



CHAPTER SIX -

Album of American Portraits

As I assembled these portraits, I found myself returning repeatedly to one ancestor whose life came to symbolize something much larger than himself—a Revolutionary War fifer.

MEET THE BAND

At first, these names may seem unfamiliar. But as each generation unfolds, the names become families, the families become stories, and the stories become our own.

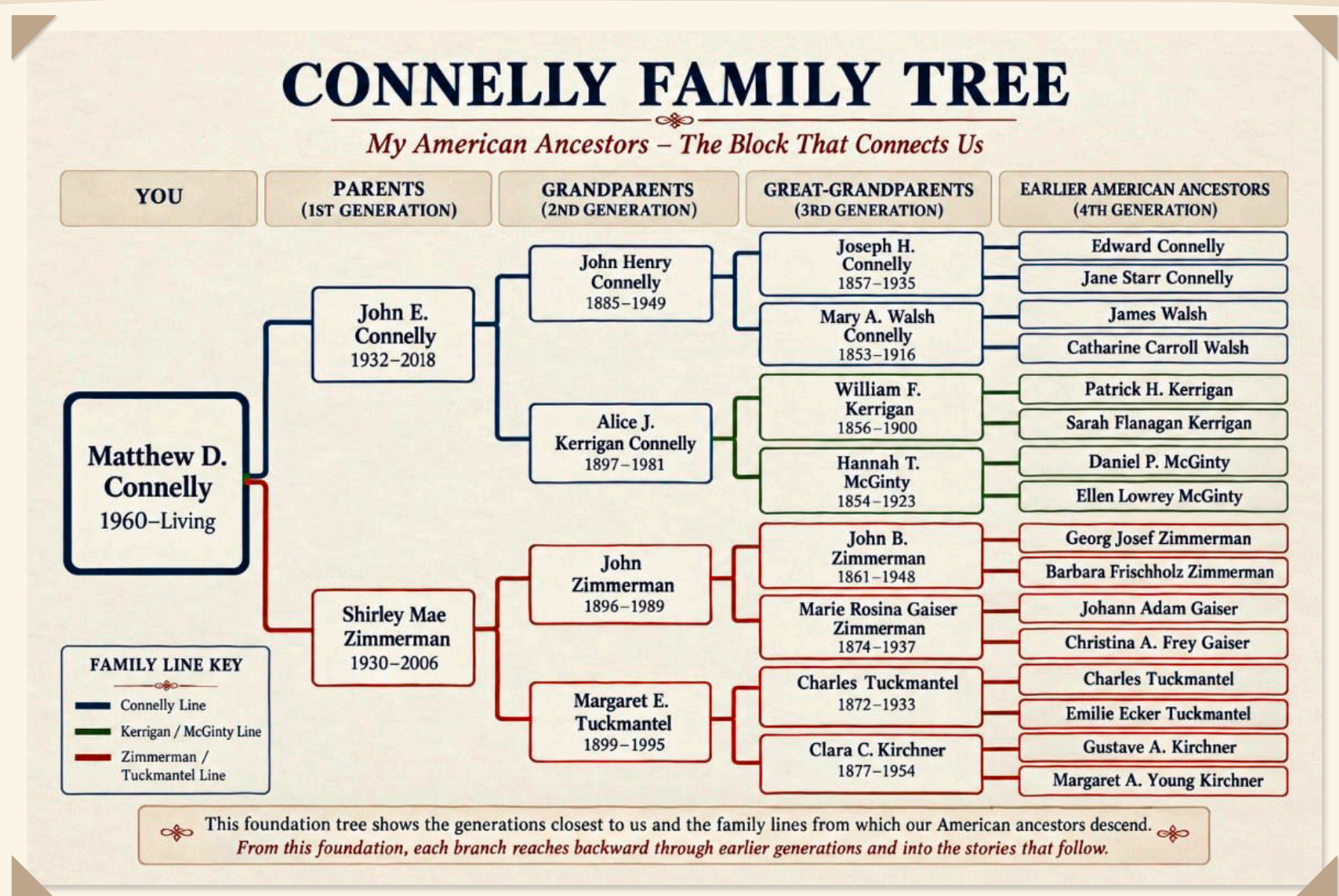
The pages that follow are not intended to be exhaustive biographies. They are portraits—individual lives remembered through documents, family stories, photographs, artifacts, and memory. Together, they form an album, each contributing its own voice to the larger story of our family.

The pages that follow introduce the fifty men and women whose lives shaped our family’s American story. In 2027, their lives span 300 years of our family in America.

We begin with the earliest generations and gradually work upward through time until we arrive at the people many of us were fortunate enough to know and love.

Meet the Band.

The Foundation of the American Family Tree



This family tree establishes the generations closest to us and the family lines from which the American portraits that follow extend. From this foundation, each branch reaches backward through earlier generations and deeper into the family's American story.

[Foundation Family Tree](#) → [Clara Kirchner](#) → [Margaret Young](#) → [Young Portraits](#)

The American Portraits

GERMAN FAMILY LINES

BIERBAUM/DUBRAUCKE → KAES/CASE → **YOUNG** → KIRCHNER → TUCKMANTEL

WOLFSKEHL → YOUNG → KIRCHNER → TUCKMANTEL

CRESS → YEAGER → **YOUNG** → KIRCHNER → TUCKMANTEL

WOLFE → FREAS → **YOUNG** → KIRCHNER → TUCKMANTEL

PATHS TO AMERICA

Before our family became part of the American story, generations lived in small towns and villages throughout Germany. Over successive generations, members of these families crossed the Atlantic, established new lives in colonial America, and eventually became connected through marriage and family.

The portraits that follow trace those separate histories as they gradually come together, creating the family line that would become part of our American story. Their journeys set in motion the lives that follow in these pages.

Johann Georg Wolfskehl & Anna Margaretha Schmid

JOHANN GEORG WOLFSKEHL, C. 1684–1743
ANNA MARGARETHA SCHMID, C. 1690–AFTER 1742

Seventh Great Grandparents

FROM THE RHINELAND TO COLONIAL PENNSYLVANIA

Nearly three centuries later, an unusually rich collection of records allows us to follow Johann Georg Wolfskehl and Anna Margaretha Schmid from their German homeland into the first generations of their family’s life in America.

Their story is not simply one of immigration. It is the story of a family already well established in Europe that made the difficult decision to leave the familiar behind, cross an ocean, and begin again in colonial Pennsylvania.

Johann Georg Wolfskehl was born about 1684 in the German Rhineland. Anna Margaretha Schmid was born about 1690. On **June 24, 1712**, they married in the Evangelical church at Lüttringhausen. They would spend approximately three decades of their married lives in the German lands, raising the family that would eventually carry the Wolfskehl name to America.

Among their children was **Anna Christina Wolfskehl**, born in the Palatinate. Her life would eventually provide an important bridge between two German immigrant families and connect the Wolfskehls directly to the Young family in America.

RECONSTRUCTING A FAMILY NEARLY 300 YEARS LATER

The survival of this story is remarkable in itself.

Early German families can be difficult to reconstruct. Given names were repeated from one generation to another, surnames appeared under multiple spellings, political boundaries changed, and records that survive today are scattered among churches, archives, published histories and later genealogical compilations.

The Wolfskehl family is no exception. Their surname appears in American records in forms including **Wolfskehl**, **Woolfskehl**, **Wolffs Kehl** and other variations.

Yet the family left enough traces to be followed.

An important modern contribution came from a respected genealogist **Kory L. Meyerink, MLS, AG, FUGA**, whose specialties include German research and tracing colonial immigrant families to their European origins. Meyerink conducted extensive research into the Wolfskehl family and its German records, helping to reconstruct and strengthen the relationships that connect the family’s European and American generations.

His research can be considered alongside surviving church records and a substantial body of published Pennsylvania German scholarship. Together, those sources provide an unusually strong documentary foundation for a family whose migration occurred almost three centuries ago.

LEAVING GERMANY

During the first half of the eighteenth century, thousands of German-speaking people left the Rhineland and neighboring territories for Britain’s North American colonies. Pennsylvania became one of their principal destinations.

Johann Georg and Anna Margaretha’s family became part of that migration.

Their journey was not a simple passage directly from a German village to Philadelphia.

Like many German emigrants of the period, members of the Wolfskehl family made their way toward **Rotterdam**, one of Europe’s great ports and a major departure point for German-speaking emigrants bound for America.

From Rotterdam, their route continued to **Cowes on the Isle of Wight**, an English port used by vessels preparing for the Atlantic crossing. Then came the longest part of the journey.

In 1742, the ***Loyal Judith***, commanded by **James Cowie**, carried German-speaking emigrants from Rotterdam, by way of Cowes, to Pennsylvania. Members of the Wolfskehl family appear among the surviving records associated with that voyage.

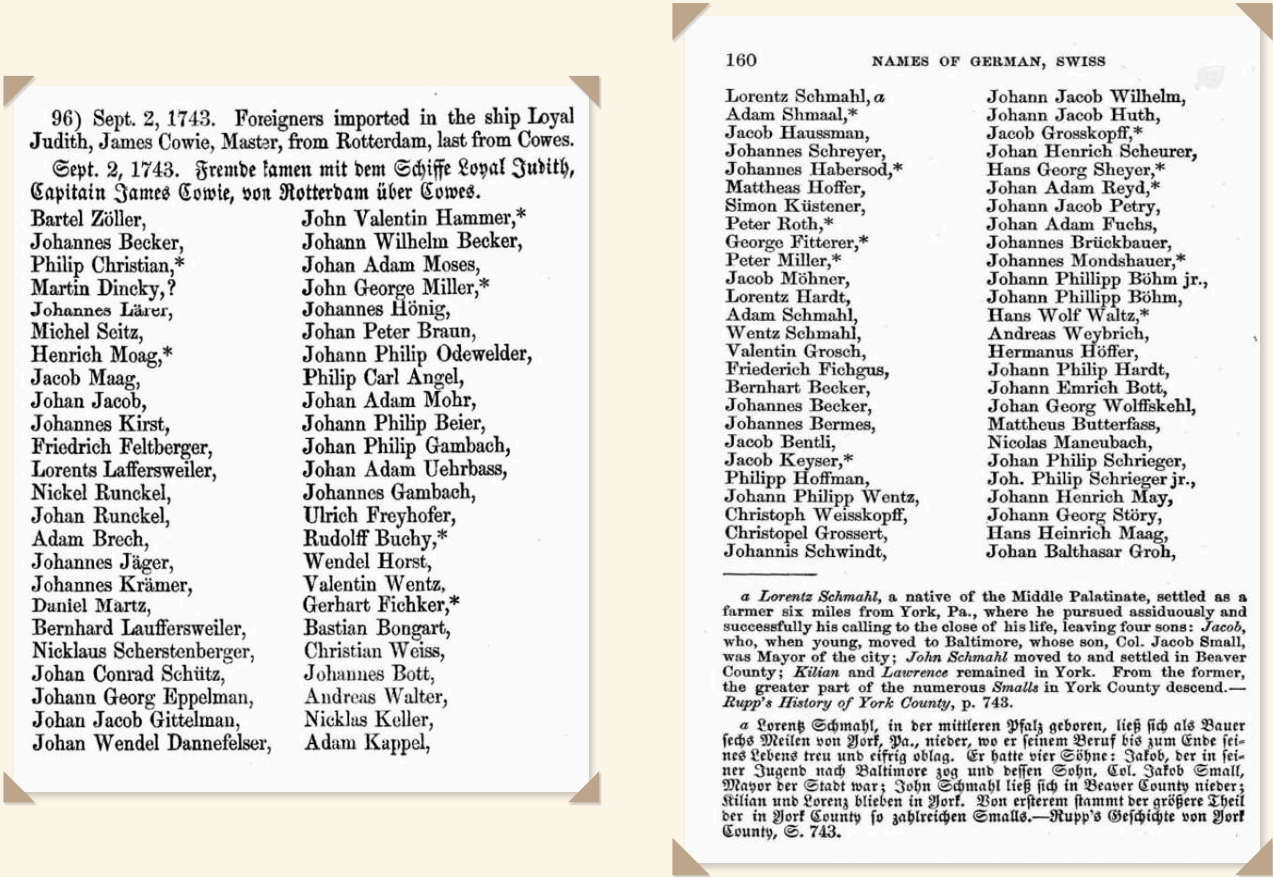
The evidence is preserved in Ralph Beaver Strassburger’s ***Pennsylvania German Pioneers***, published by the Pennsylvania German Society in **1934** from the surviving Philadelphia arrival and oath lists. The records identify Wolfskehl men under several spellings, including **Henrich Woolfskehl**, **Jonas Woolfskehl**, **Henrich Wolffs Kehl** and **Johannes Wolffs Kehl**.

Those lists require some explanation. They were not modern passenger manifests recording every man, woman and child aboard a vessel. The surviving Philadelphia qualification and oath lists concentrated largely upon adult males. Women and younger children frequently went unnamed.

For that reason, the story of the Wolfskehl family’s migration cannot be reconstructed from one list alone. It emerges through the combination of the ***Loyal Judith*** records, German family evidence, later Pennsylvania records, and published immigration indexes.

P. William Filby’s ***Passenger and Immigration Lists Index*** provide another important piece of that documentary trail. Its published references contain multiple Wolfskehl entries associated with Pennsylvania and Philadelphia in **1742 and 1743**, including Anna Margaretha and several members of the extended Wolfskehl family.

Taken together, these records document a **Wolfskehl family migration from the German world into colonial Pennsylvania**.



Arrival of Johann Georg Wolfskehl aboard the Loyal Judith, September 2, 1743. The published passenger list records the ship’s journey from Rotterdam through Cowes to Philadelphia and identifies him as “Johan Georg Wolffskehl.”

A NEW LIFE IN PENNSYLVANIA

By 1742–1743, the Wolfskehl family was becoming established in Pennsylvania.

They arrived during an important period in the colony’s development. German-speaking immigrants were settling throughout southeastern Pennsylvania, establishing farms, trades, congregations and communities that would permanently influence the character of the region.

The Wolfskehls became part of that history.

Johann Georg’s American life appears to have been brief. Records place him in Pennsylvania in **1743**, the year associated with his death. After decades spent in Germany and the enormous disruption of migration, he had comparatively little time in the new country.

Anna Margaretha’s journey is particularly striking. She was approximately **fifty-two years old** when the family’s migration took place. She was not a young woman leaving home before establishing a life. She had already spent decades in Germany. She had married there, raised a family there, and lived most of the life she had known there. And then she left.

She crossed Europe, reached Rotterdam, traveled by way of England, crossed the Atlantic and began another chapter of her life in Pennsylvania.

SHE ARRIVED CARRYING AN ENTIRE LIFE WITH HER.

We cannot know precisely what motivated the family’s decision or what Anna Margaretha thought about leaving. The surviving records do not tell us. Nor can they tell us what she felt when Europe disappeared behind the ship or when Pennsylvania finally came into view.

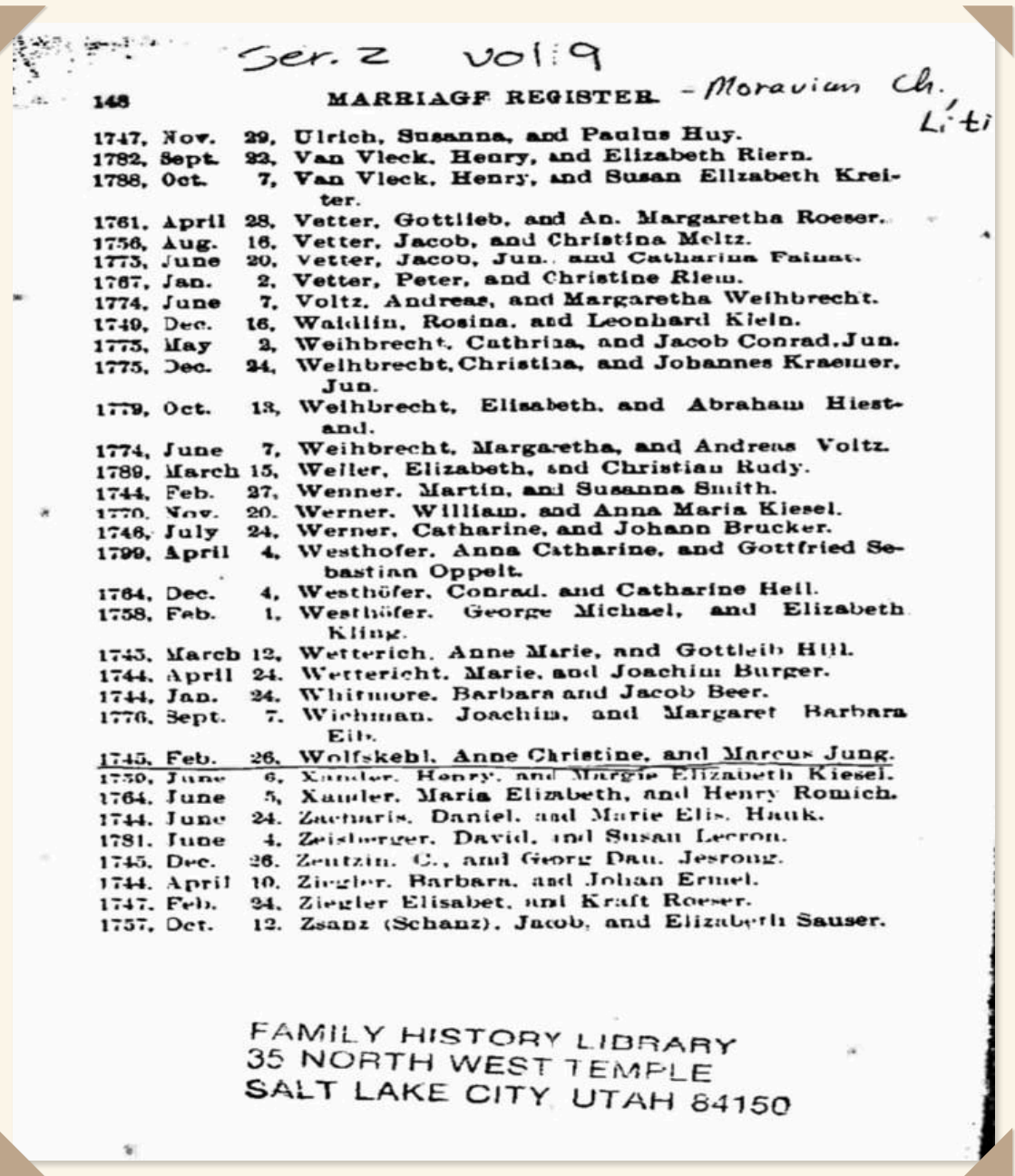
Those thoughts belong to her and have been lost to time. The journey itself has not.

TWO IMMIGRANT FAMILIES BECOME ONE

The consequences of Johann Georg and Anna Margaretha’s migration soon became visible in the next generation.

Their daughter **Anna Christina Wolfskehl** married another German immigrant, **Marcus Jung**, in Pennsylvania in **1745**.

Historical Pennsylvania German material explicitly identifies Anna Christina as a **Wolfskehl** and records her marriage to Marcus Jung. Church and genealogical indexes provide additional documentation of that relationship.



Two Immigrant Families Joined — 1745

The marriage of Anna Christina Wolfskehl and Marcus Jung united two German immigrant families in Pennsylvania. Marcus later followed the mercantile business for many years in Lancaster, and their son Marcus Young Jr. would serve during the American Revolution.

Marcus had come from the Palatinate as well. His surname, **Jung**, would eventually become **Young** in America. With their marriage, two German immigrant stories became one American family story.

The couple established their family in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Their children were raised in a world very different from the one their parents and grandparents had known in Germany.

And within another generation, the family’s relationship to America would change again. Among Anna Christina Wolfskehl and Marcus Jung’s children was **Marcus Young Jr.**

The grandson of Johann Georg Wolfskehl and Anna Margaretha Schmid would come of age as Britain’s American colonies moved toward revolution. During the Revolutionary War, Marcus Young Jr. answered the call to service as a **fifer**, participating in the struggle that ultimately created the United States.

That progression is extraordinary when viewed across only three generations.

Johann Georg and Anna Margaretha were born into the German world.

Their daughter Anna Christina crossed into an immigrant family establishing itself in colonial Pennsylvania.

Their grandson Marcus served the cause of a country that did not exist when his grandparents began their lives.

WHAT SURVIVED

There are still things we may never know about Johann Georg and Anna Margaretha.

But their story does not need to be complete to be significant.

German church records preserve their family before America. Professional genealogical research has helped reconstruct their origins and relationships. Strassburger’s *Pennsylvania German Pioneers (1934)* preserves the 1742 immigration records associated with the *Loyal Judith*. Filby’s *Passenger and Immigration Lists Index* gather additional published references to members of the Wolfskehl family in Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania German church and historical sources document the family’s presence after immigration and their daughter’s marriage into the Jung family.

Even **Edward W. Hocker’s 1935 compilation, *Genealogical Data Relating to the German Settlers of Pennsylvania and Adjacent Territory from Advertisements in German Newspapers Published in Philadelphia and Germantown, 1743–1800***, helps reconstruct the larger Pennsylvania German community in which these families lived.

No single document tells their story.

Together, the collective documents do. And perhaps that is fitting.

Johann Georg Wolfskehl and Anna Margaretha Schmid were not famous people. They left no memoir explaining their decision to leave Germany and no grand account of their arrival in America.

What they left instead was a trail.

A marriage in Germany.

WOLFSKEHL → YOUNG → KIRCHNER → TUCKMANTEL

A family.

A migration through Rotterdam and Cowes.

An Atlantic crossing.

A new beginning in Pennsylvania.

A daughter who married another German immigrant.

And eventually a grandson who would serve during the American Revolution.

Johann Georg and Anna Margaretha could not have known where their decision would lead. But their crossing did more than move a family across an ocean.

It moved this family’s story into America.

CARRY AWAY

YOU ARE NEVER TOO ESTABLISHED TO BEGIN AGAIN.

Johann Georg and Anna Margaretha had already built a life before America entered their story. Their journey reminds us that a new beginning does not have to come at the beginning of life. Sometimes courage is the willingness to leave what has become familiar, step into uncertainty, and create a different starting point for the generations that follow.



Johann Thöngges (Anthony) Kaes (Case)

Eva Catharina

BAPTIZED NOVEMBER 29, 1691 – NOVEMBER 4, 1772
BIRTH DATE UNKNOWN – LIVING IN 1769

Seventh Great-Grandparents

AMONG NEW JERSEY’S EARLIEST GERMAN SETTLERS

Johann Thöngges Kaes—also recorded as Anthonius, Tunis and Anthony—was baptized on November 29, 1691, at Rückeroth, near Ransbach in the Westerwald region of present-day Rhineland-Palatinate, Germany. He was the son of Johannes Käß and Christina Schreitzer, members of a family with deep roots in the region.

Eva Catharina’s birth date is unknown. Her maiden name has not been firmly established in the surviving records, but her place within the family’s history is clear. Together, she and Anthony belonged to the generation that carried the Kaes family from Germany into colonial America.

An unusually rich documentary trail preserves their story. German church registers record their growing family; New Jersey naturalization records mark Anthony’s formal acceptance into colonial society; his will names Eva Catharina, their children and several grandchildren; and a tombstone transcription preserves his death date. Across these records, their lives emerge in considerably more detail than those of many early immigrants.

Church records place the couple in Rückeroth between 1722 and 1728. At least three of their children were baptized there: Anna Christina in 1722, Johann Peter in 1724 and Anna Elisabetha in 1725. Another son, probably Johann Matthias, was baptized in 1728.

Those entries provide a picture of Anthony and Eva Catharina raising young children in the Westerwald and participating in the life of their local church.

An immigration index places Anthony in New York in 1709–1710, while the church records document the couple in Germany during the following decade. Both accounts could be accurate if Anthony made an earlier Atlantic crossing and later returned to Germany, although no return voyage has been established. That possibility adds another dimension to his story: he may have explored opportunities abroad before the family established its permanent home in America. If so, their migration may have grown from firsthand experience as well as the willingness to venture into the unknown.

The timing and sequence of their Atlantic migration remain uncertain. Their reasons for establishing a home in America were not recorded. Whatever circumstances shaped their decision, they left a region their families had known for generations and began building a life in a different society.

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THE PALATINE FAMILIES OF NEW YORK & NEW JERSEY

2. Anna Veronica², b. 5 June 1726 - sp.: Joh. Philipp - s/o Jhann Thönges Hummerich, Anna Eva - w/o Joh. Peter Hummerich, and Anna Veronica - w/o Joh. Peter Schäffer.

ANTHONIUS KAES
JOHANN PHILIP KAES
JOHANN SEBASTIAN KAES
(Case, Käs)

The roots of this widespread N.J. family were in the village of 5419 Rückeroth (11 km. n. of Ransbach; Chbks. begin 1675, but gaps). The definite father of the emigrants Anthonius¹ and Johann Sebastian¹ Kaes and possible parent of Johann Philip¹ Kaes was Johannes Käß of Langenbaum, who d. 26 Feb 1732, aged ca. 80 yrs. He md. Christina Schreitzer and had issue:

? Johann Philip¹, who was sp. by "Johannes Kees at Langenbaum" in 1713 at nearby Anhausen.
"A Daughter," bpt. Dom ...: 1685 - sp.: "her sister, Schreitzer's daughter" and Johannes ... at Langenbaum

+ Johann Thönges¹, bpt. Dom. 1 Adv. Nov 29 1691 - sp.: Johannes Groß, Johan Thönges Äden (?), the the w/o Paul Schneider at Langenbaum.
"A Daughter" (Eva), bpt. 2 April 1693 - sp.: Eva - w/o Hans Peter Schäfer.
Johann Wilhelm, bpt. Whitsuntide: 1694.
Veronica Maria, bpt. 16 Feb (?) 1696.

+ Johann Sebastian¹, bpt. 2 June 1701 - sp.: Joh. Bastian Tick (?) at Steinebach, Joh. Martin Stein at Steinebach, and Anna Christina - d/o Hans Peter Schäfer at Langenbaum.
Anna Margaretha, bpt. as "A. Marcret" 30 Sept 1703 - sp.: Marcret - w/o Joh. Henrich Meyer, Anna Magdalena - w/o Joh. Peter Bachten (?), and Paul (q.v.) - s/o Simon Dick.
Christina, bpt. 8 March 1705 - sp.: Christina - w/o Henrich Simonis at Schmidhan, and Christina - w/o Christian Jackert (Heckert?) aufm Haßben.

Anthonius¹ (Thönges) Käs and his wife Eva Catharina appear in the Rückeroth registers 1722 - 1728. He may have been the Anton Kelsch who sp. Willem Hein at Rareton in 1733/34, unless this entry refers to the Thönges Kölsch who was father-in-law to Harbert¹ Hommer/Hummer (N.Y. City Luth. Chbk.). Tunis and Peter Case were nat. 20 Aug 1755 (N.J. Nats.). The cemetery

SOME LATER ARRIVALS 1717 - 1776

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at Larison's Corner notes the burial of Tunis Kaes, who d. 4 Nov 1772. The will of Anthony Case of Amwell Twp. was dated 20 May 1769, naming his wife Eva Catharine and his ch. and some grandch.; it was proved 11 Dec 1772 (Hunterdon Co. Will #8433). The ch. of Anthonius¹ Kaes and his wife Eva Catharina were:

1. Anna Christina², bpt. 25 May 1722 (Rückeroth Chbk.).
2. Johann Peter², bpt. 23 April 1724 (Rückeroth Chbk.). He was nat. in 1755 with his father. The will of Peter Case of Amwell Twp. was dated 13 March 1779 and proved 25 June 1789, naming his wife Anna and his ch. (Hunterdon Co. Will #1457J).
3. Anna Elisabetha², bpt. 9 Dec 1725 (Rückeroth Chbk.). She md. Francis Bason (Beson/Pozon/Pysong) (Will).
4. "A Son"², bpt. 1 Feb 1728 - sp.: Theiss Rübbs from Geelerth (?), Johannes Kaes from Steinebach, and Anna Christina - d/o Conrad Faust at Langebaum (sic) (Rückeroth Chbk.); due to the male bpt. sp., this son was probably the Johann Mathias named in his father's 1769 will. Matthias Kase was nat. in 1754 (N.J. Nats.).
5. Johannes² (Will), probably the Johannes Kase nat. with Matthias² Kase in 1754.
6. Jacob² (Will). One of that name d. intestate in Amwell and was administered 14 Oct 1774; Catharina Case, presumably his wife, refused to be administrator (Hunterdon Co. Estate #909J).
7. Johann Adam² (Will).
8. Anna Maria² (Will), md. (1st) Johannes Jager and then (2nd) Conrad Hummer (Will).
9. Catharina² (Will), md. Herbert Trimmer (Will).

Johannes Sebastianus, s/o Johannes Kaes from Langenbaum, md. (or had banns) 14 June 1727 Maria, d/o the late Johannes Bierbaum. Bastiyan Kes was nat. 8 Dec 1744 (N.J. Nats.). A child of Johann Sebastian¹ and (Anna) Maria Kaes was

1. "A Daughter"², bpt. 20 March 1728 - sp.: Anna Christina - w/o Adam Schaffer, Elisabeth Christina - w/o Christ... Schneider, both fr. Langenbaum, and Paulus Kaes from Schmidhahn (Rückeroth Chbk.).

Record of Johann Philip¹ Kaes of N.J. was finally found near Rückeroth at 5451 Anhausen (8 km. n.e. of Neuwied; Chbks. begin 1614, Ref., but difficult). He md. there 29 Nov 1703 Anna Elisabetha, d/o Henrich Jung from Anhausen [See the section on Peter¹ Jung for more on her Anhausen ancestry]. Johan Philip Kaes was nat. 8 July 1730 (Acts of the General

The Kaes Family Across Two Continents

Henry Z. Jones Jr.'s published reconstruction brings together German church entries and New Jersey records to trace Anthony and Eva Catharina's family, including their children's baptisms in Rückeroth between 1722 and 1728.

A possible record places Anthony in Raritan, New Jersey, in 1733 or 1734, although the identification is uncertain. What is clear is that the family became established in Amwell Township, Hunterdon County, among the early German-speaking families who put down permanent roots in colonial New Jersey.

As they adapted to colonial life, their surname appeared in several forms, including Käß, Käs, Kaes and Case. Anthony himself was variously called Johann Thöngges, Anthonius, Tunis and Anthony. The records preserve both his German identity and the names by which he became known in America.

On August 20, 1755, Anthony—recorded as Tunis Case—was naturalized along with Peter Case, whom Henry Z. Jones Jr. identifies as his son. This marked an important stage in their transition from immigrants to established colonial residents.

Anthony’s 1769 will and later genealogical research identify nine children or probable children: Anna Christina, Johann Peter, Anna Elisabetha, Johann Matthias, Johannes, Jacob, Johann Adam, Anna Maria and Catharina. By naming Eva Catharina, their children and several grandchildren, the will presents Anthony as part of a large family whose roots had become firmly established in America.

The will also reveals his intentions for Eva’s future. Anthony left her his real and personal estate for her lifetime, providing for its distribution among their children after her death. He named her an executor alongside two of their sons. These provisions gave her both the use of the estate and a role in carrying out his wishes.

A later addition to the will addressed the inheritance of grandchildren through their daughter Anna Maria, showing Anthony’s attention to the next generation as well.

Anna Maria married Johannes Jager, whose surname would later appear as Yeager, and subsequently married Conrad Hummer. Her first marriage connected the Kaes and Jager families and carried Anthony and Eva Catharina’s legacy into the line that would eventually join the Young family.

Anthony died on November 4, 1772. A surviving Hunterdon County tombstone transcription records him as:

“Tunis Kaes, gestorben den 4. Nov. 1772.”

The German wording preserves a final connection to the language of his birthplace. His will was proved on December 11, 1772.

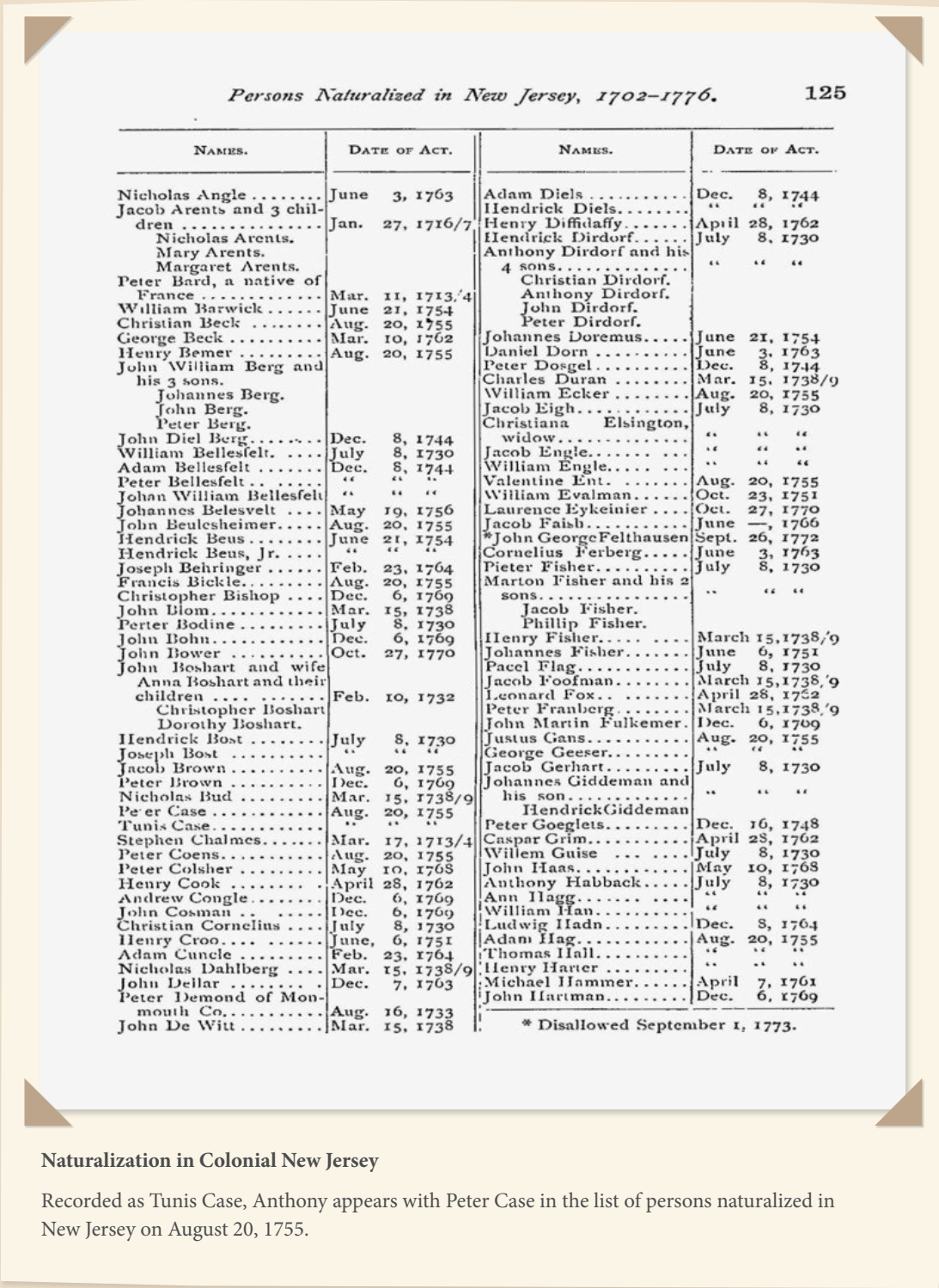
Eva Catharina was living when Anthony made his will in 1769, but the details of her final years remain unknown. Her presence can nevertheless be followed through the German church registers, their children’s lives and the provisions Anthony made for her. She shared the undertaking that transformed the family’s history: raising children in Germany and establishing a permanent home in colonial New Jersey.

