

## Chapter 5 The Farmer

**O**nly twenty-five years or so after the Mason's death one of his grand-grandsons would be dubbed with his name. This child, the fifth son of the Mariner and born in the burgeoning metropolis of New York City, would spend the bulk of his life as a farmer on the New Jersey frontier. Born in August 1698 and raised in a little house on the west side of upper Broad Street, just north of the present site of number 52, he had a no doubt happy childhood, at least for the first six years of it, lived within the embrace of the local Dutch community. His father was a mariner and a good provider, and though on frequent trips to Albany, was home about as often as a modern truck driver. But in 1704 the family circumstances changed for the worse when the man left for a voyage at sea and disappeared. Tunis (his name appears mostly with this spelling) would have seen him for the last time when he was six, so he must have had few memories of him.

Tunis was one of a family of ten children and his life after his father's disappearance became harder. His mother was not entirely alone for the Dutch, like minorities in most times and places, helped their own in cases of hardship. But he, and at least some of his brothers and sisters, must have been raised as foster children in the households of relatives.<sup>1</sup> He received no schooling and so remained illiterate throughout his long life.

A lack of a father meant he had to make his own way early. While still in his early twenties he would move to the western part of the province of New Jersey, at a time when West Jersey had yet to be touched by Europeans, when its woods and streams were the hunting ground of the Delaware Indian. The cities of the east were bursting with excess population, many of whom were willing and able to take up cheap land. To be a farmer in 1720 meant also to be a frontiersman or pioneer so he is also the first frontiersman or pioneer in our family. He was a hard worker. At his death at seventy-six he would own a farm, a mill, two slaves, and leave legacies to five children.

In the year Tunis reached West Jersey, about 1720, the colony was already fifty years old. Its history could be said to have begun in his grandfather Jacob's time (Chapter 3).<sup>2</sup> With a stroke of his pen in 1664, King Charles II granted his "Dearest Brother James", the Duke of York, all the land on the east side of North America between the Connecticut and Delaware Rivers. James bestowed presentday New Jersey to his friends, Sir George Carteret and John, Lord Berkeley. The latter sold his lands to Edward Byllinge and John Fenwick, with William Penn acting as trustee. These men were Quakers intent on establishing a settlement of dissenters in New Jersey as a refuge from the religious persecution they were suffering in England. They were certainly big thinkers. In 1676 Carteret and the Quakers signed a deed dividing the province into East and West Jersey on a line running northwest from Little Egg Harbor on the Atlantic coast to a point on the Delaware River. West Jersey went to Byllinge and the trustees while East Jersey went to Carteret. The two Jerseys developed independently of one another until 1702, at which time they

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- 1 There is evidence the four youngest brothers, Frans, Tunis, Johannes, and Petrus, were raised in the household of their uncle Theunis, the baker. The uncle took an interest in East Jersey lands early on. In fact, the uncle may have moved his family there for the first time in 1702 to avoid the epidemic of Yellow Fever then raging in New York City. In 1703 he signed a subscription for the purpose of calling a minister from Holland to supply a reformed congregation in the Three Mile Run (Belle Mead) area of Somerset County, New Jersey. Snell, 819. Tunis may have received early training from his uncle for he worked a mill in later life as well as a farm.
  - 2 For early history of New Jersey I have borrowed from Chapter I of Eamwell by E. W. Croll. Thank you.

were reunited as a Royal Province.

West Jersey's history after 1676 reads like a series of deals made by modern CEOs. Byllinge and the Quakers divided West Jersey into proprietorships each of about 20,000 acres. Some properties went to Byllinge's and Fenwick's creditors while others passed over into the hands of other Quakers. In 1688 fifty-nine proprietors formed the Council of Proprietors of West Jersey, a kind of land corporation. In 1691 the West Jersey Society was formed to encourage the sale of smallholdings—to farmers and others who would actually live on the land. John Reading, a proprietor who would actually live in New Jersey, settled near Lambertville on the Delaware River in 1703. John Ringo, one of the earliest settlers after Reading, built a small log cabin at a place known today as the village of Ringoes. This region, in the far west of West Jersey bordered by the Delaware River, would eventually be incorporated as Hunterdon County. Most of the events of this chapter take place here.

In 1703 New Jersey was still occupied by Indians, though lightly. They called themselves *Leni Lenape* or *original people*. In early historical times they occupied a continuous area extending from Delaware Bay up through Manhattan and up the west bank of the Hudson River as far as the Catskill Mountains. Retreating ahead of the advancing Europeans they drifted to the Delaware River, hence their English name Delaware. They were organized into three clans: the Unanus (turtle) clan inhabiting what is now Hunterdon County, the Minsi (or Munsey, or wolf) clan ranging north from the Musconetcong River into New York Province, and the Unalachtgo (turkey) clan. The Quakers, who were the first to meet them, described them as a “well-behaved” people, living quietly as farmers and trappers in semi-permanent villages.<sup>3</sup> In many respects they behaved and lived much like the white immigrants.

The land within Hunterdon County was purchased from the Delaware in 1703 by the Council of Proprietors. The “sellers” were the Delaware sachems (or chiefs) Himhammoe and Coponnockous. Approximately 150,000 acres were purchased for the ridiculous sum of £700 in goods and trinkets. One of the first Europeans to take up land out of this tract, a total of 3,000 acres in and around Ringoes, was the speculator Benjamin Field of Burlington County. Field conveyed much of his land to Nathan Allen of Monmouth County who began to sell to settlers in 1714. Some of the landowners near Ringoes and the dates of their settlements can be identified in Figure 1.

Hunterdon County was at that time far larger than it is today. It then contained all the lands north of the Assunpink creek to the border of New York Province—which is to say, the present day counties of Mercer, Hunterdon, Morris, Warren, and Sussex. Four townships were eventually carved out of this huge area: Trenton, Hopewell, Maidenhead and Amwell. Trenton town was the county seat. By 1726 the population of Amwell Township topped 3,200.

