

The
Ancestry
Of
Alexander Robison
1800 – 1879

By

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Revised
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Acknowledgment

I wish to express our thanks and deep felt gratitude to Mark Christian Robison, great great grandson of Alexander Robison for contributing this very professional report on the ancestry of Alexander Robison.

Mark has spent countless hours of research verifying the parentage of Alexander Robison and has traveled to many different locations gathering information for this report.

We have reviewed this report in great detail and consider it to be an accurate record of the ancestry of Alexander Robison. Earlier reports showing different parents of Alexander Robison than those shown in this report are in error. Genealogical records should be changed to reflect the ancestry shown in this report.

Robert R. Robison

President of the Alexander Robison family organization

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(Great Great Grandson)

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Table of Contents

1	Ancestry of Alexander Robison, 1800-1879
16	Pedigree of the Ancestry and Descendants of Alexander Robison
17	Map of the Pertinent Regions of Pennsylvania & Maryland
18	Key Record # 1: Franklin County, PA: Orphan's Court Docket, B:208
20	Key Record #2: Frederick Co., MD: Land Records, Liber JS, 26:468 27
	Key Record #3: Frederick Co., MD: Land Records, Liber JS, 49:8



Alexander Robison



Nancy Ellen Wagaman

During the winter of 1842-43 in the Cumberland Valley of south central Pennsylvania, just west of South Mountain, in the vicinity of Tomstown, Quincy Township, Franklin County, Alexander Robison and his wife of 21 years, Nancy Ellen Wagaman Robison, were baptized"¹ members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. This choice forever changed the course of their lives and thousands of their descendants. It filled them with a purpose that would lead them to leave their homes and familiar lands 17 years later to travel over 2000 miles by rail, boat, wagon and handcart to the valley of the Great Salt Lake in the Territory of Utah to build up the Kingdom of God with their fellow saints. This purpose would consume the lives and destinies of their 11 children and leave an enduring legacy of faith and love.

¹ Terman, William, "Notebook, 1843-1844", Historical Department, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Salt Lake City, Utah, Call #MS1087: "February 10th, 1843, Quincy township Franklin County Pennsylvania.. A list of the names of the Saints of the Union Branch of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latterday Saints that was organized on the 22nd Day of January 1843. Levi Thornton, William Terman, Maryan Rock, Catherine Terman, Alexander Robison, Sarah Rock, Margaret Lang, Catherine Rock, Susannah Reed, Nancy Robison., Eliza Thornton...."

² Grace Foutz Boulter and Mary Foutz Corngan, "History of Bishop Jacob Foutz Sr. and Family," Historical Department, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Salt Lake City, Utah, Call #MS 8473: "On November 16, 1842, Jacob Foutz records that he baptized Levi Thornton and wife, Elizabeth."

³ "History of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at Fairview, Franklin Co., PA.," Church History 1869-1965, Family History Center, Fairview Ward, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Fairview, Pennsylvania: "According to Alexander Rock, Levi Thornton was the first person baptized at Fairview." (N.B. The name of Tomstown was later changed to Fairview).

⁴ La Virda Robison Stuehser, Provo, Utah: "Family of Alexander Robison & Nancy Ellen Wagaman_ (a compilation of historical vignettes of their lives and those of some of their children), "Alexander Robison & Nancy Ellen Wagaman": "Alexander was converted to the church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in 1854 by Elder Angus M. Cannon, a Mormon missionary from Utah. Nancy Ellen was baptized and confirmed by Elder William Tarman, a missionary from Utah on 15 May 1854." (N.B. This latter reference conflicts with the evidence presented in the two previous footnotes. There is no reference to the information source in this document, however. It is possible that Angus M. Cannon rebaptized them in 1854. It is also possible that the information in this compilation is incorrect, as the Terman and Foutz records predate this record).

Alexander Robison: Early Records

Who was this Alexander Robison? What are his roots? This has been the focus of years of research by a number of individuals.^{5,6,7,8,9,10,11,11,13} Until recently, it was known only that he came from Quincy Township, Franklin County, Pennsylvania, his birthdate being listed as 20 OCT 1800.^{14,15} Although Quincy Township was not formed from a part of Washington Township until 1838,¹⁶ the Quincy area had been settled as early as 1733.¹⁷ For the purposes of research, it should be remembered that pre-1838 records for the Quincy Township area are listed under Washington Township.

Alexander Robison first appears by name in the census records of the United States in the 1830 Census of Washington Township, Franklin County, Pennsylvania." Tax records for Washington Township also first list Alexander Robison in 1830 with a house and a lot and one cow. There is no mention of his name in these tax records from 1786 to 1830; not even as a single

⁵ Lula R. Brough, Bountiful, Utah: 21 July 1938 and 14 Nov 1938 Letters Mrs. Marge Kieffer, Chambersburg, Pa., on file at Kittochtinny Historical Society, Chambersburg, PA.

