

## DOCUMENTS

Unless otherwise noted, the documents are from the Chester County Archives.

### Property History and List of Owners

1681-William Penn to Mary Penington—1250 Acres “to be taken up in his said Province”

“Daniel Wharley having married the said Mary Penington”

10 & 11 March 1703 the said 1250 acres to Edward Beeson

Who granted 190 acres “scituate in West Bradford” to Edward and Ann Clayton

Who 10 December 1729 did grant and convey a small part to Abraham Marshall & other tenants

Who 11 May 1758 a part of the same to William Clayton “*Who* by means of some other good Conveyance and Assurances duly had & Executed, became lawfully Seized in his Demesne as of ffee, of and in another certain Lott or Piece of Ground, adjoining the aforesaid and being also a part of the first mentioned...”

2 August 1759 to Richard and Rachel Baker

9 June 1764 to Joseph Martin “*Who* also having obtained from Sarah Arnold a small addition to the aforesaid...”

16 May 1768 to William and Elizabeth Clayton “Two acres and a half and twenty perches of Ground, together with the Buildings thereon erected...”

Who 24 October 1769 Reconveyed to Joseph Martin

6 April 1776 *Now this Endenture Witnesseth* ... for 438, 10s. Current money of Pennsylvania to Abraham Marshall...*All* that the hereafter described Lott, Tract, Piece or Parcel of Land, Messuage and Tenement thereunto belonging Scituate in

West Bradford aforesaid, and now known by the name of the Center-House *Beginning*

at a Hickery being a Corner of Land belonging to Bradford Meeting, thence by the same North Fifty Degrees East, Eighteen perches to a post, and North Ten Degrees West, Two Perches to a Post, and North Forty five Degrees East, Thirteen Perches, and North Twenty six Degrees West, Eight Perches & Eight Tenths of a perch to a Post by the Road leading towards Chester &c. , thence North Eighty six Degrees West, Seven Perches and a half to a Black Oak on the North side of said Road in the line of Land now of Humphrey Marshall, thence by the same North Fourteen Degrees West, One perch, & South Seventy six Degrees West, Ten Perches, and South Fourteen Degrees East, One Perch, and South Seventy six Degrees West, one perch and four Tenths of a perch to a post, thence South and by East by Land of Sarah Arnold, Eight Perches to a post by the road leading to Trimble's Mill, thence by the same South Four Degrees West, twenty one Perches to the place of Beginning, Containing Two Acres & a half and Twenty Perches of Land.”  
[Deed Book V, Vol. 20, p. 325-327]

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**1764: August 28, Court of Quarter Sessions:**

**The Petition of Joseph Martin  
of the Township of West Bradford in the County of Chester  
Humbly Sheweth—**

“That there is a Necessity for a Publick house for the Entertainment of Travellers in said Township, there being many Large roads Much used by Travellers and no house of Entertainment upon any of them for Several Miles Distant so that they are often times obliged to be Burdensome to the Neighbours or want Refreshment. And **Your Petitioner has Now Purchased a Lott with a house thereon, And is now Erecting a Commodious house at the place**, it being Convenient for most of the roads and Many Miles remote from any house of Entertainment upon any of them, Your Petitioner therefore prays You would be pleased to recommend him to his honour the Governor for a Lycence to keep a house of entertainment for Travellers at the place aforesaid.”

[25 subscribers to the petition, including Humphrey Marshall]

**1765 Tax Records: Joseph Martin:**

120 Acres Land with buildings @ 15pryr. 13/6

40 Acres Woodland—at 8 Per 4/9

A Tenant at 2/10

**Tavarn & 3 Acres Land at 1 pr yr 9**

4 Horses 5 Cattle 13 sheep 7/5

Total: 2 16 / 9

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Proprietary [State Govt.] Tax List 1765 CHESTER COUNTY 18<sup>TH</sup> PENCE RATE  
Josh. Martin 160 Acres 4 horses 5 cattle 13 sheep 0 servants  
[PaArch 3<sup>rd</sup> Series Vol. XI, p. 41]

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Proprietary Tax List 1766 18<sup>th</sup> Pence Rate  
Josep. Martin, **tavern** 3 Acres 1 horse 3 cattle  
[PaArch 3<sup>rd</sup> Series Vol. XI, p. 173]

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Proprietary Tax List 1767 18<sup>th</sup> Pence Rate  
Joseph Martin, tavern 2 acres 1 horse 2 cattle 2 sheep  
[PaArch 3<sup>rd</sup> Series Vol. XI, p. 333]

