

James Behanna update (Nov. 2016)

I view my research on “our” James Behanna like a jigsaw puzzle. I have accrued a lot of pieces, but it’s not clear how they all fit together. Some pieces might not even fit our James at all. In this message, I’ll share all of my info. I welcome all feedback, whether it be in agreement or disagreement with my findings. Much more research needs to be done.

Below I’ll make five statements about James, his origin and his family. I’ll describe each statement as HIGHLY PROBABLE, PROBABLE, or POSSIBLE. Further on, I’ll present evidence to support those statements. And lastly I’ll list all of my sources of information. I’ll also share some relevant historical information.

Statements (my beliefs) concerning James and his family

James and Sarah were both born in Pennsylvania. HIGHLY, HIGHLY PROBABLE.

The archival family surname was not Behanna. HIGHLY, HIGHLY PROBABLE.

The archival family surname was Buchanan. PROBABLE.

Prior to 1803, the Behanna/Buchanan family resided in East Pennsboro Township, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania. PROBABLE.

The father of our James was a Loyalist, or at least a British sympathizer. This may be the reason that James and his siblings changed their surname. POSSIBLE.

Evidence supporting the above statements

James and Sarah were both born in Pennsylvania. I have made this statement in prior Emails. It is supported by the depositions of Sarah in the 1850 and 1860 federal census’s and the depositions of all 3 of the living children of James and Sarah in the 1880 federal census’s in three different townships. It is also supported by the fact that no foreigners are enumerated in the James Behanna household in the 1810 federal census.

The archival family surname was not Behanna. The family of James first appears in the Washington County historical record as James Bohany in 1804. In subsequent years, he appears as James Bohany, James Bohanah, James Bohanah, James Bohannah, James Bohannah, James Bohannah, James Buckhannah, James Buchhannah, James Buchanon, James Buhany, James Buckhanen, James Buchannan, James Buchanan, James Buckhannah and James Buckhanan. In 1823 he is listed for the FIRST TIME as James Behanna on a dog list. After that one Behanna listing, he is listed as James Buchanan. Then his son is listed as Benjamin Bohanna and his widow is listed as Sarah Bohanah and Sarah Bohannah. On the 1830 federal census, sons are listed as James Behanas and Benjamin Bahnah. The Behanna name occurs for the SECOND TIME in 1832, when Sarah Behanna and George Bond appear on the marriage register of Squire Thomas Carson. On the 1840 federal census, we have Sarah Bahannah. On the 1850 federal census, we have David Bahanaha and Sarah Bahanaha. Widespread use of the surname Behanna began in the 1860 census. At first glance, the list above looks like a bunch of bad spellings. But it represents some powerful information. Each name on the list represents a historical document, most separated by one year and accomplished by several different government agencies and locations. Further, the surname was supplied by James or Sarah or one of their children. That’s 27 incorrect spellings of Behanna and 3 correct spellings. No way!!!!

If you believe that the archival family surname was Behanna, you must accept the following, *”During the first 19 years in which James and family lived in Washington County, no one, family included, was able to spell the family name correctly. Then in 1823, it was spelled correctly one time. Then it was misspelled for the next 9 years. In 1832, it was again spelled correctly one time. Then it was misspelled for the next 27 years. Finally, in 1860, the family got it right!”* The foregoing scenario makes no sense whatsoever!!! I believe that the archival family name had been something other than Behanna, probably Buchanan. At about the time when James moved to Washington County (1804), he decided to adopt a new surname. He “invented” the name Behanna and probably passed it on phonetically to family, friends and census takers.

There is a second type of evidence that the archival family surname was not Behanna. It is that an extensive search of the historical records does not show a Behanna family in Pennsylvania. If James was born in Pennsylvania around 1780, we should be able to locate records of his parents. I was able to find one, and only one, Behanna individual. In the Ancestry.com Tax and Exoneration tables within the card catalog, I found a William Behanna in 1789 in Exeter Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania. He was a laborer with no land or taxable possessions. Exeter Township is about 30 miles Northwest of Philadelphia. There was only the one year listing for William and no other Behanna’s nearby in any year. I don’t believe that William was related to our Behanna’s.

