

# *The Jefferis Family.*

*Gilbert Cope*

*West Chester, PA*

*1870*



**THE JEFFERIS FAMILY.**

*by*  
*Gilbert Cooper*



## THE JEFFERIS FAMILY.

The following materials for a family history have been collected and in order for their better preservation, as also, if possible, to awaken an interest in the subject, they are now presented in this form to the different members of the family with the hope that some one may be induced to extend the work to it's proper limits.

So far as I am aware all those bearing the name in Chester County are descended from Robert Jefferis, who was one of the first settlers in East Bradford township, though he had previously resided in Chichester township, (now) Delaware County. The first mention of his name that I have met with is in the following minute.

"At a Court held att Chester for the County of Chester, the 1st 3rd day in the 1st weeke of the 7th month, 1685."

"The Testimony of Thomas Rawlenson, who being attested, declareth that Thomas Wither's maid speaking contemptably of Jeremy Collett, Joel Bayly undertooke to correct the said maide in words for abusing the reputation of the said Jeremy Collett, whereupon the said Thomas Wither fell violently with blowes upon the said Joel & beate him soe that he fell to the ground and bled all that night, and afterward att certain seasons for a weeke's time.

"Robert Jefferies, being attested, declareth the same.

"Richard Rudman & Robert Jefferies did further declare that Joel Bayly did usually bleed before he had any difference with Thomas Wither, and further saith not."

Walter Martin having purchased 500 acres from William Penn by deeds of lease and release dated 5th and 6th of 5th mo. 1681, the land was laid out in Chichester, and on the 6th of Oct. 1684, Martin conveyed 60 acres thereof to James Brown who sold the same to Robert Jefferis March 8th, 1691. This tract was situated on the east side of the most easterly branch of Naamans creek, just above the forks and near the middle of Upper Chichester township. Robert Jefferis probably resided there for several years but on the 29th of May 1700 he conveyed the land to Humphrey Johnson. On the 6th of 4th month 1701 he purchased from William Vestall of Birmingham a tract of land on the east side of Brandywine creek, supposed to contain 169 acres but by a resurvey made in June 1703, there proved to be 180. The south line of the tract now coincides with a portion of the southern boundary of East Bradford. At that time the township lines were not very well defined nor had Bradford even received the name, and I find that in 1703 Robert Jefferis was appointed constable for Westtown; his next neighbor on the north, Richard Buffington, having held the office for three years previous. Tradition points to the residence of Charles Carter on the road from the Brandywine to West Chester, as the site of Robert's dwelling. By a deed dated 3rd month 17th 1712 he purchased from James Logan of Philadelphia a tract of 256 acres extending from the east branch of the creek near the present residence of John James southward toward the first purchase.

Richard Buffington having purchased two tracts of land on Brandywine, viz. 218 acres in 1696 and 210 in 1708, with his wife Frances conveyed 100 acres to Nathaniel Ring in 1712, and the remainder he divided between his sons Thomas and William, Feb. 1720-1, reserving however a life interest in each share. William conveyed his portion, or 189 acres, to Robert Jefferis Aug. 4th 1721. This was a narrow tract extending from the east branch of the creek southward across the hills to the main stream below and connected the two former purchases. Robert now held more than six hundred acres here, in addition to which he had taken up 300 acres in Leacock township, Lancaster County.

This last he appears to have sold to John Steer, while the other was divided between some of his sons, so that at the time of his decease he owned no real estate. The homestead was conveyed May 2nd, 1733, by Robert Jefferis and wife Ann to James Jefferis of Bradford and William Jefferis of Chester township, in trust, for the use of the said Robert Jefferis during his life, and after his death for the use of his son Benjamin Jefferis, his heirs and assigns, &c. [Deed Book E vol. 5, page 551.]

Being a plain farmer there is nothing striking to record in the life of Robert Jefferis. He appears to have acted the part of a good citizen by serving as a juror, or in executing the duties of a township officer. The only complaint to the contrary that I have noticed is to the following effect. Being at Chester on the 11th of 8th month (Oct.) 1695, when the constable, Robert Barber, was assaulted by two men, he with some others declined to assist in arresting the offenders. At the next court the following minute was made.