REFLECTION

Every family’s history contains a generation that changes its direction. For the Kaes family, Anthony and Eva Catharina were that generation.

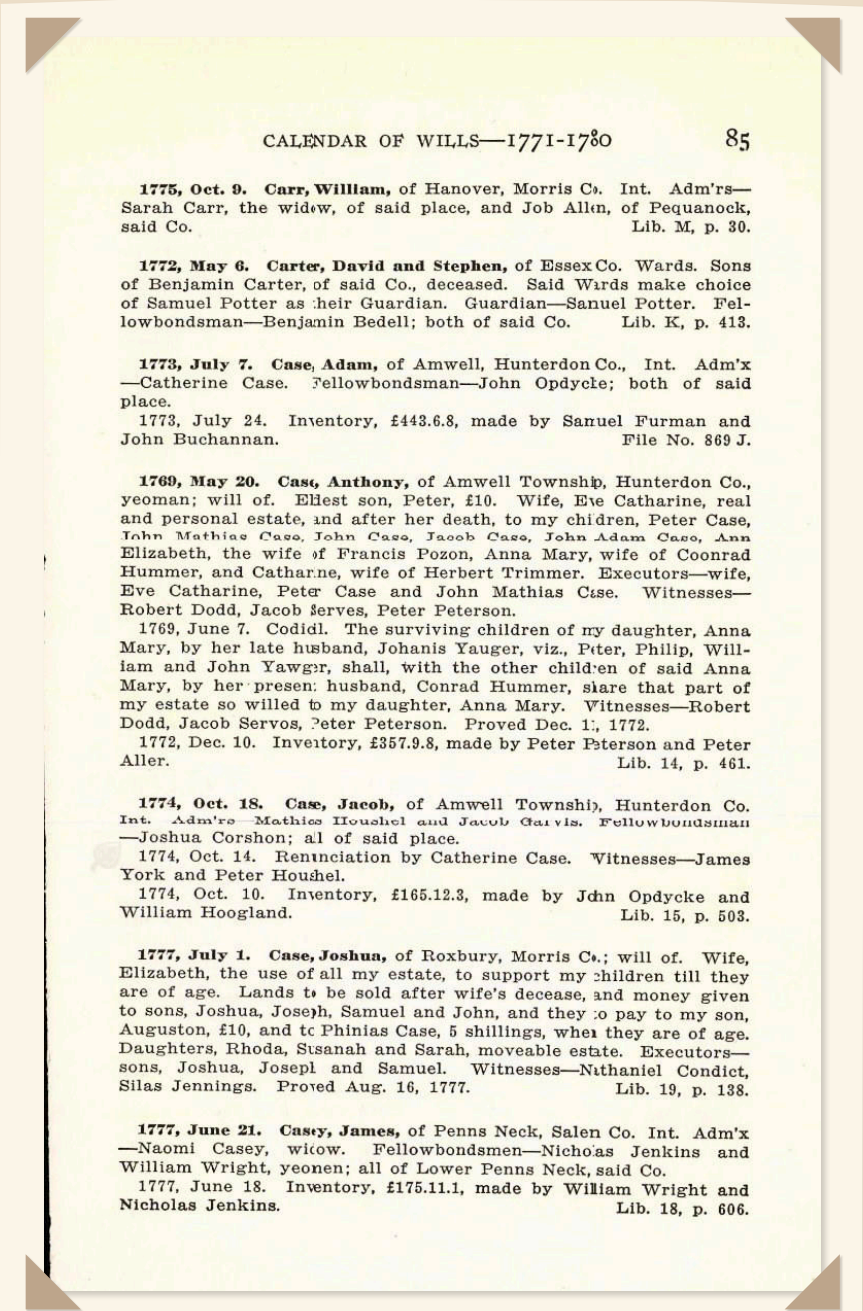
Anthony’s baptism, naturalization, will and burial provide the visible documentary markers. Eva’s presence appears in the church registers, in Anthony’s arrangements for her future and in the lives of their children. The transformation belonged to both.

An earlier crossing remains a possibility. If Anthony had already experienced America before their permanent settlement, their story may have involved exploration, return and a later decision to build a future there. Even without that certainty, the records show a family willing to leave familiar surroundings and establish roots elsewhere.



Naturalization in Colonial New Jersey

Recorded as Tunis Case, Anthony appears with Peter Case in the list of persons naturalized in New Jersey on August 20, 1755.



Providing for Eva Catharina and the Next Generation

This published abstract of Anthony Case’s will, dated May 20, 1769, records his provision for Eva Catharina during her lifetime and the later distribution of his estate among their children. A codicil addresses grandchildren’s inheritance. The will was proved on December 11, 1772.

Together, Anthony and Eva Catharina raised children across two continents and created a home from which later generations would grow. The survival of so many records allows us to see something of how that foundation was built—and how they intended to preserve it for their family.

CARRY AWAY

HAVE THE COURAGE TO CHANGE DIRECTION—AND THE RESILIENCE TO BUILD A HOME WHEREVER LIFE TAKES YOU.

ST. MICHAEL'S AND ZION CHURCH.297

1754.

January	1, Johann Caspar Jaeger and Maria Johanna Cress.
January	8, Johannes Steinmetz and Anna Maria Lieben.
January	13, Johann Michael Gebhard and Cath. Habermehl.
January	14, John Hastings and Grace Stakhouse.
January	15, Philip Stauber and Margaret Hallebrand.
January	20, Johann Jacob Oxenreutner and Mar. Barb. Hofsaess.
January	22, Johannes Binder and Eliz. Bender.
January	29, Robert Serjeant and Mary Williamson, L.
January	29, Andreas Pundter and Maria Wirt.
February	1, Michael Schmidt and Mary Burke, L.
February	6, Thomas Schilmor and Barbara Reinhardt.
February	20, Robert Spence and Mary Royal.
February	21, William Foster and Margaretha Barben.
March	2, Michael Robinson and Jenny Cammel.
March	5, Johann Christopher Beyer and An. Apollonia Koehler.
March	5, Antony Gabriel and An. Maria Seneide.
March	12, George Scheppard and Mary Ekin.
March	24, Johann Michael Kerner and An. Maria Herrman.
March	25, Johannes Bostinger and Rosina Schmide.
March	27, Michael Lentz and Christina Sophia Wistenloven.
March	30, John Backer and Elizabeth Couch, L.
April	15, Jacob Heine and Anna Haus.
April	21, Johannes Jacob and Anna Cath. Hahn, wid.
April	22, Andreas Fuegner and Sophia Agatha Erlers.
April	23, Johann Feinrich Rick and Susanna Mar. Mohg, wid.
May	3, Michael Stemter and Philippina Faemel.
May	5, Robert Laborn and Elizabeth Kox.
May	19, Johannes Cappel and Susanna Walter.
May	19, Samuel Turner and Maria Moor.
May	20, Johannes Schnell and Margaretha Bichler.
May	20, Johann George Beck and Ursula Cath. Grant.
May	27, John Cosin and Nanny Rambo.
June	2, Jacobus Vanoston and Rachel Jones.
June	2, William Nepton and Rebecca Davis.
June	3, Peter Schmith and Margaretha Reidehaas, L.
June	5, Jacob Elrenzeller and Anna Henck.
June	6, Joh. Jac. Behner and An. Margr. Blom.
July	9, Michael Dole and Anna Sophia Opp.
July	13, Joseph Bowne and Mary Wivel.
July	14, Johann Leonhard Keiser and An. Cath. Ammon.
July	17, Richard Kuly and Margaret Bar.
July	18, Johann Diederich Sauer and Hedwig Blom.

Marriage record — January 1, 1754

Establishes them as a couple and preserves their names as Johann Caspar Jaeger and Maria Johanna Cress.

Johann Caspar “Casper” Yeager

Maria Johanna “Hannah” Cress Yeager

MAY 28, 1731 – SEPTEMBER 23, 1782

ABOUT 1731 – JULY 31, 1792

Sixth Great-Grandparents

MASTER COOPER AND THE FAMILY THEY BUILT

Johann Caspar “Casper” Yeager and Maria Johanna “Hannah” Cress established their family in colonial Philadelphia during a period of extraordinary growth and change. Their lives joined skilled craftsmanship, immigration, faith, and family—creating a foundation that would carry opportunity forward to later generations.

Maria Johanna was born about 1731, probably in Germany. A family record preserved among the Revolutionary War pension papers of their son Henry states that she came to America in 1741. If the date is accurate, she crossed the Atlantic at approximately ten years old. She therefore experienced immigration not as an adult making an independent decision, but as a child whose future was carried across the ocean and placed within Philadelphia’s growing German community.

Casper was also born about 1731. His surname appears in surviving records in several forms, including Jaeger, Jäger, Jeger, and Yeager. Research connects his family to Johannes Jager and Anna Maria Kaes, whose ancestry reaches back to Anthony and Eva Catharina Kaes, early German settlers in New Jersey. This connection places Casper within a family story that had already crossed the Atlantic and begun establishing roots in America.

On January 1, 1754, Johann Caspar Jaeger and Maria Johanna Cress were married at St. Michael’s and Zion Lutheran Church in Philadelphia. Their marriage record survives among the church’s compiled registers. St. Michael’s served the city’s large German-speaking Lutheran population and became an important center of religious and community life.

Casper earned his living as a cooper, a skilled craftsman who made and repaired the wooden barrels, casks, tubs, and other containers essential to an eighteenth-century port city. Barrels carried flour, grain, salted meat, beverages, and imported and exported goods. A capable cooper therefore contributed directly to the commercial infrastructure that sustained Philadelphia’s households, shops, wharves, and expanding Atlantic trade.

The family lived in Philadelphia, where surviving records identify Casper as a “cooper of this city.” His work required physical strength, accuracy, patience, and a practiced understanding of wood and iron. Each vessel had to be shaped so that its individual pieces worked together and held securely without leaking. His trade provided more than an occupation: it helped create the stability upon which he and Hannah could build their family.

A certified copy of the Yeager family record names eight children born during their marriage. Among them were Rebecca, born February 16, 1761, and Henry, born March 15, 1763. The document is especially valuable because it connects the couple, Casper’s occupation, Hannah’s immigration, their marriage, and the births of their children within one surviving family record.

As their children grew, the American Revolution transformed Philadelphia and the lives of the people living there. Their son Henry served while still young as a drummer in the Continental Army. Drummers did far more than provide music. Their signals communicated commands amid the confusion of camp, drill, and battle, making them an important part of military organization.

Their daughter Rebecca would later marry Marcus Young, a Revolutionary War fifer, at the same church where her parents had married thirty years earlier. Through Henry and Marcus, music became an unexpected thread connecting the Yeager household to the struggle for American independence: one son carried the drum, while a future son-in-law carried the fife.

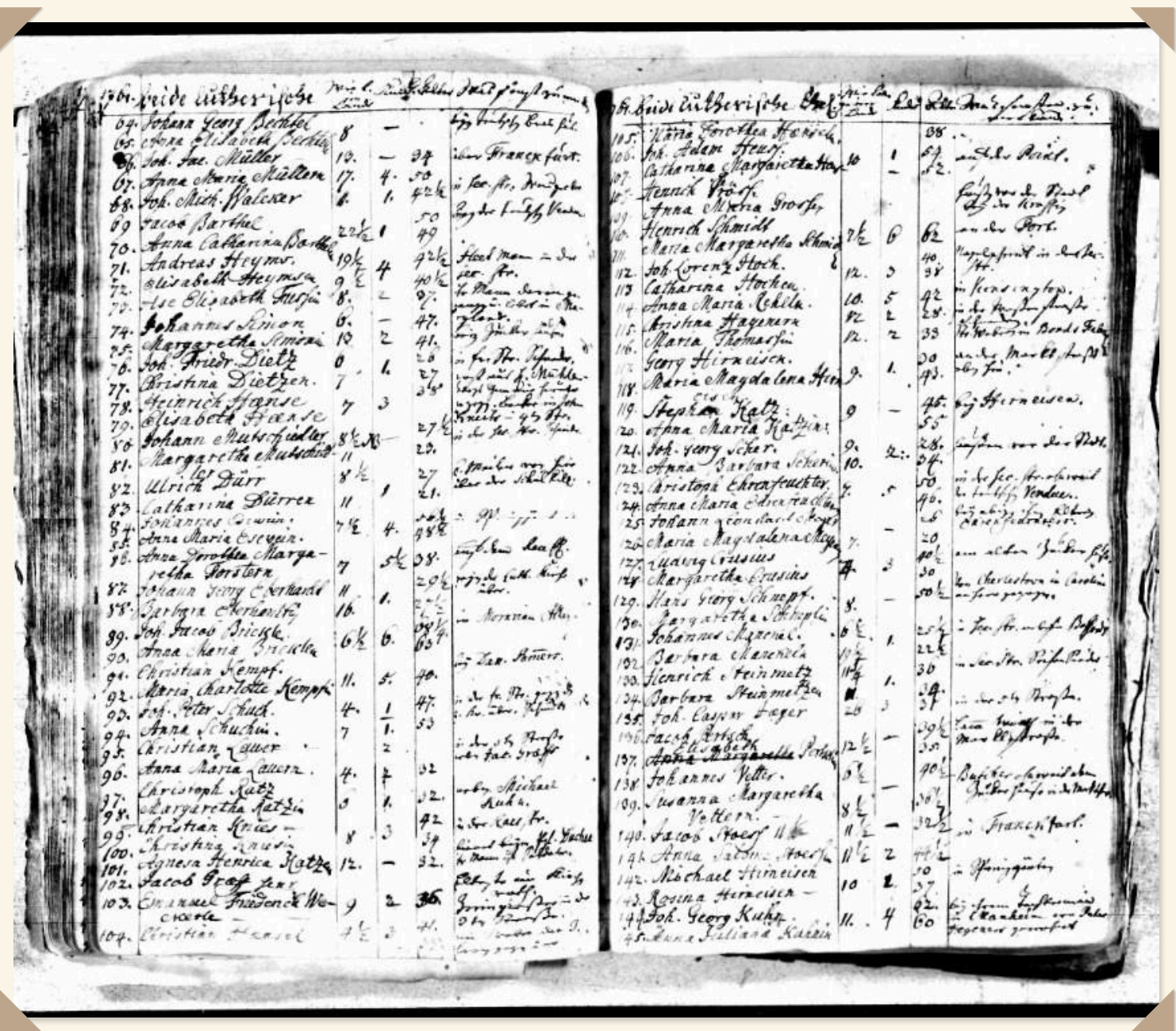
Casper died on September 23, 1782, before the final peace formally ended the Revolution. Hannah survived the demanding years in which they had established their household, raised their children, and watched war reach the streets and families of Philadelphia. His burial place has not been identified.

Casper’s craftsmanship provided the structure, but the life they created was shaped by both husband and wife. Hannah brought her own immigrant experience, resilience, faith, and influence on the partnership. Together, they built something larger than a successful trade or a single household. They created a strong and diversified family foundation—one capable of carrying opportunity, service, and perseverance into future generations.

Their story is not one of wealth, political power, or public prominence. It is the story of skilled hands, shared responsibility, and a family strengthened piece by piece. Like the vessels Casper fashioned in his cooperage, their household endured because its individual parts were carefully shaped and securely joined.

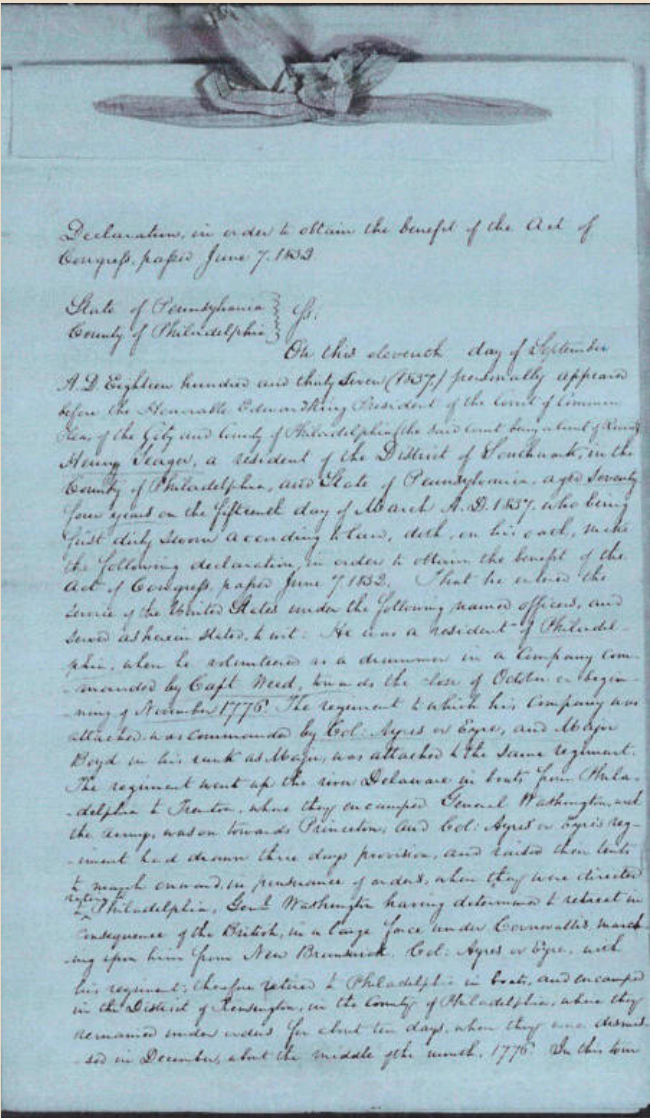
CARRY AWAY

DON’T BE AFRAID TO GET YOUR HANDS DIRTY. BUILD A LIFE STRONG ENOUGH TO CARRY OPPORTUNITY FORWARD FOR THOSE WHO FOLLOW.

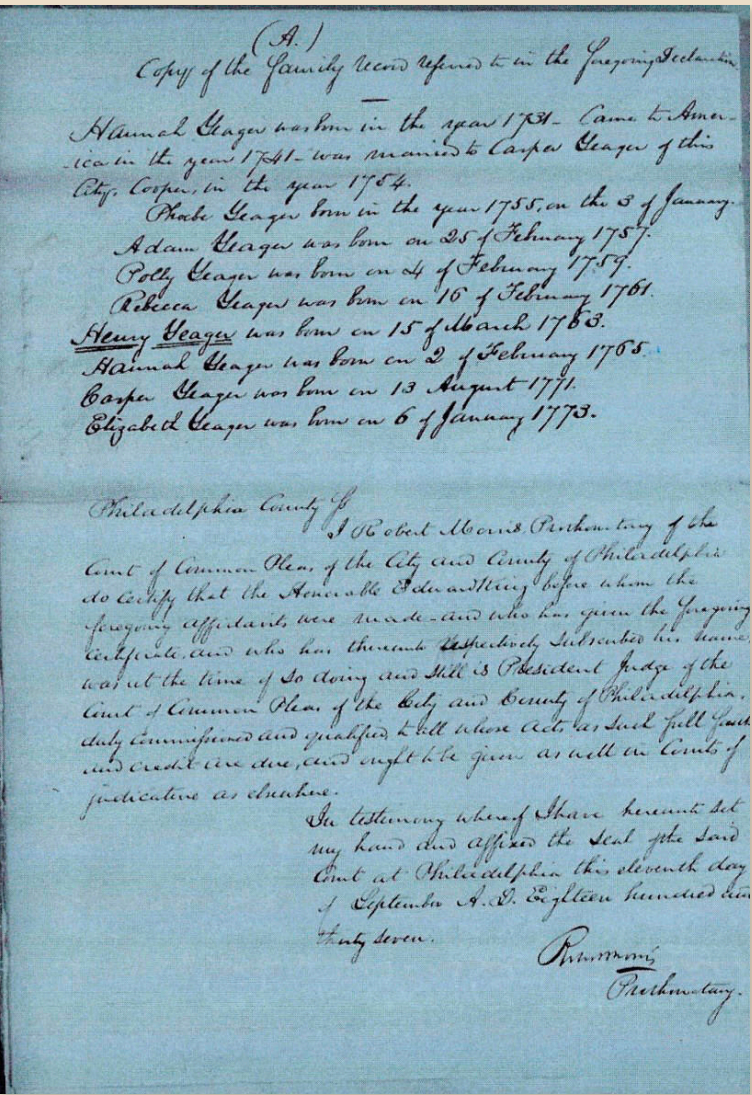


St. Michael’s church register

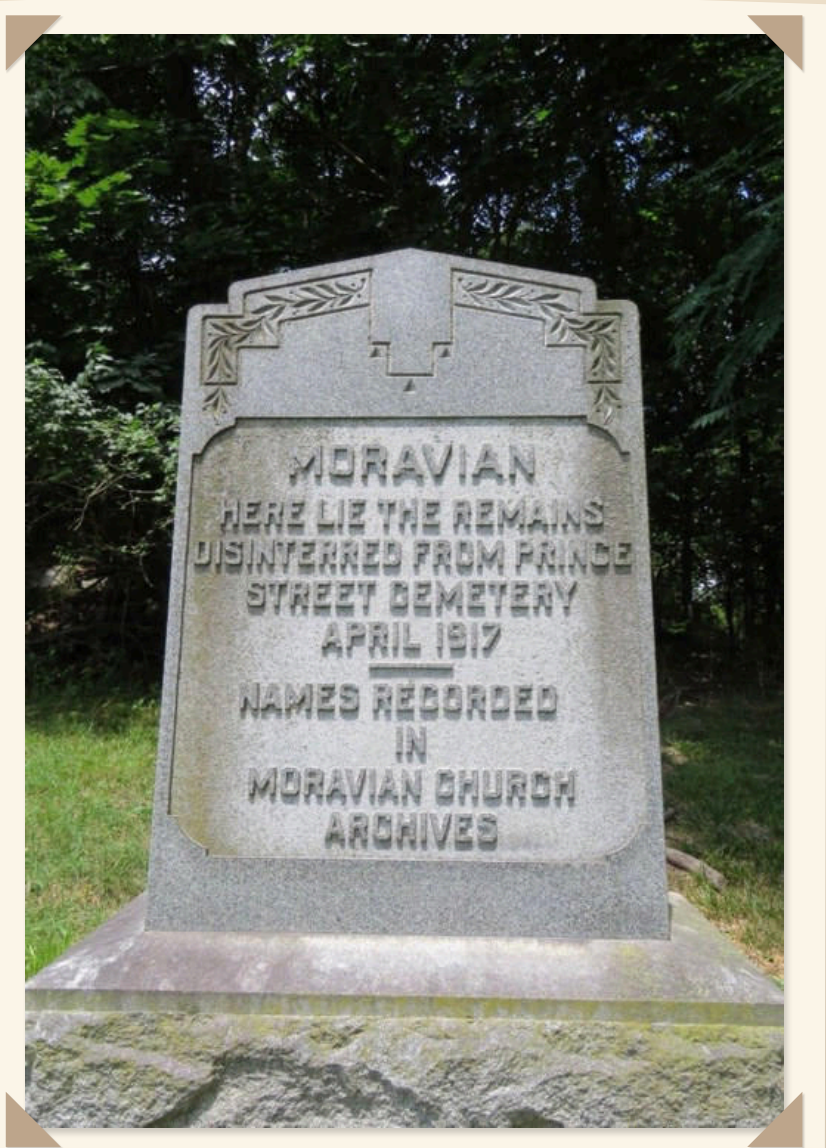
Places the family within Philadelphia’s German Lutheran community. The entry near the bottom of the left page appears to read “Johann Caspar Jäger,” age 31. That places him within the congregation around 1761 and supports a birth year of approximately 1730.



First page of Henry Yeager’s Revolutionary War pension declaration, 1833. Henry—the son of Caspar Yeager and Hannah Cress and brother of Rebecca Yeager—recounted his service as a young Continental Army drummer. His pension file preserved the Yeager family record documenting his parents’ marriage and the births of their children.



Certified copy of the Yeager family record, preserved with Henry Yeager’s Revolutionary War pension papers. It records Hannah’s immigration, her marriage to Philadelphia cooper Caspar Yeager, and the births of their children, including Rebecca and Henry.



Moravian cemetery memorial

This memorial marks the resting place of Moravians whose remains were moved from Lancaster’s Prince Street Cemetery in April 1917. Markus and Anna Christina Jung were among those whose names were preserved in the Moravian Church Archives.

Markus Jung (Young) & Anna Christina Wolfskehl

SEPTEMBER 20, 1705 – SEPTEMBER 9, 1796
APRIL 3, 1728 – OCTOBER 4, 1804

Sixth Great-Grandparents

THE BEGINNING OF THE YOUNG FAMILY IN AMERICA

Every American chapter of the Young family begins with the journeys of Markus Jung and Anna Christina Wolfskehl. Both were born in Hüffelsheim in the German Palatinate, but they crossed the Atlantic at different moments and under different circumstances. Their marriage in Pennsylvania united two families from the same German community and established the foundation upon which succeeding generations would build.

Markus Jung was born on September 20, 1705, and baptized one week later in the Lutheran church at Hüffelsheim. He was the son of Johannes Jacob Jung and Maria von Kortryk and grew up during a period marked by economic hardship, political uncertainty, religious tensions, and the lingering effects of repeated European wars.

In 1732, at approximately twenty-seven years of age, Markus left Germany for colonial Pennsylvania. The voyage required him to leave behind his parents, relatives, friends, and the familiar landscape of his childhood, most likely knowing that he would never see them again. The Atlantic crossing may have lasted six to eight weeks under crowded and difficult conditions, with no certainty about what awaited him on the other side.

The surviving evidence strongly supports Markus’s identification as the immigrant who arrived in Philadelphia aboard the *Judith* in September 1732. His name appears in *Pennsylvania German Pioneers* among the passengers who took the required Oath of Allegiance before the Governor of Pennsylvania on September 25. The ship’s arrival was also announced in a contemporary Philadelphia newspaper printed by Benjamin Franklin, preserving the historic moment when another vessel carrying German immigrants reached Pennsylvania.

German church registers, immigration records, tax lists, census schedules, probate documents, and family records together provide compelling evidence that the passenger aboard the *Judith* and the later Lancaster resident were the same man, Markus Jung.

Anna Christina Wolfskehl was born in Hüffelsheim on April 3, 1728. She was the daughter of Johann Georg Wolfskehl and Anna Margaretha Schmid. The Jung and Wolfskehl families shared roots in the same small Rhineland community, making it possible that the families knew one another before either crossed the Atlantic.

Anna Christina’s family followed Markus to Pennsylvania approximately a decade later. Her parents arrived aboard the *Loyal Judith* in 1742, part of the continuing migration of German-speaking families from the Rhineland to William Penn’s colony. Anna Christina was about twenty years old when she began her new life in America.

The ship *Loyal Judith* arrived in Philadelphia on September 25, 1732, carrying 115 Palatine immigrants from Rotterdam via Cowes, England, under the command of Captain Robert Turpin.

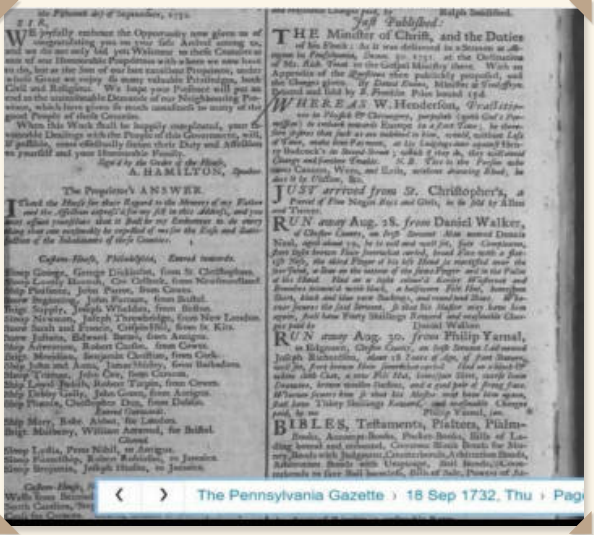
Details of the *Loyal Judith*'s Voyage

The *Loyal Judith* played a significant role in early immigration to Pennsylvania.

- **Departure** — The *Loyal Judith* sailed from Rotterdam, Netherlands, making a stop in Cowes, England before reaching Philadelphia.
- **Passenger Count** — It carried 115 Palatine immigrants, along with their families, totaling a larger group upon arrival.
- **Captain** — The ship was commanded by Captain Robert Turpin, who oversaw the journey from Europe to America.

Lenard Losts	25
Johann Michell Albert	20
Marcus Yong	23
Christian Kym	32
Mathew Yong	21
Fredrick Sheaver	19

The *Loyal Judith*, commanded by Captain Robert Turpin, arrived in Philadelphia from Rotterdam by way of Cowes, England, on September 25, 1732, carrying Palatine immigrants seeking new lives in colonial Pennsylvania. The 1732 passenger list for the *Loyal Judith* records twenty-three-year-old “Marcus Yong” and twenty-one-year-old “Mathew Yong,” the brothers later known as Markus and Mathias Jung. Their arrival in Philadelphia marked the beginning of the Young family’s American story.



The *Loyal Judith* arrived in Philadelphia in September 1732 carrying German immigrants, including Markus Jung. Above is the announcement published in the *Pennsylvania Gazette* on September 18, 1732. Below is a modern illustration of the type of square-rigged vessel that crossed the Atlantic during this period. No contemporary image of the *Loyal Judith* is known to exist.

On February 26, 1745, Markus and Anna Christina married in the Moravian community of Lititz in Lancaster County. Their marriage reunited two family lines from Hüffelsheim and marked the beginning of the American Young family. Together they established a home and raised a large family in one of colonial Pennsylvania’s flourishing German communities. Over time, their surname gradually evolved from the German **Jung** to the English **Young** as succeeding generations became increasingly integrated into English-speaking society.

Records describe Markus as both a blacksmith and a merchant—occupations that placed him near the center of everyday life in eighteenth-century Lancaster. A blacksmith’s forge was indispensable to a growing community, producing and repairing tools, horseshoes, wagon hardware, farming equipment, and countless other necessities. His work as a merchant further connected him with neighbors and customers throughout the area.

Anna Christina’s contributions were recorded less directly, as was true for most women of her time. Her days would have been devoted to the demanding responsibilities of maintaining a household, preparing and preserving food, making and repairing clothing, raising children, and carrying familiar customs into an unfamiliar country. Although this work seldom appeared in tax lists or public records, it was equally essential to the family’s security and success.

By 1772, tax records show that Markus owned a house, acreage, livestock, and a horse, evidence that decades of labor had produced a measure of stability and prosperity. Their property on King Street placed the family in the heart of Lancaster during one of the most transformative periods in American history.

Markus and Anna Christina arrived as subjects of the British Crown and lived long enough to see Pennsylvania become one of the founding states of the United States. Their son Mark Young served as a fifer in the Pennsylvania militia during the Revolutionary War and was later recognized for his service through Pennsylvania’s Donation Land program. Less than fifty years after Markus crossed the Atlantic, the family he and Anna Christina had established was helping to defend the country that had become their home.

In 1794, at nearly ninety years of age, Markus carefully prepared his will. The document reveals a thoughtful husband and father determined to provide for Anna Christina while ensuring that the property and security they had built together would pass to their children. Markus died in Lancaster on September 9, 1796, and his passing was noted in the local newspaper. Anna Christina survived him by eight years, dying on October 4, 1804.