The archival family surname was Buchanan. A fair amount of analysis is required to determine the probable archival surname. In our case, the analysis is based on the following historical records: the Pike Run Township tax duplicates from 1804 to 1812, the Fallowfield Township tax duplicates from 1815 to 1824, the 1810 federal census and the 1820 federal census. A bit of understanding about the federal census versus tax duplicates is helpful. The federal census is based on households, taken one household at a time. The name of the head of the household is given, as is the age bracket and gender of each household member. Any tax liability for land ownership, livestock, children’s education, dog taxes, etc. is NOT given. Tax duplicates, on the other hand, are tabulated in a very different manner. They are grouped by tax liability, taken one at a time, without regard to household. As an example, John Doe might be responsible for the tax on his children’s education. William Doe might be responsible for the tax on 100 acres of land. We can’t tell, from those two listings alone, whether John and William lived in the same household, or separate households.

So first, let’s examine the family in Pike Run from 1804 to 1812. (refer to the full Washington County tax duplicate list several paragraphs below) The tax duplicates show that James Bohany owned no land, no horses, no dogs, only one or two cows, depending on the specific year. The 1810 federal census shows a family of 7 individuals, headed by James Bohanah. The two adults, one male and one female, were between the ages of 26 to 44. The blank census form had a category for “foreigners”, labeled “all other free persons”. That box was not checked. If James or Sarah or any relative living in the household had been born in a foreign country, that box would have been checked. The five children were all under age 10. I believe that during this time James had “invented” the name Bohany or Bohanah and the 7 of them were living by themselves.

James and family do not appear in the tax duplicates of Pike Run or Fallowfield in the years of 1813 and 1814. There are 3 possible reasons for this absence: one, he did not have any taxable assets; two, he was living elsewhere – not likely; or three, bookkeeping was very bad since it was the peak of the War of 1812.

James and family re-appear, now in Fallowfield Township in 1815 with new found wealth. In that year of 1815, he is taxed on two horses, two cows and one dog. His net wealth has gone from \$8. to \$60. I believe that this is when some other adult, probably his father, moved in with the family. The 1820 federal census lists James Buhany heading up a household of 12. There are 9 children up to the age of 26, one male over the age of 45, one female over the age of 45 and one “foreigner-not naturalized” of age unknown.

There is a second type of “strangeness” to the tax duplicates that makes me think that a second adult male lived in this household after 1815. The strangeness is that the taxpayer’s name was spelled two different ways during the same year. This occurred in a total of three different years as follows:

1817 James Bohannah 3 school-aged children
 1817-1818 James Buckhannah 2 horses, 1 cow, 2 dogs

1823-1824 James Buckhanan 1 horse, 1 cow, 1 dog
 1823-1824 James Bucannan on tax duplicate copy

1824-1825 James Buchanan 1 cow
 1824-1825 James Behanna has children David and Alexander

The three sets of dual surnames above could be a case (or three) of mis-spelling. But to me that's a stretch of the imagination. When you put the three sets of surname spellings together with the increased wealth as of 1815 and the 1820 census fact of a foreigner residing in the household, it makes a compelling case for two adult males (as in father and son) in the household.

Below is the full list of Washington County tax duplicates that I transcribed in 2011.

	Wash. Co. complete	Fallowfield Twp	Pike Run Twp	
1781	No		No tax list for Pike Run for these years	
1784	No			
1788	No tax list for Washington County complete for these years	No		
1789		No		
1791		No		
1792		No		
1793		No		
1794		No		
1800		No		No
1802		No		No
1803		No	No	
1804		No	No	
1804-1805		No	James Bohany (\$8)	
1805-1806		No	James Bohany 2 cows (\$16)	
1806-1807		No	No	
1807-1808		No	No	
1810-1811			No	
1811-1812			James Bohannah 1 cow (\$8)	
1812-1813			James Bohannah 1 cow all crossed out	
1813-1814			No	
1814-1815			No	
1815-1816		James Bohannah 2 horses, 2 cows, 1 dog (\$60)		
1817		James Bohannah*		
1816-1817		James Bohannah 1 horse, 2 cows, 1 dog (\$40)		
1817-1818		James Buckhannah 2 horses, 1 cow, 2 dogs (\$50)		
1818-1819		James Buchhannah 2 horses, 1 cow, 2 dogs (\$50)		
1819-1820		James Buchanan 2 horses, 2 cows, 2 dogs (\$48)		
1820-1821		James Buchannan** 2 horses, 1 cow, 2 dogs (\$48)		