Tunis and his brothers Frans, Johannes and Petrus, migrated west, almost certainly as a family group, in the decade following the formation of Hunterdon County. Like many other migrants from the city they no doubt traveled by sloop around Staten Island and then by flatboat up the Raritan River past New Brunswick and Bound Brook to Raritan Landing. The move was probably in stages; there exists a record of the twenty-five-year-old Francis, the oldest of the group, serving in 1715 in the fifth company of Col. Thomas Farmer's regiment of New Jersey militia operating in Somerset County and points east.<sup>4</sup> Francis was the first of the brothers to buy

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3 Trails made by the Delaware can be followed today by car across the surface of West Jersey. The Mal-ayelick path running from the Assunpink Creek (Trenton) through the Delaware village of Wishelemensey (Rocktown) to Lopatcong (Phillipsburg) became the “Trenton-Pittstown Road” in the 18th century. Today it lies covered by the John Ringo Road, or County Route 579. The Old Tuckaraming or Nariticong Trail out of Pennsylvania crossed the Delaware River at Mohalmensey (Lambertville), intersected the Malayelick path at Ringoes and ran on easterly to Sewanhacky on Newark Bay. This path became the “Old York Road”, a name it still goes by among the history buffs of the county.

4 Proc. N.J. Hist. Soc., 13, 2nd Series, 206. Some Melots (Melotts) served in the same regiment, as did John Chambers Sr. & Jr.

land in Amwell in 1724, some 150 acres from John Chambers.<sup>5</sup> It is easy to imagine the four brothers, being the youngest sons in the family and separated in ages by at most two years, being friends and helping one another get established.

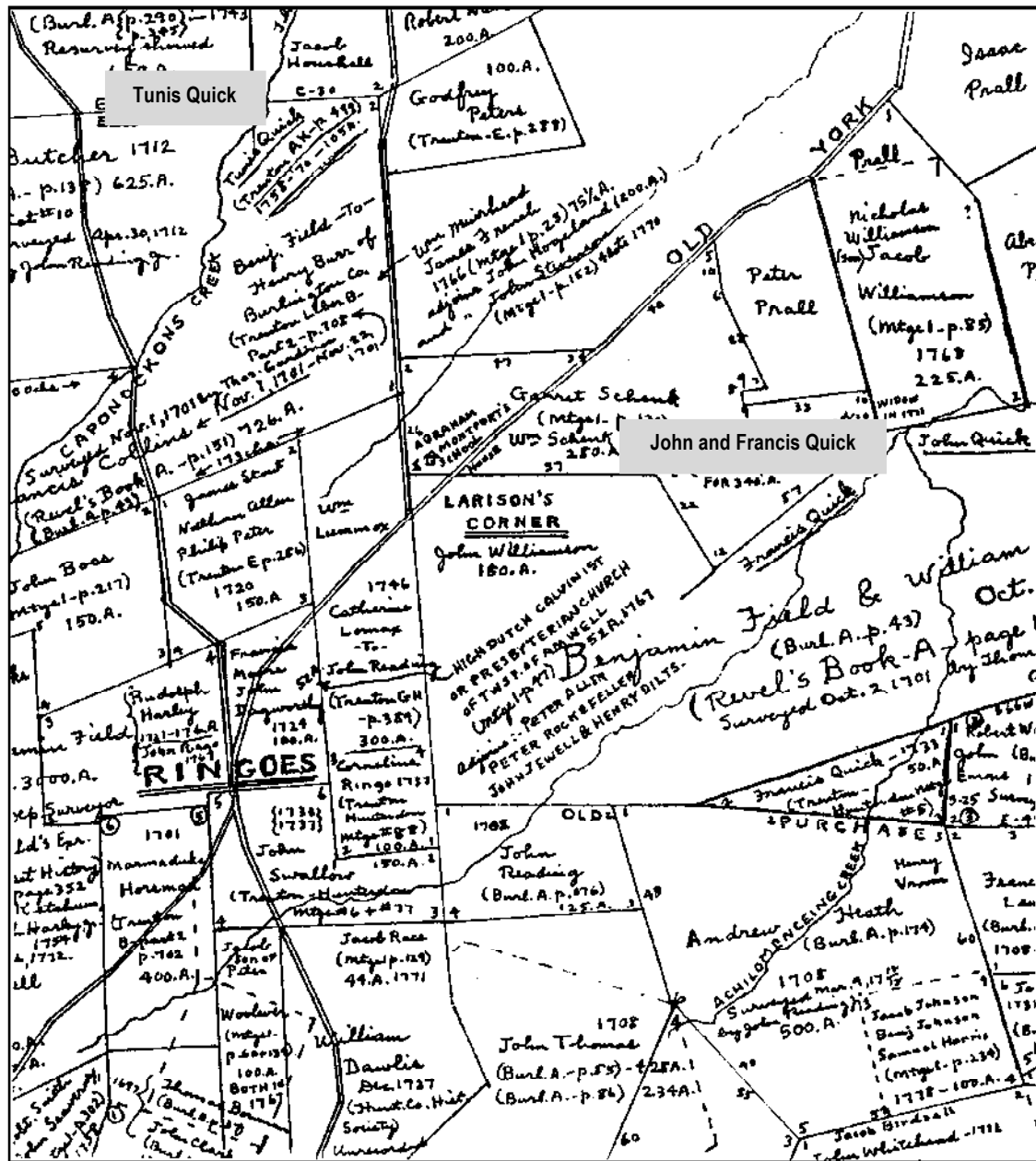


Figure 1. Early Landowners near Ringoes, Hunterdon County, New Jersey. Tunis Quick's land can be located towards the top left of the drawing. The lands of his brothers John and Francis can be seen at the middle right, four to five miles away. (Scale: 1" = 0.5 mi. approximately.)<sup>6</sup>

5 BAHT, Hunterdon County Deed Book Q, 366-368.

6 Adapted from Sheet "G" Hunterdon County, New Jersey, D. S. Hammond, J.D. 1967. Genealogical Society of New Jersey, Map Series #4.

Tunis bought his first piece of land in Amwell Township—200 acres—from a Thomas Jewell, probably in 1726 when he was twenty-six.<sup>7</sup> The owner before Jewell was the surveyor, John Reading, though neither Reading nor Jewell (who was probably a speculator) ever worked the soil or lived on the property.<sup>8</sup> The land was bordered on the east by an old Indian trail running north-south, and on the northwest by the Neshannock (or Caponackons) Creek, a tributary of the South Branch of the Raritan River. The Malayelick Indian path (meaning “well travelled”) ran a half mile to the west. To the north of his property lay the lands of Jacob Houskell and to the east the farm of Godfrey Peters. The place can be pinpointed today on a modern road map just south of the hamlet of Copper Hill on the west side of New Jersey Rte. 202.

