

A Brennan/Branning
Genealogy



The Branningville Story

Beverly Branning Green



1/31— a grant of land near Cohecton Falls on the Delaware River, Upper Smithfield Township, North Hampton County, showing 5 shillings paid by John Lasley (*grandfather of John Lasley*) of Conshecton -farmer to James Musgsrove on September 26, 1797.⁽¹⁰⁾

Revolutionary soldier John Lasley came to the area as a single man but soon married Sarah Tyler, daughter of Bezaleel Tyler — married to Sarah Calkin; and is listed⁽¹¹⁾ as having a log house dwelling 14x16 feet and 272 acres 130 perches—\$30 and \$747 in value. Lany Elinor Decker Lasley (*the widow of John Lasley's son Cornelius Lasley who drowned in the Delaware March 15, 1797*) had one log house dwelling 15 x 15 feet and 122 acres, 130 perches; \$30 and \$717 value. A second John Lasley, and a second parcel of land (*or in name of 6 year old son of Lany and Cornelius Lasley married circa 1820 to Mary Brennan/ Branning*) are listed as one log house, 860 acres, 102 perches, value \$2940. So John Lasley's daughter-in-law, and eventually his grandson John Lasley and wife Mary Branning Lasley and his grand daughter Lany Elinor Lassley and husband Jacob Brennan/ Branning lived not too far off, near the Pike County line in the Panther Lake area and adjacent the Simms Point Cemetery.

Our ancestor Rev. Aaron Thomas married Alice Chittester⁽¹²⁾ (*and raised 9 children*). He first settled on the south side of Calkins Creek, moving later to a river flat below Cohecton Falls. His land adjoined that of Solomon Decker (*father of Lany Elinor Decker Lasley*), married to Polly Thomas (*daughter of Aaron Thomas*), whose land adjoined the Lasleys,

completing another group of neighbors. The Thomas' are listed as having one log house 16 x 18 feet, \$40 value, one log barn, 400 acres, value \$1100.⁽¹³⁾

MANY ANCESTORS FOUGHT IN THE REVOLUTION

Many of our ancestors were in the Revolutionary War (*April 19, 1775 - November 26, 1783*). Bezaleel Tyler II, an excellent woodsman, enlisted in the Orange County New York regiment; as a Captain, he was killed while in charge of a scouting expedition at the Battle of Minisink in 1779, along with Moses Thomas II. Josiah Beardsley was a pensioned soldier, Private with Connecticut or New York, Walter Kimble a Private -Pennsylvania, and Aaron Thomas, Artificer - New York. Charles Tyler enlisted in the American Army at 16 and continued in service until the surrender of the British at Yorktown, Virginia.

There is mention of Colonel⁽¹⁴⁾ Calvin Skinner, honorary (Captain) Daniel Skinner (*in 1764 second Admiral Daniel Skinner, Sailor, began the rafting industry, son of settler Joseph Skinner*); Jonathon Dexter enlisted February 1, 1776 in the second Segment of New York troops; Major John Decker; and of course John Lasley, a private under Captain Peter Mills Company in Lieutenant Colonel Luther Baldwin's Regiment of Artificers (craftsmen) New York Line. John Lasley's name is listed on the monument dedicated to the soldiers of the Revolution by the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), in Riverside Park across from The Hotel Wayne in Honesdale, Pennsylvania.

PROBABLE LINK TO WILLIAM BRENNAN

Michael and Jacob Brennan/ Branning were both lumberman and farmers. They could not read or write. Some histories state they came from Newburgh, New York, anywhere from 1800 to 1809. One relative's writings suggest a possible father as the William Brennon listed in the 1790 Ulster County New York NewburgTown census as: one male, four males under 16 and two females. If we assume this lineage to be valid, there are probably at least three other brothers and another sister, making a total of seven children (or more) in the family, counting Jacob (born 1779) and Mary (born 1796). There are no children's names listed in the 1790 census, so therefore no proof of the relationship. (See Census excerpt in Chapter 5.) (*A possible son could be the William Brannan, Jr. listed as spouse of Lydia Hunt, Montgomery Orange County, New York in the will of her father Joseph Hunt in 1807 -who is buried in Berea Cemetery, Montgomery, New York— born September 1775, died November 5, 1864*).⁽¹⁵⁾

Other Brennan names in the same time period and area that I haven't had time to research are: Moses, Nathaniel, Paul, M., Peter and Timothy. (*There is also a second William Brennan buried in Berea Cemetery.*)

Francis White the wife of a grand son of Moses C. suggests Michael and Jacob had a brother Joseph and their father's name was also Joseph, but I did not find the name Joseph listed anywhere.

Evalyn Tygret in 1987 writes "it is rumored that the first Brennan/ Branning settled on the Hudson River in the late1600's and had ten sons and was given land for