

Life and Family of Frazier Gray

Frazier Gray

Frazier Gray was born in 1761 in New Jersey to William and Elizabeth Jones Gray.¹ He served in 2 different Delaware regiments in the Revolutionary War. Frazier Gray served in the 2nd Regiment of the Delaware Militia in 1780.² He then served in Hall's Delaware Regiment for 18 months from March 1782 to September 1783. In his service records, Frazier Gray is described as 5' 6" tall, brown hair, fair complexion, and his trade is listed as wheelwright.³

Frazier Gray married Elizabeth Lockwood in 1796.⁴ Frazier and Elizabeth had three known children, as listed in the table below:

¹ U.S., Ohio, Soldiers Grave Registration Cards, Frazier Grave, born 1761 in NJ, died 9 Oct 1849, Marion County OH, burial Big Island Township, Marion County OH, digital image, Fold3.com. U.S., Sons of the American Revolution Membership Applications, Utah society application of David Ramsey Gray, May 13, 1897, digital images, Ancestry.com.

² US, Compiled Revolutionary War Military Service Records, Frazier Gray, Second Delaware Regiment of Militia, Pay Roll dated October 31, 1780, National Archives; Washington, D.C.; Compiled Service Records of Soldiers who Served in the American Army During the Revolutionary War; Record Group Title: War Department Collection of Revolutionary War Records; Record Group Number: 93; Series Number: M881.

³ US, Revolutionary War Service Records, 1775 – 1783, Compiled Service Record of Frazier Gray, Private, Hall's Regiment, Delaware, The National Archives, Washington, D.C., NARA record group 93, publication M881, NARA catalog ID 570910, 10 images, fold3.com.

⁴ Daughters of the American Revolution Lineage Book, Volume 96, lineage of Mrs. Clara Bearnes Haskins, marriage of Frazier Gray and Elizabeth Lockwood, 1796, Washington D.C.: National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, 1919, page 84. Note: the characterization of this being Frazier Gray's 2nd marriage is incorrect. This error stems from Frazier Gray's mention in the will of Daniel Heavalo. Delaware, Sussex County Probate Records, Will of Daniel Heavalo, May 8, 1789, Calendar of Sussex County, Delaware Probate Records, 1680-1800. Georgetown, DE: Public Archives Commission, 1964.

Children of Frazier and Elizabeth Gray of Sussex County Delaware				
Name	Birth	Marriage	Death	Additional Evidence
David Gray	1800	Naomi Lofland 1820 Sussex County DE	Oct 24, 1887	David Gray was a Methodist minister – Gray Chapel at Ohio Wesleyan U. was named for him.
Samuel Gray	August 1, 1803	Eliza	Nov 22, 1881	Samuel Gray owned a farm in Marion Ohio.
George Gray	1809	Mary Jane Barr 1827 Sussex County DE	March 28, 1869	Mary Jane Barr lived in the Broadkill Hundred when she married.
<p>Sources:</p> <p>US Census, 1850, Ohio, Crawford, Bucyrus, household of David Gray, age 50, born in Delaware, Naomi Gray, age 50, born in Delaware, 5 children named Gray, and Jesse Durbin, age 22, The National Archives in Washington D.C.; Record Group: Records of the Bureau of the Census; Record Group Number: 29; Series Number: M432; Roll: 671; Page: 428a.</p> <p>Delaware, Marriage Records, marriage bond for David Gray and Naomi Lofland, 14 September 1820, Public Archives Commission, Delaware Public Archives; Dover, Delaware; Marriage Records, 1744-1912; Record Group: RG1325.003.004, digital image, Ancestry.com.</p> <p>FindaGrave Memorial, Rev. David Gray, died October 24, 1887, burial Maple Grove Cemetery, Findlay, OH, FindaGrave.com.</p> <p>Five Colleges of Ohio, Gray Chapel, Ohio Wesleyan University, accessed at https://ohio5.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p15963coll29/id/7677/.</p> <p>US Census, 1860, Ohio, Hancock, Findlay, household of Sameul Gray, age 43, Eliza Gray, age 37, 5 children with the surname Gray ages 1 – 13, The National Archives in Washington D.C.; Record Group: Records of the Bureau of the Census; Record Group Number: 29; NARA Publication Series Number: M653.</p> <p>FindaGrave Memorial, Samuel Gray, died November 22, 1881, burial Frame Cemetery, Meeker, OH, FindaGrave.com.</p> <p>Delaware, Marriage Records, marriage of George Gray and Jane Barr, February 8, 1827, Public Archives Commission, Delaware Public Archives; Dover, Delaware; Marriage Records, 1744-1912; Record Group: RG1325.003.004.</p> <p>US Census, 1850, Ohio, Marion, Salt Rock household of George Gray, age 44, Mary J. Gray, age 41, 7 children with the surname Gray, The National Archives in Washington D.C.; Record Group: Records of the Bureau of the Census; Record Group Number: 29; Series Number: M432; Roll: 708; Page: 55b.</p> <p>FindaGrave Memorial, George Gray, died December 29 1880, burial Pleasant Hill Cemetery, Big Island, OH, FindaGrave.com.</p>				