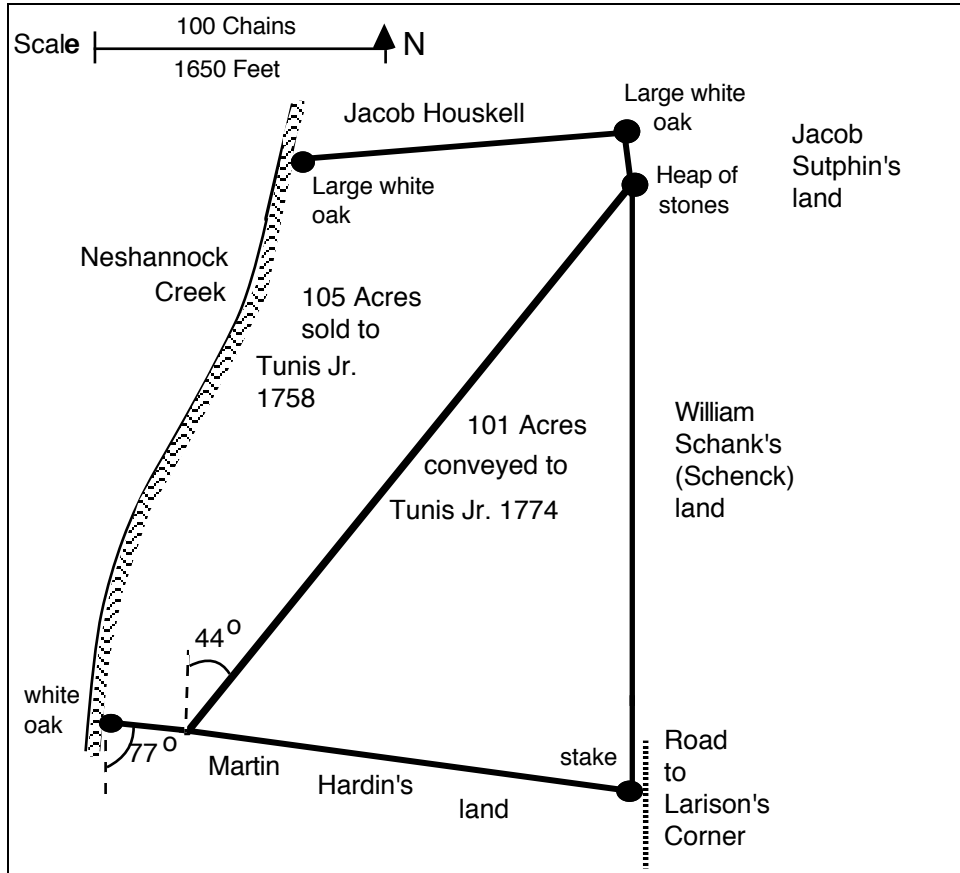
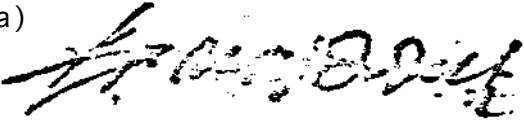



Figure 2. *Plan of Tunis Quick's Farm in New Jersey.*

- 7 I am guessing at the year here. A Jewell brought a Quick (first names not given) before the Court of Common Pleas of Hunterdon County for debt in July 1727. MCPH, 2, 191. This would also be consistent with the information in the following note.
- 8 The document conveying a portion of the land to Tunis Jr. in 1758 describes it as “bought of Thomas Jewell and is part of two hundred & Six acres of Land the sd Tunis Quick had of right bought from John Reading...”. BAHT, Hunterdon County Deed Book A-K, 499-501. The conveyance from Jewell to Quick was not recorded, a not uncommon occurrence. John Reading conveyed a little more than six acres of unassigned land to Tunis Quick in 1742. This piece adjoined the northwest border of Quick's lot. Rutgers U., Records of the Council of Proprietors of the Western Division of New Jersey, Survey Book BB, 189.

The land possessed natural advantages the casual visitor can appreciate today. Being farming country and some distance from a major town, the region has seen little impact from urban sprawl in two and a half centuries. Situated in what is called the piedmont region of New Jersey the land has a softly rolling aspect. The low hills and shallow dales meant for easy working with oxen or horses. The soil is loamy, of a sandy coppery-red color only partially covered with oak and chestnut trees. Between the trees lay broad open meadows with high native grasses (the remnants in some cases of old Indian cornfields). A creek bounded the property supplying the necessary fresh water. Helped by his brothers Tunis built his cabin in a good place near the creek. Along its eastern edge he cleared a wide flat strip and in it planted his first crop of Indian corn and buckwheat. It bears noticing at this point that Francis and John (and probably Tunis too) took out mortgages on their properties in the 1730s and 1740s. These documents are invaluable to the genealogist in that they contain examples of signatures (Figure 3).

(a) 

(a) Francis Quick. Reproduced from his Loan Office Mortgage, April 19 1733.<sup>9</sup>

(b) 

(b) Tunis Quick. Reproduced from the will of Herman Dahles, (in German) 10 February 1747/8.<sup>10</sup>

(c) 

(c) John Quick. Reproduced from his Loan Office Mortgage, 28 April 1743.

Figure 3. Signatures (normal size) of the brothers. Shown here are the signatures of three of the four brothers who are thought to have migrated together to New Jersey.

Tunis must have been married around 1728, though I have not found the record. We therefore do not know the name of his wife. She was likely the daughter of a neighbor. (The marriage did not take place in the Dutch Reformed Church in Garden Street.) A son was born to them in 1729 or 1730, named Cornelius after his paternal grandfather, the mariner. Four children followed:

9 Hunterdon Co., NJ, Loan Office Mortgages on LDS946855. Coart Johnson's mortgage is No 70 in Bk 1; Francis Quick's No 5 in Bk 1; John Quick's No 171 in Bk 2.