⁶ Geo. F. Robison, Salt Lake City, Utah: 18 Nov 1947 Letter to Recorder of Vital Statistics, Quincy, Franklin Co., Pa. on file at Kittochtinny Historical Society, Chambersburg, PA.

⁷ Allen S. Willie, Syracuse, Utah: footnote documented Family Group Record of Alexander Robison and Nancy Ellen Wagaman.

⁸ Marie Nielson: Bibliography of books and microfilm records at the Family History Library, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Salt Lake City, Utah, pertaining to Robison, Rock and Wagaman families in Franklin & Cumberland Counties, Pennsylvania; Washington, Frederick, & Dorchester Counties, Maryland. Research supported by the Alexander Robison Family Organization, Robert R. Robison, President. ⁹ L. Ferrin Lindsey, for Richard W. Price Associates Genealogical Services, Salt Lake City, Utah: 21 March 1985 Report #8506; 5 Feb 1988 Report #8506. Research supported by the Alexander Robison Family Organization, Robert R. Robison, President.

¹⁰ L. Ferrin Lindsey, Salt Lake City, Utah: December 1992 Report; 20 Jan 1993 Report. Research supported by the Alexander Robison Family Organization, Robert R. Robison, President. " Judith G. Ison, Accredited Genealogist, Salt Lake City, Utah: 27 February 1989 Report. Research supported by the Alexander Robison Family Organization, Robert R. Robison, President. ¹¹ Clifford L. Stott, Accredited Genealogist, Orem Utah: 8 May 1993 Report; 22 Jun 1993 Report; 28 Aug 1993; 26 Nov 1994 Report. Research supported by Mark Christian Robison. ¹² La Virda Robison Stuehser, Provo, Utah: Family of Alexander Robison & Nancy Ellen Wagaman, a compilation of historical vignettes of their lives and those of some of their children. Contributions by Lucy Robison Turner, Geneal Rock Robison, Franey Eardley Clucas Archibald, Rachel Sabina (Ada) Robison Rogers.

"Temple Index Bureau, Index Card to Salt Lake Temple, #10166, Book 2F, Page 347: When born "20 OCT abt-1800"

¹³ La Virda Robison Stuehser, Provo, Utah: Family of Alexander Robison & Nancy Ellen Wagaman (a compilation of historical vignettes of their lives and those of some of their children), *Alexander Robison & Nancy Ellen Wagaman*: "Alexander Robison was born 23 Oct 1800 at Harrisburg, Franklin Co., Pa." (N.B. I question the validity of this birthday and especially the birthplace as Harrisburg, as will become evident in the later text of this article).

¹⁴ Franklin County Pennsylvania Area Key, 2nd Edition, Florence Clint, Alexander Hamilton Free Memorial Library, Waynesboro, Pennsylvania, page 64.

¹⁵ Ibid., page 64.

¹⁶ 1830 Census of the United States, Washington Township, Franklin County, PA, Family History Library, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Salt Lake City, Utah: US/Canada Microfilm #020625.

freeman!¹⁹ Did he really live in Washington Township prior to 1830? If not, where did he come from? Who were his parents?

Thomas Robison Theory

Alexander Robison has been said to be the son of Thomas Robison who lived in Washington Township as early as 1805, owning one cow.²⁰ It is believed that this same Thomas Robison signed a contract with a schoolteacher, Francis McKeon, to teach his children on 12 SEP 1808.^{2,22} Most of the cosignatories²³ to this document were individuals who lived in the vicinity of Quincy. Thomas appears in the Washington Township, Franklin County, Tax Records in 1805, but not again until 1812 from which time he appears almost every year through 1823.

Thomas Robison's name is present in the 1800 U.S. Census for Washington Township next to Jacob Waggaman (sic), with four boys under 10 years old in his household. Was Alexander among them? Perhaps not, because the census was traditionally taken in the late summer and fall of the year. It is likely that Alexander was not yet born as his birthdate is at the end of October in 1800.

In the 1810 U.S. Census,²⁴ Thomas Robison again appears two names away from Andrew Wagaman (probably Nancy Ellen Wagaman's father), and three names away from Jacob Wagaman (probably Nancy Ellen Wagaman's grandfather) implying close proximity of residence. Again there are four boys under the age of 10 years, and one from 10-16 years. These age ranges fit that of Alexander as he was approaching his 10th birthday at the time of this census.

In the 1820 U.S. Census,²⁵ Thomas Robison again appears with five boys under 10 years, two boys 10-16 years, one boy 16-18, and one boy 18-26 years. The ages of these male children also fit Alexander Robison's age as he was approaching his 20th birthday at the time of this census.