Frazier Gray is recorded as a resident of the Broadkiln Hundred in 1810 and 1830.⁵ In 1838, Frazier Gray sold his land in the Broadkiln Hundred to his nephew Joseph Robbins, son of

⁵ US Census, 1810, Delaware, Sussex, Broadkiln Hundred, household of Frazier Gray, National Archives, Washington, D.C., NARA publication Roll: 4; Page: 445; Image: Dem252_4-0234; FHL Roll: 0224381. US Census, 1830, Delaware, Sussex, Broadkiln Hundred, household of Frazier Gray, National Archives, Washington, D.C., NARA publication Series: M19; Roll: 13; Page: 30; Family History Library Film: 0006415.

his sister Elizabeth Gray.⁶ Frazier Gray was enumerated in the 1840 census of Marion County Ohio. He died there in 1849, and his grave marker was provided in 1977 by the Veterans Administration in recognition of his service in the Revolutionary War.⁷

Where did Frazier Gray live in Delaware?

The 2 census records and the deed for the sale of his property record his residence as the Broadkiln Hundred. Hundreds in Delaware are subdivisions of the counties that were originally established for tax purposes. The only historical map found for the Broadkiln Hundred, dated 1868, shows its area to encompass the town of Milton and the area east of that town toward the Delaware Bay.

There were changes to the boundaries of the Broadkiln Hundred in the 19th century. The Georgetown Hundred, established first in 1833 by an act of the Delaware legislature out of territory taken from the Broadkiln Hundred. “This act was repealed in 1835 and the Georgetown Hundred disappeared. It was recreated in 1861.”⁸ The censuses of 1810 and 1830 were

⁶ Delaware Land Records, Deed of Frazier Gray to Joseph Rollins, 10 October 1838, land in Broadkiln Hundred, Recorder of Deeds, Sussex County, RG 4555, Subgroup 000, Series 030. Delaware Public Archives, Dover, Delaware, digital images, image 376 of 564, Ancestry.com. Delaware, Wills and Probate Records, Will of William Robbins Sen., probate place Sussex County, DE, probate date April 16, 1819, Joseph Robbins named as a son and heir, Will Books G-H, 1813 – 1836, digital image, Ancestry.com. National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, volume 44, lineage of Mrs. Hattie Gertrude Lank McCubbin, descendant of William Robbins, private in the Monmouth County, New Jersey Militia, Elizabeth Gray, wife of William Robbins, Washington D.C., 1919, page 111, digital images, image 113 of 353, Ancestry.com.

⁷ FindaGrave Memorial, Frazier Gray, died October 8, 1849, burial Union Cemetery, Marion County Ohio, FindaGrave.com. US, Headstone Applications for Military Veterans, veteran Frazier Gray, private, Delaware Line, Union Cemetery, Big Island Township, Ohio, applicant Captain William Hendricks Chapter of the DAR, dated February 14, 1977.

⁸ Delaware Public Archives, “Georgetown Hundred”, accessed at <https://archives.delaware.gov/delaware-historical-markers/georgetown-hundred-41/>.

conducted before the Georgetown Hundred was created, and the 1838 sale of Frazier Gray's property was completed after the Georgetown Hundred was abolished.