10 Notations such as 1747/8 refer to Old Style/New Style. By 1752 nearly the whole world except England and her American colonies had adopted the Gregorian calendar used today in which the new year begins on 1 January. In 1752 in order to effect the change from the Julian to the Gregorian calendar, England was forced to move back the start of the new year from 25 March to 1 January and to eliminate 10 days from February. Some years prior to 1752 dates were written in the form 1747/8 in an attempt to avoid confusion with the rest of the world.

Tunis Junior (1731), Catherine, Mary, and Sarah. His wife had probably died by 1749.<sup>11</sup>

This area of New Jersey was one of the first frontiers of the United States and it is a pity it has not received the same kind of study as, say, the middle and far west. In the early decades of the 18th century the people in the countryside lived in very primitive conditions—not unlike the peasantry of northern Ireland, Gelderland, or the Palatinate of the same period. Their homes were simple log cabins with a single large room serving as kitchen, diningroom, livingroom and bedroom. At night they slept on the floor on beds of animal skins, blankets, or piles of boughs and straw and with their feet stretched out towards the fireplace. Water was carried by the bucketful from a creek and heated inside over the fireplace—or if summer, outdoors over an open fire. Meals were cooked inside the house and outside depending on the weather. As cash crops brought ready money conditions improved. After a few years Tunis, like most of his Dutch relations, built an outhouse for cooking and the washing of clothing. He also built a barn, of round logs in much the same style as the cabin and about the same size.<sup>12</sup> Only many years later would he replace this building with a good stout barn—with a high steep roof and low eaves in the traditional Dutch style.

The clothing they wore was simple and practical, homemade from materials they grew on the farm. “Meetin’ finery” and shoes they bartered for in stores in Trenton town, twenty-five miles away. Their everyday wear was mostly made by the housewife: heavy coarse homespun, linen shirts, breeches, and woolen stockings. Their buckskin and lambskin breeches they made from the skin of their own stock they tanned themselves (or by the professional: Francis, like grandfather Jacob, had his own tannery). Clothing was hung from pegs on the cabin wall.

Through the 1720s and 30s the area was a frontier of the Thirteen Colonies, where game and predatory animals roamed freely, little depleted by Europeans. The farmers shot or trapped much of their food, but the wildlife—timber wolf, black bear and lynx—preyed on livestock. For pelts they trapped otter, mink, raccoon, skunk, and fox. Into the cooking went turkey, pheasant, quail, snipe, and the now-extinct passenger pigeon in great numbers. Game proved a welcome addition to the products of the farm for eating, clothing and barter.

Improvements in the standard of living came slowly. For the first thirty years or so Tunis and his family, like most of their neighbors, consumed most of their produce and had little left over for cash sale. The weather was generally mild in these decades and harvests plentiful. The mainstay crops were buckwheat, rye, flax, and livestock, mostly hogs and a few cattle. Any surplus product went for bartering storebought goods like salt, firearms and gunpowder in Ringoes. Markets were far away and transportation poor. Like most of the Dutch and Germans in the area, our family grew potatoes, turnips and cabbage, the latter for the making of kohl-salat (coleslaw). Preoccupied with clearing his land Tunis let his livestock roam freely in the woods, as did everyone else. To indicate ownership of cattle, horses and hogs a brand or mark was placed in the animal’s ear.<sup>13</sup> Fences kept animals *out* of planted fields, not *in*. Eventually, by 1749 produce

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11 I am guessing here. On 29 January 1749 Tunis Quick brought David Martin, High Sheriff of Hunterdon County, before the Court of Common Pleas for a debt the latter apparently incurred in his capacity as coroner. MCPH, 5, 229a and 250. I am supposing this was connected with the death of Tunis’s first wife.

12 The common conception of the pioneer log cabin is of closely-fitting logs squared, or planed by the axe, on four sides. This method of construction was introduced by the Swedes on the Delaware River and later by the Germans in Pennsylvania. Jerseymen of the early 1700s, however, built their cabins from round, unstripped logs. The logs were niched at both ends and piled on top of one another to form a box of about 18 feet by 24 feet. A door was cut in the front wall and usually a single two-foot-square window out of the front and back walls. The floor was left earthen. The roof was constructed of poles overlaid with bark. Moss, chips and clay were stuffed between the logs to act as mortar. Cabins of this type were common in Upper Canada in the early 1800s before the adoption of German methods.

13 In 1741 Francis used “A Crop off the Near Ear & A Swallow fork off the Ear”. HCHS, Amwell Twp. Minute Book A (unpaginated). I could find no records of the earmarks used by Tunis Quick.

was being transported by wagon from Trenton over the Old York Road to New Brunswick town, and from there by sloop down the Raritan River to the city. The opening of markets took most of a generation.

It is painful to admit that the name of Tunis's wife, the place and date of their marriage, and the dates of the births and baptisms of their children are all unknown. This is because the records of the churches have been burned or lost. Figure 3 summarizes the results of our search through the records of the churches of Hunterdon County, and they are examined in detail in the essay *Churches in and Around Ringoes, ca. 1699-1847*.

### Churches in and Around Ringoes, ca. 1699-1847

The migration of people into Hunterdon County took place mostly from the east and from the south. From the east people followed the many Indian trails and branches of the Raritan River. From the south, the Trenton area, they followed the Malayaalick path through Hopewell and over the Sourland Range. Thus it happens that the churches in Somerset County and others in the northern parts of presentday Mercer County predate those within the modern boundaries of Hunterdon. The Raritan (or Somerville) Dutch Reformed Church, located just east of the Somerset-Hunterdon border, was established as early as 1699. A Presbyterian Church was erected in Hopewell soon after 1703.<sup>14</sup>

An Episcopal (Anglican) Church called St. Andrew's was built of logs in Ringoes around 1725. But as late as 1760 its congregation was still dependent on itinerant ministers, and its records, that might otherwise have provided useful information on our family, have not survived. In 1753 when the log church was replaced with one of stone, Presbyterians and Baptists alike contributed to its construction. As the priest noted at the time: "... at Amwell above 200 Presbyterians; and some families of Anabaptists constantly attend Divine Service at the Church". This exemplifies the practice of Presbyterians and Baptists worshipping at Episcopal churches if there was no alternative. All trace of the stone church has vanished, its materials carted away, but a fragment of its cemetery survives and can be seen today beside the road next to the Old Yorke Inn in Ringoes.