"John Garrett & Samuel Bishop & Robert Jefferis, Alexander Graves & David Roberts were called to answer the presentment of the constable, Robert Barber, for refusing to assist him in the execution of his office, and they submitted themselves to the mercy of the Bench. The Court orders that they pay their fees and do so no more and be discharged at this time."

In March 1696-7 Robert appears in Court as constable for Chichester township.

Without having seen anything positive on the subject I am inclined to think that in religion he was a Baptist, if attached to any church organization, yet some of his children and many of his descendants were Quakers. His first wife was Jane, the daughter of George and Jane Chandler, as appears by certain wills and conveyances, but I have not discovered the maiden name of Ann, his second wife. The dates of his marriages are wanting, yet as an approximation it may be stated that the first was as early as 1693, and the last in or before the year 1731. George Chandler, the father of Jane Jefferis died prior to 1688, leaving six or more children, of whom a son George resided in Chichester township next to Robert Jefferis.

## WILL OF ROBERT JEFFERIS

IN the name of God, Amen. I Robert Jefferies of the Township of East Bradford in the County of Chester & Province of Pennsylvania, yeoman, being sick & infirm in Body but of sound Mind & perfect Memory, (thanks be to God,) calling to mind the Mortality of this Life & that it is appointed for all men once to die: do make constitute & ordain this my last Will & Testament in Writing in manner & form following; that is to say, IMPRIMIS I commend my Soul into the hands of Almighty God that gave it; hoping through the Mercies, Merits, & Mediation of my Lord and Saviour JESUS CHRIST to receive full & free pardon of all my sins. My body I commit to the Earth to be buried in a decent Manner, at the discretion of my Executors hereinafter to be nominated. ITEM, I will and require that all my just Debts be fully paid and discharged, and that all my Funeral Expences be forthwith defrayed & paid. ITEM, whereas my sons James Jefferies and William Jefferies by their Obligation dated the second Day of June, one thousand seven hundred thirty and three, became bound unto me in the Obligatory sum of one hundred and forty Pounds, conditioned for the payment of the sum of Seventy Pounds to me, my heirs, &c. on the first day of July then next ensuing: And whereas the said James Jefferies and William Jefferies have at two several Payments paid me the sum of forty one pounds, five shillings; now after the Payment of the Remainder of sd Seventy Pounds, and the interest thereof, unto my Executors hereinafter named, I give and bequeath unto each of them, the said James and William Jefferies, the sum of five shillings. ITEM, whereas my son Robert Jefferies by six several Bonds or Obligations bearing date the Twenty fourth day of January, one thousand seven hundred thirty and five, became bound to me and my Executors, &c. by every of the said Bonds in the Obligatory sum of twenty one Pounds, four shillings, conditioned under every the said Obligations for the Payment of the sum of ten Pounds, twelve shillings, of lawful current Money of Pennsylvania in manner following, vizt. one Bond to be paid the twenty fourth day of January, one thousand seven hundred





thirty and six; another to be paid the twenty fourth day of January, one thousand seven hundred thirty and seven; another Bond to be paid the twenty fourth day of January, one thousand seven hundred thirty and eight; another the twenty fourth day of January, one thousand seven hundred thirty and nine; another Bond to be paid the twenty fourth day of January, one thousand seven hundred and forty; another Bond to be paid the twenty fourth day of January, one thousand seven hundred forty and one; all which by the said several Bonds, reference to them had, may more fully appear. Now I give and bequeath unto my said son Robert Jefferies the sum of five shillings, to be paid unto him or his Assigns, after the Payment of the said six Bonds is by him or his Assigns &c. duly compleated and perfected, unto me, my Heirs, or Executors as hereafter specified, with the Interest of the same. ITEM, whereas my son Benjamin Jefferies stands bound unto me by one Obligation in the sum of fifty Pounds, conditioned for the Payment of twenty five Pounds when he shall attain or arrive to the Age of twenty one years: after the said Payment made to my Executors hereafter named I bequeath unto him the said Benjamin the sum of five shillings. ITEM, I give and bequeath unto my Daughter Patience Betterton the sum of one Pound current money, to be paid her at the Expiration of one year after my Decease. ITEM, I give & bequeath unto my Daughter Charity Cope & unto my son George Jefferies the sum of two Pounds ten shillings each, to be paid at the Expiration of one year after my Decease. ITEM, I give and bequeath unto my Daughters Jane, Anne & Mary the sum of two Pounds current money of the said Province, to be paid unto them respectively at the Expiration of one year after my Decease. ITEM, I give and bequeath unto my sons Thomas Jefferies & John Jefferies the sum of twenty shillings each, to be paid unto them respectively in one year after my Decease. ITEM, I give and bequeath unto my son Richard Jefferies the sum of twenty Pounds lawful currency as aforesaid, to be paid unto him when he shall arrive at or attain to the Age of twenty one years. ITEM, I give and bequeath unto my dearly beloved Wife, Anne