1821-1822		James Buchanan 2 horses, 1 cow, 2 dogs (\$48)	
1822-1823		James Buckhannah 1 horse, 2 cows, 1 dog (\$24)	
1823-1824		James Buckhanan*** 1 horse (crossed off), 1 cow, 1 dog (\$7)	
1824-1825		James Buchanan**** 1 cow (\$7)	
1825-1826		Benjamin Bohanna 1 cow (\$7), 2 dogs, 4 sheep	
1826-1827		Sarah Bohannah Widdow, 1 cow, 1 dog (\$19)	
1827-1828		Sarah Bohannah***** Widow, 1 dog, 1 horse, 2 cows, 2 yoke of oxen (\$33)	
1827-1828		Benjamin Bohanna***** Single freeman	

A listing of "No" means that no Behanna's or similar were found in that year.

* In 1817 James Bohannah was marked as having 3 children between the ages of 12 and 5, then his name was crossed off. Evidently he was able to pay for their schooling or the tax assessor made a mistake.

** In 1820-1821, his name was listed as James Buckhanen on the separate dog list.

*** In 1823-1824, they had him listed on the tax duplicate as James Bucannan.

**** In 1824-1825, David and Alexander Behanna listed as poor children of James Behanna...no ages listed.

***** It is not possible to tell from the listing whether Sarah and son Benjamin were living in the same or separate households.

Prior to 1803, the Behanna/Buchanan family resided in East Pennsboro Township, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania. First, some pertinent information about East Pennsboro. It was, and still is, a very small township that had a small 1800 population of mostly farmers. The township measured 3 miles north to south and 4 miles east to west for an area of 12 square miles. The 1800 federal census enumerated 337 households, for a total population of about 1,500 individuals. (To give an indication of just how small a search population that is, consider that in the year 1800, the population of Great Britain was 15,200,000 individuals).

East Pennsboro is on the West bank of the Susquehanna River, opposite Harrisburg. Its largest town is Enola. Its location put it directly on the "Pennsylvania Road". In the 1700's, the major port of entry for European immigrants was Philadelphia and the Pennsylvania Road was the path that those settlers took to points westward – SW Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia. The distance from East Pennsboro to Washington County is 190 miles, or a 10 day trip by horse-drawn wagon in those times.

This analysis will be based on data from the Cumberland County tax duplicates for East Pennsboro Township. I searched all townships of Cumberland County for surnames Behanna, Buchanan and all similar. I found no Behanna's, many, many Buchanan's and few similar. The similar tend to be Buchanan look-alikes – Buchannan, Buchanon, etc. The total number of Buchanan's in all townships of Cumberland County is about 300. I will limit the listing below to those in only East Pennsboro Township, giving a total of 62 Buchanan entries. The number of individual persons in these 62 entries is 5.