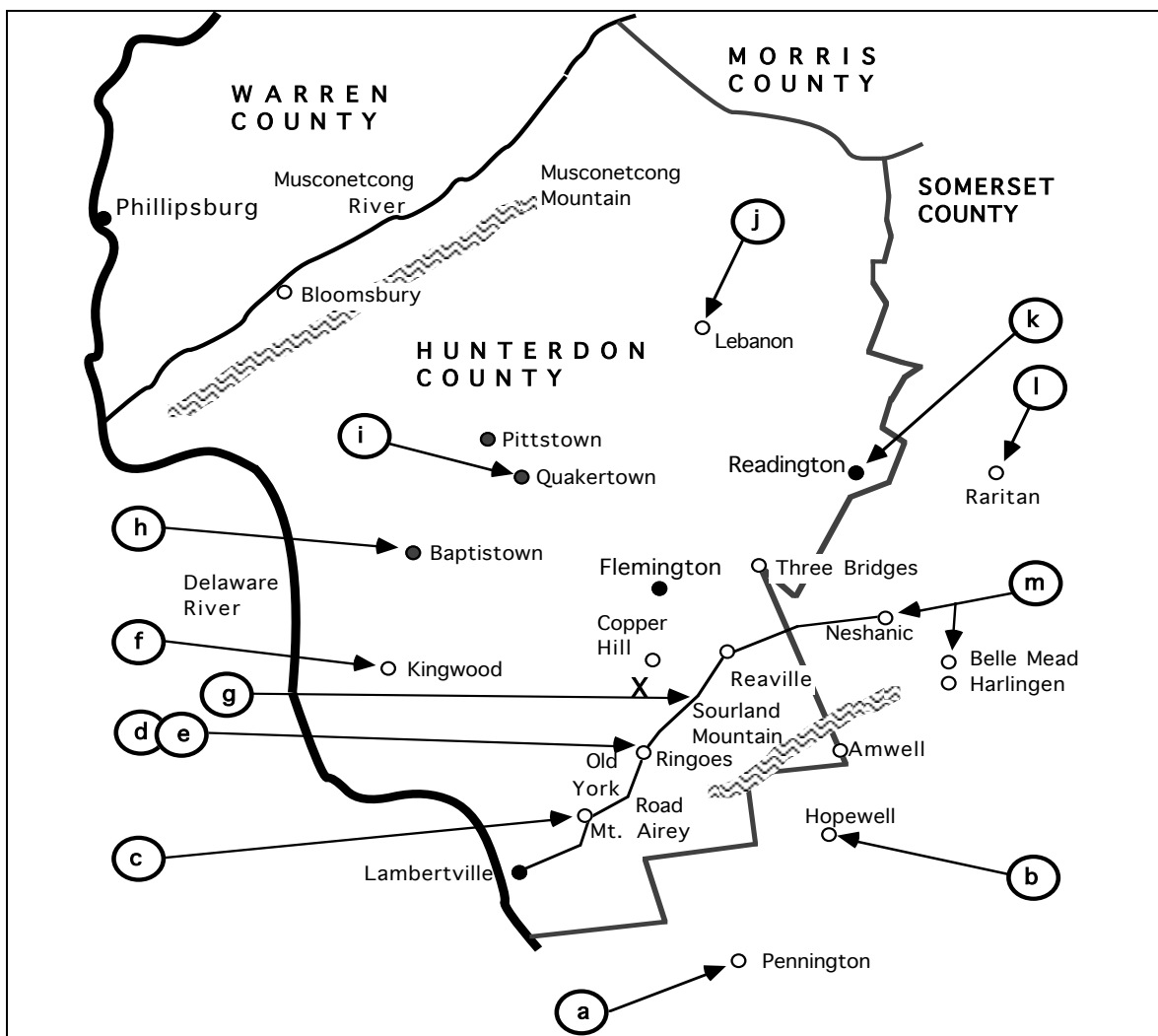
It has been written that presbyterian missionaries may have preached in Amwell as early as 1716, but no proof survives. Only scattered references to an "Amwell Meeting House" survive in presbytery records. In the 1730s a church was erected at Pleasant Ridge, about halfway between Ringoes and Reaville on the north side of the Old York Road. Early narratives describe it as a rectangular frame structure with brick floor set parallel with the road. The front door faced the road, the pulpit was opposite the door and galleries ringed three sides of the building (reminiscent of early Dutch churches in Albany). There was neither stove nor fireplace. On winter mornings, hot coals were carried from a log fire built in the churchyard and placed in a kettle inside. From time to time the fumes would cause those seated in the galleries to faint.<sup>15</sup> This church was known as the First Amwell Presbyterian Church. Until 1751 it was maintained by supply preachers, most of whom were revivalists caught up in the "Great Awakening". Indeed, in 1743 the famous English Methodist, George Whitefield, preached here to huge crowds. In 1754 the Presbyterians living in the western part of the county formed another church at Mount Airy, about three miles west of this place. From 1754 to 1818 the two Presbyterian churches together formed one charge under one pastor. The Mount Airy building survives to the present day, but the Pleasant Ridge building was demolished in 1839. A new church was raised in Greenville (presentday Reaville) where it can be seen today. Only the Pleasant Ridge Cemetery survives to mark the site of the original church. Its records were lost sometime after 1818.

German Calvinists had a church in Amwell. In 1749 the Old Dutch Church in New York City (probably St. Nicholas in Garden Street) donated funds toward its building, at the crossroads of Larison's Corner, a mile from Ringoes along the Old York Road. In 1809 the church combined with the First and Second Presbyterian Churches to form the United First Church. Its records were lost sometime after the year 1847.

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14 For church history of Amwell Township I have borrowed from Chapter VI of Eamwell by J. P. Cowder. Thank you.

15 J. B. Kugler, *The History of the First English Presbyterian Church in Amwell* (Unionist-Gazette Assoc., Somerville, NJ 1912), 58. This gives much of the later history of the church and the role of descendants of the Tunis Quick Jr. family in it.



Notes: Copper Hill is marked with an X.