The only historical maps found of the Delaware Hundreds are contained in an 1868 Atlas by Pomeroy and Beers.⁹ The surname Robbins is found labeling houses on both the Broadkiln and Georgetown Hundreds maps. Joseph Robbins, the man to whom Frazier Gray sold his land, died in 1862 and is buried in the McColley Church cemetery in the Georgetown Hundred.¹⁰ No evidence is found in the Sussex County Registry of Deeds that Joseph Robbins sold any land to anyone after purchasing Frazier Gray's land in 1838, so the land he owned when he died is very likely the land of Frazier Gray.

An excerpt of the 1868 map of the northernmost part of the Georgetown Hundred is shown below:

⁹ Pomeroy and Beers, Delaware State Atlas, Philadelphia, 1868. Digital images from The Delaware 1868 Hundreds Maps, dgs.udel.edu.

¹⁰ FindaGrave Memorial, inscription: "Joseph Robbins, Died 11 July 1862, Aged 78 years, 1 Mo. & 21 Days", burial McColleys Cemetery, Georgetown Delaware, FindaGrave.com.



The house labeled Joseph Robbins appears near the center of this image to the east of a road. The Joseph Robbins who purchased Frazier Gray's land died in 1862 and his buried in McColleys Cemetery in Georgetown alongside his wife Mary. The sons of Joseph Robbins were very likely the Robbins families labeled on the 1868 map.

The Sons of Joseph (1783 – 1862) and Mary Robbins (1791 – 1867) Shown on the 1868 Map of Georgetown Hundred, Sussex County Delaware			
Name	Birth	Death & Burial	Residence 1860 - 70
Joseph Robbins	1831	1905 McColleys Cemetery Georgetown	Georgetown
David H. Robbins	1826	1901 Barratts Chapel Cemetery Frederica DE	1860 Georgetown 1870 Milford
William H. Robbins	1830	1877 Barratts Chapel Cemetery Frederica DE	1860 Milford 1870 South Murderkill Hundred
Sources: US Census, 1860, Sussex County Delaware, Records of the Bureau of the Census; Record Group Number: 29; NARA Publication Series Number: M653, The National Archives in Washington D.C. US Census, 1870, Sussex County Delaware, NARA microfilm publication M593, Roll: M593_122; Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration.			

Interestingly, David H. Robbins sold 103 acres of land in the Georgetown Hundred conveyed to him by his father in his will.¹¹ The date of this deed is October 3, 1867 and the publication date of the map of the Georgetown Hundred is 1868. The close time frame map explain why David H. Robbins' name appears on the map. No record has been found of William H. Robbins owning land in Georgetown. It is possible that he was living on the land of his brother David since the houses labeled William and David appear on the same road close to each other on the map. This road is named Robbins Road in the present era.

The name Donovan appears on the 1868 map on several houses east and north of Joseph Robbins' home. Frazier Gray sold a 25 acre parcel adjoining his land to John Donovan in 1816.¹² Several Donovan families are shown on the 1868 map near the lands of the Robbins family. The evidence supports the conclusion that the lands of the Robbins and Donovan families in 1868 had been partly the lands of Frazier Gray. No monument honoring the service of Frazier Gray has been found in Sussex County Delaware.

¹¹ Delaware, Land Records, Sussex County, volume 68, pages 560-1, October 3, 1867, consideration \$1,500, Deed of David H. Robbins to Sallie A. Burton, 107 acres of land in Georgetown Hundred, conveyed by Joseph Robbins deceased by his will dated June 18, 1862, land conveyed to Joseph Robbins by deed dated November 14, 1838 and recorded in volume 48, page 152, Delaware Public Archives; Delaware Land Records; Roll Number: 68. The reference to the deed in volume 48 page 152 is the deed of John Gray, son of Frazier Gray, to Joseph Robbins conveying John Gray's title to the lands formerly of his brother Samuel, which Samuel had title conveyed from their father Frazier Gray: Delaware, Sussex County Registry of Deeds, volume 48, pages 152-3, deed of John Gray to Joseph Robbins, 111 acres of land in Broadkiln Hundred, image 382 of 556, FamilySearch.org.

¹² Delaware Land Records, Deed of Frazier Gray to John Donovan, volume 14, pages 213-4, December 16, 1816, consideration \$200, twenty five and three quarters of land in Broadkiln Hundred, bounding on land of Frazier Gray, Recorder of Deeds, Sussex County, RG 4555, Subgroup 000, Series 030. Delaware Public Archives, Dover, Delaware, digital images, image 450 of 652, Ancestry.com.