

Ancestors of George Sinclair (1785-1864) of Allentown, NJ

I have written about George Sinclair, cabinetmaker and undertaker, his wife Margaret Rogers and their children, most of whom are buried in the Allentown Presbyterian Church Cemetery. A newspaper article about the history of a building in Allentown reported George Sinclair, cabinetmaker, had a brother William. That was a good clue, so I looked around the churchyard for other Sinclairs and turned up a couple who are likely candidates for George's parents.

John Sinclair, d. 9/22/1801, age 38 (b. 1763), husband of Hannah
Hannah Sinclair, d. 6/5/1819, age 56 (b. 1763), wife of John Sinclair



Findagrave includes memorials for John and Hannah but no photos.

In 2011, Eugene Hough of Heritage Guild Works was at the cemetery using a radar machine to find unmarked graves. He also cleaned up a few headstones. A bit of scrubbing revealed the epitaph on John Sinclair's stone.

Caption: *Alan Stoneback reads the inscription on a gravestone being cleaned by Eugene Hough in the Allentown Presbyterian Cemetery.*
http://www.centraljersey.com/archives/allentown-grave-matters/article_c9ba7b54-8e55-500a-b23a-5d067dfd60d0.html

John Sinclair died intestate and most of his children were minors, so there is a good array of probate documents. Hannah and William Cafferty were co-administrators.

1801, Oct. 7. Sinclair, John, of East Windsor Twsp., Middlesex Co.
Int. Adm'rs—Hannah Sinclair and William Cafferty, of said Co.
Fellowbondsmen—David Rulon, Sr. and Nathaniel Robins, of Burlington Co. Lib. 39, p. 485.
1801, Oct. 2. Inventory, \$1,116.16; made by David Rulon, Sr. and Nathaniel Robins. File 9889 L.

The inventory (File 9889L dated October 7, 1801) of John's property is not very legible. Mentioned are saddle, bridle and harness; hay, rye and corn; two horses; hogs and sheep. Two wagons; one slay and a sled. A plow and harrow. A cider mill and press. Household furniture includes two beds, two featherbeds and bedding, one trundle bed, one mahogany table and cradle, one breakfast table.

Genealogy wise, the most valuable piece of probate paper was filed in 1813, Case 20320. The petition lists John Sinclair's children. When John died he owned "considerable real estate in fee simple in the township of East Windsor" which was inherited by his children. Some of the children were minors and the court was petitioned to divide the property between the children. A deed search would probably add more information, but it's a long way to New Jersey to have a look!

Children of John Sinclair and Hannah Cafferty per 1813 probate record:

William Sinclair
Mary Sinclair wife of Daniel Rouze
George Sinclair
John Sinclair
Josiah Sinclair
Hannah Sinclair

Case 20321, Probate Date 12/11/1811, contains guardianship papers for the children under 21 years in age - William, John, Josiah and Hannah. (In 1811, Mary was married and George was 26). Of interest are sums paid to John Clutch and Hannah Clutch "late Hannah Sinclair" for boarding, clothing and shoes for the youngest children at \$47 per year, five years for John and 10 years for Josiah and Hannah.

A bond was filed in Monmouth County on October 18, 1816 by William Sinclair, George Sinclair and Thomas Sill in which William Sinclair was appointed guardian of Josiah and Hannah, children of John Sinclair deceased

After John's death, Hannah carried on for a while in East Windsor. In 1808 John Clutch's wife died leaving him with 11 children, ages one month to 23 years. By 1811,



Hannah Sinclair and John Clutch married and combined their families at 13 South Main Street in Allentown. Built in 1795, the house stands today.

John Clutch house, 13 South Main Street, Allentown, NJ
Google Maps

Probate papers viewed at Ancestry.com.

John Clutch (1758-1849) was a cooper by trade. He served in the Revolutionary War. Read his biographical pension application in the Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography, 1898, Volume 22, No. 1, page 131, viewed at jstor.org.