- (a) Presbyterian Church, Pennington, Hopewell Township, built about 1703. Location of records unknown.
- (b) First Baptist Church, Hopewell, established about 1715. Letter of dismissal to Moses Quick and Sarah his wife 14 September 1805.
- (c) Second Presbyterian Church, Mt. Airey, established about 1754. Records prior to 1802 lost.
- (d) St. Andrew's S.P.G. (Anglican) Church, Ringoes, established about 1725. Records burned in 1891. A few notes survive of Rev. William Fraser's ministry—e.g. Cornelius Quick and Elizabeth Quinby married by licence here in 1772.
- (e) Calvinist Church, Larison's Corner, established 1749. Combined with the First and Second Presbyterian Churches 1809. Records in keeping of W.G. Kuhl in 1847 and subsequently lost.
- (f) Society of Friends, Kingwood, established about 1733. Jacob and Ann Quick here—later date.
- (g) First Presbyterian Church, Pleasant Ridge, established in the 1730s. Records were in the keeping of Titus Quick (a grandson of Tunis Quick) in 1818 and subsequently lost.
- (h) Kingwood Baptist Church, Baptistown, established 1742. Cornelius Quick s/o John (D9) and Susannah Quick baptized here in 1767. Elizabeth Quimby was also baptized here October 1767. (All adults.)
- (i) Society of Friends, Quakertown. Records survive 1649-1921, but list no members of our family.
- (j) Reformed Dutch Church, Lebanon. Some Quicks 1813, 1823.
- (k) Reformed Dutch Church, Readington, established 1719. Records of Petrus Quick here from 1754 onwards.
- (l) Reformed Dutch Church, Raritan (Somerville), established 1699. No Quicks here in the early years.
- (m) Reformed Dutch Church, Harlingen (Belle Mead, Sourland), established 1727. Joined Reformed Dutch Church, Neshanic, 1762. Records of Petrus s/o Theunis (C14) here and of his children and grandchildren (E81-E88).

Figure 4. A map showing the church records searched in the preparation of this book. Our family most likely attended churches (d) and/or (g).



Tunis and his wife, like many other couples on the frontier in the 1720s, were probably married by a JP, and the record lost or never made, as magistrates were under no obligation to keep marriage records.<sup>16</sup> They probably worshipped at various times at two churches: the Presbyterian at Pleasant Ridge and St. Andrew's in Ringoes (the latter being patronized by many Presbyterians).<sup>17</sup> Both churches were within riding distance of the farm. If they attended St. Andrew's prior to 1760 then the children would have been baptized by itinerant preachers, an unusual practice for the Anglican Church, whose records are also lost. His son, Cornelius, was married there by licence in 1772, which may indicate some family association with the place. But this is impossible to prove as the records of this church were destroyed by fire in 1891.<sup>18</sup>

A record exists showing a Tunis Quick was a member of the Presbyterian Church at Pleasant Ridge in 1753. It is in a subscription raised for the building of the parsonage to accommodate the newly-installed Rev. Eliab Byram. Dated Amwell, February 1753, it contains the names of contributors and the amounts from each. The following is an extract:

On the North	£	s	On the South Side	£	s
John Reading	10	00	Peter Prall	10	00
Martin Ryerson	2	00	Benjamin Johnson	5	00
Samuel Carman	2	00	Garret Schenck	5	00
			Simeon Kinney	2	00
			Tunis Quick		15 <sup>19</sup>

(The north and the south side refer to the banks of the Neshanic Creek.) Unhappily, Sessional Records of this church prior to 1821 are lost as are the records of its Trustees and Congregational Meetings prior to 1792, so a more precise identification of the parishioners can not be made.<sup>20</sup>

Tunis was raised in New York City with Dutch his first language and English his second. He probably preferred Dutch to English throughout his life, although he must have had a passable mastery of German as well. In the 18th century some dialects of the Dutch and German languages had similar vocabularies. He had everyday dealings with many immigrants from the Palatinate region of Germany, such as Herman Dawlis (Dolles), Peter Fisher, Philip Peter, and Jacob Risch (Race), who were no doubt friends. He was a witness to Dawlis' will in 1748 that was written in the German language. His signature on the document in Figure 3 is the only record we have of his handwriting (although the signature is more of a drawing than a signature).<sup>21</sup>

In the early 1700s west Jersey was the frontier as I have said. But that doesn't mean that the

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16 Andrew Morton, the first settled pastor of St. Andrew's, wrote in 1762: "The reason of my marrying so few, is owing to this; the Magistrates in this province are indulg'd in the privilege of marrying, which many of them notoriously perform without complying with the Form prescrib'd by our church; & without either Licence or publication: They generally marry in a few words, as they are tyd to no set form, but speak what happens to come into their Heads first; & to this they generally add something humourous (not to say indecent), which pleases a rough unpolished people..." EAmwell, 200.

17 One would think that Tunis, a German speaker, would have been a member of one of the German Calvinist churches, but there is no evidence.

18 EAmwell, 223.

19 Kugler, 75-79. The paper, known to have existed in 1912, has since been lost.

20 Kugler, 4, 5.

21 BAHT, Will 211J. An inventory of the estate was listed by Peter "Rockifeld" (Rockafellar) and Godfrey Peters, Tunis's brother-in-law.

region was devoid of law and order. Good English government existed at three levels. At the top level lay the Provincial Assembly that advised the governor general. Closer to home was the Court of Common Pleas with its county officials. At the lowest level were the township meetings presided over by its officers. The records of these courts provide genealogical data, and so the various levels of government will occupy us here briefly.

Members of the General Assembly were elected by freeholders who voted at polling stations in the county seats. To be a member one had to own 1000 acres of land or to be worth £500. A freeholder was a citizen who possessed 100 acres of land or was worth £50 in real and personal estate. Of course, women could not vote. The sheriff gave notice of the day and place of election and opened the polls by reading his “writ”. Voting was done by raising the hand. Polls stayed open between ten and twelve o’clock daily for as long as a week, and were occasions for gossip and consumption of hard liquor. The poll list for Thursday 9 October 1738 survives. Tunis was present in Trenton on that day and held up his hand for John Emley and Benjamin Smith, two owners of extensive tracts of land. A selection of other voters in Hunterdon County can be identified from the list in Table 1.

