

HENRY VANMETER TIMELINE – 2023

EARLY LIFE – I get really confused trying to figure out if any of the earlier documents in various counties and states apply to my ancestor Henry VanMetre who married Martha Moore of Cumberland & Jefferson Twp., Greene Co PA. There are multiple suggestions for parentage. There are multiple Henry Vanmeters, and facts about our ancestor are claimed by many others. Abraham Teagarden had land in Hampshire Co VA (WV) in the 1760s that was surveyed by David Vance – Teagarden being the original landowner who brought settlers to the Tenmile region – and Henry Vanmeter also had land surveyed by Vance in the 1760s on Mill Creek on the South Branch of the Potomac on the manor line of Wappocomo (Romney WV) (Hampshire Co VA Deeds, v. 1, p. 81-82; v. 2, p. 139; v. 22, p. 97; also several Northern Neck grants viewable on the Library of Virginia website) – no wife named. Some of the writers that seem to be the most authoritative almost ignore our Henry Vanmeter of Cumberland/Jefferson. Early researchers made wrong interpretations, particularly on the Henry with the three wives, that have been repeated on every website. I'm not ready to guess which Henry is ours in the 1760s prior to settlement in the Tenmile country, and I'm not ready to state the names of his parents. The Vanmeters were large landowners, active in court records, and there should be much evidence out there to straighten it all out. However, the family repeats the same names in every generation, and the multitude of literature in print and virtual format serves to cloud things a bit. This timeline serves to place our Henry Van Matre on the map.

HENRY VAN MATRE (died 1803) – WIFE MARTHA MOORE – CUMBERLAND TOWNSHIP

1770s – Waychoff, Andrew J., *Local History of Greene County and Southwestern Pennsylvania* (Waynesburg, PA: Greene County Historical Society, 1975), No. 113 [Excerpts]. “Early Settlers. The Swans, Vanmeters, Hughes, etc. The fifty emigrants whom I left Camping along the lower Ten Mile valley in No. 37, aided one another in cutting roads to the selections made the previous year and to make new locations. They all scattered to the southward, as was their intention. Van Meter Tomahawks Claim. Henry Van Meter tomahawked a large claim to what is known as the Randolph and Price settlement, two and one-half miles southeast of Jefferson. The first cabin stood near the excellent spring at the home of the Prices..... No trouble was given these settlers by the Indians until 1774, the time of Dunmore’s war. This was the place of the Swan-Van Meter fort as stated elsewhere..... Many Thrilling Adventures. Many were the experiences of the Swan and Van Meters. The story of most of them has been lost. Here is one yet told. A young girl, a niece of the Van Meters, was stolen by Indians and taken away and escaped after being taken many miles from home. She wandered many days in her attempt to return home. Her food was mostly only roots and wild berries. She suffered much from hunger and exposure. She found a dead snake and ate it with relish, and in later life said it was the best meat she ever tasted. After many days she found her way home.... Richard Hughes married a Van Meter and built his cabin at the site of the old Alfree Mill and later built a mill there, which site later fell into the ownership of the Alfrees.... It was Henry and not Jacob Vanmeter who immigrated to this county in company with John Swan and Thomas Hughes. This is the fact, notwithstanding, “Border Warfare” records it as Jacob. However, there seems to have been another family of Vanmeters in the county at a very early day, as a record of membership in the Goshen Baptist Church at Garard’s Fort embraces among its first members Jacob, John and Abraham Vanmeter and their wives and Benjamin Vanmeter. A Baptist history in my possession also speaks of Jacob Vanmeter as of the Muddy Creek settlement. But the descendants of the Swans and Vanmeters, who have every facility of knowing, assert that it was Henry who came with Swan and Hughes as stated above. He was a public spirited and very popular man. He is said to have had the first commission for justice of the peace ever held in the territory of Greene county. His first appointment was from the governor of the colony of Virginia. He was elected a justice

of the peace for Cumberland township, Washington county, in the year 1782, and was elected one of the commissioners of the county in 1788. First Baptist Church in County. He was a staunch Baptist, and joining a few others built a Baptist meeting house on the farm now owned by Ellis B. Bailey. It was used for many years as a place of worship. It was the first Baptist church erected in this county and was the only one ever built in the vicinity of Carmichaels, and I am told that relics of its ruins are still visible on its original site. Henry Vanmeter had three sons, Rezin, Craven, and Abraham [actually grandchildren], who emigrated to Ohio at an early date. His son Jesse married Nancy Seals, of the Jackson Fort settlement, of which marriage William Kincaid, of Jefferson township, is the only living descendant. Jesse lived until the day of his death on a part of the land taken up by his father. The daughters, Elizabeth and Phoebe, married brothers – William and Ellis Thomas. Phoebe, who married Ellis Thomas, moved out to Grave Creek. Elizabeth and her husband settled on the waters of Dunkard creek a short distance above Blacksville, and he was afterwards shot by the Indians.”

1773 – Assessment Roll, Springhill Twp., Bedford Co PA, includes Henry Vanmeter and Abraham Vanmeter. [Leckey, p. 126-129 who credits Veach’s *Monongahela of Old*].

1773 – Westmoreland Co PA Quarter Sessions, 2nd Term held July 6, 1773 – Two bills of indictment for Riot, found against Henry Vanmetre, Abraham Vanmetre, Jacob Vanmetre, Simeon Moore, Jesse Pigman, Nathan Freaks, Thomas Roach, Daniel Murdoch, Charles Swan, John Swan, John Swan Jr., Thomas Swan, Thomas Hughes, James Johnson, and one Harrison [Crumrine, Boyd. History of Washington Co PA. Philadelphia, PA: H.L. Everts & Co., 1882, p. 152]. Springhill Township was included in the newly formed Westmoreland County in 1773 and included what is now Greene, Washington, and part of Fayette County. These Quarter Sessions records do not appear to be online, so I have not viewed the entry, but other historians suggest that this had something to do with the PA/VA border dispute, the Vanmeters and their neighbors being proponents of Virginia.

1774 – Draper Manuscripts, Series NN, Vol. 4, p. 11 (and reverse) (FHL 889179), “A List of Cattle that was Bought and aprised [sic] for the youse [sic] of the Army by William Harrod,” including Aug. 22, of Henry Vanmeter, seven steers aprisd. to 25.17.6” – [seems to be the source of the public service claim immediately below]. Reverse is labeled as Capt. William Harrod’s account.

1774 – Draper Manuscripts, Series NN, Vol. 4, p. 10 (and reverse) (FHL 889179) – “Henry Vanmetr [sic] 17” on list dated Augt. 22, 1774, under heading “Calves” – probably the original note pertaining to the above.

1774 – Fort Swan and Van Meter – “Cumberland township was probably the first settled township in Greene county. John Swan, as early as 1767, looked upon the stately forest that encumbered all the valley of Pumpkin with an eye of satisfaction, and to notice that he had chosen this location for himself proceeded to put his mark upon it by blazing the trees around a goodly circuit. In 1768-69 he returned and made a fixed habitation. He was accompanied by Thomas Hughes and Jesse Vanmeter, who united their strength for mutual protection. These early pioneers determined to provide for the safety of their families, and accordingly built a strong stockade, which has ever since been known as old Fort Swan and Vanmeter. It was situated near the border of Cumberland township (near the present town of Carmicheals), on the spot where the house of Andrew J. Young stands and was a noted rallying point in its day for the venturesome pioneers and their families. The fort was erected early, not later than 1774, and probably earlier. Until the massacre by Logan and his band, in 1774, there was no trouble with the Indians; though for safety it had become necessary to have a place of refuge and a fort was built on John Swan’s farm known as Swan and Vanmeter’s Fort.” Reference: *Report of the Commission to Locate the*

Site of the Frontier Forts of Pennsylvania, Vol. 2, Clarence M. Busch, State Printer of Pennsylvania, 1896, p. 436-485. [These forts are often referred to as Fort John Swan and Fort Henry Vanmeter].

1775 – Court for Augusta County (VA), Feb. 23d, 1775 – “Ordered that ... Henry Vanmetre [and others] ... are humbly recommended to his Excellency, the Governor, are proper persons to be added to the Commission of the Peace for this County.” [Minute Book of the Virginia Court held at Fort Dunmore (Pittsburgh) for the District of West Augusta, 1775-1776, p. 13 [Boyd Crumrine, *Carnegie Museum Annals*, Vol. 1, p. 533 (1902)].

1775 – Public Service Claims, West Augusta Co VA, Monday, 18 Sep 1775 (Ancestry.com database) – To Hen: Vanmater for 7 bullocks, L 25.17.6, William Harrod’s District. (Jacob Vanmater, Danl. Murdock, Felix Hughes, Philemon Hughes, Thos. Gist, Thos. Hughes, and Abm. Vanmater on same page). The book, *Lord Dunmore’s Little War of 1774*, by Warren Skidmore and Donna Kaminsky, Heritage Books, Inc., 2002, p. 58, 61, gives more details: To Abraham Vanmeter for 75 ditto [rations & horse hire]; To Jacob Vanmeter [for] 186# bacon; To Henry Vanmeter for 7 bullocks. [A bullock is a steer – young bull.]

1776 – Court for Augusta County, April 18th, 1776 – “On the Petition of James Mitchell & others setting forth that a Road is Established from Conrad Walters, by Wm. Teagarden’s ferry, to the Mouth of the Wheeling, which is very Inconvenient to your Petrs [petitioners] & praying that a Review of the sd Road be made. It is ordered that Ebenezer Zane, James McMahan, David Owens, Henry Vanmatre, Dav’d. Evans, Geo. Cox, James McCoy, John McClalan, or any 6 of them, being first Sworn, view if the old Road Estab [established] is Conv [convenient], if not make a report of the most Conv way...” [Minute Book of the Virginia Court held at Fort Dunmore (Pittsburgh) for the District of West Augusta, 1775-1776, p. 76 [Boyd Crumrine, *Carnegie Museum Annals*, Vol. 1, p. 564 (1902)].

1776 – “At a court held at Pittsburgh, for the District of West Augusta, the Twentieth day of August, 1776,” Henry Vanmetree [sic] [and others] “are recommended as proper persons to be added to the Commission of the Peace.” [Minute Book of the Virginia Court held at Fort Dunmore (Pittsburgh) for the District of West Augusta, 1775-1776, p. 78 [Boyd Crumrine, *Carnegie Museum Annals*, Vol. 1, p. 565-566 (1902)].

1776 – “At a Court Continued and held at Augusta Town [Washington PA] for the district of West Augusta, September the 18th, 1776” Henry Vanmetre [and others] “are recommended as Proper persons to be added to the Commission.” [Minute Book of the Virginia Court held at Fort Dunmore (Pittsburgh) for the District of West Augusta, 1775-1776, p. 79 [Boyd Crumrine, *Carnegie Museum Annals*, Vol. 1, p. 566-567 (1902)].