The final argument has been made that Thomas Robison is Alexander's

¹⁹ Single freeman: "...in Colonial days this term referred to any male over twenty-one years old who owned personal property or real estate valued at a prescribed amount. He was also obliged to be a peaceful man, endorsed by a majority of the town's Freemen. Only after this vote at a semi-annual meeting of the selectmen, could the man take the Freeman's Oath. His duties were to elect deputies to the General Assembly of the colony and to elect new Freemen. He was a member of a local church and had the right to vote and pay taxes." Barbara Jean Evans, The New A to Zax, 2nd Ed., 1990.

²⁰ Tax Records, Franklin County, PA, 1805, Pennsylvania Archives, Harrisburg, PA, microfilm.

²¹ Benjamin Matthias Nead, Waynesboro, Harrisburg Publishing Company, MCM.

²² Roger C. Mowrey, The Story of the Quincy Schools, The Kittochtinny Historical Society, Volume XVII, paper read before the society, April 26, 1979, page 126. Mr. Mowrey is quoting the book Waynesboro, by Benjamin Nead.

²³ Cosignatories: "Saml. Lane, David Knepper, Daniel Foreman, George Snyder, Catherine Wertz, Jadob Wagonan, Christopher Piper, Tho. Robinson, John Obermyer, John Heefner, Abraham Knepper, Henry Dicker, Joseph Dull, Frederick Liber, Ditto Obermyer."

²⁴ 1810 Census of the United States, Washington Township, Franklin County, Family History Library, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Salt Lake City, Utah: US/Canada Microfilm #193680. ²⁵ 1820 Census of the United States, Washington Township, Franklin County, Family History Library, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Salt Lake City, Utah: US/Canada Microfilm #181406.

father because of the following facts related to the 1830 U.S. Census²⁶ of Washington County, Pennsylvania: 1) Thomas Robison is no longer listed, and 2) Alexander Robison appears for the first time, his name occurring immediately between the names Jacob Wagaman and Andrew Waggamon (sic). The implication is that Thomas has died or moved and Alexander has taken his place, presumably because Alexander is Thomas' son.

Although it is difficult to make firm determinations as to parentage from census documents which are recorded at 10 year intervals, this argument has held sufficient credence that Thomas Robison is listed as the father of Alexander Robison in the Ancestral File® (version 4.13) of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Family History Department.²⁷ It has also been the conclusion of other researchers.²⁸

Hezekiah Robison Theory

I would like to present evidence which I believe supports, in a more convincing way, a man by the name of Hezekiah Robison as the father of Alexander Robison. None of what I am to present negates the above information collated about Thomas Robison. In fact, I believe that Thomas was Hezekiah's brother.²⁹ The story that brings them together is at once convincing and provides a foundation for why the Robison family came to be in Washington Township, Franklin County, Pennsylvania.

This relationship is dependent upon three key documents. All three documents relate to the settlement of the estate of John Toms. John Toms was the son of a William Toms who purchased a parcel of land called "John Toms' Folley" near Myersville, Frederick County, Maryland (about 20 miles south of the future Tomstown, Pennsylvania area) in 1744.³⁰ John Toms purchased two parcels of land" in Washington Township, Franklin County, Pennsylvania in 1795, land which would become a part of Quincy Township when it was created in 1838. One parcel was of about 189 acres (also recorded as 210 and 214 acres). The other 50 acre parcel was of mountain land near

²⁶ 1830 Census of the United States, Washington Township, Franklin County, Family History Library, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Salt Lake City, Utah: US/Canada Microfilm #020625.

²⁷ This relationship submission was made by Earl Johnson, 8129 South Monaco Circle, Englewood, Colorado 80112. Although I have written and tried to make telephone contact, I have been unsuccessful in finding Mr. Johnson, therefore I am unable to comment on the rationale and source documents he used to establish this relationship.

²⁸ L. Ferrin Lindsey, Salt Lake City, Utah: December 1992 Report, page 4, paragraph 2. Research supported by the Alexander Robison Family Organization, Robert R. Robison, President. ²⁹ Estate Papers of John Toms, Estate #1195, Franklin County, Pennsylvania, Register & Records Office, Franklin County Courthouse, Chambersburg, PA: Three Robisons purchased items at this estate sale held on March 30, 1813. Hezekiah Robison's (1765-1774) name appears on 9 items, Thomas Robison (1765-1774) on 6 items, and Andrew Robison (1775-1794) on 1 item. This is no proof of relationship, but implies they are related. Census records imply that each of their ages are as listed in parentheses next to their names above.

³⁰ Frank W. Toms, Record of Toms Family From Frederick County Maryland, Philadelphia Historical Society, Philadelphia, PA.

³¹ Franklin County, Pennsylvania, Deeds, FHL, Salt Lake City, Utah, Microfilm #323796, 1) 50 acres: Deed #305, Book 4, Page 281; 2) 189 acres (listed elsewhere as 210 acres): Deed #306, Book 4, Page 281.

South Mountain. John Toms died intestate in March of 1813³² in Washington Township, Franklin County, Pennsylvania.