**Table 1. Extracts from the Poll List of Hunterdon County, 1738.**<sup>22</sup>

The Pole of the Freeholders of the County of Hunterdon for Representatives to serve in General Assembly of the Province of New Jersey for the County of Hunterdon, taken per Christopher Search, One of the Clerks, Oct. 9, 1738, Before David Martin, Esq. High Sheriff.		
<b>Candidate, John Emley</b>		
Ephraim Quimby, Amwell Tunis Quick, Amwell	Joseph King, Bethlehem Wm. Rettinghausen, Amwell	Josh. Higgins, Amwell (141 names in all)
<b>Candidate, Benj’n Smith</b>		
Ephraim Quimby, Amwell Tunis Quick, Amwell	Josh. King, Bethlehem Wm. Rettinghausen, Amwell	Josh. Higgins, Amwell (136 names in all)
<b>Candidate, Daniel Coxe</b>		
Godfrey Peters, Amwell	Tunis Quick, Walpack	Thos. Quick, Walpack (70 names in all)
<b>Candidate, Josh. Peace</b>		
Godfrey Peters, Amwell		(31 names in all)
<b>Candidate, Abram Vanhorne</b>		
Thos. Quick, Walpack		(7 names in all)

The official business of the county was conducted by the Court of Quarter Sessions and Common Pleas, which in Hunterdon sat in Trenton. Judges and justices presided at each session on the first Tuesday of the months of March, June, September and December (thus the term

22 Henry Race in Snell, 191-2. The paper, known to have been in existence as late as 1881, has since been lost. These names were taken from the poll list of 1738 of Hunterdon County, which then included present day Hunterdon, Mercer, Morris, Sussex and Warren Counties. Voters could vote for more than one candidate. Note the presence of Tunis and Thomas Quick of Walpack, a settlement in the north-eastern part of present day Sussex County. The genealogy of these men, father and son, is fully documented by ACQ (he denotes them as C32 and D36).

quarter sessions). Anyone suing or being sued or whose case was coming up during that particular term was expected to be present. Coroners and officers returned their documents described variously as “inquisitions”, “examinations”, or “recognizances”. The sheriff returned his writs and receipts for the constables of the various townships to appear before the court.<sup>23</sup>

Table 2. *The family of Tunis Quick and his first wife, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, ca. 1728-1811.*

Cornelis Jacobsen QUICK and Maria VAN HOOGTEN				
his 1st, her 1st? Tunis QUICK m? ca. 1728 = ? b 21 Aug 1698 NYC d before 1755/6				
his 2nd, her 1st m ca. 1758/59 = Catherine KINNEY d ca. Jan 1774 d late 1786				
Cornelius (a)	Tunis Jr. (b)	Catherine (c)	Mary (d)	Sarah (e)
b abt 1729/30	b abt 1731 m 18 Jun 1755 Catherine PHILLIPS d 16 Apr 1811	b abt 1733 m abt 1758 Phillip PETERS(ON) s/o Godfrey PETERS son Thomas P. Peterson (f)	b abt 1735 m abt 1760 Judiah HIGGINS s/o Joseph HIGGINS, Amwell	b abt 1737 m abt 1762 Andries (Andrew) JOHNSON son of Cornelius Johnson
Continued in Chapter 6 Table 2				

Notes:

- (a) The story of Cornelius is continued in Chapter 6. ACQ confuses our Cornelius, the son of Tunis, with his first cousin, the son of John Quick, Tunis’s brother. There is more on this issue in Chapter 6.
- (b) This information, according to ACQ, 51-52, I have not been able to verify.
- (c) Catherine Peterson received her legacy from her father’s estate on 19 April 1775 in lieu of her husband who was then deceased. An administrator of her husband’s estate was Joshua Corshon, who was possibly related to Sarah Corshon. The name P. Piterson appears in the estate papers of Cornelius Quick, Chapter 6, Table 4.
- (d) Joshua Higgins received Mary’s legacy on 7 January 1775. It is possible that his sister, Elizabeth, was the wife of Moses Holliday, Elizabeth Quimby’s son from her first marriage.
- (e) Andris Johnson received Sarah’s legacy on 19 April 1775. ACQ’s information regarding this person is incorrect.
- (f) Thomas P. Peterson also went west. He purchased some of the land that once belonged to his uncle, Cornelius Quick. See *The Descent of Cornelius Quick’s Land in Virginia* in Chapter 6.

Township meetings were held in taverns or the homes of township officials. Officials were appointed each year by the inhabitants of the townships, which selection had to be approved by the officers of the Court of Common Pleas. Officials carried such titles as “Overseer of the Poor”, “Surveyor of the Roads” (also called “Commissioner of Highways”), “Assessor”, “Collector”, “Constable”, “Township Clerk” and “Clerk of the Strays”. Members of the extended Quick family took their turn with their neighbors and friends serving in these various capacities.<sup>24</sup>

Of Tunis’s two sons only Tunis took a real interest in farming. Cornelius, whose story will be continued in Chapter 6, left home in about 1750 and subsequently had little to do with the homestead. Tunis Junior married Catherine Phillips, a neighbor, on 18 June 1755 and brought her to live in the cabin by the Neshannock. Three years later on 28 June 1758 Tunis sold Tunis Junior the northwest half of the farm—the part with the creekfront, the cleared land and the buildings—for the token sum of £20.<sup>25</sup> Perhaps his own impending marriage had something to do with this

23 These records are preserved in 46 vols. commencing 1 June 1714, hereinafter described as MCPH.

24 Minutes from the Amwell Township meetings survive from 1741-1798. HCHS, Amwell Twp. Minute Book A (unpaginated). A Tunis Quick served as constable in 1751-2. A Tunis Quick Jr. served as overseer for the swamp road—the one leading from Ringoes north to Quakertown—in 1761-2.

25 BAHT, Deed Book A-K Hunterdon County 499-501.

decision.

At about the age of sixty, in 1758 or the year after, Tunis married for the second time. His bride was Catherine Kinney, the middle-aged spinster daughter of the late Adrian Kinney and his wife, Charity, of Amwell. The Kinneys had been members of the Presbyterian Church at Pleasant Ridge, and though not exactly of the same faith as Tunis, were old friends. The families were already connected by marriage: Williampia, Catherine's sister, was the wife of John, Tunis's brother. A reference pertaining indirectly to this marriage can be seen in the records of the Court of Common Pleas.<sup>26</sup> They would have no children.