1776-1790 – Henry Vanmatre is mentioned on several slips in the estate record of my ancestor, Barnet O’Neal, who died in 1778. They were in the same military unit but had no familial tie at that time, to my knowledge. Vanmatre was probably acting in his capacity as a Justice of the Peace in Cumberland Township, Augusta Co VA (1754 for this region) – then District of West Augusta VA (1774) – then Monongalia Co VA (1776) – then Washington Co PA (1781) – then Greene Co PA (1796), as state boundaries changed and new counties were formed). May 6, 1776, Barney O’Neal, debit to Thomas Pribble, for old ax, pan handle, gun barrel, and 20 shillings Virginia money, sworn before Henry Vanmatre. May 6, 1776, Barney O’Neal, debit to Reubin Pribble, to 5 lbs of iron, sworn before me, Henry Vanmatre. June 15, 1777, Estate of Barnet O’Neal, deceased, to two bushels and a half of Indian corn, John Swan stated on oath that he had not been paid, sworn before me this 2d day of March 1780, Henry Vanmatre. May 1779, Barnet O’Neal, deceased, debit to Isaac Pritchard, for 18 lbs iron lent to him, 2

gallons whiskey lent to him, sworn before me, Henry Vanmatre. 17 Aug 1779, Monongalia Co VA, then came Torrance Clark before me, one of the justices of the peace for sd county, and made oath against Barnet O'Neel, deceased, to one square bar of English steel 11 inches long, and a small bar of iron, and that Jesse Pigman has got part of old bar, sworn before Henry Vanmetre. 4 Nov 1779, The estate of Barnet O'Neil, deceased, to Daniel Mordock to making 380 shingle nails, sworn before me, Henry Vanmatre. 12 Jul 1790 [year estate was settled], estate of Barnet O'Neil, debit to Josiah Crawford, to one horse, Washington County, before me, Henry Vanmatre. These notes give nice clear signatures for Henry Vanmatre.

Barnet O'Neal Estate Packet, Washington Co PA, 1779

1777 – Draper Manuscripts, Series NN, Vol. 4, p 56 (FHL 889179), “Complaint was laid in before me by Capt. Henry Enoch & Henry Vanmator that Capt. William Harod [sic] Hath from time to time embezzled the Commonwealth Store (ammunition & Booff tea). Know and therefore tomorrow you, the said William Harod to attend, at the House of Theophilus Philips, the second Monday of July next, to answer to the above charge. Given under my hand this 2nd day of June 1777. Zackd. Morgan.

Draper Manuscripts, Pittsburgh Papers, Series NN, Vol. 4, p. 56

1777 – Henry Van Meter gave an Oath of Allegiance to Charles Swan on 16 Sep 1777. Reference: Waychoff, Andrew J., *Local History of Greene County and Southwestern Pennsylvania*, Column #115.

1778 – Draper Manuscripts, Series NN, Vol. 3, p. 119 (FHL 889179), “May 12th, '78, Gen. H. writes Wm. Minor, Jesse Pigman & Henry Vanmetre regretting that he cannot send them relief & protection (up Monongahela river). Note: This is in Draper’s handwriting.

1781 – Effective Supply Tax, Cumberland Twp., Washington Co PA – Henry Vanmatre with 200 acres, 4 horses, 11 cows, 15 sheep; Joseph Vanmatre with 200 acres, 4 horses, 4 cows, 1 sheep; Absolom

Vanmeter [sic], single man, 1 horse. Persons exonerated from paying sales tax, Cumberland Twp., includes Henry Vanmetre, Joseph Vanmetre, and Jesse Vanmetre. And Absolom Vanmetre, single man.

<p>Vanmatre Henry 200 ac. 4 horses 11 Cows 15 Sheep</p>	<p>160 45 33 5</p>	<p>217 243</p>
<p>Vanmatre Joseph 200 ac. 4 hor. 4 Cows 9 Sheep</p>	<p>160 40 12 8</p>	<p>215</p>

1781 – Draper Manuscripts, Series NN, Vol. 6, p. 28-32, Recollections of Henry Jolly, Esq., Indian Warfare from 1774, being notes to the Ohio Border Warfare, printed at Clarksburg in 1831 – “Some time in May in the year 1781, a large party of hostile Indians, came to the Moravian town on big Muskingum, and encamped round the town for the purpose of preventing the Moravians [illegible] crossing into the [illegible] to the frontier settlements, but a [illegible] was permitted to pass out and conveyed the [illegible] to Fort McIntosh from & thence to Pittsburgh to Col. Brodhead, Commandant of the western department, & from him to the different leading officers on the frontier. Volunteers immediately turned out to the frontier forts, about 12 of us went from the vicinity of Washn. Pa., and went to Vanmater’s fort. We arrived there in the waning, and on that day, a small party of natives came in & killed 3 or 4 hogs that Majr. McCollock had in pen on his farm, took two or three horses, & crossed the Ohio above Wheeling, and were joined by the small party from Washington, of which I was in the [illegible] the danger was over for that time, and to our [illegible], but the next day, we read intelligence that a large party of Indians had cross the river at Bogg’s Island, 3 or 4 miles below the mouth of Wheeling. [Note: I have included only the paragraphs surrounding the mention of Fort Vanmeter here. This is one of the incidents that led to the raid into Ohio by Col. Williamson.]

1782 – Petition No. 8, from Sundry Inhabitants of Yohogania and Monongalia to be Laid before Assembly, 1782, in The Virginia Genealogist, 17:3, Jul-Sep 1973, p. 214, in opposition to Pennsylvania’s claim of their Virginia lands, includes signatures of Absalom Vanmatre, Henry Vanmatre, Jesse Vanmatre, and Joseph Vanmatre.

1782 – Effective Supply Tax, Cumberland Twp., Washington Co PA, includes Henry Vanmatre, 200 acres, 4 horses, 11 cows, 15 sheep; Joseph Vanmatre, 200 acres, 4 horses, 4 cows, 9 sheep; Jesse Vanmatre, 200 acres, 2 horses, 4 cows; single men, Absolom Vanmetre, 1 horse. Persons exonerated from paying sales tax includes Henry Vanmater [sic], Joseph Vanmater, and single man, Absolom Vanmetre.

1783 – Virginia State Archives, No. 25053, Auditor’s Account Book, 1783, Auditor’s Account XV (15), p. 595 – Richmond, Virga., 24 Oct 1783, Militia, wart. To Henry Vanmeter, for his services in the militia in 1781, 2.6.0.

Warrant to Barinotti O'Neal, for d. do.	2.6.0
Warrant to Jesse Bergman, for d. do.	7.15.8
Warrant to Thomas Johnson, for d. do.	1.10.8
Warrant to Edw. P. Murdoch, for d. do.	1.10.8
Warrant to Isaac Pridgett, for d. do.	5.15.0
Warrant to Henry Vanmeter, for d. do.	2.6.0
Warrant to Jesse Bergman, for d. do.	5.0.0
Warrant to Mr. Northboro, for d. do.	20.11.8

1783 – Petition from Inhabitants of the West Side of the Laurel Hill Mountains to the President of Congress [to form a new state of Westsylvania], January, 1783. Papers of the Continental Congress, Item 48, p. 251-256. Signers include Henry Vanmeter, Joseph Vanmeter, and Abraham Vanmeter. I have a photocopy from Papers of Continental Congress 1774-1789, Series M247 Roll 62, Item 48, Memorials of People in Illinois, Kaskaskia, and Kentucky, 1780-1789, p. 251-253, which seems to be the very same Jan 1783 document. The pages of names are in the same order, except that it reads: Henry Vanmeter, Joseph Vanmeter, Jesse Vanmeter, and Absalom Vanmeter. The first transcription was from a book, *Two Lists of Early Residents in Southwestern Pennsylvania*, by Helen L. Harriss, 1984, and doesn't seem to be as accurate. Note: Henry Vanmeter and Jesse Vanmeter appear on the list twice.

1783 – Assessment for Cumberland Twp., Washington Co PA – No Vanmeters in either the supply tax or exoneration side.

1784 – Assessment Roll for 1784, Cumberland Twp., Washington Co PA – Henry Vanmeter, Jesse Vanmeter, and Joseph Vanmeter refuse to give in their property but must pay taxes [Leckey, p. 133].

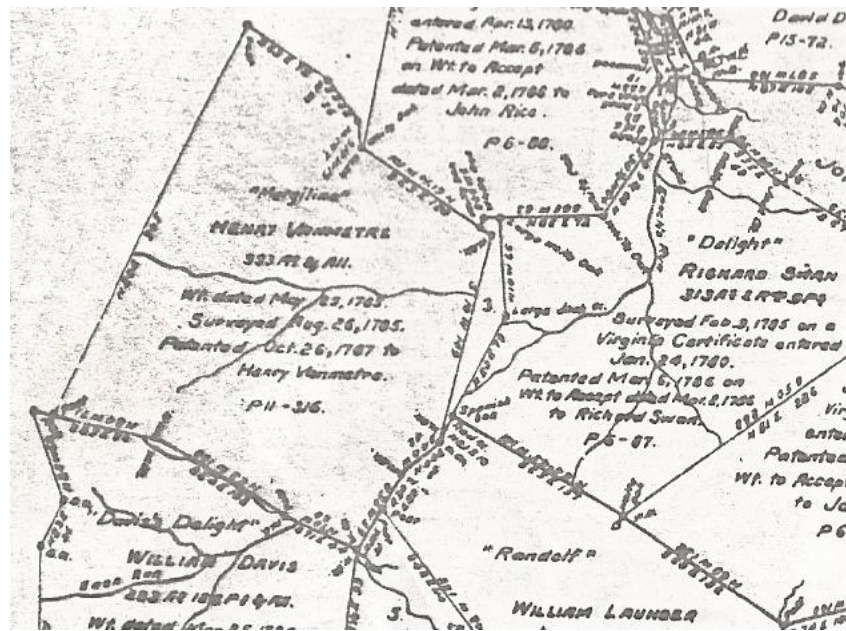
1785 – Colonial Records of Pennsylvania, Vol. 14, p. 357: Supreme Executive Council, Philadelphia, PA, Friday, February 11, 1785, “Henry Vanmetre, Esquire, was elected a Justice of the Peace and Court of Common Pleas for the county of Washington, and district of Cumberland, agreeably to a return made according to law.” Boyd Crumrine in his *History of Washington Co PA* (1882), p. 249, notes that Hon. Henry Vanmetre was commissioned as an Associate Judge of Washington Co on 11 Feb 1785.

1785 – Assessment Roll for 1785, Cumberland Twp., Washington Co PA – Henry Vanmetre with 200 acres, 4 horses, 11 cows; Joseph Vanmetre with 200 acres, 4 horses, 4 cows; Jesse Vanmetre with 200 acres, 2 horses, 4 cows; and Absolom Vanmetre, single free man.

1786 – Draper Manuscripts, Series NN, Vol. 4, p. 82 (and reverse) (FHL 889179) – April 8th, 1786 – Then received of William Harrod, one pound, one shilling, and two pence, in full for his State and County tax for the year 1785. Henry Vanmeter in behalf of Keanor Seton.”

1786 – Assessment Roll for Cumberland Twp., Washington Co PA – Henry Vanmetre, Esqr., with 220 acres, 5 horses, 11 cows; Jesse Vanmetre with 200 acres, 2 horses, 3 cows; Joseph Vanmetre with 220 acres, 4 horses, 3 cows; and Absolom Vanmeter, single free man, 1 horse. Duplicate of state sales tax, includes Joseph Vanmeter, Henry Vanmetre, Esqr., and Jesse Vanmetre; with Absolom Vanmetre, single man.