Person owning taxables
And Being an East

<u>Year</u>	<u>Pennsboro resident</u>	<u>Taxable properties</u>
1750	John Buchanan	Not listed
	Walter Buchanan	Not listed
1753	John Buchanan	Not listed
	Walter Buchanan	Not listed
1758	John Buchanan	50 Acres
1761	Walter Buchanan	100 Acres
1762	John Buchanan	100 Acres
	Walter Buchanan	100 Acres
1763	William Buchanan	150 Acres
1764	Walter Buchanan	100 Acres
1766	Walter Buchanan	100 Acres, 2 horses, 3 cows, 5 sheep
1767	Walter Buchanan	100 Acres, 2 horses, 4 cows, 3 sheep
1768	Walter Buchanan	200 Acres, 3 horses, 3 cows, 4 sheep
1769	Walter Buchanan	0 Acres
1770	Walter Buchannan	200 Acres, 1 horse, 2 cows, 6 sheep
1771	Walter Buchanan	200 Acres, 1 horse, 3 cows, 6 sheep
1772	Walter Buchannan	200 Acres, 1 horse, 2 cows, 4 sheep
1773	Walter Buchannan	200 Acres, 2 horses, 2 cows, 6 sheep
1774	Joseph Buchannan	115 Acres, 1 horse, 1 cow
	Walter Buchannan	200 Acres, 2 horses, 3 cows, 8 sheep
1775	Joseph Buchannan	150 Acres, 2 horses, 2 cows, 2 sheep
	Walter Buchannan	150 Acres, 2 horses, 2 cows, 6 sheep
1776	Joseph Buchannan	150 Achres, 1 horse, 2 cows, 1 sheep
	Walter Buchannan	200 Acres, 3 horses, 5 cows, 6 sheep
1778	John Buchanan	150 Acres, 1 Negro, 2 horses, 2 cows
	Walter Buchannan	200 Acres, 3 horses, 3 cows, 2 sheep
1779	Joseph Buchannan	150 Acres, 4 horses, 2 cows
	Walter Buchannan	220 Acres, 6 horses, 4 cows
1780	John Buchanan	Freeman
	Joseph Buchanan	105 Acres, 4 horses, 1 cow
	Walter Buchanan	220 Acres, 4 horses, 5 cows
1781	John Buchanan	212 Acres
	Joseph Buchanan	150 Acres, 4 horses, 4 cows
	Walter Buchanan	110 Acres, 4 horses, 5 cows
1782	John Buchanan	112 Acres
	Joseph Buchanan	0 Acres, 4 horses, 4 cows, 2 sheep
	Walter Buchanan	110 Acres, 4 horses, 5 cows, 10 sheep
1783	John Buchannan	220 Acres, 1 horse
	John Buchannan	Freeman
	Joseph Buchannan	0 Acres, 4 horses, 1 cow
	Walter Buchannan	0 Acres, 2 horses, 4 cows, 10 sheep
1785	John Buchanan	222 Acres, 2 horses, 1 cow
	John Buchanan	Freeman
	Joseph Buchanan	100 Acres, 4 horses, 2 cows
	Walter Buchanan	0 Acres, 1 horse, 2 cows
1786	John Buchanan	222 Acres, 4 horses, 1 cow
	John Buchanan	Freeman
	Joseph Buchanan	300 Acres, 3 horses, 2 cows
	Walter Buchanan	0 Acres, 1 horse, 2 cows, 1 malt house
1787	John Buchanan	222 Acres, 3 horses, 2 cows

	Joseph Buchanan	300 Acres, 3 horses, 3 cows
	Walter Buchanan	0 Acres, 1 horse, 2 cows, 1 mault kin
1788	John Buchanan	222 Acres, 2 horses, 2 cows
	Walter Buchanan	0 Acres, 2 Cows, 1 moults kiln
1789	John Buchanan	222 Acres, 3 horses, 2 cows
1793	James Buchanan	110 Acres
	James Buchanan	Freeman
1795	No Buchanan's listed in East Pennsboro Township	
1799	James Buchanan	Freeman
	Matthew Buchanan	Freeman
	Widow Buchanan	1 horse, 2 slaves

After the 1799 entries, no James Buchanan's were found anywhere in Cumberland County. Tax duplicates were available for 1802, 1805 and 1811. Also, no Buchanan's with any given name were found in East Pennsboro Township after the 1800 federal census.

Two other historical records give much info about the James Buchanan household in East Pennsboro Township: the Pennsylvania Direct Tax list of 1798 and the 1800 federal census. The 1798 Direct Tax list gives the following: Jas Buchanan and family were tenants on land owned by John Oliver. The house was a one story wood structure that measured 36' x 18', for a total square footage of 648 sq. ft. It had 6 windows and 52 "lights". Two years later, the Jas Buchanan was enumerated in the 1800 federal census as follows: a household consisting of 11 individuals, 6 children, 2 adult males, 2 adult females and 1 foreigner of age unknown. The 2 adult males were in the age bracket 26-44, as was 1 of the adult females. The other adult female was in the age bracket 16-25. All 6 children were 1-15. There's not enough info to know the exact famil structure, but it most looks like three generations of the same family.