Over the ensuing years, the court records of Franklin County, Pennsylvania document the settlement of John Toms estate. The first key record is that of the Estates of Minors of Franklin County Orphan's Court (see page 18). In Docket Book B, page 202-208+, one finds the original settlement of John Toms estate dated 15 April 1815. On page 208 of this document is recorded the settlement of his estate to his second daughter and third child Hannah Toms Robison, the wife of Hezekiah Robison. It states:

"For the payment of the sum of four hundred & thirteen dollars & seventy seven cents, in one year from the date hereof, with interest & the further sum of two hundred & six dollars & eighty cents at the death of the widow to Hannah Toms intermarried with Hezekiah Robinson."

On this page, in the space below the above statement, in a different ink and handwriting, follows:

"23 Mar 1824 for value received I hereby assign & transfer all my interests in the above recognizance to Solomon Robison.

his
Hezekiah X Robison
mark

And again, just below this declaration in a different ink & handwriting, follows:

21 September 1824 I hereby acknowledge to have received satisfaction in full of this recognizance.

Solomon Robison

And again, just below this, in another ink & handwriting, follows:

Nov 30 1853 Rec'd satisfaction in full of our interest in the above recognizance so far as the estate of Jacob Wiles is bound there for & reserving our right to the said recognizance against any other person holding land or any portion of the same taken by Samuel Toms at the appraisalment.

Lest N. Reilly his
Alex. X Robison
mark

her
Catherine X Wagaman
mark
(unquote)

³² Estates of Minors of Franklin County, PA, Orphans Court Docket Book B, Page 6.

And again, written in the left margin of the document follows:

"Nov 30, 1853 By virtue of a power of atty from John & Jonathan Robison Toms. I acknowledge satisfaction in full of their interests in this recognizance so far as the estate of Jacob Wiles has any part of the same to pay---reserving their rights against all other persons holding land taken by Samuel Toms.

Lest. his
N. J. X Toms
Reilly mark
 att in fact"

John & Catherine Toms Family

It is important to understand some of the family relationships that are known, in order to use these documents to help determine the father of Alexander Robison. First, John Toms had eleven children, listed with spouses as they were listed in the 1815 Orphan's Court Docket:

- 1 Abraham, married to Ann Creighton
- 2 Elizabeth, married to Michael Kneif (Neff)
- 3 Hannah, married to Hezekiah Robison
- 4 David
- 5 Susannah, married to Jacob Wiles (Wieldz, Wildz)
- 6 Solomon (deceased 1811), married to Catherine
- 7 John Jr.
- 8 Samuel
- 9 Catherine, married to Benjamin Peters
- 10 Elias (a minor in 1815)
- 11 Jonathan (a minor in 1815)

From this list it is clear that, barring any second marriages for the daughters, the only descendants of John Toms with the surname of Robison must descend from the marriage of Hezekiah Robison to Hannah Toms. Both Hezekiah³³ and Hannah³⁴ died early in 1824. The court records of the settlement of their estate are sparse. The estate papers for the settlement of Hannah's estate³⁵ are missing from the files of the Franklin County Courthouse in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. Solomon Robison was assigned as the executor of Hannah's estate.³⁶ Solomon Robison is also assigned as the guardian of the minor children over the age of 14 years of Hezekiah Robison.³⁷ These minor children are listed as Catherine, John & William.

One could presume that Solomon Robison was a relative of Hezekiah, and likely his oldest son, but this is not certain. Solomon could also be Hezekiah's brother. The census records narrow the birth year of Hezekiah Robison

³³ Franklin County, Pennsylvania, 9 March 1824 Orphans Court Docket Book C, Page 9, 8th entry.

³⁴ Franklin County, Pennsylvania, 23 March 1824, Will Book C, Page 710, Estate #2105, FHL US/Canada Microfilm #323865.

³⁵ Estate Papers, Franklin County, PA, Estate #2105, Hannah Toms Robison.

³⁶ Ibid.

³⁷ Franklin County, Pennsylvania, 9 March 1824 Orphans Court Docket Book C, Page 9, 8th entry.

between 1765 and 1774.^{38,39} The 1820 Census of Washington Township, Franklin County, PA lists the oldest male in the Hezekiah Robison household as greater than 45 years old, who I presume to be Hezekiah himself, placing his birth prior to 1775. In the household, there is one male under 10 years (presumably William, born after 1810), one male 10-16 years (presumably John, born between 1804 and 1810), and one male 18-26 years (possibly Alexander or Solomon, born between 1794 and 1802), one female 10-16 years (presumably Catherine, born between 1804 and 1810), and one female 16-26 years (possibly Hannah Toms Robison, but this would indicate that she was born between 1794 and 1810, so either it is someone else, or she could not have been the mother of the other children in the household, or the census record is in error).

Hezekiah Robison does not appear in the census records of Franklin County, PA in 1810, 1800 or 1790. Since Hezekiah is the son-in-law of John Toms who came from Frederick County, Maryland, I searched for Hezekiah in Frederick County, Maryland.