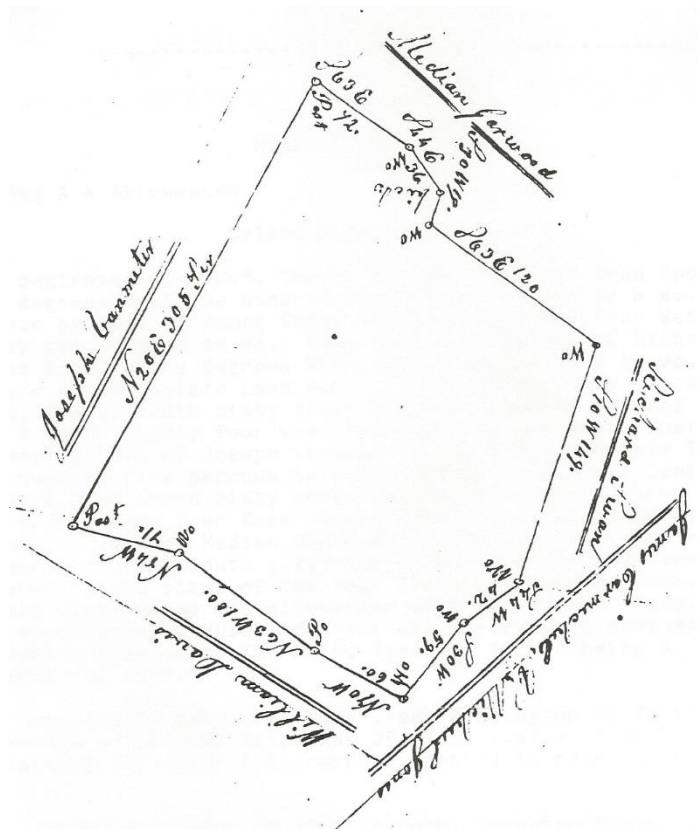
1786/87 – Cumberland Twp., Washington Co PA Tax List for 1786/87, includes Henry Vanmetre, Esq., paying 126 state tax and 83 county tax.



Horn Papers, Vol. 3, Cumberland Twp., Greene Co PA

1787 – Patent, Henry Vanmeter, 393 acres and allowances, called Mergilina – “Beginning at a WO (white oak), thence by land of Richd Swan, South ten degrees West one hundred forty nine perches to a WO (white oak). Thence by land of James Carmichaels South forty four West forty two perches to WO (white oak). Tehnce by same & Land of Michael Jones. South thirty degrees West fifty nine perches to WO (white oak). Tehnce by Wm. Davis’s Land North seventy West sixty perches to Post. Thence North sixty three West one hundred perches to WO (white oak) & North eighty four West seventy one perches to Post. Thence by Land of Joseph Vanmeter North twenty degrees East one hundred five perches to post. Thence by land of Daniel Mordock, and South sixty three East seventy two perches to WO (white oak). South forty four East thirty six perches to hickory. Thence by Land of Median Garwood. South ten West nineteen perches to WO (white oak) & South sixty three East one hundred twenty perches to the place of the Begn Containing three hundred ninety three Acres and allowances of 6 percent for Roads. With the appurtenances which sd Tract was Surveyed in pursuance of a Warrant granted to The sd. H. Vanmeter to his heirs & assigns for ever. Situate on Waters of Mudy [sic] Creek, Washington Co PA in Pursuance of Warrant Dated May 25, 1785 (called Mergilina) Containing 393 Acres & Allowances Granted to Henry Vanmeter. Patented October 26, 1787 by Henry Vanmeter, Commonwealth the 12th. Enrolled in Patent Book P, Volume 11, Page 317, Novm. 1/1787. (Signed) Benjamin Franklin. Attest, Charles Biddle.” [Cornerstone Clues, Vol. XVII, No. 3, Aug. 1992, p. 64-65].

1787 – Grantor index shows that a patent for 393 acres on Muddy Creek, PA Commonwealth to Henry Vanmatre, from 1787, was recorded in Greene Co PA Deeds, Vol. 255, p. 15, on 10 Jan 1917. This suggests that some of the land remained among descendants at least this long.



Copy of Patent, John R. Jamison, 4 Sep 1884

1787 – Assessment Roll for Cumberland Twp., Washington Co PA, includes Henry Vanmetre, Esqr., with 230 acres land, 5 horses, 13 cows; Joseph Vanmetre, with 200 acres land, 3 horses, 3 cows; Jesse Vanmetre with 200 acres land, 3 horses, 2 cows; and Absalom Vanmetre, single man, 1 horse. The duplicate for sales tax also lists Henry Vanmetre, Esqr., Joseph Vanmetre, Jesse Vanmetre; and Absalom Vanmetre, single man.

1788 – Wolf Scalp, submitted to FamilySearch by Dan Ellingson, 10 Aug 2015 – “Washington County ss, September 14th 1788 – I do hereby certify that Thomas Hughes brought a well grown wolfe [sic] scalp to me & proved according to Law that it was killed in this County therefore do Order the Treasurer to pay the bearer one pound five shillings, by me Henry Vanmetre.”

Washington County ss. September 14th 1788
 I do hereby certify that Thomas Hughes brought a well grown
 Wolfe Scalp to me & proved according to Law that it was
 killed in this County therefore do Order the Treasurer to pay
 the Bearer one pound five shillings by me Henry Vanmetre

1788 – Cumberland Twp., Washington Co PA Tax List, includes Henry Vanmatre, Esq., 6 horses at .54, 10 cows at .30, and 230 acres of land at 1.15/1.99. Joseph and Jesse Vanmatre are also listed. Note: A transcription in Leckey, p. 135, shows Henry Vanmeter Esquire, Joseph Vanmeter, and Jesse Vanmeter, with Absalom Vanmeter on the single freeman list.

1788 – Henry Vanmeter appears in a list of Commissioners for Washington Co PA under date Nov 1788 [Crumrine, Boyd. *History of Washington Co PA*. Philadelphia PA: H.L. Everts & Co., 1888, p. 469].

1789 – Indian Massacres [not sure of the source of my photocopy] – “About 1785, William Thomas and his bride, the daughter of Henry Van Meter of Carmichaels, Greene County, moved to the waters of Dunkard Creek on a branch of the creek now known as Miracle Run. They occupied the land which is now the home of Ralph Thomas, in Battelle District, Monongahela County, about two and one-half miles west of Blacksville, West Virginia, near the Mason and Dixon Line. At this time there were no other settlers closer than the town of Blacksville and this part of the country was a wilderness. He took with him a team of horses, a plough, and other farm implements, built a log cabin, and proceeded to clear his land. On April 21, 1789, the Mingo Indians were scouring the country for horses and other loot. George Washington had just been elected the first President of the United States and was about to be sworn into this high office in the city of New York. Late in the afternoon of that day, when William Thomas was working with his horses in a field near the log cabin, a band of roving Indians appeared at the edge of the clearing on the point above the house and fired several shots at him. One or more of the bullets hit him, but he leaped over the bank of a small stream in the edge of the clearing and hid himself in the top of a large fallen tree. There he stuffed leaves into the wound in order to prevent bleeding to death. His wife and infant son were in the cabin at the time. Hearing the shots, she snatched the infant from his cradle and ran to the thicket. That night she made her way to the old fort at Blacksville, where a posse was organized and sent to the scene of the massacre. There they found Thomas’ body and buried him in what is now the family cemetery, a few yards from where he died. The posse then trailed the Indians, who had taken the horses with them, and crossed the Ohio River a short distance below Wheeling, where the pursuit ended.”

1789 – Washington Co PA Deeds, Vol. 1F, p. 36-38, Indenture, 7 Sep 1789, Joseph Vanmatre, farmer, and wife Elizabeth, of Cumberland Twp., Washington Co PA, to Henry Vanmatre, Esquire, of same, consideration 5 pounds, 77 acres on Muddy Creek, part of a patent issued by the Supreme Executive Council of PA to Joseph Vanmatre on 6 Oct 1787; signed, Joseph Vanmatre, Elizabeth her X mark Vanmatre; witnessed by Absalom Vanmatre and Jesse Pigman, Jr.; recorded 29 Dec 1789.

1789 – Cumberland Twp., Washington Co PA Tax List, includes Henry Vanmetre, Esqr., 19.8 tax. Joseph and Jesse Vanmetre are also listed. Absalom Vanmetre is listed as a single man. Henry Vanmetre’s signature appears on the tax list for 3 Apr 1789 as they met at his house.

1790 Census, Washington Co PA, p. 162 – Henry Vanmetre, Esqr., listed with 2 males over 16, 3 males under 16, and 6 females. Neighbors were Joseph Vanmetre, Jesse Vanmetre, and Absalom Vanmetre.

1791 – Cumberland Twp., Washington Co PA Tax List, includes Henry Vanmatre with 230 acres of land taxed at .46, 5 horses at .14, and 20 cows at .30, total .90. Joseph, Jesse, and Absalom Vanmetre are taxed as well.

1793 William Seaton’s Day Book (http://www.cornerstonegenealogy.com/william_seaton-day_book.htm - accessed 5 May 2006) – Purchase by “Ellis Thomas, per Major Vanmetre’s daughter.”

1793 – Cumberland Twp., Washington Co PA Tax List, includes Henry Vanmatre for 17.0 tax. Joseph, Jesse, and Absalom Vanmetre appear on the same list. There is also a valuation book for 1793, and Henry Vanmatre has 7 horses at .24, 12 cows at .18, and 230 acres of land at .46, total .88. Isaac Young is listed in his home. Joseph, Jesse, and Absalom Vanmetre appear on the valuation list as well. There is yet another tax roll which appears to be 1793, including Henry Vanmatre with 7 horses, 12 horned cattle, and 230 acres. Joseph, Jesse, and Absalom Vanmetre are listed. Isaac Young is still there.

1794 – Cumberland Twp., Washington Co PA Tax List, includes Henry Vanmetre, at 1.6; also Henry Vanmetre, Sr., at 1.6.0. Joseph, Jesse, and Absalom Vanmetre are also listed. There is a valuation for 1794, with Henry Vanmatre, Sr., with 6 horses .20, 10 cows .15, and 230 acres .69, total 1.04; Henry, Joseph, Jesse, and Absalom Vanmatre appear on the rolls. Isaac Young is still listed with Henry Vanmatre, Sr. There is yet another list in 1794, labeled Return, with Henry Vanmetre, Sen., with 6 horses, 10 cows, and 230 acres land. Henry, Jr., Joseph, Jesse, and Absalom are listed.

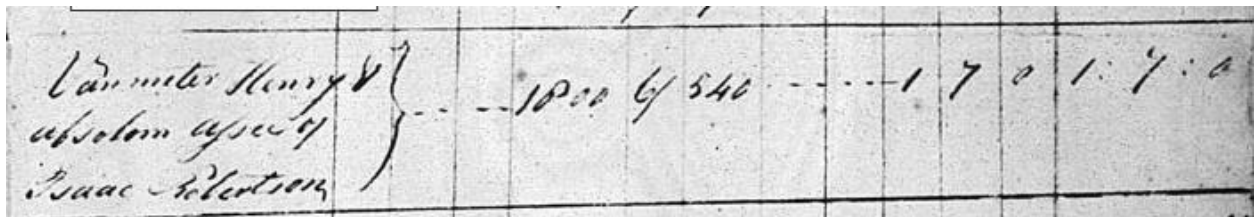
1796 – Kanawha Co VA (WV) Deeds, v. A, p. 101 – Indenture, 15 Jun 1796, Isaac Robinson [sic] and wife Sarah of Kanawha Co VA to Henry Vanmeter and Absolum [sic] Vanmeter of same, 1800 acres in Kanawha Co adjoining Peter Hogg land, on the banks of the Ohio River; signed by Isaac Robinson, Sarah Robinson; witnessed by Reuben Slaughter, William Clendenen, and Francis Watkins.

1796 – Kanawha Co VA (WV) Court Orders, Vol. 1, p. 35, 1 Aug 1796, Deed, Isaac Robinson to Henry Van Meter and Absalom Van Meter ordered recorded.