An excerpt of a remembrance of John Clutch:

<https://www.genealogy.com/forum/surnames/topics/appleton/194/>

He died at the residence of his son-in-law, William C. Sinclair, on the farm adjoining the Appleton homestead, where he was sent to learn the cooper's trade seventy-five years before. Being feeble for some time before his death, he was waited upon by his grandson, Joseph C. Sinclair, now of Princeton, who loves to speak of grandfather Clutch, the Revolutionary soldier, and is proud of the fact that he nursed him during his last illness. I am inclined to think that John Clutch was the last survivor of the War of the Revolution in this country. He died in 1849 and was buried at Allentown by the side of his wife.

Hannah's son William C. Sinclair married John Clutch's daughter Harriet. John Clutch would live his last years with his daughter and William at their home in Hamilton Square.

Is George Sinclair (1785-1864), Allentown cabinet maker and undertaker, the son of this John and Hannah Sinclair? A search of the New Jersey State Archives did not reveal a death certificate for George which might have included the names of his parents. It would be good to find more "direct" connections than one newspaper article saying George Sinclair, Allentown cabinetmaker, had a brother William. But, it is more than likely this George is the George in John Sinclair's probate documents.

The Path to Deducing Hannah Sinclair's Maiden Name

Hannah's birth date, calculated from her headstone, is 1763/1764. She married 1st John Sinclair (about 1784 based on birth of first child in 1785) and 2nd John Clutch (between the 1808 death of John Clutch's wife and the 1811 John Sinclair probate papers naming "Hanna Clutch lately Sinclair").

William Cafferty is a recurring name - is this a clue?

John Sinclair of East Windsor Township, Middlesex County*, NJ died in 1801. The widow Hannah Sinclair and William Cafferty were co-administrators for his estate. (Ancestry.com - NJ Wills & Probate Records 1739-1991 and NJ Abstract of Wills 1670-1817)

1801, Oct. 7. Sinclair, John, of East Windsor Twsp., Middlesex Co. Int. Adm'rs—Hannah Sinclair and William Cafferty, of said Co. Fellowbondsmen—David Rulon, Sr. and Nathaniel Robins, of Burlington Co. Lib. 39, p. 485.
1801, Oct. 2. Inventory, \$1,116.16; made by David Rulon, Sr. and Nathaniel Robins. File 9889 L.

John and Hannah Sinclair named a son William Cafferty Sinclair (1791-1859). William's middle name is spelled out in DAR applications for Ancestor John Clutch #A023362 http://services.dar.org/Public/DAR_Research/search_adb/default.cfm). William married Harriet Clutch, daughter of John Clutch and his first wife Rebecca Hughes. (William's son Joseph 1832-1904 would name his son William Cafferty Sinclair 1870-1946.)

About William Cafferty, co-administrator of John Sinclair's estate:

Findagrave: Allentown Presbyterian Church, Allentown, Monmouth Co, NJ
William Cafferty, died 5/15/1839, age 90 years two months [born 1749]
Mary Cafferty, wife of William Cafferty, died 7/6/1828, 79 yrs 2 months

William Cafferty (various spellings) is found on 1793 through 1810 tax lists in East Windsor Township, Middlesex County, NJ (Ancestry.com - NJ Compiled Census & Census Substitutes Index)

1830 Federal Census, East Windsor, Middlesex Co., NJ
William Coffaty
among others there is one male 80-89

William Cafferty's will, written 1836 in Upper Freehold Township, Monmouth Co, NJ, was witnessed by George Sinclair and John Robbins. George Sinclair (1785-1864) is Hannah's son. (Ancestry.com - NJ Wills & Probate Records 1739-1991)

*East Windsor Township subsequently became a part of Mercer County.

Note: William Cafferty's grandson Abel Cafferty (1813-1908, son of Nathaniel) was a well-known businessman and owner of a mill (which stands today) in Allentown. This biography for Able includes some information about his grandfather William Cafferty.

Abel Cafferty. - Abel Cafferty is of Irish descent, and is the grandson of William Cafferty, who resided at Red Bank, N. J., where he carried on the occupations of a tanner, shoemaker and farmer. He married Mary Bowers, of Holland Dutch descent, and to them were born children, — John, Nathaniel, Josiah, Joel, Samuel and two daughters.

