

3 May 2013

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Dear Mr. Sherbondy,

Thank you for your letter of April 29th. I also believe in the importance of documentation of sources. Over the past 40 years I've developed a personal library of abstracts of reliable documents supplemented by a considerable collection of unpublished abstracts that I have done myself. It is from my library and collection of abstracted records that the information in today's report has been gathered.

Over the years I have developed a philosophy of research that involves such concepts as "focus", "proximity" and "order". Based on your letters today's report will focus on the Jacob Carpenter families of Grant and Barbour Counties with mention of information I feel is relevant in those proximities. I organize what I find on "group sheets", which I feel are important, whether they are electronic or paper. Also, for the sake of order, I try and keep the information in a chronological sequence.

With these things in mind I will begin with focusing on the Grant County vicinity where Jacob Zimmerman/Carpenter first appears in the known records in the late 1770s.

During most of the 18th Century organized efforts had been made to settle German families in the Upper Potomac region, in which today's Grant County is located. In 1707 Franz Louis Michel attempted such a plan in the area where Cumberland, Maryland, is today. In 1712 Baron Christoph von Graffenried attempted the same effort. Both failed. One problem was that the land was already the home of many Native Americans. Graffenried's efforts to settle German and Swiss families at New Bern, North Carolina, precipitated a war with the Tuscarora. By 1730, primarily with the help of the Catawba Nation of South Carolina, the British had removed most of the Native Americans from the Upper Potomac region which opened the area to unrestricted European settlement. The Colonies of Maryland and Virginia, as well as Lord Fairfax, all claimed the region. By the late 1730s most of the prime locations had been occupied by English settlers. The Colony of Virginia greatly stimulated settlement in the region by offering tax free incentives to settlers on the frontier between 1733 and 1753. While most of these early settlers were English, a few were Germans, primarily those who lived in Lancaster, Chester and Philadelphia Counties of Pennsylvania. During the mid-1740s German immigration into the Upper Potomac region began to increase rapidly. Surnames like Yokum, Harness, Neff, See, Stump, Lough, Teagarden, Castleman, Westfall, Bogard, Lancisco, Thorn, etc. were well established by 1745. In 1747 the Moravians got involved in the process and many German families in their congregations moved into the region. In 1749 Williams Parks, the publisher of the Virginia Gaz-

(PAGE TWO)

ette, bought the "Upper Tract", a 2,464 acre survey where the town of Upper Tract, West Virginia, is today. On this land he settled the families of George Mouse, Hannes Dunkle, John Kerre, Peter Moser and Jacob Seybert, all German. Many other German families, probably through some relationship with these five, began moving into the Upper Tract area. One of those, about 1753, was Michael Freeze. He married Catherine, a daughter of John Colley. In 1753 he had 72 acres of land surveyed just below Upper Tract. He received a patent for this land in 1757. On 16 May 1757 he was killed by Indians. His widow married Jacob Goodman (Gutman). It was on this 72 acre tract that Jacob Carpenter and his wife Margaret were living during the late 1770s. Land records are quite complete in this region but no record was found of how Jacob Carpenter acquired this land. That suggests that either he, or his wife, inherited it. One scenario is that Margaret may have been a daughter of Michael Freeze. On 16 June 1786 (Hardy County Deed 1-23) Jacob and Margaret Zimmerman sold this land to Jacob Conrad for £50.

The first documented evidence that Jacob Carpenter was in the Upper Tract area was on 16 November 1779 when he was a purchaser at the sale of Michael Mallow. There were 51 members of the German congregation at Upper Tract on 15 November 1767. Surnames included Tschudi, Herber, Niclas, Conrad, Ebich, Rieger, Dorn, Moer, Herbolz, Benninger, Simmon, Gutman and Kebelinger. Catherine Gutman/Goodman was a member of this congregation and was probably living on the 72 acre tract. But there were no Carpenters or Zimmermans in the congregation which included children. I'm estimating that Jacob Zimmerman was born about 1751. Based on the information available to me and my own experience, I don't believe Jacob Carpenter was living at Upper tract in 1767. One of the nearest stores to the Upper Tract area was that of Peter Steenberg. His ledgers end in 1775. He has accounts for a Daniel Zimmerman (1772-1773), a Barbara Zimmerman (1773) and a Nicholas Carpenter (1767-1770). Another store in the region, below the trough, was that of Abraham Kuykendall. His ledger ends in 1777. He has an account for a "Stuffle" Carpenter about 1775.

