

Clayton Historic Preservation, Inc.

Clayton Historic Museum located at
29 East Avenue, Clayton, NJ 08312-0029
P. O. Box 29, Clayton, N. J. 08312-0029

Email:
Website:

CHP@ClaytonHistoric.org
www.ClaytonHistoric.org

Editor: Patricia Lillie

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The Silver Family

The Silver family were a Quaker family who moved from Northern Europe in the late 1600s to settle in Burlington County, New Jersey. The first family members to arrive were James, John, Anne and Archbald Silver. Archbald, a farmer, married Christian Ghaine, who was imported to America as a servant by George Keith of the Quaker movement. On October 10, 1686, Archbald bought one hundred un-surveyed acres of land on the south side of the northern branch of the Rancocas Creek. The seller was Governor Edward Byllinge of West Jersey. In 1695, Archbald and Christian sold the property in order to purchase land along Manne(ing)ton Creek, Salem County.

In 1694, Archbald Jr. was born. Unfortunately, in 1703 Archbald Sr. passed away leaving Archbald Jr. to be the head of the house at the tender age of 9 years.

On April 14, 1720, at age 26, Archbald Jr. married Mary Cowgill. On Feb. 19, 1740, they purchased over 133 acres of land in Salem County along the south side of Oldman's Creek. They were parents to 11 children: Aaron, William, Jane, Abel, Samuel, Ruth, Mary, Lydia, Amy, Sarah and Hannah.

Their eldest child, Aaron, born in 1721, ran a stage coach between Salem and Cooper's Ferry in Camden. Aaron's daughter, Eunice, along with her husband, Zadock, moved their family to Ohio from Salem, New Jersey. There, they named their new settlement Salem as well. Numerous settlers moving westward through Salem, Ohio were grateful for the help they received from the Zadock family. Those settlers recognized their kind ways by naming their settlements Salem as they moved across the country all the way to and including Salem, Oregon.

Samuel, born 1740, the fifth child to Archbald Jr. and Mary, had six children: William, Samuel, Archbald, Rebecca, Ruth and Mary. Samuel with his wife, Rebecca, became the sole inheritors of his father's 133 acres when his father died on Feb. 11, 1772, as his mother, Mary Cowgill Silver, had died in 1767.

On September 30, 1789, Samuel Silver passed away at the young age of 49, leaving his estate to his wife, Rebecca, and his children. Records show the farm was sold on October 30, 1790.

Samuel's second son, also named Samuel, was born December 25, 1784. He and his wife, Margaret, had 10 sons and 1 daughter: David, Isaiah, Jacob, Willis, Daniel, John, Joshua, Benjamin, Sarah Anne, Samuel and William.

Between September and November of 1843, Daniel, John, Joshua, Benjamin and Sarah Anne all suddenly passed away. It was during this generation that the Silver family moved from Quaker beliefs to the Methodist church.

Samuel Jr.'s second eldest, Isaiah, was the first Silver to settle in the Fislerville/Clayton area with his wife, Lydia, when in 1865 he opened a store. He is also the first of the Silver family to be buried in Cedar Green Cemetery (251 E. Academy St., Clayton), on June 2, 1882. His beloved wife's headstone reads: Jan. 8, 1887, age 63 yrs., 11 months, 18 days.~~~~~Continued on Page 03

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