(History of Monmouth County by Franklin Ellis, 1885, page 642 - viewed at hathitrust.org)

Are William Cafferty and Hannah Sinclair/Clutch related?

Spelling of the last name varies between McCafferty and Cafferty. Here are three sources of data which seem reasonable tabulations of William Cafferty's birth family:

<https://www.genealogy.com/forum/surnames/topics/mccafferty/611/>
<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/19593368/person/280175344898/facts>
<https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/L2HP-WQB?1=1&spouse=L2HP-WH4>

father: John McCafferty b. 1722 in Ireland
mother: Elizabeth Creidock b. 1724 in Ireland
married April 21, 1744 (NJ Marriage Records)

Family trees list up to 12 children; most include **William born 1749** and **Hannah born 1764**.

The Parish Register of Christ Church, Shrewsbury, NJ (contained in Historical and Genealogical Miscellany; Data Relating to the Settlement and Settlers of new York and New Jersey by John E. Stillwell, Volume 1, 1903, 1, pages 170, 176, 186, 191, viewed at hathitrust.org):

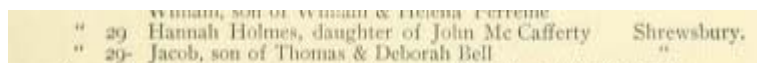
Baptisms (date is date of baptism)

William son of John McCafferty - 7/23/1749

John son of John Mackarferty - 4/26/1752

Elizabeth daughter of John McCafferty - 8/5/1759

Hannah Holmes daughter of John McCafferty - 7/29/1764



" 29- Hannah Holmes, daughter of John McCafferty Shrewsbury.
" 29- Jacob, son of Thomas & Deborah Bell

The Missing Pieces:

I can't find marriage information for a John Sinclair or a Hannah Cafferty around 1784. Nor can I find a will for John McCafferty b. 1722 which might reveal his children.

Conclusion:

It is a good probability that Hannah's maiden name is Cafferty.

Children of John Sinclair (1763-1801) and Hannah Cafferty (1763-1819)

George Sinclair 1785-1864
Mary Sinclair 1786-unknown, married Daniel H. Rouse
William Cafferty Sinclair 1791-1859
John Sinclair 1795±-unknown
Josiah Sinclair 1799-1839
Hannah Sinclair 1801-after 1880, married Uriah Clutch

George Sinclair 1785-1864

I have written about George: engaged citizen of Allentown, cabinetmaker, furniture maker, undertaker, teacher, singer, musician.

Mary Sinclair 1786-unknown

Mary married Daniel H. Rouse about 1806. Daniel died in 1814. Three children: Clementine Sinclair Rouse, William Clark Rouse, and Elizabeth Rouse.

In his will, Daniel appointed his wife Mary and William W. Sinclair (probably Mary's brother William C. Sinclair) administrators of his estate (NJ Wills & Probate Records, Monmouth County, 12/30/1813 Daniel Rous).

1813, Dec. 30. Rouse, Daniel, of Freehold Twsp., Monmouth Co.; will of. Wife, Mary, bed and bedding, bureau, breakfast table, stand; also use of all household goods and all estate until youngest child is of age, at which time residue to be sold and divided between children, Clementina and William C. Rouse, and any other child that may be born. William C. to be put to a farmer when nine and until 16, at which time he is to be put to a trade such "as will suit the times and circumstances". My share of my father's estate to be divided equally between wife and children. Executors—wife, Mary, and William W. Sinclair. Witnesses—Peter Johnston, John Johnston, William Preston. Proved Feb. 15, 1814.
1814, Feb. 14. Inventory, \$2,087.74; made by Peter Johnston, John Clutch. File 9115 M.

New Jersey, Abstract of Wills, 1670-1817 for Daniel Rouse
Volume XLII, Abstracts of Wills, 1814-1817

In 1815, William Sinclair was appointed guardian of Mary's three children. The guardianship document is signed by William Sinclair, John Clutch and Thomas Sill (NJ Wills & Probate Records, Monmouth Co, 10/20/1815 Daniel Rouze).