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Proprietary Tax List 1768 18<sup>th</sup> Pence Rate  
Joseph Martin, tavern, t. k. [tavern keeper] 0 acres 1 horse 2 cattle 2 sheep  
[PaArch 3<sup>rd</sup> Series Vol. XI, p. 479]

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1768, Last Tuesday in August: Court of Quarter Sessions:

The Petition of William Clayton  
of West Bradford  
Humbly Sheweth

That your Petitioner hath Purchased the place Called the Center House Where Joseph Martin Lately kept Tavern in Said Township, where there hath been a Good House of Entertainment these Several years, and as Your Petitioner hath a Plantation With Meadows and pasture Ground adjoining the Same, **he hopes he Shall be able to keep a house of Entertainment with Reputation**, and Therefore Prays that you may be pleased to Grant him your recommendation to his honour the Governor for the Obtaining a Lycence to keep a Publick house of Entertainment at the place aforesaid...

[Joseph Martin was one of the subscribers, along with 18 others, including Humphrey Marshall]

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Joseph Martin resumed ownership in 1769 and continued until 1776.

[Did he hit the lottery or something?]

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Proprietary Tax List 1769 18<sup>th</sup> Pence Rate  
Joseph Martin, tavernkeeper, tavern 202 ½ acres 1 horse 2 cattle 6 sheep  
[PaArch 3<sup>rd</sup> Series Vol. XI, p. 568]

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Proprietary Tax List 1771 18<sup>th</sup> Pence Rate  
Joseph Martin, tavern 202 acres 1 horse 2 cattle 6 sheep  
[PaArch 3<sup>rd</sup> Series Vol. XI, p. 660]

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Proprietary Tax List 1774 18<sup>th</sup> Pence Rate  
Joseph Martin, tavern 70 acres 0 horse 2 cattle 6 sheep  
[PaArch 3<sup>rd</sup> Series Vol. XII, p. 76]

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**1775, May 30: Court of Quarter Sessions:**

**The Petition of Joseph Martin of West Bradford  
Humbly Sheweth—**

**That having for Divers Years past, by Means of your Recommendation had a Lycence for Keeping a Publick House of Entertainment in Said Township, Which Lycence is Now Near Expiring, he therefore Requests that You may be Pleased to Grant him your recommendation to his Honour the Governor, for Renewing the same...**

We whose Names are hereunder Subscribed being Well Acquainted with the Scituation, and Your Petitioner do Certifie that **he hath Kept a Good House and We presume with as regular Order as Most Publick Houses are kept**, therefore Desire you May Grant the above Petition—

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**1776, May 28: Court of Quarter Sessions:**

**The Petition of Robert Peoples of West Bradford  
Humbly Sheweth—**

**That he hath Rented, the Tavern lately kept by Joseph Martin known by the Name of the Center House and the Lycence for Keeping a Publick house Now Expiring he therefore Humbly Requests that you may be Pleased to Grant him your Recommendation to his Honour the Governor for Obtaining his Lycence to keep a Publick house of Entertainment at the place aforesaid...**

We the Subscribers being Acquainted with your Petitioner do Recommend him as a Capable person for the above Undertaking...

[List of subscribers includes Humphrey Marshall and Joseph Martin]

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**1776, July 24: Joseph Martin sells the Center House to Abraham Marshall, nephew of Humphrey Marshall, and former captain of Atlee's Musketry Battalion. Abraham resigned his commission on July 12 at the urging of his uncle Humphrey.**

Independence meant the end of the old Provincial and county governments and the introduction of a new system. The divisions between Loyalists, Whigs, and neutrals created much havoc. The Chief Justice of the County, Judge William Moore, and the High Sheriff of Chester County, Nathaniel Vernon, were staunch Loyalists. Recognition of legitimate authority was a major issue for the citizens of the county.

The British invasion compelled the removal of the county government from Chester into the back country, and it did not get any legal business done until the Spring of 1778, holding court sessions at various taverns away from the active war zone.

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[May, 1778: The British held Philadelphia, Washington's Army was at Valley Forge, the Pennsylvania Government (the Supreme Executive Council) met in Lancaster. The Chester County government had evacuated Chester, so the court sessions were held inland at various taverns. This court session may have been held at the Ship Tavern.]