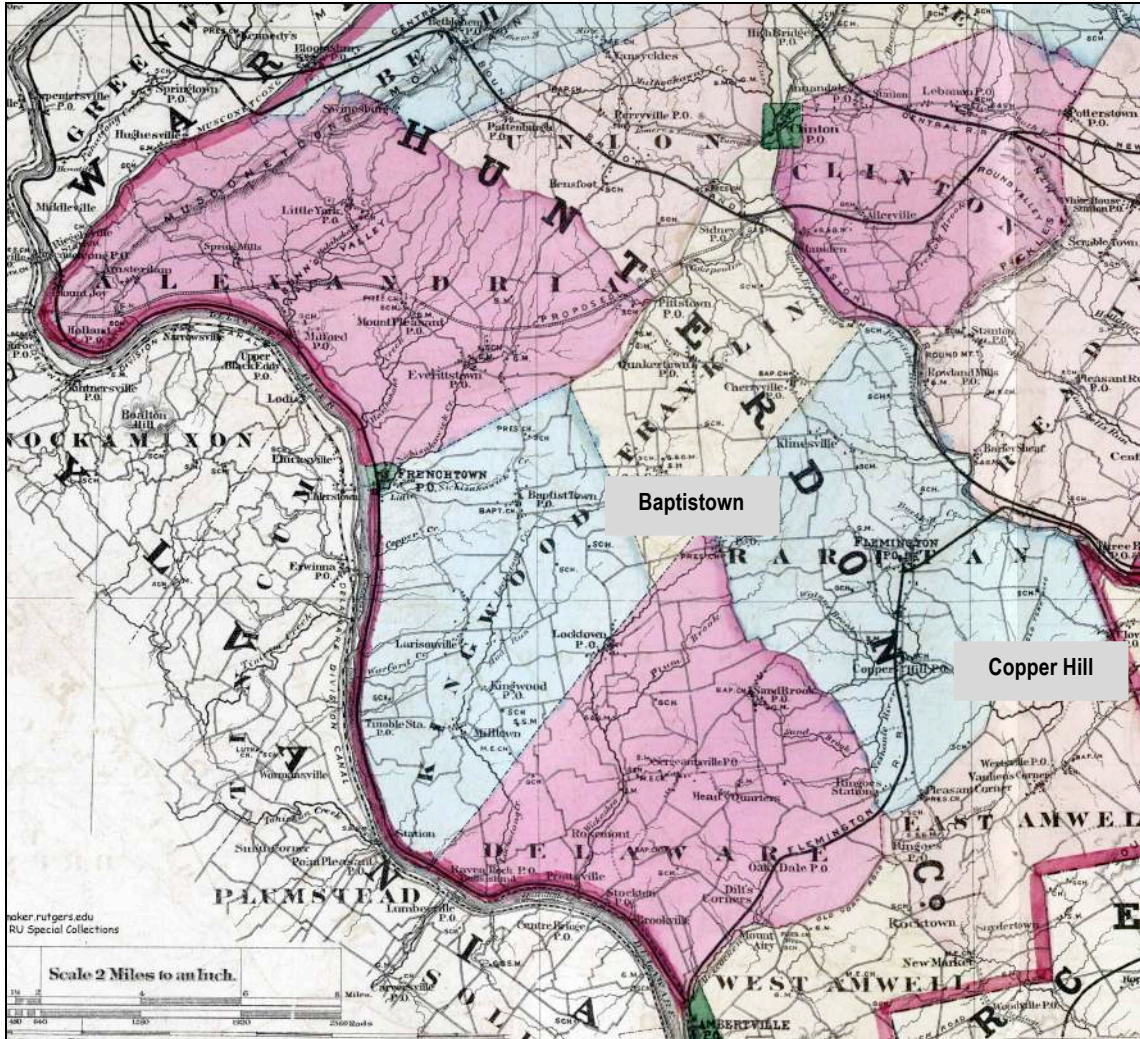


Figure 5. Extract from map of Hunterdon County, 1872.

Tunis was an enterprising person and owned and operated a still and a mill as well as a farm. In 1761 he purchased from Gershom Mott what was known in the area as Dawlis's new mill. William Dawlis, the builder of the mill, Herman's father, had settled in Amwell in the 1730s and

26 In May 1760 "Tunis Quick and Catherine his wife (late Catherine Kinney) and Elizabeth Kinney" sued Simon Kinney for debt regarding the estate of Adrian Kinney, their father. MCPH, 8, 368 and 384.



it is probably the cemetery of the church on Pleasant Ridge. The estate was appraised and duly inventoried. At the top of a list of the usual articles of bedsteads and kettles was the most valuable possession: "1 Negro Man 1 Negro Woman" estimated to be worth £45. On 2 April the southeast part of the farm was sold to the doctor, Gershom Craven, Tunis Junior's son-in-law. The following day Craven sold the land to Tunis Junior. In this way Tunis Junior gained control of the entire homestead farm.<sup>30</sup> Cornelius received his legacy on 16 December 1774 and the others in the new year. Cornelius and Tunis Junior, in possibly their last meeting together, agreed to a final accounting of the estate some four years later on 14 April 1779, in Pittstown, New Jersey.

Catherine lived on in the house of Tunis Jr. and his wife Catherine until late in 1786. By this time Cornelius and his family (along with son John and many extended family members) had moved to western Pennsylvania. This story is continued in Chapter 6. An inventory of items "as were left for Catherine Quick Widow of Said Tunas Quick now deceased" was filed by John and Ralph Schenck, friends of the family, on 3 January 1787. Tunis Junior closed the administration papers with a final accounting on 19 October 1787.<sup>31</sup>

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30 BAHT, Hunterdon Co. Deed Book, 1, 239-241. Gershom Craven was a well-respected physician in Amwell. A local legend has it he tended the wounds of Gen. Lafayette during the revolutionary war. Someone, no doubt a descendant, maintains a small American flag to this day on his grave in St. Andrew's cemetery in Ringoes.

31 The reference is given in footnote 28. This job fell to Tunis Jr. because Cornelius, the eldest son, was not present, having moved to western Pennsylvania. That Cornelius signed the final accounting on 14 April 1779 means he must have left for the west after that date.