Jefferies the sum of thirty five Pounds of lawful Money of Pennsylvania aforesaid, to be taken and received by her out of my Personal Estate immediately after my Decease. I give and bequeath moreover unto the said Anne my Wife my best Bed, Bed-cloathing, Bed-stead, Curtains Hangings, Coverlid Blankets, Bolster, Pillows, Pillow-cases with all other the Appurtenances thereunto belonging. Also I give & bequeath unto her my said Wife my black Walnut-Chest, one Oval walnut-Table, & six Walnut-Chairs: all her Wearing Apparel, her saddle, one Iron pot, a pair of Iron Pot-hooks & Pot-hangers, one large Pewter dish, and six Pewter-plates: Also one large Spinning-wheel & one small spinning Wheel: one smoothing Box & the Heaters or Clamps thereunto appertaining. Also I give & devise unto her my said Wife ten Bushels of good Merchantable Wheat, together with one of my best cows and her calf. I also give and bequeath unto her my said Wife a bay Mare which was given unto her by my son James Jefferies. Furthermore it is my Will and Desire, and I do by this my last Testament bequeath unto her my said Wife the Benefit and Privilege of abiding, Dwelling & Inhabiting in the Mansion-house wherein she and I together dwell at this present & that during the Time she shall remain a Widow for the better Subsistance of her and my child Richard. ITEM, In Case that, after the Payment & full Discharge of all my just Debts & Funeral expences, and the Legacies and Bequests before specified, there shall happen any overplus remaining of my Personal Estate, in such Case my Will and Meaning is that the said overplus be equally divided between my said Wife and all my Children as heretofore mentioned, share and share alike.

ITEM, I do hereby nominate constitute and appoint my said Wife Anne Jefferies, and Joseph Webb of Bermingham in the county of Chester aforesaid, to be joint Executors of this my last Will and Testament written upon one sheet of Paper in three Pages in Folio; hereby disallowing, revoking, & disannulling all other Wills & Testaments by me heretofore made: ratifying and confirming this and none other to be my last Will & Testament. IN WITNESS whereof I have hereunto

sett my Hand and seal the Fourth Day of August, in the  
year of our Lord God one thousand seven hundred thirty  
and eight.

his  
ROBERT  JEFFERIES.   
mark

Signed, sealed, published, pronounced  
and declared by the said Testator  
Robert Jefferies, as his last will &  
Testament in the presence of us.

JOSEPH TAYLOR.  
BENJAMIN TAYLOR.  
WM. LOWREY.

[Indorsement]

Chester, April 19th, 1739: Then personally appeared Joseph  
Taylor & Wm. Lowry who being sworn on the holy  
Evangelists of Almighty God, say, & Benjamin  
Taylor on his solemn affirmation sayth they were  
present and saw the testator therein named sign,  
seal, publish, pronounce and declare the within  
writing to be his last will and testament, and that  
at the doing thereof he was of sound mind and  
memory, to the best of their understandings.

Affirmed & sworn before JO. PARKER, D. Reg'r.

BE it Remembered that the nineteenth day of April, Annoq.  
Domini 1739, the Last Will and Testament of Robert Jefferies  
of East Bradford in the said county, yeoman, Dece'd, was  
proved in due form of Law, and Probate and Letters of Admin-  
istration were granted unto his wife Anne Jefferies and Joseph  
Webb, sole Executors in the said Will named; being first  
attested well and truly to administer and to bring in an Inven-  
tory of the said Deced.t's Estate into the Reg'r office for the said  
County of Chester, the first day of May next; to Exhibitt  
a Just account of their Administration when Legally thereunto  
Required.