**1778, May 26: Court of Quarter Sessions**

**The Petition of James Porter of West Bradford  
Humbly Sheweth.**

**That your Petitioner hath rented the House known by the Name of the Center House and Desires you will Grant him your recommendation so that he may obtain a Lycence for keeping a publick house at the place Aforesaid...**

[The first two subscribers are **Abraham Marshall and Joseph Martin.**]

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**State [formerly Proprietary] Tax List 1779**

The only tavern owner listed in the township is:

**James Bruce, tavern 2 acres 1 horse 1 cattle**

[No tavern petition exists for 1779 in the county archives. This may or may not be the Center House, but the 2 acres makes it likely and no other tavern is listed in the township.]

[PaArch 3<sup>rd</sup> Series Vol. XII, p. 196]

[Note: Abraham Marshall is listed under “Freemen” in this 1779 tax list.]

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Between 1780 and 1783, Thomas Carpenter was the tavern license holder.

**State [formerly Proprietary] Tax List 1780**

The only tavern owner listed in the township is:

**James Bruce, tavern** 2 acres 1 horse 1 cattle

[This may or may not be the Center House, but the 2 acres makes it likely and no other tavern is listed in the township.]

[PaArch 3<sup>rd</sup> Series Vol. XII, p. 330]

[Note: Abraham Marshall is listed under “Freemen” in this 1780 tax list.]

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Between 1780 and 1783, Thomas Carpenter was the tavern license holder.

**State [formerly Proprietary] Tax List 1781**

The only tavern owner listed in the township is:

**Tho’s Beaumont, tavern** 52 acres 1 horse 1 cattle

[This may or may not be the Center House, but no other tavern is listed in the township.]

[PaArch 3<sup>rd</sup> Series Vol. XII, p. 372]

On the Chester County Rates List 1781:

**Thomas Beaumont, t.k. [tavern keeper]**

[PaArch 3<sup>rd</sup> Series Vol. XII, p. 555]

[Note: Abraham Marshall is listed under “Freemen” in this 1781 tax list.]

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From 1786 until 1800, Abraham Marshall was the tavern license holder.

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**1792: May Term, Court of Quarter Sessions:**

**The Petition of Abraham Marshall, Innkeeper  
respectfully sheweth—**

That your Petitioner still continues to dwell at **that old Accustomed House of Entertainment, known by name of the Centre house, in West Bradford**, and humbly Craves your necessary recommendation for the renewal of Licence for the same...

**The Petition and Remonstrance of the Subscriber [Abraham Marshall]  
respectfully Sheweth~**

That your Petitioner, several years since, purchased of Joseph Martin, the Public House, which has been kept as such above twenty years, and known by name of the Centre house, together with a Small Lot of Land thereto appurtenant, with the sole view and expectation of keeping it a Public house. That he has himself kept the same about Six Years, and he trusts with good reputation, and is now making a considerable addition to the Buildings for the better Accommodation of Travellers &c. When he is thus, as it were, just beginning to enjoy the Advantages of his Purchase, **his Neighbour the said Joseph Martin, thro' envy or ill will, wishes to deprive him thereof**, as is evident by his Praying your recommendation for Licence for a Public house, and that only at the distance of about one hundred Perches [550 yards] from **the Old Accustomed Public house** of your Petitioner. - And as it is a truth notorious that no Plea of Necessity for another Public house in that neighbourhood, can be urged with any degree of reason, when there are already Three such within the distance of nine Miles from West Chester; that therefore **the endeavours of his neighbour must arise either from ill will, or a desire to encrease in the neighbourhood Allurements to Idleness & dissipation.**

Your Petitioner therefore Prays that the Petition of the sd. Joseph Martin, as being apparently founded upon such motives, may not be granted.

Abraham Marshall

We the Subscribers being informed that Joseph Martin above named, designs to Petition the Court for Licence for the keeping of a Public house, at a Small distance from the Centre house in West Bradford, are free to declare as our opinion that one Public house in the neighbourhood is altogether sufficient for the entertainment of the Travellers. That the Petitioner Abraham Marshall is best prepared, and has undoubtedly the best Plea for being allowed to keep such house. And therefore that the Petition of the said Joseph Martin being without foundation in Necessity or in justice ought not to be granted, which we submit to the Court.