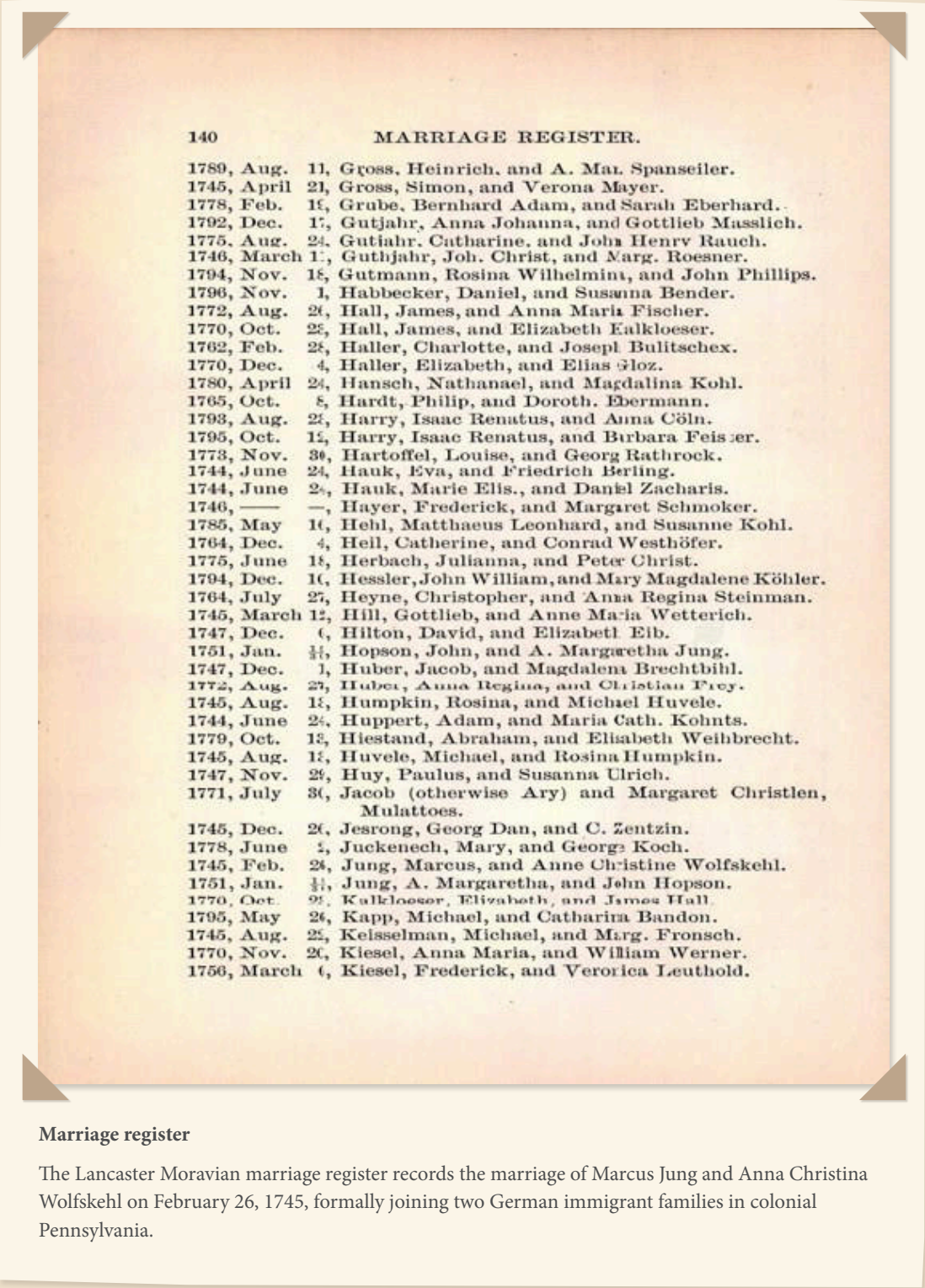
Their greatest achievement was not the property they accumulated or the estate they left behind. It was the family they created together. Their descendants became Revolutionary War patriots, master blacksmiths, carriage builders, inventors, craftsmen, merchants, business owners, and community leaders.

Markus had the courage to cross an ocean and begin again. Anna Christina helped transform that beginning into a family capable of enduring for generations. Nearly three centuries later, their legacy survives in both the historical records and the lives that followed. Every Young family chapter in America begins with them.

CARRY AWAY

BUILD SOMETHING THAT WILL OUTLIVE YOU.

Markus and Anna Christina carried skills, traditions, character, and family connections from one world into another. Through craft and commerce, they transformed an uncertain beginning into a lasting foundation. The most enduring exchange is not measured only in goods, but in what we teach, preserve, and build with others—the inheritance upon which generations create lives of their own.



Marriage register

The Lancaster Moravian marriage register records the marriage of Marcus Jung and Anna Christina Wolfskehl on February 26, 1745, formally joining two German immigrant families in colonial Pennsylvania.

9th September, Marcus Jung, born at Hisselsheim, in the Palatinate, one hour from Kreuzenach, September 20, 1705. His trade was that of a blacksmith, but here in Lancaster for many years he followed the mercantile business. In the year 1743 he came a second time to this country, and then on January 26, 1745, was married to Christina, born Wolfskehl. They had seven children, five sons and two daughters, of whom four sons, as children, predeceased him. One son and two daughters still survive, viz.: (1) Matthaeus, residing here in Lancaster, born June 24, 1746. (2) Catharina, residing here in Lancaster, and married to Sebastian Graff, farmer near Lancaster, who is departed. (3) Anna Maria, born March 18, 1755; married to Johannes Graff, the latter here in Lancaster.

A Correspondent recommends the following ticket to the Electors of Lancaster county, at their next General Election.

Congress.
Alexander Scott.

Governor.
Thomas Mifflin.

Senator.
Matthias Barton.

Assembly.
John Hopkins,
Patterfon Bell,
Richard Keys,
Peter Martin,
John Baufinan,
Samuel Boyd.

Died on Friday last in the 91st year of his age Mr. Marcus Young of this borough.

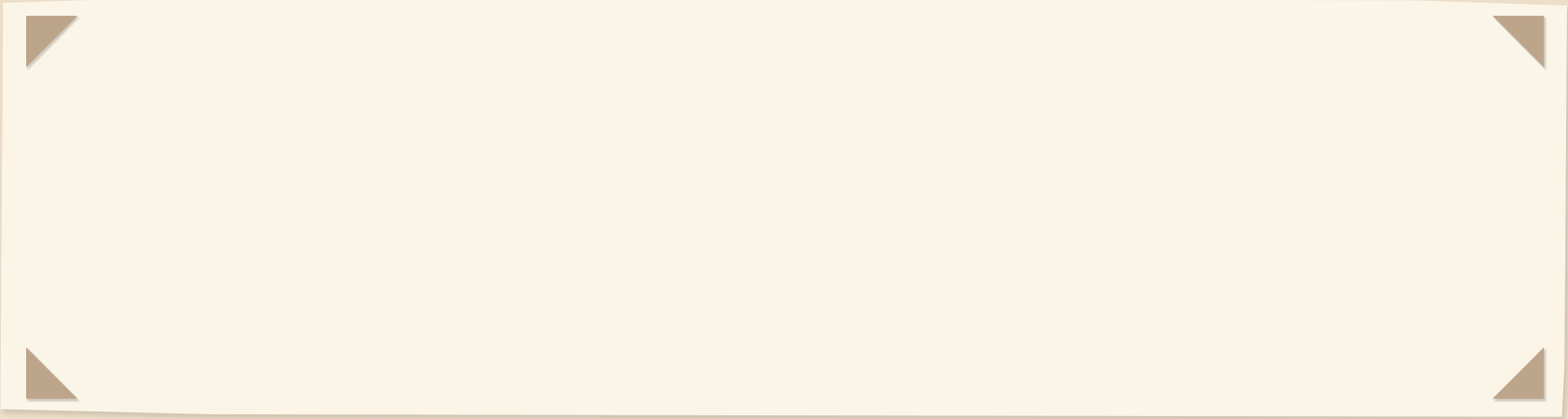
Also on Monday morning last in his 69th year Mr. Martin Lauman of this Borough—and Mrs. Hannah Harvey of the Eastern Shore of Maryland.

Moravian biographical record

Moravian records preserve a remarkably detailed account of Markus Jung’s life, identifying him as a trained blacksmith who later spent many years in Lancaster’s mercantile business. The entry records his birth on September 20, 1705, his return to America in 1743, his 1745 marriage to Anna Christina Wolfskehl, their seven children, and his death on September 9, 1796.

Newspaper death notice

A Lancaster newspaper reported the death of “Mr. Marcus Young of this borough” in the ninety-first year of his age. The brief announcement provides contemporary public recognition of the immigrant, craftsman, merchant, husband, and father who had made Lancaster his home.



Marcus (Mark) Young (Jung)

C. 1755 – OCTOBER 25, 1839

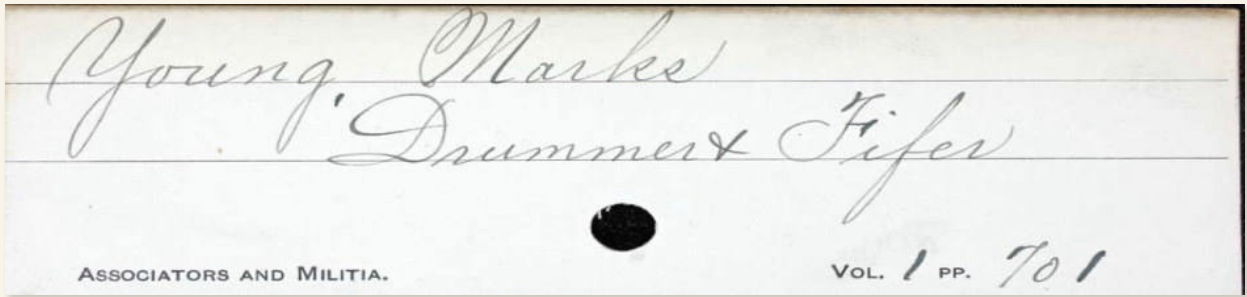
Fifth Great Grandfather

A REVOLUTIONARY WAR PATRIOT

Marcus (often recorded as Mark) Jung, whose surname gradually became Young, was born about 1755 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the son of German immigrants Markus Jung and Anna Christina Wolfskehl. His parents had crossed the Atlantic seeking opportunity and a new beginning, and Marcus belonged to the first generation of the Young family raised in America. Growing up in colonial Pennsylvania, he witnessed the growing tensions between Great Britain and its colonies and came of age as the movement toward independence gathered strength.

When the American Revolution reached Pennsylvania, Marcus answered the call to serve. Military records identify him as a fifer in Captain Elijah Weed’s Company of the Second Regiment of Philadelphia County Militia, with his appointment dated August 10, 1780. Although fifers did not typically carry muskets into battle, they occupied one of the most essential positions within an eighteenth-century military unit. Their music communicated battlefield commands, regulated marches, maintained camp discipline, and inspired soldiers during battle. In an era before radios or modern communications, the sound of the fife carried orders where a commander’s voice could not.

Marcus faithfully served for more than twelve months during multiple campaigns in New Jersey. According to his sworn pension testimony, he marched with American forces through Trenton, Princeton, Brunswick, Elizabethtown Point, Burlington, and Morristown while serving under several Philadelphia militia officers. Like thousands of ordinary patriots, he endured the hardships of military life not for fame or recognition but because he believed his young country was worth defending.



Revolutionary War service card for “Marks Young,” a period rendering of Marcus Young’s name, identifying his service as a fifer with Pennsylvania forces.

Martin Walters - Private 43 33 129 99 Penn. militia March 6, 1834 do 77									
Robert M. Wilson - Boatswain 96 00 1528 49 Continental navy June 9, 1824 March 1, 1823 78									
Robt. M. Wilson, 2d - do 106 00 - do July 15, 1834 do - No report yet received of payment made.									
Henry Young - Private 36 66 109 98 Penn. militia Dec. 13, 1832 March 4, 1831 79									
George Yoke - Pri. cav. & infantry 80 00 240 00 Pulaski's legion Aug. 26, 1831 do 78									
Marks Young - Fifer 44 00 132 00 Penn. militia Aug. 27, 1833 do 79									

Statement, &c. of Pike county, Pennsylvania.

NAMES.	Rank.	Annual allow- ance.	Sums re- ceived.	Description of service.	When placed on the pen- sion roll.	Commencement of pension.	Age.	Laws under which they were for- merly inscribed on the pension roll; and remarks.
Gawett Brodhead -	Ser. & pr.	60 00	180 00	N. Jersey militia	Mar. 25, 1833	Mar. 4, 1831	78	
Enos Cook -	Private	46 66	93 32	Mass. continental	Mar. 27, 1833	do	76	
William Cox -	do	57 09	171 27	N. Jersey militia	Mar. 28, 1833	do	83	
Gabriel Cory -	do	26 66	79 98	do	May 9, 1833	do	80	
John Coolbaugh -	do	43 33	139 99	N. J. State	Nov. 23, 1833	do	74	
Andrew Dinyman -	do	80 00	200 00	N. J. militia	Dec. 12, 1833	do	81	
Stephen Emerson -	Pri. art. & dragoon	39 00	117 00	Conn. militia	Mar. 23, 1833	do	81	
Samuel Helm -	Private	80 00	240 00	Indian spy	Dec. 8, 1832	do	74	
David Johnston -	Pri. & for- age mas.	83 33	208 32	N. Jersey militia	July 11, 1833	do	79	
Henry C. T. Middough	Private	80 00	240 00	Penn. militia	May 20, 1834	do	80	
Jabez Rockwell -	Pr. & fifer	59 40	178 20	Conn. State troops	Mar. 19, 1833	do	73	
Barnardus Swartwood	Private	80 00	160 00	Penn. militia	Mar. 27, 1833	do	74	
Samuel Vangorder -	do	30 00	90 00	do	Feb. 23, 1832	do	81	
Benjamin Vanaken -	do	20 00	60 00	do	Nov. 23, 1833	do	78	
Gideon Westbrook -	do	36 67	91 67	N. Y. militia	Oct. 31, 1833	do	73	

Supporting military or pension record

Official pension records recognized Marcus Young’s Revolutionary War service and preserved the experiences of a young musician serving in the struggle for American independence.

Following the war, Marcus married Rebecca Jaeger on January 15, 1784, at St. Michael’s and Zion Church in Philadelphia. Their marriage took place only months after the Treaty of Paris officially ended the Revolutionary War, making them among the first generation to begin married life in the newly independent United States.

Together Marcus and Rebecca raised a large family whose lives reflected the growth of early Pennsylvania. Their children included Jacob Young, my direct ancestor, along with Mark, Isaac, Abraham, Rebecca, Mary, Elizabeth, Catharine, and Margaret. Through these children, the Young family established deep roots that would extend across generations.

During Marcus’s lifetime, the family surname gradually evolved from its original German form, **Jung**, to the Anglicized **Young**. Like many Pennsylvania German families, this change reflected both assimilation into an English-speaking nation and a desire to embrace the opportunities of a new country while preserving their heritage.

Marcus lived during one of the most remarkable periods in American history. Born while Pennsylvania was still a British colony, he witnessed the American Revolution, the adoption of the United States Constitution, the election of George Washington as the nation’s first president, and Philadelphia’s emergence as one of America’s leading political, commercial, and manufacturing centers. Over the course of more than eight decades, he watched a fragile experiment in self-government become a thriving republic.

Marcus died in Philadelphia on October 25, 1839, at approximately eighty-five years of age and was buried in Ronaldson’s Philadelphia Cemetery. **Contemporary newspapers remembered him simply as “one of the Revolutionary soldiers.” Few words could better summarize a life of quiet service to a nation whose birth he helped secure.**

Looking back today, Marcus stands among the earliest roots of our American family. As the son of German immigrants, he belonged to the first generation of the Young family raised in America. He defended his adopted homeland during its struggle for independence and helped establish a family whose descendants would become blacksmiths, carriage builders, inventors, undertakers, craftsmen, and respected members of their Philadelphia communities. His life reminds us that the story of America was not written only by famous names found in history books, but also by ordinary men and women whose courage, perseverance, and devotion quietly shaped the nation from one generation to the next. Every generation that followed—including my own—can trace part of its American story to this Revolutionary patriot whose service continues to echo across nearly two and a half centuries.

CARRY AWAY

ANSWER THE CALL WHEN DUTY ASKS. WE MAY NEVER KNOW HOW OUR CONTRIBUTIONS WILL BE REMEMBERED, BUT FAITHFUL SERVICE CAN WHISTLE A TUNE ACROSS GENERATIONS.

In 1832, Marcus Young appeared before the Court of Common Pleas in Philadelphia to seek a pension for his Revolutionary War service. The surviving declaration records his testimony in his own words. Two pages from the original document are reproduced here, with a readable transcription.

1772 1/2 Mark Young

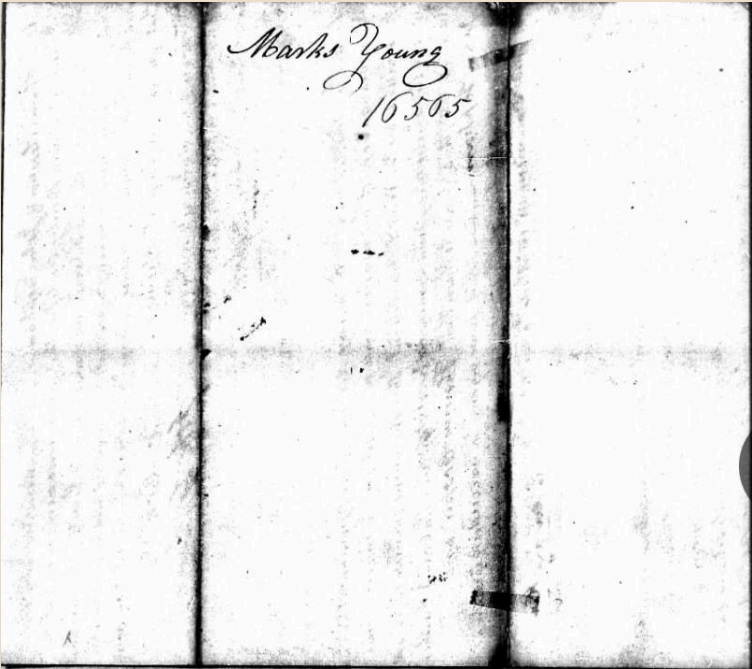
1830							
Jan 4	Wm Blackburns child	6		Convulsions	1		
Sept 21	Wm Blackburns	1		Do	1		
Aug 12	Jms Blackburns Twins			Premature	1		
Oct 24	Mark Young	86		Debility	1		
Nov 25	Rebecca Young	78	9	Old Age	1		
May 31	Samuel Allison	31		Pneumonia	1		R
Sept 22	Marks Allison	24		Do	1		R
July 9	Catharine Blackburn	57		Stiches	4		
Nov 12	Thos. S. Blackburn	15		Abcess Throat	4		

Ronaldson’s Cemetery register

Ronaldson’s Philadelphia Cemetery register records Mark Young in October 1839, aged eighty-six, with “debility” entered as the cause.

Marcus Young’s Revolutionary War Pension Declaration

Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas – October 27, 1832



Transcribed from the original Revolutionary War pension declaration to preserve Marcus Young’s own words while improving readability.

Source: National Archives, U.S. Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files, 1800–1900, Pension Application of Mark (Marks) Young, October 1832, pp. 93–94.



Markus (Mark) Young (Jung)
1755 (Philadelphia) – October 25, 1839 (Philadelphia)
U.S. Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Application Files, 1800–1900
Page 93 of 1101
City of Philadelphia
State of Pennsylvania

On this twenty-seventh day of October personally appeared in open court, before the Court of Common Pleas now sitting, Marks Young, a resident of the City of Philadelphia, State of Pennsylvania, aged 77 years, who, being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832.

That he entered the service in the militia as a fifer in the company of Captain Leib, Lieutenant Caspar Lawuer, and Anthony Leigner, under Colonel Dickerson. He marched to Trenton and was attached to the regiment that marched to Princeton, Brunswick, and Elizabethtown. They encamped at Elizabethtown Point, where he served out a tour of duty of two months, returned to the city, and was discharged.

Shortly afterward he entered as a fifer in the company of Captain Gowan (as he believes), Lieutenant Sowan, and Seighner. They marched to Bristol and from there to Trenton, New Jersey. Their detachment was ordered to guard the baggage wagons at Burlington. After General Washington’s attack on the British at Princeton, they proceeded to Morristown, then headquarters. This was a cold winter campaign. He was afterward discharged and returned home.

He afterward served another tour of duty under Captain Elijah Weed and performed duty in the city for a time, then marched into New Jersey and served at least three months, part of the time at Pluckemin. At another time he performed duty in the city under Captain Davis and Lieutenant Graffort, under Colonel Hubley.

He was engaged in service as a fifer for more than twelve months in different companies and detachments.

He has no discharge or other papers, all having been worn out or lost. He has never been inscribed on any pension list nor received any emolument from the State or the United States except his monthly pay in old Continental money.

He now rests his claim upon the bounty of Congress.

He knew Colonel Will, Colonel Benjamin Arndt, Major Carr, and Colonel Proctor.

He was born in the City of Philadelphia, where he has always resided.

Sworn and subscribed this 29th day of October, 1832.

At the same time personally appeared in open court Christopher Souder, who, being first duly sworn according to law, declared that he was and is well acquainted with the above applicant, Marks Young; that he was a fifer attached to the companies above mentioned; that he himself served as a private during two campaigns with him; and that he believes Marks Young served more than twelve months at different times during the Revolutionary War.

Sworn and subscribed this 29th day of October, 1832.

Christopher Souder



U.S. Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Application Files, 1800–1900

Page 94 of 1101

City of Philadelphia

State of Pennsylvania

Personally appeared in open court, now sitting, Marks Young, the within applicant, who, being again duly sworn according to law, declared:

That his first tour of duty was in 1776.

His second tour was during the winter of 1776–1777, during which he served a full two months.

Afterward he performed volunteer city duty under Captain Davis and Colonel Hubley, serving approximately five months.

He hereby relinquishes all claims to any pension other than that allowed under the Act of June 7, 1832.

While in service as stated above, he was not employed in any civil pursuit.

Sworn and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

Questions by the Court

1. Where and in what year were you born?

Answer: I was born in the City of Philadelphia in the year 1755, where I have lived ever since.

2. Have you any record of your age, and if so, where is it?

(No answer recorded.)

3. Where were you living when called into service?

Answer: In the City of Philadelphia, where I now live and have lived ever since.

4. How were you called into service? Were you drafted, did you volunteer, or were you a substitute? If a substitute, for whom?

Answer: I volunteered under Captain Leib. I afterward served as a substitute for Peter Dickert.

5. State the names of some general officers under whom you served.

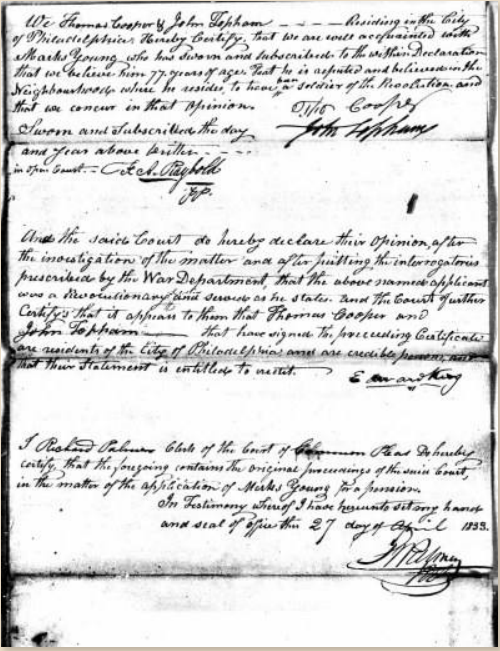
Answer: Colonel Will, Colonel Arndt, Major Carr, Colonel Proctor, and Governor McKean.

6. Did you ever receive a discharge, and by whom was it given?

Answer: I was discharged, as others were, verbally at the end of each term of service.

7. State the names of persons in your present neighborhood who are known to your character for veracity and who can testify to your Revolutionary War service.

Answer: Thomas Cooper and John Topham [readings uncertain].



Original court certification, 1832–1833.
Uncertain transcription readings are shown in brackets.

We Thomas Cooper & John Topham — residing in the City of Philadelphia, hereby certify, that we are well acquainted with Marks Young, who has sworn and subscribed to the within Declaration, that we believe him 77 years of age. That he is reputed and believed in the Neighbourhood where he resides, to have been a soldier of the Revolution, and that we concur in that opinion.

Tho. Cooper

John Topham

Sworn and subscribed the day and year above written — in open Court.

F. A. Staybold [reading uncertain], prothonotary [abbreviated].

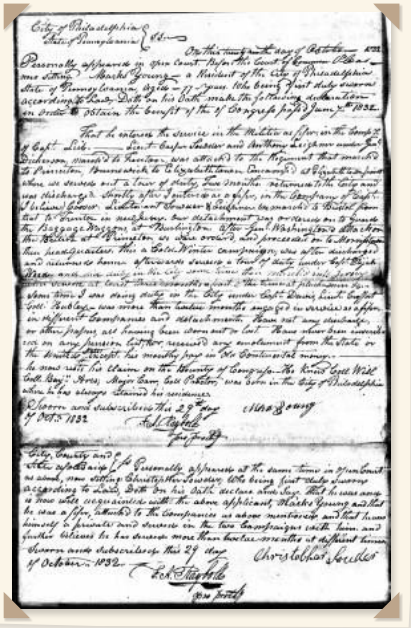
And the said Court do hereby declare their opinion, after the investigation of the matter and after putting the interrogatories prescribed by the War Department, that the above named applicant was a revolutionary soldier, and served as he states, and the Court further certifies that it appears to them that Thomas Cooper and John Topham, that have signed the preceding Certificate, are residents of the City of Philadelphia and are credible persons, and that their statement is entitled to credit.

Edward King

I Richard Palmer Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas Do hereby certify, that the foregoing contains the original proceedings of the said Court, in the matter of the application of Marks Young for a pension.

In Testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal of office this 27 day of April 1833.

R. Palmer [signature reading uncertain]



More than half a century after the guns of the Revolution fell silent, Marcus stood before the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas to tell the story of his military service. At seventy-seven years of age, he raised his hand, took an oath, and recounted the marches, officers, and campaigns of a young fifer who had answered his country’s call decades earlier. Time had claimed his written discharges, but it had not erased his memory.

Marcus did not stand alone. Fellow Revolutionary War veteran Christopher Souder appeared before the court and swore that he had marched beside Marcus during two campaigns. He confirmed Marcus’s service as a fifer and affirmed the truth of his testimony. More than half a century after the war, one aging soldier stood for another, placing his own reputation behind the man he had served with. It was an act of honor between comrades who understood that the truth deserved a witness.

Their sworn testimony convinced the court. In 1833, Congress approved Marcus’s Revolutionary War pension, formally recognizing the service of an ordinary citizen whose contribution had helped secure American independence. The pension itself was modest, but the recognition carried a deeper meaning. It affirmed that neither Marcus nor the sacrifices of his generation had been forgotten.



The drum and fife symbolize Rebecca’s brother Henry Yeager, a Revolutionary War drummer, and her husband Marcus Young, a fifer.

Rebecca Jaeger Young

MARCH 18, 1761 – NOVEMBER 25, 1839

Fifth Great Grandmother

A FOUNDATION FOR GENERATIONS

Rebecca Jaeger was born on March 18, 1761, in Philadelphia, making her a true daughter of colonial Pennsylvania. She spent her childhood as tensions between Great Britain and the American colonies steadily intensified and came of age during the American Revolution.

On January 15, 1784, she married Marcus (Mark) Jung, a Revolutionary War veteran, at St. Michael’s and Zion Church in Philadelphia. Their marriage followed only months after the signing of the Treaty of Paris, placing them among the first generation to begin married life in the newly established United States.

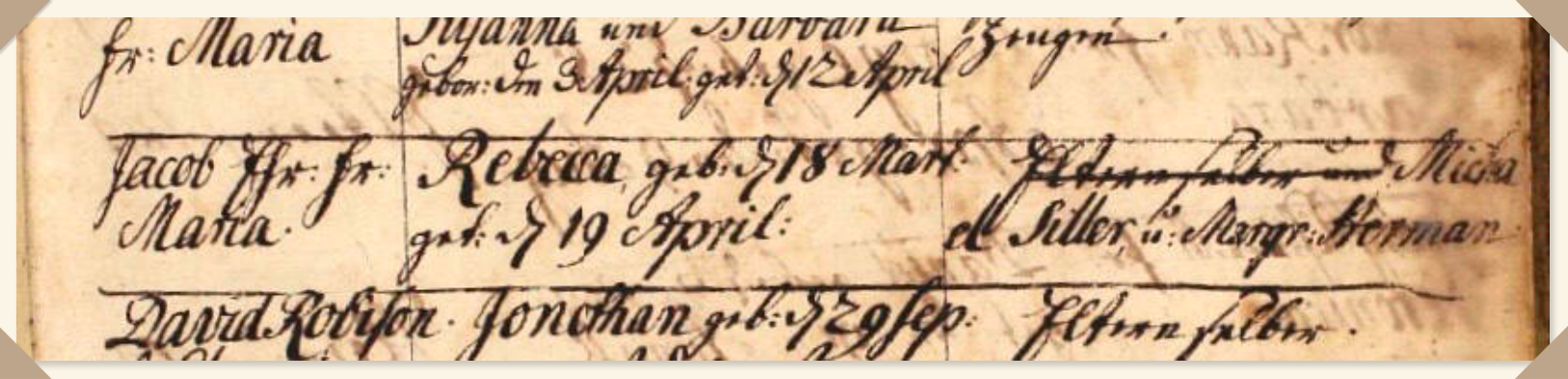
Together Marcus and Rebecca built a home centered on faith, family, and hard work. They raised a large family whose descendants would leave a lasting mark on Philadelphia. Their son Jacob Young became a respected blacksmith, while their grandson Edmund Young expanded the family’s tradition of skilled craftsmanship as a carriage builder, inventor, and manufacturer of innovative fire apparatus. Through later generations, the family’s story continued with craftsmen, business owners, funeral directors, journalists, and community leaders.

Rebecca devoted her life to raising her family during a period when Philadelphia grew from the nation’s capital into one of America’s greatest industrial cities. She witnessed the birth of the republic, the administrations of its earliest presidents, and the remarkable transformation of the city where she had been born.

The Revolution touched Rebecca’s life through two of the men closest to her. Her brother, Henry Yeager, served as a drummer, while Marcus Young served as a fifer. When Rebecca married Marcus in 1784, she brought together two families whose sons had helped carry the rhythm and signals of the American cause—one through the drum and the other through the fife.

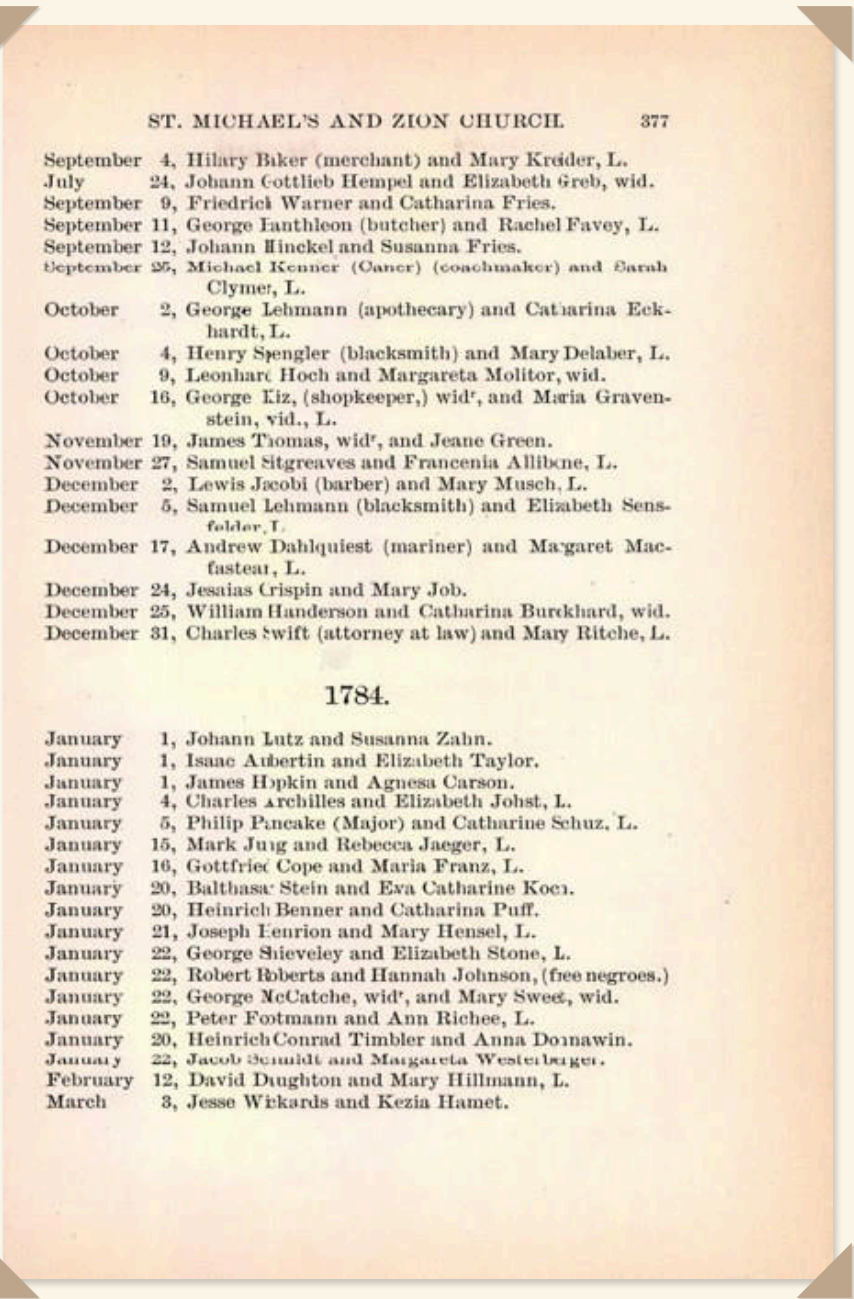
The first declaration in the notice starts with “*Another Veteran Gone!*” Rebecca later married Mark Young, whose own service included playing the fife—bringing together two families whose lives carried the music of the Revolution.

Rebecca died on November 25, 1839, only one month after Marcus. After more than fifty-five years of marriage, they left behind not only children and grandchildren, but the foundation of a family whose contributions to Philadelphia and the surrounding communities would continue for generations. Their legacy became the beginning of the Young family’s enduring American story.



Rebecca Yeager’s Baptism — 1761

The register of Augustus Lutheran Church in Trappe, Pennsylvania, records Rebecca’s birth on March 18, 1761, and her baptism on April 19. Created during her infancy, fifteen years before American independence, this contemporary church record provides the strongest evidence for her birth date.