Given under the seal of the said office

 JO. PARKER. D. Reg'r.

An apraisment of the Goods & Chattles Late of Robert Jefferis of Bradford, Deceased, this 26th day of Aprill 1739, by us the Scribes.

	£	s	D
Purss & Apparrell, - - - -	9	18	0
A Clock & Case, - - - -	6	10	0
five pair of sheets, - - - -	3	0	0
Two Old Table Cloaths, - - - -	0	8	0
a pair of Chest of Draws, - - - -	2	10	0
a feather Bed & bolster, 2 blanketts, 2 Coverlids } Bedsted & Cord, }	5	13	0
A old pine Chest, - - - -	0	8	0
A Chaff bed, 2 Coverlids, 2 Blankets, a bolster } bedsted & cord, }	2	2	0
A Looking Glass, - - - -	0	10	0
Two pillows, - - - -	0	4	0
a long Candlestick, - - - -	0	8	0
four old Chairs, - - - -	0	2	0
a pair old Iron dogs, - - - -	0	2	0
a pair of Stilliards, - - - -	0	15	0
a Iron Hackle, - - - -	0	18	0
a Brass Hackle, - - - -	0	5	0
Three pewter Dishes, 7 plates & 10 spoons,	1	2	2
a Brass mortar, - - - -	0	5	0
a warming pann, - - - -	0	5	0
one Dozen of Tranchers & piggins,	0	4	0
Two pails & two Covers, - - - -	0	3	6
Two Wooden platters, - - - -	0	0	8
a frying pan, - - - -	0	3	0
a Lanthorn, - - - -	0	2	0
Two Tinnpans, 4s, a old Cann, ½ peney,	0	4	0½
A old Tankerd, a Chaping knife, an Egg slice } & pepper box, }	0	3	9
A Brass Boyler, . . . .	0	13	0
a Iron pott & potthooks, - - - -	0	5	6
a pair of pottracks & Tongues, - - - -	0	7	0
a Iron Kettle, - - - -	0	3	0

Carried Over £37 : 14 : 7½

	Brought Over	£37	:	14	:	7½
a small Table & Salt Box,	- -	0	;	1	:	8
Doughtrough,	- - -	0	;	2	:	6
a Churn,	- - -	0	;	1	:	6
a Iron peel, a Gredjron, Sturup & spit	- -	0	;	7	:	0
a Small Iron Skellett,	- -	0	;	1	:	6
a maulrings & three Iron Wedges,	-	0	;	10	:	0
Two pitching Axes,	- - -	0	;	8	:	0
a Old Brested Saddle,	- - -	0	;	5	:	0
a Small Tinn funnell,	- - -	0	;	0	:	9
four Earthen pots, 3 small Cupps, one Mustard Cup	-	0	;	2	:	0
a Cheespress,	- - -	0	;	7	:	0
Two Tubs with midlins & three other tubbs,	-	0	;	17	:	0
four pair of Cards,	- - -	0	;	4	:	0
five Baggs,	- - -	0	;	15	:	0
a powdering, one barrell, a ½ barrell & Chees Tubb	-	0	;	6	:	0
a pair of Swingle trees,	- - -	0	;	1	:	0
Two Cows,	- - -	5	;	15	:	0
fourteen old sheep & eight lambs,	-	6	;	8	:	0
Two Bels,	- - -	0	;	4	:	0
To a Servant man,	- - -	6	;	0	:	0
To a mare & Colt,	- - -	5	;	0	:	0
To Wheat & rye in the Ground,	-	9	;	6	:	0
To 15 Casks of flower in the Mill,	-	7	;	8	:	3
Six Swine,	- - -	2	;	10	:	0
		<hr/>				
		82	;	15	:	9½
Bonds & Cash notes,	- - -	116	;	16	:	0
Intrest Due on two Bonds,	- -	1	;	17	:	9
Book Debts,	- - -	24	;	4	:	4
		<hr/>				
		£ 225	;	13	:	10½

The Aboue was appraised by us the Subscriber this  
Day & year first aboue writter.

RICHARD WOODWARD.

WM. TEMPLE.