[38 subscribers, including Humphrey Marshall, Col. John Hannum (founder of West Chester), Joel Baily, Emmor Jeffries, Col. Richard Humpton, Col. Joseph McClellan]

**POLITICS, ELECTIONS, and PUBLIC MEETINGS**

**BRANDYWINE CANAL PROPOSAL**

“Chester County, August 13 [1792]...there is great zeal and unanimity prevailing amongst us in this neighbourhood, for opening the canal along the margin of Brandywine, to

communicate with the tide water at Wilmington, agreeable to our petition last spring. On the 6<sup>th</sup> instant a large number of respectable citizens of this county met **at the Centre-house, in the forks of the Brandywine, when a committee of seven were chosen** to attend on the commissioners appointed by Assembly of Delaware, the 27<sup>th</sup> of this month, at Wilmington, in order to examine and level the ground on the side of Brandywine to the line of this state; if it suits your convenience to go with them, your curiosity will be gratified in **exploring the hills which this delightful water meanders through, affording an agreeable murmur, so enchanting to poetical fancy...**[*Penna Gazette*, August 22, 1792]

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“THE INHABITANTS of the County of Chester, are hereby requested to meet **at the Centre house, kept by Abraham Marshall, in West Bradford**, on FRIDAY the 10<sup>th</sup> Day of October next, at 10 o'clock, A. M. in order to form a TICKET for the ensuing Election. Sept. 29.” [*Penna. Gazette*, October 1, 1794]

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“The Inhabitants of the county of Chester, are requested to meet **at the House of Abraham Marshall, in the township of West Bradford**, on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of October next, at 10 o'clock, A. M. in order to consult on suitable Characters to be formed into a General Ticket for the ensuing election. September 16, 1795.” [*Penna. Gazette*, September 23, 1795]

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“The Inhabitants of the county of CHESTER are requested to meet **at the house of Abraham Marshall in the township of West Bradford**, in said county, on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of October next, in order to consult on a general ticket for the ensuing election. Sept. 14, 1796.” [*Penna. Gazette*, September 28, 1796]

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“At a meeting of a number of Federal citizens of the counties of Chester and Delaware, at West Chester, on Saturday, the 30<sup>th</sup> of August, 1800, it was resolved to support JOSEPH HEMPHILL, Esquire, at the ensuing election, for Member of Congress for said counties...it was resolved, that the Federal citizens of Chester County be requested to meet **at the house of Abraham Marshall, in West Bradford**, on the 30<sup>th</sup> of September next, for the purpose of fixing on a ticket generally for the said county, and that the whole

proceedings of the day be published in Hall and Sellers' Gazette..." [Penna. Gazette, September 24, 1800]

TAX RECORDS - CHESTER COUNTY ARCHIVES

**1765: P-8**

#4: Joseph Martin:

120 Acres Land with buildings @ 15pryr. 13/6

40 Acres Woodland—at 8 Per 4/9

A Tenant at 2/10

**Tavern & 3 Acres Land at 1 pr yr 9**

4 Horses 5 Cattle 13 sheep 7/5

Total: 2 16 / 9

**1767: P-10**

Joseph Martin:

**2 Acres & Tavern @ L 16 per an. 14/4**

1 Hors 2 Cows 2 Sheep 2/1

Rent Receivd 2 L 1/10

**1778 State Tax: (Sla-5-4)**

Joseph Martin:

60 Acres & Buildings @ L6

2 horses 2 Cattle 5? Sheep

**1778 County Tax: (C 33-C36b, Roll LR 250.3)**

Joseph Martin 4/3

**1780:**

Joseph Martin listed as an inhabitant of West Bradford

**1783:**

Joseph Martin: 1 horse, 2 Cattle, 8 Sheep, 65 acres, 1 house, 1 barn

Thomas Carpenter, Assessor, Joseph Marten & Robert Woodward Assistants

### The Joseph Martin Family

Joseph Martin married Hannah Harlan, and had children—Joseph, Caleb, Rebecca (m. Joseph Woodward), Hannah (m. Benj. Miller), Lydia (m. John Woodward), Mary (m. Daniel Leonard). Joseph Died 1802 [Futhey & Cope, p. 652]

#### JOSEPH MARTIN:

Hannah Harlan & Joseph Martin—complained of at Bradford Meeting in 1742 for marriage by a priest, she made acknowledgement, he was disowned in 1742.

#### Children:

Rebecca—born?, married about 1760 to Joseph Woodward—both disowned for marriage by a priest.

Caleb— born?, married 1765 at Bradford to Hannah Pierce of Newlin Twp.