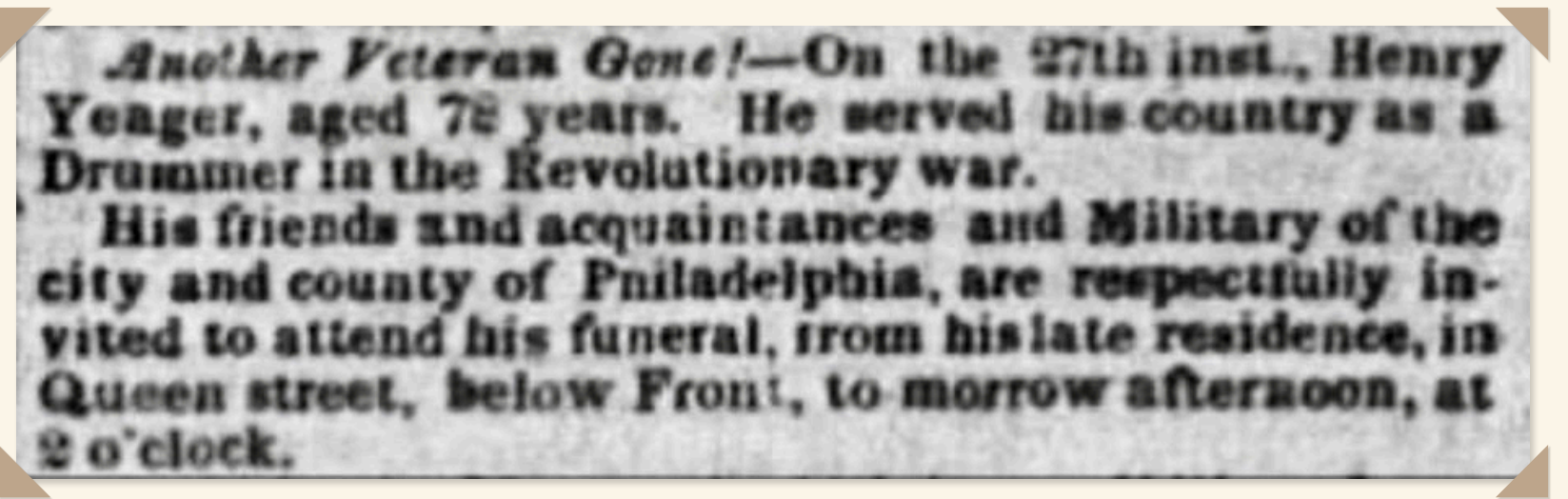


Marriage record

Marcus Young and Rebecca Yeager were married on January 15, 1784, at St. Michael’s and Zion Lutheran Church in Philadelphia, beginning a partnership that lasted more than fifty-five years.

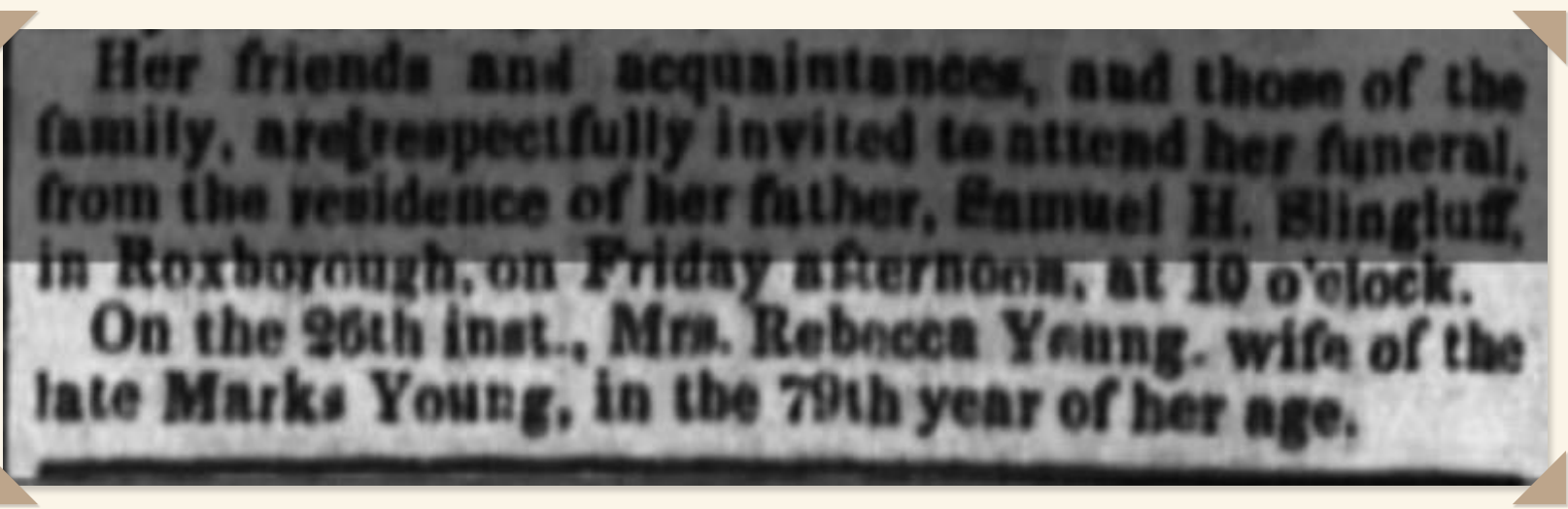
CARRY AWAY

BEING THE WIFE OF A PATRIOT OFTEN REQUIRES A PATRIOT’S COMMITMENT OF YOUR OWN. STANDING BESIDE SOMEONE DEVOTED TO A LARGER CAUSE CAN BRING SACRIFICE, UNCERTAINTY, AND CHALLENGES THAT ARE SHARED BY BOTH PARTNERS. COMMITMENT TO ONE ANOTHER CAN BE ITS OWN FORM OF SERVICE.



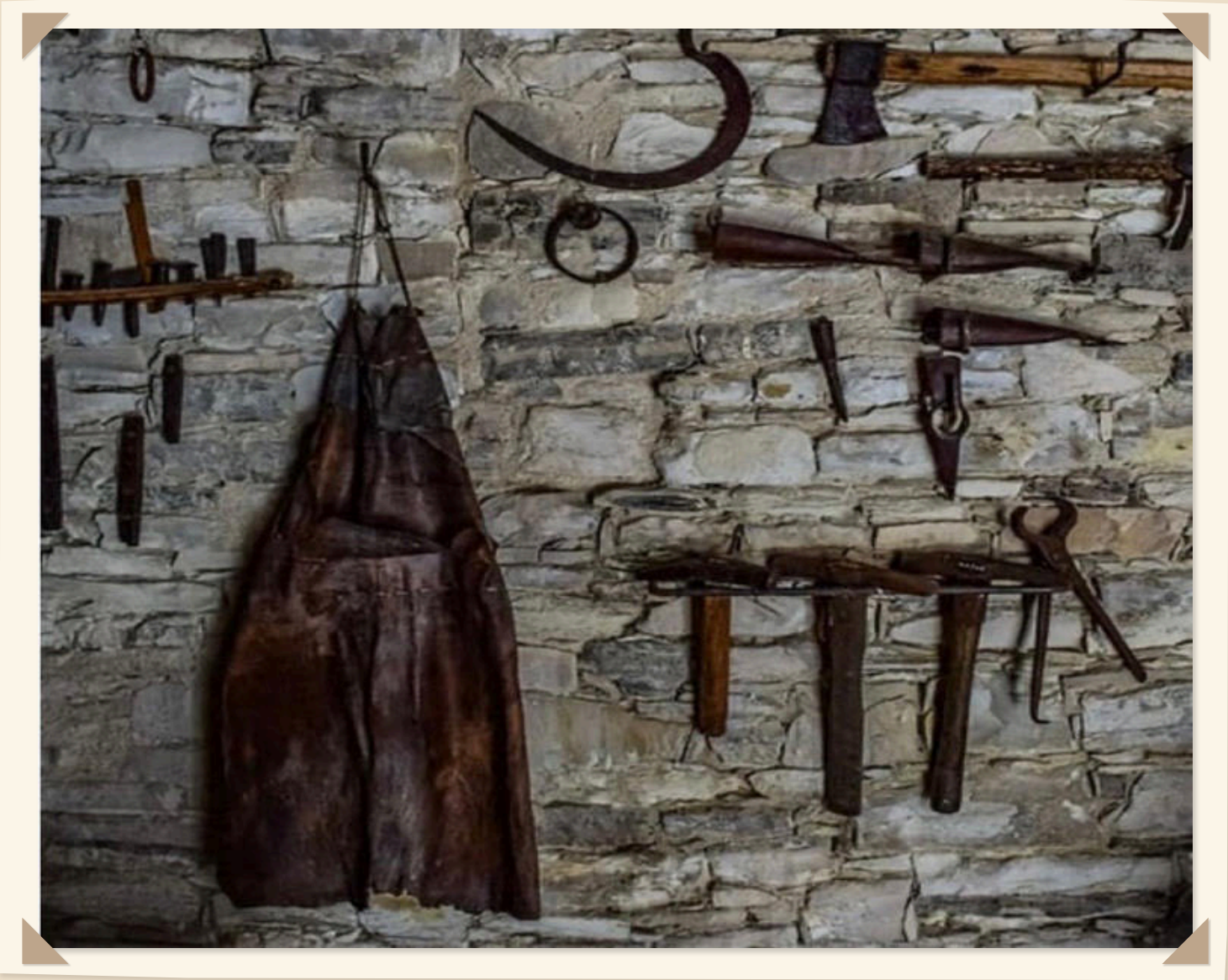
The Music of the Revolution in Rebecca's Family

A contemporary newspaper notice remembered Rebecca's brother, Henry Yeager, as a Revolutionary War drummer.



Newspaper death notice

Rebecca Young's 1839 death notice identified her as the wife of the late Mark Young and reported that she died in the seventy-ninth year of her age, only weeks after her husband.



Jacob Young & Mary Baum Young

DECEMBER 10, 1784 – MAY 14, 1866
ABOUT 1791 – SEPTEMBER 10, 1855

Fourth Great-Grandparents

FORGING A FAMILY LEGACY

Jacob Young was born in Philadelphia on December 10, 1784, just one year after the end of the American Revolutionary War. He was the son of Revolutionary War veteran Marcus “Mark” Young, who had served as a fifer during the struggle and war for American independence. Jacob’s life spanned more than eighty-one years, carrying him from the infancy of the United States through the opening years of the Civil War.

Mary Baum was born about 1791 in England. The surviving records reveal little about her early life or when and how she came to America. By the early nineteenth century, however, she was living in Philadelphia, where she and Jacob began a marriage and family partnership that would endure for nearly half a century.

Jacob earned his living as a blacksmith, one of the most respected and essential skilled trades of the nineteenth century. A Philadelphia city directory lists him as “Jacob Young, smith,” with his shop located behind 87 South Sixth Street and his residence at Green’s Court. From his forge, he fashioned and repaired ironwork needed for transportation, commerce, and daily life. His work required strength, precision, patience, and the judgment acquired through years of experience.

Jacob’s shop was one part of the life he and Mary built. Together, they raised four children: Edmund, Benjamin, Rebecca, and Jackson. Mary helped provide the stability from which Jacob pursued his trade and their children developed lives and abilities of their own. While Jacob worked at his forge, Philadelphia’s streets echoed with the sounds of workshops, foundries, shipyards, and busy markets, but the continuity of family life depended upon the work performed within its homes.

By 1850, Jacob and Mary’s household spanned three generations. Living with them were their adult sons Benjamin and Jackson, their daughter Rebecca Snyder, and Rebecca’s children. The census offers a valuable glimpse of the family as it lived together, revealing a home that remained a gathering place for adult children and grandchildren.

The Young household also nurtured a tradition of craftsmanship. Their son Edmund learned the blacksmith’s trade before carrying those skills into a remarkable career as a carriage builder, inventor, and manufacturer. He became known for producing elegant spider carriages and specialized fire apparatus used by Philadelphia fire companies. The progression from Jacob’s forge to Edmund’s manufacturing business shows how knowledge, discipline, and pride in workmanship could pass from one generation to the next. Jacob supplied the practical example of a master craftsman, while Mary helped sustain the family environment in which that inheritance could take root.

1850 United States Census

The 1850 census records Jacob and Mary Young with their adult children Benjamin, Jackson, and Rebecca Snyder, as well as Rebecca’s children. By naming three generations beneath one roof, the record provides a rare view of the family they had built together.

The documentary record shows that Jacob’s decades of skilled work produced a considerable measure of financial security. By the end of his life, he owned at least four properties, along with household furnishings and the assets associated with his blacksmith business. His success was not measured merely by what he accumulated, however, but by how carefully he planned to use it for the benefit of his family.

Mary died in Philadelphia on September 10, 1855, after nearly half a century of marriage and family life. Although few surviving documents tell her story directly, her importance is reflected in the multigenerational household she and Jacob created and in the accomplishments of the children they raised. Her English heritage also added another strand to a family story shaped by people from several nations whose lives eventually converged in Philadelphia.

Eleven years after Mary’s death, Jacob prepared the detailed will that provides the clearest portrait of the life they had built together. Rather than dividing his estate mechanically, he made considered provisions for his children and grandchildren. He distributed real estate and personal property, remembered his daughters and granddaughters, assigned responsibilities to his sons, and directed the disposition of his blacksmith business.

The census recorded the family gathered beneath one roof; the will reveals Jacob’s determination to continue providing for them after his death. Containing his property, his business, his family relationships, and his own signature, the document allows his priorities to emerge more clearly than any directory listing or census entry could. It transforms a list of possessions into evidence of a lifetime devoted to skilled work, thoughtful planning, and family responsibility.

Jacob’s long life unfolded during an extraordinary period of American history. He lived during the presidencies of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, experienced the War of 1812, watched canals and railroads transform transportation, and witnessed Philadelphia develop into one of the nation’s leading manufacturing and industrial cities. Although history often emphasizes political leaders and great events, cities such as Philadelphia were built just as surely by skilled craftspeople and the families who supported them.

Jacob died in Philadelphia on May 14, 1866. He was buried beside Mary in Machpelah Cemetery. When that cemetery closed in 1895, their remains were removed and reinterred at Graceland Cemetery, where they rest today.

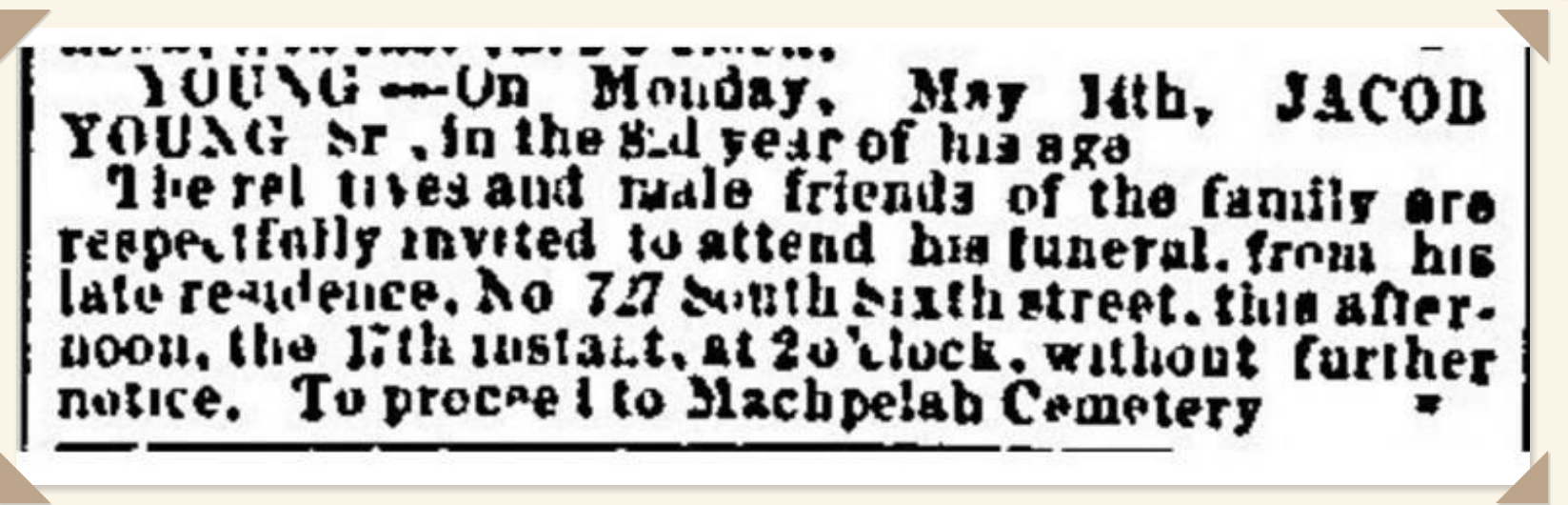
SCHEDULE I. — Free Inhabitants in *Spring Ward* **in the County of Philadelphia State**
of Pennsylvania enumerated by me, on the *22* day of *August* 1850. *John W. Thomson* Ass't Marshal.

Inhabitant's name and sex	Age	The Name of every Person whose usual place of abode on the first day of June, 1850, was in this family.	Sex		Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each Male Person over 15 years of age.	Color	Place or Birth, Naming the State, Territory, or Country.	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict.
			M	F				
152 107	21	James McCormick	A		Boys Maker		Ireland	
	21	John Stewart	A		Shoemaker		"	
	21	Sarah "	F				"	
260	21	John Wilson	A		Blacksmith		"	
	25	Charlotte "	F				"	
	15	William "	M				"	
187 261	25	George Lutz	A		Blacksmith		"	
	30	Sarah "	F				"	
	40	William "	M				"	
	47	Madame "	F				"	
	48	Thomas "	M				"	
	49	George "	M				"	
	50	Mary "	F				"	
	51	Anna "	F				"	
	52	Mary "	F				"	
	53	Ellen "	F				"	
42 302	21	James Lutz	A				Ireland	
	25	William "	M				"	
	30	Thomas "	M		Shoemaker		"	
	35	Margaret Lutz	F				"	
185 262	25	Joseph Tuckel	A		Shoemaker		"	
	28	William "	M				"	
	30	Mary "	F				"	
	32	Joseph "	M				"	
184 263	21	John Young	A		Blacksmith		"	
	25	William "	M				England	
	30	Thomas "	M		Shoemaker		"	
	32	William "	M		Carpenter		"	
	33	John "	M				"	
	35	Rebecca Snyder	F				"	
	37	Mary "	F				"	
	38	Thomas "	M				"	
	40	William "	M				"	
	42	Anna "	F				"	
	44	Mary "	F				"	
187 264	32	William Hill	M		Black		"	
	35	Mary "	F				"	
	37	John "	M				"	
	40	William "	M				"	
	42	Margaret McGaff	F				"	
	44	John McGaff	M				"	

No daily work journals or personal letters are known to survive from Jacob or Mary, but together they left a revealing record. Jacob’s blacksmith shop, their multigenerational household, the achievements of their children, and the provisions of his will portray a hardworking couple who converted skill and domestic stability into lasting opportunity. The forge Jacob tended and the home Mary sustained became complementary parts of one family legacy—one that continued through the Young, Kirchner, Tuckmantel, Zimmerman, and Connelly families.

CARRY AWAY

WHAT WE MAKE WITH OUR HANDS CAN REACH FAR BEYOND THE OBJECT ITSELF. JACOB’S CRAFT AND MARY’S CARE CREATED SECURITY FOR THEIR FAMILY AND GAVE THEIR CHILDREN ROOM TO FOLLOW THEIR OWN SKILLS, INTERESTS, AND CURIOSITY.



Jacob Young's Death Notice

Published after Jacob Young's death on May 14, 1866, this notice identifies his final residence as 727 South Sixth Street and announces that his funeral procession would continue to Machpelah Cemetery. The address connects his final days to one of the properties he preserved for his family. Like many nineteenth-century Philadelphia cemeteries, Machpelah was later closed, and many burials were relocated to newer cemeteries.



Edmund Young (1814–1882), master carriage builder and inventor. Building upon the blacksmithing tradition of his father, Jacob Young, Edmund became a respected Philadelphia craftsman whose innovative fire apparatus earned recognition beyond the city.

EDMUND & MARGARET FREAS YOUNG

Edmund Young

DECEMBER 4, 1814 – MAY 24, 1882

Third, Great-Grandfather

Margaret Freas Young

ABOUT 1821 – MARCH 27, 1893

Third, Great-Grandmother

MASTER CRAFTSMAN, INVENTOR, AND THE FAMILY BESIDE HIM

Edmund Young was born in Philadelphia on December 4, 1814, as the city was emerging as one of America’s great centers of manufacturing, craftsmanship, and innovation. The son of master blacksmith Jacob Young and Mary Baum Young, Edmund inherited a tradition of skilled work but carried it into a new field. Gifted with mechanical ability and creative vision, he devoted his life to building carriages that combined beauty, durability, and practical purpose.

On January 27, 1839, Edmund married Margaret Freas. Their marriage was recorded by the historic St. Michael’s and Zion Lutheran congregation, continuing the family’s connection to Philadelphia’s German-American community. The surviving church record notes that the parents of both the bride and groom were present, capturing the beginning of a partnership that would last more than forty years.

Margaret was born about 1821 in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. Although few details of her early life have survived, her place within the Young family is preserved through the marriage, census, newspaper, and cemetery records that followed her across the nineteenth century. Together, Edmund and Margaret raised a large family that included their daughter Margaretha—known as Margaret—who later married German immigrant Gustave Adolph Kirchner. Through that marriage, the established American story of the Young family became joined with the Kirchners’ newer German-American story.

A.D. 1839 Register of Marriages, continued by J.W.K.

<i>Place where married.</i>	<i>Time when married.</i>	<i>Names of the Parties.</i>	<i>Names of the Parents.</i>	<i>State &c. of the Parties.</i>	<i>Place of Residence of the Parties.</i>
			<i>A.D. 1839.</i>		
<i>Germantown</i>	<i>Jan^y. 24th.</i>	<i>Henry Rodebaugh Eliza Harner</i>	<i>Thomas & Rebecca Rodebaugh Abraham & Mary Harner</i>	<i>Single</i>	<i>Whitemarsh</i>
<i>Germantown</i>	<i>Jan^y. 24th.</i>	<i>William Bowen Eliza Prutz</i>	<i>W^m & Maria Bowen Henry & Mary Prutz</i>	<i>Single</i>	<i>Philad^a Germantown</i>
<i>Germantown</i>	<i>Jan^y. 27th.</i>	<i>Edmund Young Margaret Freas</i>	<i>Jacob & Mary B. Young George & Elizth. Freas</i>	<i>Blacksmith Spinster</i>	<i>Germantown Chesnut hill</i>

Marriage register recording the January 27, 1839, marriage of Edmund Young and Margaret Freas in Germantown. It names their parents—Jacob and Mary B. Young and George and Elizabeth Freas—and identifies Edmund as a blacksmith.

As Philadelphia prospered, Edmund established himself as a respected carriage builder serving many of the city’s prominent citizens. His workshop became known for elegant custom carriages and workmanship distinguished by quality, innovation, and meticulous attention to detail. Census records from 1860 and 1870 show that he accumulated substantial real and personal property, reflecting the success of a master craftsman whose reputation and business had become firmly established in Philadelphia.

Edmund’s most distinctive contributions came through his work for Philadelphia’s volunteer fire companies. During an era when these organizations stood at the heart of civic life, he became a leading builder of specialized horse-drawn fire apparatus. Contemporary newspaper accounts praised his innovative “Spider” hose carriage, a lightweight design that was faster and more maneuverable than conventional hose wagons. Philadelphia fire companies adopted his apparatus, and orders arrived from communities beyond the city, extending his reputation throughout the East.

Family tradition has long held that Edmund obtained several patents for his inventions. Repeated efforts were made in 2026 to locate those records through the Free Library of Philadelphia’s Patent Collection. The librarian explained that losses among records from this period make the search particularly difficult. Although Edmund’s patents have not yet been located, contemporary newspaper accounts clearly identify him as an inventor and document the distinctive designs that influenced nineteenth-century firefighting equipment.

While Edmund’s professional achievements appeared in newspapers and historical publications, Margaret’s life was recorded more quietly. Census takers described her occupation simply as “Keeps House,” a brief phrase encompassing the many responsibilities involved in maintaining a nineteenth-century household and raising a family. The surviving records do not tell us the details of her daily life, but they show that she remained at the center of a family whose members maintained close connections across generations.

Among the greatest treasures to survive from Edmund’s life are two leather-bound journals from his carriage shop. Preserved by generations of the Young family, their pages recorded customers, projects, expenses, and the daily operations of a nineteenth-century craftsman’s business. They offer something that no census, directory, or newspaper article can provide: a view inside Edmund’s workshop and the rhythm of his working life.

Recognizing their historical importance, our family donated the journals to Philadelphia’s Fireman’s Hall Museum in memory of my mother, Shirley Connelly. Museum staff were delighted to receive them. They were already familiar with Edmund through historical publications, understood the significance of his work, and noted that his carriage shop had operated only a short distance from the museum itself. Donating the journals felt less like giving them away than returning them to the city whose history Edmund helped shape.

Edmund died on May 24, 1882, after a lifetime devoted to craftsmanship, innovation, enterprise, and public service. Margaret continued without him for nearly eleven years, living long enough to see their children establish families of their own.

Page No. 46

1870 United States Census, Philadelphia. Edmund Young is recorded as a "Manufacturer of Carriages," living with his wife, Margaret, and their children. The entry brings the family together while documenting the successful carriage-manufacturing enterprise Edmund built from his early training as a blacksmith.

Page No. 46		1870 United States Census, Philadelphia. Edmund Young is recorded as a "Manufacturer of Carriages," living with his wife, Margaret, and their children. The entry brings the family together while documenting the successful carriage-manufacturing enterprise Edmund built from his early training as a blacksmith.	
Inquiries numbered 7, 16, and 17 are not to be asked in regard to Indians. Inquiries numbered 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, and 20 are to be answered (if at all) merely by an affirmative mark, as /.			
SCHEDULE 1.—Inhabitants in 9th East Ward, City of Philadelphia, in the County of Philadelphia, State of Pennsylvania, enumerated by me on the 20th day of June, 1870.			
Post Office: Philadelphia, Pa.		Assistant Marshal.	
The state of every person whose name is on the first day of June, 1870, was in this family.		Production, Occupation, or Trade of each person, male or female.	
Description.		Year of Birth.	
1. Name of person.		2. Sex.	
3. Age.		4. Color.	
5. Marital status.		6. Occupation, Profession, or Trade.	
7. Place of Birth.		8. Place of Birth of father.	
9. Place of Birth of mother.		10. Place of Birth of father.	
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97. Place of Birth of mother.		98. Place of Birth of father.	
99. Place of Birth of mother.		100. Place of Birth of father.	

1870 United States Census, Philadelphia. Edmund Young is recorded as a "Manufacturer of Carriages," living with his wife, Margaret, and their children. The entry brings the family together while documenting the successful carriage-manufacturing enterprise Edmund built from his early training as a blacksmith.

The Number One Hose Company—A New Apparatus.—Several months since we informed our readers that this enterprising and useful company had ordered from Mr. Edmund Young of Philadelphia, a celebrated builder, a new and substantial apparatus, known among firemen as a "spider." The advantages of the "spider" over the carriages and crabs generally in use are manifest and great. Already they are largely introduced in Philadelphia, and since the model of the Pottsville spider has been made public, Mr. Young has received several orders from City Companies for *fac similes*. It combines lightness, strength, beauty and economy. The Humane Hose Company, No. 1, was organized in this place as the Pottsville Fire Company in September, A. D., 1833, by twenty-four individuals, now among our most influential and substantial citizens. Omitting those, who, by death or removal are not in our midst, we may mention as charter members, still active, such gentlemen as Oliver Dobson, Charles W. Clemens, Thomas Foster, Michael Mortimer, Isaac Hevern, Henry Strauch, Frank Pott and others. From the date of organization to the present time, nearly twenty-six years, this Company has been continu-

On May 14, 1859, a Pottsville newspaper described Philadelphia's Edmund Young as "a celebrated builder" and announced the delivery of his new "spider" apparatus to Humane Hose Company No. 1. The article praised its lightness, strength, beauty, and economy and noted that Young had received additional orders from other fire companies.

During 1868 the Independence had a hose carriage built on the "Crane" pattern by Edmund Young of Philadelphia. It was very ornate, had three bells and cost \$650 to build. This was the last piece of apparatus Young built, since he died a short time later. To outfit the carriage, the "In de" ordered 500 feet of rubber hose at a cost of \$800. This was the first rubber hose to enter service in Camden.

The City of Camden's history of its fire department continues to recognize Edmund Young by name, recording the ornate three-bell “Crane” pattern hose carriage he built for the Independence company in 1868. More than a century and a half later, his craftsmanship remains part of Camden's documented firefighting history.

When Margaret died on March 27, 1893, her funeral was held from the residence of her son-in-law Gustave Adolph Kirchner at 714 North Third Street—the address that also became associated with the Kirchner funeral establishment. This detail suggests the closeness that remained between Margaret and her daughter’s family and shows how firmly the Young and Kirchner stories had become connected.

Margaret’s funeral notice invited members of the Royal Temple and the Lady Druids to attend. These fraternal and benevolent organizations offered fellowship, mutual assistance, and charitable support in an era before modern social services. Although the extent of Margaret’s involvement is unknown, the invitation provides evidence that her relationships reached beyond her immediate family and into Philadelphia’s broader social community.

Funeral notice for Margaret Freas Young, 1893. Her funeral was held from the North Third Street residence of her son-in-law, Gustave Adolph Kirchner. The invitation to members of the Royal Temple and Lady Druids provides a rare glimpse of Margaret’s connections beyond her immediate family.

Margaret was laid to rest beside Edmund at Mount Peace Cemetery. Together, they represent two different but connected forms of legacy: Edmund through the creations, innovations, and written records he left behind, and Margaret through the family and community relationships that carried their story into the next generation.

REFLECTION

When I first began researching Edmund Young, I expected to discover another skilled nineteenth-century tradesman. Instead, I found an inventor whose reputation extended well beyond Philadelphia. Newspaper articles from up and down the east coast of America celebrated his newest designs, documented orders arriving from other cities, and revealed a craftsman whose work helped modernize America’s volunteer fire service.

History remembers the inventor more readily than the woman who shared his life. Edmund’s achievements were preserved in newspapers, business journals, and the history of Philadelphia’s fire service. Margaret’s influence survives differently—in their children, in her community associations, and in the family connections that carried the Young legacy into the Kirchner family.

The greatest discovery was not one of Edmund’s carriages or fire apparatus, but two worn leather journals that had quietly survived for more than a century. Their pages carried me into his workshop, allowing me to glimpse the rhythm of his daily life in a way no census record or obituary ever could. Donating them to Fireman’s Hall Museum in memory of my mother, Shirley Connelly, returned a part of Edmund’s story to the city where it began.

Many craftsmen leave behind only the things they build. Edmund left behind both his creations and the written record of how he built them. Margaret helped carry that life and its family connections forward. Through their work, their children, and the journals entrusted to future generations, their legacy continues to reflect upward.

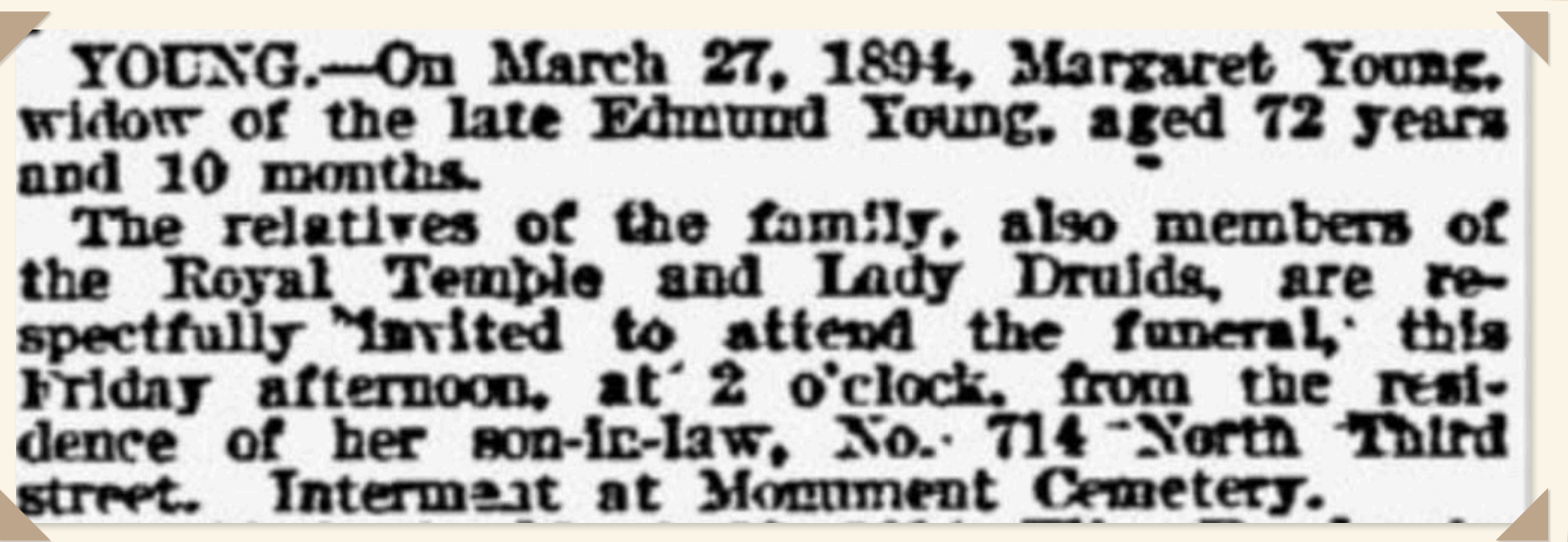
CARRY AWAY

MASTERING A CRAFT OPENS THE DOOR TO CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION, BUT A LEGACY REACHES BEYOND INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT. WHAT WE CREATE, PRESERVE, AND SHARE WITH THOSE CLOSEST TO US CAN BECOME AN INHERITANCE UPON WHICH FUTURE GENERATIONS BUILD LIVES OF THEIR OWN.

FOUR GENERATIONS OF ENTERPRISE AND ACHIEVEMENT

Markus Jung Sr. — The immigrant, merchant, and entrepreneur

Markus Young Jr. — The Revolutionary War patriot



Jacob Young — The master blacksmith, entrepreneur, and property owner

Edmund Young — The inventor, carriage builder, and nationally recognized craftsman

Each generation built upon the accomplishments of the one before it, carrying the family from immigrant beginnings to an established place among Philadelphia’s skilled craftsmen, business owners, and citizens. Their enterprise, service, ingenuity, and character created opportunities for those who followed



Fireman’s Hall Museum newsletter or journal image

Edmund Young’s surviving carriage-shop journals. Preserved by the Young family for generations, these leather-bound volumes document the customers, projects, expenses, and daily operations of his Philadelphia workshop. The family donated them to Fireman’s Hall Museum in memory of Shirley Connelly.

Page No. 13

Enumeration Dist. No. 144

506

19-0961

A.

NOTE A.—The Census Year begins June 1, 1870, and ends May 31, 1880.

NOTE B.—All persons will be included in the Enumeration who were living on the 1st day of June, 1880. No others will. Children BORN SINCE June 1, 1880, will be OMITTED. Members of Families who have DIED SINCE June 1, 1880, will be INCLUDED.

NOTE C.—Persons Nov. 13, 14, 22 and 23 are not to be asked in respect to persons under 10 years of age.

