and in 1881 returned to California for two years to take charge of tunneling operations in Plumas County. He died January 12, 1885.

3. Samuel⁵ Filson, born in Franklin County, Pennsylvania; married Elizabeth Miller; died 1865.

4. Robert⁵ Filson, married, first, Eliza Cavender, and, second, Harriet Triplett. He died in 1875 in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

5. Hiram⁵ Filson, married Mary Layman.

6. Jeremiah⁵ Filson, married Nancy De Long; moved to Indiana in 1843.

7. Snyder⁵ Filson, married Kate Case, moved to Indiana.

8. Charlotte⁵ Filson, married Henry Hounstein, moved to Indiana.

9. Sarah⁵ Filson, married John Mish.

10. Elizabeth⁵ Filson, married John Kuhn.

11. Malinda⁵ Filson, married Nathan Highlands.

(2). Josiah⁵ Filson (Robert⁴, Robert³, Davison², John¹) and Sarah Warden had:

1. Charlotte⁶ Filson, born in 1825, married Henry B. Strayer in Pennsylvania in 1844, moved to Steubenville, Ohio, in 1851. Strayer died in 1867 without issue. Charlotte later married Judge Lewis Browning of West Virginia, who died without issue in 1887.

2. Hiram⁶ Filson, born in 1827 in Franklin County, Pennsylvania; married Jane Underwood, daughter of Cyrus Underwood in 1850. He died January 21, 1885.

3. Davison⁶ Filson, born June 6, 1829, in Franklin County, Pennsylvania, moved to Steubenville, Ohio, in 1848, and married Martha Ann⁶ Filson (Samuel⁵, Samuel⁴, Robert³, Davison², John¹).⁽¹⁹⁾

4. Josiah⁶ Filson, born April 27, 1831, in Franklin County, Pennsylvania; married Elizabeth Cable and moved to Meigs County, Ohio.

5. Robert Warden⁶ Filson, born August 6, 1836, in Franklin County, Pennsylvania; married Harriet Kelly. He died in St. Louis, Missouri.

6. Mary Catherine⁶ Filson, married William Stephens of Steubenville, Ohio, in 1867.

7. Sarah⁶ Filson, died, unmarried, in Steubenville, Ohio.

8. Margaret⁶ Filson, died, unmarried, in Steubenville, Ohio.

9. Malinda⁶ Filson, died, unmarried, in Steubenville, Ohio.

(2). Hiram⁶ Filson (Josiah⁵, Robert⁴, Robert³, Davison², John¹) and Jane Underwood had:

1. Jane⁷ Filson, married Frank Woodward in 1874.

2. Josiah⁷ Filson, married Amanda Thompson, January 1, 1878.

3. Amanda⁷ Filson, married Joseph S. McKay, in September, 1880, and lived in Washington, Pennsylvania.

4. Frank⁷ Filson, died in infancy.

5. Harry⁷ Filson, died in infancy.

6. Charles⁷ Filson, born March 12, 1864.

7. Carrie⁷ Filson.

8. Bertha⁷ Filson, formerly county superintendent of schools, Point Pleasant, West Virginia.

(3). Davison⁶ Filson (Josiah⁵, Robert⁴, Robert³, Davison², John¹) and Martha Ann⁶ Filson (Samuel⁵, Samuel⁴, Robert³, Davison², John¹) had:

1. Anna⁷ Filson, born May, 1853; organist in a Presbyterian Church in Pittsburg.

2. Sarah⁷ Filson, born in 1857; married E. B. Caswell of Fall River, Massachusetts.

3. Charles Patterson⁷ Filson, born in Steubenville, Ohio, in 1860; married Mary Priest, daughter of George Priest in 1888. He became distinguished as an artist—did the portrait of Edwin M. Stanton for Kenyon College.

(4). Josiah⁶ Filson (Josiah⁵, Robert⁴, Robert³, Davison², John¹) and Elizabeth Cable had:

1. Charles F.⁷ Filson, married Ella E. Aumiller.
2. Frank S.⁷ Filson, married Delilah A. Aumiller.
3. Martha E.⁷ Filson, married M. Vaughn Hay.
4. Myrtle⁷ Filson.

