
CHAPTER XVIII MATHEW COWDEN/COUDON

OF UPPER PROVIDENCE, CHESTER CO., PA. and PAXTON TWP., LANCASTER CO., PA.

As is seen in the attached copy [see page 143] ... Mathew Coudon and Hugh McClelan made the Inventory of Goods and chattels of Robert McClelan who died in 1741. Robert McClelan was the son-in-law of JAMES EWING who had come from Hopewell township in Old Hunterdon Co., N.J., to Nether Providence and Middletown township in 1727. Robert McClelan is listed in Middletown twp. the same year that James Ewing is listed in Nether/Lower Providence on the Tax Records I own. (See Chapter XVI)

We have no way of knowing of any connection between Mathew Coudon and the other Coudens who appear in both East Nottingham twp. Chester Co. in 1737 and in West Fallowfield twp. there about the same time.

Mathew Cowden received a Warrantee of land in Paxton twp. Lancaster Co., PA (see Pennsylvania Archives Series 3 Volume XXIV page 384), and moved there after 1748.

He is a very active and respected man in Chester Co. as proven by the fact he was chosen to Inventory the Estate of Robert McClelan. He also is listed with the following:

- Mathew Cowden Executor of the estate of James Stevenson of Marple twp., Chester Co., PA in 1747.
- Mathew Cowden Executor of the estate of Josias Simpson of Nether Providence twp., Chester Co., PA in 1748.
- Mathew Cowden Executor of the estate of Robert Patterson of Upper Providence twp. Chester Co., PA in 1748.
- Mathews Cowden's will is found in Lancaster Co., PA Will Book C Volume 1 pages 144-145. It is dated 19 October 1772. It was probated 19 July 1773. It makes the following bequests:
 - Wife, Martha, the Mansion house to be kept by son, James Cowden, and undivided land and 1/6 of furnishings.
 - son, William £10, 1 year after my decease
 - daughter, Margaret, wife of John Gillcrest (aka Gilchrist) 1 shilling 6 pence
 - son John, 1 shilling 6 pence
 - son, James, 1/6 furnishings and tract of land I now lives on. (NOTE: James Cowden of Paxton twp. Lancaster Co., PA was a Lt. Col. in the Revolutionary War.)
 - daughter, Mary, £50 and 1/6 of furnishings
 - daughter, Elizabeth, £50 and 1/6 of furnishings
 - daughter, Rebecca, £50 and 1/6 of furnishings
 - son, Benjamin, £50 and 1/6 of furnishings
 - Matthew Gillcrest, son of John Gillcrest, Sr. and my daughter Margaret Gillcrest, £10 in 2 years after my death
 - Mathew Cowden, son of John Cowden, £10 in 2 years after my death

/s/ Mathew Cowden

NOTE: I was unable to read the witnesses. It is a handwritten "copy" of the original will.

There are Deeds re the Gilchrist family and Cowden which are not listed here.

William Coudon (changed spelling) wrote his will 29 August 1781 in Paxton twp. Lancaster Co., PA Proved 28 Feb. 1782, recorded in Lancaster Co., PA Will Book D Volume 1 page 36. (It, too, is a copy of the original will as noted by Lancaster Co., containing his original signature.) However, it is filed under the name "William Cowden". It makes the following bequests:

- sister, Mary Cowden my beaver hat
- sisters, Elizabeth and Rebecca the remainder of the money due them, and my silver buckles to Rebecca
- nephew, Matthew Gillcrest all my wearing apparel and Rephel gun
- son of my brother John, deceased, Matthew, John and William all that Plantation in the county of Westmoreland Co., PA in Croked-Creek settlement (not to be sold until my nephew, William Cowden, is 22 years old. If either should die it will descend to nephew, Mathew Gillcreest.
- James Cavel an executor, with James Cochran.
- Niece, Martha Gillcrest (My sister Margaret's daughter) £3.
- /w/ Jas Cowdon (actual) /s/ William Cowdon
- /w/ John Gillreest (?) (actual signature)
- notation "James Cowden and John Gilchrist the two witnesses sworn James Cochran an James Carven their Exor^s Sworn 28 Feb. 1782."

I have not traced this family further.

There is a family of a William Cowden who died prior to 1765 in West Fallowfield who had an only son, Robert Cowden. We have his daughters married names but nothing on what happened to Robert.

Robert Cowden might be the Robert in Cumberland Co., PA who came to Georgia with Allen Leeper. He did "stop off" in Staunton, VA in Dec of 1796. Robert Cowden came to Carlisle, PA prior to their returning to Georgia in January of 1797. [From the "Diary of Allen Leeper" as published in the *Journal of American Genealogy* Vol. 2 #2 pp 129-140; Vol 2 #3 pp 214-228 and Vol 2 #4 pp 365-379. A copy of this was shared with me by Laura Dingle Ewing of Harriett Arkansas.

**Inventory for Robert McClelan, deceased
Filed 13 November 1741, No. 761**

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