1796 – Kanawha Co VA (WV) Court Orders, Vol. 1, p. 85, 11 Jun 1796, Deed, Henry Van Meter for Absalom Van Meter his son, and Priscilla Van Meter, to Anthony Van Sickle, having been present in court, with oaths of Thomas Lewis and Wm. Owens.

There is a 1796 tax list for Cumberland Twp., Washington Co PA, labeled “Men’s Names” with Henry Vanmatre, Sr., having 230 acres taxed at .46, 4 horses 14, and 6 cows .9, total .69. Others listed include Henry Jr., Joseph, Jesse, and Absalom Vanmatre.

1797 – Kanawha Co VA (WV) Land Tax List, p. 113 (top) or p. 18 (bottom) – Henry and Absolum Vanmeter, assignees of Isaac Robertson, 1800 acres. No Vanmeter on previous list.



1797 – Kanawha Co VA (WV) Taxables List, p. 123 (top) or 28 (bottom) – Henry Vanmeter with 1 male over 16 and 1 horse; Absalom Vanmeter with 1 male over 16 and 5 horses; Henry Vanmeter Jnr. With 1 male over 16 and 1 horse.

4/17	Vanmeter Henry	1	1
	Vanmeter Absolom	1	5
	Vanmeter Henry	1	1

1798 – Kanawha Co VA (WV) Land Tax List, p. 135 (top) or p. 9 (bottom) – Henry VanMeeter with 1300 acres.

1798 – Kanawha Co VA (WV) Taxables List, p. 147 (top) or p. 21 (bottom) – Hendry Vanmeter with 1 male over 16, 1 horse; John Vanmeter with 1 male over 16; Henrey Vanmeter with 3 males over 16 and 3 horses; and Absolom Vanmer with 1 male over 16 and 4 horses.

	Vanmeter James	1	2
	Vanmeter Hendey	1	1
12	Vanmeter John	1	
	Vanmeter Henrey	3	3
July 4	Vanmer Absolom	1	4
	Vanmeter James	1	2

1798 – Cumberland Twp., Greene Co PA Direct Tax List, 1 Oct 1798, List A, #75, Henry Vanmatre, 1 dwelling house, 24 x 20, of logs, and a kitchen, 20 x 12, of logs, 1 ½ stories, 5 windows, 10 lights, with 1 out house, on a 2-acre lot, valued at \$175, listed next to Jesse Vanmatre; List B, #253, Henry Vanmatre, 40 acres, 1 barn 54 by 15 feet, 1 stable 16 by 14 feet, adjoining Absolom Vanmatre, Jesse Vanmatre, and others; total 232 acres, valued at \$1,896; listed next to Jesse Vanmatre (alphabetical list).

75	Vanmatre Henry	same	40	1 barn 24 by 20 feet 1 kitchen 20 by 12	Henry Vanmatre 40 acres	175		1798
253	Vanmatre Jesse	same	232	1 barn 54 by 15 feet 1 stable 16 by 14	Henry Vanmatre Jesse Vanmatre 40 acres	1896		1896

Ancestry.com - Direct (Glass) Tax for Pennsylvania, 1798

1798 – Dec 18 – Petition to the General Assembly of Virginia asking for a division of the county. Signed on 1 Nov 1798 in Kanawha Co VA (WV) by Absolam Van Matre, John Van Matre, Henry Van Matre, and Hank Van Matre. Reference: Library of Virginia, Digital Collections, Legislative Petitions, Reel 97, Box 128, Folder 9.

1799 – Greene Co PA Deeds, Vol. 1, p. 361-362, Indenture, 28 Jan 1799, Henry Vanmatre, Sr., of Cumberland Twp., Greene Co PA, and his wife Martha, to James Anderson, of same, whereas a warrant dated 25 May 1785 and patent dated 26 Oct 1787 was issued to Henry Vanmatre, Anderson pays consideration of 341 pounds, 10 shillings, for 40 acres, corner to Henry Vanmatre’s meadow. Signed, Henry Vanmatre, and Martha her M mark Vanmatre; witnessed by George his X mark Rex and Charles Anderson; Thos. Hughes witnesses Martha’s release of rights; recorded 27 Jun 1799.

1799 – Kanawha Co VA Deeds, Vol. A, p. 318-319, Indenture, 29 Apr 1799, Henry Van Matre, Sr., and Absolam Van Matre, his son, and Priscilla Van Matre, residents of Kanawha Co VA, to Anthony Van Sickles of same, 5 shillings VA, 180 acres in Kanawha Co., signed Henry Van Matre, Absolam Van Matre, and Priscilla her X mark Van Matre; witnessed by Frans. Watkins, William Owen, and Thos. Lewis. Relationship of Priscilla not indicated but assumed to be wife of Absalom.

1799 – Kanawha Co VA Deeds, Vol. A, p. 319-320, Indenture, 29 Apr 1799, Henry Van Matre, Sr., and Absolam Van Matre, and Priscilla Van Matre, residents of Kanawha Co VA, to Anthony Van Sickles, of same, 5 shillings VA, adjoining lands formerly purchased by Francis Watkins and Isaac Robertson, acreage not given, signed by Henry Van Matre, Absolam Van Matre, and Priscilla her X mark Van Matre; witnesses, Francis Watkins, William Owen, and Thomas Lewis.

1799 – Mason Co VA Deeds, Vol. 9, p. 291-297, 301-302, 495-496, 498-500 – Series of deeds beginning 5 Oct 1816 and ending 25 Jul 1836 regarding the sale of the undivided land belonging to Anthony Vansickles, deceased, between all the heirs, for three parcels on the waters of old Town Creek, a branch of the Ohio River, and Francis Watkins' mill run, also a branch of the Ohio River, which had been deeded, as follows, 29 Apr 1799, 180 acres, Henry and Absolom Vanmatre to Anthony Vansickles; 29 Apr 1799, 70 acres, Henry and Absolom Vanmatre to Anthony Vansickles; and 8 Mar 1800, 100 acres, Thomas Hogg to Anthony Vansickles.

1799 – Dec 5 – Petition to the General Assembly of Virginia asking for a division of Kanawha county. Signed by Henry Vanmeter. Reference: Library of Virginia, Digital Collections, Legislative Petitions, Reel 97, Box 128, Folder 11.

1799 – Dec 30 – Greene Co PA Quarter Sessions, vol. 1, p. 43 – Henry Vanmeter serving on grand jury. Vol. 1, p. 45 – December Session 1799 – Henry Vanmatre, a grand juror, named foreman.

1800 Census, Greene Co PA, p. 69, Henry Vanmetre, with 01011-00101-00. Jesse Vanmetre is listed next door.

1800 Tax, List of the Names of the Taxable Inhabitants within Jefferson Township, Greene Co PA, as returned by George Teagarden, Assistant Assessor:
Vanmatre, Henry
Vanmatre, Jesse

1800 Kanawha Co VA (WV) Land Tax List, p. 10 or 161 (both at top) – Henry VanMatre, 1800 acres. No Vanmeter in the taxable list.

1800 – Kanawha Co VA (WV) Deeds, Vol. A, p. 406-407, Indenture, 5 Mar 1800, Henry Vanmetre and wife Martha of Greene Co PA to Henry Vanmetre, Jr., of Kanawha Co VA, consideration \$100 PA, tract on Ohio River in State of Virginia, adjoining Isaac Robinson, Absolam Vanmetre; land description begins at the Ohio River bank, 250 acres, survey markers all H.V., part of tract that Henry Vanmetre and Abolam Vanmetre, son of Henry, purchased of Isaac Robinson; signed, Henry Vanmetre, Martha Vanmetre; witnessed by Jesse Vanmetre and James Lindsey. Henry and Martha Vanmetre were examined in Greene Co PA by Thomas Hughes and Eleazer Luce on 5 Mar 1800.

1800 – Kanawha Co VA (WV) Court Orders, Vol. 1, p. 107, 11 Jun 1800, Deed, Henry Van Meter and wife to Henry Van Meter, presented to court, certified by Thomas Hughes.

1800 – Kanawha Co VA (WV) Court Orders, Vol. 1, p. 118, 12 Sep 1800, Peter Alsbery vs Henry Van Meter on docket.

1801 – Kanawha Co VA, Personal Tax List:
Vanmeter, Absalem – 1 tithable, 8 horses
Vanmeter, Henry 3d – 1 tithable, 3 horses
Vanmeter, John – 1 tithable, 2 horses
Vanmeter, Henry – 1 tithable, 1 horse

1801 Kanawha Co VA (WV) Land Tax List, p. 13 or 197 (both at top) – Henry Vanmeter etal., 1550 acres; Henry Vanmeter, 250 acres. No taxable list on film for this year.

1801 – Kanawha Co VA (WV) Deeds, Vol. B, p. 23-24, Indenture, 28 Feb 1801, Francis Watkins and wife Nancy of Kanawha Co VA to Henry Van Matre, of same, land in Kanawha Co purchased of Rezin Beall, adjoining William Clendenen, Absalom Van Matre, and Samuel Summerville, 150 acres; signed Francis Watkins, Nancy Watkins; witnessed by Wm. Clendenen, Anselm Tupper, and Absalom Van Matre. Note that Samuel Summerville got his land from Francis and Nancy Watkins on 8 Feb 1801, 250 acres, part of Rezin Beall tract, per Vol. B, p. 20-21; also Absalom Van Matre got his land from Francis and Nancy Watkins on 28 Feb 1801, 300 acres, part of Rezen Beall tract, per Vol B, p. 21-23. Henry Van Matre was one of the witnesses to this last deed. There is an action in Kanawha Co Deeds, Vol. B, p. 332-333, concerning the Watkins to Absalom Vanmeter deed, where Nancy cannot conveniently travel to court, so William Clendenen and John McCulach are to go to Nancy to get her to acknowledge the deed separately from her husband, 21 Sep 1804 (order), and she signed 5 Oct 1804. A similar entry (Vol. C, p. 13-14) is for the Watkins to Henry Van Meter deed, where dower is released on 30 Mar 1805, affidavit taken by the same Wm. Clendenen and John McCulloch. [I noted “Nancy” in abstract but maybe they meant “Martha”?]

1801 – Kanawha Co VA (WV) Court Orders, Vol. 1, p. 127, 14 Apr 1801, Deeds, Francis Watkins and wife Nancy to Henry Van Meter, and another to Absalom Van Meter, ordered recorded.

1801 – Kanawha Co VA (WV) Court Orders, Vol. 1, p. 143, 9 Sep 1801, Peter Alshire vs Henry Van Meter on docket.

1801 – Kanawha Co VA (WV) Court Orders, Vol. 1, p. 144, 10 Sep 1801, Deed, Henry Van Meter to Anselm Van Sickle, presented in court and ordered recorded.

1801 – Kanawha Co VA (WV) Deeds, Vol. B, p. 128-129, Indenture, 24 Oct 1801, Henry Vanmeter “the elder” and wife Martha of Greene Co PA, to John Vanmetre [sic] of Kanawha Co VA, consideration \$500, land in Kanawha Co VA, 25 acres, adjoining Henry Van Meter, Jr., Peter Hugg, Anthony Vansickle, Frances Watkins; part of a larger tract purchased of Isaac Robinson; signed Henry Vanmeter, Martha her M mark Vanmeter; witnessed by James Lindsey, Georg Hersey. The Van Meters in Greene Co PA sign 24 Oct 1801 in front of Thomas Hughes and Wm. Seaton.