SCHEDULE I.—Inhabitants in Philadelphia, in the County of Philadelphia, State of Pennsylvania, enumerated by me on the 3rd day of June, 1880.

Edw. M. Matthews

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
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Together, Margaret and Gustave established a home within Philadelphia’s German-American community. While Gustave developed his careers as a journalist and an undertaker, Margaret managed their household and raised their children. Census records may reduce that work to a simple phrase such as “keeping house,” but maintaining a home and caring for a family in nineteenth-century Philadelphia involved responsibilities extending far beyond an occupational label.

Margaret and Gustave became the parents of four children: Mary Ellen, John, Clara Cordelia, and Katie. Their daughter Clara would later marry Charles Tuckmantel and become my great-grandmother.

The later years of Margaret’s life brought a succession of losses that is difficult to comprehend. In 1890, her son John died at only fifteen years old. Two years later, Mary Ellen died at twenty. Then, in 1896, Katie died at seventeen.

Within six years, Margaret had buried three of her four children.

Only Clara survived.

The available records have not yet revealed what caused the deaths of the three young people. They lived, however, in a period when infectious diseases—including influenza, tuberculosis, typhoid, and other illnesses—could move rapidly through Philadelphia’s neighborhoods and take young lives. The city’s water supply also remained vulnerable to sewage and industrial contamination before modern filtration and disinfection were introduced. These conditions help us understand the world in which Margaret raised her family, but they should not be mistaken for explanations of the individual deaths.

Margaret did not experience these years without family around her. Unlike Gustave, whose relatives remained behind when he emigrated from Germany, she belonged to an established American family with siblings and extended relatives nearby. The records cannot tell us precisely how they responded to each tragedy, but the larger Young family remained part of the world surrounding Margaret and Clara during those devastating years.

In 1897, only one year after Katie’s death, Margaret herself died at approximately fifty years of age. She left behind Gustave and twenty-year-old Clara, the sole surviving child of the family Margaret had spent much of her adult life raising.

Documents cannot reveal what those final years were like for Margaret or how she endured the repeated loss of her children. Some parts of a life remain beyond the reach of the historical record. The chronology alone, however, tells us that her story was not merely one of marriage, home, and motherhood. It was also a story of extraordinary grief, lived within the support of a much larger family.

And yet something from the beginning survived.

The 1870 silver bearing the initials GMK reaches back to the moment before those losses—to the year Margaret and Gustave married and their family story was just beginning. Its survival gives later generations something remarkably personal: an object associated with Margaret not at the end of her life, but at its hopeful beginning.

THE KIRCHNER FAMILY SILVER AND COCOA SERVICE

This silver service and accompanying cocoa set, bearing the intertwined initials GMK, were given to Gustav and Margaret Kirchner around the time of their marriage in 1870. Preserved and passed through the family for more than 150 years, they remain tangible links to their household and the generations that followed.

1762 of 1954

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HVS-20007-83M-6-53

Primary Dist No. 5101-461

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
DIVISION OF VITAL STATISTICS
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

File No. 35816
Registered No. 7634

BIRTH NO.

1. PLACE OF DEATH
a. County Phila.
b. City (If outside corporate limits, write RURAL and give township) Phila.
c. Length of Stay (in this place)
d. Full Name of (If not in hospital or institution, give street address or location) St. Joseph's Hospital

2. USUAL RESIDENCE (Where deceased lived. If institution: residence before admission)
a. State Pa. b. County Phila.
c. City (If outside corporate limits, write RURAL and give township) Phila.
d. Street Address 2821 W. Jefferson St.

3. NAME OF DECEASED
a. (First) Clara b. (Middle) Tuckmantel c. (Last)
(Type or Print)

4. DATE OF DEATH (Month) (Day) (Year)
4/19/54

5. SEX F 6. COLOR or RACE W 7. MARRIED, NEVER MARRIED, WIDOWED, DIVORCED (Specify) Widow 8. DATE OF BIRTH 2/14/77 9. AGE (in yrs. last birth-day) Months Days Hours Min. 11 11 11 11

10a. USUAL OCCUPATION (Give kind of work done during most of working life, even if retired) HOUSEWIFE 10b. KIND OF BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY at home

11. BIRTHPLACE (also give State or foreign country) Phila. 12. CITIZEN OF WHAT COUNTRY? U.S.A.

13. FATHER'S NAME Gustave A. Kirchner 14. MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME Margaret Young

15. WAS DECEASED EVER IN U.S. ARMED FORCES? (Yes, no or unknown) none NO 16. SOCIAL SECURITY NO. 17. INFORMANT'S OWN SIGNATURE Margaret Zimmerman Spangul Pa. ADDRESS

18. CAUSE OF DEATH
Enter only one cause per line for (a), (b), and (c)
I. DISEASE OR CONDITION DIRECTLY LEADING TO DEATH* (a) CHRONIC MYOCARDITIS:
ANTECEDENT CAUSES
*This does not mean the mode of dying, such as heart failure, asthma, etc. It means the disease, injury, or complication, which caused death.
Morbidity conditions, if any, DUE TO (b).
DUE TO (c).
II OTHER SIGNIFICANT CONDITIONS
Conditions contributing to the death but not related to the disease or condition causing death.

19a. DATE OF OPERATION 19b. MAJOR FINDINGS OF OPERATION 20. AUTOPSY? Yes No X

21a. ACCIDENT (Specify) 21b. PLACE OF INJURY (e.g., in or about home, farm, factory, street, office building, etc.) 21c. (CITY, TOWN AND TOWNSHIP) (COUNTY) (STATE)

21d. TIME (Month) (Day) (Year) Hour m. E.S.T. 21e. INJURY OCCURRED While at Work Not While at Work 21f. HOW DID INJURY OCCUR?

22. I hereby certify that a view (X) was held upon the body of the above named deceased on April 19, 1954, and that death occurred at 12:30am E.S.T. from the causes and on the date stated above.

23a. SIGNATURE OF MEDICAL EXAMINER 23b. ADDRESS

24a. BURIAL, CREMATION, REMOVAL (Specify) 24b. DATE April 22, 1954 24c. NAME OF CEMETERY OR CREMATORY Green Mount Cem. Phila. Pa. 24d. LOCATION (Town, township and county) (State)

DATE REC'D BY LOCAL REGISTRAR'S SIGNATURE Joseph G. Farrell 25. SIGNATURE OF FUNERAL DIRECTOR Henry K. Kirchner Pa. 24 W. Somerset St. Phila. 33 ADDRESS

APR 21 1954

Death Certificate of Clara Cordelia Kirchner Tuckmantel. The record identifies her parents as Gustave Kirchner and Margaret Young, documenting Clara’s place as the surviving daughter of Gustave’s first marriage and connecting the Young and Kirchner family lines.

REFLECTION

Margaret never crossed an ocean. Her place in the American story was different. She was already part of a family whose roots extended through generations of Pennsylvania life and into eighteenth-century America.

When she married Gustave, those established American roots met the story of a young German immigrant who had arrived only two years earlier. Gustave brought the courage to leave one world and begin again in another. Margaret brought family, continuity, and a sense of belonging to the country he was learning to call home.

Their marriage made those histories one.

Margaret’s life also reminds us that family history cannot be measured simply by the number of generations that followed. She knew both the happiness of creating a family and the unimaginable sorrow of losing much of it. Of the four children she raised, only Clara survived her.

And through Clara, the family continued.

Margaret could never have known how far that surviving branch would reach. Nor could she have known that an object bearing her initials and dated to the year of her marriage would still be cherished more than a century and a half later.

History records only fragments of Margaret’s life, but together they reveal a woman at the center of a much larger family story—a daughter, wife, and mother who became the bridge between generations already rooted in America and the immigrant husband who was just beginning his American life.

CARRY AWAY

STRONG FAMILY CONNECTIONS CREATE A PLACE OF SUPPORT THROUGH BOTH HAPPINESS AND GREAT LOSS. THE TIME WE SPEND BUILDING THOSE RELATIONSHIPS MATTERS BECAUSE NONE OF US KNOWS WHAT CHALLENGES A FAMILY MAY SOMEDAY FACE.

Love does not prevent loss, but it gives a family something that can survive it. Margaret’s family continued through Clara, through the generations that followed, through stories that were remembered, and even through treasured objects carefully passed from one pair of hands to another.

CLOSING REFLECTION ACROSS THE YOUNG LINE:

Looking across these generations, a pattern begins to emerge. The Young family did not produce famous generals, governors, or industrial tycoons. Instead, they produced something equally enduring—immigrants, patriots, craftsmen, inventors, mothers, and fathers whose quiet labor strengthened their families and communities. Each generation built upon the work of the one before it, passing along skills, values, and opportunity. By the time their story joins the Kirchner family, nearly a century of American roots had already taken hold. Those roots would continue to grow, eventually becoming part of the family, whose story fills the pages that follow.

II. The American Portraits

YOUNG → KIRCHNER → TUCKMANTEL

Margaret Young’s marriage to Gustav Adolph Kirchner united two families whose stories now become one.



WOLFE → FREAS → YOUNG → KIRCHNER → TUCKMANTEL





Portrait of Gustave Kirchner—“Grandpop Kirchner,” as identified by his granddaughter Margaret Tuckmantel Zimmerman on the reverse side of the photograph.

Gustave Adolph Kirchner

OCTOBER 24, 1850 – MARCH 1, 1927

Second Great-Grandfather

AN ENTREPRENEUR, JOURNALIST, AND VOICE OF PHILADELPHIA’S GERMAN-AMERICANS

Gustave Adolph Kirchner was born on October 24, 1850, in Vilbel, Grand Duchy of Hesse—present-day Bad Vilbel, Germany—the son of Johann Georg Kirchner and Margaretha Elisabetha Stier. He spent his childhood in a close-knit German community where skilled trades, faith, and family helped shape everyday life. At eighteen, Gustave made the courageous decision to leave his homeland and begin again in America. Passenger records show that he departed Hamburg aboard the steamship *Holsatia* and arrived in New York on August 3, 1868. The passenger manifest identifies him as an eighteen-year-old craftsman traveling alone to the United States, one of thousands of young Germans seeking opportunity during the great wave of nineteenth-century immigration.

Gustave soon settled in Philadelphia, one of the largest centers of German-American life in the United States. There he began building a new life while remaining deeply connected to the language, traditions, and culture of his homeland.

His early years in America reveal a young man eager to participate in his new community. A Philadelphia newspaper reported that he served as chairman of the women’s school committee for the Philadelphia Turngemeinde’s annual Christmas celebration, helping to organize gifts and festivities for hundreds of German immigrant children. The event reflected the strong mutual support within Philadelphia’s German community and suggests that Gustave quickly earned the confidence of those around him.

On September 22, 1870, Gustave married Margaret A. Young, the Philadelphia-born daughter of respected carriage manufacturer and inventor Edmund Young. Their marriage united a young German immigrant with a family whose Pennsylvania roots extended back through several generations. Margaret brought Gustave family connections and a sense of belonging in his adopted country; together they joined two very different American experiences.

A silver service dated 1870 and bearing the initials **GMK**, for Gustave and Margaret Kirchner, survives from the beginning of their marriage. Preserved through their descendants for more than 150 years, it remains a tangible connection to the young couple at the hopeful beginning of their life together.

Gustave and Margaret became the parents of four children: Mary Ellen, John, Clara Cordelia, and Katie. Their years together eventually brought extraordinary loss. John died in 1890 at fifteen, Mary Ellen in 1892 at twenty, and Katie in 1896 at seventeen. Margaret died the following year at approximately fifty years of age. Clara was the only one of their children to survive.

In 1898, Gustave married Elizabeth and began another chapter of his family life. They subsequently had two children, Lillian, born in 1900, and Gustav Jr., born in 1902. That same year, Clara married Charles Tuckmantel and began raising a family of her own.

Although Gustave rebuilt his life, he continued to look after Clara. In his will, he made substantial provisions for his surviving daughter from his first marriage, leaving her \$15,000 and real estate, including the family home and another property. Years later, Elizabeth made her own generous bequest to Clara, further demonstrating the enduring bonds within this blended family.

Professionally, Gustave built a remarkably diverse career. He became associated with Sohl Pemsel in the undertaking profession and later became a partner in the firm of Kirchner & Pemsel. As an undertaker and funeral director, he served Philadelphia families during some of the most difficult moments of their lives.

At the same time, Gustave worked as a reporter and writer for the *Philadelphia Morgen-Gazette*, one of the city’s German-language newspapers. Through journalism, he became a recognizable voice within Philadelphia’s German-speaking population, helping immigrants remain connected through news, culture, and public affairs.

Gustave also participated actively in German-American civic and cultural organizations. He belonged to the Philadelphia Turngemeinde, where he frequently served as chairman and toastmaster at public gatherings, and took part in organizations dedicated to preserving German language, heritage, fellowship, and community life. His leadership reflected his ability as a public speaker and the respect he earned among his peers.

Gustave died on March 1, 1927, after nearly six decades in America. He had arrived alone at eighteen with the determination to create a new life. By the end of that life, he had become an entrepreneur, undertaker, journalist, civic leader, husband, father, and proud German-American.

His life encompassed remarkable change: immigration, marriage, business ownership, public service, devastating personal loss, remarriage, and the growth of another generation around him. Through each chapter, Gustave continued building.

With Gustave, the American branch of the Kirchner family began. The family, property, heirlooms, and descendants that followed became part of the legacy of the eighteen-year-old immigrant who stepped ashore in America in 1868.

REFLECTION

Gustave’s life demonstrates that success is measured by more than financial achievement. He built a business, informed a community through journalism, preserved the culture of his homeland, and helped fellow immigrants create a sense of belonging in America.

His story also reveals another kind of resilience. After losses that could easily have defined the remainder of his life, Gustave continued forward. He remarried, raised another family, maintained his work and community involvement, and provided generously for Clara, the daughter who survived from his first marriage.



Business—Then and Now

Gustave Kirchner’s undertaking establishment, then and now. The business stood near the Philadelphia Turngemeinde, an important center of German-American athletic, cultural, and community life. Its location placed Gustave’s work close to the community he served as an undertaker, journalist, and civic leader.



Gustave Kirchner’s business advertisement includes his portrait and presents him as an established undertaker. It documents not simply an occupation, but the business and professional reputation he built in Philadelphia.

Building a life is not something accomplished only once. Sometimes it requires the courage to build again.

CARRY AWAY

TAKE CHANCES ON NEW EXPERIENCES. BUYING A ONE-WAY TICKET TO AMERICA WAS BOLD, BUT IT WAS NO BOLDER THAN MANY OF THE DAY-TO-DAY RISKS THAT FOLLOWED. CONTINUE IMPROVING YOUR SKILLS AND YOUR WORK. PRACTICE, ADAPT, AND LOOK FOR WAYS TO DO THINGS BETTER. A POSITIVE PATH FORWARD IS RARELY FOUND BY STANDING STILL.

And perhaps someone who spent his life around death would remind us of something else: do not become so afraid of the end that you forget to live along the way.

THE AMERICAN PORTRAITS

TUCKMANTEL

LOOKING AHEAD

The research completed to date reveals strong opportunities to extend the **Tuckmantel family** farther back in time and more broadly across Europe. While this volume focuses on the lives our ancestors built in America, the surviving European records point to an equally rich story waiting to be explored.

The goal, however, is not simply to add more names to the family tree, but to develop a deeper and richer understanding of the people, places, communities, and traditions from which our American ancestors came. Their lives provide the historical context that shaped the men and women who eventually crossed the Atlantic to begin new lives in America.

The American story stands complete on its own. Yet it also serves as the foundation for future research, inviting later generations to continue exploring the centuries that came before and to discover how those earlier lives ultimately **reflected forward** into our own.



Gravesite of Gustave Adolph Kirchner. The substantial and dignified monument seems particularly fitting for an undertaker who spent much of his professional life helping other Philadelphia families honor and memorialize their dead.



Couple's Photograph

Charles and Emilie Ecker Tuckmantel, whose shared life in Philadelphia united skilled craftsmanship, family, music, and the courage to begin again in America.

Charles Karl Tuckmantel & Emilie Ecker Tuckmantel

JULY 8, 1839 – NOVEMBER 2, 1926
AUGUST 10, 1848 – APRIL 6, 1921

Second Great-Grandparents

A CRAFTSMAN AND A COURAGEOUS YOUNG IMMIGRANT

Charles Karl Tuckmantel and Emilie Ecker were born near Solingen, Prussia, a region renowned throughout Europe for its master craftsmen, precision metalwork, and finely made blades. Each left Germany separately and crossed the Atlantic to begin a new life in America. Their paths came together in Philadelphia, where Charles’s skill and Emilie’s courage helped establish the American Tuckmantel family.

Charles was born on July 8, 1839, and grew up in an environment where skilled metalworking was both a trade and a tradition. In Philadelphia city directories, he first appeared as a cutler—a craftsman who made or repaired knives and edged tools—and later as an instrument maker. His occupations required precision, patience, and a practiced hand, reflecting the metalworking traditions of the Solingen region.

Before leaving Germany, Charles married Henrieqe Wieler on June 13, 1864, in the Evangelical Church at Ketzberg, Dabringhausen. Family tradition holds that she died before Charles began his new life in America. Although her death has not yet been documented, Charles’s subsequent marriage in Philadelphia strongly suggests that he had been widowed.

Charles immigrated to the United States near the end of the Civil War, reportedly arriving about 1865, and established himself in Philadelphia. One possible passenger record lists a German man identified as “C. Tucks,” age twenty-four, arriving in New York aboard the *Romania* in 1865. The name, age, nationality, and timing make him a possible match for Charles, although the identification cannot be confirmed. In the 1920 census, it provides information that Charles became a naturalized American citizen in 1879. Searches for Charles in Naturalization Index Records of Philadelphia produced no results.

Emilie Ecker was born on August 18, 1848, in Solingen, the daughter of Johann Peter Ecker and Sophie Laubenburg, and was baptized six days later. At nineteen, she left Germany for America, sailing from Bremen aboard the steamship *Bremen*. She arrived in New York on September 23, 1867. The passenger manifest records her at exactly nineteen years old, matching her German birth record. She appears to have made the voyage without her parents, leaving behind the familiar world of her childhood to build a future in a country she had never seen.

On April 4, 1869, Charles married Emilie Ecker at Salem Zion Church in Philadelphia. Emilie had arrived from Germany less than two years earlier, after crossing the Atlantic alone at nineteen. They established a home in North Philadelphia, where they raised nine children. Family photographs preserved from these years allow us to see not simply names and dates, but the faces of the family they created together.

For more than thirty-five years, Charles worked for the S. S. White Dental Manufacturing Company, one of Philadelphia’s leading precision-manufacturing firms. Founded in 1844, the company became internationally known for its dental instruments and equipment. For a German craftsman trained in the traditions of Solingen, it was a fitting place to build a long American working life.

Charles also became closely associated with Philadelphia’s Arion Singing Society, an important German-American musical organization founded in 1857. His obituary remembered him as “one of the founders” of the society. Although surviving institutional histories identify six other men as its original founders, the description reflects the importance and longevity of Charles’s association with the organization. Music provided a place beyond work—a source of fellowship, cultural continuity, and enjoyment within Philadelphia’s German community.

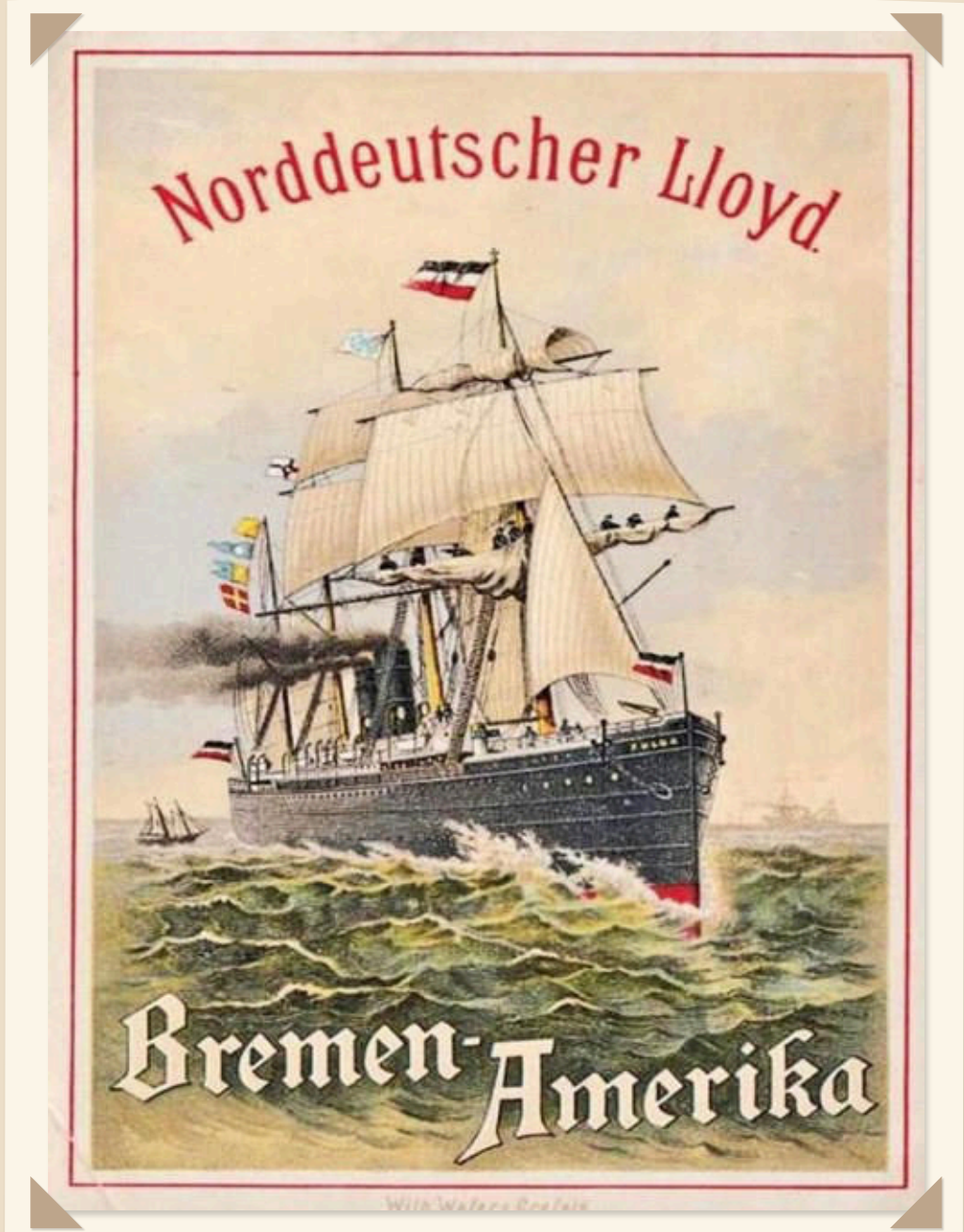
An enduring family story holds that Emilie won the Irish Sweepstakes Lottery, an extraordinary stroke of luck said to have strengthened the family’s financial security. Whether every detail survived precisely is less important than the affection with which the story continued to be told. More than a century later, Emilie was still remembered as the young woman whose courage—and good fortune—helped shape the family’s future.

Emilie died on April 6, 1921. Charles survived her by five years, dying on November 2, 1926, at the age of eighty-seven. By then, they had watched their children establish families of their own and had carried the Tuckmantel name firmly into its American chapter.

Charles brought the precision and discipline of a German craftsman to his new country. Emilie brought the courage to cross the Atlantic alone at nineteen. Together they built a life that made room for demanding work, family, music, fellowship, and even a little unexpected luck.

CARRY AWAY

SING A SONG. MAKE TIME BEYOND WORK FOR FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND THE INTERESTS THAT RENEW YOU. A WELL-BUILT LIFE REQUIRES NOT ONLY PURPOSE AND EFFORT, BUT BALANCE.



North German Lloyd Poster

North German Lloyd connected Bremen with New York and carried thousands of German immigrants toward new lives in America. At nineteen, Emilie Ecker made that journey aboard the steamship Bremen, arriving in New York on September 23, 1867.

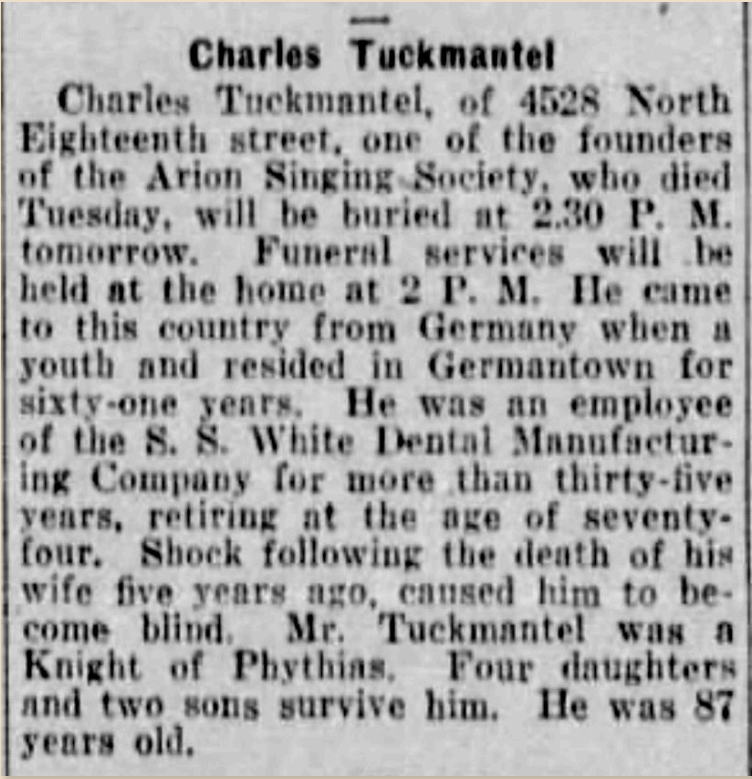


Marriage of Charles Tuckmantel and Emilie Ecker, April 4, 1869

The Salem Zion Church register records the Philadelphia marriage of Carl Tuckmantel and Emilie Ecker. Ancestry mistakenly indexed the surname as “Duckmantel,” obscuring the record for more than 150 years.

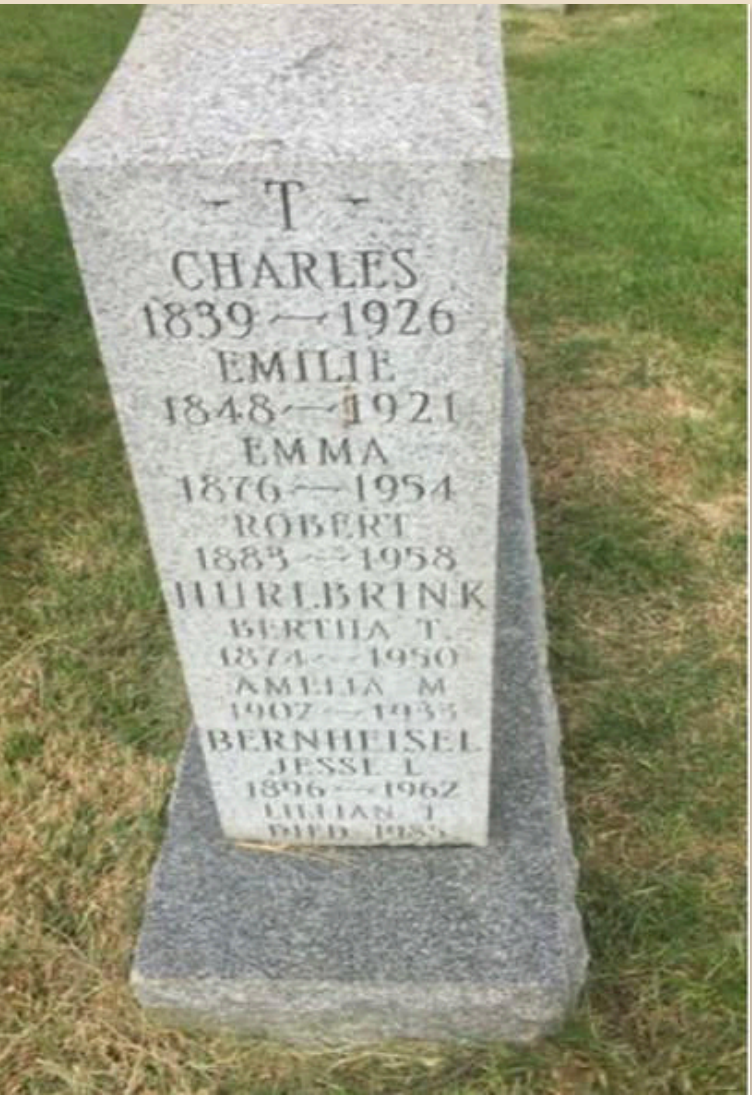


A younger portrait of Charles Tuckmantel



Charles Tuckmantel’s Obituary

Charles Tuckmantel’s 1926 obituary remembered his thirty-five years with the S. S. White Dental Manufacturing Company and his role as a founder of Philadelphia’s Arion Singing Society—a life shaped by skilled work, music, and community.



Tuckmantel Family Monument

The Tuckmantel family monument marks the resting place of Charles and Emilie, whose separate journeys from Germany came together in Philadelphia and established a family legacy in America.



Charles Tuckmantel & Clara Cordialia Kirchner Tuckmantel

JUNE 21, 1872 – NOVEMBER 9, 1933
FEBRUARY 14, 1877 – APRIL 19, 1954

Great-Grandparents

THE CRAFTSMAN WHO ADAPTED AND THE WOMAN WHO MADE FAMILY HER LEGACY

Charles Tuckmantel, a skilled Philadelphia watchmaker and jeweler whose craftsmanship and determination sustained his family through adversity.

Charles Tuckmantel was born on June 21, 1872, in Philadelphia, the son of German immigrants Charles Karl Tuckmantel and Emilie Ecker. Born only a few years after his parents arrived in America, Charles belonged to the first American-born generation of the Tuckmantel family. He grew up within Philadelphia’s thriving German-American community, where skilled craftsmanship, hard work, and devotion to family were deeply rooted traditions.

Clara Cordialia Kirchner was born in Philadelphia on February 14, 1877. She was the daughter of German immigrant Gustave Adolph Kirchner—a funeral director, entrepreneur, and newspaper editor—and Margaret “Maggie” Young Kirchner. Although born in America, Clara was also raised in a home shaped by German language and culture, as well as the traditions of the Young family whose American roots extended back to the colonial period.

Clara’s middle name, Cordialia, was not traditionally German. Best known through Shakespeare’s *King Lear*, the name had become familiar in nineteenth-century America. Its pairing with Clara offers a small but intriguing reflection of her family’s evolving identity: she was the Philadelphia-born daughter of German immigrants, raised within German traditions but belonging to a new American generation.

Clara’s childhood was marked by profound loss. Her brother John died in 1890, her sister Mary Ellen in 1892, and her sister Katie in 1896. In 1897, Clara also lost her mother, Margaret. By the time she reached adulthood, Clara was the only surviving child of Gustave and Margaret Kirchner.

On October 19, 1898, Charles and Clara married in Philadelphia, uniting two established German-American families. A contemporary newspaper listing announcing the marriage license preserved their names together at the beginning of a partnership that would last thirty-five years.

They made their home in Philadelphia’s Twenty-Ninth Ward and raised three children—Margaret Emilie, Charles Gustav, and Katherine Louise. Federal censuses from 1900 through 1930 follow the family across more than three decades, with Charles supporting the household through his craft and Clara creating its steady center.



Clara Cordialia Kirchner Tuckmantel, remembered for her independence, warmth, and the freedom she gave children to simply be children.



Marriage-license notice

A beginning recorded in print. The 1898 newspaper listing of marriage licenses includes Charles Tuckmantel Jr. and Clara Kirchner. They married in Philadelphia on October 19, 1898.

Charles earned his living as a watchmaker and jeweler, work that demanded patience, precision, and meticulous attention to detail. His abilities were likely influenced by the example of his father, a skilled metalworker. In an era before disposable goods, craftsmen like Charles repaired watches and jewelry that families expected to preserve for generations. Family members remembered him as an exceptionally talented craftsman whose careful workmanship earned the trust of those who placed valued possessions in his hands.

At some point, Charles lost a leg. A family photograph shows him seated on the porch of his home, with a crutch beside him—a quiet but powerful image of the physical hardship he faced. Rather than allowing the disability to end his working life, Charles adapted. Family tradition recalls that he expanded his work from home, repairing watches and jewelry for neighbors who came to rely upon his skill, fair prices, and honest dealings. His reputation traveled through the recommendations of satisfied customers.

While Charles demonstrated resilience through his craft, Clara provided the warmth and stability that sustained their home. Together they experienced a period of remarkable change—from horse-drawn transportation to automobiles, from gaslight to electricity, through World War I and into the opening years of the Great Depression. They adapted to a rapidly changing world while remaining devoted to their children and to one another.

The documentary record also reveals how carefully Clara’s future had been protected. Her father, Gustave Adolph Kirchner, provided her with \$15,000 and real estate, including a family home and another property. These substantial provisions offered her a measure of financial security and independence. For a father who had lost his wife and three of their four children, Clara was his only surviving child from his first marriage.

Gustave’s second wife, Elizabeth Kirchner, continued that pattern of care by leaving Clara an additional \$5,000 in her will. The document offers no explanation for the bequest, but the gift itself suggests a meaningful relationship between Clara and the woman who had become her stepmother.

That family care can also be traced through treasured objects preserved across the generations. A silver service dated 1870 and bearing the initials “GMK” connects the heirloom to Gustave and Margaret Kirchner at the beginning of their life together. Although no surviving document confirms its original purpose, the date and initials suggest that it may have been a wedding gift. A cocoa service was preserved alongside it, likewise, remembered as a family heirloom.

These objects were treated differently from ordinary household possessions. Carefully protected rather than dispersed through everyday use, they passed through Clara’s descendants as a material connection to earlier generations. The wills, houses, and heirlooms together reveal something the census cannot: Clara belonged to a family in which love and responsibility were expressed in tangible ways—through financial protection, a secure home, cherished possessions, and memories deliberately handed down.

Charles died on November 9, 1933, at the age of sixty-one. His death certificate identifies his occupation as jeweler and records pulmonary tuberculosis, with pulmonary hemorrhage as a contributing cause. After thirty-five years of marriage, Clara entered more than two decades of widowhood. The 1940 and 1950 censuses record her as head of her household, reflecting the independence that characterized the final chapter of her life.

