

15 June 2013

Jeffrey D. Sherbondy
6509 West 102nd Street
Overland Park, Kansas 66212-1723

Dear Mr. Sherbondy,

Since my report of May 30th I have received letters from you dated May 28th, May 31st and June 5th, the latter of which included a check for \$233.40. Thank you. You are paid in full.

In response to your letter of May 28th, I want to suggest a few modifications in your timeline. Starting from the top, Peter Steenberg's store was in Romney until 1772 when he moved it to the mouth of the South Fork where the town of Moorefield is today. That is about 30 miles from Upper Tract. It was, however, the closest store to Upper Tract that I know of during the early 1770s. The store's ledger is in the West Virginia Collection at WVU and it will show what items they purchased and when they made the purchase, cost, etc. Abraham Kuykendall's store was below the trough, about 15 miles north of where Moorefield is today, or about 45 miles from Upper Tract.

16 November 1779 is the recording date of the vendue of the estate of Michael Mallow. Jacob Carpenter was one of the purchasers, not of land but of one or more items in the estate. It is somewhat speculative on my part to suggest that Jacob and Margaret Zimmerman were living on the 72 acre tract near Upper Tract in the late 1770s but since the 72 acres is the only land the Zimmerman's were known to own at that time, people generally lived on their own land during that time and the land is located only a few miles from Michael Mallow's, I think it is safe to assume they were living on the 72 acre tract. Keep in mind that I have found no evidence of how the Zimmerman's acquired this tract. It may have been by inheritance or some kind of Court action which generally is not recorded in the form of a deed.

Note that Jacob Carpenter had 7 members of his family in 1782 when Conrad is not listed. In 1784 Jacob only had 6 members and Conrad appears in the adjacent listing. Ordinarily that would suggest that Conrad was a son of Jacob and started a family of his own. The likelihood of that scenario is somewhat reduced, however, when you take into consideration that a new family would not usually have 6 members.

The 1785 entry is similar to that of 1779. Jacob Carpenter made a purchase at the vendue of the estate of Jacob Peterson and not of a tract of land.

The 16 June 1786 entry is an important one for several reasons. First of all it suggests that the Zimmerman's may have moved. The tract apparently was in Rockingham County from 1778 until 1788. Jacob Carpenter is the only Carpenter in the 1788 Hardy County tax list. Secondly, the Zimmerman/Carpenter Family may have had some personal connection to Jacob Conrad. Several years ago I made a copy of Jacob

Conrad's Family Bible then in the possession of Mrs. Pauline Harman of Franklin, West Virginia. It is written in his own hand. He says he was born on 17 May 1744 in Attisvele, County of Biopp, Canton of Bern, Switzerland. Thirdly, the means by which the Zimmermans acquired this land should be very helpful. The 72 acres was originally granted to Michael Freeze who was killed by Indians in the 1750s. His widow Catherine married Jacob Goodman and they were still living in 1790 in Pendleton County. Fourthly, it should be possible to determine the exact location of this land which may provide some clues about the Zimmerman/Carpenter Family. I was in the Moorefield area the other day and made you a copy of this deed which is enclosed.

I have taken a closer look at the family of Jacob Carpenter, Senior, of Barbour County. Based on the census records, it appears they had seven children. Since Mary is not mentioned in Jacob's 1851 will, and not mentioned in the 1914 obituary of Margaret Skidmore, I have moved her to the family of Solomon Carpenter, Senior, of Barbour County. Also, a deceased son named Solomon is mentioned in Jacob's 1851 will. Margaret Skidmore's 1914 obituary also mentions her brother "Lige". There is not much record of him but Jacob and Margaret Carpenter of Barbour County did have a son named Elijah. He apparently was their youngest son. On 3 December 1842, by a deed recorded in Randolph County Deed Book 15, on page 264, Jacob Carpenter and his son Elijah Carpenter make an agreement that Elijah will inherit the homeplace if he provides for the needs of his parents for the rest of their lives. The agreement was witnessed by David Holder, Jane Holder and D.W. Shurtleff. I could not find Elijah in the 1850 census so he evidently died before his parents did. I have enclosed a group sheet on the family of Jacob and Margaret Carpenter of Barbour County.