(5). Robert Warden⁶ Filson (Josiah⁵, Robert⁴, Robert³, Davison², John¹) and Harriet Kelly had:

1. Laura Kelly⁷ Filson.
2. Harriet⁷ Filson.
3. Charlotte⁷ Filson.
4. George W.⁷ Filson.

(3). Samuel⁵ Filson (Robert⁴, Robert³, Davison², John¹) and Elizabeth Miller had:

1. Odessa⁶ Filson.
2. John M.⁶ Filson.
3. Robert C.⁶ Filson.

(4). Robert⁵ Filson (Robert⁴, Robert³, Davison², John¹) by his first and second wives, Eliza Cavender and Harriet Triplett, had:

1. Emma⁶ Filson.
2. Maude S.⁶ Filson.
3. Horace E.⁶ Filson.
4. Minnie⁶ Filson.
5. Mary E.⁶ Filson.
6. William⁶ Filson.

(5). Hiram⁵ Filson (Robert⁴, Robert³, Davison², John¹) and Mary Layman had:

1. William⁶ Filson.
2. Emma⁶ Filson.
3. Jeremiah⁶ Filson.
4. Charlotte⁶ Filson.

(6). Jeremiah⁵ Filson (Robert⁴, Robert³, Davison², John¹) and Nancy De Long had:

1. Charles⁶ Filson.

(7). Snyder⁵ Filson (Robert⁴, Robert³, Davison², John¹) and Kate Case had:

1. Edward⁶ Filson.
2. Albert Snyder⁶ Filson.

III

THE OTHER CHILDREN OF JOHN¹ FILSON—DESCENDANTS

Information about the descendants of the seven other children of the original John Filson is meagre. Perhaps many of the Filsons living in the United States today could rightfully claim descent from the first John Filson through these sons if the records were complete. Such information as is available is presented here without an elaboration of its genealogical possibilities.

2. John² Filson (John¹), died unmarried in 1750.⁽²⁰⁾
3. William² Filson (John¹) married Jane; died before March 12, 1768; had at least one son, John³ Filson.⁽²¹⁾
4. Margaret² Filson (John¹).
5. Robert² Filson (John¹), married Jane
6. Samuel² Filson (John¹), married Elizabeth; died prior to June 9, 1766.⁽²²⁾
7. Elizabeth² Filson (John¹), married George Liggett.
8. Jane² Filson (John¹), married James Patton.

IV

SAMUEL² FILSON (JOHN¹)—DESCENDANTS

(6). SAMUEL² FILSON (John¹) and his wife, Elizabeth, had:⁽²³⁾

1. Robert³ Filson, mentioned in the testamentary records of his father as "eldest son and heir."⁽²⁴⁾
2. Jane³ Filson.
3. William³ Filson.
4. Samuel³ Filson.⁽²⁵⁾
5. Martha³ Filson.
6. John³ Filson.
7. David³ Filson.⁽²⁶⁾
8. George³ Filson.⁽²⁷⁾
9. Elizabeth³ Filson.
10. Joseph³ Filson.⁽²⁸⁾
11. Benjamin³ Filson. There was a Benjamin Filson in West Caln Township in Chester County, Pennsylvania, whose estate was settled by Margaret Filson, probably his widow. She mentioned her sons, David and Samuel Filson, and a daughter, Betsy. Margaret's name was Bailey prior to her marriage.⁽²⁹⁾
12. Rachel³ Filson.

V

SAMUEL FILSON OF KENTUCKY

Samuel Filson of Fleming County, Kentucky, was born in 1757 and died September 15, 1831.⁽³⁰⁾

The place of his birth has not been accurately determined. Family tradition has rather consistently given Chester County, Pennsylvania, as his place of origin. Tradition also has it that his parents died of a "plague" when he was nine years of age. Thus the date of the death of his father would coincide with that of Samuel² Filson (John¹) who died about 1766, and had a son Samuel³, as noted *supra*. However, the Samuel Filson who was born in 1741 (see note 25) is a more likely claimant to this identity. If Samuel² Filson, Senior, who died in 1766, had eight children born after his son Samuel, as is given in Cope's genealogy, then his son Samuel must have been born prior to 1757, the date of the Kentucky Samuel's birth.

There are other traditions about the origin of Samuel Filson of Kentucky. Louis David Randolph Filson, his youngest son, reported in the Census of 1880, that his father was born in Virginia.⁽³¹⁾ The only records of Filsons in Virginia are later than the time of Samuel's birth (1757). Since Louis David Randolph Filson was only nine years of age at the time of his father's death, it is possible that this information is incorrect.

There has been a strange, will-o-the-wisp theory that Samuel Filson of Kentucky was born in Italy. In a letter dated August 25, 1914, from Mrs. M. J. Humphries of Blackwell, Oklahoma, to Mrs. John Walton (grandmother of the author), Poplar Plains, Kentucky, both grand-daughters of Samuel, the information was given that he was born in Italy in 1757 and came with his parents to this country in 1759. Also in a letter, dated December 28, 1942, Homer Wellington Rotz of Helena, Montana, wrote the author that a member of the Filson family had been to Italy and had determined that the family came from there where the original name had been Philsonius.

