

Amwell

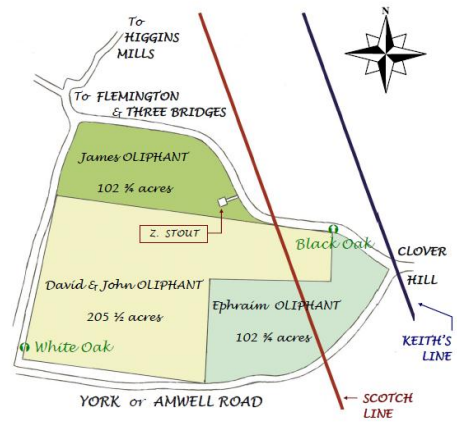
Hunterdon County

New Jersey



Former Oliphant Property of Duncan Oliphant near Clover Hill, NJ

Highlighted area of former Oliphant Property



DOCUMENTS

RELATING TO THE

COLONIAL HISTORY

OF THE

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

FIRST SERIES---VOL. XXX

CALENDAR OF NEW JERSEY WILLS, ADMINISTRATIONS, Etc.

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1732, Feb. 12. Oliphant, Duncan, of Amwell Township, Hunterdon Co.; will of. Wife, Mary. Eldest son, David, the long gun, large Bible, and a book called the Conductor Generalis. Wife, entire estate to bring up children. Four sons—David, John, Ephraim and James. Three daughters—Margaret (wife of Thomas Gordon), Mary and Ann, the plantation where William Allen lived, when youngest daughter is aged 18. Executors—son, David, brother-in-law John Garrison, and friend Peter Praul. Friend, John Reading, trustee. Witnesses—Thomas Lake, William Job, Jacob Reeder. Proved August 7, 1734. Lib. 3, p. 425.

To the best of my knowledge, Duncan Oliphant (1682-1734), of Staten Island, NY, and Amwell Twp., Hunterdon Co., NJ, was one of the founders of W. New Jersey and an owner of a large plantation, "Oliphant Mills," he was, according to most recent researchers, most probably the son of David Oliphant—not his brother John and wife Janet Gilchrest, as has long been asserted—whose parents, Laurence and Liliast Oliphant, were both part of the Oliphants of Gask, in Scotland. Born in Perthshire, Scotland, in 1682, Duncan reportedly arrived in Staten Isl. around 1695. Sometime during the first decade of the 18th century, he married Mary Garrison, with whom he had 9 children. His name appears on the Staten Island census of 1706 and records indicate that he was appointed constable of North Precinct in 1709. He moved to East Amwell, NJ, sometime between 1721 and 1723, and seems to have spent the remainder of his life in one Hunterdon Co. location or another. In 1726, he was appointed overseer of the poor for Amwell Twp.

Duncan Oliphant: Chronology

(1682-1734)

- 1682:** **Born, Perthshire, Scotland**
 About 1695: Arrived at Staten Island, NY (there, attended Old Dutch Church)
- 1702: Married Mary Garrison, Staten Island, NY
 (some sources give date as 1707/1708)
- 1706: Census, Staten Island, NY
- 1709: Birth of daughter Margaret, Staten Island, NY (19 Apr.)
- 1709: Appointed Constable of North Precinct, Staten Island, NY (5 Apr.)
- 1712/1713: Birth of son David, Staten Island, NY (1 Mar.)
- 1715: Birth of son John, Staten Island, NY; was in the north company of militia
- 1717: Birth of son Ephraim
- 1721: Birth of daughter Mary, Staten Island, NY
- 1721/1723: Moved to East Amwell, Hunterdon Co., NJ;
 reportedly purchased a large tract of land in Hopewell Twp., Burlington Co., NJ
- 1723: Birth of daughter Ann, Hunterdon Co., NJ
- 1724:** **Birth of son James, Hunterdon Co., NJ**
 Descendants of James Oliphant:
 Peter Oliphant ⇨ Peter S. Oliphant ⇨ R.E. Lee Oliphant ⇨ Ennis Carew Oliphant
 and
 Peter Oliphant ⇨ Peter S. Oliphant ⇨ William M. Oliphant ⇨ Clarence C. Oliphant
- 1724: Tax List, Hunterdon Co., NJ
- 1725: Tax List, Hunterdon Co., NJ; living in Ringoes, Hunterdon Co., NJ;
 received in trust, along with Jno Knowles, a grant of 11 acres from Wm. Lummox
 for the construction of an Anglican church
- 1726: Tax List, Hunterdon Co., NJ;
 with John Holcombe, chosen a Freeholder, Amwell Twp., NJ (14 Mar.)
- 1726: Birth of son Jonathan
- 1726: Overseer of the poor, Amwell, Hunterdon Co., NJ (14 Mar.)
- 1727: Tax List, Hunterdon Co., NJ;
 witness, will of John Knowles of Amwell, Hunterdon Co., NJ (28 May)
- 1728: Birth of son Samuel
- 1728: Tax List, Hunterdon Co., NJ
- 1732: Mention of a Wm. Allen living on his farm in Amwell Twp., NJ;
 will (12 Feb.; proved 7 Aug. 1734)
- 1734:** **Died, Amwell, Hunterdon Co., NJ**
(7 Aug.; bur. in St. Andrews Graveyard, NJ)