Mary— born?, married about 1768 to Daniel Leonard, disowned by Bradford and Kennett Meetings for marriage by a priest.

Lydia—born April 3, 1745, married about 1772 John Woodward—disowned in 1773 for being married out of meeting.

Hannah—born July 19, 1753, married July 30, 1771 to Benjamin Miller—disowned by Bradford Meeting in 1772.

Joseph Martin, Jr.—born November 19, 1758, died 1815. Married Hannah Baily (1763-1834)—disowned by Bradford Meeting in 1782 for marrying out of meeting—he was a shoemaker by trade.

(Gilbert Cope, *Genealogy of the Baily Family...Descendants of Joel Baily*, Lancaster, Wickersham Printing Co., 1912, p. 50)

\*Heitman says 1<sup>st</sup> **Lieutenant Joseph Martin of Baxter's Pennsylvania Battalion of the Flying Camp**, June 1776; **taken prisoner at Fort Washington 16<sup>th</sup> November 1776**; **exchanged 2<sup>nd</sup> November 1780**, and did not reenter the service. [Heitman, p. 382]

The **West Bradford Tax List for 1780 (S-5a)** lists Joseph Martin valued at a rate of L28. On the same list, under “Freemen” is Joseph Martin, listed at L20. The “Freeman” [single man, landless] is Joseph Martin, Jr.

The **West Bradford List of Inhabitants for 1783** lists “Joseph Marten” with 1 horse, 2 Cattle, 8 Sheep, 65 acres, 1 house, 1 barn. Another “Joseph Marten” is also listed as owning 2 horses, and has the notation ‘shoemaker’— Joseph Jr.

Much of the Flying Camp in 1776 was from Chester County; unfortunately, its records are largely missing. We do not have definitive proof that Lieut. Joseph Martin is the son of the tavern keeper. However, the details from JP Martin's story are extraordinary, especially with one account saying that Joseph was taken at Fort Lee [across the Hudson from Fort Washington] and died on the way home, the other saying he was taken at Fort Washington and was exchanged in 1780. He certainly did return to Chester County.

**A Connecticut Yankee in Chester County, or  
Joseph Plumb Martin's Tale of Meeting His Namesake:**

Joseph Plumb Martin was a private in a Connecticut Regiment, sent from Valley Forge and stationed in Downingtown on foraging detail from December 25, 1777, until late April, 1778. Among his many adventures with the local people, he tells one incredible story of meeting a man with the same name as he. The time frame was in the Spring, 1778, and weather records reveal that from the evening of Friday, April 10 until Monday, April 20, the weather in the region was rainy and warm. Joseph referred to a 'tedious rainstorm that lasted for several days:'

"While the storm continued, to pass our time several of our party went to a tavern in the neighborhood. We here gambled a little for some liquor by throwing a small dart or stick, armed at one end with a pin, at a mark on the ceiling of the room. While I was at this amusement I found that the landlord and I bore the same name, and upon further discourse I found that he had a son about my age [Joseph Martin (b. 11/19/58) would have been 19½, Joseph Plumb Martin (b. 11/1/60) would have been 17 ½], whose given name was the same as mine. This son was taken prisoner at Fort Lee, on the Hudson River, in the year 1776, and died on his way home. These good people were almost willing to persuade themselves that I was their son. There were two very pretty girls, sisters to the deceased young man, who seemed wonderfully taken up with me, called me 'brother,' and I fared none the worse for my name. I used often, afterwards, in my cruises to that part of the state, to call in as I passed, and was always well treated by the whole family. The landlord used to fill my canteen with whiskey or peach or cider brandy to enable me, as he said, to climb the Welch mountains. I always went there with pleasure and left with regret. I often wished afterwards that I could find more namesakes."

[George F. Scheer, *Private Yankee Doodle...by Joseph Plumb Martin*, Boston: Little, Brown, and Company, 1962, p. 115]

[Note: Joseph Martin had sold the tavern to Abraham Marshall in 1776, and in 1778 Thomas Carpenter was granted the license as tavernkeeper. Joseph Martin continued to live in the area and apparently continued working at the tavern. He later petitioned to open what is now the Marshalton Inn, only to be counterpetitioned by the Centre House.]

**Military Data for Joseph Martin, Jr.**

It is not certain that Joseph Martin Jr. was an officer—the records are incomplete, but the fact that most if not all of the enlisted men were released by the British at the end of 1776 and many officers stayed in captivity until 1780, suggests that he may have been an officer.