The most plausible theory is certainly that of a Chester County, Pennsylvania, origin. This theory is reinforced by the fact that a descendent of Davison Filson, Stephen Filson, married a daughter of Samuel of Kentucky, and there was always the assumption of a close relationship between them.

The available records show that Samuel Filson of Kentucky lived in Maryland before going to Kentucky. One Samuel Filson served in the Revolutionary War from White Plains in that state. The record shows:

Samuel Filson, Private, 7th Maryland Regiment

Enlisted—April 18, 1778.

Sergeant, December 16, 1779.

Discharged, November 1, 1780.

The name also appears in a list of members of the 1st Company, 3rd Regiment, on August 28, 1781, for pay due.⁽³²⁾ That this was the Samuel Filson of Kentucky is proved by the fact that he married Mary Cooper, a second marriage according to tradition, on April 1, 1800, in Frederick County, Maryland.⁽³³⁾ Shortly afterwards, he went to Fleming County, Kentucky, where he built his home in 1804. He became a large landowner, and in 1829 was appointed sheriff of the county.

VI

DESCENDANTS OF SAMUEL FILSON OF KENTUCKY

SAMUEL¹ FILSON of Kentucky had by his first wife (nee Heron, or Herron according to tradition) the following children:

1. Elizabeth² Filson, married Charles Cooper, a brother of Mary Cooper, the second wife of Samuel¹ Filson, on February 6, 1809.

2. John² Filson, died unmarried, at Iles Mills, Kentucky, at the age of nineteen years.

3. William² Filson, born November 9, 1785; married Priscilla Thompson (born July 17, 1790, died October 3, 1874, daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth Rawlings Thompson) on November 26, 1812; died April 25, 1874.

4. Mary² Filson, married Garrett Davis, January 20, 1807.

5. Nancy² Filson, married William Cline, February 7, 1809.

By his second wife, Mary Cooper, Samuel¹ Filson had the following children:

6. Samuel Vespasian Augustus² Filson, born March 28, 1805; married Belt, died in Bath County, Kentucky, April 4, 1854.

7. Henrietta Narcissa Orithe² Filson, born February 24, 1806; married, first, Stephen⁶ Filson, and second, Jeremiah Hall; died January 27, 1876.

8. Ulyssus Apolatus Crockett² Filson, born November 11, 1807, married Mrs. Grace McIntyre (nee Gooding); died in 1886 in Rowan County, Kentucky.

9. Josepha Elouisa Jane² Filson, born August 23, 1809; married Abraham Markwell, February 7, 1828; died 1880.

10. Myrtila Cornelia Amelia² Filson, born April 18, 1811; married W. O. Phillips, on March 23, 1830.

11. Clarissa Harlow² Filson, born in 1813; died quite young.

12. Amanda Caroline Clementine² Filson, born June 24, 1814; married, first William Williams, and second, Hiram Bradley; died in 1870.

13. Maxwell Robert George² Filson, born August 19, 1816; married Sarah Phillips, daughter of David Phillips of Mason County, Kentucky; moved to Missouri, thence to Montana where he left many descendants.

14. Evalina Belmont Villiards² Filson, married Thomas Watts; died September 9, 1838.

15. Ethelinda Julia Adelia² Filson⁽³⁴⁾, born October 15, 1818, married Benjamin Royce, a saddler of Ringoes Mills, Kentucky; died October 15, 1869.

16. Louis David Randolph² Filson, born March 10, 1822, married Mary Jane Thompson (daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth Thompson) on March 6, 1844; died November 12, 1888.

(3). William² Filson (Samuel¹) and Priscilla Thompson had eleven children:

1. Mary³ Filson, born March 31, 1814; married Boyd.

2. Malinda³ Filson, born April 23, 1817.

3. Washington Thompson³ Filson, born August 29, 1819; married Mrs. Susan Everhart Howard (born October 31, 1824, died May 16, 1893), on August 6, 1844; died March 24, 1909.

4. Laurence T.³ Filson, born April 25, 1821.

5. William Harrison³ Filson, born June 6, 1822.

6. Elizabeth Jane³ Filson, born April 14, 1824; married William Buckley on January 27, 1854.

7. Emily³ Filson, born December 25, 1827; married Captain Barney Haydon of the 10th Kentucky Cavalry, on February 7, 1850.