I also took a closer look at the family of Solomon Carpenter, Senior, of Barbour County. There are 3 marriages in Randolph County in 1831 and 1832 in the Barbour County area to persons with the surname Carpenter which do not fit into the family of Jacob and Margaret Carpenter. I thought they might be children of Solomon Carpenter, Senior. One of the marriages, dated 15 December 1831, was of Mary Carpenter to James Poling. I have a history of the Poling Family in my library. I checked in it to see who this Mary Carpenter was. On page 122 it mentioned this family. The parents of Mary were not given but on page 120 it said that her husband's brother had married Peri Carpenter, a daughter of Solomon Carpenter. It also said that Mary's son Cyrus was born in 1836 in Marysville, Ohio. So I checked the 1850 census record for Union County, Ohio, and found Catherine Carpenter, age 65, living next door to James and Mary Poling. I also found that Catherine and Solomon Carpenter have marked graves in the Oakdale Cemetery in Marysville, Ohio. Solomon Carpenter was born in 1784 and died on 11 August 1837. His wife Catherine was born on 12 November 1783 and died on 5 February 1855.

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I have enclosed copies of the appropriate pages in the Poling History and also a copy of the page in the 1850 census of Union County, Ohio, on which Catherine Carpenter and the family of James Poling are listed. The latter is not a good copy. Clearly I am not equipped to be making copies and nor is the community I live in. Rather than have you struggle with this inadequacy, I have a suggestion. About 30 miles east of you at 3440 South Lee's Summit Road in Independence, Missouri (zip code 64055) is the Mid Continent Public Library, one of the best equipped genealogical libraries in the United States. I realize that I can do things here that you couldn't do there but they can do a lot of things out there that I can't do here. For instance there is not a copy center within 50 miles of where I live. Our public library has an old copy machine but the library staff have to make the copies. Davis and Elkins College has a copier but it is set up for student use and the hours it is available is often inconvenient for me. As I said on page Two I made you a copy of the 1786 deed in the Hardy County Court House. It cost \$1.50. But that is a 142 mile round trip from here. I'm not going to charge you for mileage since I took advantage of an opportunity I had while driving through the area while my passengers waited in the car. But I feel our resources would be better used if you ordered Court House copies by mail. If I give you the book and page number, no look-up is required by the Court House staff and mailing copies of documents is a service they provide without cost.

Over the past few days I have studied the Barbour County Carpenter Family in great detail. I've run across a few things I felt should be mentioned. First of all many unconfirmed sources suggest that Jacob Carpenter, Senior, of Barbour County was married to Margaret Borrer. I have found no evidence of this. These families, however, were likely associated with each other. The 70 year old Jacob Borer with wife Nancy listed at household #1227 in the 1860 Census of Barbour County is evidently a son of Charles and Elizabeth Borer/Borrer of Pendleton County. In his 1841 will probated in Pendleton County in 1843 Charles Borrer names no daughter Margaret. However, Jacob Borrer, a brother of Charles, was active in the North Mill Creek Luthern Church which you have a copy of. He is the Jacob "Lohra" whose death is recorded in the records of that church in 1804. Charles and Jacob are sons of Jacob Borer, Senior, whose will is probated in 1778 in Hampshire County. He names no daughter Margaret in his will. Unconfirmed sources say he was born in Battenberg, Germany.

In 1875 Daniel Carpenter (1828-1913), a son of Conrad Carpenter (1806-1895) of Barbour County, moved to rural Upshur County. In 1881 Daniel's daughter Lucy married George W. Scott in Upshur County. A sketch of their family appears on page 566 of W.B. Cutright's The History of Upshur County, West Virginia. In the sketch it says that Lucy was a grand-daughter of "Conrod Carpenter of Barbour County, who was of German descent".

I believe it is significant that two of the sons of Jacob Carpenter, Senior, of Barbour County married Harpers. The death records of

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Barbour County record the death of Daniel Harper on 22 December 1857. He was 83 years old, born in Pendleton County, a son of Adam Harper. The informant was his "nephew", Levi Carpenter. In the 1850 Census of Barbour County Daniel Harper lived at household #597 while Levi Carpenter lived nearby at household #581. This I feel is significant because Daniel Harper's father, Adam Harper, was from Upper Tract. As it turns out it looks like the Eve Harper who married Levi Carpenter and the Elizabeth Harper who married Conrad Carpenter are daughters of Daniel Harper and Rosanna Wise who were married in Pendleton County in 1800. In 1767 as recorded in the records of the Evangelical Reformed Church of Frederick, Maryland, the 52 members of the congregation at Upper Tract included Philip Harper (1713-1798), Adam Harper (1741-1820) and Jacob Harper (1726-1803) as well as their wives and 2 of their children. Harper is "Herber" in German and Philip's death in 1798 is recorded in the records of the North Mill Creek Lutheran Church. All three of these men, Adam, Jacob and Philip, are listed on the muster roll of the company of Captain Abraham Smith of the Upper Tract area during the French and Indian War in 1758. Since people of that era often associated with people they knew or were related to, these two Carpenter/Harper marriages suggest that the Carpenters came to Barbour County from the Upper Tract area. A good way to help document that is following the family in the Hardy and/or Pendleton County tax lists. They are available almost every year from 1782 until the Civil War. I believe most of them are also available on line. Jacob and Solomon Carpenter should show up on the Hardy County tax lists from the 1790s until about 1805.