Listed under “Flying Camp”: Joseph Martin, Lieutenant—Depreciation Pay (Pa Arch. 5<sup>th</sup> Series Vol. V, 230)

Northampton County: 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Joseph Martin, July 9, 1776 [Pa Arch Series 5, Vol. VIII, 18.]

1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Joseph Martin, of Mount Bethel Township, July 9, 1776 [Pa Arch Ser. 5, Vol. VIII, 21]

“From a manuscript in the possession of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, it appears the foregoing company was incorporated into Col. Baxter’s Battalion...the names of the killed, wounded and missing after the Battle of Fort Washington, on the 16<sup>th</sup> of November, 1776: Joseph Martin, 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant.” [Pa Arch 5<sup>th</sup> Series, Vol. VIII, 24]

1781 Chester County Militia:

3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Chester County Militia, Commanded by Lieut. Col. John Hannum

1<sup>st</sup> Company, West Bradford: Captain Thomas Carpenter [PaArch 5<sup>th</sup> Series Vol. V, 569]

2<sup>nd</sup> Company, Pennsbury: Private Joseph Martin

1782: 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, Lt. Col. John Hannum, in Active Service

1<sup>st</sup> Company, West Bradford, Captain Thomas Carpenter

Private Joseph Martin

1783? Col. John Hannums Batalion, Chester Co. Militia,

Thos. Cheney Sub-Lieut.

Joseph Martin listed under 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Militia

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### Brandywine: The “Martin’s Tavern Dispatch”

General Sullivan to General Washington, Sept. 11, 1777.

Brintons Ford Sepr 11<sup>th</sup> 1777

Dr. General Since I sent you the message by Major Morris I Saw Major Joseph Spear of the Militia who Came This morning from a Tavern Called Martins on the Forks of the Brandywine—he came from thence to Welches Tavern & heard nothing of the Enemy about the Forks of the Brandywine & is Confident they are not in that Quarter So that Colo Hazens Information must be wrong. I have sent to that Quarter to know whether there is any foundation for the Report & shall give yr. Excy. the Earliest Information.

[GW Papers online. loc.gov]

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### **John Hannum, Squire Cheyney, and Brandywine:**

Colonel John Hannum is most famous in Chester County history as the founder of West Chester. He held many offices in county government in his lifetime and was an important figure in local affairs and politics.

1<sup>st</sup> Battalion- 1776: James Moore, Colonel; John Hannum, Lieut. Colonel  
1<sup>st</sup> Battalion: Col. John Hannum, commander May 17, 1777. [Pa Arch 5<sup>th</sup> Series, Vol. V, 452-453]

1<sup>st</sup> Class Chester County Militia Regiment of Foot Commanded by John Hannum, Col. 28<sup>th</sup> Jany. 1777, stationed at Chester [PaArch 5<sup>th</sup> Series Vol. V., 550]

1<sup>st</sup> Class Chester County Militia Regiment of Foot, Col. John Hannum Commanding, now at Chester, June-July, 1777. [Pa Arch 5<sup>th</sup> Ser. Vol. V., pp. 456, 551, 554, 556, 558, 702, 801.]

Camp at Whitemarsh, November 24<sup>th</sup>, 1777: 1<sup>st</sup> Class Chester County Militia Regiment  
1 Col., 1 Lt. Col., 1 Major, 8 Captains, 14 Lieutenants, 6 Ensigns, 1 Qr. Master, 1 Surgeon, 29 Sergeants, 7 drummers, 5 fifers, 226 fit for duty [Pa Arch 5<sup>th</sup> Ser. Vol. V, 36, 38]

1780, May 10- Lieutenant Col. John Hannum, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion [PaArch 5<sup>th</sup> Series Vol. V, 558]  
1782

“John Hannum settled on a large farm on the Brandywine and Valley Creek, in East Bradford, which had been purchased by his father.