The child Clementine (an easy name to follow) married William Brown and both are buried in the Allentown Methodist Cemetery (Clementine died 1863 and her husband William in 1871).

William Cafferty Sinclair 1791-1859

Bank Property Sold.
The building on the corner of Main street and Waker avenue, owned by the Farmers National Bank, was sold at public sale on Saturday, January 21. The purchaser was James Vincent, who will have it removed by April 15. Its new location will be on the vacant lot of James Woby, adjoining the A. M. E. Church. The purchase price was \$125.
This double building was erected over eighty years ago, George Sinclair putting up the corner building, and his brother William the adjoining one at the same time. The former occupied his part as a cabinetmaker's shop until 1832, when he removed to his new shop on the opposite side of Main street. Since that date the building has been used for various kinds of business.

This 1-26-1905 story in the *Allentown Messenger* alerted me to the fact that George Sinclair had a brother, the first sibling to come to light. And the search was on for George Sinclair's parents and siblings!

In 1818, George Sinclair and William Sinclair are listed among the original members of Allentown's first fire department.

I couldn't determine what business, if any, William was conducting in downtown Allentown in 1825. In future years he lived in Hamilton Square, Mercer County.

After serving as guardian for his younger brothers and sisters during the probate of his father's estate, William married Harriet Clutch in probably 1816/1817 (based on the 1818 birth of their first child). Harriet is the daughter of John Clutch, second husband of William's mother. John Clutch lived with William and Harriet in Hamilton Square during the last years of his life.

William's will, dated July 1, 1859, lists his children: Mary West (formerly Sinclair), Hannah Sinclair, William D. Sinclair, Joseph C. Sinclair and Christina Sinclair. Son William and son-in-law William H. West were executors.

William died September 14, 1859 and is buried in the First Presbyterian Churchyard in Hamilton Square, Mercer County. Findagrave has photos of the headstones for William and Harriet and some of their children.

A cradle made by George Sinclair, of Allentown, 96 years ago, and in which was rocked the venerable Mrs. Mary West, of Hamilton Square, now near 95, and all of her children, is now being renovated for a great grandchild, Margaret Wallace Sykes, and it is the old lady's wish that all her descendants shall have the use of it. Her brothers and sisters were also cradled in it.

A dip into the past in the 2-1-1912 *Allentown Messenger*. George Sinclair constructed a cradle for his brother's family. Mrs. Mary West, born 1818, is the daughter of William Cafferty Sinclair.

The line of descent from the venerable Mrs. West to Margaret Wallace Sykes goes like this:

Mary Sinclair married William H. West
their daughter Emma married John Sykes
their son Alvin W. Sykes married Katherine L. Miller
their daughter is Margaret Wallace Sykes, born 1/4/1912

Margaret Wallace Sykes died June 7, 1981. As far as I can tell she did not marry. She had one brother who may have had one child. Where has the cradle gone to?

John Sinclair 1790/1797 to ?

I couldn't find a good lead to John.

On October 30, 1819 in Upper Freehold, a John Sinclair of Chesterfield Township, Burlington County married Theodisia Rouze of Upper Freehold, Burlington County. Right age, right place, but is this our John?

William C. Sinclair of Hamilton Township, Mercer County, made a will dated July 1, 1859 in which he left his wife Harriet a farm (located next to his own farm) which he had purchased from John Sinclair. Is this John William's brother? A search of land records might determine a relationship.

Josiah Sinclair 1799-1839

Josiah left behind a pretty good paper trail. In 1837, the Allentown Presbyterian Church erected a new structure and Josiah was one of the brick masons.