[ Filed Ap. 27 ]

## STATEMENT OF SAMUEL GRUBB

Whereas Robart Jeffries of the Township of East Bradford County of Chester and Prounce of Pensilvania, about the Time he the said Robart Mared his Second wife he Gave a bond of Six Hundred Pounds to his sons James and William Jeffries to make ouer his Lands to other of his sons, and amongst the Rest he was to Mak ouer to his two sons Thomas and John Jeffries by a Good and Lawfall Deed in fee Simpel, Cleare of all incumberances what soever all that Land he the Said Robart bought of William Buffington, being by istimation one hundred & ninty Acers in the Township aforesaid, and the said James and William Suffered the said bond to be Canseled, and, it was said, Goot the same Land Made to them selves; & in the year one thousand seven hundred and Thirty Nine I saw the Same bond in the hands of William Webb Sener and the said bond was then Canselled, and the Euedences to the said bond was Henry Pearce Esqr. and Ralph Pyle; and the said William Webb Let me have the sd bond and I Red it and Returned it back to him again. A true Tistimoney of me.

SAMUEL GRUBB.

1739

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At an Orphans Court held at Chester the 16th day of March, Anno Domini 1741-2.

“James Jefferies, Robert Jefferies, William Jefferies and John Cope, the Children and Legatees of the Estate of Robert Jefferies Dece'd, having Petitioned the Court, Setting forth that one Joseph Webb being appointed Executor of the Last Will and Testament of the said Dece'd and taking upon himself the Execution thereof, whereby he Possest himself of a considerable Personal Estate, which after Debts payd descended to your Petitioners; and the

said Joseph Webb refusing to render any ac't of his Adm'on prays that the said Joseph Webb may be summoned to appear before the Court at a Certain day to render any acc't of his Adm'on af'd, and to give Security for what remains in his hands due to your Petitioners. Whereupon the Court Orders the said Joseph Webb to appear at the Orphans Court to be held at Chester the first day of May Term next to render an acc't of his Adm'on, and to give Security as afores'd, and in the meantime to be served with a Copy of this Order,"

There is no further mention of this on the Record but I find the following account on file.

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THE EXECUTORS OF THE LAST WILL OF ROBERT JEFFERIS LATE OF BRADFORD IN THE COUNTY OF CHESTER, DECEASED. . . . . DR.

	£	s	d
To accompt of s'd Estate as <del>9</del> Inventory, Errors			
Excepted, - - - - -	225	13	10½
To advance on Sale . - - - -	7	16	6½
	<hr/>		
Totall sum . .	£ 233	10	4½
Ballance Due to Joseph Webb the sum of	13	7	6
	<hr/>		
	246	17	10½

CR.

	£	s	d
Cash paid for a Coppy of ye will, probate, &c. - - - -	1	5	—
To Expences on Evidences when proved, - - - - -	—	5	—
	<hr/>		
Funerall Expences:— pd to Benj. Ring for his Coffing, - - -	2	0	—
to Wm. Dean for Diging his grave — : 4 : 6	2	4	6
	<hr/>		

	£	s	d
Debts paid: To Wm. Monington	3	14	4
to Robert Skeen	3	7	9
to Archibald M' Neal	1	12	4
to Jno. M' Collum	0	18	3
to Wm. Lowrey	0	6	6
to Jno. Brinton	0	5	10
to Thos. Baldwin Jun'r	0	19	6
to Wm. Jones	4	7	1½
to Wm. Temple	0	19	10
to Charles Turner	2	15	6
to Wm. Andrews	0	10	0
to Jno. Kirgan	1	5	5
to George Entriken	0	6	6
to Richard Buffington	0	12	0
to Jno. Hoops	0	6	7
to Jno. Wilson	0	5	1
to Elizabeth Goodall	0	12	0
to Thos. Durnall	0	5	0
to Hannah Jourden	0	2	6
to Rich'd Moore	0	4	6
to Jno. Wire	0	4	6
to Benj. Hawley	0	5	0
to James Dickey	1	15	11½
to Henry Hastings	0	2	3
to Joseph Taylor	17	15	2¼
to John Taylor	0	5	0
			<hr/> 44 ; 4 ; 5¼
Legacies paid; To Ann Jefferis, widdow	35	0	0
To patience Mackey	1	0	0
to Charity Cope	2	10	0
to George Jefferis	2	10	0
to Jane Skeen	2	0	0
to Ann Duncan	2	0	0
to Mary Temple	2	0	0
to Thomas Jefferis	1	0	0
to John Jefferis	1	0	0
to wareing apparrill divided among the Children,	9	15	0
			<hr/> 58 : 15 : 0