1801 – Greene Co PA Wills, Vol. 1, p. 35-56, FHL 864503, Will of Henry Vanmatre: “In the name of God Amen, I Henry Vanmatre, of the County of Greene in the State of Pennsylvania, being in good health at present, and of sound mind and memory, well knowing the uncertainty of Life, do make declare and publish this my last Will and Testament, viz., after my death, it is my desire that my Body be decently

buried at the discretion of my friends, and my Soul, I commit to Almighty God who gave it. As to my worldly affairs, it is my will and desire in the first place, that all my just debts be lawfully paid, and the remaining part of my estate to be divided among my Wife and Children in the following order, viz., In the first place, I give and bequeath to my beloved wife, Martha, all my Household furniture and Cash, together with one-third part of all my personal estate after my debts are fully paid, and the third part of the profits of my real estate during her natural life in lieu of her dower. Item 2d, to my Grandsons, Joab and Henry Vanmatre, sons of Joseph Vanmatre, I will and bequeath five pounds of Cash to be paid to their father in trust for them until [sic] they arrive severally to the age of twenty-one years. Item 3d, to my eldest son, Joseph Vanmatre, I will and bequeath five shillings in Cash in addition to the Plantation I have already given him. Item 4th, to my eight Daughters, namely, Sarah, Alice, Rachel, Elizabeth, Phebe, Rebekah, Martha, and Mary, I will and bequeath to each of them five shillings lawful money in addition to what I have already given them. Item 5th, to my second son, Jesse Vanmatre, I do devise one hundred and ninety acres of Land in fee simple to be taken off the east side the same Plantation on which I live, as follows. Beginning [sic] at a white oak corner by land of Danl Moredock deased [sic] marked H.V. running [sic] South nineteen degrees West [illegible] perches to a sand stone in my Meadow [illegible], thence South twenty four degrees East twenty four perches to a white oak, thence South forty degrees East seventy nine perches to a white oak, thence South twenty perches to a white oak, thence thirty six degrees East nineteen perches to a post, thence South twenty one degrees West twenty nine perches to a post on the original line, thence with said line to the place of Beginning [sic] to include all the improvements and and [sic] now in possession of said son, Jesse. Item 6th, To my son, Absalom Vanmatre, I do devise two hundred and thirty four acres of Land in fee simple, it being the residue of the place I now live on. Item 7th, Henry Vanmatre, Junr., I do devise in information of a Deed of Conveyance already given him [illegible] for two hundred & fifty acres of Land situate lying and being in Kentucky County in the State of Virginia, it being part of a larger tract of land which my son Abraham [sic] and myself purchased of Isaac Robertson. Item 8th, To my son, John Vanmatre, I do devise in fee the residue of my claim adjoining the land mentioned in my last devise purchased by myself and son Absalom of Isaac Robertson, containing by survey two hundred and fifty acres, Beginning [sic] at a stake Green Popular and white oak, running [sic] South ten degrees West two hundred and twenty seven perches to a Spanish oak corner marked H.V. on Peter Hoge's line, thence South eighty degrees East with said Hoge's line to a stake and stone marked H.V. on the West side and A.V.S. on the East side by the land of Anthony Vansickles, thence with said land North twenty seven degrees East two hundred and forty six perches to a stone marked H.V. on the Western side and A.V.S. on the Eastern side, thence down Francis Watkin's line to the place of Beginning [sic], provide nevertheless that if it shall so happen that the said John Vanmatre shall die without lawful Issue, that then in that case, I devise the last mentioned Tract of Land, containing two hundred and fifty acres, to my Grand son, William Thomas, in fee simple. Item 9th, To my said Grand son, William Thomas, I will and bequeath one Horse, one breeding Mair [sic], two Cows, one sett [sic] of Plow Irons and Geers, six Sheep, and Bed and Bedding [sic], and also it is my will and desire that he shall have an equal divide with the other Legatees in my personal estate, all to have share and share alike. I do also appoint my son, Jesse Vanmatre, and my son-in-law, Charles Swon [sic], my Executors of this my last Will and Testament. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my Seal, the twentieth day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and one. Note the word divide interlined the other Legatees araised [sic] before signed. Henry Van Matre

Signed, Sealed, published, pronounced and declared in the presence of John Heaton, Robert Cather, Wm. Mutkerler, Thos. Hughes. [Probate, 10 Feb 1803].

Will of
No. 55. Henry Canmatre deceased.

In the Name of God Amen, I Henry Canmatre of the County of Green in the State of Pennsylvania, being in good health at present, and of sound mind and memory, well knowing the uncertainty of life, do make declare and publish this my last Will and Testament viz. after my death it is my desire that my Body be decently buried at the discretion of my friends, and my Soul I commit to Almighty God who gave it. As to my worldly affairs it is my will and desire in the first place that all my just debts be lawfully paid, and the remaining part of my estate to be divided among my Wife and Children in the following order viz. In the first place I give and bequeath to my beloved wife Martha, all my Household furniture and Cash, together with one third part of all my personal estate after my debts are fully paid, and the third part of the profits of my real Estate during her natural life in lieu of her dower. Item 2^d To my Grand sons Joel and Henry Canmatre sons of Joseph Canmatre I will and bequeath five pounds each in Cash to be paid to their Father in trust for them untill they arrive severally to the age of twenty one years. Item 3^d to my eldest son Joseph Canmatre I will and bequeath five shillings in Cash in addition to the Plantation I have already given him. Item 4th to my eight Daughters namely Sarah, Alice, Rachel, Elizabeth, Peter, Rebekah, Martha, and Mary, I will and bequeath to each of them five shillings lawful money in addition to what I have already given them. Item 5th To my second son Jesse Canmatre I do devise one hundred and ninety acres of Land in fee simple to be taken off the east side the same Plantation on which I live as follows Beginning at a white oak corner by Land of Dank Moredock deceased marked A. C. running South nineteen degrees West — perches to a sand stone in my Meadow marked A. C. thence South twenty four degrees East twenty four perches to a white oak, thence South forty degrees East seventy nine perches to a white oak, thence South twenty perches to a white oak, thence South thirty six degrees East nineteen perches to a post, thence South twenty one degrees West twenty nine perches to a post on the original line, thence with said line to the place of Beginning to include all the improvements and and now in possession of said son Jesse. Item 6th To my son Abalom Canmatre I do devise two hundred and thirty four acres of Land in fee simple it being the residue of the place I now live on. Item 7th To my son Henry Canmatre Jr^d. I do devise in confirmation of a Deed of conveyance already given him by me for two hundred & fifty acres of Land situate lying and being in Kenhansaw

County in the State of Virginia it being part of a larger tract of land which my son Abraham and myself purchased of Isaac Robertson *Item 8th* To my son John Vanmatre I do devise in fee the residue of my claim adjoining the land mentioned in my last devise purchased by myself and son Absalom of Isaac Robertson containing by survey two hundred and fifty acres Beginning at a stake Green Coplar and white oak running South ten degrees West two hundred and twenty seven perches to a Spanish oak corner marked H. W. on Peter Hoge's line; thence South eighty degrees East with said Hoge's line to a stake and stone marked H. W. on the West side and H. W. on the East side by Land of Anthony Vaninkles thence with said land North twenty seven degrees East two hundred and forty six perches to a stone marked H. W. on the Western side and H. W. on the Eastern side, thence down Francis Watkins line to the place of Beginning provided nevertheless that if it shall so happen that the said John Vanmatre shall die without lawful issue that then in that case I devise the last mentioned Tract of Land, containing two hundred and fifty acres to my Grand son William Thomas in fee simple. *Item 9th* To my said Grand son William Thomas I will and bequeath one Horse, one breeding Mair, two Cows, one sett of Plow Irons and Beers, six Sheep, and Bed and Bedding, and also it is my will and desire that he shall have an equal divide with the other Legates in my personal estate all to have share and share alike. I do also appoint my son Jesse Vanmatre and my son in law Charles Ivon my Executors of this my last Will and Testament. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my Seal the twentieth day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and one. *Note* the word "divide" interlined "the other Legates" araised before signed. 1801

Henry VanMatre *Test*

Signed Sealed, published pronounced and declared in the presence of - John Heaton
Robert Lather
Wm. Meetherke
Thos. Hughes

1801 – NOTE: In the will above, Henry Van Matre mentions his land in Kentucky Co VA; however, the State of Kentucky had been admitted to the union on 1 Jun 1792. I think this is a transcription error in the journal for Kanawha Co VA (now WV), and the mention of Isaac Robertson and Francis Watkins in the will correspond to deeds and court actions in Kanawha County. I think the mention of the son “Abraham” is a transcription error for son “Absalom” who is also mentioned in relation to the Kanawha County land. Unfortunately, the estate packet [File No. 55] for Henry Van Matre with the original will, inventory, etc., does not seem to have survived. Hopefully, it was pulled for some later case or by some early genealogist and will still turn up some day.

1802 Kanawha Co VA Land Tax List, p. – Henry Vanmeter, et al., 1550 acres (on p. 228); Henry Vanmeter, 250 acres, crossed out – and John Vanmeter, 250 acres (on p. 229).

1802 Kanawha Co VA Personal Tax List:
Vanmeter, Absolem – 1 tithable, 16 horses

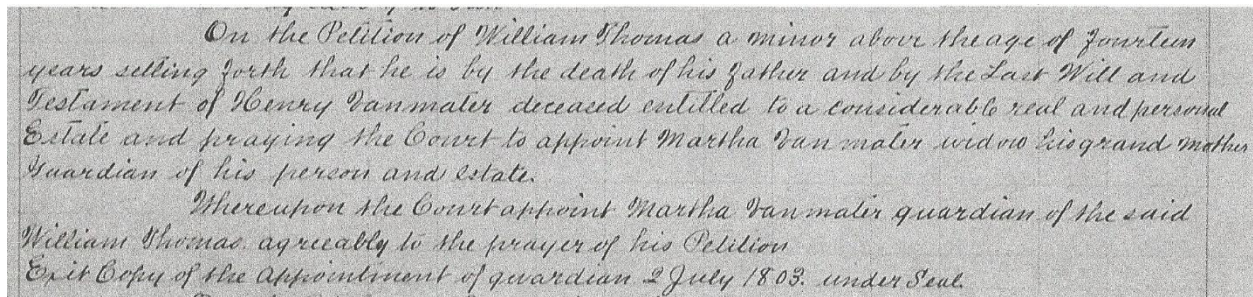
Vanmeter, Henry – 1 tithable, 2 horses
Vanmeeter [sic], John – 1 tithable, 1 horse
Vanmeeter [sic], Henry (Hank) – 1 tithable, 2 horses

1801 – Kanawha Co VA (WV) Court Orders, Vol. 1, p. 156, 14 Apr 1802, Henry Van Meter vs George Thornton on docket.

1802 – Greene Co PA Deeds, Vol. 1, p. 667-668. Indenture, 3 Dec 1802, Henry Vanmatre of Greene Co PA and his wife Martha, to Jesse Vanmatre of same; whereas Henry Vanmatre had obtained a patent called “Mergilina” in Washington now Greene Co for 393 acres, dated 26 Oct 1787, recorded in Patent Book 11, p. 316, he now for consideration of \$2,000, sells to Jesse Vanmatre, land bordering Azariah Davis, Samuel Jackson, Richard Swan, William Kelly, and Morgan Dickenson, being 191 acres. Signed, Henry Vanmatre, Martha her M mark Vanmatre. Witnessed by John Foster and Mary Van Matre; by Thomas Hughes, Esq., JP. Recorded 18 Jan 1803.

1803 – Kanawha Co VA (WV) Court Orders, Vol. 1, p. 177, 14 Jun 1803, Henry Van Meter, 1 wolf scalp, paid \$2.50. Note: Since Henry Vanmeter’s will had been probated in February, this is likely his son or grandson. The other Kanawha County suits could be the younger Henry Vanmeters as well.