“At the time the British army invaded Chester County...Colonel Hannum resided at the ‘Centre House’ (now in the village of Marshallton) between the two main branches of the river Brandywine, and the night of September 10, was passed by Thomas Cheyney, Esq. a relative of Col. Hannum [Hannum’s sister Mary was married to Cheyney’s brother Richard], at the house of the latter. (At that perilous crisis it was not deemed prudent for Squire Cheyney to lodge at his own house.) Next morning—being Brandywine battle-day—the two set out together to visit the American army, known to be then in the vicinity of Chads’ Ford. As they descended towards the west branch of the stream, near Trimble’s mill and ford, they discovered coming down the hills opposite a very numerous body of soldiers, evidently British. This very much surprised Messrs. Hannum and Cheyney, and they moved round the adjacent hills, in order to observe the direction taken by the enemy. Finding them going toward Jeffries’ Ford, on the east branch, and believing them to

constitute the chief portion of the English army, our friends resolved at once, and at some personal risk, to proceed with the intelligence to Gen. Washington. Squire Cheyney, being mounted on a fleet hackney, pushed down the stream from Jeffries' Ford until he found the American commander-in-chief...

“Col. Hannum remained with the army during that unfortunate day, and in its retreat...[after the Paoli Massacre] Col. Hannum returned to his residence, where, a short time afterwards, he was captured one night in his bed by a party of British light-horse, who had been piloted hither by a Tory neighbor, and he was carried a prisoner to Philadelphia. The party robbed Mrs. Hannum of her gold watch, and took everything of value in the house that they could carry away. The colonel subsequently made his escape [March 17, 1778, with Percy Frazer]....”

[Futhey and Cope, 586]

### Hannum's Letter to Washington Describing His Capture and Escape

Bradford Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>, 1779

[To George Washington]

Sir

I this day Recv'd your favor of the seventh and am Much surprised to find that the Enemy can have any claim on me under Pretence of my Voliating [sic] my Parrole [.] I return you my unfaned [unfeigned] Thanks for your Care and friendly Conduct on my part and will in as Concise a manner as possible give you Information of the manner of my being Taken prisoner and the manner of making my Escape[,] believing at the Time that I was under no sort of Parrole whatsoever. Twas Evidently the Opinion of all the principal Officers Confin'd with me who Assisted me in my Enterprise. **I was Taken Prisoner the Night of the seventh of October 1777 by a Detacmt. [detachment] of the 16<sup>th</sup> Ridgm. of British Dragoons[,] was Conveyd to the City and was Lodged in the state house with A number of American offrs.** some time after was sent to the new goal [Walnut St. Jail] and there confind till February fallowing when Majors Gyles[,] Harper and myself Petitioned Sir William Howe in behalf of all the Officers in Prison Praying to be Permitted on Parrole or to be confined in some more helthy Place[,] Disorder Raging much at that Time in Goal— In a short time after Mr. Ferguson the then British Commisary of Prisoners informed us that our Patition was Favoured and that We should be parrold to the swan Tavron in third street if we Chosed and Requested Col. Coates[,] Major Harper and myself To go to sd Place and view the conveniencies so if it won't Do—saying that it is as the Intentions of Sir William to make the situation of the Prisoners as agreeable as Possible... [George Washington Papers Online, Series 4, General Correspondence, Image 463, loc.gov.]

#### **John Hannum- Chester County militia**

“Col. Hanam Militia had a Watch taken from him by the Lt. Dragoons when taken from his House after Battle of Brandywine.”

[MS List of Complaints from American Officers held Prisoner in Philadelphia, document headed "State House, Philadelphia, Nov. 17, 1777, To His Excellency Sir William Howe." HQP, Carleton Papers, PRO 30/55, vol. 6.]

Hannum represented Chester County at the State Ratification Convention for the Constitution, along with Anthony Wayne, Richard Downing, and Thomas Cheney.

Hannum died Feb. 7, 1799, and is buried in Bradford Meeting yard.

Margery Hannum Gibbons was John Hannum's sister; she went to Philadelphia with Polly Frazer to take things to them while prisoners.

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**Tavern Owners After 1800:**

1800-1801: Abraham Marshall

1802: William Marshall

1803-1804: Abraham Marshall

1805: James Miller

1806: Joseph Miller

1807: James Miller

1808: Joseph Miller

1809-1811: James Chamberlain

1815-1816: James Chamberlain

1818-1833: Isaac Carpenter

1834: John Worrall

1835-1838: Thomas Carpenter

1839-1841: Milton Keech

1842-1845: Israel Lamborn

1846: Hanson Thornbury

1847: Israel Lamborn

1848: Richard Milleson

1851-1853: Thomas Speakman ?

1854: Thomas Speakman [Centre House Hotel]

1855: Thomas Speakman?

1856-1858: Richard M. Speakman

1858-1866: John Steel[e]

1867: Elizabeth Milleson

1868-1873: Robert B. Lilley

1875-1876: William Steel

1877- : Benton Pierce French