

Intelligencer Journal/Lancaster New Era

Jack Brubaker: The Scribbler (September 6, 2011)

extracted from **The Christiana Riot Corn Cutter**

This story is about that corn cutter.



Samuel Hopkins, holding corn cutter, and Peter Wood pose at the William Parker house in Christiana in 1896.

Kerry Glenn, a Columbian who grew up in Parkesburg, across the Chester County border from Christiana, knew a woman who had lived in Parkesburg most of her 89 years.

Elizabeth Cooper Gibson served as a teacher and elementary school principal in the Coatesville School District for nearly 40 years. She died five years ago in North Carolina.

Gibson was a direct descendant of Samuel Hopkins, the corn cutter brandisher.

The late Herb Krumrine, a distant cousin of Glenn's, told him that he was discussing the Christiana rebellion with Gibson one time when the woman excused herself and left the room.

She returned, Glenn relates, "carrying an ancient corn cutter, obviously hand-made by an old-time blacksmith, with a rough wooden handle."

She told Krumrine that it was the implement that Hopkins held in the 1896 photo.

"It had secretly been passed down through her family to her," Glenn says. "Legend is that it was the same corn cutter used to kill slaveholder Edward Gorsuch during the 1851 riot."

Gibson had one son, Brig. Gen. George H. Walls Jr., of Cary, N.C. Glenn suspects Walls inherited the corn cutter.