**Henry Dilts and his Descendants**

**Henry Dilts of Amwell** (probate file 1414J)

Henry Dilts of Amwell wrote his will 16 June 1784. In it he named his wife Anna, sons Philip, Henry Junior, Peter, Jacob, and William, and daughters Mary Bodine, Anne Cool, Elizabeth Tidd, Christeen Wambaugh, and Catherine Dils. Henry named as executors two of his sons in law: John Bodine, husband of Mary, and Paul Kuhl, husband of Anne. Witnesses to the will were Samuel Furman, John Aller, and Uriah Bonham. The will was accepted for probate in February 1788.

* **Philip Dilts:** Acknowledged in the will as Henry’s eldest son, Philip was already living on land belonging to his father at the time the will was written. His tract, as described in the will was bounded by Walter Cain, John Rockafellow, William Rettinghausen, and Henry Dilts Jr. It was located in the vicinity of Locktown, in Amwell but close to the border with Kingwood Township. Philip died intestate about 1801, and Paul Kuhl, his brother-in-law, was appointed administrator to his estate. A few months later the heirs of Philip Dilts petitioned the Orphans’ Court for a division of his land among his heirs, some of which were under age:
	+ **Catherine** (Dilts) Hand or Hann, wife of Peter
	+ **Ann** (Dilts) Bartholomew, wife of Benjamin
	+ **Mary**, who later married Gideon Higgins
	+ **Sarah**, who latr married John Huff
	+ **Elizabeth**, who later married Cornelius Huff
* **Henry Dilts Jr:** Son Henry was living on a tract also in the Locktown area, bordering the lot where Philip resided. Apparently he had already been given this land, since his father’s will does not grant him any real estate, but only a bequest of £100, to be paid to him by Philip.
* **Peter and Jacob Dilts:** Henry granted to these two sons his plantation where he resided at the time of his death, and specified exactly how it was to be divided between them.
* **William Dilts:** Henry did not leave any bequests for his son William in his will, nor did he refer to him as a “beloved” son. He did name his “loving Grandson George Dils Son of William Dils,” and left him a bequest of £40 in gold or silver, to be paid to him by Philip. Apparently Henry was not on good terms with his son William.
* **Mary (Dilts) Bodine**: Daughter Mary, the wife of executor John Bodine, was to receive £100 in gold or silver, payable in two years after Henry’s decease. This sum was to be raised by the sale of a 20-acre lot currently occupied by Jacob Tidd and wife Elizabeth (Dilts) Tidd, where they had been living for a number of years.
* **Anne (Dilts) Cool:** Daughter Anne, the wife of executor Paul Cool [Kuhl], was to be paid the same amount, on the same terms as her sister Mary Bodine. Henry’s will specified, however, that if Anne died before her husband Paul without any children, her share should be returned to the estate and divided among the surviving daughters. This provision raises the possibility that Anne was already ill and was not expected to have any children. Anne did die before her husband Paul, who in his will made bequests to her surviving sisters.
* **Elizabeth (Dilts) Tid**: Daughter Elizabeth, the wife of Jacob Tidd, was to be paid the same amount on the same terms as sister Mary Bodine. Elizabeth and Jacob apparently were being evicted from the 20-acre lot being sold to fund these bequests.
* **Catherine Dilts**: Daughter Catherine, unmarried at the time Henry wrote his will, was to be paid the same amount on the same terms as sister Mary Bodine. By the time that the accounting for Henry’s estate was submitted, Catherine had married Benjamin Vannaumer.
* **Christeen (Dilts) Wambaugh:** Daughter Christeen, wife of Peter Wambaugh, was to be paid the same amount on the same terms as sister Mary Bodine.

There is no indication in the probate file of the age of Henry Dilts, the deceased, or of the maiden name of his wife Anne. It is also not clear whether Anne was the mother of all of Henry’s children. However, Henry does appear to be of a mature age, since most of his children were married and he had at least one grandchild.

**Henry DIlts of Kingwood** (probate file 1372J)

Henry Dilts of Kingwood died intestate, and Letters of Administration on his estate were granted to Urie Dilts, administratrix, on 28 May 1787. This was after Henry Dilts of Amwell had written his will, but before it had been admitted to probate. Urie filed a bond, with fellow bondsman Lawrence Kemple, in the amount of £600, which she signed with her mark.

An inventory of the personal estate of Henry of Kingwood was performed by Christopher Lawbacker and John Rockafellow and presented to the court on 22 May 1787. The items in the inventory consisted primarily of household goods, farming equipment and crops, amounting to £389-5-3.

On May 7, 1801, Jacob and Ann Henn, Ann being the daughter of Henry Dilts of Kingwood, petitioned the Orphans’ Court for a division of the land of Henry DIlts among his heirs, consisting of 102 acres. The petition listed as Henry’s heirs, noting that some of them were under age:

* John Bird and Mary his wife, late Mary Diltz;
* John Lear and Sarah his wife, late Sarah Diltz;
* Catharine DIltz;
* Peter Diltz;
* Jacob Henn and Anna his wife, late Anna Diltz

The Court granted the petition and appointed three commissioners to divide the property. On 6 August 1801, the Commissioners submitted their report to the Court, dividing the property amount the five children of Henry and setting aside a portion for his widow Julianna as her dower.

The report and accompanying survey of the division of property makes clear that the tract of land being divided is one adjoining land of the heirs of Philip Dilts, eldest son of Henry Dilts of Amwell, on its southern border. Henry of Amwell described the tract he granted to son Philip as being bounded on the east by Walter Cane, on the south by John Rockefellow, on the west by William Rettinghousen, and on the north by Henry Dilts Junior. The tract shown in the diagram drawn by the Commissioners is bounded by the heirs of Philip Dilts on the south, Henry Werts on the north, and William Moore and H Dilts on the east. The H. Dilts on the east shown in the diagram is probably Henry Dilts with wife Hannah, a longtime resident of this area whose parents are at this point unknown.

Conclusion: Henry Dilts of Kingwood was the son of Henry Dilts of Amwell, referred to in the will of Henry of Amwell as Henry Junior.

Notes on Julianna/Urie:

The administration of Henry Dilts of Kingwood was granted to “Urie Dilts,” whose signature (by mark) appears at least three times in the probate file, signing affidavit to administer estate and the bond. In the report of the division of Henry’s land, issued in 1801, the commissioners refer to Julianna Stevenson, late Julianna Dilts, as the widow entitled to one-third of his real property.

Edward Stevenson of Amwell died intestate in 1798, leaving a widow “Jeuley” (Probate file 1855J). She renounced administration of the estate in favor of Edward’s older brother Thomas Stevenson. The renunciation was witnessed by William Lair. This spelling of Juliana’s name suggests that she went by a nickname of July or Julie, and that the name Urie could have been a form of that nickname. I was unable to find anyone else in Henry’s ancestors, siblings or descendants who could reasonably be referred to as “Urie.”

The Dilts tree published by Marfy Goodspeed shows the wife of Henry DIlts as “Julianna/Julie/Urie,” indicating that the author concluded that widow Julianna and administratrix Urie were the same person.

(from Nancy Heath <nlheath@verizon.net>, 12 Jun 2021)