The 1810 United States Census for Frederick County, Maryland does not list names by township, and the first names of heads of households are listed only with the first initial. But there is an H. Robison listed as the head of household of the proper age and living next to J. Wiles who I believe is Jacob Wiles, Hezekiah's brother-in-law, and husband of Susannah Toms Wiles, Hannah Toms Robison's sister. This H. Robison is listed as 26-45 years of age (born between 1765 and 1774), with 5 males under the age of 10 years (presumably Alexander, John, and William, and perhaps two other children who were over the age of majority by 1824, were children deceased by 1824, or were not Hezekiah's children but were children of another father who were living there at the time of the census), one male 10-16 years (possibly Solomon Robison), one female under 10 years (presumably Catherine), and one female 26-45 years (presumably Hannah Toms Robison).

The J. Wiles is listed as over 45 years old, with 3 males under 10 years (presumably John, and two others who were no longer living in 1822 when Jacob Wiles wrote his will), one male 10-16 years (presumably George), 2 females under 10 years (presumably Catherine and Susannah; Elizabeth, Mary and Nancy not having yet been born), one female 10-16 years (presumably Hannah), and one female 26-45 years (presumably Susannah Toms Wiles).

Additionally, Hezekiah Robinson (sic) was listed in a 6 Feb 1819 edition of the Frederick, Maryland newspaper, *Political Examiner and Public Advertiser* newspaper⁴ as follows: "Chancery sale of tracts of land in the upper part of Middletown Valley, adjoining lands of Levin Hays and Jacob Wolf: Toms Safe Guard, 120 acres, and John Toms Luck, 289 acres. These lands compose together the farm on which Hezekiah Robinson lately lived. Richard Potts,

³³ 1820 Census of the United States, Washington Township, Franklin County, Pennsylvania: oldest male is listed as over 45 years of age.

³⁹ 1810 Census of the United States, Frederick County, Maryland, page 408:

⁴⁰ F. Edward Wright, *Newspaper Abstracts of Frederick County 1816-1819*, Family History Library, Salt Lake City, Utah: Frederick-Town Herald, item #393, 6 Feb 1819. "Sale of a tract in upper part of the Middletown Valley, Frederick Co, adjoining lands of Levin Hays and Jacob Wolf, 289 acres - land on which Hezekiah Robinson lately lived."

trustee." Both of these tracts of land were previously owned by John Toms. This departure of Hezekiah Robison coincides with the move of Hezekiah Robison from Frederick County, Maryland to Franklin County, Pennsylvania between the 1810 and 1820 Census.

The Tax Records of Franklin County, Pennsylvania further confirm the reappearance of Hezekiah Robison in Washington Township, Franklin Co., Pennsylvania in 1819:

<u>Tax Year</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Property</u>	<u>Occupation</u>
1799	Hezekiah	2 horses, 2 cows	
1800	Ezekiah		
1806	Heziah		
1819	Hezekiah		laborer
1820	Hezekiah		laborer

Because of the spotty appearance of Hezekiah's name in the tax records, it is conceivable that he did in fact move back and forth from Franklin County, PA to Frederick County, MD. He may have had various responsibilities in caring for the lands of John Toms, his father-in-law.

It is interesting to note that these tax records indicate that Hezekiah was in Franklin Co., Pennsylvania in the fall of 1800 at the right time for Alexander Robison to be born in late October, even though the 1800 Census does not list him in Franklin County. He promptly disappears from the record until 1806 and then does not appear again until 1819 allowing his son Alexander Robison to be in Washington Township, Franklin County, PA to meet and marry Nancy Ellen Wagaman in 1822.

To more clearly understand the Hezekiah Robison family, we must know more about Solomon Robison. The Tax Records of Washington Township, Franklin County, PA help to add information about Solomon Robison. These records first list Solomon Robison as a single freeman in 1820 as he is also listed in 1821. In 1822, he is not listed. In 1823 he is no longer listed as a single freeman, but as owning one house and lot and two cows. Interestingly in 1825, he is listed as owning 5-1/2 acres along with the previous house and lot. This supports the argument that he was Hezekiah Robison's oldest son, because he suddenly becomes a land owner in the year after Hezekiah's death. In 1826, Solomon is listed as owning 5-1/2 acres with one house and lot, but these listings are crossed out with the notation "decerted" (sic). There are no further listings of Solomon Robison in the Washington or Quincy Townships of Franklin County, PA through 1847.

From this information, one can assume that Solomon became 21 years of age (a single freeman) while still unmarried in 1820, thus he was born about 1799. If this is true, he is not likely to be the brother of Hezekiah, but rather his son. The only piece that is missing here, is that both Solomon and Alexander could not be living in the Hezekiah Robison household at the time of the 1820 Census, if the census record is correct. The one who was living there at that time is not clear to me.