1803 – Greene Co PA Orphan’s Court, Vol. 1, p. 15: “On the Petition of William Thomas, a minor above the age of fourteen years, setting forth that he is by the death of his father and by the Last Will and Testament of Henry Vanmater, deceased, entitled to a considerable real and personal Estate and praying the Court to appoint Martha Vanmater, widow, his grandmother, Guardian of his person and estate. Whereupon the Court appoints Martha Vanmater guardian of the said William Thomas agreeably to the prayer of this Petition.” Dated 7 Mar 1803 court; exact copy of appointment of guardian entered 2 Jul 1803.

A snippet of a handwritten court document in cursive script. The text reads: "On the Petition of William Thomas a minor above the age of fourteen years setting forth that he is by the death of his father and by the Last Will and Testament of Henry Vanmater deceased entitled to a considerable real and personal Estate and praying the Court to appoint Martha Vanmater widow his grandmother Guardian of his person and estate. Whereupon the Court appoints Martha Vanmater guardian of the said William Thomas agreeably to the prayer of his Petition. Exit Copy of the Appointment of guardian 2 July 1803. under Seal." The text is written in dark ink on a light-colored paper background.

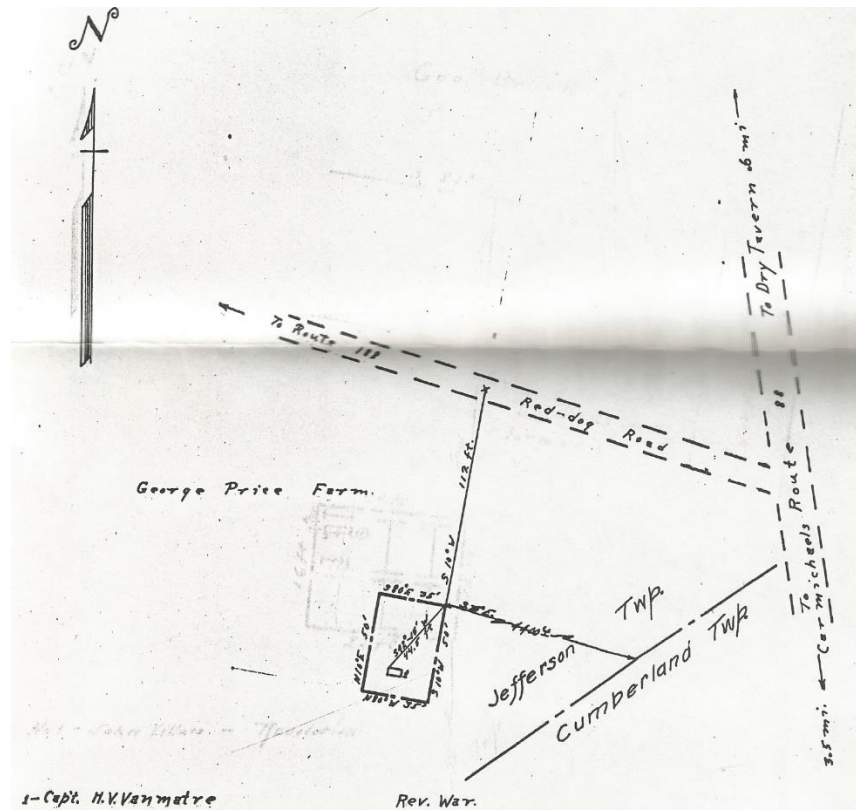
Greene Co PA Orphans Court, Vol. 1, p. 15

1803 Kanawha Co VA (WV) Land Tax List, p. 261 – Henry Vanmatre, et al., 1300 acres; Henry Vanmatre, 250 acres; John V Matre [sic], 250 acres.

1803 Kanawha Co VA (WV) Chargeable with Tax, p. 289 – Absolam V Meter [sic], 1 white male over 16, 1 black male over 16, 6 horses; John V Metre, 1 white male over 16, 3 horses; Henry V Metre, 1 white male over 16, 1 horse; Henry V Metre Jr., 1 white male over 16, 1 horse.

Metre Absolam	1	1	1
Metre John	1		3
Metre Henry	1		1

1803 – Henry Vanmeter was likely buried in Vanmeter Cemetery, located on his land, now (1972) on the Price farm, one-quarter mile west of the brick house and south of the Red-dog Road, in Jefferson Township near the Cumberland Township line. The volume by Dorothy and James Hennen, p. 649, suggests that “this cemetery has been completely destroyed, most of the stones are said to have been used to line a wall of a spring on the farm. Only one stone could be read at all. Van Matre [not legible], son of Henry Van Matre, died 1792.”



Vanmatre Grave Yard, Jefferson Twp., No. 11, page 146, sheet 10, plotted 23 Jan 1935 by J. Harold Jacobs

1803 – Kanawha Co VA (WV) – County Court 1803, #4 (FHL 8291455, image 19) – Whereas Francis Watkins and wife Nancy by indenture dated 15 Jun 1796 sold 1800 acres in Kanawha Co to Henry V Metre [sic] and Absolam V Metre, and whereas said Nancy Watkins has been unable to travel to court to acknowledge the deed, John Reynolds, Clerk of County Court, has ordered justices to go take her acknowledgement on 13 Apr 1803.

1803 Dec 12 – Petition to the General Assembly of Virginia asking for a division of Kanawha county. Signed by Henry Vanmatre, Henry Vanmatre Junr., Absolem Vanmeeter [sic], and John Vanmatre. Reference: Library of Virginia, Digital Collections, Legislative Petitions, Reel 97, Box 128, Folder 27.

The Commonwealth of Virginia
Gentlemen Greeting Whereas Francis Watkins & Nancy his wife by their Indenture of Bargain and Sale bearing date the 15th day of June 1796 have sold & conveyed unto Henry Vanmatre Absalom Vanmatre & John Vanmatre 1800 Acres of Land Situate in the County of Kanawha and whereas the said Nancy

1804 – Kanawha Co VA (WV) – No Vanmeter landowner or taxable in list. The group next appears on the 1805 Mason Co VA (WV) Personal Property Tax List – Henry Vanmatre with 1 male over 16, 6 horses; Hank Vanmatre with 1 male over 16, 1 horse; and John Vanmatre with 1 male over 16, 3 horses. These Kanawha Co VA tax lists are generally Henry Sr of Greene Co PA as the landowner but Henry Jr and Henry 3rd aka “Hank” as the resident taxpayers for the personal property. I therefore won’t continue the Mason Co VA tax lists (FHL 1854094) in this article since the subject of this timeline is dead.

1804 – Greene Co PA Deeds, Vol. 2, p. 304, Absalom Vanmatre of Mason Co VA, 8 Jun 1804, 2400 pounds PA currency, to Jesse Vanmatre of Greene Co PA, title to “a certain tract or parcel of land lying in the said County of Greene, formerly the plantation whereon Henry Vanmatre liv’d on and bounded as follows to wit, agoing [sic] Azariah Davis land on the South, James F. Randolph on the West, Daniel Moredock’s heirs on the North, and the above Jesse Vanmatre’s land whereon he now lives on the East, said tract of land containing two hundred and thirty four acres more or less with its appurtenances, houses, orchards, &c, excepting and reserving for Martha Vanmatre, wife to Henry Vanmatre, deceased [sic], the houses and part of said tract of which Absalom Vanmatre gave the said Martha her natural life by article”; signed, Absalom Vanmatre; witnessed by Franc. Watkins, Richard Swon. On 25 Jan 1808, this was recorded in Common Pleas, by the testimony of Richard Swon and Francis Watkins, to be the act of Absalom Vanmatre, since deceased.

1805 – Greene Co PA Orphan’s Court, Docket #1, p. 16 (FHL 861091), under date 2 Sep 1805, Waynesburg, “Charles Swan and Jesse Vanmater, Executor of the last Will and Testament of Henry Vanmater, late of Jefferson Township in Greene County, deceased, appeared and presented their administration account which was passed and the balance of One Hundred and Sixty Dollars and twenty eight cents remaining in their hand ordered to be distributed agreeably to Law.”

1815 – Greene Co PA Orphan’s Court, Docket #1, p. 57-58, 61, 63-64, concerns the estate of Jesse Vanmetre, deceased. Administrators, Ann Vanmatre and Charles Swan are named on the 3rd Monday of Apr 1815. On 27 Nov 1815, a description of the land is provided with dower issued to the widow Nancy Vanmatre. Noted is “Share No. 2. Thirteen dollars per year during the life of Martha Vanmatre, mother of said Jesse Vanmatre.” A petition is given by William Kincade, son-in-law of Jesse Vanmetre of Jefferson Twp., that Jesse died intestate, leaving a widow Nancy, and four children, Jesse, Rachel wife of Jacob Ketcham, Martha wife of Samuel Crago, and Sarah wife of the petitioner. The land is in both Franklin and Jefferson townships and the court orders a partition. On the same court date, 27 Nov 1815, the partition is made with the land divided into four parcels. The same statement concerning Martha is given. On 29 Nov 1815, the land is described with payments of each share to Martha Vanmatre noted – slightly different amounts for each parcel.

1825 – Greene Co PA Orphan’s Court, Docket #1, p. 223. On 19 Sep 1825, Charles Swan and Ann Vanmeter, administrators of the estate of Jesse Vanmatre, list the balance of the estate as \$145.12 1/2 , and the court orders distribution. This suggests that the mother, Martha Vanmatre, has died, although she is not named in this entry.

There are several published Vanmeter genealogies. These include:

Atterbury, Robert. *William Atterbury (1711-1766): The Family Patriarch and his Legacy*, specifically “Chapter 16, The Miller-Blissett Story,” (a work in progress), p. 16-35 to 16-59, 16-132 to 16-137.

Heidgerd, William. *The American Descendants of Christian DuBois (and the Vanmeter Supplement)* (New Paltz NY: DuBois Family Association, 1968-1970).

Kemp, Annabelle. *Lucas Genealogy* (Hollywood CA: Kemp, 1964), p. 409-421.

Leckey, Howard L. *The Tenmile Country and its Pioneer Families* (Waynesburg PA: Greene County Historical Society, 1977), p. 192-205.

McManus, Jessica. *Henry Hamilton Mashburn* (Corsicana, TX: McManus, not dated - ca. 2004), p. 89-100, 105-119, 126-134, 142-163, 173-178, 198-200.

Smyth, Samuel Gordon. *A Genealogy of the Duke, Shepherd, Van Metre Family* (Lancaster, PA: Smyth, 1909), p. 31-137.

Stevens, Richard E. *Snow Hill Remembered: A History of the Harris Family of Maryland, Ohio, and Kentucky*. Bowie, MD: Heritage Books, 1994, p. 239-246.

Stimpson, Roberta Shannon. *Yesterday and Tomorrow: Van Meter – Tabb – Shannon and Allied Families* (Berkly, MI: Stimpson, 197-), p. 1-43, 178-188.

Van Meter Collection, MSS 627 (Bowling Green KY: Western Kentucky University), 6 boxes, 127 folders – genealogical research papers of Jackson Clinton Van Meter (1853-1931).

Van Metre, Frances C. *A Van Metre Family Record* (Rockwell City IA: Van Metre, 1934).