Another important name appears in the historical record – Alexander Buchanan. Alexander does not appear on the tax duplicates list in East Pennsboro Township. He does appear on the tax duplicate list for other townships within Cumberland County as follows:

1764	Alex Buchannan	Peters Twp.	100 Acres free (maybe freeman)
1767	Allex Buchannan	Aire Twp.	100 Acres, 2 horses, 3 cows
1768	Alexander Buchannan	Aire Twp.	0 Acres, 2 horses, 2 cows, 2 sheep
1769	Alex Buchannan	Air Twp.	100 Acres, 2 horses, 2 cows, 4 sheep
1770	Alexander Buchannan	Air Twp.	100 Acres, 2 horses, 2 cows, 3 sheep
1771	Alexander Buchannan	Air	50 Acres, 2 horses, 2 cows
1793	Alexander Buchanan	Newton Twp.	129 Acres
1793	Alex. Buchanan	Newton Twp.	Freeman

Peters Township is 75 miles SW of East Pennsboro. Aire (or Ayr) Township is 60 miles SW of East Pennsboro. Newton Township is 40 miles SW of East Pennsboro. These rather large distances make it questionable whether that Alexander Buchanan is related to the East Pennsboro Buchanan's.

Another Alexander Buchanan appears in the Ancestry.com land records. He patented 200 Acres in 1794 in East Pennsboro Township. That land would have been within 2 or 3 miles of James, John, Joseph and Walter Buchanan. It is very likely that they were all related.

Genealogists use naming patterns to help establish family ties. Here we have Alexander, James and John Buchanan all residing in the 1790's in this tiny township of East Pennsboro. Fifteen years later, we have James Behanna naming three of his sons the same Alexander, James and John in Washington County. HmMMMM!

One other surname is worth further examination: Oliver. As stated above, Jas Buchanan was a tenant on the land of John Oliver in 1798. Many years earlier, a Mary Buchanan had married one James Oliver. Mary was the daughter of Walter Buchanan. (search Mary Oliver/Cumberland County/Pennsylvania on findagrave.com)

The father of our James was a Loyalist, or at least a British sympathizer. This may be the reason that James and his siblings changed their surname. No documents have been discovered which state directly that James Behanna or his family were Loyalists or British sympathizers. However, both families from which they rented land, first the Crow's in Pike Run Township and later William Crawford in Fallowfield Township, were Loyalists. With respect to the Crow's, an affidavit was filed in 1781 as follows:

LOYALISTS NEAR FORT PITT

(Affidavit of William Johnson 51.J66. Unsigned

H.Q. July 10, 1781

The Information of William Johnson it appears That on the 9th Ins' he was at the House of Lawrence Crow where was a number of persons assembled at a Reaping---amongst whom were Wm. Howe, Lawrence Crow, John Crow and Philip Magain whose Conversation and Condu't during his Continuance, sufficiently Convinced him of their Inemical principals in Every Instance---That he at lenght have declard himself afriend to America was orderd to Quit the house which he did.. Farther saith that John Jackman, Wm (blank) son in Law of afor ment How and Alexand' Andrews were present whom seemed to be well pleased at their behaviour These Cirumstances happend accidently under the Infrom (ms. torn) as pasing by was Envited to stay. The affidavit was used to show that the attendees were Loyalists. With respect to William Crawford, it is well-documented that he was an outspoken Loyalist.