George S. Green of Groveville was retained at a fee of \$100 to have overall supervision of construction. Specifications were drawn up and contracts awarded to John Bowers and John James of Allentown for the carpenter work and to Charles Robbins and Josiah Sinclair of Allentown for the masonry. The contract price for the carpenters was \$800, the Church to furnish all materials, they to do all the carpenter work with the exception of laying the main floor and building the pulpit. The masons were required to furnish their own brick and materials were paid \$1800. They were, however, given the privilege of "working in any suitable material from the old Building" as long as it did not show on the outside when it was finished. Because of this, a large portion of the bricks in the walls of our Church are the same ones that were in the original meeting house. (History of Allentown Presbyterian Church by F. Dean Storms)

Josiah married Lydia Fowler January 31, 1822.

Josiah Sinclair of East Windsor, Mercer County, signed his will April 2, 1839. His children are named: three sons - Henry S., Benjamin F. and George; four daughters - Susan Ann, Martha R., Mary F. and Permelia. Wife Lydia Sinclair and father-in-law Samuel Fowler appointed executors. Witnesses to the will were Cornelius Vanderbeek, William Brown and George Sinclair Sr. Josiah died the next day, April 3. Lydia lived the rest of her days in Allentown.

PUBLIC SALE.	
W ILL be sold at Public Sale, on Friday, the 25th day of October, inst., at the late residence of Josiah Sinclair, dec., in Mercer county, near the village of Allentown, the entire Real and Personal Property of the said deceased, as follows:	
No. 1. The FARM on which he lately resided, containing about 120 acres, well proportioned tillable, meadow and timber land. The improvements are a large brick dwelling, 26 by 34 feet, with kitchen adjoining, together with all the out-buildings necessary. A further description of this property is deemed unnecessary, as those wishing to purchase can view it themselves.	
No. 2. Consists of a house and lot and carpenter's shop, near Allentown, on the junction of the road leading to Trenton and Crosswicks, now occupied by Charles Rogers, as a wheelwright's shop.	
The Personal Property consists, in part, of Horses and Cattle, Sheep, Hogs, &c., and all kinds of Farming Utensils. Also, Wheat, Rye, Oats, Buckwheat and Potatoes, by the bushel, Corn in the field, &c., together with Household and Kitchen Furniture.	
The Farm will be put up at 3 o'clock, precisely. Sale to commence at 9 o'clock, A. M. Conditions, &c., by	LYDIA SINCLAIR, Ex'r. SAMUEL FOWLER, Ex'r.
Dated Aug. 23d, 1839.	58-2w.

In addition to the properties in this advertisement, Josiah and Lydia owned property in Allentown.

Findagrave has photos of Lydia and Josiah's headstones in the Allentown Presbyterian Church.

The April 14, 1904 *Allentown Messenger* reported about "An Interesting Heirloom." In 1845, a year after Horatio E. Gulick's parents moved to Ohio, Mrs. Gulick's friends in Allentown sent her an autograph bed quilt. The article lists all the names on the quilt including members of the Sinclair family: George Sinclair (cited as the father of Nathaniel Sinclair in the article), Lydia Sinclair (wife of Josiah) and Clementine Brown (daughter of Mary Sinclair Rouse).

The 1904 article reported the quilt had never been used. I wonder if it ended up in a museum.

10-11-1839 *Emporium & True American, Trenton, NJ*

Hannah Sinclair 1801 to after 1880 census

Hannah married Uriah Clutch October 25, 1821. Uriah is the son of Daniel Clutch, Daniel being the brother of Hannah's step-father John Clutch.

In 1826, Hannah, Uriah and their first two children moved to Franklin, Warren County, Ohio.

An 1860 directory for Franklin has the following listing under Professions:

Clutch Uriah, cabinet maker and undertaker, Center
Clutch & Hooven, dealers in hardware, agricultural implements and grass seed, Center.

Here is a biography for Hannah and Uriah's son Daniel H. Clutch.