8. Angelina³ Filson, born December 19, 1829, died in infancy.

9. Evalina³ Filson, born December 19, 1829; married Dial Williams on September 2, 18—.

10. James Leonard³ Filson, born February 12, 18—; married Sallie A. Merryman, born in 1838.

11. Henry Clay³ Filson, born January 16, 1834.

(3). Washington Thompson³ Filson (William², Samuel¹) and Susan Everhart Howard had eight children:

1. Elizabeth Priscilla⁴ Filson, born September 11, 1845; married John Ernsberger, died December 14, 1865.

2. Mary Ellen⁴ Filson, born July 13, 1855; married David C. Paullin (born February 2, 1856, died April 10, 1924), died May 20, 1932, at Newkirk, Oklahoma.

3. James William⁴ Filson, born either December 9, 1848 or November 9, 1847; married Mary Jane McElroy; died May 9, 1887.

4. David Louis⁴ Filson, born March 13, 1850; died July 13, 1862.

5. Joshua Leonard⁴ Filson, born September 1851; married Viola Wilson; died 1924.

6. George Washington⁴ Filson, born May 16, 1853; married Janette Edwards (born August 26, 1861), on December 25, 1883.

7. Samuel Laurence⁴ Filson, married Addie Owens, September 18, 1883.

8. Willard Frederick⁴ Filson, born December 25, 1841; died May 11, 1884.

(10). James Leonard³ Filson (William², Samuel¹) and Sallie A. Merryman had seven children:

1. William Daniel⁴ Filson, born January 15, 1859, died August 25, 1860.

2. Thomas Anderson⁴ Filson, born April 1, 1861, married Sarah (born October 28, 1863), on December 13, 1882; died August 15, 1910.

3. James Henry⁴ Filson, born December 27, 1862; died January 12, 1863.

4. Francis Morton⁴ Filson, born June 18, 1864; married Mate E. Dodge (born April 7, 1868), on April 23, 1890.

5. Lucy Priscilla⁴ Filson, born October 29, 1866; died January 7, 1870.

6. Alfred Kennedy⁴ Filson, born October 31, 1870; married Laura Singleton (born May 28, 1866), on May 27, 1891.

7. Rose Mabel⁴ Filson, born November 19, 1873; died March 20, 1880.

(2). Thomas Anderson⁴ Filson (James Leonard³, William², Samuel¹) and Sarah had six children:

1. James Edwin⁵ Filson, born October 28, 1883; married Lena Will, December 26, 1906.

2. Rosa Aleda⁵ Filson, born May 28, 1885; married James Madison Hill (born April 28, 1874) on June 7, 1913.

3. Irwin⁵ Filson, born December 14, 1887; died May 2, 1888.

4. Don Harrison⁵ Filson, born May 5, 1890; married Mabel Kinsey.

5. The Reverend Floyd Vivian⁵ Filson, Th.D., D.D., born November 15, 1896; married Wilma Hazel Nutt (born

February 19, 1897) on May 1, 1920. He is a Presbyterian clergyman and Professor of New Testament Literature and Exegesis at the Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Chicago.

6. Wallace Theodore⁵ Filson, born September 19, 1901; married Price.

(4). Francis Morton⁴ Filson (James Leonard³, William², Samuel¹) and Mate Dodge had five children:

1. Edna Francis⁵ Filson, born March 25, 1891.

2. George Dodge⁵ Filson, born December 31, 1892.

3. Ruth Dodge⁵ Filson, born October 26, 1895.

4. Mary Louise⁵ Filson, born May —, 1890; married George Clarke.

5. Minnie M.⁵ Filson.

(6). Alfred Kennedy⁴ Filson (James Leonard³, William², Samuel¹) and Laura Singleton had three children:

1. Edith Irene⁵ Filson, born April 2, 1892; married Jack Rider.

2. Hazel Vera⁵ Filson, born June 28, 1894.

3. Lee Otis⁵ Filson, born June 28, 1894.

(6). Samuel Vespasian Augustus² Filson (Samuel¹) and Belt had four children:

1. Alfred Belt³ Filson, married Nancy Jones.

2. George³ Filson, died, unmarried, in the War between the States.

3. Mary Emily³ Filson, married, first, Sherman Bays, and, second, Dr. William Conway.

4. Evalina B.³ Filson, married J. B. Skinner of Bath County, Kentucky.

(1). Alfred Belt³ Filson (Samuel Vespasian Augustus², Samuel¹) and Nancy Jones had three children:

1. Sherman⁴ Filson, died unmarried.

2. Maxwell⁴ Filson, died unmarried.

3. Allie⁴ Filson, died unmarried.

(16). Louis David Randolph² Filson (Samuel¹) and Mary Jane Thompson had eight children:

1. Othelia³ Filson, married C. R. Cline.

2. Samuel³ Filson, married Martha (Mc) Kissick.

3. Jane³ Filson, born October 15, 1886; died young.

4. Daniel Boone³ Filson, born in 1850; married Mary Johnson; died, March 14, 1933.

5. Simpson Rigdon³ Filson, born 1855, died, unmarried, August 14, 1911.

6. George Maxwell³ Filson, married Effie Corey, daughter of William and Tennessee Reeves Corey.

7. William³ Filson, born about 1858, married Elizabeth Davis, died in 1948 or 1949.

8. Alice³ Filson, born 1860; married, first, W. S. Phelps, son of Major Johnson and Nancy Saunders Phelps, and second, Lewis Thompson.

9. Allen³ Filson, married, first, Ida May Johnson of Fleming County, Kentucky, and, second, Emma Purdin of Purdin, Missouri.

(2). Samuel³ Filson (Louis David Randolph², Samuel¹) and Martha McKissick had four children:

1. Golla⁴ Filson.
2. Edward⁴ Filson.
3. John⁴ Stockwell Harmon Filson.
4. Cenia⁴ Filson.

(4). Daniel Boone³ Filson (Louis David Randolph², Samuel¹), and Mary Johnson had two children:

1. Maude⁴ Filson, born November 1, 1880 died May 31, 1900.
2. Emma⁴ Filson, born March 31, 1883; married Luther Pierce.

(6). George Maxwell³ Filson (Louis David Randolph², Samuel¹) and Effie Corey had two children:

1. Glenn⁴ Filson, born February 15, 1901; died August 7, 1911.
2. Thelma⁴ Filson, married Leon Roberts.

(7). William³ Filson (Louis David Randolph², Samuel¹) and Elizabeth Davis had four children:

1. Samuel⁴ Filson, married Lucy Dickens.
2. J. Blaine⁴ Filson, married Emma Adkins.
3. Ressie⁴ Filson, married Earl Price.
4. William⁴ Filson.

(1). Samuel⁴ Filson (William³, Louis David Randolph², Samuel¹) and Lucy Dickens had six children:

1. Mabel⁵ Filson.
2. Beryl Dean⁵ Filson.
3. Kelly⁵ Filson.
4. William⁵ Filson.
5. Alma⁵ Filson.
6. Ione⁵ Filson.

(2). J. Blaine⁴ Filson (William³, Louis David Randolph², Samuel¹) and Emma Adkins had three children:

1. Cordell⁵ Filson, married Neva Pickrell.
2. Elizabeth⁵ Filson, married Noel Walton.
3. Glenn⁵ Filson.

(9). Allen³ Filson (Louis David Randolph², Samuel¹) and Ida May Johnson had two children:

1. Harvey⁴ Filson, born October 26, 1885.
2. Lucy⁴ Filson, born, 1888.

And by his second wife, Emma Purdin, Allen³ Filson had four children:

3. Guy Martin⁴ Filson, born June 1, 1897; married Maria Reed at Tacoma, Washington, September 30, 1918.
4. George Lorraine⁴ Filson, born August 7, 1895.
5. Viva Maria⁴ Filson, born February 7, 1897; married James Henry Glasson of Rockford, Illinois, December 20, 1920.
6. Eugene Bamford⁴ Filson, born April 2, 1903; married Alice McGinnis, January 30, 1926.

VII

MISCELLANEOUS DATA

Much information about different members and branches of the Filson family that does not, as yet, fit into the general outline of the history of the family, has been collected. These data are presented here with the hope that members of the family will find them helpful in completing their own lines, or in correcting errors in the outline as it has been developed so far.

Samuel Finsell

Several years ago, Miss Margaret J. Marshall, 223 South Sixth Street, Philadelphia, sent the writer the following quotation:

John Georges, Secretary for the Proprietors of Pennsylvania, writing to John Taylor, Surveyor of Chester County, Pennsylvania, 14th May, 1735, says "Samuel Finsell obtained a warrant the 17 of March last for 200 acres between West Bradford and East Caln Township adjoining to Peter Biz[?]...land, on which James Fleming has petitioned the proprietors setting forth that Finsell designs to take away his improvement which he bought of Thomas Worth; on which the proprietors order that the land shall be equally divided between Finsell and Fleming." (From "Family Data" Gilbert Cope Collection in Pennsylvania Historical Society, Philadelphia.)