In the 1782 Hampshire County tax list for the Upper Tract area Jacob Carpenter is listed with 7 members in his family. In the 1784 list he has 6 members in his family. Nearby is a Conrad Carpenter with 7 members in his family. In 1785 Jacob Carpenter is a purchaser at the sale of Jacob Peterson. In 1788 the Upper Tract area becomes part of the new county of Pendleton. The 1790 Pendleton County tax list includes a Conrad and John Carpenter. No Jacob. In 1791 Jacob Carpenter is listed as a debtor in the estate of Adam Lough in Pendleton County. He is also a debtor in the estate of Frederick Thorn in 1801 in Pendleton County. In the 1805 Settlement of Adam Lough in Pendleton County, a payment is made to Conrad Carpenter. No other records of this Conrad Carpenter were found.

PAGE THREE

There are several abstracts of the North Mill Creek Luthern Church records in various places. I don't know how reliable they are but I don't think they shed much light on the Carpenter/Zimmerman family history. This was probably the closest German Church to the Upper Tract area. On 19 April 1791 Margaret and Barbara Zimmerman are listed as members. On 23 June 1798 Jacob and Solomon Zimmerman are listed as members. They took communion on 24 June 1798. On 16 June 1799 Solomon Zimmerman took communion. That's it.

"Proximity" suggests that the Jacob Carpenter/Zimmerman who owned the 72 acres at Upper Tract was related to the Conrad Carpenter in the 1784 tax list and to the Barbara and Solomon Zimmerman at the North Mill Creek Church. I don't really know what became of any of these people. There is a Jacob Zimmerman in the Hampshire County Census in 1810 and 1820 who died intestate in Hampshire County in 1839 but I don't have any reason to believe that it is the same Jacob Zimmerman who owned the 72 acre tract.

Speculation suggests to me that Barbara, Jacob and Solomon are children of the Jacob Carpenter/Zimmerman who owned the 72 acre tract. Jacob was born about 1777 and Solomon was born about 1781. A Jacob Carpenter first shows up in the Randolph County tax lists in 1806. The 1810 Randolph County Census lists a Jacob and a Solomon Carpenter in the Barbour County area and a Jeremiah Carpenter in the Elk River area. Solomon married Catherine Hill in Randolph County on 22 August 1809 (Randolph County marriage records). He is evidently the Solomon Carpenter who died intestate in Randolph County in 1837. His estate is probated on 23 April 1838.

Jacob Carpenter, Senior, of Barbour County, is pretty solid. His will was probated in the Barbour County Court in August of 1851. His children were Jacob, Conrad, Levi, Hannah, Mary and Margaret. I've not included a Solomon because there may be some confusion here with the older Solomon Carpenter. Jacob, Junior, was born about 1804 and is listed at household #773 in the 1850 Barbour County Census. Conrad was born about 1807 and married Elizabeth Harper. He is listed at household #582 in the 1850 Barbour County Census. Levi was born about 1811. He married Eve Harper in Randolph County on 20 January 1833 and is listed at household #581 in the 1850 Barbour County Census. Hannah was born about 1813. She married Jehu Weese on 5 February 1833 in Randolph County and is listed at household #580 in the 1850 Barbour County Census. Mary was born about 1819 and married Abraham Skidmore, Junior. Margaret was born about 1821. She married John S. Skidmore in Randolph County on 27 June 1837 and is listed at household #1457 in the 1850 Barbour County Census.

Solomon Carpenter of Barbour County that married in 1809 is probably the father of the Mary Carpenter who married James Poling in Randolph County on 13 December 1831. Another possible child of Sol-

(PAGE FOUR)

PAGE FOUR

omon Carpenter is the Elizabeth Carpenter who married Samuel Gainer in Randolph County on 5 January 1832. A third child might be the Jesse Carpenter who married Alsey Ryan in Randolph County on 28 March 1832.