The quote from the obituary of Margaret Carpenter Skidmore included in your letter of May 31st says that she was "the daughter of Jacob and 'Peggie' Carpenter, her parents having come from Germany." "Peggie" may be the antecedent of "her". With the reference I mentioned on page Three stating that Conrad Carpenter was of German ancestry, it is very likely that the parents of "Peggie" as well as the parents of her husband, came from Germany.

In your letter of June 5th you asked for my sources for the estimated birth years of Jacob and Solomon Carpenter. This might come under the category of "genealogical forensics". The 1782 tax list names the head of household and the number of members of his family. The 1830 Census provides us with the decade of birth for Solomon and Jacob. This suggests that the woman is of child bearing age. With a gestation period of two years, the five other members of the family besides her and her husband would have been born in the five alternating years before the date of the tax list or "1773, 1775, 1777, 1779 and 1781". The North Mill Creek Church record has Margaret and Barbara as members in 1791. Probably mother and daughter. Jacob and Solomon Zimmerman don't show up as members until 1798. So Barbara is probably older. Solomon would be the youngest and 1781 is the only year in the 1780 to 1789 category. Jacob then goes in the middle of what's left. This is speculation but with design.

In the second to last paragraph of your letter of June 5th you point out the conflicting sources regarding the parents of the Margaret Carpenter who married John Skidmore. Since Jacob's 1851 will refers to Margaret Skidmore as his daughter, and Margaret Skidmore's 1914 obituary names her brothers and sisters that closely match the children of Jacob, I think it should be clear that Jacob was her father. The census records for Jacob Carpenter in the Barbour County area consistently indicate he was born in the 1770s so I don't know how someone could conclude that the head of household named Jacob Carpenter in 1782, or Jacob and Margaret Zimmerman who sold land as husband and wife in 1786, could be the Jacob Carpenter of Barbour County. But I can assure you that most people make mistakes. Conclusions can only be based on the records available to them. Often older mistakes are just copied. Most people have a life to live, a family, children at their feet, a job, or any number of other distractions to deal with and probably don't notice the subtle signs that their conclusions are wrong.

In the last paragraph of your letter of June 5th you suggest that I focus on the relationship between the Upper Tract families and the German Zimmerman or Carpenter families in that area. One of those families would have been that of Jacob Conrad which I have addressed on pages One and Two. Another would be the Harper Family which I addressed on page Four. Another might be the Skidmore Family since the Skidmores lived in the lower part of Pendleton County in the Upper Tract area. The Skidmores, however, came from Maryland and previous to that were for many years in Delaware so I don't expect them to have many connections to the early German families of the Upper Potomac. Another possible relationship is through the Wees/Weese/Wiess Family since Jehu Weese married Hannah Carpenter (of Jacob). Several members of this family appear in the records of the North Mill Creek Lutheran Church. Several years ago I did a group sheet on Jehu Weese that shows he was a grandson of Jacob Weese but I don't find how I justified that.

There are four Jacob Zimmermans in the 1810 Census of Virginia. One is in Fairfax County, 2 in Augusta County and one is in Hampshire County. The one in Hampshire County died about 1839. The Nancy Zimmerman in the 1850 Hampshire County Census was probably his widow. I don't see anything that suggests that any of these is the Jacob Zimmerman affiliated with the North Mill Creek Lutheran Church.

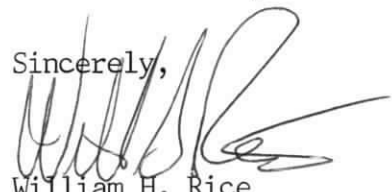
On 6 September 1836 (Randolph County Deed Book 12, page 173) Solomon Carpenter and his wife Catherine sold a tract of land on Sugar Creek and Gladly Creek in what is today Barbour County to Samuel McGuffin. This is probably when they moved to Ohio. It appears that Solomon Carpenter, Senior, and Solomon Carpenter (of Jacob) died about the same time in 1837. Solomon Carpenter (of Jacob) probably died in Barbour County. His widow, Rebecca, apparently moved to Iowa where a 62 year old woman named Rebecca Carpenter headed household #1543 in the 1860 Census of Keokuk, Lee County, Iowa. She was born in Virginia and had 3 children in her family, Isaac age 28, Virga V. age 22 and Sarah A. age 17. I have no proof that she is the widow of Solomon (of Jacob). This is only speculation.