This statement is taken by Miss Marshall as the first mention of the family in this country—the spelling Finsell being a variant of Filson. If this assumption is true, the earliest known date of the family in this country is 1735. It is quite possible that this Samuel Finsell was Samuel Filson, son of John Filson, the immigrant.

Alexander Filson

In 1788, one Alexander Filson was taxed as a non-resident in Dublin Township, Huntington County (*Pennsylvania Archives*, 3rd Series, Volume XXII, page 354).

Thomas Filson

In 1780, one Thomas Filson was listed as a private in Captain Robert Sample's Company, Tenth Pennsylvania Regiment (*Pennsylvania Archives*, 3rd Series, Volume XXII, page 382).

There was a Thomas Filson in what is now Hancock County, West Virginia, about 1794. One Isabel Filson, perhaps a daughter of Thomas, born, March 10, 1778; died 1868; married Hamilton John Hamilton (born 1774). (From a letter from Miss Virginia Titus, 279 Fourteenth Avenue, Columbus, Ohio, dated September 2, 1936).

Jacob Filson

In 1780, one Jacob Filson was listed as owning seventy acres of land in Pikeland Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania. (*Pennsylvania Archives*, 3rd Series, Volume 25, page 271).

Robert Filson

There are numerous references to Robert Filson in the *Pennsylvania Archives*. Since there were so many different persons by this name among the early generation of the family, it is difficult to identify all the references. John Filson, the immigrant, had a son Robert as did his sons Davison and Samuel.

One Robert Filson moved to Bedford County where he was commissioned a brigadier-general of the Second Brigade in the Tenth Division composed of the militia of the counties of Bedford, Fayette, and Somerset, on May 9, 1800. (*Pennsylvania Archives*; sixth Series, Volume IV, page 755).

Family data of another Robert Filson have been provided the author by a descendant.

Robert¹ Filson, born November 14, 1814; married Alice Bryant

(born August 2, 1817, died 1896) in 1830; died August 30, 1896.
Their children were:

1. Mary Jane² Filson, born September 12, 1836.
2. James McDonald² Filson, born December 20, 1839, died March 30, 1843.
3. Nancy Margaret² Filson, born February 19, 1841.
4. Elizabeth F.² Filson, born May 10, 1844.
5. Sarah² Filson, born October 4, 1846.
6. John Thomas² Filson, born January 25, 1848; died June 23, 1927; married Matilda Preston Stover (born May 8, 1852; died July 3, 1928) on October 8, 1872.
7. George Robert² Filson, born July 6, 1850.
8. William F.² Filson, born January 28, 1853.
9. Charles R.² Filson, born June 1, 1855; died September 30, 1861.
10. Luther E.² Filson, born November 6, 1857.

(6). John Thomas² Filson (Robert¹) and Matilda Preston Stover had:

1. Robert Edgar³ Filson, born July 8, 1873; married Eva Murrill Paul (born July 30, 1880) on June 12, 1901.
2. William D.³ Filson, born December 26, 1875; died 1876.
3. Cora Jane³ Filson, born June 18, 1877.
4. Ernest³ Filson, born August 26, 1879.
5. Charles Oscar³ Filson, born January 7, 1881; died December 7, 1913.
6. Claude Hughes³ Filson, born August 18, 1884.

(1). Robert Edgar³ Filson (John Thomas², Robert¹) and Eva Murrill Paul had:⁽⁸⁵⁾

1. Robert Edgar⁴ Filson II, born April 30, 1880.
2. Evelyn⁴ Filson, born November 29, 1904.

James Filson

Associated with Samuel Filson in both Maryland and Kentucky was one James Filson, whose connection with any other Filson is unknown. This James Filson was a private in the Maryland Troops in Continental Service and on 25th May 1778, was listed as having deserted from the hospital (Records of Maryland Troops in Continental Service during the War of the American Revolution).

The will of James P^hilson, dated April 17, 1824, is on record in the Clerks Office of Fleming County, Flemingsburg, Kentucky (Book C., page 161). In this will, he mentions his daughters, Fannie McIlvaine, Patsey Reeves, and "two other heirs now living."

From the marriage records in the Fleming County Court House, Flemingsburg, Kentucky:

John Glover married Patsy Filson, July 20, 1809.

James McKissick married Elizabeth Filson, daughter of James Filson, September 13, 1820.

Solomon McIlvaine, married Fannie Filson, July 6, 1803.

David Philson

The United States Census of 1790 (page 33) lists a David Philson in Province Town, Rhode Island.

Elizabeth Philson

December 5, 1790, William Mary Ellit married Elizabeth Philson—Reverend John Alderson—Linville Creek Baptist Church, Rockingham County, Virginia and Greenbrier Baptist Church, Alderson, West Virginia.