Clara died at her Jefferson Street home on April 19, 1954, at the age of seventy-seven. Her obituary recorded that she was survived by two daughters, seven grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren—a family extending outward from the home she and Charles had created.



Charles on the porch

Charles seated on the porch of his Philadelphia home, with his crutch beside him. After losing a leg, he adapted his work as a watchmaker and jeweler and continued providing for his family through the skill of his own hands.



Clara Cordialia Kirchner Tuckmantel in later life. This second surviving portrait allows us to see her not only as Charles’s young wife, but as the independent woman and family matriarch she became.

For our family, however, Clara is remembered for something far more personal than any census, will, or death certificate can convey. She was my mother Shirley’s favorite person. Throughout her life, my mother spoke of Clara with unmistakable affection, remembering her as an independent thinker who knew how to enjoy life. She recalled her warmth, kindness, gentle spirit, and quiet strength—and especially the freedom Clara gave children to simply be children.

Charles and Clara left different but complementary legacies. Charles showed that hardship need not determine the course of a life. He adapted, trusted his skill, and continued providing for his family through the work of his own hands. Clara created a home in which affection, patience, and individuality could flourish. Together, they demonstrated that family strength is built through both perseverance and love.

Clara died at her Jefferson Street home on April 19, 1954, at the age of seventy-seven, leaving behind two daughters, seven grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, and a legacy of warmth that continued through them.

CARRY AWAY

WHEN LIFE CHANGES UNEXPECTEDLY, ADAPT WITHOUT SURRENDERING WHAT GIVES YOU PURPOSE. CHARLES CONTINUED CREATING AND PROVIDING THROUGH THE SKILL OF HIS OWN HANDS, WHILE CLARA FILLED THEIR HOME WITH WARMTH AND GAVE CHILDREN THE FREEDOM TO BE THEMSELVES. THE OBSTACLES WE OVERCOME AND THE WAY WE MAKE OTHERS FEEL MAY BECOME THE LEGACIES REMEMBERED LONGEST.

THE AMERICAN PORTRAITS

WOLFE → FREAS → YOUNG → KIRCHNER → TUCKMANTEL

THE EARLIEST ROAD TO AMERICA

The earliest documented journey to America in this family story begins with **Hans Bernhard Wolfe and Susanna Ludwig**. In 1727, they left Germany with members of their family, crossed the Atlantic aboard the *William and Sarah*, and arrived in Philadelphia on September 18.

Their voyage marks the beginning of nearly three centuries of documented family life in America. Other branches would follow different routes, at different times and under different circumstances. But among the families whose portraits appear in these pages, the Wolfes provide our earliest known starting point.

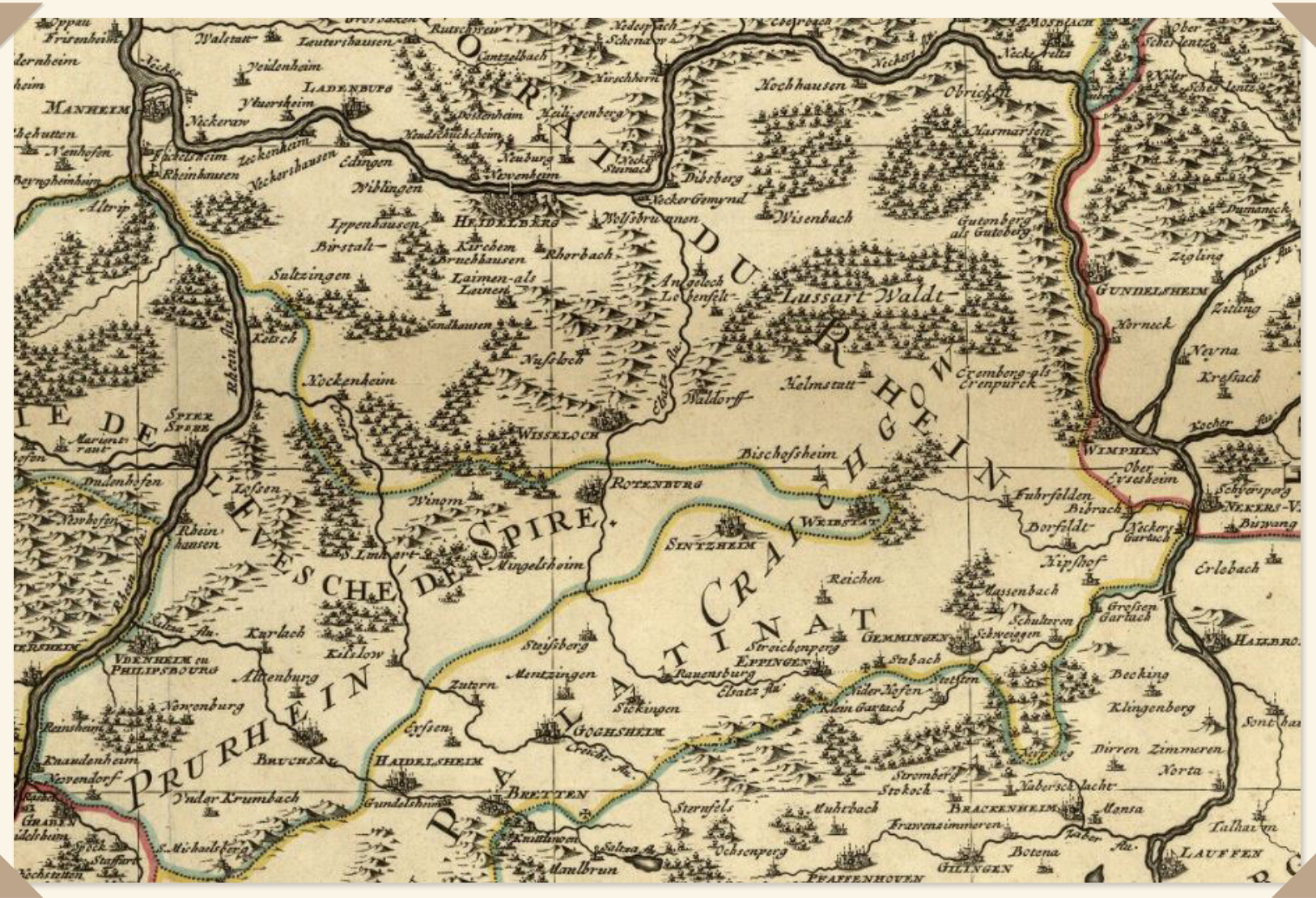
Their road to America becomes the opening road in our American family story.

Mrs. C. Tuckmantel

Mrs. Clara Kirchner Tuckmantel, widow of Charles Tuckmantel, died Sunday at her home, 2821 Jefferson st. She was 77.

She is survived by two daughters, Mrs. John Zimmerman and Mrs. Walter Clement; seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held at 1:30 P. M. Thursday at her home.



The Wolfe Family’s German Homeland, circa 1700

This map shows Sinsheim—identified as “Sintzheim” near the center—and the surrounding region of Baden where Hans Bernhard and Susanna Wolfe raised their family. Nearby Steinsfurt was the site of Hans Bernhard’s 1674 baptism and the recorded baptisms of their children.

Source: Guillaume Sanson, *Oriental Part of the Palatinate and the Electorate of the Rhine* (Paris, 1700). Image reproduced by the Janet and Robert Wolfe Genealogy collection, hosted on the University of Michigan website; original map referenced through Old Maps Online.

Hans Bernhard Wolfe & Susanna Ludwig

MARCH 2, 1674 – NOVEMBER 1756 | 1675–1757

Seventh Great-Grandparents

GERMAN IMMIGRANTS · WEAVER · PENNSYLVANIA PIONEERS

Hans Bernhard Wolfe was born in Steinsfurt, Baden, Germany, and baptized there on March 2, 1674, the son of Isaac Wolff and Elisabetha Ludwig. Susanna Ludwig was born in the same community the following year.

Together, Hans and Susanna raised a large family in Steinsfurt. The Reformed church records document the baptisms of nine children between 1695 and 1716. Two died young. Their surviving children included sons Hans Georg, Johannes Bernhard, George Michael and Jeremias, and daughters Anna Maria, Susanna and Anna Elisabeth.

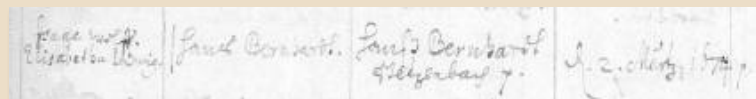
By 1727, Hans and Susanna were no longer young people setting out to find themselves. They were a couple in their early fifties with an established family, leaving behind the community where they had spent their lives and where their children had been born. Their departure was not simply Hans’s immigration—it was the movement of a family.

On September 18, 1727, the *William and Sarah* arrived at Philadelphia carrying approximately 400 emigrants, including Hans Bernhard Wolfe and members of his family. The ship, commanded by William Hill, had sailed from Rotterdam by way of Dover, England.

The surviving records preserve Hans’s name in several forms, including Jans Bernard Wolff and Hans Bernhart Wolff. On September 21, three days after the ship’s arrival, he appeared before Pennsylvania’s governor and council and took the required oath of fidelity.

Later research by genealogist Annette Kunselman Burgert connected the immigrant with the Wolfe family documented in the Steinsfurt Reformed church books. Burgert’s research brought together the German parish records, and the Pennsylvania passenger lists, identifying six members of the family in the 1727 migration.

Hans and Susanna are unusually well documented for a family living more than three centuries ago. The extensive Janet and Robert Wolfe Genealogy collection, hosted on the University of Michigan website, brings together images and transcriptions from the Steinsfurt church registers, colonial passenger and oath lists, published German emigration research, and Lancaster County land, tax and probate records. Taken together, these sources create a strong documentary connection between the Wolfe family of Steinsfurt and the family that settled in colonial Pennsylvania.



1674 Baptism record of Hans Bernhardt, son of Isaac and Elisabetha Wolf

Steinsfurt Mischbuch 1653-1790, image 12.



The William and Sarah — period-style illustration

Hans Bernhard Wolfe and his family arrived at Philadelphia aboard the William and Sarah on September 18, 1727.

William and Sarah 1727 9

were imported into this Province in the Ship William and Sarah, William Hill, Master, from Rotterdam, but last from Dover, as by Clearance from the Officers of his Majesties Customs there; And the said Master being asked, if he had any license from the Court of Great Britain for transporting those People, & what their Intentions were in coming hither, said that he had no other License or Allowance for their Transportation than the above Clearance, and that he believed they designed to settle in this Province. They were then called in, and the several Persons whose names were subjoined did repeat & subscribe the foregoing Declaration."

From the Minutes of the Provincial Council, printed in *Colonial Records*, vol. III, p. 283.

[List 1 B] Palatines imported in the ship Will^m & Sarah, Will^m Hill, Comm^r from Rotterdam, who hereunto sett their hands the 21st of Sep^r 1727, in the presence of the Gov^r & Council.

G. M. Weis, V.D.M.*	Hans Mart. (W) Weller
Johann Georg Schwab	Hans Jerg Vögelle
Hans Bernhart Wolff	Willem Herr
Joh. Friederich Hilligass	Johannes Barth
Rudolff Beyl	Hans Caspar Spengler
Hans Michel Diel	Hans Görg Cremmer
Sebastian Gräff	Hanns Martin Mill
Johannes Huth	Andres (A) Holsbacher
Philibs Jacob Rheinlender	Jacob Bausel
Philip (X) Zigler	Hans Adam (/) Miller
Tobias Frey	Johan Jacob Cuntz
Hans Jerch Anspacher	Hans Jörg Wolff
Johann Peter Seitz	Philib Rutschly
Joseph Albrecht	Hans Ernst Rudi
Johannes Eckman	Elias Meyer
Jerich Schuhmacher	Hans Michael Zimmerman
Jacob Jost	Hans Görg Welcker
Michel Böttle	Hans Phillip Schweikhardt
Rutolf Wellecker	Allexand. Dübendorfer
Jeorg Petter	Hans Martin Liebenstein

* For the history of this colony, led by the Reformed minister, George Michael Weiss, see *History of the Goshenhoppen Charge*, pp. 19-45.

Oath of Fidelity, September 21, 1727

Three days after the *William and Sarah* arrived at Philadelphia, Hans Bernhart Wolff appeared before Pennsylvania's governor and council and took the required oath of fidelity. His name appears in the left column.

Source: Ralph Beaver Strassburger, *Pennsylvania German Pioneers*, edited by William John Hinke, vol. 1 (1934), 9, List 1B.

When Hans and Susanna stepped ashore, they brought with them not merely their belongings, but decades of family life already established in Germany. Their eldest son, Hans Georg, had been baptized in December 1695. Their youngest documented daughter, Anna Elisabetha, had been baptized in 1716. The family arriving in Pennsylvania therefore included both adults and younger children whose lives had begun in Steinsfurt.

The Wolfes became part of the substantial German migration transforming colonial Pennsylvania. Family histories place them among the Palatine settlers associated with the Tulpehocken region, while surviving records also connect members of the family with Lancaster County. There Hans established himself sufficiently to own a house and lot and to practice his trade as a weaver.

That occupation gives us an unusually tangible glimpse of his everyday life. Hans Bernhard Wolfe was not a political leader, military commander or wealthy colonial figure. He was a craftsman. Weaving was skilled and necessary work in an eighteenth-century community. Cloth had to be made, households clothed and the practical needs of a growing settlement met. Hans’s trade placed him squarely within the working life of colonial Pennsylvania.

Near the end of his life, the record becomes remarkably personal.

On November 2, 1756, describing himself as “Bernhard Wolfe of the Borough of Lancaster in the County of Lancaster, Weaver,” Hans made his last will and testament. He was “very sick and weak of body” but declared himself of sound mind and memory.

The complete transcript of his will follows. Its original spelling has been preserved.

THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF BERNHARD WOLFE

November 2, 1756

ORIGINAL-RECORD REFERENCE:

Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, Probate Records, Will Book B, page 145, will of Bernhard Wolfe, dated November 2, 1756; proved November 6, 1756.

TRANSCRIPT REFERENCE:

Transcript reproduced by Janet and Robert Wolfe Genealogy, hosted on the University of Michigan website, citing Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, Probate Records, B-145; also available in the *Pennsylvania, U.S., Wills and Probate Records* collection at Ancestry.

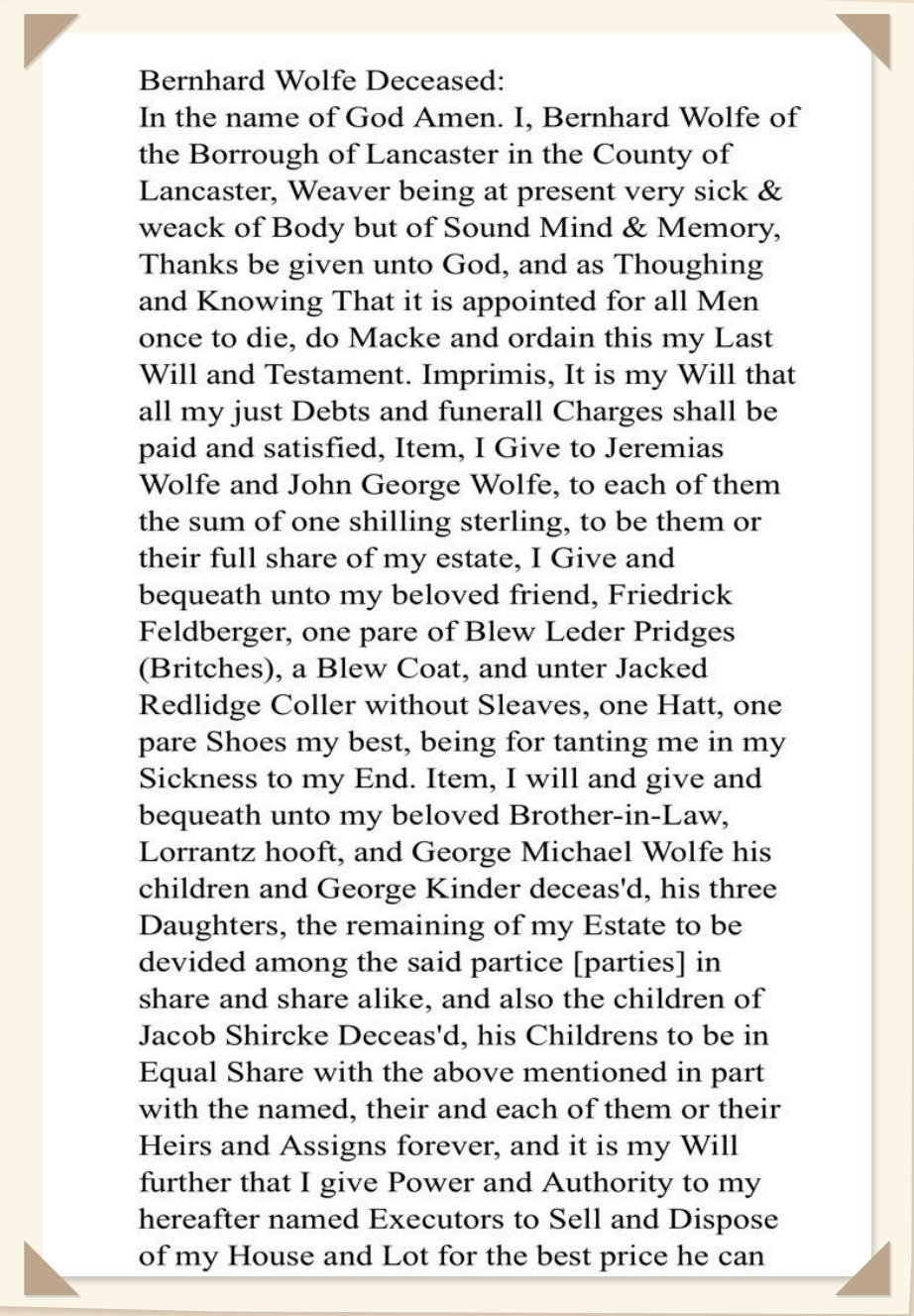
The will reveals more than property. It reveals relationships.

Hans remembered Jeremias Wolfe and John George Wolfe and provided for members of the extended family, including descendants of those who had died before him. He directed that his house and lot be sold and that the remainder of his estate be distributed according to his instructions.

One small bequest may tell us more about Hans than the property does.

To his friend Friedrick Feldberger, Hans left a pair of blue leather breeches, a blue coat, a red-colored sleeveless jacket, a hat and his best pair of shoes. He also explained why: his friend had attended him during his sickness and remained with him to the end.

More than 250 years later, that acknowledgment survives. Amid instructions concerning property and inheritance, Hans remembered the friend who stayed beside him when he was sick.



to each partice his share. Item, I Nominate
Macke and appoint my beloved Friend, George
Michael Swob to be my Executor to this my last
Will and Testament And do hereby utterly
Desallow revocke and Desanull all and every
other Wills, Legacies and Executors by me at
any time before this time named Willed and
bequeathed, Ratifying and Confirming this and
no others to be my last Will and Testament. In
Witness whereof I have here unto set my hand
and Seal to the second Day of November in the
Year of our lord, One Thousand seven hundred
and fifty six, 1756.
Barnhard (his Marke) Wolfe
Memorantom, That the 24th line the word
Jacob was interlined before Sealing & Signing.

Signed sealed published pronounced and
declared by the said Bernhard Wolfe as his last
Will & Testament in the presents of us - Abram
Myer - Martin Shretter -

Complete will transcript

Hans marked his will on November 2, 1756. Four days later, on November 6, witnesses appeared before the Lancaster County authorities to prove it. The contemporary probate record establishes that he was alive in November 1756, superseding a later family tradition that placed his death in 1748.

Susanna survived him. Her life had begun in Steinsfurt in 1675 and ended in Pennsylvania in 1757. Together, their lives stretched across more than eighty years and across an ocean—from a small German community to a rapidly developing British colony in North America.

They arrived as part of a family. They established themselves in Pennsylvania. Their children and grandchildren carried the Wolfe family forward into succeeding generations of American life.

And Hans left behind one particularly appropriate word by which we can remember him:

Weaver.

That occupation gives us an unusually tangible glimpse of his everyday life. Hans Bernhard

Wolfe was a textile weaver—a skilled craftsman who operated a loom to interlace threads of wool, flax or other fibers into cloth. He did not weave baskets; he produced the fabric needed for clothing, bedding and other household necessities. In an eighteenth-century community where most goods had to be made locally, his work was both practical and essential. He spent his working life taking individual threads and joining them into something useful and enduring.

Nearly three centuries later, his family’s thread remains part of a much larger American fabric.

Research and selected historical images: Janet and Robert Wolfe Genealogy, hosted on the University of Michigan website. Original records and image sources credited individually where identified.

CARRY AWAY

WHAT WE WEAVE INTO THE LIVES OF OTHERS CAN
OUTLAST US.



Burial location: Saint Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church Cemetery in Lafayette Hill, Pennsylvania for Ann Elizabeth Hirsch Friese and George Friese Sr.

George Freas (Friess) Sr. & Ann Elizabeth Hirsch

1729–1809 | 1728–1800

Sixth Great-Grandparents

BEGINNING AGAIN IN PENNSYLVANIA

George Freas, whose name appears in records in several forms, including Georg Friess and George Freiss, was born in Germany in 1729. In 1754, at about twenty-five years old, he immigrated to Pennsylvania. His name appears among the immigrants arriving that year, beginning the American chapter of a family that would remain rooted in southeastern Pennsylvania for generations.

By 1765, George was living in White Marsh, then part of Philadelphia County. A surviving record identifies George Freiss there in connection with the naturalization of foreign Protestants and records him as a juror. Only eleven years after his arrival, he had established a place within the community where he was building his life.

George and Ann Elizabeth made their home in the Whitemarsh and Upper Merion area. Their lives became intertwined with a growing German-American community of farms, churches, tradesmen, and neighboring settlements outside Philadelphia. By the 1800 census, George was recorded in Upper Merion.

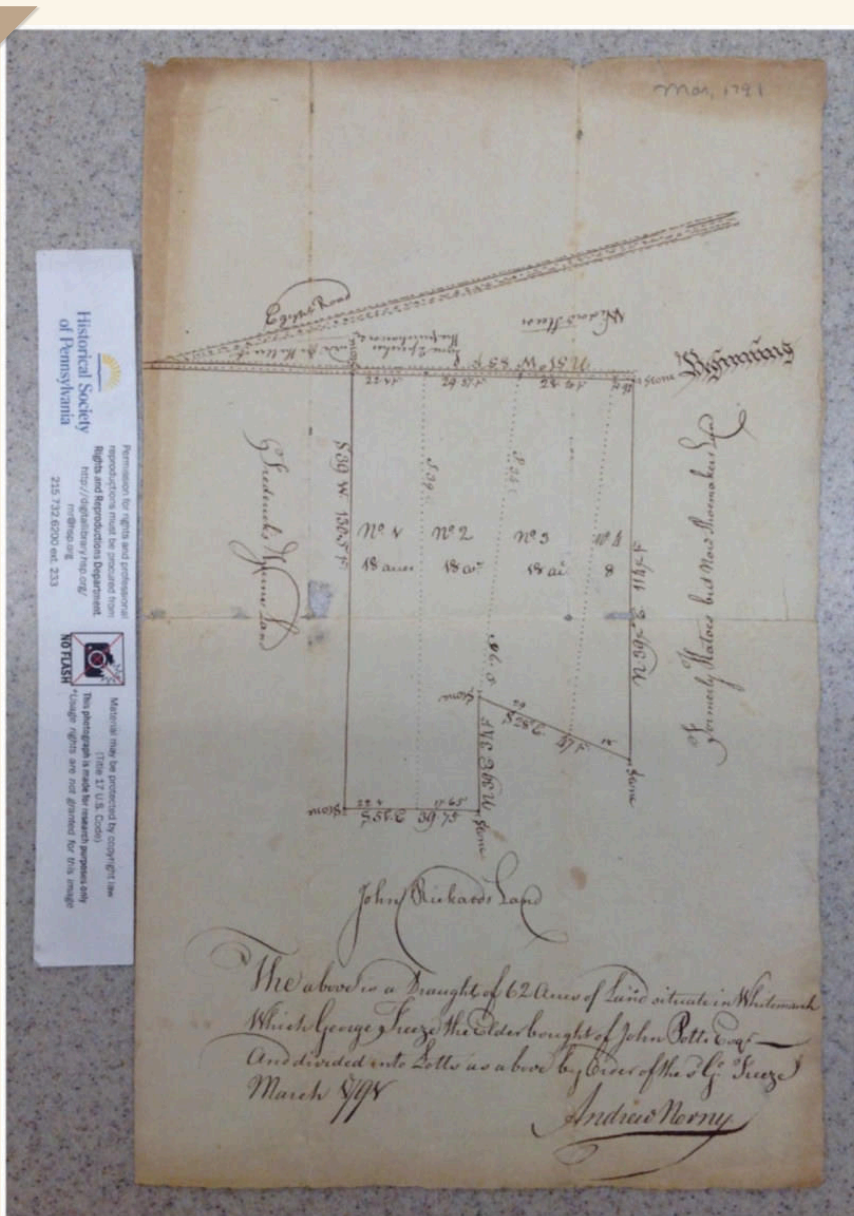
Land became an important part of the family’s security. It provided space to live and work, supported a livelihood, and could be passed to the next generation. The property addressed in George’s will offers evidence of the permanence he created during more than half a century in Pennsylvania.

The surrounding countryside also preserves traces of the broader Freas family’s presence. A published history of Whitemarsh records that an estate settlement filed in 1796 showed a property purchase by George Freas at Marble Hall, formerly the home of surveyor and schoolmaster Patrick Menan. The account does not distinguish the elder George from his son. Elsewhere, the history describes iron ore extracted from former Freas and Hiltner properties, revealing another dimension of the land’s value in the community.

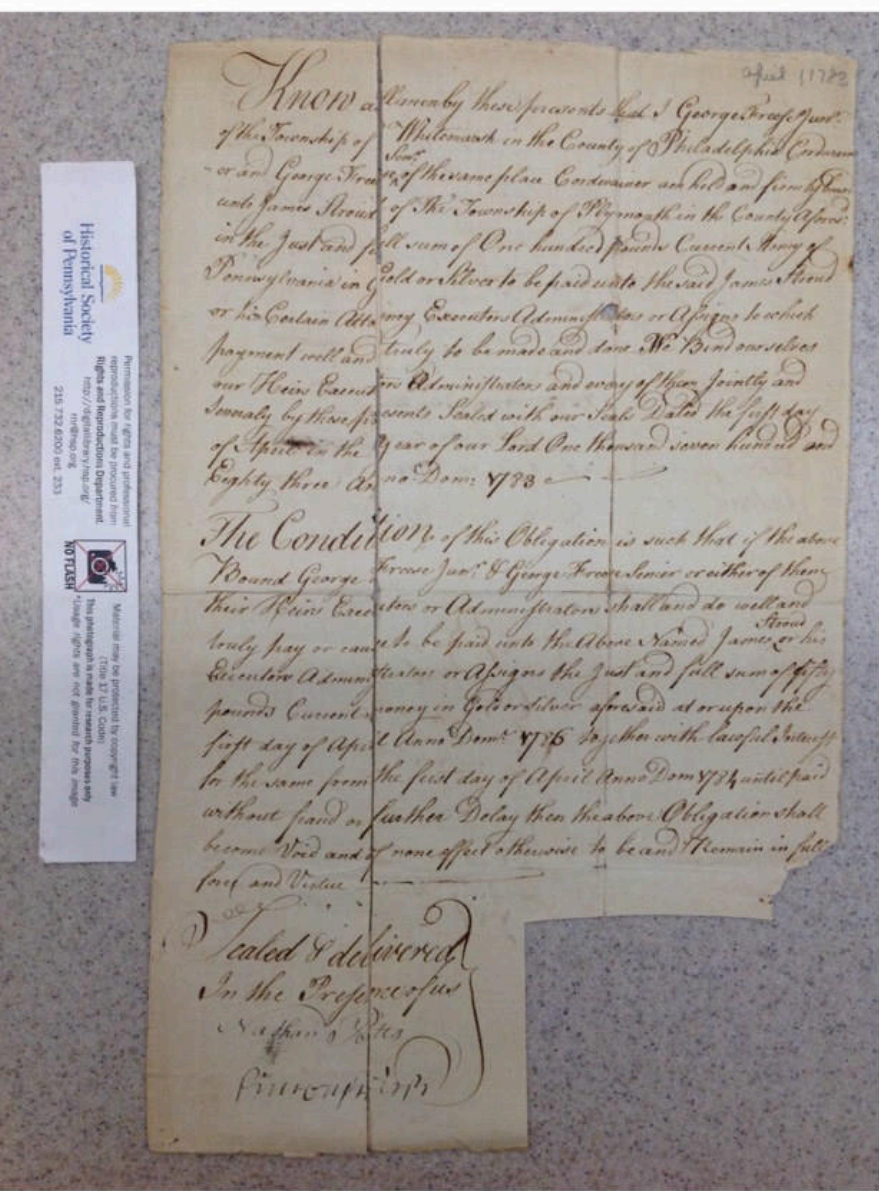
An April 1, 1783, bond identifies both George and his son George Jr. as cordwainers, or shoemakers, documenting the craft practiced by two generations of the family.

Ann Elizabeth died in 1800. George lived until April 1809, reaching approximately eighty years of age. His will provides a final glimpse of the resources he could leave to those who followed him.

Together, George and Ann Elizabeth represent a fundamental part of the family’s early Pennsylvania story: immigration followed by establishment. They created a home, raised a family, became part of their community, and left a foundation upon which succeeding generations could build.



Survey of George Freas the Elder's property, March 1791. This hand-drawn plan records a 62-acre tract in Whitmarsh Township, divided into four lots at George's direction. Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Freas Family Papers.



Bond naming George Freas Sr. and George Freas Jr., April 1, 1783. Both men are identified as cordwainers, or shoemakers, in Whitmarsh Township—a glimpse of the family's work across two generations. Courtesy of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Freas Family Papers.

CARRY AWAY

ADAPT TO THE LIFE BEFORE YOU. BEGINNING AGAIN CAN BRING MORE THAN ONE OPPORTUNITY TO FIND HAPPINESS WITHIN A LIFETIME.



Burial location: Saint Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church Cemetery in Lafayette Hill, Pennsylvania for Barbara Wolf Friese and George Friese.

George Freas & Barbara Wolf

AUGUST 2, 1753 – DECEMBER 15, 1834 AUGUST 21, 1755 – AUGUST 7, 1837

Fifth Great-Grandparents

THE PENNSYLVANIA GERMAN PATRIOTS

George Freas was born in 1753, the son of George Freas Sr., a German immigrant who arrived in Pennsylvania in 1754 and established his family in the Whitemarsh area. The younger George grew up within a family whose livelihood was closely connected to land, a foundation that would continue through succeeding generations.

George came of age during the American Revolution. His name survives in a published record of Revolutionary soldiers’ graves in Montgomery County, where George Freese, Jr. is listed among the soldiers associated with White Marsh. The designation “Jr.” distinguishes him from his father and places the younger George within the Revolutionary generation.

George married Barbara Wolf, bringing together two German families whose histories had already taken root in colonial Pennsylvania. Barbara’s family line leads back to Hans Bernhard Wolfe and Susanna Ludwig, who arrived in Pennsylvania in 1727. Through George and Barbara’s marriage, the Freas and Wolf stories became joined.

George was about twenty-two when the Revolutionary War began. He and Barbara were building their family in Whitemarsh when the Philadelphia campaign, military activity around Whitemarsh and Barren Hill, and the nearby Valley Forge encampment brought the war into their region.

Armies moving through the countryside needed food, livestock, horses, wagons, grain, and firewood—the same resources upon which farming households depended. Although no surviving record establishes that the Freas farm itself was taken or damaged, maintaining a livelihood and feeding a family amid such activity would have presented challenges. The Revolution was unfolding around the community in which they lived and worked.

A surviving certificate in the Freas Family Papers records that George Frees of White Marsh Township voluntarily took Pennsylvania’s Oath of Allegiance and Fidelity on April 9, 1779. George Freas Jr. served during the Revolutionary War and is recognized as a patriot by the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). His name also appears explicitly as “George Freas Jr.” in the oath record, documenting his taking the oath.

George and Barbara became the parents of ten children: John, George, Samuel, Jacob, Benjamin, Daniel, Joseph, William, Mary, and Catherine. Their children carried the family’s farming and trade connections into the next generation.

WOLFE → **FREAS** → YOUNG → KIRCHNER → TUCKMANTEL

A later Montgomery County history records that George spent his early life on the family homestead farm. Their son Daniel, born on the Whitemarsh homestead in 1792, continued farming throughout his life. Other sons followed different paths. Samuel became a well-known blacksmith at Cold Point, while Joseph apprenticed with Samuel before deciding that blacksmithing was not for him and becoming a farmer.

These accounts reveal how practical knowledge passed within the family. Learning a trade involved instruction, repetition, and work alongside someone who already knew the craft. The brothers’ experience also shows that the next generation could build upon its inheritance while choosing a different occupation.

The Freas family developed a lasting civic and political identity. A Montgomery County history described this branch of the family as Whigs in politics, a tradition their descendants maintained until the formation of the Republican Party, when they transferred their political allegiance to the new organization. Across generations, the family participated in the changing political life of the country.