Now, let us return to the above excerpt from the Orphan's Court

Settlement of John Toms Estate. In March of 1815, when the court document is dated, Hannah Toms Robison who was married to Hezekiah Robison, was to receive \$413.77 with interest from her father's estate, which she would receive in March of 1816. An additional amount of \$206.08 with interest was to be paid to Hannah at the time of her mother's death. It appears that the amounts had not been paid by the 23rd of March 1824 and that Hannah Toms Robison had passed away, because Hezekiah at this time assigned and transferred all of his interests in this money to the executor of Hannah's estate, Solomon Robison. By the 21st of September 1824, Solomon Robison acknowledges to have received satisfaction in full of the money that was due.

At this point, it is important to define another relationship that plays a role in our understanding. Solomon Robison married Catherine Wiles⁴¹ Catherine Wiles was the second child and second daughter of Jacob Wiles (Wildz, Wieldz) and his wife Susannah Toms Wiles who was the fifth child and third daughter of John and Catherine Toms mentioned above. If, in fact, Solomon Robison is the oldest son of Hezekiah Robison and Hannah Toms Robison, then Solomon Robison and his wife Catherine Wiles Robison were first cousins. Regardless of Solomon's true parentage, he was the executor of Hannah Toms Robison's estate, and in the estate settlement of John Toms excerpted above, Solomon Robison was acting on the behalf of Hannah Toms Robison with Hezekiah Robison's approval.

Now, let us refer back to the first of the two notations dated Nov 30 1853, signed by Alex. Robison and Catherine Wagaman. Alex. Robison and Catherine Wagaman are acknowledging that they have received satisfaction in full of their interests in the estate of Hannah Toms Robison. The fact that they have interests implies that they are heirs of the estate. For this reason, I believe this Alex. Robison and this Catherine Wagaman were children of Hannah Toms Robison.

Apparently, the estate of Jacob Wiles was bound in some way to pay Alex. Robison and Catherine Wagaman. Jacob Wiles died in 1822, leaving a will. His wife, Susannah Toms Wiles, however, lived at least until after she wrote her will, dated 17 June 1852.⁴² Perhaps this entry in November 1853 was prompted by the previous death of Susannah Toms Wiles. We know that Susannah Toms Wiles died before 1 JAN 1857⁴³. Susannah, in her will, states, "...I have advanced my daughter Catherine intermarried with Solomon Robison her full share. I do not now will her anything." Perhaps, with the departure of Solomon & Catherine Wiles Robison from Franklin County, PA in or before 1826, Solomon did not or was not able to settle the Estate of Hannah Toms Robison fully with respect to Alexander and Catherine Robison Wagaman, leaving the latter with a right to bind the estate of Jacob Wiles, through Catherine Wiles Robison, and her mother, Susannah Toms Wiles. At Susannah Toms Wiles death, Alexander Robison and Catherine Robison Wagaman, then

⁴¹ Franklin County Courthouse, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, Will Book F, Page 189, Will of Susannah Wiles of Quincy Township, Estate #5930, 17 Jun 1852: "...my daughter Catherine intermarried with Solomon Robison

⁴² Franklin County Courthouse, Will Book F, Page 189, Estate #5930, Susannah Wiles, dated 17 Jan 1852.
⁴³ *ibid.*, Page 190, Testimony of Witness to Susannah Wiles will, 1 Jan 1857: "...saw Susanna Wiles now dec'd make her mark

were paid what was due them as heirs.

An alternative interpretation of this 30 Nov 1853 notation is that Alexander Robison and Catherine Wagaman were Solomon and Catherine Wiles Robison's children. The tax records noted before in this article, however, indicate that Solomon would not have been old enough to conceive Alexander by his birth date in 1800. I prefer the former analysis.

Some more clues to the movement of Hezekiah Robison and his family can be inferred from further analysis of the Tax Records of Franklin County, Pennsylvania. Only the male children would be listed here, however. Although there is a John Robison, a joiner or carpenter, who lived in Waynesboro area beginning as a freeman in 1799 (implying birth in about 1778)" and remaining until 1838; the John Robison who I believe to be Hezekiah's son first appears in 1827 as a single freeman (ie. 21 years of age).

<u>Tax Year</u>	<u>Child</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Taxable Property</u>
1820	Solomon	Freeman	1821
Solomon Freeman 1822			
1823	Solomon		1 House & Lot, 2 Cows
1824	Solomon		1 Cow
1825	Solomon		1 House & Lot, 5.5 ac
1826	Solomon		
1827	John	Freeman	
1828	John	Single Freeman, Mason	
1829	John	Single Freeman	
1830	John	Single Freeman	
	John	Mason	1 House & Lot
	Alexander	Mason	1 House & Lot, 1 Cow
1831	John	Single Freeman	
	John	1 House & Lot William	Single Freeman
	Alexander		1 House & Lot
1832	John		1 House & Lot
	William	Single Freeman	
	Alexander		1 House & Lot, 1 Cow
1833		John	1 House& Lot William
	Alexander	Mason	1 House & Lot

44 This John Robison is a potential candidate to be another brother of Hezekiah, Thomas and Andrew. I have no proof, just a time, place, and age possibility.