John Filson

John Filson, born February 6, 1770; married Jemima Benton, May 25, 1799; had son Thomas Filson, born December 24, 1806; died January 25, 1889—Berkeley County, West Virginia. (Letter from Mrs. Archibald O. Black, 2115 Scottwood Avenue, Toledo, Ohio).

Robert Philson

There was a Robert Philson, Senior, and a Robert Philson, Junior in Berkeley County, West Virginia, during the Revolutionary War.⁽³⁶⁾

Somewhere in a list of Revolutionary soldiers, the author remembers seeing this Robert Philson, Senior, listed as having been born in Ireland. In that event, he could still have been the son of the first John of Chester County, who came to this country with a family including a Robert, or he could have been a direct immigrant.

FOOTNOTES

¹ For the origin of the name, see *The Surnames of Scotland* by George Fraser Black, New York Public Library, 1946, New York, p. 660.

² Futhey, J. Smith, and Gilbert Cope, *History of Chester County, Pennsylvania*, 1881, Philadelphia, pp. 175-176.

³ *Ibid.*, p. 176.

⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 252.

⁵ *The Village Record*, March 10, 1887, West Chester, Pennsylvania.

⁶ For further information about the Scotch-Irish see:

Bolton, Charles Knowles, *Scotch-Irish Pioneers in Ulster and America*, Bacon and Brown, 1910, Boston.

Dunaway, Wayland F., *The Scotch Irish of Colonial Pennsylvania*, University of North Carolina Press, 1944, Chapel Hill.

Ford, Henry James, *The Scotch Irish in America*, Princeton University Press, 1913, Princeton.

Glasgow, Maude, *The Scotch-Irish in Northern Ireland and in the American Colonies*, G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1936, New York.

Hanna, C. A., *The Scotch-Irish*, 2 volumes, G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1902, New York.

Toynbee, Arnold J., *A Study of History*, Vol. II, Oxford University Press, 1948, London, pp. 309-313.

⁷ Will Book "C" (Volume 3), pp. 278-281, West Chester, Pennsylvania.

⁸ Deed Book 2, p. 85.

⁹ *Ibid.*, pp. 154-156.

¹⁰ Will Book "F" (Volume 6), pp. 194-196. West Chester, Pennsylvania.

¹¹ Will Book "H" (Volume 8), pp. 261-262. West Chester, Pennsylvania.

¹² *The Discovery, Settlement, and Present State of Kentucke*, 1784, printed by James Adams of Wilmington, Delaware: map engraved on a copper plate by Henry D. Pursell of Carter's Alley, and printed in 1784 by Ternon Rook of 171 South Second Street, Philadelphia. The Filson Club, Louisville, Kentucky, was named in honor of this John Filson.

¹³ For further reference to John Filson, the historian, see Durrett, Reuben T., *John Filson, the First Historian of Kentucky*, Filson Club Publications No. 1, 1884, Louisville; and Wilson, Samuel L., "John Filson in Pennsylvania," *The Filson Club History Quarterly*, Louisville, Kentucky, October, 1939, pp. 179-201.

¹⁴ Around 1900, Davison Filson of Steubenville, Ohio, compiled a list of descendants of this Robert Filson. The sources for his information are not always given.

¹⁵ Orphans Court Record, Volume 8, page 39, dated 15 January, 1779, New Castle, Delaware.

¹⁶ From information sent by Miss Margaret J. Marshall, (a descendant), 223 South Sixth Street, Philadelphia.

¹⁷ The information given here about the descendants of Robert Filson is taken from the records of Davison Filson of Steubenville.

¹⁸ This man is possibly the Davidson Filson mentioned in a return of officers in the militia of the County of Franklin, dated March 14, 1798. Lieutenant Davidson Filson, 8th Company. *Pennsylvania Archives, Sixth Series*, Volume IV, page 11.

¹⁹ For further information about Davison⁶ Filson, see *Howe's Historical Collections of Ohio*, 1888, Volume 1, page 973.

²⁰ Will dated May 2, 1750; proved October 1, 1750. Will Book 3, page 314, West Chester, Pennsylvania.

²¹ Deed from Davison Filson and wife to Samuel Filson, dated December 10, 1753, and recorded August 23, 1786. Deed Book "B-2" (Volume 26), pp. 85-88.

²² File No. 2268 in the Office of the Register of Wills; Deed Book "B-2", (Volume 26) pp. 88-91. Also one Samuel Filson was taxed in East Fallowfield Township for 190 acres in 1766. *Pennsylvania Archives*, 3rd Series, Volume XI, p. 148.