Daniel was born in Monmouth County NJ Jan 24, 1824. July 5, 1826, his parents moved to Franklin; he attended school till 15 years of age, when he entered the cabinet shop of his father, who died Nov. 1, 1868; he worked for his father till of age, when he was admitted as a partner; firm known as Clutch & Son; building stood where the Coleman House now stands. in 1856, he rented a farm in this township and worked at farming four years, and then returned to Franklin and bought a hardware store of Charles Butler & Co., in company with J.P. Hoover; they remained together four years, when he bought out Mr. Hoover's interest and carried on the business alone five years. etc. (History of Warren County, Ohio 1882)

Other children from the 1850 census are John, William, Alice, Catharine, and George.

Uriah's obituary in the 11-9-1868 *Dayton Daily Journal* noted he was born in Allentown NJ in 1798 and was one of the founders of Methodism in Franklin.

After Uriah's death, Hannah entered the time-honored widow's profession of operating a boarding house. My last sighting of Hannah is the 1880 census, living in Franklin with her widowed daughter Alice E. Gallaher and grandson Anson.

Read about Alice's husband John F. Gallaher. He managed to escape from Libby Prison during the Civil War. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/46837866>

How About One More Generation Back?

Who are the parents of John Sinclair 1763-1801

It looks pretty reasonable that John and Hannah Sinclair, buried in the Allentown Presbyterian Church Cemetery, are the parents of George Sinclair (1785-1864). Hannah apparently belongs to a Cafferty family. So who are John's parents?

Basic facts: John Sinclair, 1763-1801, lived in East Windsor, Middlesex Co., NJ at the time of his death. John Sinclair named his first son George - was this in honor of his own father?

A limited number of Sinclairs lived in this area of New Jersey. There is a Sinclair family of German origin in Hunterdon County with similar names and in the same time frame. After sorting them out, here is a promising lead - a fellow named George with a son named John.

Will of George Sinclare, Windsor Township, Middlesex Co., NJ

1787, Jan. 27. Sinclare, George, of Windsor Township, Middlesex Co.; will of. Wife to have all to bring up my youngest daughter, Rhoda, and, if said child die, then to my 3 daughters, Annah, Elizabeth and Ann. If they marry, they are to be made equal to our daughter, Mary Cubberly. Son, John, 10 shillings. Daughter, Mary Coberley, 10 shillings. Executors—sons, John Sinclare and William Cobberley. Witnesses—David Rulon, John Pearson, Vanroom Robins. Proved Feb. 28, 1787.

1787, Feb. 17. Inventory, £237.6.0, made by Vanroom Robins and David Rulon. Lib. 29, p. 354.

(Ancestry.com - NJ, Abstract of Wills 1670-1817)

Location: Windsor Township, Middlesex County
Name of wife: not stated
Children: youngest Rhoda
Annah
Elizabeth
Ann
Mary Cubberly (born 1764)
John Sinclare (our John Sinclair born 1763)
Executors: Son John Sinclare, son-in-law William Cubberly

I can't find anything about Rhoda, Annah, Elizabeth and Ann. The unnamed wife may be Mary according to DAR applications.

US Census Reconstructed Records 1660-1820 (Ancestry.com)

Nottingham Township, Burlington Co.

1770 - George Sinclare, 7 horses & cattle

1780 - George Sinclear, 165 improved acres, 3 horses, 5 cattle

New Jersey Rateables 1773-1774 (Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey, Vol 36, May 1961, #2)

Nottingham Township, Burlington Co.

1773 - George Sinclare, householder, 7 cows

1774 - George Sinclare, 1 servant or slave, no cows

Note: also listed in 1773 and 1774 are David Rulon (298 A, 22 cows) and Nathaniel Robins (203 A, 21 cows)

Nottingham Township, New Jersey Minute Book 1692-1710 & 1752-1774

1758 list of the inhabitants does not include any Sinclair

1772 list of inhabitants - George Sinclare
(also Nathaniel Robins, William Cubberly, Allexander Adams. Nottingham has 155 dwelling houses and 1,103 total population).

Here is a George Sinclair living in Nottingham Township, Burlington County (which would become Hamilton Township, Mercer County). When George wrote his will in 1787 he was living in East Windsor, Middlesex County. I can't find early East Windsor, Middlesex County tax records (and have the impression that there aren't any), so by default this is the only George Sinclair that shows up in this area in this time frame.