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There are 10 deeds and 4 surveys of the Barbour County Carpenter Family in the Court records of Randolph County. The most important of these I think is the 1842 agreement between Elijah Carpenter and his parents, Jacob and Margaret Carpenter. The others would help establish where Solomon and Jacob lived but I don't see them being much help otherwise. Even though the focus of the research is on the Upper Tract area, the Grant County court house won't be very helpful. Their records begin in 1866. Some death records that late may be helpful but I wouldn't count on it. The most complete records will be in the Court records of Hardy and Pendleton County from 1786 in Hardy County and from 1788 in Pendleton County. Even though the Upper Tract area was apparently in Rockingham County from 1778 until 1788, many of the records in Rockingham County have not survived. The annual personal property tax lists for Hardy and Pendleton Counties should help determine who lived where and when. It should be worthwhile to contact the historical societies in Grant, Pendleton and Hardy Counties since they may have records not available elsewhere. Locating published histories of any of the early Upper Tract families should be helpful. Each of those families probably have one or more family historians among them. Some may have knowledge of where their family originated. Other documents like the family Bible of Jacob Conrad are probably "out there" someplace. The public libraries in Grant, Hardy and Pendleton Counties may also have helpful items not found elsewhere. Families that have become extinct often leave their valuable personal records in state depositories. There are two of those in West Virginia. One is the Division of Culture and History in Charleston. The other is the West Virginia Collection in the Wise Library at West Virginia University. Sometimes visiting people on the site can yield results. There are probably people in Upper Tract and along North Mill Creek that possess helpful documents or information. But the bottom line is, making progress will become more difficult. I pointed out the easy stuff. I can't do much more from my office or on the genealogical web sites at the Belington Library. But there are plenty of stones out there waiting to be turned over.

This week I spent one hour in the Randolph County Court House, 5 hours at the Belington Library including driving there and back, 15 minutes getting the copy at the Hardy County Court House and 5 hours yesterday and 4 hours today working here in my office. That's a total of 15½ hours. 30 miles round trip to Belington @ \$.50/mile is \$15.00. The copy at the Hardy County Court House was \$1.50. The other copies were \$.60. Postage and handling is \$3.00. I have enclosed an invoice. Let me know if you have any questions. I hope this has been helpful to you.

Sincerely,



William H. Rice
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Elkins, WV 26241

Post Script:

After completing today's report I was putting things away and arranging your letters in my file when I had a chance to read over the work done by Charles Carpenter that you included in your letter of 4 April 2013. I am much better prepared to evaluate that work now than I was two months ago.

Beginning on "Page 1 of 2" Jacob was probably born about 1777 in what is today Grant or Pendleton County of West Virginia. His son Solomon is probably born about 1802 rather than 1804. His son Levi died in 1879 and not 1880. His widow is listed in the 1880 Census of Barbour County where his will was probated on 11 October 1879. Jacob's son Elijah was probably born about 1815 and not 1812.

Turning to "Page 1 of 4" Jacob's wife's last name was McVaney and not McWaney.

His sketch of Solomon's family on that same page is well developed and appears to be reliable. He evidently has access to personal family records I have not seen. The Virga V. Carpenter I found in the 1860 Census of Iowa probably should be "Genora" but the original Census record clearly shows that the child born about 1838 was "Virga V.". The continuation of Solomon's family on "Page 2 of 4" seems less reliable. One child, Jacob, shows an estimated birth year of 1816 which is 5 years before Solomon was married.

Continuing on "Page 2 of 4" Levi Carpenter's will, as I said above, was probated on 11 October 1879.

In sketch #5 I think Hannah Carpenter married "JEHU" Weese. I could be wrong but the original documents look to me more like Jehu than John. This is often a problem for researchers because in cursive John and Jehu look a lot alike. And since many people are not familiar with the given name of Jehu, they assume it is "John". Hannah and her husband also had children named Francis Marion born about 1850 and Clarissa E. born about 1853. Jehu (or possibly John) died in Barbour County about 1889 when his will was probated.

Margaret Carpenter's husband John L. Skidmore probably died at Belington in 1872. Many people think his middle initial is "S." since the cursive "S" and "L" look very similar but the originals look more like an "L" to me. Their son William was born about 1850, Hilkie was born about 1855, Solomon was born about 1857, George was born about 1863, Hannah was born about 1844, Ellen was born about 1853, Bazela May was born about 1860 and Anna Belle was born about 1865. I found no evidence of a daughter named Mary.

Conrad Carpenter has a marked grave in the Talbott Church Cemetery in Barbour County that reads (21 September 1806-12 April 1895). His second wife Anna has a marked grave in St. John's Cemetery in Barbour County that reads (26 September 1811-31 May 1897). Conrad and his first wife apparently had a son named Ephraim who was born about 1829 (between Daniel & Sydney).