	£	s	d	
Creditt Side brought over,	106	13	11½	
To Commissions for the above sum	8	0	0	}
of 106 ; 13 ; 11½ at 7½ ¢ cent,				
	<hr/>			114 ; 13 ; 11½
In ye hands of ye Legatees; —				
James Jefferis,	4	17	10	
Robert Jefferis,	36	15	8	
William Jefferis,	9	13	1	
George Jefferis,	4	3	7	
Thomas Jefferis,	6	3	11½	
John Jefferis,	3	0	7	
Benj. Jefferis,	25	0	0	
Patient Mackey,	3	0	7	
John Cope,	10	11	8	
Joseph Skeen,	3	1	11	
Thomas Temple,	3	0	7	
Alixander Duncan,	3	0	7	
Ann Jefferis, widdow,	3	7	4	
	<hr/>			115 : 17 : 4½
Outstanding debts:				
John Jones,	4	15	8	
James Dickey,	1	19	10½	
	<hr/>			6 : 15 : 6½
Insolvent debts:				
Thomas Gorman,	5	0	3	
Benjamin Bourne,	4	10	9	
	<hr/>			9 : 11 : 0
	<hr/>			246 : 17 : 10½

Errors Excepted ¢ me

May 28, 1741.

JOSEPH WEBB.

We Thomas Cummings & Samuel Lightfoot being by all parties here Concern'd Nominated & appointed to Vew & Consider the above accompt, have Done accordingly & find that there is a Ballance Due from the Estate to Joseph Webb, Executor to s'd Estate, the full sum of thirteen pounds, seven shillings, & six pence. Given under our hands this twenty Eight day of May, 1742.

THOS. CUMMINGS.

SAM. LIGHTFOOT.

At an Orphan's Court held at Chester the 18th day of June, Anno Domini 1745.

" Anne Archer Petitioned the Court in Behalf of her son Richard Jefferys, who is a minor, Praying that the Court would be pleased to appoint a proper person to be his Guardian, which is allowed of and the Court nominates & appoints Anthony Arnold to be his Guardian, who is Thereupon admitted and hereby Impowered to prosecute and Defend all Suits, Pleas & actions on Behalf of the s'd minor as the Law directs."

From the above it would appear that the widow of Robert Jefferis married again, and tends to confirm the supposition that Richard was his only son by the second marriage. In the absence of the family register the names of his children can not be given with any certainty as to the order of their ages, and the following is but a hypothetical arrangement.

Children of Robert and Jane Jefferis.

Patience, married to Henry Betterton of Nantmeal township:  
— second husband — Mackey.  
Charity, married to John Evans of Birmingham, blacksmith:  
— second mar. in 1721 to John Cope of E. Bradford.  
William, married in 1724 to Elizabeth (Ring) Neild.  
James, married about 1727 to Elizabeth (Tull) Carter.  
Robert, married Eleanor ——— and Elizabeth ———.  
George, married Lydia ———. He died in 1763.  
Jane, married to Joseph Skeen.  
Anne, married to Alexander Duncan.  
Mary, married to Thomas Temple.  
Benjamin,  
Thomas,  
John.

Child of Robert and Ann Jefferis.

Richard.

Additional facts may hereafter be obtained respecting some of these, which will be given in the body of this work.

William Temple, of Pennsbury, Chester County, Pennsylvania, who came from Wiltshire, Eng., as a boy, in 1714, wrote to a niece in that place, in 1772, as follows:

"My brother Thomas married one of the family of Jefferys, from Wiltshire, some of which family, when my son Thomas was in your kingdom, was living at Mumsham [or Melksham?] & Whitley Common, (viz) Robert Jefferys at the former and Edward and Thomas at the latter."

GILBERT COPE.

West Chester, Pa., 6-30-1902.