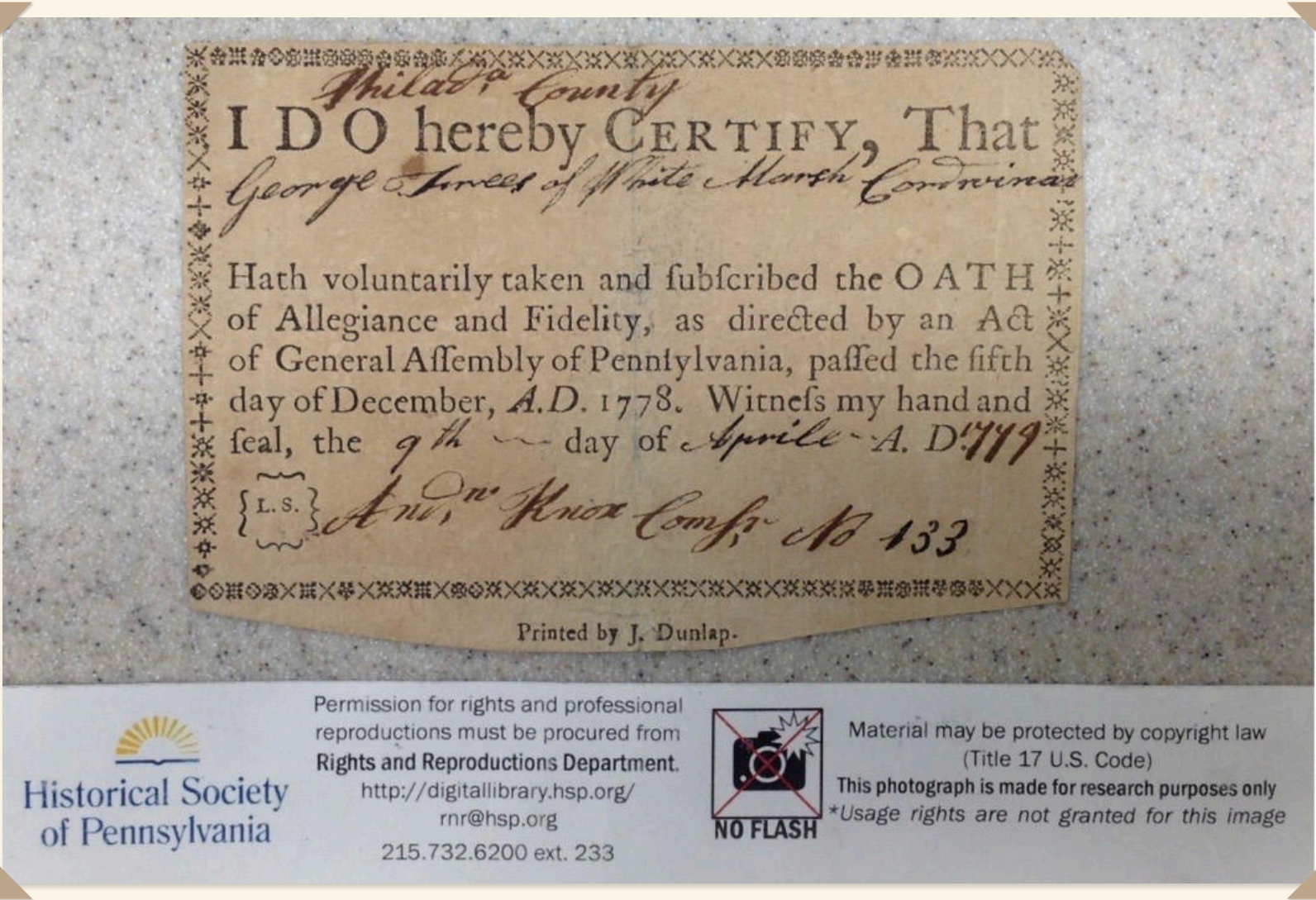
A substantial documentary record preserves further glimpses of their affairs. Approximately seventy-five documents in the Freas Family Papers at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, together with material preserved by the Historical Society of Montgomery County, illuminate property, transactions, trades, and family responsibilities across generations. These papers give depth to the family’s story through the details of everyday decisions and obligations.

George’s will, written in November 1834, offers a particularly personal view of the family he and Barbara had built. He made provisions for Barbara during her widowhood and distributed money and property among their children and descendants.

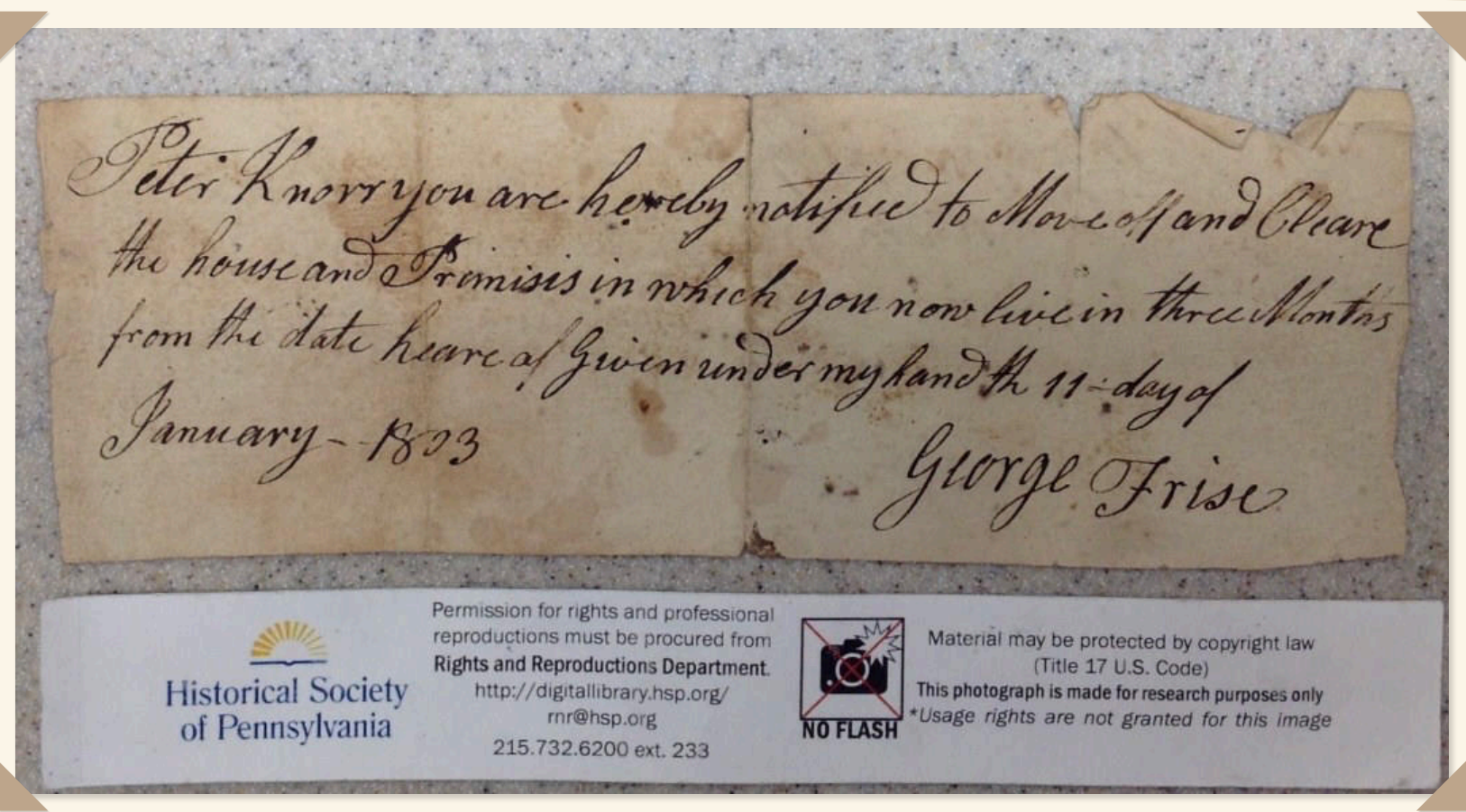
George died on December 15, 1834, at the age of eighty-one. Barbara survived him until August 7, 1837. Their lives extended from colonial Pennsylvania through the Revolution and into the first decades of the United States. Their descendants continued the region’s farms, in its trades, and within its communities.

CARRY AWAY

STAND TOGETHER WHEN HISTORY ARRIVES AT YOUR DOORSTEP. GEORGE AND BARBARA RAISED THEIR FAMILY WHILE THE REVOLUTION UNFOLDED AROUND THEM. THEIR STORY REMINDS US THAT SUSTAINING A HOME, SUPPORTING ONE ANOTHER, AND PREPARING THE NEXT GENERATION REMAIN MEANINGFUL RESPONSIBILITIES IN UNCERTAIN TIMES.

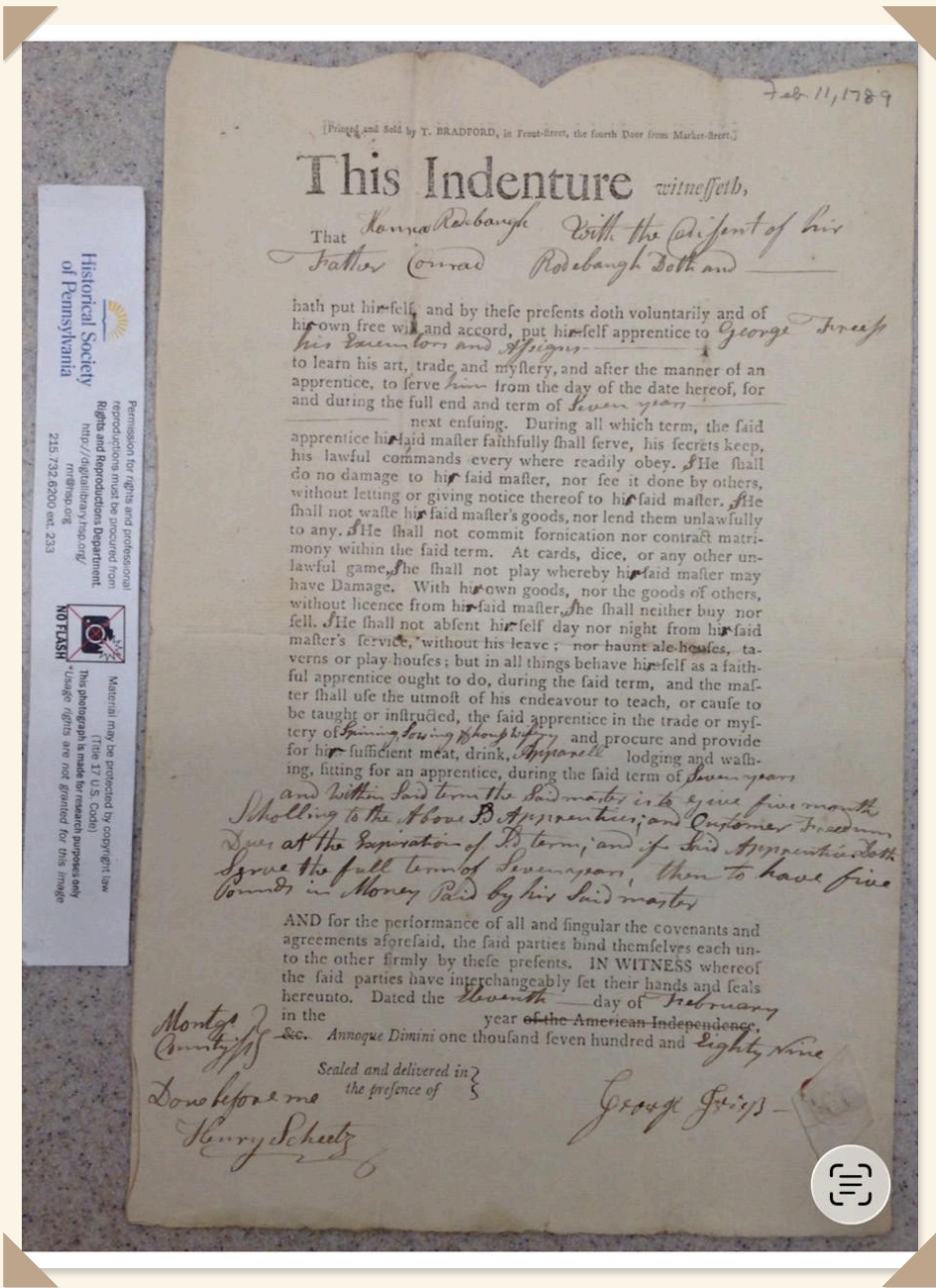


Oath of Allegiance and Fidelity — George Frees, April 9, 1779 This surviving certificate records that George Frees Jr. of White Marsh Township voluntarily took and subscribed Pennsylvania’s Oath of Allegiance and Fidelity during the Revolutionary War. Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Freas Family Papers, Collection 1344. The document explicitly names George Frees, whose Revolutionary War service is also recognized by the Daughters of the American Revolution as George Frees Jr.

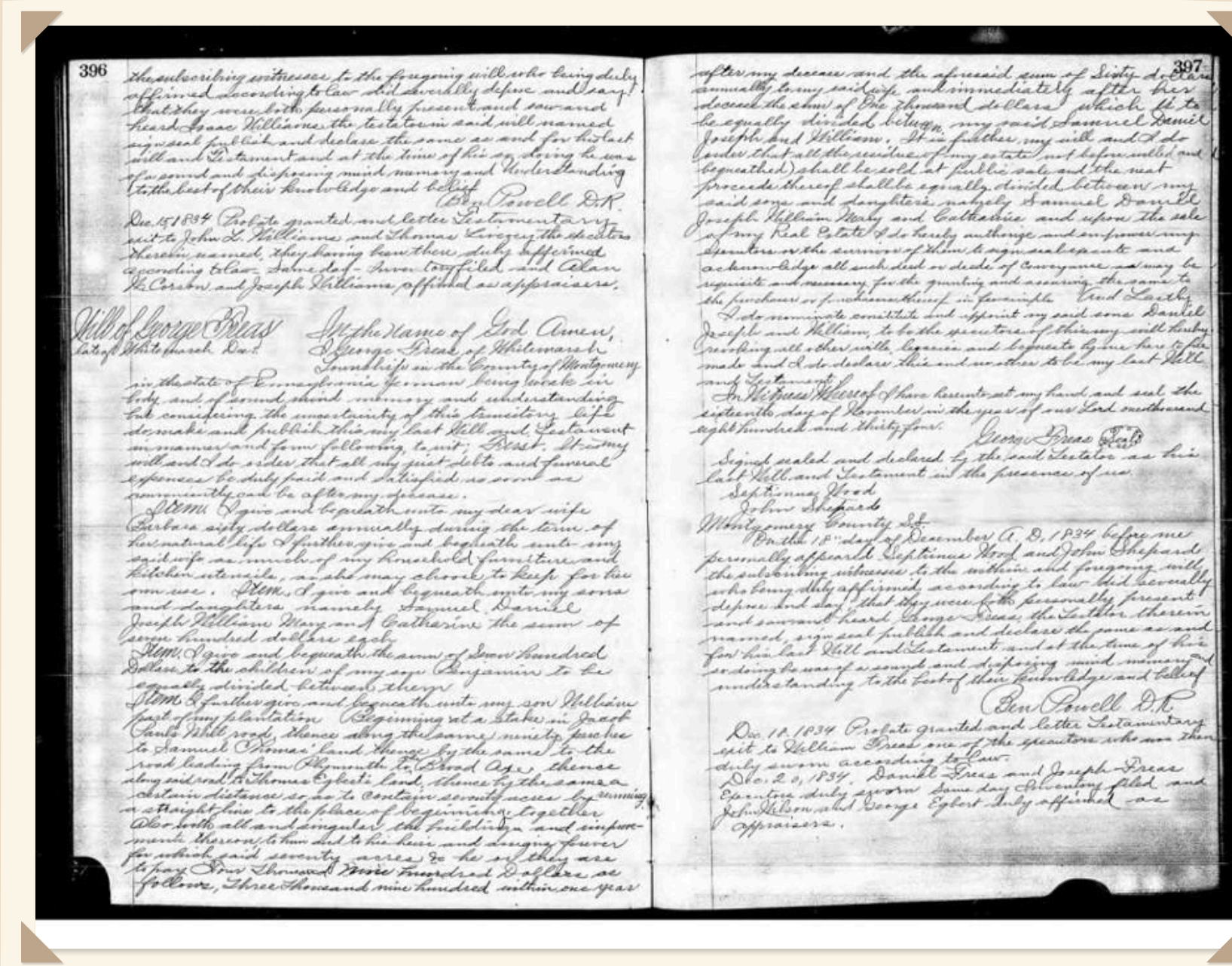


George Freas’s Signature — January 11, 1803

More than two decades after his Revolutionary-era oath, George signed this notice concerning a house and premises as “George Frise,” preserving his signature in the Freas Family Papers.



Indentured apprenticeship agreement, February 11, 1789. A seven-year agreement bound an apprentice to George Freas to learn a trade, with George providing instruction and upkeep. Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Freas Family Papers.



Will of George Freas Jr., proved in 1834. George's will records his provisions for his wife Barbara and other family members, offering a view of the household and property he left behind.



The Tools of a Shoemaker Worn knives, awls, files, hammers, thread, sharpening stones, and a shoemaker’s anvil represent the specialized hand tools upon which craftsmen like George W. Freas relied. Each pair of shoes required patience, precision, and practiced skill.

George W. Freas & Elizabeth Wilson Freas

DECEMBER 8, 1780 – FEBRUARY 5, 1859 ABOUT 1794 – JULY 15, 1855

Fourth Great-Grandparents

THE SHOEMAKER AND THE HOME THEY BUILT

George W. Freas was born on December 8, 1780, in Pennsylvania, the son of George Freas and Barbara Wolf. He entered the world during the closing years of the American Revolution and grew to adulthood as the newly independent nation began establishing its identity. His wife, Elizabeth Wilson, was born about 1794. Together, they built their family’s life in the communities northwest of Philadelphia.

Records trace George through Upper Merion, Whitemarsh Township, Plymouth Township, Germantown, and finally Roxborough. These neighboring communities were home to generations of farmers, artisans, and tradesmen whose labor supported Philadelphia’s growth. Among those skilled craftsmen was George, who earned his living as a shoemaker.

By 1850, George and Elizabeth were living in Germantown. The federal census identified the seventy-year-old George as a shoemaker and recorded real estate valued at \$500. His identification with the trade at that age provides a glimpse of the work by which he was known late in life.

Shoemaking required patience, precision, and practiced skill. Hand tools included knives for cutting leather, awls for making holes, hammers, and thread for stitching. Wooden forms called lasts helped shape the shoes. Each stage depended upon the craftsman’s judgment and experience.

George lived through a period of considerable change in American work and commerce. New transportation routes and developing machinery altered how goods were produced and sold. His occupation connects the family to the skilled handwork upon which households and communities had long depended.

Elizabeth appears less often in the surviving record. The documents tell us more about George’s occupation than about her daily life, but their family story belongs to both of them. Census entries and funeral notices preserve glimpses of their shared household and the relationships that continued into the next generation.

Among their children was Margaret Freas, who married Edmund Young in 1839. Edmund became a master blacksmith, carriage builder, and inventor. Through Margaret, the Freas family’s story joined another deeply connected to skilled workmanship and useful invention.

SCHEDULE I.—Free Inhabitants in Germantown in the County of Philadelphia, State of Pennsylvania, enumerated by me, on the 23^d day of August, 1850. Isabel C. Smith Ass't Marshal.

Dwelling house, lot, or other real estate owned by the head of family.		The name of every Person whose usual place of abode on the first day of June, 1850, was in this family.		Sex and Age.		Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each Male Person over 15 years of age.		Place or Birth. Naming the State, Territory, or Country.		Married within the year.		Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1	65	Francis Freas	25	M	Shoemaker			Paest					
2		Freas	26	F									
3		Freas	31	M									
4		Freas	17	M	Freas								
5		Freas	14	M									
6		Freas	14	F				Paest					
7	154	Freas	26	M	Freas			Paest					
8		Freas	18	F									
9		Freas	14	F									
10		Freas	10	F									
11		Freas	10	F									
12	155	Freas	26	M	Freas			Paest					
13		Freas	18	F									
14		Freas	14	F									
15	156	Freas	27	M	Freas			Paest					
16		Freas	26	F									
17		Freas	26	F									
18		Freas	27	F									
19	157	Freas	26	M	Freas			Paest					
20		Freas	27	F									
21		Freas	28	F									
22	158	Freas	26	M	Freas			Paest					
23		Freas	27	F									
24	159	Freas	26	M	Freas			Paest					
25		Freas	27	F									
26	160	Freas	26	M	Freas			Paest					
27		Freas	27	F									
28	161	Freas	26	M	Freas			Paest					
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30	162	Freas	26	M	Freas			Paest					
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32	163	Freas	26	M	Freas			Paest					
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96	195	Freas	26	M	Freas			Paest					
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108	201	Freas	26	M	Freas			Paest					
109		Freas	27	F									
110	202	Freas	26	M	Freas			Paest					
111		Freas	27	F									
112	203	Freas	26	M	Freas			Paest					
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122	208	Freas	26	M	Freas			Paest					
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124	209	Freas	26	M	Freas			Paest					
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126	210	Freas	26	M	Freas			Paest					
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128	211	Freas	26	M	Freas			Paest					
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130	212	Freas	26	M	Freas			Paest					
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132	213	Freas	26	M	Freas			Paest					
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156	225	Freas	26	M	Freas			Paest					
157		Freas	27	F									
158	226	Freas	26	M									

On the 5th inst., **GEORGE FREAS**, in the 79th year of his age,
Dear children, do not weep,
I am rotdead, but here doth sleep
Beneath this solid lump of clay,
Unti: the resurrection day.
And when the spring is here again,
With birds and blooming flowers—
Oh! wander near your father's grave,
To pass the pleasant hours.
The relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the funeral, from the residence of his son-in-law, William Hansberry, Ridge Road, near the ten mile stone, Twenty first Ward, this (Tuesday) morning, 8th inst., at 10 o'clock. Funeral to proceed to Baptist Church, Chesnut Hill.

George Freas Death Notice, 1859 George Freas died on February 5, 1859, in the seventy-ninth year of his age. The verses addressed to his children and the funeral announcement preserve a rare expression of the family's grief, faith, and affection.



Johann Adam Gaiser
& Christina A. Frey

Johann Adam Gaiser

JULY 7, 1848– NOVEMBER 6, 1909

Christina A. Frey Gaiser

JULY 7, 1853–SEPTEMBER 7, 1915

Second Great-Grandparents

THE VILLAGE BUTCHER AND THE HEART OF HIS HOME

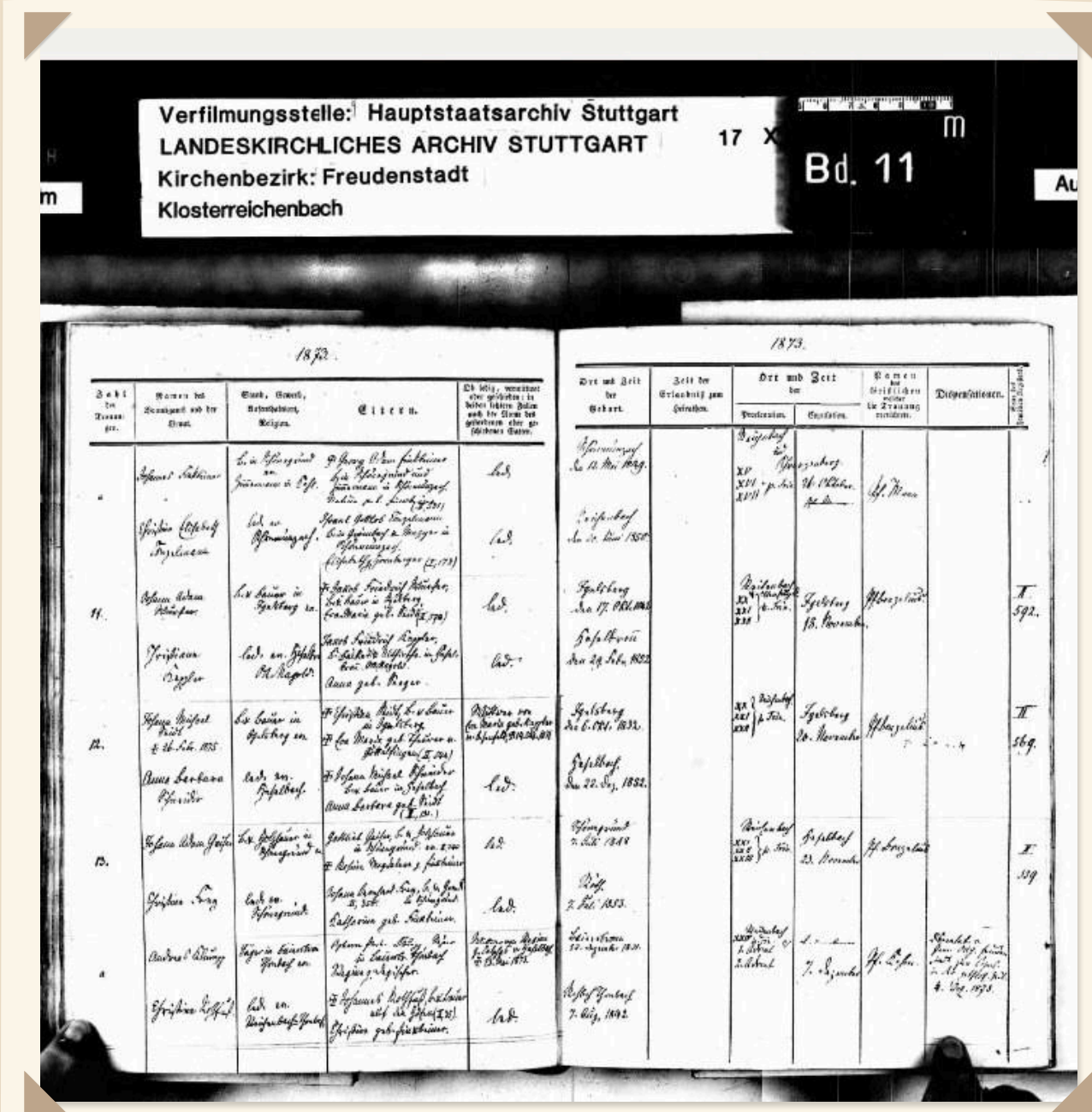
Johann Adam Gaiser and Christina Frey were born five years apart on the same date—July 7—in Schoenegrund, near Röt in Württemberg’s Black Forest region. Johann was born in 1848, the son of Gottlieb Gaiser and Rosina Magdalena Finkbeiner. Christina was born in 1853, the daughter of Johann Bernard Frey and Catherine Finkbeiner. Their families had lived in and around the regional communities of the Black Forest for generations.

Johann and Christina married on November 23, 1873, in Röt, Württemberg. Their eldest child, Anna Mary Rosina Gaiser, was born on January 8, 1874. She was followed by nine more children, creating a large household whose daily life required both hard work and cooperation.

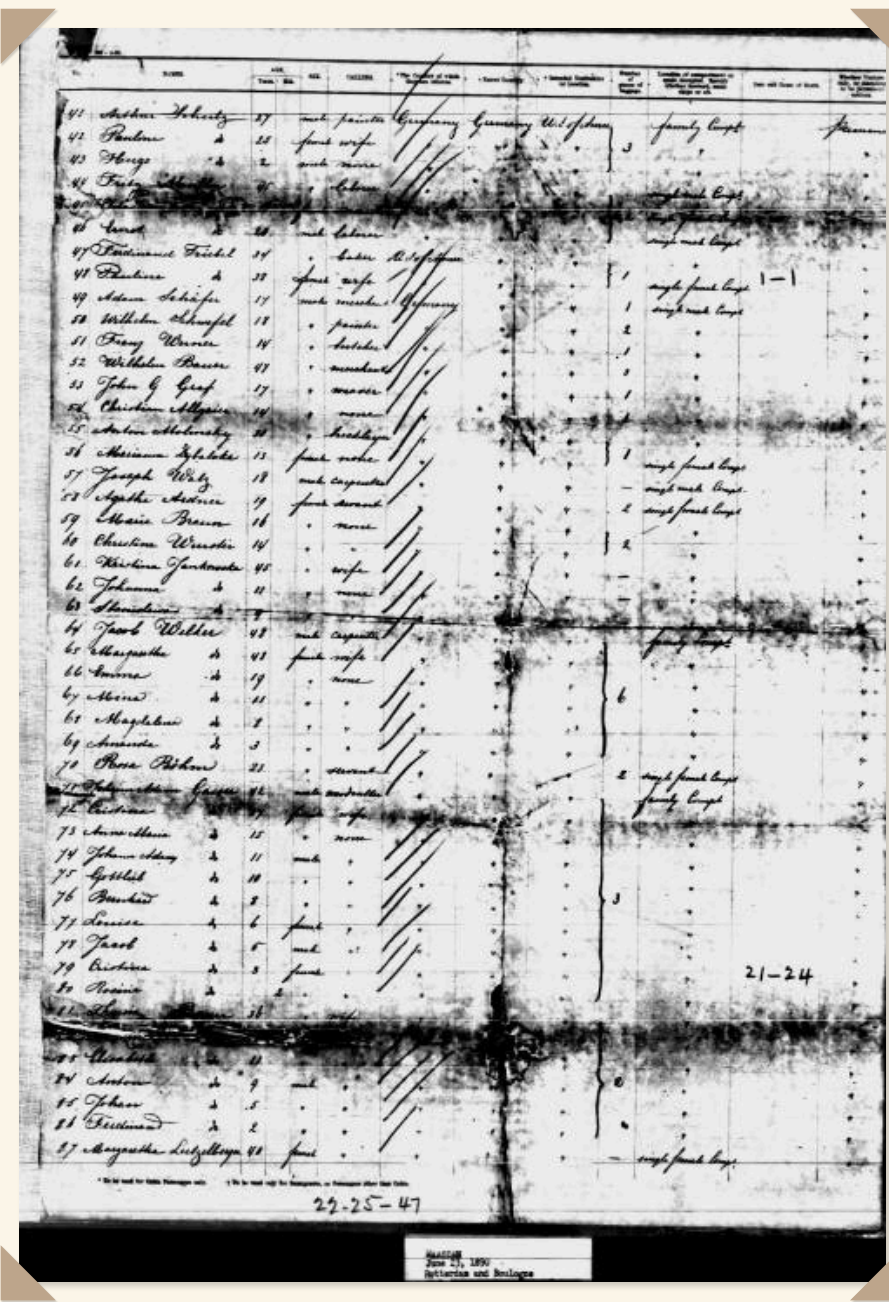
Johann earned his living as a butcher, an essential village trade that demanded physical strength, practical skill, and an understanding of food preservation. In a community such as Schoenegrund, the butcher supplied families with an important part of their daily meals. Christina managed their growing household and raised their children, preserving the customs, recipes, and rhythms of family life they had inherited in Germany.

On June 23, 1890, the steamship *Maasdam* arrived in New York after sailing from Rotterdam and calling at Boulogne. Among its passengers were Johann Adam and Christine Gaiser and their children, including fifteen-year-old Anna Maria—Marie Rosina. From New York, the family continued to Philadelphia, where they began their American lives. Their daughter Marie Rosina’s entry in the 1900 United States census records her immigration year as 1890, independently supporting the date found in the family’s German genealogical research.

The Gaisers initially settled in Philadelphia, where Marie Rosina later established her own household with John Baptist Zimmerman. Johann and Christina eventually made their home across the Delaware River in Trenton, New Jersey.



Johann Adam Gaiser and Christine Frey were married on November 23, 1873, in Röt, Württemberg. The church record identifies Christine as the twenty-year-old daughter of Johann Leonhard and Katharine Frey



The Gaiser Family’s Arrival in America — 1890

Johann Adam Gaiser and his family arrived in New York aboard the steamship *Maasdam* on June 23, 1890. Their passenger manifest records the family’s journey from Germany by way of Rotterdam and Boulogne-sur-Mer—and the beginning of their life together in America.

America gave the family a new setting, but many of the traditions they carried with them remained centered around the home and family table. Food provided continuity between their Black Forest origins and their American lives—something familiar that could be prepared, shared, and passed from one generation to the next.

Johann lived for nineteen years after arriving in America. He died in Trenton on November 6, 1909, at the age of sixty-one. Christina remained there for nearly six more years, dying on September 7, 1915, at the age of sixty-two. They were buried together at Riverview Cemetery in Trenton, the American city that became their final home.

Johann and Christina spent most of their lives in the Black Forest, but they made the defining decision to begin again in America. Their years in Trenton established the Gaiser family in a new country and gave their children the foundation from which to build lives of their own.

CARRY AWAY

FOOD HAS ALWAYS BROUGHT PEOPLE TOGETHER. RECIPES BECOME BUILDING BLOCKS OF FAMILY MEMORIES, ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY ARE RECORDED, LEARNED, AND PASSED ALONG. A SHARED MEAL CAN CARRY A LITTLE PIECE OF HOME FROM ONE GENERATION—AND EVEN ONE COUNTRY—TO ANOTHER.

THE AMERICAN PORTRAITS

ZIMMERMAN



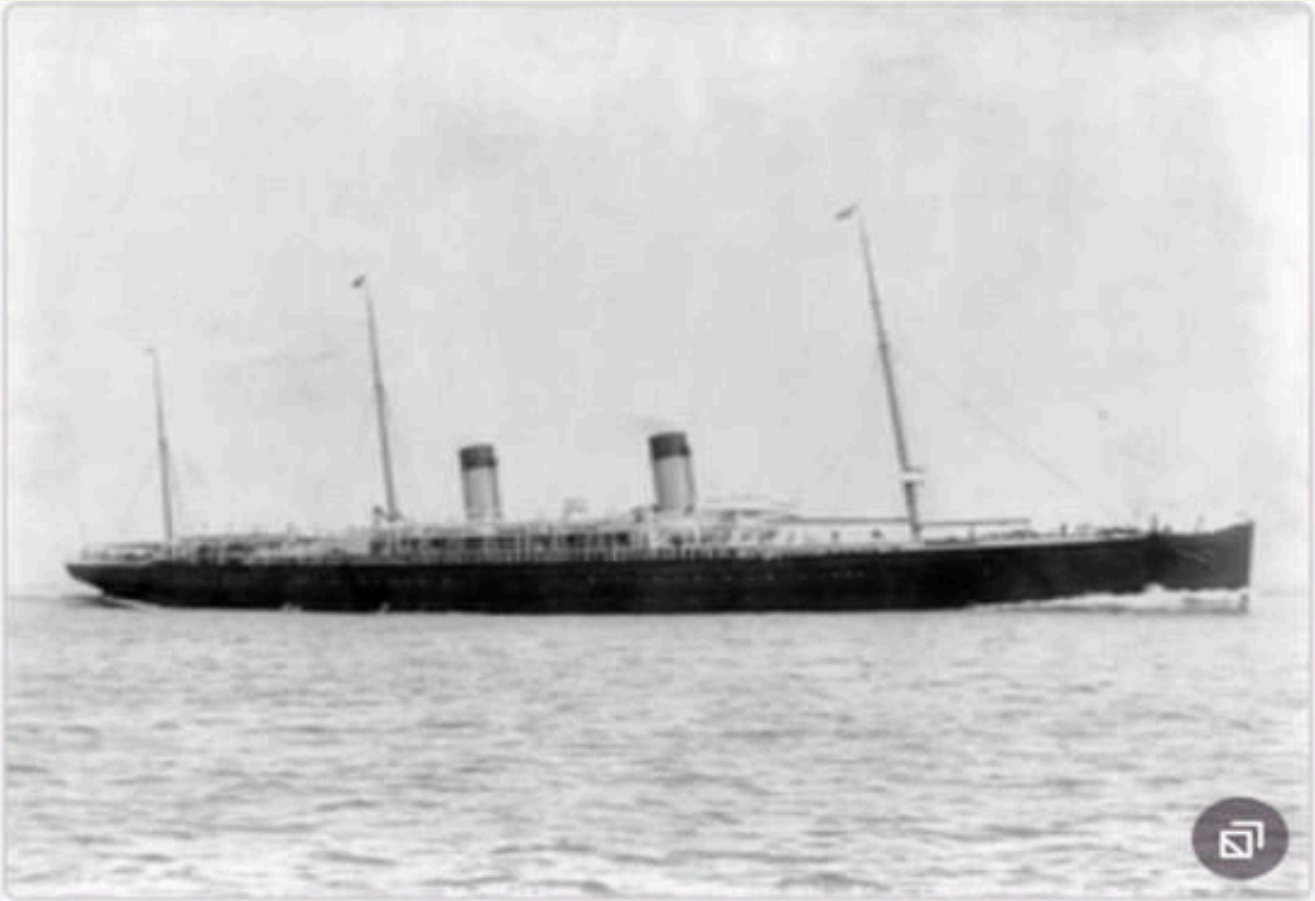
John Gaiser

One of only two known photographs of John, preserved with his Riverview Cemetery record.