The book *Lucas Genealogy*, by Annabelle Kemp (1964) includes Chapter 16 – “Elizabeth Lucas-Moore of Frederick County, Maryland and Descendants” which is a nice treatment of the Henry Vanmeter family

(p. 409-421). Quoting this title: "Martha Moore, dau. of George and Elizabeth Lucas-Moore was b. in Md 1728, mar Henry Van Meter b 1720, d. 1803 in Greene Co Pa. She died 22 yrs later in 1825; both are bur in the family cem on their old farm on the hill above there home in what was originally Van Meter Fort, about 4 miles out of Carmichaels, Pa. Henry Van Meter, Sr., was one of the pioneers who was led by Thomas Gist into the Tenmile Country of Western Pa. This land had been sold by the Indian Trader, John Owens, of Fort Pitt (now Pittsburg), Pa to Abraham Teagarden of Frederick Co Md. And on this land Henry Van Meter and John Swan husband of Elizabeth Lucas, both built their forts on separate branches of a run variously known as Enoch's Run, Swan Run, and now Pumpkin Run. He was in the Tenmile Country as early as 1765 (see *Tenmile Country* by H. Leckey, p. 32). The Van Meters were all of adventuresome stock with a preference for lands "out beyond." They had preceded Jost Hite into the Shenandoah and then followed him with their families to select sites there while it was still a wilderness, and they were in the forefront of the migration to the Tenmile Country in Pa. Henry Van Meter is said to have been a loyal Virginian as long as there was any hope of having this section become a part of Virginia. He is even cited for having led a band of armed men to prevent the survey party from running the line. This band appeared to be the militia company of Capt. Jesse Pigman, in which two sons of Henry Van Meter, Joseph and Jesse, served as officers which company as late as 1782 refused to furnish the State of Pennsylvania a copy of their muster roll. However after the line had been run and it was no longer a question of ownership of the territory, Henry Van Meter, Sr., became resigned to it and took an active part in the affairs of the community. He became one of the First commissioners of the new Washington Co Pa; served as Associate Judge for a term, then when Greene Co was formed he served as County Treasurer which office he held up until the time of his death in 1803. During the Rev he maintained a fort at his residence on Swan's Run. The old stone house that stood near Henry Van Meter's fort settlement, and which was destroyed by a hurricane a few yrs ago, was in reality the house his son, Jesse Van Meter, built. The home of Henry Van Meter Sr was across the road from this site, about where the house of the Price home stands in 1950. There is no indication that Henry Van Meter Sr lived in any other home. He and his wife are bur on the hill above the house but no markers remain. A copy of the will of Henry Van Meter Sr., was filed for probate in Greene Co Pa 10 Feb 1803 (Will Bk 1, p. 35), but the file on the estate is missing from the box. His wife Martha is named in the will as well as his 13 children and a number of his grandchildren. When Henry Van Meter went to purchase land in Mason Co Va (now W Va) he states in his will that his son Absolom accompanied him as well as Zachariah Vansickles and Anthony Vansickles (the son of Zachariah). Henry Van Meter Sr and his family were members of Goshen Baptist Church which had been erected at Garard's Fort by Jacob Van Meter, believed to have been a brother of Henry Van Meter Sr (see *Tenmile Country*, p. 33-45)."

I should state my interest in Henry Van Metre. The family Bible of my third great grandfather, John Neel of Cumberland Twp., Greene Co PA (1797-1872) lists his parents as Henry Neel and wife Elizabeth Vanmeter. In the 1980s, I contacted a few Vanmeter researchers, and they did not have a place for my Elizabeth. My hypothesis was that the widow of William Thomas, killed by Indians in 1789, returned to her father Henry Vanmeter's house with her young son, William Thomas, Jr. Vanmeter researchers had no information on her and seemed satisfied with that. My thought was that she remarried to her near neighbor in Cumberland Township, Henry Neel/O'Neal and began having children again in the early 1790s. This might be why Henry Vanmeter provided for his grandson William Thomas separately in this 1801/1803 will – so that Henry Neel/O'Neal wouldn't have the rights as Elizabeth's second husband. No paper record for Elizabeth Neel's Vanmeter maiden name has surfaced other than the aforementioned family Bible notation (and a similar family record for John's sister, Elizabeth Crouch of Washington Co

PA), but autosomal DNA tests give me strong matches to nearly all of Henry Vanmeter's children who left descendants – 135 matches (2023) including William Thomas descendants.

This listing of children comes from a variety of sources, not fully cited here. If there is no tombstone or other accurate family record, I have based approximate birthdates on when they were first taxed and on ages when they had their first child (estimate 20 for father; 18 for mother), rather than the undocumented dates given across the internet, although I used those if I had nothing else. It is interesting that the possible birth order does not correspond well to the order of children listed in the will bequests. We need to locate a family Bible as well as Henry Vanmeter's will packet.

CHILDREN OF HENRY & MARTHA "PATSY" (MOORE) VANMETRE

1. Joseph Vanmeter, b. ca. 1747; d. 1808 KY; m. Elizabeth Aiken; Lt in Capt Jesse Pigman's Co of Frontier Rangers 1777 and served in Rev War. The story is that Joseph Vanmeter's body was found on KY side of Ohio River returning from a trip to Indiana in 1808. James Pribble W 3595 mentions mentions Lt. Joseph Vanmeter under Col. William Crawford and Major Thomas Hughes in March 1777 in his Revolutionary War pension application. Jesse Pigman's Revolutionary War pension application R8250 filed 22 Feb 1845 in Union Co IN says that Capt. Joseph Vanmeter had a "spy company" of Virginia men from 1780-81. Both Joseph Vanmeter and Jesse Vanmeter were believed to be in his company. The name Joseph Vanmeter appears as a private under Captain William Crawford on 2 Apr 1781. I will note here that there was a rejected pension application filed by Jacob Vanmeter VA S4804 of Hardin Co KY on 7 Nov 1833 on his father Joseph Vanmeter who had been killed by the Wabash Indians in July 1788 having served with Gen. George Rogers Clark. This is supplemented by Jacob's own application W 8798 and that of Daniel Linder VA S925. This Jacob Vanmeter had served under William Harrod out of Augusta Co VA (now Greene Co PA), however, his father Joseph Vanmeter (killed 1788) could not be our Joseph Vanmeter, since our Joseph was apparently living when Henry Vanmeter wrote his 1801/1803 Greene Co PA will. Joseph and Elizabeth Vanmeter also are in Washington and Greene Co PA deeds and tax lists through 1796. These families were certainly all closely related. Joseph Vanmetre had a patent dated 26 Oct 1787 for Mendosa, 300 acres [Patent Vol. P, No. 11, p. 316], in Washington Co PA, by warrant of 28 May 1785, the same day as Henry Vanmeter in both cases. Joseph Vanmetre had a second patent 6 Jan 1792 for Long Metre, 265 acres, on 20 Feb 1786. It is noted as a Fayette Co warrant, Washington Co patent, but located in what is now Greene County [Patent Vol. P, No. 18, p. 318]. *Lucas Genealogy*, p. 411-412, "Cyrus Van Meter of Newcastle, Pa., wrote in 1850 that Joseph Van Meter had removed to Indiana, then returned to Pa. on a trip, the horse he was riding came back to Indiana without its rider and when a party looking for him backtracked his route, they found his body on the Kentucky side of the Ohio River. He had either been thrown and killed or had struck a low over-hanging branch, as there was no evidence or signs of any struggle."
2. Rachel Vanmeter, b. ca. 1749; d. after father's 1801 will, perhaps in Greene Co PA; m. ca. 1765 (first child 1766) Richard Wiley, s/o David and Mary (Wesley) Wiley, b. ca. 1748; death unknown. I am having difficulty finding any evidence of this family in the records. Some descendants seem to have been in Monongalia Co VA (WV).
3. Rebecca Vanmeter, b. ca. 1751; d. ca. 1825 (source unknown) Hardin Co KY; m. ca. 1773 (first child born 1775) Daniel Linder, b. ca. 1749 VA; d. 1840 Hardin Co KY. This couple likely did not migrate to Greene Co PA, or not for long, as Daniel Linder appears at an estate sale in Berkeley

Co VA on 6 Nov 1777. The Linders and Vanmeters lived on Opequon Creek. In 1779, Daniel Linder was among a party on 27 flatboats going down the Ohio River, led by Jacob Van Meter of Greene Co PA, heading to Bear Grass (present Louisville KY) [Ref. Account of Major George Bedinger, noted in Atterbury manuscript – see below]. In 1793, Daniel Lyndon is taxed on 500 acres in Nelson Co KY, and the family was living in Hardin Co KY by 1800. Daniel Linder filed a pension application VA 5925, that he was in Capt. James Patton's Company and spent a short time in the Illinois Country under Gen. George Rogers Clark. Jacob Vanmeter made an affidavit on 7 Nov 1833 that Linder was at the Falls of the Ohio and fought against the Shawnee, served to 1782, and now resides in Hardin Co KY. Daniel Linder also gave an affidavit in 1833 for the pension application of this Jacob Vanmetre W 8798 whose wife was Rebecca Rawlings. Vanmeter had initially served under Capt. William Harrod out of Greene Co PA (then part of Virginia) in 1779. The same Daniel Linder also filed an affidavit in 1833 from Hardin Co KY for Jacob Vanmeter (VA S4804) in his effort (rejected) to seek funds on behalf of his father, Joseph Vanmeter, who was killed by the Wabash Indians in July 1788 while serving under George Rogers Clark in the Illinois country.

4. Jesse Vanmeter, b. ca. 1753; died ca. 1814 Greene Co PA (administration 1815 – see above); m. ca. 1773 (first child 1775) Nancy Seals, daughter of James and Sarah (Hennessey) O'Neal-Seals; b. 24 Mar 1745 (no source) Harford Co MD; d. 13 May 1827 Circleville, Pickaway Co OH. Nancy m(1) ca. 1815 to Richard Morris of Pickaway Co OH whose first wife, Mary Seals, was Nancy's sister. Richard Morris, s/o Robert & Jacomyntie Morris, was born 14 May 1739 Squanquam, Shrewsbury Twp., Monmouth Co NJ and died 1816 in Circleville, Pickaway Co OH. Jesse Vanmeter erected the stone house near the Cumberland Twp – Jefferson Twp line on the original Henry Vanmeter land in Greene Co PA, identified as the site of Fort Vanmeter. Jesse Vanmetre was a Lt in Capt Joseph Van Meter's Co of Frontier Rangers 1779. Jesse Vanmetre, in company with Azariah Davis, is mentioned in the minutes of Goshen Baptist Church, Whitely Twp., Greene Co PA, in Apr or May 1788, wanting Sister Sarah Hill to come to the next meeting at Muddy Creek concerning her marriage. Jesse had not been attending meetings and declared his non-fellowship on 25 May 1810, the same day that Azariah Davis was re-admitted to Goshen Baptist Church. John Swan, Thomas Hughes, and Jesse Vanmeter are often mentioned in Greene County histories as making the first permanent settlements in this part of the county, John Swan arriving in 1769, and the three constructing Swan and VanMeter's Fort around the Swan cabin as early as 1772.
5. Martha Vanmeter, b. 24 Dec 1754 (computed from age on tombstone); d. 24 Oct 1836 Greene Co PA, aged 81 y 10 m, Swan Cem., Cumberland Twp., Greene Co PA; m. 25 Feb 1777 to a cousin, Richard Swan, b. 31 Jan 1752 (computed from tombstone), s/o John and Elizabeth (Lucas) Swan; d. 11 Feb 1822, age 69 y 1 m 11 d; bur. Swan Cem. This family stayed on the home property near Muddy Creek in Cumberland Twp. The first four children are listed in the Swan-Hughes Bible. Probate in Greene Co PA Orphans Court, Vol. 1, p. 179, March Term 1822. In the 1820 Cumberland Twp census, Richard Swan had a male slave, age over 45, and also a free black male, age 14-26.
6. Sarah Vanmeter, b. 24 Jun 1758; d. 4 Jul 1825 (tombstone), bur. Swan Cem., Cumberland Twp., Greene Co PA; m. ca. 1773 (first child born 1774) to a cousin, Charles Swan, s/o John and Elizabeth (Lucas) Swan, b. 11 Feb 1756 Frederick Co MD; d. 25 Feb 1832 Carmichaels, Greene Co PA (tombstone); bur. Swan Cem., Cumberland Twp., Greene Co PA. Stayed in Cumberland Twp

building a cabin in 1772 near Muddy Creek. Oath of allegiance 1777 (age 21) given by Henry Vanmeter (see above). The surname is often spelled "Swon" in early records. Birthdates from a family Bible exist for all thirteen children. Charles Swan served in the 5th Battalion, Washington Co Militia under Capt. William Crawford and Lt. Col. Thomas Crooke during the Revolutionary War. In the 1820 Cumberland Twp. census, Charles Swan had two slaves, a female over 45 and a male 26-45. His son-in-law, James Seaton, owned a male slave, age 26-45.