1834	John William Alexander	Mason	1 Cow 1 Cow
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1835	John	Mason (in Ohio)	
------	------	-----------------	--

(John's name does not appear again, except for the carpenter of Waynesboro, until "John Robison (of Andrew)" appears as a forger in 1837-1839)

	William Alexander	Mason Mason	1 Cow 1 Cow
--	----------------------	----------------	----------------

1836	William	Mason	
------	---------	-------	--

(The first name William does not appear again until 1843 when a William Robison, a single freeman, appears and left the township in the same year)

	Alexander	Mason	
--	-----------	-------	--

(Alexander appears yearly through 1847 in which year he first appears as owning some 14 acres. N.B. I did not review tax records after 1847)

Thus all four possible male children of Hezekiah Robison appear in Franklin County Tax Records after Hezekiah's arrival in 1819. Solomon first appears in 1820 as a single freeman (implying birth in about 1799), but leaves in 1826. Alexander appears in 1830, not as a single freeman, but as a land owner, and remains until 1860. John appears in 1827 as a single freeman (implying birth in about 1806) and leaves for Ohio in 1835. William appears as a single freeman in 1831 (implying birth in about 1810) and leaves after 1836.

One could wonder if William followed John to Ohio. However, it should be noted that a gravestone appears in the Mont Alto Cemetery, Quincy Township, Franklin County, PA with the inscription, "In memory of Susannah wife of William Robison, born July (or June) 11, 1818, Died Aug 6, 1860, Aged 42 years, 1 month 23 days." This William could be the right age and vicinity to have been the same man. Why he does not appear in tax records after 1836, of Washington or Quincy Townships is not clear.

In summary, analysis of the records to this point, supports Hezekiah Robison as the father of Alexander Robison of Washington Township, Franklin County, Pennsylvania. Alexander is not among the minor children of Hezekiah Robison over whom Solomon Robison was assigned guardian, because Alexander was not a minor at the time as he was 24 years old. Catherine, John, and William were siblings to Alexander and also probably to Solomon. Alexander Robison's right to portions of the John Toms Estate is through his mother Hannah Toms Robison, daughter of John and Catherine Toms.

Where was Alexander from 1820 until 1830? He should have appeared as a single freeman in 1821 or 1822. Was he still in Maryland working on some family land? Was he an apprentice somewhere? At this point in time, this information eludes me.

The First Sale of Turkey Foot Bottom, Frederick County, Maryland

The second key record, and the most important one in the establishment

of the parentage of Alexander Robison, is that of the 2 June 1827 sale, by the heirs of John Toms, of a tract of land in Frederick County, Maryland, called Turkey Foot Bottom (see pages 20-26). The heirs involved in this transaction are listed in the deed of sale⁴⁵ as underlined below, with my notations in parentheses:

Suzannah Wiles, widow and relict of Jacob Wiles

(Suzannah Toms Wiles, the daughter of John & Catherine Toms, and the still living widow of Jacob Wiles)

Jonathan Toms. and Mary his wife

(Jonathan is the youngest son of John & Catherine Toms)

John Robison

(the son of Hezekiah & Hannah Toms Robison; thus a grandson of John & Catherine Toms)

George Wiles, and Rachel his wife

(George is the son and third child of Jacob & Suzannah Toms Wiles; thus a grandson of John & Catherine Toms) Conrad Noll. and Hannah his wife

(Hannah is the daughter and first child of Jacob & Suzannah Toms Wiles; granddaughter of John & Catherine Toms) John Wiles. and Barbara his wife

(John is the second son, and fourth child of Jacob & Suzannah Toms Wiles; thus a grandson of John & Catherine Toms) Susannah Wiles. (daughter of Jacob Wiles)

(thus a granddaughter of John & Catherine Toms)

Benjamin Peters and Catharine his wife

(this Catharine is Catharine Toms, third daughter and eighth child of John & Catherine Toms)

Alexander Robison and Nancy his wife

(this must be Alexander Robison (1800) and Nancy Ellen Wagaman Robison, Alexander being the son of Hezekiah Robison and Hannah Toms Robison who was the third child and second daughter of John and Catherine Toms; thus Alexander is a grandson of John & Catherine Toms)

Samuel Toms and Margaret his wife

(Samuel is the fifth son, and seventh child of John & Catherine Toms)

David Toms and Susannah his wife

(David is the second son, and third child of John & Catherine Toms)

all of the Township of Washington County of Franklin and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

The signatories to this document also include:

⁴⁵Frederick County Maryland, Land Records, Liber JS, Volume 26, Page 468, June 2, 1827, FHL Microfilm #13987.

⁴⁶Relict: def. what is left behind; surviving spouse.