In that Crawford case, the father was a Loyalist and his son, Henry Crawford, was a Patriot. The son teased the father mercilessly about his British leanings and eventually father shot son in the back of the head on their front porch. That murder, trial and hanging were very high publicity news in Washington County. James Behanna and family would have known the Crawford's well. They lived next door to Rebecca Crawford, wife of William Crawford, who was their landlord. One of their neighbors, Abraham Fulton, was at the frolic when Henry Crawford was killed and Fulton later testified at the trial. The possible parallels between Crawford's and Behanna's situations are striking. Our Behanna children may have changed their name from Buchanan to Behanna (or similar) to display their Patriot feelings or to avoid hatred. (The life and trial of William Crawford make for fascinating reading. Search Ancestry.com under William Crawford, b. 1748, lived in Fallowfield Twp. For his autobiography)

Sources of information for my Behanna research

First, I'll list the sources of info that I've used - in order, from most important to least important:

1. Washington County, Pennsylvania tax duplicates.
2. Federal census's 1790, 1800, 1810, 1820.
3. Cumberland County, Pennsylvania tax duplicates.
4. Direct tax list, Pennsylvania, 1798.
5. Tax and exoneration tables.
6. Findagrave.com.
7. Church records.

1. Tax duplicates. Two types of tax records were generated in Washington County: tax duplicates and tax receipts. The tax duplicates were the working documents from which tax bills were prepared. They contained a great deal of info - land ownership, livestock ownership, sometimes number and name of dependent children, etc. In 2011, the hard copy books were available in the Law Library at the Washington County Courthouse. There I transcribed all of the "Behanna" records and photographed some of the pages. Since then, the books have been put into storage somewhere and are no longer available. The second type of records, the tax receipts, have been photographed and digitized. A county employee will grudgingly make a copy of one or several pages, although he states that looking up old tax records is not his job. Those tax receipts contain only the name of the taxee and amount paid in a given year.

2. Federal census's. The federal census's are available on Ancestry.com.
3. Cumberland County tax duplicates. The Cumberland County tax duplicates are available on the Cumberland County web site, with a lot of "drilling down".
 Go to ccpa.net
 Click on "public records"
 Click on "Archives"
 Click on "Archival Holdings"
 Click on "Commissioners"
 Click on "Tax rates book"
 Click on the camera icon (far right)
 Scan down to the year you choose. For instance, if you want to view 1793, scan down to "19. Tax Rates on spine and Tax Rates 1793 on wrapper." and click on "Images"
 Click on page "39" of 141 and click on go for East Pennsboro Township.
4. Direct tax list. In Ancestry.com, search the card catalog. Enter keywords "direct tax".
5. Tax and exoneration tables. In Ancestry.com search the card catalog. Enter keywords "Pennsylvania, tax and exoneration".
6. Findagrave.com Search as desired. You can narrow the USA searches down to state and county. Exact spelling of surnames is required. You can also search "before", "during" or "after" a given year.
7. Church records. In Ancestry.com, search the card catalog. Enter keywords "church Pennsylvania"

Findagrave.com compiled results Findagrave is useful in finding individual burials. It is also useful in compiling large numbers of burials by name, dates of birth (or death) and location. Location can be a particular cemetery, county, state or country. Since their database includes 154,000,000 burials worldwide, they give a great sample size. I ran searches to get the number of burials for 4 different surnames and I ran them in 8 different locations. I included only burials from the year 1900 or earlier. The 4 names I searched were Behanna, Behenna, Buchanan and Oliver. The 8 locations of the burials were worldwide, USA, Pennsylvania, Washington County, Cumberland County, England, Scotland and Ireland. Results below.

	<u>Behanna</u>	<u>Behenna</u>	<u>Buchanan</u>	<u>Oliver</u>
Worldwide	30	10	7,272	9,937
USA	30	2	6,134	8,326
Pennsylvania	26	0	731	472
Washington Co.	25	0	60	23
Cumberland Co.	0	0	8	7
England	0	6	122	801
Scotland	0	0	254	63
Ireland	0	0	9	22

To give an example to serve as a legend, I'll use the surname Buchanan and country Scotland. The number 254 in the table means that Findagrave lists 254 burials in Scotland with surname Buchanan with burial dated 1900 or earlier. Curiosity might tug at you. Maybe you want to know who the 25 Behanna individuals buried in Washington County were. Just re-run the search (remember to include burial before 1901) and it will return a list of those 25 individuals.