7. Phoebe Vanmeter, b. 8 Jul 1760 (source not known); d. 14 Feb 1853 Wayne Twp., Wayne Co IN; m. 28 Jul 1778 (unknown source and perhaps not correct as first child not born until 1789) Fayette Co PA to Ellis Thomas, son of Ellis and Elizabeth (Zane) Thomas, Sr., b. 20 Oct 1753 Bucks Co PA; d. 25 Sep 1832 Grave Creek, Tyler Co VA (WV). Ellis Thomas Sr supposedly moved to Ohio Co VA and later to Tyler Co VA. He and his wife are in the 1830 Tyler Co VA census, both age 70-79; he is on the personal property taxes in Tyler Co for 1830 but not 1831-1832. An Ellis Thomas is listed with Revolutionary War service in Capt. Gobin's Militia in Berkeley Co VA with a William Thomas. Although the distance from Greene County is great, this was one of the ancestral homes of the Vanmetre family. The widow Phoebe Thomas lived in 1840 Wayne Twp., Wayne Co IN, age 60-69, and also in 1850, Phoebe Thomas 80 VA, with children Nancy 53 PA and William 42 VA. She is not found in the 1853 death records for Tyler Co VA, and the death location of Grave Creek noted on many websites is probably incorrect. The son, William Thomas, a merchant in Richmond, Wayne Twp., Wayne Co IN, likely brought his mother to Indiana in her old age. William Thomas married late in life, 23 Feb 1856, and had two children born in Wayne County. More work is needed on this family since the age is off for Phoebe in later census years.
8. Elsie (called Alice in the transcribed will of father) Vanmeter, b. ca. 1762; d. ca. 1799 Jefferson Twp., Greene Co PA; bur. Garrard's Fort Cemetery, Greene Co PA; m. ca. 1780 (1st child in 1781) Washington Co PA to Azariah Davis, s/o William and Elizabeth (Wollison) Davis, b. 12 Feb 1756 likely in Charlestown Twp., Chester Co PA; d. 22 Sep 1839 Morgan Twp., Knox Co OH; bur. Sixth Street Cemetery, Section 57, Newark, Licking Co OH. He m(2) ca. 1800 Cumberland Twp., Greene Co PA to Mary Harrington Smith, b. 13 Sep 1774 Greene Co PA, d/o Benjamin Smith; d. 19 Sep 1836 near Utica in Morgan Twp., Knox Co OH; bur. Sixth Street Cemetery, Section 11, Newark, Licking Co OH. Azariah Davis served in the Revolutionary War as an Ensign 1781 in the 2nd Company, 4th Battalion, Washington Co PA Militia, and was commissioned as a Lieutenant on 1 May 1783 in the 2nd Company, 3rd Battalion, Washington Co PA Militia under Henry Enoch. He also was at the battle of Point Pleasant (Mason Co VA/WV) serving in William Harrod's Company. Azariah Davis was a grantor of land in Jefferson Twp., Greene Co PA in 1801 called "Long Metre", a tract he got from his father-in-law, Henry Van Metre. Note: Davis family members were being buried in Union Grove Cemetery, Harrison Twp., Knox Co OH in the 1830s. This monument in Newark is just a list of Revolutionary War soldiers put up by the DAR in 1976. I'm not sure if they had strong evidence that Azariah Davis was buried there. Azariah Daves [sic] was received by baptism 8 Sep 1785 in the Goshen Baptist Church, Garrard's Fort, Whitley Twp., Greene Co PA, that had been organized by Jacob Vanmetre, likely a brother of Henry Vanmetre. Although a deacon, Davis was excluded from the church on 24 Feb 1798 for "honeration." He was restored by letter 25 May 1810.
9. Absalom Vanmeter, b. ca. 1765 (single freeman or at least age 21 in 1786; first appears on tax rolls in 1789 - single man); d. ca. 1805 Mason Co VA; m. 13 Apr 1790 (source not known; first child 1792) Redstone, Fayette Co PA to his cousin, Priscilla Van Meter; lived in Mason Co VA. Jun

1804 Kanawha Co VA deed for Absalom. Mason Co VA Fee Book, v. 2, p. 17, shows John McCulloch & Francis Watkins, administration of estate, and record of appointment for Absalom Vanmetre, deceased, fees paid in 1805; also v. 3, p. 25 (1808). Not sure of parentage of Priscilla Van Meter and have no dates for her. She is on a 1799 Kanawha Co VA deed but not on the Greene Co PA 1804 deed where Absalom provides for his mother, Martha; however, his wife Priscilla may not have been entitled to the Henry Vanmeter Sr land. 1786 Septennial Census, Washington Co PA, includes Absalom Vanmatre, single freeman. 1790 Census, Washington Co PA, p. 162, husband/wife, no children.

10. Elizabeth Vanmeter, b. ca. 1767; d. after 1820 Cumberland Twp., Greene Co PA census; m. ca. 1786 to William Thomas, who was killed by Indians on 21 Apr 1789 on Miracle Run near Blackville, Monongalia Co VA (WV) – just south of Greene Co PA state line, “age unknown” on tombstone; bur. Thomas Cemetery, Monongalia Co WV. She m(2) ca. 1791 Cumberland Twp., Greene Co PA (first child born 1792) to Henry Neel/O’Neel, son of Barnet and Mary O’Neel, b. ca. 1770 Greene Co PA; d. after 1821 Cumberland Twp enumeration. Henry and Elizabeth Neel sold Henry’s share of the O’Neel patent land in 1806 (Greene Co PA Deeds, v. 2B, p. 203-204) and their lot in Carmichaels in 1818 (Greene Co PA Deeds, v. 4, p. 76) and I don’t know if they died or moved elsewhere. Their children started showing up as heads of household in the 1830 Cumberland Twp., Greene Co PA census. Henry Neel/O’Neel was a blacksmith and was taxed for a still.
11. John Vanmeter, b. ca. 1769 (first on tax rolls in 1798); d. 2 Jun 1846 (source unknown) Mason Co VA (WV); m. ca. 1790 (first child 1792) likely in Washington Co PA (both parents in census) to Amelia “Mille” or “Milly” Kelly, daughter of Robert and Margaret (Crawford) Kelly, b. ca. 1773; d. 13 Nov 1841 (source unknown) Mason Co VA. John Vanmeter was a veteran of the War of 1812 in Capt. Anthony Van Sickles’ Mason County Rifleman who helped construct Fort Meigs in northern Ohio. Age 50-60 (John) in 1830 census Mason Co VA, p. 166 – don’t spot in 1840; spot no probate.
12. Mary Vanmeter, b. ca. 1771; d. 1810/1811 Mason Co VA shortly after 28 Dec 1810 birth of son Eli Van Sickles; m. 29 Apr 1789 Redstone, Fayette Co PA (cannot find source; first child born 1792) to Capt. Anthony B. Van Sickles, b. 13 Sep 1760, son of Zachariah and Rosanna (Buckley) Van Sickles (elsewhere Samuel Van Sickles); d. 29 Sep 1815 Mason Co VA; bur. Doctor Jesse Bennett Cemetery, Point Pleasant, Mason Co VA. Enlisted in War of 1812 at Point Pleasant, Mason Co VA in Gen. Leftridge’s Brigade, Col. Dudley Evans’ 2nd Regiment Virginia Militia; Captain of Van Sickle’s Mason County Riflemen. They joined the Shawnee and Wyandot near Delaware OH and then marched to Fort Meigs on 1 Feb 1813 where they finished construction of the fort (now Perrysburg OH). He m(2) 6 Jun 1811 Gallia Co OH by Rev. Eli Stedman (v. 1, p. 22) to Zelpha Hubble, b. 10 Oct 1788 MA; d. 21 Nov 1857 Meigs Co OH. She m(2) 27 Dec 1818 Gallia Co OH by Aaron Hatch (v. 1, p. 81) to Rev. Elihu “Eli” Stedman for his second wife, b. 17 Aug 1777 Tunbridge, Orange Co VT; d. 29 May 1845 Rutland Twp., Meigs Co OH; tombstone in Miles Cem., Rutland, Meigs Co OH. “Deed” index for Mason Co VA shows will for Anthony Van Sickles and estate in Vol. AA, p. 71, 75, 92; and further estate mentioning Zelpha Van Sickles in Vol. AA, p. 74, but wills/estates online seem to start in 1829 and do not include this early “AA” volume in either probate or deed records. The Vanmeter genealogies list “Mary” as the Van Sickles wife, but some Van Sickles genealogies list “Rebecca” as the wife. I cannot find any deeds

of sale to show a wife's name. Anthony Van Sickles seems to have held on to his land until his death shortly after his War of 1812 service.

13. Henry Vanmeter, b. ca. 13 Jun 1773 Cumberland Twp., Greene Co PA (first on tax rolls in 1794); d. 13 Dec 1857 of old age in Fairview, Mason Co VA, age 84 y 6 m; death record (v. 1, p. 43-44) identifies him as son of Henry & Patsy Vanmeter; m(1) ca. 1793 (first child born 1794) to Christina Van Sickles, d/o Zachariah and Rosanna (Buckley) Van Sickles (others say Samuel Van Sickles), b. ca. 1775 Morris Co NJ; d. 1814 (possibly inferred from date of second marriage); m(2) 24 Oct 1815 Mason Co VA (WV) to Elizabeth "Betsy" Peck, d/o Peter & Mary (Green) Peck, b. ca. 1783 VA (1850 census); d. after 1850 (Henry & Elizabeth are living with separate relatives in 1850 Mason Co VA census) and likely before 1853 when death records start in Mason Co VA (WV).

END NOTE

We need to keep an open mind when exploring the early life and ancestry of our Henry Vanmeter. There were certainly multiple Henry Vanmeters. Our man is likely a brother of Jacob and Abraham. The Shepherd family and Hedges family (with Vanmeter wives) were also in Greene Co PA. It is possible that our Henry Vanmeter had a first wife. Historians have given three wives to the Henry Vanmeter in the published genealogical records who they identify as the son of John. It may be more complicated. We might mark Henry Vanmeter as being born by at least 1727, dying in 1803, with his wife Martha, born ca. 1729, and dying ca. 1825 – unless she was a younger second wife. Her extreme age was unusual for that time period, and that almost suggests an earlier wife. Martha could have been a much younger person and not the mother of the older children. The family needs a resorting from the many clues out there, and we need to make sure that our ancestor Henry Vanmeter gets a rightful place in the larger Vanmeter family tree.

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