Before 1750, the Corwith property was owned by Capt. Edward Topping (1728-1819) who fought in the American Revolution. He built a salt box style home on the property and gained notoriety after shooting a British soldier. The story, written in Halsey’s *Sketches of Local History*, goes as follows—

Captain Topping...“was awakened by a British soldier breaking into his house. This man with blackened face was coming through a window. His coat was turned inside out. Capt. Topping ordered him to retreat and go away, and finally threatened to shoot him if he did not obey. He disregarded the Captain’s warning, whereupon the Captain shot and killed him instantly.”

In 1784, Henry Corwith (1758-1820), William’s father, bought the property from Capt. Edward Topping. Receipt of payment, above, between Corwith and Topping, “Received Bridgehampton March 13, 1784/ of Henry Corwithe. Twenty eight pounds in part for my Building & Home Lot— Edward Topping.”