²³ These names were obtained from Cope's Genealogy in the Pennsylvania Historical Society in Philadelphia and sent to the author by Miss Margaret J. Marshall of that city.

²⁴ File No. 2268 in the Office of the Register of Wills. See page XII, note (3), p. XII.

²⁵ One Samuel Filson is mentioned in a return of Captain Robert Boyd's Company, May and June, 1759, age 18, born in Chester County, Pennsylvania, Tailor. (*Pennsylvania Archives*, Fifth Series, Volume 1, p. 292.) Since this Samuel was born in 1741, he could not have been the Samuel (son of John, the immigrant) who died intestate in 1766. The latter Samuel had a son old enough to be appointed administrator of his estate at the time of his death. He must be looked on as identical with the Samuel mentioned above or as a son of Robert or William Filson, both sons of the first John Filson.

There was a Samuel Filson in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, in 1790. (U. S. Census for Pennsylvania, 1790, page 77.)

²⁶ The pension applications from Berks County show that on January 9, 1798, Catherine Filson, widow of David Filson, testified that her husband, David Filson, was a Lieutenant in Company of Foot in the Sixth Battalion of Militia in Philadelphia County. *Pennsylvania Archives*, Fifth Series, Volume IV, page 506.

Petition by the same person from Montgomery County states that David Filson died of wounds received in actual service of the United States at Pottstown sometime in March, 1778. *Ibid.*, page 545.

David Filson was listed as sergeant, January 5, 1776, to November 25, 1776, Second Pennsylvania Battalion, *Ibid.*, Volume II, page 110.

Approval of the account of Catherine Filson, widow of David Filson, late first lieutenant in the Militia of the County of Philadelphia, for a pension from March, 1778, to September, 1790. January 20, 1791. *Ibid.*, Sixth Series, Volume IV, page 3.

²⁷ A George Filson was listed as a private in Captain William Wilson's Company; the record further shows that he was shot through the left leg at Trenton, January 2, 1777, and that he resided in Chester County in 1785. *Pennsylvania Archives*, Fifth Series, Volume II, page 719.

²⁸ The following references to the Joseph Filson are found in the *Pennsylvania Archives*:

Joseph Filson, Private, 8th Battalion, Chester County Militia, 1771, 1781. 5th Series, Volume V, pp. 461, 800, 805, 815.

Joseph Filson, Ensign, 4th Regiment, Light Infantry, Militia Officers in Chester County, July 15, 1799, 6th Series, Volume IV, page 740.

Joseph Philson, Private, 147th Regiment, First Brigade, 11th Division, 16 June, 1812, Sixth Series, Volume VII, page 660.

Joseph Filson, Singleman, East Fallowfield, 1779, Third Series, Volume XII, page 168.

Joseph Filson, Freeman, East Fallowfield, 1780, Third Series, Volume XII, page 267.

Joseph Filson, Cordwainer, East Fallowfield, 1781, Third Series, Volume XII, pages 377, 630.

²⁹ Will Book "L" (Volume II), page 134. See also, Wilson, Samuel L., *op. cit.*, page 189; and *Pennsylvania Archives*, Third Series, Volume XII, page 283.

³⁰ The following inscription is copied from his gravestone in the Filson burying ground on Fox Creek in Fleming County, Kentucky:

In Memory of
 Samuel Filson
 Departed this life September 15, 1831 in
 the 74th year of his age.
 My race is run, my glass is done
 My resting place is here
 This rock was got to mark the spot
 Fear man should dig too near.

³¹ U. S. Census, 1880, for Fleming County, Kentucky; Hillsboro Precinct.

³² Records in the Military Department, State of Maryland, Annapolis, and the War Department Adjutant General's Office, Washington, D. C.

³³ Brumbaugh, Gaius Marcus, *Maryland Records*, Volume II, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, 1928, page 510.

³⁴ Benjamin and Ethelinda Julia Adelia Filson Royce had three children:

1. Josephine Royce, born April 15, 1845; married Avery Littleton.
2. Juelda Royce, born June 6, 1848; married John Walton (son of Royce and Mary Rawlings Walton); died, August 4, 1934. Juelda was the grandmother of the author of this article.
3. Henrietta Royce, born September 16, 1854, married Preston Rawlings.

³⁵ From a letter from Mr. Robert E. Filson, 1900 Dorothy Avenue, Louisville, Kentucky, dated December 2, 1932.

³⁶ Reddy, Ann Waller, *West Virginia Revolutionary Ancestors*, Richmond, 1930, page 62.