Ely Toms (sixth son & tenth child of John & Catherine Toms)

In summary, This document defines that Alexander Robison married to Nancy from Washington Township, Franklin County, Pennsylvania were again heirs to the estate of John Toms. This continues to be consistent with the theory that Alexander was the son of Hezekiah and Hannah Toms Robison.

The Second Sale of Turkey Foot Bottom, Frederick County, Maryland

The third document, again relating to the sale of another portion of Turkey Foot Bottom in Frederick County, Maryland is the deed recorded the 2nd day of May 1835 at the request of Jacob Zentmyer⁴⁷ of an indenture made on 4 Apr 1835 between Mr. Zentmyer and the heirs of John Toms Estate (see pages 27-33) underlined below with my comments in parentheses:

Marv Toms

(Solomon Toms daughter; thus a granddaughter of John & Catherine Toms)

George Toms

(Solomon Toms son; thus a grandson of John & Catherine Toms)

JohnToms

(Solomon Toms son; thus a grandson of John & Catherine Toms)
heirs of Solomon Toms deceased

William Robinson (sic, also listed as Robison, in the document)

(son of Hezekiah & Hannah Toms Robison; thus a grandson of John and Catherine Toms)

David Wagaman and Catherine Wagaman his wife

(Catherine must be Catherine Robison married to David Wagaman, daughter of Hezekiah and Hannah Toms Robison; thus Catherine is a granddaughter of John and Catherine Toms)

all of Franklin County and state of Pennsylvania. they being heirs at law of John Toms late of Franklin County and State of Pennsylvania deceased

... it being each party their part of all the Lands and real Estate of which the said John Toms Deed ceased of Lvina and being in Frederick County and State of Maryland called Turkey foot bottoms and two other tracts or by whatsoever name the same may be called and adjoining the lands of Jacob Rohrsers. David Wolf. and others containing two hundred and seventy five acres more or less...

⁴⁷ Frederick County Maryland, Land Records, Liber JS, Volume 49, Page 8, May 2, 1835, FHL Microfilm #13999.

...and before us two justices of the peace in and for ⁴⁸Washington County and State of Maryland...

...And now at the same time also personally appears Catherine Wagaman wife of the said Jacob⁴⁹ Wagaman before us justices of the peace as aforesaid. and out of the presence and hearing of her husband did sign. seal. Execute, and acknowledge the said deed or instrument of Writing to be her act and deed.. .and the said Catherine Wagaman Wife of the said David Wagaman being by us examined apart. from and out of the hearing of her husband whether she doth Execute said deed and make her acknowledgement of the same Willingly and freely and without being induced thereto by fear or threats of or ill usage by. her husband, or fear of his displeasure acknowledges that she doth Execute said deed....

Acknowledged by the Clerk of the Washington County Court Maryland.

From this document, we learn that some other descendants of John Toms sold their portions of Turkey foot bottom(s). Between these two latter documents all of the known children of Hannah Toms and Hezekiah Robison are listed except for Solomon Robison:

Alexander Robison, married to Nancy (Ellen Wagaman) by 1827
Catherine (Robison), married to David Wagaman by 1835 John
Robison (apparently unmarried in 1827) William Robison
(apparently unmarried in 1835)

Solomon Robison is either 1) not a sibling, 2) deceased without progeny, or 3) not a party to this sale because of some previous transaction which has not yet been discovered.

In conclusion, the evidence is clear that our Alexander Robison, of Washington Township (later Quincy Township), Franklin County Pennsylvania, who was married to Nancy (Ellen Wagaman) is in fact an heir of John and Catherine Toms. There is no other way that I can conceive that Alexander Robison can be an heir to John Toms without being the progeny of the marriage of Hannah Toms (daughter of John and Catherine Toms) and Hezekiah Robison. The documents record his actions on behalf of the estate of Hannah Toms Robison in conjunction with Catherine Wagaman, a known child of Hezekiah and Hannah Toms Robison, in two instances. Thus, I submit Hezekiah Robison and Hannah Toms as the parents of Alexander Robison. I welcome any other evidence that is discovered that sheds further light on this relationship, but I feel family history work should proceed with this relationship assumption in mind.

⁴⁸ Washington County, Maryland adjoins Frederick County to the west, and was created of Frederick County in 1776. I am not sure why these justices are from Washington County, since they state that the land is in Frederick County, and this is in a Frederick County Court document book. I suspect the recorder might have travelled from county to county and just made an error.

⁴⁹ I believe that the naming of Jacob Wagaman as the husband of Catherine Wagaman above, then later naming him as David Wagaman is also an error of the recorder.

The evidence that Solomon Robison is also a child of Hannah Toms and Hezekiah Robison is less conclusive. However, I believe that he should be included as a sibling for the present, until other evidence can be found to further clarify his parentage.

As a result, I present the following ancestry of Alexander Robison which proceeds from the above analysis (see page 16).