If George actually owned the 165 acres listed above, a search of deeds might reveal something.

Revolutionary War - A Case of Mistaken Identity

George Sinclair (died 1787) and a younger George Sinclair (1755-1832) have, in my opinion (and with all due respect to the challenges of pre-internet genealogy), been confused in DAR and SAR applications and in family trees.

George Sinclair was born about 1730/1740 in probably NJ and died 1787 in East Windsor. It is unlikely this George Sinclair fought in the Revolutionary War. In 1777 this older Sinclair was in his late 30s or early 40s, supporting a wife and children. The younger Sinclair was in his 20s and unmarried. Generally it's the young men who go marching off to war.

The younger fellow is George Sinclair/St. Clair (1755-1832), born probably in New Jersey and married to Eunice Adams, whose father is Alexander Adams (1739-1798), a resident of Nottingham. George and Eunice are buried in the Hancock Family Cemetery in Butler County, Ohio. See their headstone photos at findagrave; the last name is spelled St. Clair. I think this is the George Sinclair who served in the Revolutionary War. His service is nicely summed up by Leonard A. Morrison in the Incidental Notes chapter of *The History of the Sinclair family in Europe and America* 1896. In this book, George Sinclair is not linked to any other person.

IN WAR OF THE REVOLUTION.

2178. George Sinclair on the 18th of September, 1777, at Philadelphia, Penn., enlisted as a seaman on frigate *Washington*, commanded by Capt. Thomas Reed; then enlisted for one year on *Hell Cat*, commanded by Captain Robert French. The vessel was burned at Mud Island. Was then a steward on ship *Repulse*, commanded by Capt. Peter Brewster. This vessel was burned by the Americans. He enlisted May, 1778, at Mt. Holly, Burlington co., N. J., in Capt. Samuel Riddings' company, 2d Regt., commanded by Colonel Shreve, and served till March 1, 1783; then drafted into Capt. Abel Wyman's company, Colonel Ogden's Regt., the 1st, and discharged June 3, 1783. He was in the battles of Monmouth and Springfield, N. J., and was at the capture of Lord Cornwallis and the British army Oct. 19, 1781.

He was a resident of Hanover, Butler co., Ohio, July 17, 1820, and was 66 years of age. It is thought that his descendants are still in that place.

The younger George Sinclair's 26 page pension packet can be viewed at Ancestry.com, U.S. Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Application Files 1800-1900, George Sinclair, Pension Year 1819, Survivor's Pension Application File, #S-40438, Application State Ohio.

Also there is a packet with numerous payroll and muster slips for George Sinclair/Sinclear/St. Clair/Sinclair at Ancestry.com in the US Compiled Revolutionary War Service database under the name George Sinclair, New Jersey, Private, Second Regiment. I believe this is the younger George Sinclair.

As noted in the older George Sinclair's will, his daughter Mary married William T. Cubberly.

In 1927, Fred Cubberly of Gainesville, Florida submitted an application for membership in the Sons of the American Revolution (which can be viewed at Ancestry.com). His line goes like this; but, as noted above, I think it is **NOT** his great great grandpa who served.

Fred Cubberly of Gainesville, Florida
Son of George and Sarah (Frazier) Cubberly
Grandson of Amariah and Susan (Barer) Cubberly
Great-grandson of William T. and Mary (Sinclair) Cubberly
Great-great-grandson of George Sinclair, private in N.J. Cont'l Line Troops

Fred Cubberly includes information on his application about George Sinclair b. 1755 and presents him as a son of George Sinclair d. 1787. What to think about this?

- Was Fred Cubberly making a guess about a father/son relationship or did he have some insider family knowledge?
- A son George Sinclair is **not** included in the will of George d. 1787.
- George Sinclair b. 1755 married a woman who lived in Nottingham, same place where the older George lived.

There are three DAR members who claim the older George Sinclair, Ancestor A104270.