Assuming that the North Mill Creek Church record is in Parkersburg, that is a 250 mile round trip 6 hour drive from here. At \$10.00 an hour and 50¢ a mile the trip alone will be \$185.00. That is the kind of thing that probably is most effectively acquired by telephone and correspondence. Most churches don't like people getting access to their historical records so you may come up empty handed.

I understand that copies of documentation is important but getting that done is time consuming and expensive. I would estimate that the cost of providing you with copies of all the documents that I've used to write this report would cost several thousand dollars. Over time, many of these could be gotten by mail from the various courthouses. And some consideration should be given to what documents you really want, and whether copies of published abstracts are sufficient. Also, I don't have a copy machine and lugging all these books down town would not be easy.

I've been researching many of these families for over 40 years and I've never been able to reasonably establish where any of them came from in Germany. At least not from this end. I've seen many people find Germans through the records of the Mormon church or from actually traveling to Europe to do the research first hand but their efforts to connect that research to someone living in the Upper Potomac region is pretty much shooting in the dark. Rupp's passenger lists offer a clue but no proof. There is only one Conrad Zimmerman (page 115). Jacobs are on pages 143, 333, 384 and 399 but they only include the ships that landed at Philadelphia.

I think the best way to approach this is to work with the structure I've given you in this report and build on it when new reliable clues and bits of information are found. Maybe it would be helpful to study all the German families that were at Upper Tract since it is very likely that many of those families are inter-related.

There are records that are extant that will provide additional clues on this Carpenter/Zimmerman Family. One example ~~are~~^{is} the Order Books of the various Courts. The problem is that you have to read through thousands of pages to find a few tidbits. A very expensive thing to do. Remote sources I'm certain are out there but finding them isn't easy. Some family Bibles may have survived. Descendants may have knowledge of new information but oral history has to be followed up with real research.

For what it's worth I ran across a possible clue in preparing this report that you might want to follow up on. On page 425 of Chalkley's Volume II (Augusta County abstracts) the 1785 delinquent tax list shows a Jacob Carpenter that had moved to Nolichucky in North Carolina. But

(PAGE FIVE)

PAGE FIVE

that could be anyone.

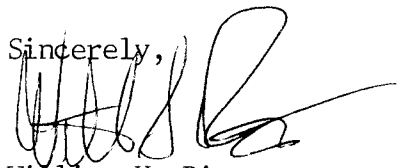
There is a Joseph Carpenter in the Grant County area in the 1750s. He may not be German but he apparently had a son named Solomon born in the early 1740s. Zimmerman and Carpenter are relatively common names in the Upper Potomac region so I try and focus on the more narrow concept of "given names". There might be a lot of Zimmermans and Carpenters but not nearly as many Solomons. And families often repeatedly used the same given names. So if Jacob Carpenter/Zimmerman who owned the 72 acres had a son or other likely relation named Solomon, I'd expect his family to continue naming children "Solomon". In the Grant County area there is a payment made to a Barbara Carpenter in the 1815 settlement of David Welton.

Another angle, which you may have already done, is to get in touch with other people that are researching this specific family. Sort through their material and see if it is reliable. Keep in mind that even the blind hog gets an acorn sometime. There are probably hundreds of people who are working or have worked on this family. I've got hundreds of old "Genealogical Helpers" published by Everton and every issue has hundreds of enquiries submitted by active researchers.

Over the years I have become increasingly skeptical and outright disappointed with doing research on the Internet. It is clearly a shortcut but it misses so much it really is frustrating to use. Internet participants often have no idea where they got their information. New discoveries of value are lost in a huge amount of irrelevant and incorrect information. It's like trying to find a needle in a hay stack. The Internet has a lot of hay on it.

I've spent 10 hours on this report today and yesterday. At \$10.00 an hour that comes to \$100.00. I hope it is helpful to you. Feel free to ask me questions or point me in a direction that you think would be beneficial to you.

Sincerely,



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