Memorial Stone

The shared memorial stone of John A. and Christina Gaiser in Riverview Cemetery, Trenton, New Jersey. Johann died on November 6, 1909, and Christina on September 7, 1915, after establishing their family's new home in Trenton.



The **SS Majestic** was a steamship built in 1890 for and operated by the **White Star Line**.

Arrival in America

The steamship *SS Majestic* carried John Baptist Zimmerman from Germany to Philadelphia in 1890, beginning his new life in America.

John Baptist Zimmerman & Marie Rosina Gaiser Zimmerman

NOVEMBER 28, 1861 – AUGUST 8, 1940
JANUARY 8, 1874 – JUNE 2, 1937

Great-Grandparents

FROM SOUTHERN GERMANY TO BREWERYTOWN

John Baptist Zimmerman was born on November 28, 1861, in Eslarn, in Bavaria’s Upper Palatinate near the Bohemian border. According to the 1912 Gazetteer of the German Empire, Eslarn was a market town in east central Bavaria, on the Bohemian (Czech) border. It had about 2600 residents, a Catholic church, a brewery (where John undoubtedly worked before coming to America), tannery, sawmill and other industries. Although Eslarn, the Zimmerman home, had a Catholic parish, the Zimmermans belonged to the Lutheran church. The Lutherans in Eslarn attended church in nearby Vohenstrauss.

Research conducted by ProGenealogist, Inc., located German documentation confirming John Baptist Zimmerman’s birth on November 28, 1861. An entry identified him as a resident of Eslarn, recorded his marriage to Margaretha Scلاffer in 1890, and noted that he had emigrated to America. No children were noted in that entry.

The research also revealed a transition in the family home. John acquired his parents’ property in 1889, just three days before his mother’s death. His sister Maria, born in 1869, subsequently took possession of the house on February 24, 1891, after his departure for America.

My mother, Shirley Zimmerman Connelly, recalled that her grandfather might have left a family behind in Germany. The recorded marriage gives that recollection a possible basis, although it does not establish whether Margaretha remained in Germany or accompanied John to America. Her subsequent fate remains unresolved.

Marie Rosina Gaiser was born on January 8, 1874, in Schoenegrund, a small Black Forest hamlet near Röt in Württemberg. The hamlet of Schonegrund (beautiful ground) had about 200 residents and was a part of the community of Rot. She was baptized three days later in the Protestant parish serving the surrounding villages.

Although both were born in southern Germany, they came from distinctly different regions. John’s birthplace lay in eastern Bavaria, while Marie grew up among the forests, farms, and small communities of Württemberg. Their paths eventually converged in Philadelphia.

John departed Germany through the port of Hamburg and crossed the Atlantic aboard the S.S. *Majestic*, arriving in New York in 1890. This immigration year is also recorded in the 1900 United States census. From New York, he continued to Philadelphia, where he established his home and raised his family.

In June 1890, sixteen-year-old Marie emigrated with her parents, Johann Adam Gaiser and Christina Frey, and other members of their family. The Gaisers initially settled in Philadelphia before her parents later established their home in Trenton, New Jersey. Marie’s 1900 census entry independently records her immigration year as 1890.

John and Marie married on November 19, 1893, at Christus Lutheran Church in Philadelphia. The bride’s parents, Johann Gaiser and Christine were the witnesses to the marriage. Although they had come from opposite sides of southern Germany, they shared a German language, cultural traditions, and Lutheran faith. Together they created a new family life in Philadelphia while maintaining connections to the country they had left behind.

They became the parents of nine children: Frederick, John, Herman, Marie—known as “Mame”—Helen, Matilda—known as “Tiley”—Thelma, Walter, and Viola. The 1910 census records the family living at 1234 Newkirk Street in Brewerytown. Their modest rowhouse was filled with children and stood near the breweries and other industries that employed many of the neighborhood’s German immigrants.

For more than three decades, census records consistently identified John as a brewer. Although no employment record naming the brewery has been found, the evidence strongly suggests that he worked at the nearby City Park Brewery, formerly the Louis J. Bergdoll Brewing Company.

John’s occupation, German background, and residences on Newkirk and Stiles Streets placed him within walking distance of the large brewery complex that dominated the neighborhood.

Each morning, John likely walked through Brewerytown, passing rows of brick homes and the familiar aroma of malt drifting from the brewery that dominated the neighborhood. For decades, this was not only his workplace but also the community where he and his family built their lives.

The brewery was one of Philadelphia’s largest employers, producing thousands of barrels of beer each year for customers throughout the region. Given John’s occupation, German heritage, and residence immediately adjacent to the brewery, City Park Brewery stands as the most likely place of his employment.

Brewing required skill, discipline, physical endurance, and an understanding of a tradition long associated with German craftsmanship. It gave John steady employment while he and Marie raised their family and established roots in their adopted city. For more than three decades, brewing was John’s profession and an important part of the life he built in Brewerytown.

When Prohibition brought brewing operations to a halt, John adapted to changing circumstances by taking on a new job. Rather than allowing the loss of his trade to define him, he accepted whatever honest work would support his family. His willingness to adapt reflected a resilience shared by countless immigrants who understood that dignity came not from a job title but from faithfully providing for those they loved.

The 1910 census records John and Mary living at 1234 Newkirk Street in Philadelphia’s Brewerytown neighborhood with their nine children. Today, the rowhouse measures approximately 782 square feet with three bedrooms and one bathroom, offering a tangible connection to the modest home in which the Zimmerman family built their lives. It also reflects the housing common to many working-class immigrant families in early twentieth-century Philadelphia.

Marie’s work centered on their home and children. She had crossed the Atlantic at sixteen, married at nineteen, and helped create a stable household in a country that was still new to both parents. The traditions, meals, faith, and family relationships carried from Germany became part of the lives of their American-born children.



JOHN BAPTIST ZIMMERMAN

BREWER AT CITY PARK BREWERY

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

1885–1920

John Baptist Zimmerman was born in Germany and immigrated to the United States in 1885 at the age of 23. Trained in the art of brewing, he brought with him the knowledge and skill of a respected German craft.

For more than three decades, census records consistently list his occupation as “Brewer.” During those years he lived on Newkirk Street and later on Stiles Street in Brewerytown, Philadelphia—only a few blocks from the sprawling City Park Brewery.

When Prohibition came in 1920 and the brewery closed, John’s life work came to an end. In his later years he worked as a janitor, adapting to one of the greatest economic disruptions of his generation.



City Park Brewery “Old Style Lager” trade mark used on bottles, labels and advertising.

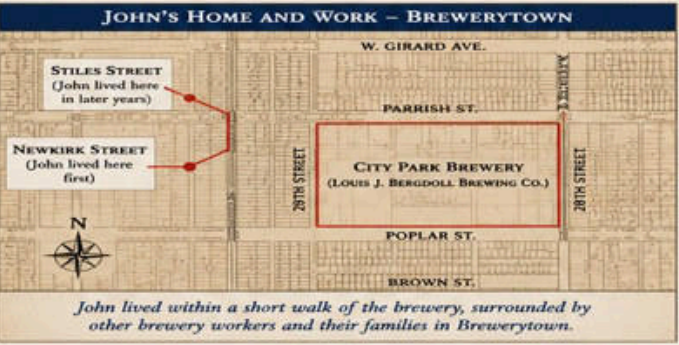


Louis Bergdoll Brewing Co. embossed beer bottle. Artifacts like this were used daily in the brewery during John’s career.

THE LOUIS J. BERGDOLL BREWERY / CITY PARK BREWERY	
DATES	TRADE NAME / COMPANY
1849 – 1850	Bergdoll & (Peter) Schema
1851 – 1857	Bergdoll & Psotta
1857 – 1876	Bergdoll & Psotta, City Park Brewery
1873 – 1876	John Stein
1876 – 1881	Louis Bergdoll, City Park Brewery
1881 – 1920	Louis Bergdoll Brewing Co., City Park Brewery
1933 – 1934	City Park Brewing Co. (Aka of Louis Bergdoll)

The brewery operated at its 28th Street location from 1856 until Prohibition in 1920. It briefly reopened in 1933 but closed permanently in 1934.

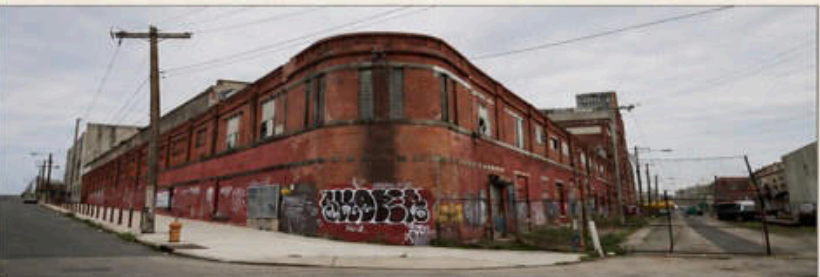
JOHN’S HOME AND WORK – BREWERYTOWN



John lived within a short walk of the brewery, surrounded by other brewery workers and their families in Brewerytown.

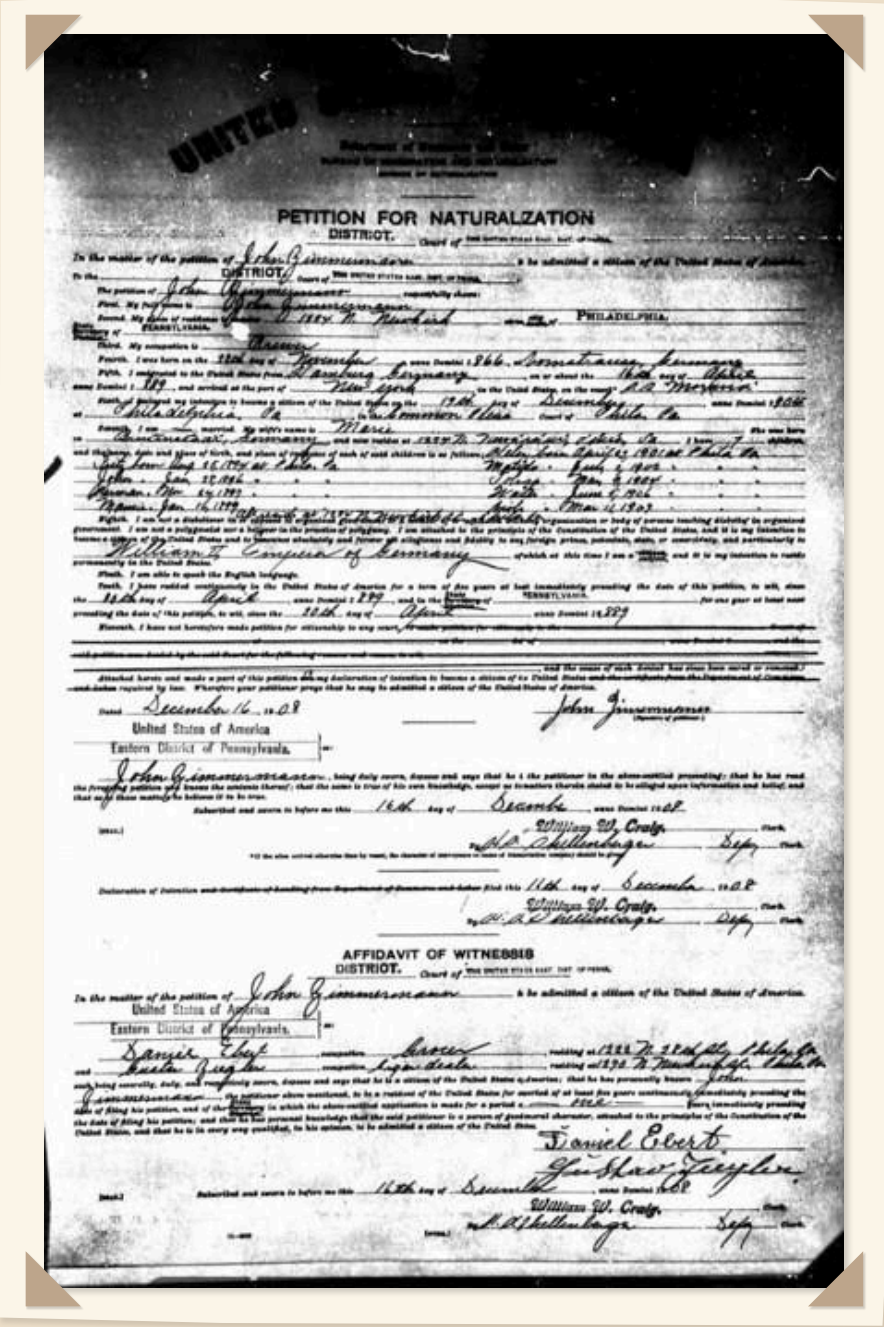


The Louis J. Bergdoll Brewing Company – City Park Brewery 28th Street between Brown, Parrish & Poplar Streets, Philadelphia Circa 1890s. John Zimmerman likely worked in these buildings.



The cold storage facility, pictured here in 2018, is all that remains of the F. A. Potk Brewing Company’s brewery at 31st and Jefferson Streets. It is one of the few surviving brewery buildings in Philadelphia.

John Baptist Zimmerman was part of Philadelphia’s great brewing tradition. His skill, hard work, and dedication helped produce the “Old Style Lager” and other fine beers that made City Park Brewery one of the most important breweries in the city for more than six decades.



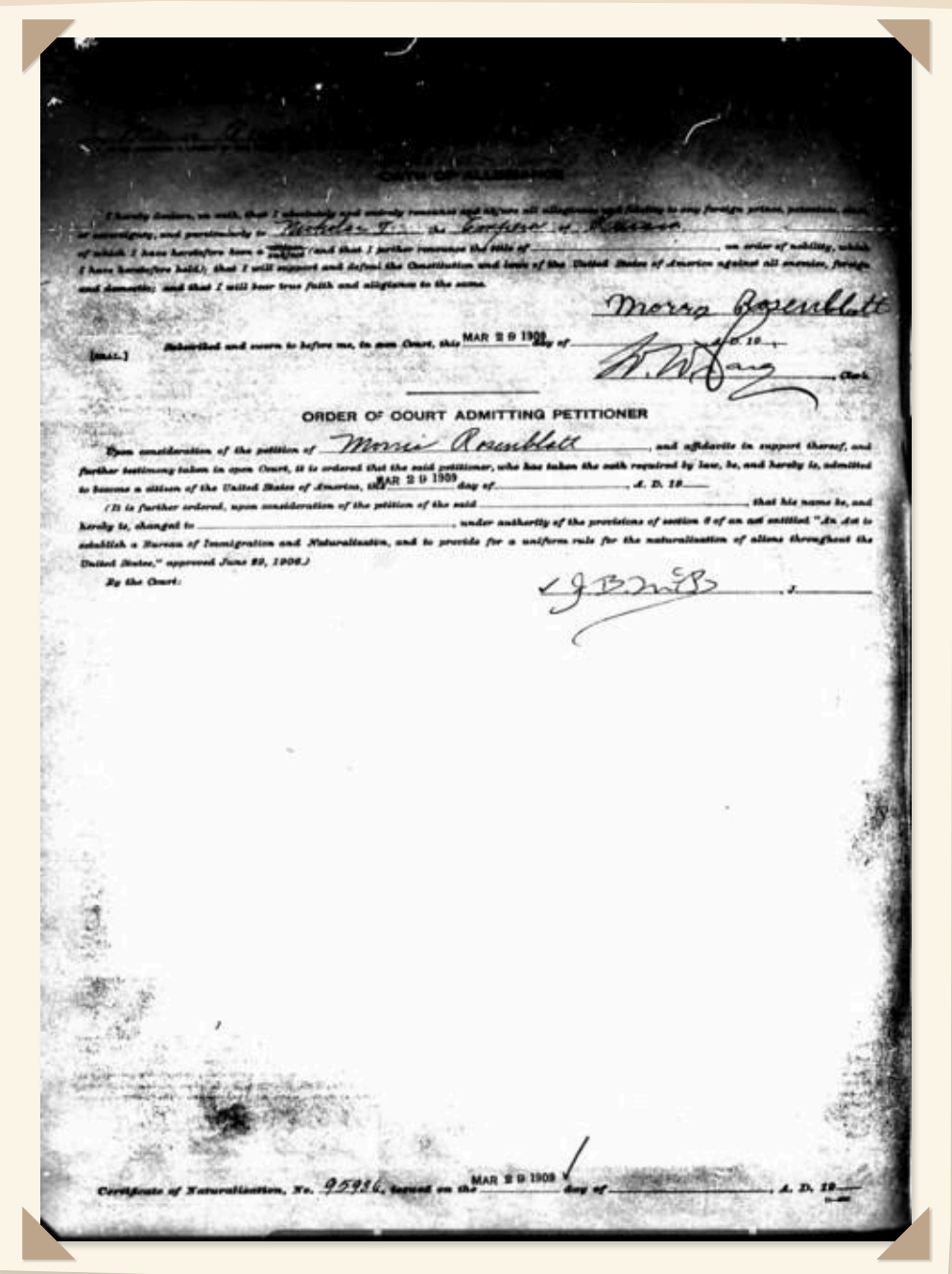
Marie died in Philadelphia on June 2, 1937, and was buried three days later at Mount Peace Cemetery. John lived for another eleven years, witnessing his children establish families of their own. He died on August 8, 1948, at the age of eighty-six and was laid to rest at Mount Peace Cemetery with members of the family he and Marie had built in America.

After Mary's death, John experienced one of the family's greatest tragedies. In 1937, his thirty-one-year-old son, Walter, was fatally injured in a hit-and-run automobile accident while visiting the New Jersey shore. Contemporary newspaper accounts documented the accident, his death, and the legal proceedings that followed. No parent expects to outlive a child, and the loss of Walter brought profound sorrow during the final years of John's life.

John and Marie came from different corners of southern Germany, but together they created one American household. Their story was built through skilled work, family traditions, and a shared commitment to creating a secure home for their nine children.

CARRY AWAY

KNOW WHERE YOU COME FROM AND VALUE THE WORK THAT HELPS BUILD A FAMILY'S FUTURE. TRADITIONS CONNECT US TO OUR BEGINNINGS, WHILE DEDICATION TO FAMILY GIVES THOSE TRADITIONS A PLACE TO ENDURE. PROST!





John Zimmerman

JANUARY 26, 1896 – NOVEMBER 16, 1988

Maternal Grandfather

A MAN OF ROUTINE, RESPONSIBILITY, AND FAMILY TRADITION

John Zimmerman was born on January 26, 1896, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the son of German-American parents who made their home in the Brewerytown section of the city. He spent his early years in Philadelphia and came of age during a period of tremendous change in America.

Like many young men of his generation, John answered his country’s call during World War I. He served with the American Expeditionary Force in France, joining the millions of Americans whose lives were shaped by the Great War. Although family stories rarely focused on his military service, it remained an important chapter in his life and part of the generation that defined him.

After returning home, John began a career with the Philadelphia Electric Company (PECO), where he would spend virtually his entire working life. Beginning as a lineman, he steadily rose through the ranks over more than four decades. By the time he retired in 1961, he had become Chief Supervisor of Service Maintenance, a position that reflected the respect he earned through competence, discipline, and leadership.

Work was important to John. He believed in responsibility, routine, and doing a job correctly. When PECO asked what he wanted as a retirement gift after more than forty years of service, he surprised everyone by requesting a bicycle. Curiously, none of his grandchildren ever remembered seeing either the bicycle—or John riding it.

On July 29, 1921, John married Margaret Emilie Tuckmantel. Together, they had two children, John (Jack) Howard and Shirley Mae Zimmerman. Jack was born on November 20, 1926.

John and Margaret’s marriage lasted more than sixty-seven years and carried them through the Great Depression, World War II, the postwar years, and retirement. Like many men of his generation, he enjoyed flirting and quietly considered himself something of a ladies’ man, convinced his harmless charm usually went unnoticed.

Together Margaret and John raised their family in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. They moved to Springfield, Pennsylvania in the late 1950s or early 1960s. Jack H. Zimmerman married Bertha M. Remshard Zimmerman on June 5, 1948.

THE SPRINGFIELD HOUSE

To his grandchildren, the Springfield house reflected John’s personality.

There were rules.

One of the most memorable involved the dining room. Anyone heading upstairs was expected to walk around the dining room table in a particular direction because John did not want the traffic pattern wearing down the white wall-to-wall carpeting. The formal living room and dining room were beautiful rooms, but they belonged mostly to the adults.

The grandchildren had their own places.

There was the upstairs den where Phillies games played on television. There was the basement with its black-and-white tiled floor, card table, and chairs. It was there that one of Grandmother’s favorite treats appeared for the grandchildren: blocks of Neapolitan ice cream served with a small bowl of salted peanuts. At the time it simply seemed like part of visiting Grandmom and Grandpop. Looking back, it became one of those small traditions that never left us.

Behind the house stood a large screened-in porch overlooking the backyard. Summer visits brought lush green grass, towering trees, and the constant sound of cicadas. A rustic bentwood rocking chair sat on that porch and became a favorite place to relax. Decades later, that same rocker would be restored and find a new home in Florida, preserving a connection to those childhood memories.

A PHILLIES FAN

Of all Philadelphia’s professional teams, the Phillies were John’s favorite.

His grandchildren remember sitting beside him in the den, watching game after game throughout the long baseball season. Like many loyal Philadelphia fans, he followed the club through winning years and losing years alike. Baseball simply became part of the rhythm of his life.

GRANDPOP AND BARNEY

One family story became legendary.

After moving to Harleysville, John often drove with Barney, the family basset hound, riding beside him.

One day he went to pick up Margaret at the hairdresser, who operated a salon from her home. As he pulled into the driveway, he mistakenly pressed the accelerator instead of the brake. The car crashed through the garage door and directly into the salon. Fortunately, no one was injured.

John insisted the accelerator pedal had stuck. Family members were not entirely convinced.

The best part of the story came afterward.

With complete seriousness, he instructed the grandchildren not to pat Barney on the head because the dog had suffered a concussion.

That image of Barney riding shotgun into the hairdresser’s salon became one of those family stories that survived long after the event itself.

Retirement suited John because he valued routine.

Every morning began with a glass of hot water followed by breakfast cereal. He believed in healthy habits, regular sleep, walking, and sensible food choices.

After retiring, John became the primary cook, embracing the responsibility with the same discipline he had brought to his career. Visitors coming downstairs for breakfast were often greeted by the aroma of a roast already cooking in the oven. Over time, dinner gradually moved earlier in the day until noon became the family’s regular mealtime.

During his working years in Springfield, John had enjoyed playing golf. In retirement, however, his days centered on home—reading the newspaper, shopping at Henning’s Grocery Store, visiting local farm stands, walking Barney, preparing dinner, and faithfully following the Phillies. Golf quietly faded into the background.

Even mowing the lawn followed its own familiar ritual.



At just the right moment, Margaret would step outside carrying a fresh glass of iced tea. As John passed by on the riding mower, there was a practiced exchange: the empty glass handed back, the full one received, and without missing a beat he continued on his way.

If the timing was missed, John never stopped the mower or broke his pattern. Margaret simply waited until he completed another circuit of the yard before making the exchange.

After years of marriage, she knew there would always be another pass.

AN INDEPENDENT MAN

John handled many of the daily responsibilities himself. He read the newspaper, walked the dog, shopped for groceries, visited local farm stands, and took care of errands. Because Margaret never learned to drive, John drove her wherever she needed to go—to the hairdresser, the dressmaker, shopping, church, or appointments.

Like many members of his generation, he was careful with money. Waste bothered him, and he believed effort should be rewarded. If a grandchild helped with a chore, he would reach into a small black coin purse and produce a single quarter. The amount was modest, but the lesson was larger: work had value, and so did the reward for doing it well.

“HELLO, FELLA”

John genuinely enjoyed talking with people. As he grew older, however, hearing loss made conversations more difficult.

Driving through Harleysville with the windows down, he often called out cheerfully, “Hello, fella!” to people walking along the road.

Unfortunately, his driving occasionally took him a little closer than pedestrians appreciated. Startled walkers sometimes responded with gestures that were not exactly friendly. John, unable to hear their reactions, simply assumed they were returning his greeting.

For those of us riding with him, the encounters could be nerve-racking.

Looking back, there was something wonderfully Mr. Magoo-like about the whole scene. John remained perfectly cheerful, convinced everyone was waving back.

REMEMBERING JOHN ZIMMERMAN

John Zimmerman belonged to a generation shaped by war, hard work, discipline, and responsibility. He served his country during World War I, spent more than four decades with PECO, raised a family, and lived long enough to witness extraordinary changes in the world around him.

History remembers his military service, his long career, and the dates recorded in official documents.

Our family remembers something different.

We remember the smell of a roast cooking before breakfast, Phillies games in the den, the screened porch in summer, the black coin purse that always seemed to hold another quarter, Barney’s famous “concussion,” the carefully timed exchange of iced tea while mowing the lawn, and a cheerful greeting offered from behind the steering wheel:

“Hello, fella.”

Those ordinary moments reveal the man far better than any census record or obituary ever could. They transformed an ancestor into a grandfather and turned everyday routines into family stories that continue to be shared across generations.



Grandpop Zimmerman walking Barney, the basset hound, in the backyard on the Harleysville, Pennsylvania home

Retirement in Harleysville

CARRY AWAY

TREAT THE PEOPLE CLOSEST TO YOU WITH THE SAME RESPECT AND CONSIDERATION YOU HOPE TO RECEIVE FROM THEM. FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS ARE NOT MEASURES OF STATUS; THEIR VALUE COMES FROM THE PEOPLE THEMSELVES. APPRECIATE THOSE WHO STAND BESIDE YOU AND NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THE LASTING EFFECT OF HOW YOU MAKE THEM FEEL.



Margaret Emilie Tuckmantel Zimmerman

NOVEMBER 17, 1899 – DECEMBER 22, 1995

Maternal Grandmother

THE QUIET CENTER OF THE FAMILY

Margaret Emilie Tuckmantel was born on November 17, 1899, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and spent nearly her entire life in southeastern Pennsylvania. On July 29, 1921, she married John Zimmerman, beginning a partnership that would span more than sixty-seven years. Together they raised their family through the Great Depression, World War II, and the extraordinary changes of the twentieth century.

She possessed a warm, gentle nature and formed close personal connections with the people around her. Margaret was genuinely interested in others. She listened carefully, asked thoughtful questions, and made each conversation feel important. While my grandfather's influence was often felt throughout the household, my grandmother influenced people one conversation, one visit, and one relationship at a time.

She was a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother whose life revolved around home and family. She never learned to drive, having grown up in Philadelphia where there was little need for an automobile. Later in life, my grandfather handled the driving while Margaret devoted herself to family, church, correspondence, reading, baking, and creating a welcoming home.

One of her greatest talents was baking. She was a skilled and disciplined baker who took pride in sharing recipes and techniques with her daughters and granddaughters. Her Jewish Apple Cake, apple crisp, cinnamon buns, Christmas cookies, and holiday pies became family favorites. Food was one of the ways she expressed love, and many family traditions were built around meals she prepared.

In Springfield and during the early years in Harleysville, she was primarily responsible for preparing family meals. Later, after my grandfather retired, he increasingly took over dinner preparation as part of his own daily routine. Together they maintained the tradition that there was always enough food for family and unexpected guests.

Margaret also expressed her creativity through folk art. During the 1960s she created a collection of hooked rugs and decorative folk-art pieces. Many survived for decades and have since been carefully preserved, allowing future generations to enjoy a tangible connection to her creativity and gentle nature. One of my favorites depicted a small house on a hill with a winding driveway covered in fresh snow. It hung for years in my parents' dining room overlooking countless Sunday dinners and holiday gatherings, quietly watching over the family as the years passed.

C 270408

APPL. NO. 67463 - 01

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
OFFICE OF STATISTICS AND RESEARCH
PHILADELPHIA, PA.
FEE FOR THIS CERTIFICATE ONE DOLLAR

RETURN OF BIRTHS, in the City of Philadelphia, under
my care for the month of November 1899
Made to the Health Officer in Conformity with the Act of Assembly.

DATE OF BIRTH				NAME OF CHILD	
Nov. 17th 1899				Margaret Emilie Tuckmantel	
Male	Female	White	Colored	PLACE OF BIRTH	
				Number and Street	
	F	W		2821 Jefferson Street	
NAMES OF PARENTS				OCCUPATION OF FATHER	
Chas. and Clara Tuckmantel				Paper hanger	

Name and address of person making report.

Signature E. Miller, M.D.

Residence 625 N. 7th Street

Filed Dec. 1899

I hereby Certify that the foregoing is a copy of a record of birth on file in this office.

Date of Issue June 16, 1961

55-V-122 dmck

Registrar

While my grandfather’s personality often filled the room, my grandmother’s influence was felt in quieter but equally important ways.

Her home in Springfield reflected the tastes and aspirations of mid-century America. It was always neat, orderly, and carefully maintained. The furniture had been purchased as a complete showroom display. The formal living room looked beautiful, though perhaps not particularly comfortable. White wall-to-wall carpeting covered the living and dining rooms, and Hummel figurines lined the deep windowsills. Above the white fireplace hung a pair of crossed African ceremonial knives that neighbors had brought home from their travels, reminders of another era and another home.

Margaret was an avid reader who always seemed to have a book nearby. Her shelves held popular fiction and contemporary bestsellers rather than literary classics. She enjoyed following new novels and discussing them with friends. Afternoons often included television talk shows hosted by Merv Griffin or Dinah Shore before settling in to watch the evening news.

During the 1960s, Margaret volunteered as a candy striper at Lankenau Hospital in Wynnewood, Pennsylvania, helping patients and supporting hospital staff. She wore the familiar striped volunteer uniform.

Although she generally accepted a supporting role within her marriage, family members often recognized her thoughtful judgment and quiet wisdom. There were times when my mother wished she would speak more forcefully, only to find Margaret choosing silence instead. Their differing personalities occasionally created frustration, yet their bond remained deep. My mother called her nearly every day, and their relationship endured because of love, understanding, and familiarity.

When she spent time with her children and grandchildren individually, another side of her personality emerged. She was attentive, encouraging, nurturing, and sincerely interested in their lives. My father, Jack, held a special place in her heart, and she cherished the attention he gave her. While my grandfather often offered advice—whether requested or not—Margaret was more inclined to listen, encourage, and quietly stay connected.

Her devotion to my grandfather never wavered. In later years, as John’s hearing declined, Margaret occasionally found opportunities to express opinions she might once have kept to herself. Family members sometimes smiled as she quietly offered a rebuttal while he had turned down his hearing aid. It became one of those small moments that revealed her gentle wit. After a lifetime together, she understood exactly when to speak—and when simply to smile.

One story perfectly captures the rhythm of their marriage. While John mowed the lawn, Margaret carefully timed the delivery of a glass of iced tea as he circled the yard on the riding mower. There was a practiced exchange—the empty glass handed back, the full one received—and without stopping, John continued. If the timing was missed, Margaret simply waited until he completed another circuit before trying again.

After years of marriage, she knew there would always be another pass.

As she aged, arthritis increasingly affected her daily life. She was often cold and frequently sat with a blanket across her lap. Rising from a chair became difficult and was often accompanied by a quiet expression of discomfort. Although her world became physically smaller, she remained mentally engaged through reading, correspondence, and conversations with family and friends.



“Crimson Home on the Hill” preserved and framed by Matthew Connelly. The folk-art piece by Margaret Zimmerman resides at Mariann Schwartz’s home in Perkasio, Pennsylvania.

Writing letters and managing the household finances remained important parts of her daily routine. Seated at a small secretary’s desk in the living room, she wrote checks, answered correspondence, and stayed connected with relatives and friends. Her handwriting was elegant and precise, reflecting the care she brought to everything she did.

One of the greatest gifts Margaret gave me was encouragement for my interest in family history. When I was in sixth grade, I interviewed her for a school project about our family’s ancestry. She patiently shared stories about both her own family and my grandfather’s, helping me connect generations of parents, grandparents, and siblings. I still have the notes from that interview today.

Looking back, that conversation became one of the earliest sparks that eventually grew into a lifelong passion for genealogy and preserving our family’s history.

Margaret died on December 22, 1995, at the age of ninety-six. She lived long enough to witness extraordinary changes in the world, yet remained rooted in family, loyalty, kindness, and tradition.

She rarely sought attention for herself. Instead, she made her impact one conversation, one visit, and one relationship at a time.

Her legacy lives on through the recipes she shared, the folk art she created, and the encouragement she gave.

CARRY AWAY

ALWAYS HAVE A BOOK NEARBY. READING CAN EXPAND YOUR KNOWLEDGE, INTRODUCE YOU TO NEW IDEAS, AND PROVIDE A LIFETIME OF ENTERTAINMENT. SHARE WHAT YOU READ WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY—THE CONVERSATIONS CAN BE AS MEANINGFUL AS THE BOOKS THEMSELVES. BOOKS CAN OPEN DOORS.