There is one Sinclair descendant who did not make this mistake. The pension packet for the younger George Sinclair includes a 1913 letter from William Cafferty Sinclair of Princeton, NJ. He expresses confusion about the George Sinclair of Butler County, Ohio and the George Sinclair who died in 1787. The information sent to William Sinclair about the younger George Sinclair included the statement: "This Bureau has no record of a Geo. Sinclair who died in 1787."

Instead of claiming a Sinclair for entry into the sons of the American Revolution, William chose his great grandpa John Clutch (1758-1849).

William Cafferty Sinclair (1870-1946) of Princeton, NJ
son of Joseph Clark Sinclair and Harriet Nicholson
grandson of William Cafferty Sinclair and Harriet Clutch
great grandson of John Clutch and Rebecca Hughes

Family Trees

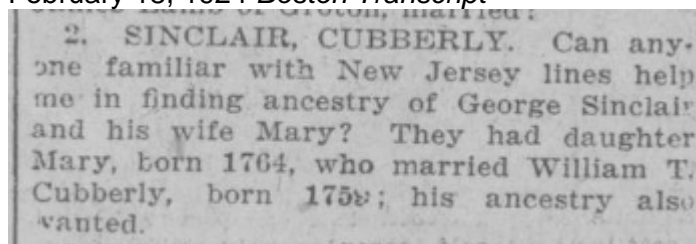
There are a few trees on the internet that include George Sinclair d. 1787 but they all seem to derive from the SAR application, which may or may not be correct as to George's birth date, his wife's name or his children. Most follow the daughter Mary Sinclair Cubberly line. One interesting tree has George's father as Alexander Sinclair of Virginia, born 1666 in Scotland and mother Mary Wayman, but there is nothing on the tree to support this.

American Genealogical-Biographical Index

This index has an entry for George Sinclair, birth date 1740 (the birth date is inferred by the indexer from the context of the source), birth place New Jersey, Volume 159, Page 500, Reference contains two dates from the Genealogy Column of the *Boston Transcript*.

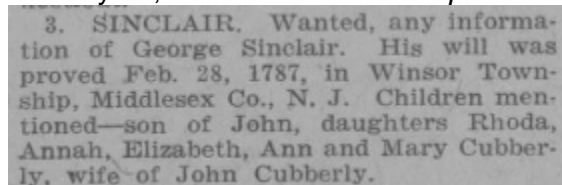
Here is a pre-computer message board! You mailed in your question to the *Boston Transcript* and hopefully someone would know the answer. AmericanAncestors.org has a browsable database covering the years 1911-1941 of the *Boston Transcript* genealogy columns. A Cubberly descendant was hot on the trail.

February 18, 1924 *Boston Transcript*



2. SINCLAIR, CUBBERLY. Can anyone familiar with New Jersey lines help me in finding ancestry of George Sinclair and his wife Mary? They had daughter Mary, born 1764, who married William T. Cubberly, born 1758; his ancestry also wanted.

January 21, 1929 *Boston Transcript*



3. SINCLAIR. Wanted, any information of George Sinclair. His will was proved Feb. 28, 1787, in Winsor Township, Middlesex Co., N. J. Children mentioned—son of John, daughters Rhoda, Annah, Elizabeth, Ann and Mary Cubberly, wife of John Cubberly.

What do I know about this George Sinclair:

- George Sinclair, born about 1730/1740, died 1787
- Wife named Mary, maybe
- Daughter Mary born 1764, married William T. Cubberly, moved to Ohio
- Son named John. Is it John Sinclair 1763-1801?
- Daughters Rhoda, Annah, Elizabeth, Ann about whom I know nothing
- George's 1787 will places him in Windsor Township, Middlesex Co.
- John Sinclair's 1801 will places him in East Windsor Township, Middlesex Co.
- In 1787, John Sinclair would have been 24, married, with two children. John Sinclair named his first child George - after his own father?

Conclusion:

Did John Sinclair 1763-1801 inherit 10 shillings from George Sinclair?

Is the younger George Sinclair born 1755 related to this family?

These are the only Sinclairs in the same area in the right time frame. A bible record or some insider family knowledge might confirm the relationships.